

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† September/October, 2024 †

Vol. 2020, Issue 5

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ASTOR'S CORNER Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

September is a month where we begin again some of the learning opportunities at Shepherd of the Hills. The Sunday School year for 2024–2025 will begin on September 8th. We will also begin our Confirmation classes and begin a brand new year of Bible Study sessions. The Word of our Lord is alive and available for all at Shepherd of the Hills. We also have other opportunities to experience the Word of our Lord—each week there is a daily devotion distributed to many members by e-mail and Daily Reflections on God's Word can be found Monday through Thursday at 7PM on Facebook and on our website. The Bible or the Word of our Lord is important to each one of us as children of God.

Shepherd of the Hills provides many opportunities to experience the Word of the Lord. Come and Hear His Word on a Sunday morning, and on Thursday morning at our Morning Prayer Service, come and read and discuss His Word in Sunday School and Bible Study. May the Word, the Bible be your favorite book in your life.

In Christ's Love,

Sunday School

resumes on Sunday

September 8th 10:15 am!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

All individuals are invited to come and learn of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We have Sunday School classes for all individuals from 3 years old through adults.

Our theme this year will be to "Dig In" and learn all about the Life of Jesus.

Please come and join us as we learn together.

YOUTH MONTH

We are celebrating Youth Month in the month of September. We are rejoicing in our Lord for all the many young people who are a part of our family at Shepherd of the Hills. During the month of September there will be envelopes on the table in the Narthex for our Youth Memorial Fund. This fund sponsors our youth to the National Youth Gathering. Please support our youth at Shepherd of the Hills.



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given with thanks for all God's Blessings by Judy and Dale Ott
This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of the birthdays in October by Beverly and Glenn*





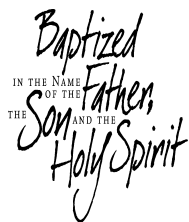
I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Kenneth Shook entered into eternal rest on June 23, 2024. We commend Kenneth into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Kenneth Shook** from Kathryn Lilly and Jay H. Gilbert and family and Debra and Loren Rees.

On June 30, 2024, **Luca James Giarizzi** the son of Nicholas and Megan Giarizzi was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Welcome Luca. We wish all of God's many blessings on Caleb's family and on his sponsors, Kimberly and Dominick Garizzi.



Thank you to our sponsor of the Times News SOTHLC ad

September— To the Glory of God by Joe Ebner and Sharon Bodor

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX FOR SPONSORING:

- ◆ ALTAR FLOWERS, COMMUNION WINE, BULLETINS
- ◆ TIMES NEWS SPONSORSHIP and NEWSLETTER
- ◆ MEMORIAL DONATIONS?

The envelopes help to provide the church office with the information necessary to properly credit your giving statement We hope having them available will be a convenience for you as well.

Please be aware that when you sponsor altar flowers you should arrange to pick them up after the 9 AM service. They will be distributed to the sick or shut-ins if left until Monday at noon.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:

- A** Louis Albright, Ron Anglestein, Carl Ayers,
- B** Bill Beidleman, Alana Bird, Ann Borell, Caitlyn Blocker, Jacob Braido, Angie Breasure, Sandra Brossler, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Ronald Burkhart,
- C** Beth Cherry, Jim Church, Verna Chandick, John Clark
- D** Nancy Dietz, Rev. Herbert Dolich, Easton Drumheller,
- F** Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Annie Frack, Kay Fronheiser,
- G** Brad Gaspar, Don Gantz, Terri Gerny, Jeff and Carrol Gilbert
- H** Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichel, Barbara Horvath, Cindy Hontz, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Elsie Huber,
- J** Becky and Kyle Jones and son, Adam,
- K** Alex Katana, Roseann Kohler, John Kotze,
- L** Shirley Leinbach, Sandra Lentz, Mary Kay Lewis, Scott Lazarus,
- M** Diane Masonheimer, Sandra McFetridge, Debbie Messinger, Lucy Messinger, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Feryl Miller, Richard Miller, Eric Minford, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Russell Myers,
- N** Cathy Nelcoski, Ava Nolan
- O**
- P** Sandra Phillips,
- R** Scarlet Randolph, Chris Reardon, June Reifinger, Jean Reinert, Jan Reinik, Dee Renner, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Toni Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer,
- S** Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Marie Schaible, Barbara Scheirer, Irene Scherr, Gloria Schmidinger, Bonnie Schneck, Pastor Schlegel, Greg Scott, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Jim Shope, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, Jim Shope, Dave Spangler, Ann Stibitz,
- T** Rosemarie Thrash,
- U**
- W** Cathy Weaver, Jennifer Wentling, Patricia Wong Chong, Donna Smith Worth, Bill Weighknecht,
- Y** Daniel Yakubecek, Mary Lou Young,
- Z** Bob Zarrizki, Mary Zader, Lance Ziegenfuss, *The families of Ken Shook, Anna Weighknecht, Angela McFetridge, Cindy Hartz, Richard Jones, Don Afflerbach, Robert Kincaid*





On July 15, 5 youth members, Luke, Steven, Paige, Dylan and Grace, along with 2 adults, Drew and Lisa, boarded a plane and headed to New Orleans! This was the first ELCA Youth Gathering for most of the group and the first one held since 2018! We spent time riding on a swamp tour, touring St Louis Cemetery #1, seeing floats from Mardi Gras parades and tasting new foods. We spent time at the convention center interacting with other groups on our Interactive Learning Day. We cleaned storm drains on our Community Service Day. What an amazing experience as people stopped to say thank you for our hard work! And we explored the French Quarter during the scavenger hunt on our Synod Day. We had a great experience and we are so grateful for your support of the youth group!!



There will be a **youth group meeting** on September 8 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Any youth in their second year of confirmation or older should attend. Parents should plan to attend for the first hour. Lunch will be served.



Hoagies will go on sale on September 8. The cost is \$6 for a hoagie and \$4 for a sandwich. Delivery will be October 13 after the service.

Our gift card sale will begin October 6. Order forms will be available on the table by the stairs. They should be filled out and turned in with a check by December 1. Or you may go to www.shopwithscrip.com, log in and use the code **L9A248FA33862** to order online. All orders must be received by December 1 and they will be ready for pickup by Dec 8.



Our **nut roll sale** will tentatively begin on October 20 with a delivery date of November 17. We are waiting for confirmation from Country Cottage about prices and flavors, which will be determined in September.



The youth group will be helping at **Parkland CARES Food Pantry** on November 2. They have asked us to donate standard sized cans of **Chicken Noodle Soup, SpaghettiOs/Chef Boyardee and Tuna**. We will collect these items through the month of October.



You asked for it, so here it is!! **The clothing drive will start September 1 and will continue through June 14, 2025.** Please bring any bags of clothing and put them downstairs in the last Sunday School room on the right. 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. They will not accept quilts, comforters, pillows or blankets. 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.

To order hoagies and/or nut rolls or to have a gift card order form mailed to you, call Lisa at 610-262-4053.



**Harvest Home
September 22nd**



Our Harvest Home service is September 22nd. This year the need is great for canned goods & rice, we are looking for mostly non-perishables. (These can be brought to the church any time before the 22nd) We will be putting a list on the Kiosk for fresh items that we are looking to use to beautify the sanctuary. There will be someone available to receive perishables Thursday the 19st from 6 to 8 PM, and Saturday the 21st in the morning 8 to 11 AM. Please mark (name or initials or put a note in if they are bagged) any fresh items you would like to take back home with you. These fresh/perishable items will be available to pick up after the 9 am service on the 22nd. If anyone is interested in helping to set up the display, please contact Denise Smith 610-554-4500.

Back
to
School



**A Prayer for
our Students**

Lord, thank you for the unique gifts of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your enduring love, give them confidence and grace, and equip them with the ability to persevere through trials. Bless their teachers with wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve, as they embark on the journey together!

Amen!.

LaurieYogi.com | @shaped4strength



- ◆ . . . to **everyone** who helped keep the church grounds, flower beds, walkways and perimeters free from weeds this summer. We so appreciate your efforts. The grounds have looked beautiful.
- ◆ . . . to **James Shope** for directing his Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills in July.
- ◆ . . . to **Norma A. Hrozencik and Robert G. Klock** for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills in August.
- ◆ . . from Lucy Messinger for all the prayers and cards she received.
- ◆ . . .from World Vision for our donation of \$114.14 to empower kids and families to rise above poverty and build futures once thought unreachable.

◆ **We received notes . . .**

I want to thank everyone for the kindness you have shown me. May God bless you all.
Mary Lou Young

Thank you so much for our prayer shawls. We use them all the time. (Inside and outside.)
Sandy Phillips
Kathy Dilcher

Knowing the important role pets play in the life of people, **September 8 at our 9 AM service we will have a special service to bless these important animals.** This will take place on our front lawn. (Remember to bring your chair.)

All animals are welcome, provided they are friendly and under physical control (leash, harness, bridle or crate.)

In case of inclement weather, we will meet in Fellowship Hall.



As the children begin a new school year we will bless their backpacks. Please bring all backpacks to our worship service.

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
SEPTEMBER 1 AT THE 9 AM SERVICE.**

COMMITTEE PAGE



THE SERVICE TEAM - New list of needs

- ⇒ 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 Take A Look At Our Revamped Web Page.

We have our own web page. You can find out information about our church at www.sothlc-egypt.org.

We also have e-mail. Our address is pastor@sothlc-egypt.org. We still have daily devotions which are sent out by e-mail. If you would like to receive the devotions, please e-mail us and we will add you to the list. Also each day at 7 PM you will find a Daily Reflection on the church's Facebook page. It includes God's Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE Assistance Fund

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. There are envelopes in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family. As we end the Summer and begin the Fall and Winter, the need is more prevalent. Please give so those in need in our Church Family may not go hungry or cold.

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.

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

PASTOR SCHLEGEL IS



OF SERVING SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

*Join us for a luncheon after the 9 AM service
September 29.*

A sign up sheet is available for you to list your name and the number attending. If you can bring a dessert, please list it on the sheet. You may also call the church office with your information.



**COME AND JOIN US!
LEARN THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Come and join us in September as we restart our Bible Study programs.

Wednesday, September 4 at 10:00 AM

Monday, September 9 at 10:00 AM

Place the dates in your calendar and come and join us.

Several Ways to God’s Word

We are offering several ways to God’s Word. Monday through Thursday at 7 PM there is a Daily Reflection on the Church’s Facebook page which includes God’s Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer. We also have a Daily devotion via email, which is sent out almost every day. If you would like to receive the email, please contact the church office.

AHOY, MATEYS !!!



Shepherd of the Hills is calling for “All Hands on Deck”! We are asking the congregation to join in our mission to fill our tuna boat with cans of tuna fish for the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative Food Pantry.



As a congregation you have been supportive and generous with your donations to the Food Pantry over the years. The boat located in the Narthex will be our vessel for collecting your donations.

Together we can make an impact and provide much needed support for those in need in our community.

**Karen Haberern
Linda Forand**

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
End of Prior Month (as of June 30, 2024)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$18,027 YTD: \$103,491

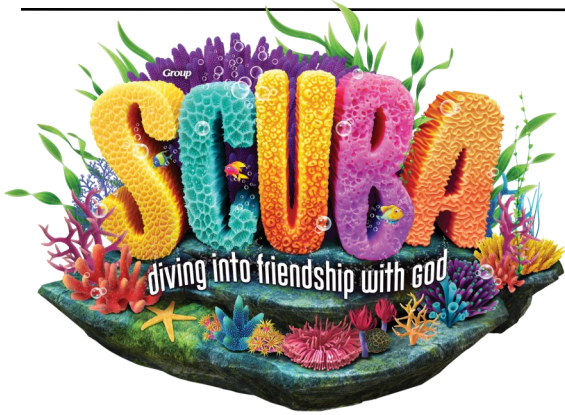
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$15,562 YTD: \$96,921

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:

June \$298 YTD: \$2,085 (Budget for 2024—\$18,439)

June Electric \$318 YTD: \$9,633

Capital Campaign Balance \$50,975 Pledge: \$34,950



Beginning June 24th and running through June 28th, 15 children and 22 volunteers participated in **SCUBA vbs**. They did some cool experiments. They learned that God is a friend who is real, who loves and who we can trust and also that God is a friend forever and a friend for everyone. They ate an assortment of underwater themed snacks and played some fun and wet games, including sailing on the sea, looking for fish in dune buggy boats and playing on a water slide. They watched for God and shared their God sightings.

Overall, **SCUBA** proved to be a fun and educational experience!

The children were asked to bring in an item for donation and change every night. These generous children brought in [cooking oil, cans of tuna, small flashlights and batteries, new washcloths, grape juice and grape jelly which will be donated to](#) Operation Christmas Child and the food bank. They also raised over \$114 in loose change. This will be sent to Operation Kid to Kid, who will distribute it [provide](#) clean water to families in rural Honduras.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors who brought the children every night to attend **SCUBA**. Without you, we wouldn't be able to have a VBS program. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated food items, supplies or money towards the VBS program. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated. And most importantly, a huge thank you to the volunteers who came every night to help, teach, guide and have fun with the kids. Without you, this program would be impossible!!

We hope everyone involved had a great time and we hope to see **everyone next year, June 23-27, 2025, when we head...**



