

# † The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania  
† November/December, 2024 †

Vol. 2024, Issue 6

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Now Thank we all our God! As the leaves turn their beautiful color and we consider all the many blessings we receive from God, we need to give thanks to God each day. It may be difficult to see the glory of God around us when we are confronted with doubt and despair. It may be difficult when we see the darkness of this world. We as children of God need to see the Light of Christ still shining even in the midst of all the darkness and doubts as we face each and every day. We need to let our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our God in heaven.

As we live each day, we need to spread love and peace with those we meet and not be overcome by the darkness of this world. We have a lot to be thankful for at Shepherd of the Hills and we need to Worship and Praise our Living Lord. May we live each day praying the prayer of St. Francis Of Assisi and come together as the Family of God.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel

Thanksgiving  
*Eve Service*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 7 PM**

We will come together to worship God and give thanks to His Holy Name for all our many blessings.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7** we are looking for volunteers to set up the Christmas tree. Contact Gary Easton if you can help.

*Deck  
the  
Halls*

**DECEMBER 8th**

Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 8 after the service. Come and join us as we prepare for the Savior's Birth.

**DECEMBER 15th**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

immediately following the service for the election of council members and adoption of a budget. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**DECEMBER 24th**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
WORSHIP**

**4:00 P.M.  
7:00 P.M.**

In the Sanctuary.



Whichever service you and your family choose to attend, come, rejoicing in the knowledge that Christ the child was born for you!



**November 3rd  
2024**



This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in **gratitude of God's**

This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given **in honor of loved ones by the Lentz family.**



### ALTAR FLOWER POLICY

Each Sunday after the service the Altar flowers will be placed in the back porch or foyer. If you sponsor the flowers, you should pick them up by noon on Monday. Any flowers that remain after noon on Monday will be taken to a sick or shut-in member.

**PRICE FOR 2024**      **1 Vase - \$30.00**  
                                 **2 Vases - \$60.00**

### I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE



**Ethel Harakal** entered into eternal rest August 20, 2024. We commend Ethel into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

**Lance Ziegenfuss** entered into eternal rest September 10, 2024. We commend Ethel into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.



To **Donald and Maxine Gantz** for directing their Thrivent Choice dollars to SOTHLC in September.

To the **15** pets who came to the Blessing of the Animals. Thank you also for bringing your human with you.

Thank you to everyone who made my 25th Anniversary Celebration a special day. Thank you to the committee: Keith Moyer, Randy Marushak, Terri Miller, Denise Smith, Karen Haberern and Lisa Kroboth. Thank you for all the gifts and well wishes.

Pastor Schlegel

To those who decorated the Church for Harvest Home: Randy Marushak, Terri Miller, Fran Worman, Norma Hrozencik and Denise Smith.

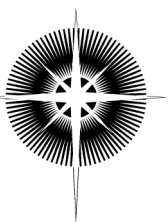
To the following people who helped make the Community Free Meal a success: Linda Forand, Karen Haberern, Judy Lentz, Judy Ott, Melissa Sassaman, Helena Sterner, Fran Worman, Karen Zimmerman.

We served a total of 63 meals.

To Fran Worman, Irene Scherr, Gary and Dolores Reenock, Edwin Palansky, Carl and Darlene Kocher, and Margaret and Robert Hogan for their donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ethel Harakal.

To Donna M. Ziegenfuss, Debra A. Dieter, Christopher McAfee, Susan Zeravsky and Karen Minnig for their donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Lance Ziegenfuss.

To Sarah Jensen for her donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Richard Jensen.



**The church office will be closed during the Christmas Holiday from December 25th through January 1st.**

Our advertising in the *Times News* for November is given **with thanks for the beauty of autumn by Todd and Melissa Sassaman.**

The *Times News* December advertising is given in **Celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary by Don and Maxine Gantz.**

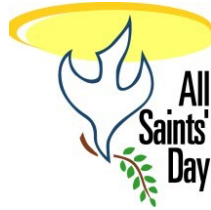


**What is Christmas?** Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

**November 3rd**

We will celebrate All Saints' Sunday and we will remember all who were members at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and entered into eternal rest this past year:

- Doris E. Weaver
- Kenneth R. Shook
- Ethel Harakal
- Lance Ziegenfuss



**Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers**

- A* Carol Ayers, Ronald Anglestein, Louis Albright
- B* Jennifer Berger, Sandra Bressler, Ann Borell, Karen Breshers, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Bill Beidleman, Jacob Braido
- C* Beth Cherry, Verna Chandick, John Clark
- D* Nancy Dietz
- F* Patrick Foran, Annie Frack, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Kay Fronheiser, Beverly Fekula
- G* Richard Gelsing, Brad Gaspar, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Teri Gerny
- H* Betty and Lamont Hontz, Brandon Heichel, Barbara Horvath
- K* Keith Kramer, Alex Katana, John Kotze
- L* Scott Lazarus, Sandra Lentz, Mary Kay Lewis
- M* Aurora Magyar, Diane Masonheimer, Debbie Messinger, Terry Messinger, Christopher Moakley, Doris Miller, Kevin Moyer, Carol Mickley, Feryl Miller, Russell Myers
- N* Ava Nolan, Cathy Nelcoski
- P* Sandra Phillips
- R* Corey Rapchak, Scarlet Randolph, Jean Reinert, Jean Roth, June Reifinger, Dee Renner, Mary Royer, Jan Reinik, Tonie Rothdeutsch
- S* Sherry Smith, Irene Scherr, Sue Sill, Greg Scott, Jim Shope, Anne Stibitz, Irene Scherr, Sean Skelonis, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Michael Saraceno, Ruth Saadi, Bonnie Schneck
- W* Bill Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling
- Y* MaryLou Young, Daniel Yakubecek
- Z* Mary Zader

*And the families of Mark Adam, Beulah Adams, Richard Jensen, Stephen Roman and Lance Ziegenfuss.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sunday, October 27:** Reformation Sunday and Presentation of Bibles. **Wear red.** Join us for the presentation of Bibles to a few of our Sunday School children.

**Sunday, November 3:** All Saint's Sunday. Join us as we remember those of our congregation who entered into eternal rest this past year.

**Wednesday, November 27:** Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm. Please join us as we give thanks for all the many blessings that God has given us.

**Saturday, December 7:** We are looking for volunteers to set up the Christmas tree. Contact Gary Easton if you can help.

**Sunday, December 8 after the service:** Sanctuary Decorating. After the decorating is finished, we will share a pot luck lunch and then go caroling to our home bound congregation members. Please join us for a fun afternoon filled with Christmas cheer!!

**Sunday, December 15 after the service:** Congregational meeting.

**Sunday, December 22:** 9 AM, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Our **Christmas Eve services** will be at 4 pm and 7 pm. The 4 pm service will be will be posted on Facebook and on our website.

**Sunday, December 29:** We will have a service of Lessons and Carols. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.

**Sunday, January 5:** Installation of Church Council members for 2025.

**Monday, January 6:** Epiphany Service at 7 PM

**Sunday, January 19, immediately following the service:** Congregational meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Sunday January 26:** Youth Sunday. Come out and support these talented young people as they lead us in song, sermon and prayers.



You are invited to join us on **Wednesday mornings** at **10:00 AM** for Bible Study.

Do you ever wonder what the Scripture meant on a Sunday morning and the Pastor didn't explain it? This Bible Study is for YOU!

We will continue a Bible Study on **Monday mornings** at **10:00AM**. We will discuss the Scripture lessons from the previous day.

*Come and share the Word of our Lord.*

**SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness**  
*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*  
**End of Prior Month (as of September 30, 2024)**

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$17,708	YTD: \$146,781
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$14,384	YTD: \$144,595
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:	
September \$ 268	YTD: \$ 3,012 (Budget for 2024 -\$18,439)
August Electric \$ 322	YTD: \$10,677
Capital Campaign Balance \$53,500	Pledge \$34,950

**Youth Group News**

On September 22, three youth group members went to **Two T's mini golf** in Easton. We started with lunch at Forks Pizza and Grill. Tiny little place, but very good pizza! We then played a round of indoor glow in the dark mini golf, followed by a few video games and then ice cream!! We had a great time!

The youth group volunteered and walked at the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 5K** in Allentown on October 6. It was a beautiful day and we helped by setting up tables and putting out directional signs on the 5k route. Which meant we had to walk it! We also helped sell merchandise and hand out freebies. We listened to some of the speakers and then walked the 5k again with all the participants. Thank you to everyone who donated to support our walkers and the AFSP. We raised a total of \$620 for suicide prevention!!

**Thank you** to everyone who bought hoagies. We made a profit of \$446!

The youth group is selling **gift cards**. The order forms are available for pick up on the table at the top of the stairs. Or go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). Set up a user name, password and security questions. The enrollment code is **L9A248FA33862**. All checks and orders must be turned in by December 1. Delivery will be December 8.

Join the youth group on **December 8** as we help to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and go caroling to our homebound congregation members.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our youth!!

**Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas!! Happy New Year!!!**

Gloria Fischl  
 Phoebe Home  
 1925 W. Turner St.  
 Allentown PA 18104

Verna Chandick  
 2107 Dewey Ave.  
 Northampton PA 18067

Lamont and Betty Hontz  
 6043 Lower Macungie Rd.  
 Legend Assisted Living Apt. 103  
 Macungie PA 18062

Jean Roth  
 Fellowship Manor  
 3000 Fellowship Manor  
 Rm 227B  
 Whitehall PA 18052

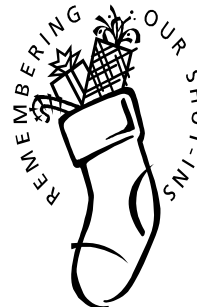
Irene Scherr  
 800 Hausman Rd.  
 Apt. 379  
 Allentown PA 18104

John Clark  
 Country Meadows Rehab  
 4011 Green Pond Rd.  
 Bethlehem PA 18020

Daniel Yakubecek  
 Sterling Heights Gracious  
 Retirement Living  
 3500 Fairview St.  
 Bethlehem PA 18017

Sandra Phillips  
 4 Pine St.  
 Lehighton PA 18235

Scarlet Randolph  
 Independence Court of  
 Quakertown Room 104  
 1600 Park Ave.  
 Quakertown PA 18951



**DON'T FORGET OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS. SEND A CHRISTMASGREETING.**



# COMMITTEE PAGE

**The Worship Committee:** **MORNING PRAYER:** Each **Thursday morning at 9:30 AM** we are meeting in our church sanctuary to pray to the Lord. Come and join us as we gather together in the House of our Lord.

**The Service Committee:** **Support the Food Pantry, Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative**  
**Needed items include:** boxes of oatmeal, boxed potatoes, canned fruit (low sugar or light fruit syrup), canned corn, peas, sweet potatoes and tuna, cereal, condiments (mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard), corn muffin mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, macaroni & cheese, pancake mix & syrup, pasta (all kinds), peanut butter, ready-to-eat items (canned ravioli, spaghettios, etc.) 1-pound bags of brown or white rice, soups (creamed, chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, etc.), spaghetti sauce, Stovetop Stuffing, **toiletries**—baby & adult diapers, feminine products, **dog & cat food.**  
**NO refrigerated, frozen, perishable or homemade items, please.**

## 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**

**FACEBOOK: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church-Egypt**

**CALL THE CHURCH  
610-262-1600**

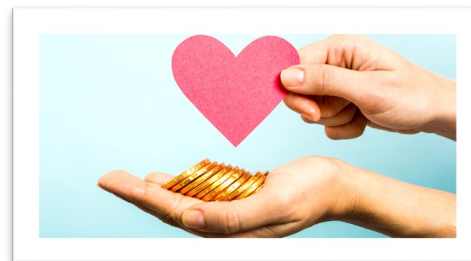


## Attention Deacons

**Your Report** will be needed in the church office **by the end of 2024.** The office will be mailing out copies of last year's reports to chairs and deacons (check your bins in the office). Please help us by completing your report ASAP.

## ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

received by the church **on Sunday, December 29, 2024 will be posted in the year 2024.** Offering Statements for 2024 will be available in January 2025. If you would like to receive your offering statement, please contact the Church office.



## Three Kinds of Giving:

"There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to'; duty giving says, 'I ought to'; and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

—Robert N. Rodenmayer

1-0200 ZO-1-0200

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

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
2024 Christmas 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. Return your completed form along with your check to the Church Office or place in the offering plate.

CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Poinsettia - **\$12.00** per plant  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hunger Fund Donation - \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Fund - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Living) \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE # \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS - NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

The above tributes will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins.

**The Prayer Shawl Committee** is looking for volunteers 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 at 9:00 AM.



**The colors of Advent**

In December you will see blue lights in our church windows. The blue of the season reflects the blue mantle of peace that we are waiting for. The blue also represents the royalty of the King who arrived on that first Christmas and will come again as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Advent is a time of preparation and reflection, not a time for celebration. Therefore, the Advent Wreath is bare without any greenery. Take a few moments during this Advent season and notice the colors of the season.



**ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION (MEN)**

- Supermarket gift cards
- Powdered eggs
- Corned beef hash
- Granola and cereal bars
- Canned spinach and collard greens
- Low sodium soup and canned vegetables
- No sugar baked beans
- Canned chicken
- Tuna fish
- Canned coffee
- Coffee creamers
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Shampoo

**RIPPLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

- Applesauce/Fruit cups
- Mac N' Cheese
- Ramen noodle cups
- Canned coffee
- Tea bags
- Hot chocolate packets
- Chapstick
- Flashlights with batteries
- Book bags
- Reusable totes
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- \$5 Wawa Gift cards
- Baby Wipes
- Deodorant

**KIDS PEACE**

- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Clay
- Sketch pads
- Paint and brushes
- Gel pens
- Board games
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Pajamas (no drawstrings)
- Socks
- Sweatshirts (all sizes); NO hoodies, please
- Gift cards- Target, Walmart, movie theater

**INGATHERING**

**2024**

**REQUESTS**

**NORTHERN LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT  
INGATHERING 2024**

The Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville will be hosting the 2024 Northern Lehigh Valley Ingathering on Thursday, December 5, 2024. Shepherd of the Hills will be participating by collecting items for the following organizations: Kids Peace, Ripple Community Center, and The Allentown Rescue Mission.

In addition, all participating churches will be donating \$25.00 each to the Allentown YMCA Warming Station. The Warming Station provides food, shelter, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness in our community. The Warming Station will be open to guests 7 days a week, 7 am - 7 pm, November 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please take the time to review the list of needed items provided by each organization. We would greatly appreciate if you would purchase items from the lists below and bring them to church starting 11/10/24 - 12/01/24. Please drop off your items at the Ingathering Collection Table that will be located in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for supporting this Christmas collection for others in our community. If you have any questions regarding the Ingathering, please feel free to speak to Karen Zimmerman, Linda Forand or Laurie Andrew.





Attention all military veterans who served on active military duty during the period of 1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975:

You are eligible to receive a Vietnam Veterans' lapel pin. These pins will be presented at a Veterans' Day ceremony at 14th and Washington Ave., Northampton, at 11:00 AM on Saturday, 9 November 2024.

If you're an eligible veteran and wish to receive this memento, please call 610-440-0018 before 31 October 2024.



**Capital Campaign Pledge Reminder:** In 2023, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church initiated a capital campaign to raise funds for repairs to the sanctuary roof, ceiling and walls and for mold remediation. Our goal is to raise \$135,000 through pledges from our church members. **4th quarter 2024 pledges are due.**

Pledge envelopes are available in the sanctuary lobby. If you have not pledged, you are invited to do so. One-time donations are also welcome.



Shepherd of the Hills will be sponsoring a giving tree to benefit under-privileged children who attend Community Services for Children's day care program. The children are taught many life skills and social interactions with others. The parents earn gift cards by attending classes and working at Co.S.C. Gift cards and books may be purchased in any amount to benefit the low-income families. Please turn in your gifts no later than December 16.

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