

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† March/April, 2026 †

Vol. 2026, Issue 2

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On February 18, 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.



Palm Sunday, March 29

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



Maundy Thursday, April 2

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



Good Friday, April 3

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm



**Prayer Vigil
April 3-4**

8 PM Friday until 7 PM Saturday



Easter Sunday, April 5

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 the coming miracle of spring.**



St. John's UCC Fullerton is sponsoring a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster to see their new production of "Joshua" on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

The cost is \$150 and includes the chartered Perkiomen bus, downstairs reserved seats at the show and lunch buffet at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland.

For more information call Tom Moyer 610-432-3372 or St. John's Church office 610-264.8421 or email tommoyer54@gmail.com.

THE SEASON OF Lent



PRAY



FAST



GIVE



PRAYER VIGIL

Our 24-hour prayer vigil begins Friday, April 3rd at 8 PM and ends Saturday, April 4th at 7 PM. Please sign up for a one-hour time slot at the table in the lobby.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 2026 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)

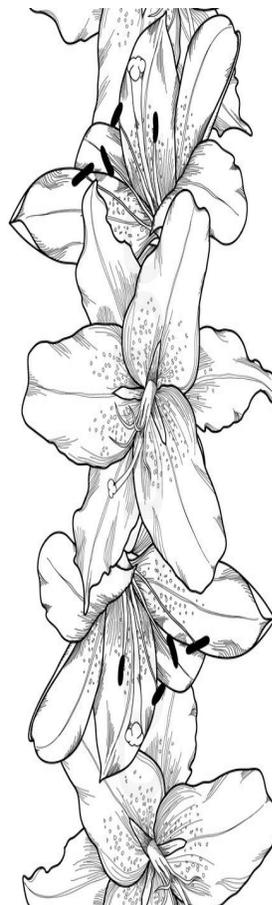
BY: _____
YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS - March 8

The above tributes will be listed in the Easter Bulletins.





COMMITTEE PAGE



Reaching out in God's Love
 Support the Food Pantry
 Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative

- ⇒ Toiletry items: baby/adult diapers, feminine products
- ⇒ Soups: chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, creamed
- ⇒ Breakfast items: oatmeal (pouches or boxes), pancake mix, syrup, cereal
- ⇒ Starches: macaroni and cheese, ravioli, Spaghetios, canned/boxed potatoes, 1 lb bag rice
- ⇒ Canned fruit: low sugar or light fruit syrup
- ⇒ Miscellaneous: gravy, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce (can/plastic jar), tuna, pet food

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.

2026 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
- Ian Bordenick, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor



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 welcomes 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 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 8.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:



**True North Vacation Bible School will be held
 June 22-26, 2026!**

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



- A. Betty Ackerman , John Acuna
- B. Carletta Bartholomew, Michelle Beck, Bill and Rosalie Beidleman, Brenda Benner, Paul Blankenhorn, Rich Bluis, Dylan Bold, Jacob Braido, Marianne Blocker, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Carol Bennecoff, Ann Borell, Alana Bird, Angela Bressler, Sandra Bressler, Pat Budd, Mark Buresh
- C. Nick Cihlylik, JoAnn Coppola, Elaine Corello
- D. Donna Detweiler, Marge Deutsch, Ray Deutsch, Nancy Dietz, Lillian Dotter, Kelly Durst, Mike Durst
- E. Kimberly Eastep
- F. Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Wayne Fogle, Annie Frack, Paul Frack, Cheyenne Frankenfield and family, Kay Fronheiser,
- G. Maxine Gantz, Teri Gerney, Ronald Gerlach, Sally Gibson, Carol Gilbert, Jason Greiss, Rebecca Gross, Guy Grube
- H. Shelley Hanson, Cyndee Hart, Mike Hart, Dot Hartman, Brandon Heichel, Al Herman, Betty Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Norma Hrozencik, Elsie Huber, Susan Huber
- K. Alex Katana, Scott Knauss, John Kotze, Keith Kramer, Russ Kramer, Zoe Kuchera, Barbara Kuhns, Adele Kunkle, Bruce Kunkle
- L. Carlotta Lambert, Scott Lazarus, Wayne Lazarus, Baby Lily and family
- M. Shirley Mack, Diane Masonheimer, Heather Markulics, Cindy Meitzler, Terry Messenger, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Mason Moriarty, Al Mosser, Cora Mosser, Kevin Moyer, Russell Myers
- N. Cathy Nelcoski, Marjorie Nelcoski, Ava Nolan, Aiyana Nederostek
- O. Russlene Ouldcott
- P. Mary Peters, Sandra Phillips
- Q. Linda Quinn
- R. Scarlet Randolph, Barbara Rapchak, Corey Rapchak, June Reifinger, Reynold Reifinger, Jean Reinert, Aida Reinhard, Jan Reinik, Betty Remaly, Wayne Remaly, Lorraine Ritter, Jean Roth, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer, Carolyn Ruch, S. Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Rick Sarmir, Irene Scherr, Stella Schlittler, Gloria Schmidingger, Bonnie Schneck, Linda Schock, Michael Schwentner, Corey Seese, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Sylvia Seregelyes, Martha Shafnisky, Jim Shope, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Grace Siegel, Sherry Smith, Barbara Stangle, Cindy Steckel,

LENT

What to Give Up...

Give up complaining...	focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism...	become an Optimist
Give up worry...	trust God
Give up bitterness...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred...	return Good for evil
Give up negativism...	be Positive
Give up anger...	be More Patient
Give up pettiness...	become Mature
Give up gloom...	enjoy the Beauty all around you
Give up jealousy...	pray for Trust
Give up gossiping...	control your Tongue
Give up sin...	turn to virtue
Give up giving up...	Hang in there!

Prayers continued from page 4

S. Rev. Manny Stivers
 T. Robert Tacker, Michelle Taylor, Rosemarie Thrash
 U. Paul Unger
 W. Cathy Weaver, Chloe Weaver, Bill Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Jim Wick, Melissa Woodruff
 Y. Malachi Yool
 The Family of Jeff Gilbert



Our Lenten monologues this year will be taken from "At the Foot of the Cross". These individuals will clarify how their lives were changed when Jesus entered their lives. Join us as we hear these individuals.

- February 25** Mary Magdalene
- March 4** The Centurion
- March 11** The Disciple John
- March 18** The Disciple Peter
- March 25** Mary, Mother of Jesus



- ☘ to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on February 1. What a wonderful job!
- ☘ to Allen Handwerk, Tammy Hill and Cheryl Reisinger for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in December.
- ☘ to Wayne Fogle, Jay Hill, Robert Klock and Michelle and Jason Lesinski for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in January.
- ☘ to Whitehall Lions Club for donating \$500 in gratitude for the use of SOTHLC facilities.
- ☘ from the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative for donating 217 pounds of food to the Food Pantry in December.
- ☘ From Lehigh Conference of Churches for SOTHLC's \$150 contribution in December.



Tuesday, April 21, 2026 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, SOTHLC's Facebook page and church website. Information can also be obtained by calling the church at 610-262-1600.

Youth Group News



On December 13, 4 youth members volunteered at **Feed the Children**. We filled 12 pallets for a total of 480 boxes! Each box was filled with food items that will be given to those in need.

On December 17, 4 youth members helped to **decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary**.

On February 1, 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!

On Thursday, February 5, 4 youth members went to **Parkland CARES Food Pantry**. We filled 208 bags for the Parkland School District's Snack Pack Pal program. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Nut rolls go on sale March 1. The sale will run through March 15, with a delivery of March 29. We will be using Baker Ben's Bakery and we will have an assortment of items to choose from. We will be selling nut rolls for \$18 and the flavors will be nut, poppy and apricot. We will sell strudel for \$13 and those flavors will be apple, blueberry and cherry. And we will also sell sticky buns-a 3 pk and 6 pk in both plain and nut topping. Prices range from \$7-\$12.50 for the buns.

We are planning to have a Penny Party on April 19. 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 2027. 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 is donated in honor of our daughter-in-law's and son-in-law's birthdays by Beverly and Glenn.

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, 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, curtains, 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, 2027

Questions? Call Lisa Kroboth 610-533-0161