

SHELLS MESSENGER

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 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.

SAVE THE DATES:

September 10 at 7pm – Choir Rehearsal begins
 September 13 – Sunday School begins (*Blessing of Backpacks*)
 September 13 at 5pm – Hog Maw Dinner at St. John Hoernerstown
 September 18-20: Women's Retreat at Gretna Glen
 September 20 – Welcome Back Brunch
 September 21 at 2pm – Bible Study begins at Shells
September 29 at 7pm - Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (*Blessing of First Responders*)
October 4 at 3pm – Feast of St. Francis (*Blessing of the Animals*)
 October 9-11: Youth Retreat at Gretna Glen
October 10 - National Acolyte Festival in Washington DC
October 18 at 9am – Feast of St. Luke with Healing Liturgy
 October 24 from 5-8pm – Annual Fall Festival
November 11 at 7pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)

Welcome Back Brunch 2026 will be September 20. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for donations.

You are invited to join in prayer with the Susquehanna Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity at Shells on August 24 at 9am for a half-day retreat. We will pray the Daily Office and close with a Liturgy of Holy Eucharist with the installation of our newly elected chapter dean. Shells Fellowship Ministry will provide a light brunch as well as a luncheon for the day. *Please contact Erna O'Brien if you are willing to help with fellowship for the day.*

St. John Lutheran Church Hoernerstown will be hosting another hog maw dinner on September 13 at 5pm. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex closer to the date.

Our Annual Women's Retreat with Christ Lutheran Church Elizabethtown is scheduled for September 18-20 at Gretna Glen (87 Old Mine Road, Lebanon Pa, 17042). Cost: \$170.00 (price includes 5 meals, lodging, and Bible study supplies. **Balance due August 31 with a check made payable to Christ Lutheran Church.** Arrival time is 6pm Friday evening through 1pm Sunday afternoon. What to bring: twin sheets/bedding/pillow, towels, comfy clothes and comfy shoes, snack to share, bible/pen. Any Questions, please contact Celia Domines, 717-367-2786 or cell 717-449-0663 or education@christlutheran-etown.com

Youth Retreat at Gretna Glen: 5pm on October 9 – 1pm on October 11. Please sign up in the Narthex. There is no cost for this retreat and it is open to children/youth 5th-12th grade.

Welcome to our 2026-2027 Sunday School Classes! On September 13, 2026 Children/Youth Sunday School classes and Confirmation classes will resume in the Education Building at 9am. The Adult Forum will also resume on September 13 at 10:45am in the Social Hall. Bible Study resumes on September 21 at 2pm in the Shells Social Hall. All classes will meet from September through May. We invite you to be part of this wonderful opportunity to worship God and learn about his salvation for us in Jesus Christ.

Join Us September 1 at PA Central Food Bank. We have slots for 10 volunteers. The address is 3908 Corey Rd, Harrisburg. Please register at <https://volunteer.centralpafoodbank.org/reservations/wPRL9SAQVI>

This month's special offering will go to benefit CROP walk. Please pick up an envelope in the Narthex.

It's never too early to start thinking about the start of the school year. We are blessed to have members of our congregation who teach our children on a daily basis. While some things are provided for the classroom, not everything is, so we'd like to help them out. Elmer glue sticks, scissors, pre-sharpened pencils, tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, EXPO markers, pencils and thick Crayola markers are always needed. We appreciate your help in supporting the important people in our children's lives.

For sale: Manada United Christian Cemetery: Plot of 4 burial site for sale, \$500. contact P. Norton at bptav@comcast.net. Serious inquiries only.

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(July 31, 2026)*

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$244,655.68
General Fund Expenses: \$172,325.20

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$3,360.06
Capital Improvement Fund: \$23,290
Downtown Daily Bread: \$1,590
ELCA Good Gifts: \$120
Love of Family: \$42,163
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

...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 – SEPTEMBER

*Steve Espenshade, Karlene Jaggan, Matthew Terry, Diane Elliott, Sherry Ulsh, Justine Wiltraut,
Grant Kauffman, Gracelyn Hilbert, Lucas Terry, Jeff Buse, Erik Espenshade, Sheryl Rozman,
Roseleigh Long*

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

9/1	Kiera Karijomenggolo	9/11	Lauren O'Brien
	Mary Shellenberger	9/13	Ellie Frye
9/2	Jeff Buse	9/14	Azyel Jaggan
9/4	Shirley Huber	9/15	Dan Boyer
	Rodney Pepper		Craig Espenshade
	Ryan Jaggan	9/22	Katherine Shellenberger
9/6	Brandon Suhr	9/29	Diana Budd
9/7	Troy Wiltraut		Anna Holler
9/8	Laura Molitoris		
9/10	Don Whitehaus		

SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

Welcome to the 2026-2027 choir season at Shells! Our music ministry is deeply rooted in Holy Scripture, supporting and enhancing the congregation in worship. Our choir season runs from September to May, offering many opportunities to participate in our shared music ministry.

The **Senior Choir** rehearses weekly on **Thursday evenings** from **7:00 to 8:15 p.m.**, beginning this year on **Thursday, September 10**. Our Senior Choir leads Sunday worship, enhancing the liturgy with choral offerings, psalms, hymnody and gospel acclamations. We strive to challenge ourselves with a wide selection of choral repertoire for our lectionary-based worship. We invite any Senior High youth through adults to join Senior Choir!

Children In Worship is our Sunday School music program for **preschool through 5th grade**, providing opportunities for our children to share in worship in many ways. The children learn music for *Shells Bells*, our children's bell choir, scripture readings with rhythm instruments and participate in special presentations. *Shells Bells* play and learn music as part of the Sunday school opening each week, beginning at 9am.

On *Children in Worship* Sundays our Sunday School children, confirmands and youth also assist with worship by serving as acolytes, torch bearers, book bearer, crucifer, reading the lessons, and leading the Prayers of Intercession. The children participate in worship the **first Sunday** of each **month**, October through May, beginning **October 4**.

We're excited to begin another season of **Shells Handchime Choir** for **children entering 2nd grade through senior high youth and adults!** The Handchime Choir rehearses the **first and third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 – 11:00 a.m.**, starting **September 20**. Our ringers work on ringing techniques, recognizing notes and learning music for worship. Please join us to discover Handchimes!

Our youth also have the opportunity to share in our music ministry with seasonal choir, ensembles, solos, keyboard and instrumental music scheduled during the choir year. Please let me know if you play an instrument in band or orchestra.

An invitation to share in our music ministry is extended to all! We hope the opportunity to be a part of our music ministry at Shells brings our members joy and spiritual uplifting, as we bring joy to others with our musical offerings, while giving glory to God. We are grateful for those who are able to share this gift with others.

Please don't hesitate to call, text or email me if you have any questions:
cell phone (717) 991-8862 or email at scdbjd@aol.com.

With joyful songs and praise,
Barbara Dupler
Director of Music

*Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King,
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.*

Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Crystal Blair, Mildred Bower, Diana Budd, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Edward Elliott, Betty Espenshade, Crist Espenshade, Cristin Espenshade, Nadine Espenshade, Ed Fake, Mim Fake, Herb Fisher, Diane Gotshall, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Tregan Layton, Blaine Moreland, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh and Jack Ulsh, Don Whitehaus, Gen Whitehaus, our homebound members, our Law Enforcement Officers and Service Women & Men, especially Matt Gordon, Nikolas Jaggan, Domic 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

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 and Lucas Terry.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember Sarah Fogelsonger, David Kirkpatrick, Kendra Kramer, Harry Mader, Anna Mae Metzer, Michael A. Nickle, Edgar Plouse Jr., Edgar Plouse Sr., Frieda Terry, Michael Yancheff

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, Erma Fiedler, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Celine Gudelski, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Larry Hall, Emily Hand, Rob Herman, Clarence Hitz, 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, Nancy Osokie, Leo Polvekosky, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, 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.

Worship Assistants Schedule: September/October

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
September 6 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade	Emma Jurell (+), Julia O'Brien, & Lily Iachini	Audrey Neiswender	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
September 13 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Brenda Frye	Darby Sims	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
September 20 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sherry Ulsh	Steve Espenshade	Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
September 27 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen Whitehaus	Erica Strang	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Louise Murphy, Bobbie Boyer & Karen Gussler
September 29 7pm Michael and All Angels	Karlene Jaggan	Gen Whitehaus	Douglass Howard (+), Alfred Howard & Emma Jurell	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	
October 4 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Raelene Smith	Lauren O'Brien	Anna Iachini (+), Lily Iachini, & Ellie Frye	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
October 11 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Raelene Smith	Julia O'Brien	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Jaggan & Family	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
October 18 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Gen Whitehaus	Darby Sims	Don Whitehaus	Rick & Linda Blair	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
October 25 Reformation Sunday	Sherry Ulsh	Diane Gotshall	Emma Jurell (+), Abigail Blair, & Douglass Howard	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon

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).

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Central PA Food Bank	2	3	4	5
				<i>Father Barnes Vacation</i>		
6 Ordinary Time 23	7	8 6:30pm Lion's Club 6:30pm Parish Council	9	10 7pm Choir	11	12 Jaggan Building Use
<i>Father Barnes Vacation</i>						
13 Ordinary Time 24 <i>Blessing of Backpacks</i> -Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation -Adult Forum	14	15	16	17 7pm Choir	18 Annual Women's Retreat @ Gretna Glenn	19 Women's Retreat
20 Ordinary Time 25 -Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation -Handchime Choir -Welcome Back Brunch -Hog Maw Dinner @ St. John Hoernerstown	21 2pm Bible Study @ Shells 5pm Race Track Meal 5:30pm Finance Meeting	22 10am Worship @ Londonderry Village 6:30pm Worship & Music	23 Food Pantry	24 7pm Choir Food Pantry	25 Food Pantry	26
27 Ordinary Time 26 -Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation -Adult Forum	28 2pm Bible Study @ St. John	29 10am Staff Meeting 7pm Feast of St. Michael & All Angels <i>(Blessing of</i> <i>First</i> <i>Responders)</i>	30			

**SHELLS EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Grantville, PA 17028
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The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*, Pastor

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Email: charlieschreiber514@gmail.com

Council Members:

D. Budd, S. Espenshade, B. Frye (VP), C. Frye (S), S.
Mader (P), M. Stremmel, T. Terry, R. Jaggan (T)