

# † The Rod and the Staff †

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

† May/June, 2024 †

Vol. 2024 Issue 3

## PASTOR'S CORNER

**He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

Dear Sister or Brother in Christ,

He is Risen! A few weeks ago, we gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! We rejoice that Jesus Lives and because He lives we will live also. The bondage of sin and death has been broken. This is wonderful news for each one of us as a child of God.

We witness each day the earth and nature coming alive again as we continue in the season of Spring. The trees budding and the birds singing remind each one of us of the Glory of God. God sent His Son into the world, die on the cross, and rise from the dead that if we believe in Him, we will not perish but have everlasting life. What wonderful and joyful news for each one of us.

The beginning of April brought a moment of reflection to me. I was in the hospital and had cardiac catheterization. I had moments to reflect upon the good news of Easter. Each one of us will face storms in our life and sometimes feel overwhelmed by what comes our way. We need to always remember that our Risen Lord is present with us each step of the way. We should not fear tomorrow because our Lord lives and because He lives, we can face tomorrow.

We continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and may we always remember that Jesus Christ our Lord is present with us each and every day. I wish for you a joyful and peaceful Easter season. He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel  
Pastor

## ATA GLANCE:

May 2

**National Day of Prayer.** Please join Christians throughout the world as they join together in prayer.

May 12



May 19 Pentecost (wear red)



June 9

**We will honor all the Sunday School teachers for the 2023-2024 Sunday School Year.**

*Thank You and May God Bless You for taking time to Serve Our Lord and our children.*

June 16



**June 16 we will honor all of the graduates** in our congregation. We will celebrate with them on their accomplishments.



*This Issue of the Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my Grandson Ben's birthday  
By Rozelle Higgins.*

*This Issue of the Rod and The Staff is given in honor of our children and grandchildren  
By Pastor and Cindy Schlegel..*



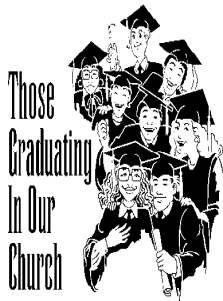
*Early Reminder . . .* Our church picnic will be July 28. We will need desserts for the covered dish picnic lunch as well as cakes for the “Cake Walk.”



## Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Louis Albright, Ronald and Theresa Anglestein, Carol Ayers, Bill Beidleman, Carol Balascki, Alana Bird, Nadine Bordner, Jacob Braido, Angie Breasure, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Dawn Carter, Verna Chandick, Kelly Carwell, Beth Cherry, Charles Church, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Nancy Dietz, Rick Dotter, , Beverly Fekula, Maryann Fekete, Glory Fischl, Donald Fister, Diane Flahart, Diane Flaherty, James Forand, Annie Frack, Kay Fronheiser, Bill Fronzone, Maxine Gantz, Toni Gerny, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Glenn Hacker, Allen Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Mary Hartman, Brandon Heichel, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Norma Hrozencik, Elsie Huber, Kevin Hutter, Iran, Israel, Becky and Kyle Jones and son Adam Alex Katana, Tom Keefer, John Kotze, Scott Lazarus, Mary Kay Lewis, Valerie Long, Alison Loyko, Diane Masonheimer, Debbie Messinger, Carole Mickley, John Mikovitz, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Dee Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Russell Myers, Cathy Nelcoski, Ava Nolan, Dale Ott, Duane Ott, Sandra Phillips, Kerrie Pypiuk, Scarlet Randolph, Barbara Rapchak, Chris Reardon, Jean Reinert, June Reifinger, Jan Reinik, Cheryl Reisinger, Dee Renner, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Bonnie Schneck, Michael Saraceno, Irene Scherr, Brad Scheirer, Pastor Schlegel, Gloria Schmidinger, Greg Scott, June Sell, Dave Shaffer, Jim Shope, Grace Siegel, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, Barry Spitko, Anne Stibitz, Tracy Tacker, Rosemary Thrash, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Patricia Wong Chong, Daniel Yakubeczek, Mary Zader, Bob Zarrizski  
*The families of Frank Sterner, Jean Miller, Lorraine Dee Dee Stiner, Doris Weaver, Maryann Fekete*

## Attention Graduates



We would like to recognize *you* in our July/August Newsletter!

If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, nursing school, or any other school, please notify the church office (610-262-1600) to include *your name* in the next Newsletter.

The Times News Advertising for May is sponsored in honor of my grandson, Ben’s birthday by Rozelle Higgins.

The Times News Advertising for June is sponsored to the Glory of God by the Jay Gilbert Family,.



**HOLY COMMUNION** The following young people received their first Holy Communion at our Maundy Thursday Service.:



Claire Elizabeth Morrow  
 Chloe Kimberly Weaver



**FREE COMMUNITY MEAL**  
**TUESDAY, May 21**  
 4-6 pm  
**MEAL IS OPEN TO EVERYONE**

# COMMITTEE Update

- ⇒ **Reach out to those in need**—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*.

**THE WITNESS COMMITTEE** The church has an e-mail. Our e-mail address is [pastor@sothlc-egypt.org](mailto:pastor@sothlc-egypt.org) Each day there will be a devotion of scripture and prayer sent from the church via e-mail. If you have access to e-mail and would like to receive the daily devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address. Both the daily devotional and daily reflection will begin again in the near future.

You can find Pastor Schlegel’s **Daily Reflections** on our web page as well as on Facebook.

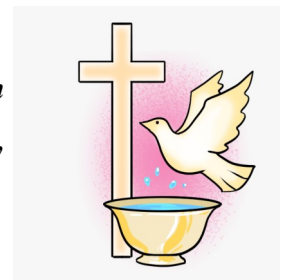
**THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE** **Morning Prayer:** Each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM we are meeting in the church sanctuary to pray to the Lord. Come and join us as we gather together in the House of our Lord. Morning Prayer will begin again in June.

## 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

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness		
<i>“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”</i>		
End of Prior Month (as of March 30, 2024)		
Monthly Stewardship Income: \$24,613		YTD: \$54,078
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,383		YTD: \$52,287
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:		
March \$ 380	YTD: \$1,175	(Budget for 2024—\$18,439)
February Electric \$4,065	YTD: \$7,360	
Capital Campaign Balance \$41,180		Pledge: \$34,950

*On March 24. we welcomed Claire Elizabeth Morrow into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God’s many blessings on Claire and her parents.*



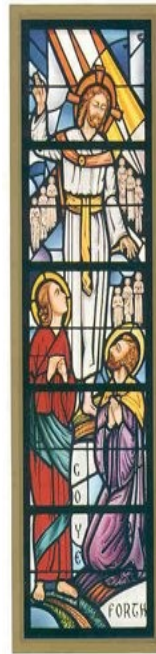


**Doris E. Weaver** entered into eternal rest on March 23, 2024. We commend Doris into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**S O M E B O D Y**

- “Somebody” said a mother is an unskilled laborer.
- “**Somebody**” never gave a squirmy infant a bath.
- “Somebody” said you know how to be a mother by instinct.
- “**Somebody**” never took a three year old shopping.
- “Somebody” said that “good” mothers never yell at their kids.
- “**Somebody’s**” child never sent a baseball through a neighbor’s picture window.
- “Somebody” said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in books.
- “**Somebody**” never had a child stuff beans in her nose.
- “Somebody” said a mother always adores her children.
- “**Somebody**” never tried to comfort a colicky baby at 3 am.
- “Somebody” said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back.
- “**Somebody**” never organized seven giggling Brownies into a cookie-selling brigade.
- “Somebody” said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery.
- “**Somebody**” never watched her “baby” get on the bus the first day of kindergarten.
- “Somebody” said your mother knows you love her, so you don’t have to tell her.
- “**Somebody**” isn’t a mother.

(Author Unknown)



*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Doris E. Weaver** by:*

- Susan Emerson*
- Sandra Superka*
- Glenn and Beverly Hacker*
- David Lewis*
- (Co-workers of Denise Smith,*
- Donna Detweiler*
- Nancy Klotz*
- Barb Gaylord*
- Mohammed Aclam*
- Kimberly Nicholson*
- Jim and Linda Forand*
- Kyle and Michele Kern*
- Jay and Tammy Hill*
- Lucy Messinger*
- Nancy Kotze*
- Paul and Carol Balascki*
- David and Denise Christman*
- Dennis J. Harbowy*
- Rozelle Higgins*
- Jay Gilbert and family*
- Fran Worman*

*In Loving Memory*

**We will be planting geraniums on Monday, May 20, 2024 At 6:00 pm.**

Volunteers will be needed. Bring your **shovels, trowels and watering cans.**

**RAIN DATE: The next sunny day at 6:00 pm!**

**YARD CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 Doesn't it feel good when you come to church on a Sunday and the church grounds look beautiful? Our help is needed. Sign up for a two-week period beginning April 28 until the end of summer to keep the church flower beds, walkways and perimeter free from weeds as well as deadhead the geraniums. You choose the day and time you work during the two-week period you chose. Please sign up outside the church office or contact Gary Easton at 484-988-0520.



- ◆ ... To Allen Handwerk, Robert Klock, Cheryl Reisinger and Melissa Sassaman for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in February
- ◆ ... to Tammy Hill, Lisa Kroboth, Jason Lesinski and Michelle Lesinski for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in March.
- ◆ ... Donald and Maxine Gantz, Jay Hill, Norma Hrozencik, Jan and Diane Masonheimr and Barbara Scheirer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in April.

**We received thank you notes from:**

**Lutheran Congregational Services for our \$875 gift. “Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope.**

**The Lutheran Conference of Churches thanking SOTHLC for the \$150.00 contribution to support our neighbors in need.**

**Carol Balascki wrote: Thank you to Pastor Schlegel, my church family and the Prayer Shawl Ministry group for the cards, prayers and shawl during my recent hip surgery. Very much appreciated.**

**Glenn Hacker wrote: Thank you to everyone for your prayers, concern, and get well cards that I received during my recent surgery and rehab. Our thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.**

**Pastor Schlegel would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and prayers during his hospital stay and recovery.**

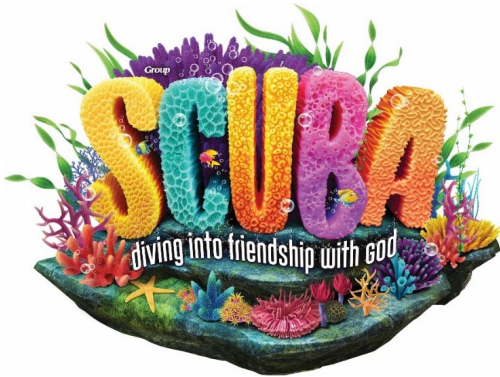


The youth group sold almost 150 nut rolls and made a profit of \$598. **Thank you** to everyone who bought a nut rolls!

On March 17, we visited **Itty Bitty Kitty Shelter**. After we gave the cats some fresh water, fed them and scooped out their litter boxes, we spent some time playing with them and enjoying the purrs and snuggles we got. We finished the night with dinner at Smashburger.

Spring is here and with it comes spring cleaning. Don't forget **the 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 or right. (The original clothing room is already filled!) 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. Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!

Only 3 months until we head to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering!!



## Send your kids on a splash-tastic adventure!

At **SCUBA VBS**, kids dive into friendship with God!

**SCUBA VBS** is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®.

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called Operation Kid-to-Kid™, that will provide clean water for families in rural Honduras.

**SCUBA VBS** is great fun for children from ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade (entering 7<sup>th</sup> in the fall).

Mark these dates on your calendar: **June 24-28, 2024**

The fun starts at **6:00** and ends at **8:30**.

To register, go to <https://vbspro.events/p/sothlcegypt> and register your child today

OR scan QR code



OR fill out a registration form and drop it off in the church office/mail it to the church at 4331 Main St, Whitehall, Pa 18052

**By Memorial Day, May 27th.**

Any questions, please email [sothvacationbibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:sothvacationbibleschool@gmail.com)

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**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**One per Child**  
**REGISTER BY MAY 18**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F

Parent's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Would your child like a STELLAR T-Shirt: Y / N?

Choose size: XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), Adult S (34-36),  
Adult M (38-40), Adult L (42-44)

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Anyone signing up after the deadline of May 18 will NOT be guaranteed a shirt.

\*Please return to church office. Address is 4331 Main St, Whitehall, 18052\*