

SHELLS MESSENGER
Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 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.



Welcome Vicar Kurt!

Vicar Kurt Nielsen comes to this internship after several other careers. He was a teacher working with teens with special needs for 35 years, served for 25 years as a Combat Engineer officer in the Army Reserve and National Guard, and worked part time as a volunteer EMT for six years. Kurt has also completed several chaplaincy internships at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, and has served as a part-time chaplain since retiring from teaching in 2024. He holds a BA in English from Cornell, an MA in English from Millersville, an MS in Special Education from Johns Hopkins, and will soon complete the Master of Divinity program at United Lutheran Seminary. Kurt is married to Colleen, a career art teacher and artist, whom he met while both were deployed to Iraq with the National Guard. Kurt and has four daughters and two granddaughters.

SAVE THE DATES:

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 7 - **VBS Reunion** - Time and Adventure t/b/d!!

For all Sunday school kids, confirmands, VBS participants and youth volunteers

November 11 at 7pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)

You are invited to St. David Lutheran Church September 27 at 3pm (1032 Musselman Rd, Hanover, PA 17331) for the dedication concert of their new Allen Organ. Father Barnes will be one of the three organists to take part in the concert, and a reception will follow in the social hall.

You are also invited to First Friday York at Heidelberg UCC (47 W Philadelphia St., York, PA) on October 2 at 6:30pm as Father Barnes will perform on the mighty 1930 Austin Pipe Organ. Free parking is located behind the church building off of Gas Alley and refreshments will be served in the social hall.

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.

Please be sure to sign up for the National Acolyte Festival in the Narthex or by contacting the church office. We will depart from the Shells' parking lot on October 10 at 6:15am. Please be sure to bring a packed lunch, McDonalds breakfast and dinner will be provided. We typically return to Shells by 8pm. All are welcome to attend!

Racetrack Project: We are once again providing toiletry bags for the Groomsmen at the Racetrack. We will be supplying articles for 75 bags. We will need for 50 men & 25 women. Please check the whiteboard in the Social Hall to see what we have currently collected. We are good with towels & wash clothes but are in need for the rest of the items. Please remember when buying deodorant and shave cream, that we give the women their own kind, not what we give the men. We will be assembling the bags on December 13th, so we will need all articles by December 11th. Thank you all so much for your support for this worthy cause. We appreciate your generosity.

FALL FESTIVAL 2026 - On Saturday, October 24 from 5-8pm there will be a Fall Festival/Open House @ Shells. Trunk-or-Treat and Hayrides in the graveyard. Food in the Social Hall and pumpkin decoration in the Education Building. Silent Movies with organ accompaniment will be performed in the Church. Please sign up to volunteer for the different activities in the Narthex. **There will be a basket in the Narthex beginning October 1 to collect candy donations for Trunk-or-Treat.**

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex.

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

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(August 31, 2026)*

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$246,121.76
General Fund Expenses: \$194,485.96

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$3,510.06
Capital Improvement Fund: \$23,970
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
Lutheran Disaster Response \$330

...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 – OCTOBER

Karen Elliott, Kathy Espenshade, Elyza Roush, Crist Espenshade, Louise Murphy, Betty Espenshade, Don Espenshade, Ken Espenshade, Iva Rodemaker, Sue Smith, Ed Fake, Catherine Germann, Douglass Howard, Amber Longreen, Don Whitehaus, Ed Murphy, Steve Rose, Joshua Murphy, Alexis Frye, Seth Frye, Mary Shellenberger, Raelene Smith

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

10/2	Brantley Tolland	10/21	Gen Whitehaus
	Alfred Howard		Father Barnes
10/8	Bethany Espensshade		Iva Rodemaker
10/11	Rosemary Diebler		
10/12	Chad Layton, Jr		
10/14	Chad Layton		Karen Lingle
	JoAnne Manchester	10/23	Mark Stremmel
	Michael Bright		
10/18	Theodore Long		Evelyn Mende
10/19	Pauletta Shelahamer	10/26	Isaac Mende
10/20	Frank Molitoris	10/29	Jacob Hilbert
	Olivia Jurell		

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Crystal Blair, Mildred Bower, Diana Budd, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Edward Elliott, Betty Espensshade, Crist Espensshade, Cristin Espensshade, Nadine Espensshade, 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, 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

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 *Dorothy Espensshade, Mary Kreiser, Richard O'Brien, Robert Strang, Sr., Margretta Ulsh.*

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 Espensshade, Joan Espensshade, Rick Farro, Erma Fiedler, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, 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."*

Psalm 146, v 1-2

The **Senior Choir** serves our congregation in a leadership role, sharing their gifts of music as they enhance and support our worship. Our music ministry is deeply rooted in Holy Scripture, following the Revised Common Lectionary for the church year. Senior choir rehearses on **Thursday** evenings from **7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** We invite any Senior High youth through adults to join Senior Choir—please join us!

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*, 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.

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

Our **Shells Handchime Choir**, for children entering 2nd grade through senior high youth and adults, is starting a new season! The Handchime Choir rehearses the **first** and **third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 – 11:00 a.m.** 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.

October Choir Schedule:

October 4 – *Children in Worship/Shells Bells*

October 11 – *At the Table of the Lord – Senior Choir*

October 18 – *Balm in Gilead – Senior Choir*

October 25 – *Sing a New Song to the Lord – Senior 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: October/November

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
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 & Karen Lingle	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
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 (Blessing of Veterans)	Karlene Jaggan	Gen Whitehaus	Douglass Howard, Alfred Howard, and Lucas Terry (+)	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	
November 15 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Olga Miller	Darby Sims	Audrey Neiswender	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
November 22 Christ the King	Karlene Jaggan	Lisa Lugovich	Emma Jurell (+), Lucas Terry, & 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

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).

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	2 6:30pm First Friday at Heidelberg UCC York	3
4 Ordinary Time 27 <i>Children in Worship</i> 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum 3pm Feast of St. Francis with Blessing of Animals Boy Scouts	5 2pm Bible Study @ Zion UD 6:30pm – Card Ministry	6 6pm – Cub Scouts	7 6pm Girl Scouts	8 6pm Cub Scouts 6pm Strategic Planning Mtg 7pm Choir	9 Youth Retreat Gretna Glen	10 National Acolyte Festival
11 Ordinary Time 28 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum 1:30pm CROP Walk @ Memorial Lake Boy Scouts	12 2pm Bible Study @ Shells	13 6pm – Cub Scouts 6pm – Lions Club 6:30pm Parish Council	14 6pm Girl Scouts	15 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	16	17
18 Feast of St. Luke 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum Boy Scouts	19 2pm Bible Study @ St. John Race Track Meal	20 6pm – Cub Scouts	21 Food Pantry 6pm Girl Scouts	22 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir Food Pantry	23 Food Pantry	24 5-8pm Fall Festival
25 Reformation Sunday 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum & Youth Group Boy Scouts	26 2pm Bible Study @ Zion UD	27 10am – Worship @ Londonderry Village 6pm Cub Scouts	28 6pm Girl Scouts	29 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	30	31

**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)