

SHELLS MESSENGER

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 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:

May 17 at 2:30pm - Mini Golf
June 20 – Knoebels

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex. Dates still available are May 31, June 14, 28, August 2, and October 18.

This month’s special offering will go to benefit the Love of Family Fund. Please pick up an envelope in the Narthex.

Shells Church Road cleanup. We need volunteers to help keep Shells Church Road attractive and Litter free. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex.

The Racetrack Project is still collecting deodorant & shampoo for May & June.

*To Our Shells Family,
Your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls and support over the past five months have been a great comfort to Jack and our family. We are so happy to be back in the fellowship of the church.*

The Ulsh Family



Spring & Summer
at
Shells Lutheran Church
287 Shells Church Rd., Grantville
shellschurch.org 717-469-2586

Sunday’s at 9:00am
Thurs., May 14 at 7pm—Ascension of Our Lord
Sun., May 24 at 9am—The Day of Pentecost

SPECIAL EVENTS



Mini Golf at
The Meadows
Original FROZEN CUSTARD

Sunday, May 17 at 2:30pm



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 12-16
RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring the Nature of God

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (*March 31, 2026*)**2026 Approved Budget \$306,815**

General Fund Income: \$126,658.65
 General Fund Expenses: \$72,892.56

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$1,585.06
 Capital Improvement Fund: \$21,420
 Downtown Daily Bread: \$80
 ELCA Good Gifts: \$120
 Love of Family \$682
 Lutheran World Relief \$240
 Adult Forum \$77

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – MAY

*Erica Strang
 Jeremy Longreen
 Nora Holler
 Holly Roush
 Tami Crow*

*Nicole Long
 Cory O'Brien
 Zane Stayton
 Lincoln Leese
 David Terry
 Roberta Anderson*

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

May 6	Christian Stremmel	May 18	Caitlin Holland
	Rosaleigh Long		
May 8	Ava Espenshade	May 21	Carrie Leese
	Linda Longreen		Joshua Murphy
May 11	Colin Blair	May 24	Gracelyn Hilbert
	Benjamin Rodemaker	May 26	Keith Espenshade
May 14	Schenley Layton	May 28	Catherine Germann
May 16	Diane Suhr		Crist Espenshade IV
May 17	Chris O'Brien	May 31	Matthew Terry
	Ronnie Carter		

SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

*“At the Lamb’s high feast we sing,
praise to our victorious king,
who has washed us in the tide,
flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!*

*Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days;
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!*

ELW #362 v.1, 8

The **Senior Choir** will continue to lead worship through the Sundays of Easter and the Day of Pentecost. A special thank you to our Senior Choir for lifting their voices in song, rejoicing and singing praise, as they share in our music ministry! It is with sincere thanks and much appreciation that we acknowledge the time, commitment and leadership the choir provides each Sunday!

Our **Children in Worship** Sunday School music program continues for our children in preschool through fifth grade. It has truly been a joy to work with the children, as they have shared in our music ministry. I am so proud of all their contributions as they enhanced and joined in worship each month. Our *Children in Worship* series will conclude with the children participating in worship for the month of May on Sunday, **May 3**.

Our Children & Youth **Handchime Choir** for grades 2nd through senior high youth continues with rehearsals the **first and third Sunday** of each month. We rehearse in the choir room immediately following worship. We are working on music for the Easter season. Please join us to discover handchimes!

CHOIR SCHEDULE:

May 3 – *Children In Worship – Shells Bells – “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”*

May 10 – *“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me” – Senior Choir*

May 14 – Ascension of Our Lord 7pm – No choir

May 17 – *“Lord of the Dance” – Senior Choir*

May 24– Pentecost – *“Holy Spirit, Every Dwelling” – Senior Choir*

Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email 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



Get your kids ready for a vine time!

Shells VBS – July 12 – July 16, 2026

Meal 5:15 – 6:00pm/Program 6:00 – 8:15pm

Register at – <https://vbspro.events/p/shellsvbs2026>

At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God! Rainforest Falls 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®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us at Canopy Closing each night at 7:45pm, a daily celebration of our awesome God!

So mark these dates on your calendar: July 12-16, 2026. The fun starts with a light meal being served from 5:15 – 6:00pm in our Social Hall, followed by our program beginning in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm and will end at 8:15pm.

Rainforest Falls is for kids from preschool, 3 yrs. of age, to 5th grade. (Grade completed) Kids 6th grade and older can join us as volunteers!

Register your child/children at <https://vbspro.events/p/shellsvbs2026>

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Barb Dupler, 717-991-8862 or Sandy Mader at 717-856-2713.



PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Bobbie Boyer, Diana Budd, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Betty Espensshade, Crist Espensshade, Cristin Espensshade, Nadine Espensshade, Ed Fake, Mim Fake, Herb Fisher, Angie Gonzales, Diane Gotshall, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Tregan Layton, Blaine Moreland, Erna O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien, Rena Sattazahn, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh and Jack Ulsh, Don 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 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 *Joe Budd Sr.*, *Leonard DeMario*, *Melvin Espensshade*, *Charles Harmon*, *Connie Osvaldo*, *John Price Sr.*, *Edward Wolf*, *Bette Wolf*,

Family & Friends: Saadia Baker, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Nancy Bucks, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Roberta Centurian, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Beverly Drake, the family of Bob Etter, Dale Espensshade, Joan Espensshade, Rick & Lori Farro, Erma Fiedler, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Celine Gudelski, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Larry Hall, Emily Hand, Jason Hash, Rob Herman, Clarence Hitz, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Arlene Kamerzel, Kerm Katzaman, Joyce King, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Evadne Kopp, Delores Kuntz, Joanne Lauver, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, Linda Kissinger, Barb Morrow, Nancy Osokie, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, Tony Prisco, Michael Riley, Laura Lou Rinker, Molly Reinhart, June Rohrbach, Marc Rozman, Natalie Rozman, Sandi Rozman, Ryan, Suzanne Shaeffer, Barry Shirk, 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: May/June

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
May 3 Easter 5	Karlene Jaggan	Douglass Howard	Douglass Howard (+), Anna Icahini, Lily Iachini	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
May 10 Easter 6	Gen Whitehaus	Diane Gotshall	Darby Sims	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
May 14 at 7pm Ascension	Karlene Jaggan	Lisa Lugovich	Douglass Howard (+), Anna Icahini, Lily Iachini	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
May 17 Easter 7	Raelene Smith	Gen Whitehaus	Emma Jurell	Don Whitehaus	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
May 24 Day of Pentecost	Karen Gussler	Nancy Iachini	Mary Shellenberger (+), Darby Sims, & Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Amber Jaggan & Family	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler, & Bobbie Boyer
May 31 Holy Trinity	Karlene Jaggan	Olga Miller	Julia O'Brein (+), Lucas Terry, Douglass Howard	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
June 7 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sherry Ulsh	Lisa Lugovich	Douglass (+) & Alfred Howard, Lexi Frye & Ellie Frye	Louise Murphy	Amber Jaggan & Family	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
June 14 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen Whitehaus	Diana Budd	Emma Jurell	Don Whitehaus	Rick & Linda Blair	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
June 21 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Raelene Smith	Karen Gussler	Darby Sims	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
June 28 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade	Lucas Terry	Louise Murphy	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos

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).

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Helmets Use of Building
3 Easter 5 <i>Children in Worship</i> ~10:30am Hand Chime Choir ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	4 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	5 5pm Central PA Food Bank	6	7 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 5:30pm Youth Lock In
10 Easter 6 ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	11 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	12 6:30pm Lions Club 6:30pm Parish Council	13	14 7pm Ascension of the Lord	15	16 Blair Use of Building
17 Easter 7 ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:30am Hand Chime Choir 2:30pm Mini Golf & Ice cream ~6pm Scouts	18 5pm Racetrack Meal 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	19	20 Food Pantry	21 7pm Choir Food Pantry	22 Food Pantry	23
24 Pentecost ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:30am Youth Group ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	25 	26 6:30pm VBS Meeting	27	28	29	30
31 Holy Trinity						

**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

Council Members:

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