

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

P – Presider 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

“The King Shall Come”

Hymn #796

*INVOCATION

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

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

R: Amen.

*GREETING

P: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

R: Blessed be God forever.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

*LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

INSERT

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 *(sung responsively)*

I was glad when they¹ said to me,*

"Let us go to the house¹ of the LORD."

Now our¹ feet are standing*

within your gates,¹ O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built¹ as a city*

that is at unity¹ with itself;

to which the tribes go up, the tribes¹ of the LORD,*

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name¹ of the LORD.

For there are the¹ thrones of judgment,*

the thrones of the¹ house of David.

Pray for the peace¹ of Jerusalem:*

"May they pros-¹per who love you.

Peace be with-¹ in your walls*

and quietness with-¹ in your towers.

For my brethren and com-¹panions' sake,*

I pray for¹ your prosperity.

Because of the house of the¹ LORD our God,*

I will seek to¹ do you good."

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

L: A reading from Romans.

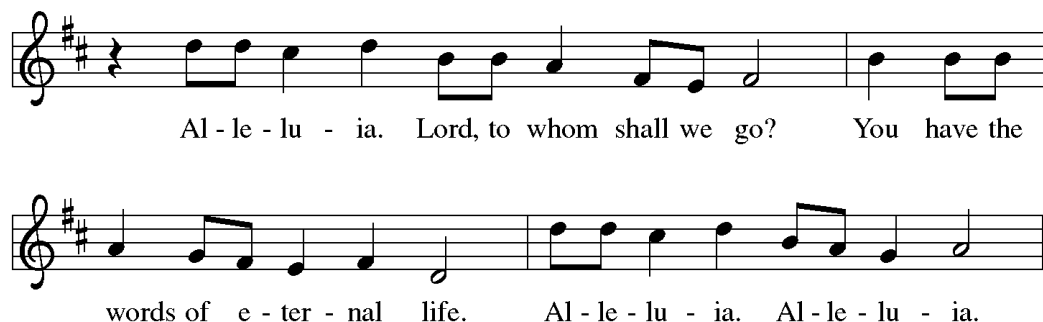
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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



P: 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 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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**

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying ”

Hymn #436

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

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

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

Our heads are raised.

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: The Lord Jesus has called us to watch for the day of his return. As we enter this season of Advent, let us come to the Father in prayer, watching and waiting for his beloved Son.

A brief silence.

A: That all members of the Church may deepen their personal prayer in the coming weeks, 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, Julia, and Nora, 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, John, Dominic, Blake, Keegan, Michael, Stephen, Chris, and John, 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, Stephen & Jodi, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That nations in conflict may “hammer their swords in ploughshares” and find a just peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That men and women suffering emotional distress may find the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That in our preparation for Christmas we may resist excessive spending, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who suffer in any way, especially – Diana B., Sam D., Betty E., Crist E. Cristin E., Nadine E., Mim F., Ed F., Herb F., Diane G., Peter H., Shirley H., Nancy I., Keira K., Blane M., Iva R., Rena S., Amber S., 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 the dead may rejoice forever in the house of the Lord especially – Sara, Samuel, Curtis, John, Oscar, Gayle and Alex, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

P: Father, hear the prayer of the people you have gathered at this altar in faithful obedience to your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated while the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.

MEAL

OFFERING

*Please stand as you are able while consecrated bread and wine,
the Body and Blood of Christ, are placed from the Tabernacle on the Altar.*

* HYMN

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Hymn #490

*LORD’S PRAYER

P: 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

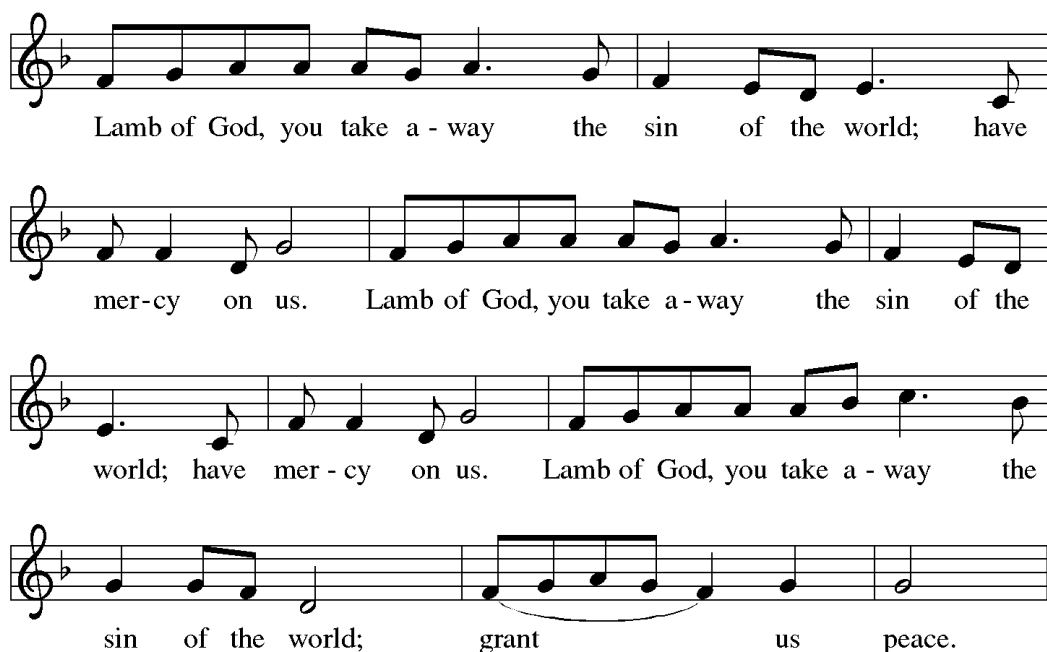
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R: And also with you.

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

Please remain standing after sharing the Peace.

*LAMB OF GOD



*INVITATION

P: 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

"My Lord, What a Morning"

Hymn #438

"He Came Down"

Hymn #253

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

Hymn #240

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Let us pray. Father, may our communion teach us to love heaven. May its promise and hope guide our way on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

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

P: May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Hymn #244

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Presider/Homilist	Seminarian Seth Roseman
Assistant	Gen Whitehaus
Lector	Nancy Iachini
Advent Wreath	
Acolyte	Mary Shellenberger
Communion Assistant	Audrey Neiusender
Greeters/Ushers	Rich & Nadine Espenshade
Organist	Deb Dillane
Altar Guild	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos

THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK

Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Assistant	Karen Gussler
Lector	Lauren O’Brien
Advent Wreath	
Acolyte	Julia O’Brien (+), Douglass Howard, Lucas Terry
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Greeters/Ushers	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Louise Murphy Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (October 31, 2025)

2025 Approved Budget \$295,815

General Fund Income: \$218,318.61

General Fund Expenses: \$248,482.52

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$5,753.74

Capital Improvement Fund: \$41,775

Adult Forum: \$754

ELCA World Hunger: \$2,555

Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$1,445

Lutheran Disaster Response \$2,870

Central PA Food Bank \$1,000

Kid to Kid (VBS): \$600

Love of Family \$5,968

Abiding Memorial Fund: \$52,375

Gotshall Music Memorial \$6,437.25

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Larry & Diane Suhr in loving memory of Alex. The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Katie Shellenberger in loving memory of Anna Buck.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Lutheran Disaster Response. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex.

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 Shifflett and Alex Suhr.* To have a name added to this list please fill out one of the remembrance cards in the narthex and place it in the offering plate. Names are typically remembered around the loved one's birth date, death date, or baptismal anniversary.

Our Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck will be held on December 7. A sign-up for the meal is in the Narthex.

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: *Diana Budd, Sam Dupler, 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, Blane Moreland, Iva Rodemaker, Rena Sattazahn, Amber Sherman, 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.

The racetrack project will be collecting items each month this year Items still needed include bath towels, chap stick / lip balm, shampoo, shave cream, deodorant, cube shape tissue boxes. This year we will be providing 100 toiletry bags for the Race Track. 60 Men and 40 Women and we will be assembling them on December 14th. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Thank You!

COAT and BLANKET DRIVE: For the month of November we are collecting coats, blankets, scarves, gloves and hats. There is a box in the narthex or you can hang them up next to the box. We will distribute these items to Downton Daily Bread. Please reach out to Sherry Ulsh if any questions.

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex.

A sign up sheet for the Advent wreath lighting is in the narthex.

Thank you very much for your generous donations to Susquehanna Service Dogs! We collected over 51 rolls of paper towels, \$75 in gift cards, 2 packages of mailing address labels, and numerous packages of dog treats! It never ceases to amaze me how generous our congregation is! Thanks again! Kathy Espenshade

As always, the generosity of our members is heartwarming. We were able to provide 404.4 pounds of food to the Grantville Food Pantry. Also, the Noisy Offering collected \$446.81. Many of our neighbors will benefit from your generosity. Thank you very much for your continued support.

You are all invited to celebrate Deacon Kristen's 5th Ordination Anniversary on December 12 @ 7pm with a cookie fellowship to follow in the Social Hall.

SAVE THE DATES:

December 3 @ 7pm – Advent Vespers at Shells

December 6 – St. John Hoernerstown Christmas Marketplace

December 7 @ 9am – The Second Sunday of Advent with the Welcome of Catechumens

December 7 after worship – Annual Congregation Meeting and Advent Family Event

December 7 @ 5pm – Parish Cookie Bake

December 12 @ 7pm – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

(Deacon Kristen's Five Year Ordination Anniversary)

December 14 @ 3pm – Christmas Caroling

December 17 @ 7pm - Advent Vespers at St. John Hoernerstown

December 24 @ 4pm – The Nativity of the Lord at St. John Hoernerstown

December 24 @ 7pm – The Nativity of the Lord (Family Liturgy)

December 24 @ 10pm – The Nativity of the Lord (Traditional Liturgy)

December 25 @ 10am – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

January 6 @ 7pm – The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 23, 2026 - Family Game Night at Shells

February 20, 2026 – Hershey Bears Hockey Game

March 22, 2026 - Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral Harrisburg

April 18, 2026 - Walk at East Hanover Township Park

May 17, 2026 - Mini Golf

June 20, 2026 - Knoebels

This week at Shells:

November 30 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday of Advent

9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation

Food and Fellowship after Worship

10:45am - Adult Forum

Brunch at Manada Hill

December 1 at 6:30pm – Bible Study @ Shells

December 3 at 2 pm – Grief Support

December 3 at 7pm – Vespers

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

December 4 at 7pm – Senior Choir

December 7 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Second Sunday of Advent with the Welcome of the Catechumens/New Members

Children in Worship

Annual Meeting

Advent Family Event and Potluck Lunch

Handchime Choir

5pm Christmas Cookie Baking

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."

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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), Sherry Ulsh (T),
Colin Blair, 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*)