

† The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania

† March/April, 2024 †

Vol. 2024, Issue 2

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On February 14, we will begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is a time to reflect upon how we live our lives. Lent is a time to turn away from our foolish ways and ask God for forgiveness. It is a time to look in the mirror and realize that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

During the season of Lent we have many Worship services to reestablish our relationship with our Loving and Forgiving Lord. We will have in person services each Sunday morning at 8 AM and 10:15 AM as well as each Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

Come and join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this season of reflection and forgiveness.

In Christ's love,

If you would like Pastor Schlegel to visit you, please contact the Church Office, 610-262-1600.



March 24

Passion
SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8:00 am
Sunday School at 9:00 am
Holy Communion at 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Covered Dish Meal at 6:00 pm
Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 29

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

Prayer Vigil

March 29—30

8 PM Friday until 7 PM Saturday

Easter Sunday, March 31

Holy Communion at 8:00 am
Sunday School at 9:00 am
Holy Communion at 10:15 am



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given to the Glory of God by Carol and Paul Balascki.



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in in honor of my daughter, son, and family
by Beverly and Glenn Hacker





MEETING NOTICE!

March 10 after the 10:15 service we will have a congregational meet to discuss having one service. Please join us. If you are unable to attend, your vote is still important to us. Please return this ballot to the Church Office by March 10.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH Congregational Meeting March 10, 2024 Congregation Ballot

One service each Sunday at 9 AM. Sunday School at 10:15 AM. *Will not go into effect until April.*

Two services each Sunday at 8 AM and 10:15 AM. Sunday School at 9 AM.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 2024 Easter Tributes

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is making available several options for members to either honor or memorialize a loved one at this time of year.

Please complete ONE SHEET PER TRIBUTE.

Additional forms are available on the table in the foyer. Place your completed form along with your check in the offering plate or return it to the Church Office.

CHECK ONE: Easter Lilly - \$11.00 per plant
Hunger Fund Donation - \$ _____
Memorial Fund - \$ _____

IN HONOR OF: _____
(Living)

IN MEMORY OF: _____
(deceased)

BY: YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS - March 10
The above tributes will be listed in the Easter Bulletins.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS - March 26
The above tributes will be listed in the Easter Bulletins.



COMMITTEE PAGE

SERVICE TEAM WHITEHALL COPLAY FOOD PANTRY is asking for the following items:

- ⇒ Pancake mix and syrup
- ⇒ Soups: vegetable, chicken noodle, chicken rice and tomato
- ⇒ Cereals: all kinds
- ⇒ Pasta: rotini, farfalle, frisilli, penne, and elbow (no spaghetti)
- ⇒ Crackers: saltines, Ritz, cheese crackers



Toiletries They are in need of shampoo, toothpaste, bars of soap and deodorant. Second Harvest supplies the Food Pantry with the many food needs, but does not include toiletries.

We are also collecting soap and shampoo for the ministries of *Pathways and Daybreak*.

You can find Pastor Schlegel's
Daily Reflection on God's Word Monday through Thursday
at 7 PM on our Facebook page and on our website. If you would like Daily Devotions
emailed to you, please contact the church office.



2024 Congregation Council

Keith Moyer, President
Tracy Tacker, Vice President
Melissa Sassaman, Secretary
Colleen Ehst, Treasurer
Carl France, Financial Secretary
Norma Hrozencik, Witness
Gary Easton, Support
Tara Henry-Morrow, Service
Drew Null, Youth
Denise Smith, Worship
Lisa Kroboth, Learning
Alivia Deemer, Youth Representative

Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor

The Prayer Shawl Committee is in need of helpers to make prayer shawls. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help, please contact coordinators Joyce Steigerwalt at 484-350-1679 or Brenda Benner at 610-844-5859. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet to help with this ministry, we will teach you. Meetings will be the first and third Mondays each month beginning March 1 at 9:00 AM.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

REMEMBER— When giving a name for the

PRAYER CHAIN

please also give the address of the person. The church sends cards to inform people they were “remembered in our prayers during our worship services Sunday morning.” The person’s name will be kept on the Sunday prayer concerns for two weeks unless the person who submitted the name requests otherwise.

Call Beverly Hacker 610-262-3207 or the church office with any prayer concerns.

Remember Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10.



SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:



Scuba Vacation Bible School will be held June 24-28, 2024! Registration forms will be mailed in April.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:



Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We ask You to have compassion on those who are named below. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Louis Albright, Ronald and Theresa Anglestain, Carol Ayers, Bill Beidleman, Carol Balascki, Jacob Braid, Angie Breasure, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Mitchell Carl, James Caulder, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Nancy Dietz, Rick Dotter, Beverly Fekula, Donald Fister, , Gloria Fischl, James Forand, Annie Frack, Lee Gabryluk Teri Gerny, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichel, Brad Heintzelman, Susan Hill, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Kevin Hutter, Becky and Kyle Jones and son, Adam, Alex Katana, Tom Keefer, Deneen Kiefer, John Kotze, Mary Kay Lewis, Scott Lazarus, Rose Leshko, Valerie Long, Dan, Markulicks, Diane Masonheimer, Mitchell Masters, Debbie Messinger, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Mark Miller, Richard Miller, John Mikovitz, Christopher Moakley, Dee Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Cathie Nelcoski, Bob Nisberg, Ava Nolan, Sandra Phillips, Scarlet Randolph, June Reifinger, Jean Reinert, Jan Reinek, Dee Renner, Daniel Richmond, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Mike Salabsky, Gwen Schaeffer, Irene Scherr, June Sell, Baby Gwen Schaeffer, Jim Shope, Gloria Schmidinger, Greg Scott, Grace Siegel, Wayne Serfass, Irene Scherr, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, Barry Spitko, Betty Spitko, Anne Stibitz, Tracy Tacker, Rosemarie, Thrash, Doris Weaver, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Patricia Wong Chong, Daniel Yakubecek, Mary Zader, Bob Zarrizski, *Families of William Lentz, Tera Scheer, Ann Hricinak, Agnes Marsh, Carolyn Kramer, the McCartney Family, Sharon Minnich, Tony Hitcho*

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness
"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"
End of Prior Month (as of January 31, 2024)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$16,183

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,742

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:

January \$ 430 (Budget for 2023—\$18,171)

December Electric \$1,584

**WINTER WEATHER
 CANCELLATION POLICY**

Our Continuing Resolution of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church states that all cancellations or delays for Worship Services and activities at the church will be posted on TV-WFMZ Channel 69, Radio WAEB 790 AM., also on SOTHLC's Facebook page and by calling the church.

CARE TABLE

A Care Table is in the Narthex. We are looking for donations. If you have something to contribute, place it on the table. If you are in need of any items on the table, please take them along with you.

The March Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated with gratitude for all of God's Blessings by Carol and Paul Balascki.

The April Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated in memory of loved ones by Beverly and Glenn Hacker.

There are still some months available. Check the sign up sheets in the narthex. Sponsorship is \$25 per month.



Youth Group News

On January 28, the youth group led both services as we celebrated Youth Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the service.

Thank you to everyone who ordered hoagies. We made a profit of \$415.

On February 11, 4 youth members went to Angry Jack's Axe Throwing. We threw knives and axes and then played some games to test our abilities. It got a little competitive, but we all had a great time!



Nut rolls go on sale February 18. The sale will run through March 3, with a delivery of March 17. Cost will be \$17 and the flavors are nut, poppy, lekvar, apricot, raspberry, and pumpkin.

In November, the youth group filled 55 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We found out that our boxes were sent to Botswana!! Thank you to everyone who donated!

We are planning to have a Penny Party on April 21. Doors open at 11:30 and games begin at 12:30. It only costs \$1 to buy an envelope of numbers. Trays will be passed around the tables and you will be able to bid on the item(s) on the tray. Cost for a bid range between 1 cent and 1 dollar. Food and beverages will be available at an additional cost, as well as a raffle for some fun prizes! This is a fun and relatively inexpensive way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Please join us as we continue to raise money for our trip to the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans and to share some time of friendship and fun.

Our clothing drive will continue through June 15, 2024. Please bring any bags of clothing and put them downstairs in the last Sunday School room on the left. Make sure that all shoes are bagged separately. We are collecting new or gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, purses, belts, bed and bath linens, and stuffed animals. The clothing that is collected is distributed to local thrift shops and in areas in need of clothing. The clothing will NOT be shredded!!! All clean wearable clothing and shoes are reused by less fortunate people and families. The clothing does not end up in landfills which helps to keep America green and clean.

Call the church office at 610-262-1600 or Lisa at 610-262-4053 to place a nut roll order.

May God watch over you during this Lenten season and may you have a Happy and Joyous Easter. Thank you for your support of the youth group. Only 5 months until we head to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering!!



The Worship Services on Easter will be at 7 AM and 10:15 AM. Come and celebrate with us as we rejoice that Jesus rose from the Dead. Because He lives, we shall live also. There will not be an Easter Breakfast due to the high costs of eggs and bacon.

Shepherds Club

The Shepherds Club meets at the Coplay Eatery. This is open to any youthful Seniors. Come and join us for breakfast and a great time being together. We get together the 4th Tuesday of the month at 9 AM.

First Communion Classes will be held March 3, 10 and 24 for those in third grade or older. We will celebrate First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES—NINE CHANGED LIVES

This year for our midweek Lenten services will center around nine individuals whose lives were changed when they met Jesus face to face. Come and hear their words and how their lives were changed forever.

- February 21** Tamar of Jerusalem
- February 28** Zimi the Pharisee
- March 6** Pilate and Claudia
- March 13** King Herod
- March 10** Thomas



THANK YOU - - -

- ◆ . . . to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on January 28. What a wonderful job.
- ◆ . . . to Allen Handwerk, Robert Klock, Cheryl Reisinger, and Melissa Sassaman, for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in January.
- ◆ . . . From the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative for our donations to the Food Pantry



On January 21, Kathy Lynn Roth was welcomed into our family at Shepherd of the Hills. Welcome and may God bless you as we serve the Lord together.

Also on January 21 Joshua Frances Balliet was welcomed into our family at Shepherd of the Hills. Welcome and may God bless you as we serve the Lord together.

Shepherd of the Hills Youth Group

Clothing Drive



Fundraiser

HELP SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP!

We will be collecting new or gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, purses, belts, bed and bath linens and stuffed animals. Every piece helps! We can also accept bicycles that are in good working condition.

NO Pillows, Books, Toys, Furniture, Appliances, or Household items. Thank you for your support!

The clothing that is collected is distributed to local thrift shops and in areas in need of clothing. The clothing will NOT be shredded!!! All clean wearable clothing and shoes are reused by less fortunate people and families. The clothing does not end up in landfills thus helping to keep America green and clean.

PLEASE PLACE SHOES IN A SEPARATE BAG/BOX!!

Please put all items in bags and place them in the last room on the right side before...

June 2024

Questions? Call Lisa Kroboth 610-262-4053