

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† March/April, 2025 †

Vol. 2025, Issue 2

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On March 5, 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 9 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,

Pastor Schlegel

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



Passion
SUNDAY

April 13

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

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Morning Prayer at 9:30 am
Covered Dish Meal at 6:00 pm
Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 18

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

Prayer Vigil

April 18-19

8 PM Friday until 7 PM Saturday

Easter Sunday, April 20

Holy Communion at 7:00 am
Holy Communion at 9:00 am
Sunday School at 10:15 am



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given with gratitude for all of God's blessings by Carol and Paul Balascki.



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in wonderment of the miracle of Christ's resurrection by Todd and Melissa Sassaman.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Daniel H. Rohrbach entered into eternal rest December 13, 2024. We commend Daniel into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Feryl L. Miller entered into eternal rest December 17, 2024. We commend Feryl into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

John A. Clark entered into eternal rest on December 31, 2024. We commend John into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Daniel Smith entered into eternal rest on January 1, 2025. We commend Daniel into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Catherine J. Brobst entered into eternal rest on January 17, 2025. We commend Catherine into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Doris J. Miller entered into eternal rest on January 23, 2025. We commend Doris into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.



**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
2025 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 30
The above tributes will be listed in the Easter Bulletins.





SERVICE TEAM

COMMITTEE PAGE

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY is asking for the following items:

Whitehall Food Pantry, located at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 3900 Mechanicsville Rd., Whitehall is requesting support in their mission to fight hunger in our community.

The food pantry is requesting donations of spaghetti pasta and sauce, soups such as chicken noodle, Chef Boyardee (ravioli, beefaroni, etc.), canned vegetables, and breakfast cereals.



In addition to seeking donations of food, the pantry needs volunteers to work at the pantry on any of the first four Mondays each month.

For more information, call Brenda at 484-330-9862.

Please reach out in God’s love to those in need. *God’s Work, Our Hands*. Please place your donations on the table in the narthex.



Morning Prayer: Each **Thursday morning at 9:30 A.M.** 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.

Shepherds Club



The Shepherds Club meets at the Coplay Eatery on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 9 AM. The club is open to any fun-loving seniors. Come join us for breakfast and a great time.

2025 Congregation Council



- Tracy Tacker, President
- Jan Masonheimer, Vice President
- Melissa Sassaman, Secretary
- Drew Null, Treasurer
- Carl France, Financial Secretary
- Mary Lou Young, Witness
- Gary Easton, Support
- Barry Wexler, Service
- Lisa Kroboth, Youth
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Tara Henry-Morrow, Learning
- Dylan Rapchak, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor

Reflections

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.



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.



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.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 9.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:



**True North Vacation Bible School will be held June 23-27, 2025!
 Registration forms will be mailed in April.**

**Please Keep in Your
 Thoughts And Prayers:**



- A. Betty Ackerman
 - B. Bill Beidleman, Jacob Braido, Marianne Blocker, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Carol Bennecoff, Ann Borell, Alana Bird, Angela Bressler, Sandra Bressler, Pat Budd, Mark Buresh
 - C. Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, JoAnn Coppola, Charles Church, Nick Cihylik
 - D. Nancy Dietz, Pierre DeRagon, Kelly Durst
 - E. Kimberly Eastep
 - F. Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Annie Frack, Carl France, Kay Fronheiser, Patrick Foran
 - G. Teri Gerney, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Ronald Gerlach, Maxine Gantz, Sally Gibson
 - H. Brandon Heichel, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Shelley Hanson, Elsie Huber, Dot Hartman, Al Herman, Mike Hart
 - K. Alex Katana, John Kotze, Adele Kunkle, Keith Kramer, Barbara Kuhns, Zoe Kuchera
 - L. Scott Lazarus, Wayne Lazarus
 - M. Diane Masonheimer, Debbie Messinger, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Russell Myers, Tara Morrow, Mason Moriarty, Heather Markulics, Tiffany Mosser
 - N. Cathy Nelcoski, Ava Nolan, Aiyana Nederostek
 - O. Russlene Ouldcott
 - P. Sandra Phillips, Mary Peters
 - Q. Linda Quinn
 - R. June Reifinger, Jean Reinert, Jan Reinik, Wayne Remaly, Dee Renner, Jean Roth, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer, Scarlet Randolph, Corey Rapchak, Carolyn Ruch, Reynold Reifinger, Aida Reinhard
 - S. Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Irene Scherr, Gloria Schmidinger, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Jim Shope, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, Bonnie Schneck, Donna Strawbridge, Corey Seese, Michael Schwentner, Nancy Scheidt, Carol Siegel, Richard Sniscak, Fran Sniscak, Grace Smith
 - T. Rosemarie Thrash,
 - U. Paul Unger
 - W. Bill Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling,
 - Y. Daniel Yakubecek
 - Z. Mary Zader, Bob Zarrizski
- The Families of Daniel Rohrbach, Feryl Miller, Catherine Brobst, Doris Miller, Daniel Smith and John Clark



Tuesday, April 15, 2025 4-6 PM

Shepherd of the Hills Church, in cooperation with the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative, will provide a free community meal in Fellowship Hall.

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 and on SOTHLC's Facebook page. Information can also be obtained by calling the church at 610-262-1600.



Youth Group News

On January 26, the youth group led the service as we celebrated Youth Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the service and Fellowship that followed. Special thanks to all the parents who donated the baked goods and to Joe who helped make the coffee and clean up!!

Thank you to everyone who ordered hoagies. We made a profit of \$462.25.

On February 1, 3 youth members went to Parkland Cares. This was a last-minute request from Parkland CARES as their previously planned volunteer group had to cancel. We were happy to help at their last outdoor distribution! They are so excited to be moving back to a Choice Pantry, where families can come in to shop for themselves! We helped unload trucks, set up tables and fill bags with goodies for the families. It was very cold and windy, but it's always so good to see this come together for the families in need.

Nut rolls go on sale March 9. The sale will run through March 23, with a delivery of April 6. We are trying a new bakery for the spring, Baker Ben's Bakery. Since it's our first time, we will have an assortment of items to choose from. We will be selling nut rolls for \$17 and the flavors will be nut, poppy and apricot. We will sell strudel for \$11 and those flavors will be apple, blueberry and cherry. And we will also sell sticky buns-a 3 pack and 6 pack in both plain and nut topping. Prices range from \$6.50-\$11 for the buns. We will have samples available on March 2 after the service.

We are planning to have a Penny Party on April 27. 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 to share some time of friendship and fun.

Our clothing drive 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. 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 610-533-0161 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.

The Times News advertising for March and April is donated in memory of our parents, Arlan and Anna Koenig and Clarence and Lillian Schlegel by Past5or and Cindy Schlegel.

Our Lenten monologues this year will be taken from "The Word Has Come Down". These individuals will clarify how their lives were changed when Jesus entered their lives. Join us as we hear these individuals.

- March 12** The Witness of Judas, Disciple and Betrayer of Jesus
- March 19** The Witness of Peter
- March 26** The Witness of Caiaphas, High Priest
- April 2** The Witness of Herod, Tetrarch of Jerusalem
- April 9** The Witness of Pontius Pilate, Roman Governor of Israel



- ✿ to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on January 26. What a wonderful job!
- ✿ to Wayne Fogle, Allen Handwerk, Tammy Hill, Diane and Jan Masonheimer and Cheryl Reisinger for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in January.
- ✿ to Norma Ickes for her donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of John Clark.
- ✿ to Marilyn Null for her donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Catherine Brobst.
- ✿ to Leonard and Judith Makovsky for their donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Catherine Brobst.
- ✿ to Paul and Carol Balascki for their donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Catherine Brobst.
- ✿ from the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative for our donations to the Food Pantry.
- ✿ from John Ayres, Sr. for the many prayer cards received for his wife, Carole Ayres, during her illness.
- ✿ from Community Services for Children for our Giving Tree donations of \$776.00 during their holiday drive.

To my friends at Shepherd of the Hills,

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful celebration that honored my 43 years as sexton. The generous VISA gift card was greatly appreciated and the cake was beautiful and delicious!

Thanks again,
Lucy Messinger

P.S. Terry says Thank You, too!



On January 22, 2025, **Carol Gilbert** 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, backpacks, hats, scarves, handbags, briefcases, gloves, and men's ties, soft household items like table cloths, towels, bed sheets, curtains, and stuffed animals. Every piece helps! We can also accept bicycles that are in good working condition.

NO Sport equipment (bikes are OK), blankets, pillows, quilts, comforters, board games, books, puzzles, pots, car seats, electrical devices or glass, large toys, highchairs or baby cribs, VCR tapes, furniture and outdoor play sets.

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 room next to the garage before...

June 14, 2025

Questions? Call Lisa Kroboth 610-533-0161