

LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2026

C – Celebrant

D - Deacon

A - Assistant

L – Lector

R – Response

Please be aware that worship is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our Facebook/YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. It is best to sit in the balcony or in the last four pews to not be seen on camera. Holy Communion can be brought to you in your seat so that you are not filmed receiving the Sacrament. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections from this live stream may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*GATHERING HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Hymn #533

*INVOCATION

We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism.

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R: And also with you.

*PENITENTIAL RITE

C: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C: Most merciful God,

R: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

C: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

We make the sign of the cross as God forgives us this day.

R: Amen.

*LORD, HAVE MERCY



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*GLORY TO GOD



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth;
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

C: Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

L: A reading from Isaiah.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65 [1-8] 9-13 *(sung responsively)*

You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;*
to you shall vows be performed | in Jerusalem.

**To you that hear prayer shall | all flesh come,*
because of | their transgressions.**

Our sins are stron- | ger than we are,*
but you will | blot them out.

Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!*
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,*
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are | far away.

You make fast the mountains | by your power;*
they are girded | about with might.

You still the roaring | of the seas,*
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;*
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it | very plenteous;*
the river of God is | full of water.

You pre- | pare the grain,*
for so you provide | for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;*
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

You crown the year | with your goodness,*
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,*
and the hills be | clothed with joy.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

L: A reading from Romans.

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able in honor of the Gospel.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

C: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

R: Glory to you, O Lord.

We make the sign of the cross with our right thumb on our forehead, lips, and heart to symbolize the gospel being present in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!" "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Please stand as you are able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Hymn #679

***NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven**

We bow our heads in honor of the mystery of the Incarnation.

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the Virgin Mary and was made man;**

Our heads are raised.

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day he rose again

according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and Giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

C: Christ teaches us through parables. Christ is the sower of the seed of God's word. Let us respond to his work by praying to the Father.

Silence for reflection.

A: That the Church in the world today may be like the rich soil yielding a harvest of a hundredfold, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those engaged in the Catechumenate Process here at Shells – Douglass, Anna, Lauren, Lucas, Lexi, Emma, Evelyn, and Julia, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For our law enforcement officers, first responders, and service women and men, especially Matt, Nikolas, Sam, Dominic, Blake, Keegan, Michael, Stephen, Chris, Ryan, John S., and John T., let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the nations and places where Christ is not known, that the Holy Spirit may bring them to trust the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray especially for our missionaries: Richard, Emily, Ben & Courtney, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That the leaders of our nation will govern in a way which is accountable to God and to us, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That people who are plagued by doubt or suffering may receive the word of God and be converted, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That those who are close to death may know true faith and inner peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who suffer in any way, especially – Mildred B., Bobbie B., Diana B., Linda D., Sam D., Edward E., Betty E., Crist E., Cristin E., Nadine E., Mim F., Ed F., Herb F., Diane G., Peter H., Shirley H., Nancy I., Keira K., Tregan L., Blaine M., Lucas S., Larry S., Don W., Bev U. and Jack U., our homebound members and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (*a brief silence*), let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That those who have gone before us in faith will come to Christ and live forever, especially Robert B., Ray L., Helen L., Patricia O., Charlie R., Norma S., Arlene S., Thomas T., Wally T., Adeline T., and George U, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

C: Father in heaven, your graces always achieve their purposes. As we make these requests in prayer, teach us to value your blessings. We ask this, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

*Please be seated while the bread and wine are brought forward for consecration
and the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.*

MEAL

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

"Jesus Loves Me"

Roberta Anderson, Barbara Dupler, piano

Please stand as you are able.

*OFFERTORY HYMN

"Come, Let Us Eat"

Hymn #491

*OFFERING PRAYER

C: Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice of praise and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

R: May the Lord accept our sacrifice of praise for the glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

C: Lord, accept these gifts of your Church. May this eucharist help us grow in holiness and faith. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

R: Amen.

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all

plac - es of - fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through

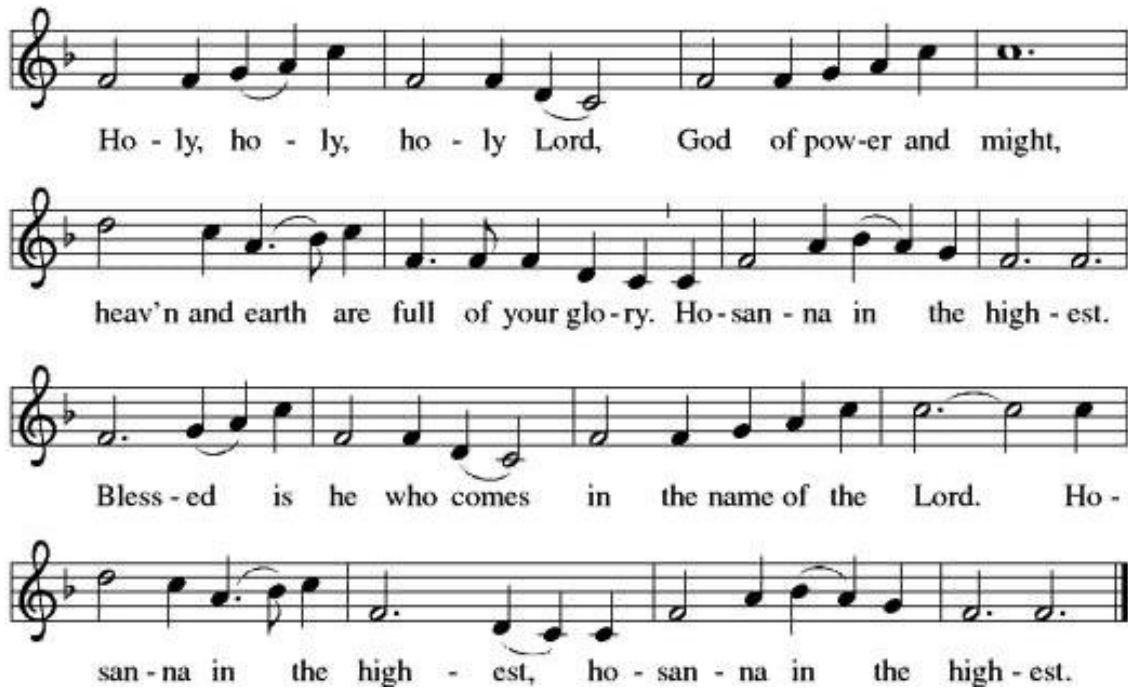
Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his

glorious res - ur - rection o - pened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life. And so,

with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we praise your name

and join their un - end - ing hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



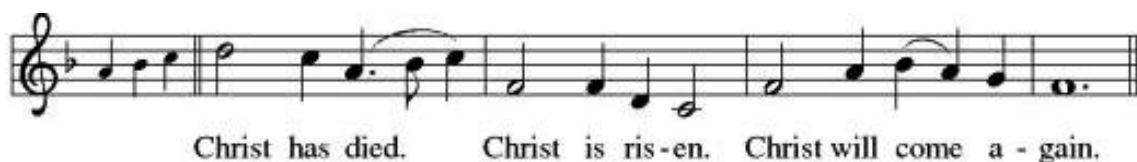
*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

C: Lord, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness.
Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy,
so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted,
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for many so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



C: In memory of his death and resurrection,
we thank you, Father, for this life-giving bread and this saving cup.
We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.
May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ
be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord, remember your Church throughout the world;
make us grow in love, together with Yehiel Presiding Bishop,
Stephen our Bishop, and all the clergy.

Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest
in the hope of rising again, *especially: Robert B., Ray L., Helen L., Patricia O., Charlie R.,
Norma S., Arlene S., Thomas T., Wally T., Adeline T., and George U,*
Bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence.

Have mercy on us all;
make us worthy to share eternal life
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles, and with all the saints
who have done your will throughout the ages.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, forever and ever.



*LORD'S PRAYER

C: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*PEACE

C: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R: And also with you.

C: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*Please greet those who are seated near you with
the sign of peace using the words, "Peace be with you."*

*LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*INVITATION

C: This the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

R: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please be seated.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER *(for those viewing via live-stream)*

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who acknowledge the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would prefer a blessing come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Beginning with the front pews, form one line and make your way down the center aisle. Please pick up a communion glass from the tray on your right. Receive our Lord Jesus' Body from the Celebrant and, according to where you are seated, receive his Precious Blood from the Assistant and consume both elements. Low-Gluten Hosts are available for those who wish to receive the Lord this way – simply inform the Celebrant. Mustum (sacramental non-alcoholic wine that was not left to ferment) is available for those who wish to receive the Lord this way – simply inform one of the Assistants distributing the chalice. Upon receiving our Lord's Body and Blood, respond **Amen**. Please place your used communion glass in the tray on the table and return to your seat by the side aisle. Taste and see that the Lord is good!*

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Hymn #595

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Hymn #512

"This Little Light of Mine"

Hymn #677

Please stand as you are able at the direction of the Celebrant.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Let us pray. Lord, by our sharing in the mystery of this eucharist, let your saving love grow within us. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

We make the sign of the cross as God blesses us this day.

C: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

Hymn #774

***DISMISSAL**

C: The Worship is ended, go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Assistant	Sherry Ulsh
Lector	Karen Gussler
Acolyte	Lexi Frye
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Greeters/Ushers	Bert & Karen Gussler
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK

Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Assistant	Gen Whitehaus
Lector	Erica Strang
Acolyte	Julia O'Brien
Communion Assistant	Don Whitehaus
Greeters/Ushers	Amber Jaggan & Karen Lingle
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (*June 30, 2026*)

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$200,727.84

General Fund Expenses: \$151,524.48

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$3,210.06

Capital Improvement Fund: \$22,940

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: \$2,770

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Tom & Sandy Mader in honor of their son Wade's birthday, Sandy's birthday and our granddaughter Emma's birthday.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember *Robert Bostdorf Sr., Helen Lingle, Ray Linge, Patricia O'Brien, Charlie Reddinger, Norma Shelahamer, Arlene Spangler, Thomas J. Terry, Adeline Tloczynski, Wally Tloczynski, George Ulsh.*

This month's special offering will go to benefit our VBS: Kid 2 Kid. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex.

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: *Mildred Bower, Bobbie Boyer, Diana Budd, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Edward Elliott, Betty Espenshade, Crist Espenshade, Cristin Espenshade, Nadine Espenshade, Mim Fake, Ed 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, Jack Ulsh and Don Whitehaus.* To have a name added or removed to this Sunday Prayer List please contact the Church Office.

SAVE THE DATES:

Liturgy of Holy Eucharist with the Rite of Ordination on July 18 at 11am. *Seminarian John Evans will be ordained to the sacred ministry of Word and Sacrament. Please note, by John's request, incense will be used.*

Hymn Sing at St. John Lutheran Church Hoernerstown on July 26 at 3pm. An ice cream social will follow in the social hall.

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.

This week at Shells:

July 12 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Brunch at Manada Hill Diner

July 12-16 from 5:15pm-8:15pm - VBS

July 18 at 11am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

Ordination of Seminarian John Evans

July 19 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Brunch at Manada Hill Diner

SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"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."

287 Shells Church Rd.

Grantville, PA 17028

Office phone: 717-469-2586

Church website: www.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

Parish Council: Sandy Mader (P), Brenda Frye (VP), Christina Frye (S), Ryan Jaggan (T),
Diana Budd, Tom Terry, Steve Espenshade, Mark Stremmel

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram and "like/subscribe" to our church page!

We have WiFi!

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**

Password: **GodIsAwesome** (case-sensitive)