

SHELLS MESSENGER
Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 2026

Vibrant Worship + Active Service
 Accessible Education + Enriching Fellowship
 287 Shells Church Road, Grantville, PA 17028
 717-469-2586
www.shellschurch.org

We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you all so much for the birthday well-wishes, cards, and gifts. I am truly blessed to continue to serve as your pastor and share in the mission of Christ's Church in this place.

Your servant in Christ,
 Fr. Barnes

What is the RECEPTION OF THE CANDIDATES AND CATECHUMENS?

This is the First Stage and Welcome Rite for the Catechumenate Process here at Shells. We welcome folks discerning membership as well as those preparing for the Rite of Confirmation. This particular Rite is the way the Church officially welcomes people into the process of full membership and life in a community of faith. Each candidate will be signed with the cross of Christ and reminded of Jesus' claim on their lives. An important part of the Rite, as a congregation, we make promises to walk with the candidates and to share with them in the worshipping of God and the study of God's word. We have now been committed, through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, to care for these souls and to uplift them in prayer as they prepare to make promises before God and this congregation. We look forward to welcoming new confirmands and new members on December 6. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Father Barnes.

SAVE THE DATES:

November 7 - VBS Reunion (*more info in newsletter*)
 November 11 at 7pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)



Shells Lutheran Church

Advent & Christmas 2026

287 Shells Church Road
Grantville, PA 17028
(717) 469-2586 shellschurch.org

Sun., November 29 (Advent 1)
9am Holy Eucharist

Wed., December 2
7pm Vespers at Shells

Sun., December 6 (Advent 2)
9am Holy Eucharist

Wed., December 9
7pm Vespers at Zion Union Deposit

Sun., December 13 (Advent 3)
9am Holy Eucharist
3pm Christmas Caroling

Wed., December 16
7pm Vespers at St. John Hoernerstown

Sun., December 20 (Advent 4)
9am Holy Eucharist

Wed., December 23
7pm Vespers at Shells

Thu., December 24 (Christmas Eve)
2pm Worship at Zion Union Deposit
4pm Worship at St. John Hoernerstown
7pm Family Worship
9:30pm Traditional Worship

Fri., December 25 (Christmas Day)
10am Worship w/Brunch

The 2026 Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic (LARC) Day of Dialogue in Pennsylvania will take place on November 11, 2026, hosted at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg. This year's topic is Christian Nationalism viewed through the lens of the America 250 observance and the Reign of Christ with ELCA Bishop Matthew Riegel presenting along with speakers from the Episcopal and Roman Catholic traditions.

Our Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck will be held on December 6. A sign-up sheet for the meal is in the Narthex.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Grantville Food Pantry. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex.

Race Track Project: As of September 13th, this is what is needed for our toiletry bags: shampoo 41, toothpaste 27, toothbrushes 66, razors 138 (we give them 2 each), deodorant 67 (for both men and women), shave cream 72 (for both men and women), Chapstick 41, combs 75 and tissues 75 (the 4 x 4 cubes). Thank you for your donations and support.

We are collecting new and gently used coats and blankets to be donated to Bethesda Mission and Downton Daily Bread. A grey bin is in the Narthex for your donations. Thanks for your continued support of this annual event. – Sherry Ulsh

All Saints Day is being celebrated on November 1 at 9am (*Remembering all who have died in the Lord*). On this day we remember all the faithful who have died in Christ, whether recent or long ago. Members of the parish who have died since last All Saints Sunday will be mentioned in prayer during the Sunday Liturgy. If a loved one or friend died during the year who was not a member of Shells and wish to have him/her remembered in prayer on this day, please complete the bulletin insert and place in the Offering Plate, Theresa's mailbox in the Church Office, or email shellsadmin@shellschurch.org. If you would like loved ones who have died before the last year remembered in prayer at this Liturgy, please complete the bulletin insert and place in the Offering Plate, Theresa's mailbox in the Church Office, or email shellsadmin@shellschurch.org. We will also light a votive candle (blessed on Candlemas - 2026) and ring the chime in their blessed memory. **Please submit remembrances by Tuesday, October 27, 2026**

November 3, 2026, Tuesday: Annual Election Day Soup & Rummage Sale At Zion UD. 7am to 2:30pm Come shop our various sales tables. Have some lunch and enjoy our baked goods. Contact Joan Bonawitz 717-460-6220

In-Gathering and "Quiet" Offering will be November 8th. This year we have a generous member of our congregation who will match up to \$550.00 for a "Quiet Offering". I'm sure we all are up for the challenge. November 8th will be the date of the Quiet Offering. We will again make our donation to our neighbors at the Grantville Food Pantry. Shelf stable items that could be put toward a Thanksgiving meal are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping our neighbors the Grantville Food Pantry. Any questions please see Connie or Sheryl

Shells Church Family Fun Event to Hershey Bear Game. Sunday, January 3, 2027 @ 3 pm. \$14 per ticket per person with \$15 parking pass per car. (If you have a Hershey Park Pass, you won't need a parking pass for this date). Seats will probably be in Section 216. The Church is paying for a \$5.99 snack voucher for each person. You must be able to walk several flights of stairs to sit in our assigned seats. We do have a few handicapped seats available, but they may not be directly above our regular seats. **Please sign up and pay by Sunday 12/13/2026. (cash or check to Shells Lutheran Church). Tickets are non-refundable. Signup sheet will be posted in the Narthex.** Any questions, please see Kathy Espenshade or call 717-991-3212

Holiday Marketplace: December 5 from 9am -1pm at St. John Lutheran Church Hoernerstown. Local vendors with homemade foods and crafts. Come shopping for your last-minute Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

VBS Reunion at Urban Air Adventure Park, 11/7/2026. We're excited to announce a VBS Rainforest Falls Reunion! We're taking our Rainforest Falls adventures on the road to Urban Air Adventure Park, Harrisburg, on Saturday, **November 7, 2026, from 10:30 - 12:30pm.** Join your VBS friends, youth crew leaders and Shells youth for an awesome, fun adventure at Urban Air! Don't worry if you missed VBS this year, you're still welcome to attend this event! There is **no charge** for this event. Admission includes unlimited play, Urban Air socks and pizza for our participants. (One water bottle per person (any type) is allowed to be brought in; refill stations are available.) Parents are encouraged to stay. Families may stay longer at the play park, with no additional charge, after our event ends. **Please sign up by 11/4/26. Sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex or email scdbjd@aol.com.** All participants and spectators must have a completed waiver before entering the park. Please use the link below to complete the waiver online: <https://booking.urbanairparks.com/waiver?confirmation=1484498-eq58wryb>
Any questions, please call or text Barb Dupler at 717-991-8862

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU. As a third year student with LCM, I am incredibly grateful for the community I have found here, and I cannot thank you enough for the contributions you have made to me and my peers. I cannot wait to see what this year has in store for this community, and I look forward to continuing to grow my faith throughout the year.

*Thank you,
Caroline Groff
3rd year Bio student, Harrisburg PA*

Dear Shells Family,

Thank you so much for providing the reception after Father John's ordination. We are indeed blessed that He has welcomed Father John, Samantha and baby Mary to our congregation.

*In Christ's Service,
Sharon Slagel
St. Pauls' Council President*

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (September 30, 2026)

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$265,330.63

General Fund Expenses: \$215,325.73

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$3,635.06

Capital Improvement Fund: \$24,315

Downtown Daily Bread: \$1,590

ELCA Good Gifts: \$120

Love of Family: \$43,038

Lutheran World Relief: \$1,930.76

Adult Forum: \$105

ELCA World Hunger: \$90

Abiding Memorial Fund: \$125

Central Penn Food Bank: \$1,000

Sarker/Lingle Missionaries: \$2,790

VBS - Kid 2 Kid: \$900

Lutheran Disaster Response: \$330

CROP Walk: \$405

...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

As we tend to our daily schedules, we are more than aware that costs for basic needs have increased. We hear it on the news. We see the signs flashing dollars per gallon at the pumps. We taste the difference in the purchase of a less expensive cut of meat or chicken instead of beef. We smell the cost differences as we buy cheaper detergents. And, we feel these costs as it's necessary to adjust our spending to accommodate our needs with our income.

No one is excluded from the rising costs. However, some of us are able to absorb these changes with few differences in our daily lives. We at Shells are aware that today's economy is taking a toll on many families: families with whom we worship, families in our community.

The Love of Family Fund is a way to recognize needs and serve them. Please consider sharing what God has provided for you. If perhaps you feel that it seems like a mystery, please know that confidences are necessary for delicate situations. If you know of a need or have general questions direct them to Father Barnes.

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – NOVEMBER

*Father Barnes, Emily Dupler, Evan Dupler, Gen Whitehaus, Al Germann, Gerry Hess,
Emily Suhr, Gabriel Gonzales, Lyncoln Wilkinson, Ryan Jaggan, Kimberly Griffith, Ben
Rodemaker, Jameson Jurell, Cory Jurell, Laura Molitoris, Thomas Smith, Anna Holler,
Chad Layton, Elizabeth Leppo, Evelyn Wiltraut, Rick Crow, Ridley Harmon*

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

11/1	Linda Blair	11/15	Elizabeth Holler
11/2	Matthew Gordon	11/17	JR Sholder
11/3	Jean Wiest	11/24	Lily Klos
11/5	Linda DeMario	11/28	Todd Espenshade
11/9	Kevin O'Brien	11/30	Bobbie Boyer
11/13	John Thomas		
11/15	Larry Suhr		
	Brittany Jurell		

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Linda Blair, Mildred Bower, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Edward Elliott, Betty Espenshade, Crist Espenshade, Cristin Espenshade, Nadine Espenshade, Ed Fake, Mim Fake, Herb Fisher, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Tregan Layton, Blaine Moreland, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh, Jack Ulsh, Don Whitehaus, Gen Whitehaus, our homebound members, our Law Enforcement Officers and Service Women & Men, especially Matt Gordon, Nikolas Jaggan, Domonic DeFrank, Keegan Wenner, Stephen Lugovich, Blake O'Brien, Michael Knaub, Ryan, John Sulliva, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

Those who have died:

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony: Tyler Smith and Caitlin Reed, Evan Dupler and Meghan Quinn

Those in the Shells Church Catechumenate Process (those preparing for full Confirmed/Voting membership in this congregation): Lexi Frye, Emma Jurell, Evelyn Mende, Julia O'Brien, Douglass Howard, Anna Iachini, Lauren O'Brien, Abigail Blair and Lucas Terry.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember *Sara Rhoads Bostdorf, Samuel Garrison, Curtis Gussler, John Lingle, Oscar Lingle, Gayle Shifflet, Alex Suhr.*

Family & Friends: Saadia Baker, Conrad Baylock, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Jean Brown, Nancy Bucks, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Roberta Centurian, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Beverly Drake, Dale Espenshade, Joan Espenshade, Rick Farro, Erma Fiedler, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Joe Gonzales, Anne Gordon, Celine Gudelski, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Larry Hall, Emily Hand, Adam Handwerk, Rob Herman, Clarence Hitz, Isaac, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Kerm Katzaman, Joyce King, Sam King, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Evadne Kopp, Delores Kuntz, Lee Lippi, Amber Longreen, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, Linda Kissinger, Barb Morrow, Colton Nydes, Nancy Osokie, Leo Polvekosky, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, Beth Rashid, Michael Riley, Laura Lou Rinker, Molly Reinhart, Ryan, Suzanne Shaeffer, Barry Shirk, Glenn Smith, Barry Spatz, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Avis & David Wagner, Dale Walmer, Aria Wenner, Kyle Wentz, Carol Wilson, Jennie Womack and Linda Yarnell.

Anyone wishing to place someone on the prayer list may call Theresa at the Shells Office, at 717-469-2586 or email at shellsadmin@shellschurch.org. Also, please remember to remove the names when it is appropriate.

SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

“Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Psalms 146, v.1-2

Senior Choir rehearsals continue weekly on **Thursdays**, from **7:00 – 8:15pm**. We are working on a wide array of choral repertoire, hymns, and song selections for our lectionary-based worship. An invitation is extended to all, from Senior High youth through adults!

Our ***Children In Worship*** will be highlighted in November with the children participating in worship on Sunday, **November 1**. ***Shells Bells*** will be playing the prelude, “How Firm a Foundation” and the ***Shells Handchime Choir*** will be playing “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” for the offertory.

Our **Handchime Choir** for grades 2nd through senior high youth and adults continues with rehearsals the **first and third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 – 11:00am**, in the choir room. We’re learning ringing techniques, recognizing notes and working on music for worship. We’re looking for new Handchime ringers – if you’ve played before, or would like to learn, please join us to discover Handchimes!

Our **youth** can also share in our music ministry with seasonal choir, solos, keyboard, and instrumental music scheduled during the choir year. Please let me know if you are interested in playing in our band ensemble for the Christmas season.

November Choir Schedule:

November 1 – *Children In Worship – Shells Bells and Shells Handchime Choir*

November 8 – *Soon and Very Soon – Senior Choir*

November 15 – *Let All the People Praise Thee – Senior Choir*

November 22 – *Christ Is Alive – Senior Choir*

November 29 – Supply Organist – No choir

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our music program at Shells. I can be reached by cell/text 717-991-8862; or email scdbjd@aol.com. Please consider joining us this choir season!

With joyful songs and praise,

Barbara Dupler

Director of Music

Worship Assistants Schedule: November/December

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
November 1 All Saints Day	Karlene Jaggan	Abigail Blair	Mary Shellenberger (+), Julia O'Brien, Anna Iachini, and Douglass Howard <i>(Chaplain to the Bishop)</i>	N/A	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
November 8 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Raelene Smith	Nancy Iachini	Ellie Frye	Louise Murphy	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
November 11 @ 7pm Feast of St. Martin <i>(Blessing of Veterans)</i>	Karlene Jaggan	Erica Strang	Douglass Howard, Alfred Howard, and Lucas Terry (+)	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	
November 15 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Olga Miller	Lucas Terry	Audrey Neiswender	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
November 22 Christ the King	Karren Gussler	Lisa Lugovich	Emma Jurell (+), Darby Sims, & Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Amber Jaggan & Karen Lingle	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
November 29 Advent 1	Sherry Ulsh	Diana Budd	Douglass Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
December 6 Advent 2	Raelene Smith	Emma Jurell	Julia O'Brien (+), Abigail Blair, and Lucas Terry	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
December 13 Advent 3	Karlene Jaggan	Nadine Espenshade	Lexi Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
December 20 Advent 4	Sherry Ulsh	Karen Gussler	Darby Sims	Louise Murphy	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
December 27 Holy Family	Karen Gussler	Brenda Frye	Ellie Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Jaggan & Karen Lingle	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date please find a replacement and notify the Church Office by Wednesday of each week. On Sundays that have more than one acolyte scheduled, the name with the (+) denotes serving as the main acolyte (carries the cross, holds the missal book, etc).

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher
December 24 Christmas Eve Family Liturgy at 7pm	Karen Gussler	Abigail Blair	Lucas Terry (+), Ellie Frye, and Alfred Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender
December 24 Christmas Eve Traditional Liturgy at 9:30pm	Karlene Jaggan	Lisa Lugovich	Mary Shellenberger (+), Emma Jurell, and Julia O'Brien	Louise Murphy	Rich & Nadine Espenshade
December 25 Christmas Day at 10am	Karlene Jaggan	N/A	Douglass Howard and Alfred Howard	N/A	N/A

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date please find a replacement and notify the Church Office.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day Children in Worship 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum Scouts	2 2pm Bible Study @ Shells	3 6pm Cub Scouts	4 12pm – Midday Prayer @ Zion UD 6pm Girl Scouts	5 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	6	7 10:30am- 12:30pm VBS Reunion
8 Ordinary Time 32 Quiet Offering/ Ingathering 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum Scouts	9 2pm Bible Study @ St. John	10 6pm Cub Scouts 6pm Lions Club 6:30pm Parish Council	11 LARC Day of Dialogue 12pm – Midday Prayer @ Zion UD 7pm Feast of St. Martin & Blessing of Veterans 6pm Girls Scouts	12 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	13	14
15 Ordinary Time 33 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum Scouts	16 2pm Bible Study @ Zion UD Race Track Meal	17 9:30am Worship with Harrisburg Conference of Pastors 6pm Cub Scouts & Scout Committee Mtg	18 12pm – Midday Prayer @ Zion UD 6pm Girl Scouts Food Pantry	19 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir Food Pantry	20 Food Pantry	21 3pm Sight & Sound movie in the church
22 Christ the King 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum Scouts	23 2pm Bible Study @ Shells	24 10am Worship @ Londonderry Village 6pm Cub Scouts	25 12pm – Midday Prayer @ Zion UD 6pm Girl Scouts	26 	27	28
29 Advent 1 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum & Youth Group Scouts	30 2pm Bible Study @ St. John					

**SHELLS EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

287 Shells Church Rd.
Grantville, PA 17028
Office phone: 717-469-2586
Church website: shellschurch.org

The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*, Pastor
Cell: 717-870-4505
Email: fatherbarnes3@gmail.com

Barbara Dupler, Director of Music
Email: scdbjd@aol.com

Theresa Reidmiller, Administrative Assistant
Email: shellsadmin@shellschurch.org

Charles Schreiber, Treasurer
Email: charlieschreiber514@gmail.com

<p>Council Members: D. Budd, S. Espenshade, B. Frye (VP), C. Frye (S), S. Mader (P), M. Stremmel, T. Terry, R. Jaggan (T)</p>
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