

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† May/June, 2025 †

Vol. 2025 Issue 3

PASTOR'S CORNER

He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Dear Sister or Brother in Christ,

He is Risen! Recently, 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. 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

AT A GLANCE:

May 1

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



May 11



June 8

Pentecost (wear red)



June 8

We will **honor all the Sunday School teachers for the 2024-2025** Sunday School Year.

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



June 15



June 15

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 memory of loved ones by Joe Ebner & Sharon Bodor.

This Issue of the Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my grandson, Benjamin's birthday by Rozelle Higgins.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:



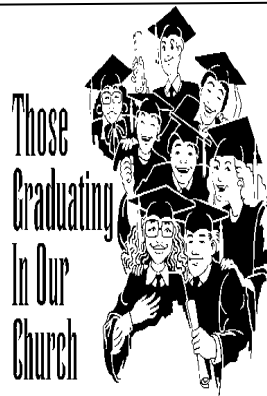
A. Betty Ackerman
B. Carletta Bartholomew, Michelle Beck, Bill Beidleman, Rosalie Beidleman, Jacob Braid, Marianne Blocker, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Carol Bennecoff, Ann Borell, Alana Bird, Angela Bressler, Sandra Bressler, Pat Budd, Mark Buresh
C. Lisa Carl, Beth Cherry, Charles Church, Nick Cihylik, JoAnn Coppola
D. Nancy Dietz, Pierre DeRagon, Donna Detweiler, Kelly Durst
E. Kimberly Eastep
F. Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Diane Flahart, Annie Frack, Carl France, Kay Fronheiser, Patrick Foran
G. Maxine Gantz, Ronald Gerlach, Teri Gerney, Sally Gibson, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Rebecca Gross
H. Shelley Hanson, Mike Hart, Dot Hartman, Brandon Heichel, Al Herman, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Elsie Huber, Susan Huber
K. Alex Katana, Bill Kiefer, Kathy Koch, John Kotze, Keith Kramer, Barbara Kuhns, Zoe Kuchera, Adele Kunkle, Bruce Kunkle
L. Scott Lazarus, Wayne Lazarus
M. Heather Markulics, Diane Masonheimer, Mia Mcclary, Denise Mensinger, Debbie Messinger, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Mason Moriarty, Tara Morrow, Tiffany Mosser, Kevin Moyer, Russell Myers,
N. Cathy Nelcoski, Ava Nolan, Aiyana Nederostek
O. Russlene Oulcott
P. Mary Peters, Sandra Phillips, Karen Plesher
Q. Linda Quinn
R. Scarlet Randolph, Barbara Rapchak, Corey Rapchak, June Reifinger, Reynold Reifinger, Jean Reinert, Aida Reinhard, Debbie Reinhard, Jan Reinik, Wayne Remaly, Dee Renner, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer, Carolyn Ruch
S. Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Nancy Scheidt, Irene Scherr, Gloria Schmidinger, Bonnie Schneck, Michael Schwentner, Corey Seese, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Jim Shope, Carol Siegel, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Leroy Smith, Sherry Smith, Richard Sniscak, Fran Sniscak, Grace Smith, Helene Sterner, Donna Strawbridge, John Strawbridge

T. Rosemarie Thrash, Susan Trumbauer
U. Paul Unger
W. Bill Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Jim Wick
Y. Daniel Yakubecek
Z. Mary Zader, Bob Zarrizski

The Families of
 June Fenstermacher,
 Jean O. Roth
 and Verna M. Chandick

Healing Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances.
 In Jesus, we pray.
 Amen.*



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 memory of our mothers, Erma Weaver and Esther Hacker by Beverly and Glenn Hacker.

The Times News Advertising for June is sponsored in memory of our fathers, George Weaver and Joseph Hacker by Beverly and Glenn Hacker.

The following young man received his first Holy Communion at our Maundy Thursday Service:

Spencer Reppert



Early Reminder . . . Our **church picnic** will be **July 27**. We will need desserts for the covered dish picnic lunch as well as cakes for the "Cake Walk."

COMMITTEE Update

⇒ Reach out to those in need

- ⇒ Soups: chicken noodle
- ⇒ Cereals: all kinds and any other breakfast items
- ⇒ Pasta: macaroni and cheese
- ⇒ Canned fruit
- ⇒ Canned kidney beans

THE WITNESS COMMITTEE

Each day there is a devotion of scripture and prayer sent from the church via e-mail (pastor@sothlc-egypt.org). If you have access to e-mail and would like to receive the daily devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address.

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.

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

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

End of Prior Month (as of March 31, 2025)

Monthly Stewardship Income:	\$19,099	YTD: \$55,085
Monthly Operating Expenses:	\$17,131	YTD: \$52,637
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:		
March \$ 428	YTD: \$1,046	(Budget for 2025—\$19,399)
February Electric \$1,521	YTD: \$4,829	
Capital Campaign Balance	\$72,784	Pledge: \$34,950

On April 27, 2025 we welcomed Audrey Diane Molchany into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God's many blessings on Audrey and her parents.



Crysti Lee Wilson and Joshua Roy Stout were joined in Holy Matrimony on March 8, 2025.
 May God bless their lives together.



Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our church family:

Conrad Abelovsky
Joshua and Crysti Stout
Kerlly Barba
Betty Remaly



June E. Fenstermacher entered into eternal rest on February 16, 2025. We commend June into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

Jean O. Roth entered into eternal rest on February 17, 2025. We commend Jean into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

Verna M. Chandick entered into eternal rest on April 8, 2025. We commend Verna into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of

Verna M. Chandick by:

*The Family of John A. Clark, Jr.
Glenn and Beverly Hacker
Jean Hoffman
Kevin Hoffman
Wendy and Tim Hoffman
Fran Worman*

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of

John A. Clark, Jr. by:

*Roxane Comyack
Ken Clark
Tammy L. Giraldi*

*In
Loving
Memory*



YARD CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Doesn't it feel good when you come to church on a Sunday and the church grounds look beautiful?

Your 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 484-725-7387.



**We will be planting
geraniums on
Monday, June 9, 2025
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!**





- ◆ . . . to Bonnie Fogle, Donald and Maxine Gantz, Allen Handwerk, Tammy Hill, Cheryl Reisinger, Barbara Scheirer and Tracy Tacker for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in March.
- ◆ . . . to Jay Hill, Norma Hrozencik, Robert Klock, Lisa Kroboth, Diane Masonheimer, Melissa Sassaman and Cheryl Tully for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in February.
- ◆ . . . to Sandra Hartman for her generous donation to the Prayer Shawl Committee for the purchase of supplies.
- ◆ . . . to Linda Forand, Karen Haberern, Melissa and Todd Sassaman, Fran Worman, Judy Ott, Judy Lentz and Denise Mensinger for helping with the April 15th Community Meal. Thank you to those who contributed desserts. It was a successful meal with 64 guests served.

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 Lehigh Conference of Churches thanking SOTHLC for the \$150.00 contribution to "carry out the work of God well beyond our collective walls, providing housing, hope and healing to those who need it most."
- ◆ Northeastern PA Synod, ELCA for SOTHLC's "faithful, generous and consistent giving to mission support...We are stronger together."
- ◆ Helene Sterner: "I want to thank the prayer shawl committee for the beautiful prayer shawl and thank you to Pastor Schlegel and the congregation for the prayers. You are a wonderful church."
- ◆ Elsie Huber: "I would like to thank you for your continued prayers for my healing."

The youth group sold 190 nut rolls, strudels and sticky buns and made a profit of \$587. **Thank you** to everyone who bought a nut roll, strudel or sticky bun!

On February 27, 7 youth members visited **Cedarbrook Senior Center**. Our group was split up and some of them helped to transport the residents to the entertainment room and then got to enjoy the entertainment as well. Other youth group members played Uno and Dominoes with different residents. We ended up at the Trivet for an early dinner.

On **March 2**, we had a meeting about anger, which lead to some very interesting conversations.

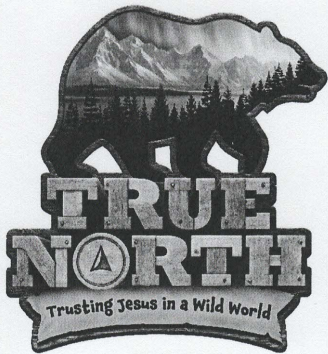
On March 16, we ventured to the PPL Center to watch the **Lehigh Valley Phantoms**. While they unfortunately lost, we had fun watching them and we ended the night at Shake Shack which is always a bit hit!

4 youth members went to **Phoebe Senior Living** on April 6. After lunch at Mama's Pizza, we arrived at Phoebe and helped to transport residents to Moyer Hall. Once there, we split into groups and were able to talk to the residents about their lives and things that they had done. We heard some very interesting stories and really enjoyed our time with them.

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 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.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!





It's time for kids to hit the trail...for adventure!!

At **TRUE NORTH VBS**, kids discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world!

TRUE NORTH 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 kids in North America with new warm clothes and blankets

TRUE NORTH VBS is great fun for children from ages 3 through 6th grade (entering 7th in the fall).

Mark these dates on your calendar: **June 23-27, 2025**

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

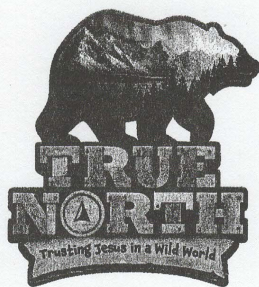
OR scan QR code



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 26th.

Any questions, please email sothvacationbibleschool@gmail.com.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

One per Child

REGISTER BY MAY 25!!

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 TRUE NORTH 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) Adult XL (46-48)

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Additional comments: _____

*Note: Anyone signing up after the deadline of May 25 will NOT be
guaranteed a shirt.

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



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

spring into **Saving Lives!**



**Whitehall Lions Club Blood Drive
at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**

4331 Main St., Egypt
Wednesday, July 2, 2025
9 AM - 2 PM

If you would be willing to donate blood, please sign the sheet on the table at the top of the stairs or call the church office at 610-262-1600. Miller-Keystone Blood Center will contact you to schedule your appointment.

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

All donors must present valid ID with:

- First & Last Name
- Photo &/or Signature

Veterans, ask your coordinator about our complimentary MKBC Military Challenge Coin.



GIVEaPINT.org | 800-B-A-DONOR | 