

LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025

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

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Hymn #324

*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,

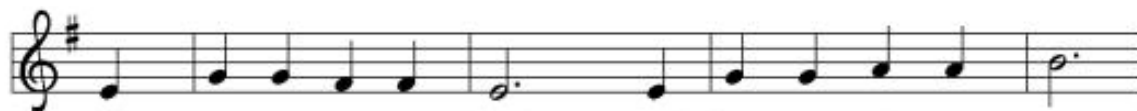
R: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98:1-4 *(sung responsively)*

Sing to the LORD | a new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his | holy arm*
has he won for him- | self the victory.**

The LORD has made | known his victory,*
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.

**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,*
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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 John.

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**

John 3:13-17

[Jesus said:] “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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**

“Lift High the Cross”

Hymn #660

***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: Let us now pray to God the Father, who loved the world so much that he gave his only Son to die for us upon the Cross.

A brief silence.

A: For the Church militant here on earth, that we will fight on to victory beneath the standard of the Cross, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those engaged in the Catechumenate Process here at Shells - Lexi, Emma, Evelyn, Julia, and Nora, Douglass, Anna, Lauren and Lucas, 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 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: For people of every nation and language, that they may find freedom and peace through the One God has risen on high as Lord and Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For all who stand in need of God's mercy and forgiveness, that the Cross may encourage them to be reconciled, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For ourselves, that we may treasure the sign of the Cross and use it with faith and reverence, 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., Iva R., Rena S., Lucas S., Tracy 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: For those who sleep in Christ, that the blood of his sacrifice may cleanse them from all sin, especially - Grace, Irvin, Shane, Frances, and Robert, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

C: Loving Father, in this life and the next, all our hope is in the Cross. Grant our petitions, as we praise you for your mercies. 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

Please stand as you are able.

*OFFERTORY HYMN

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Hymn #686

*OFFERING PRAYER

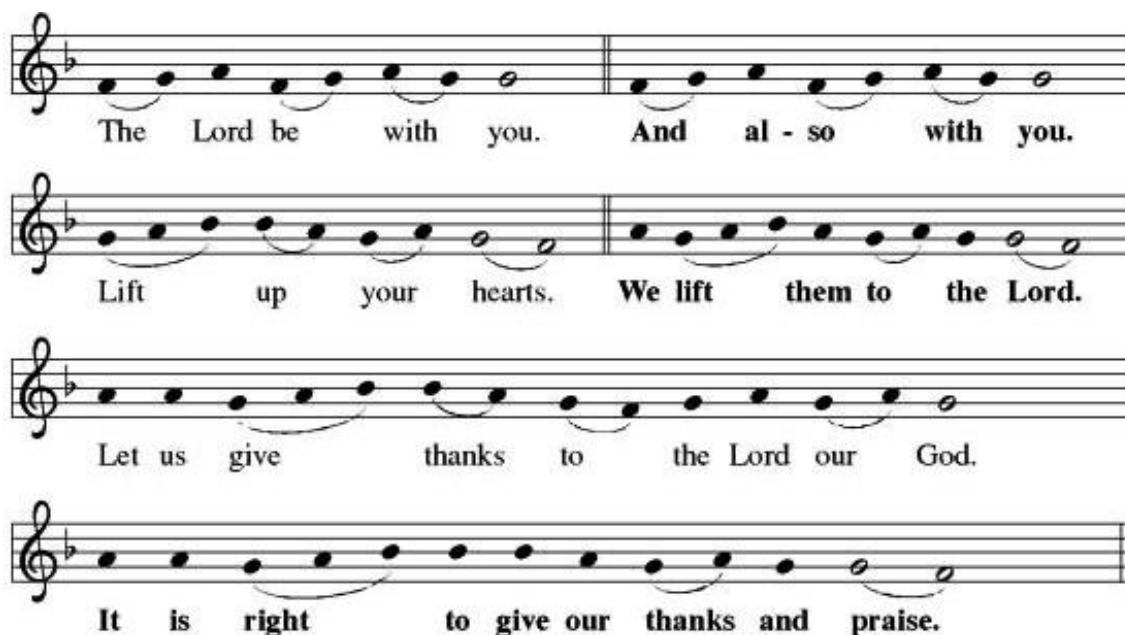
C: Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice of praise and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

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, may Christ's sacrifice once offered on the cross to take away the sins of the world now free us from our sins. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

*DIALOGUE



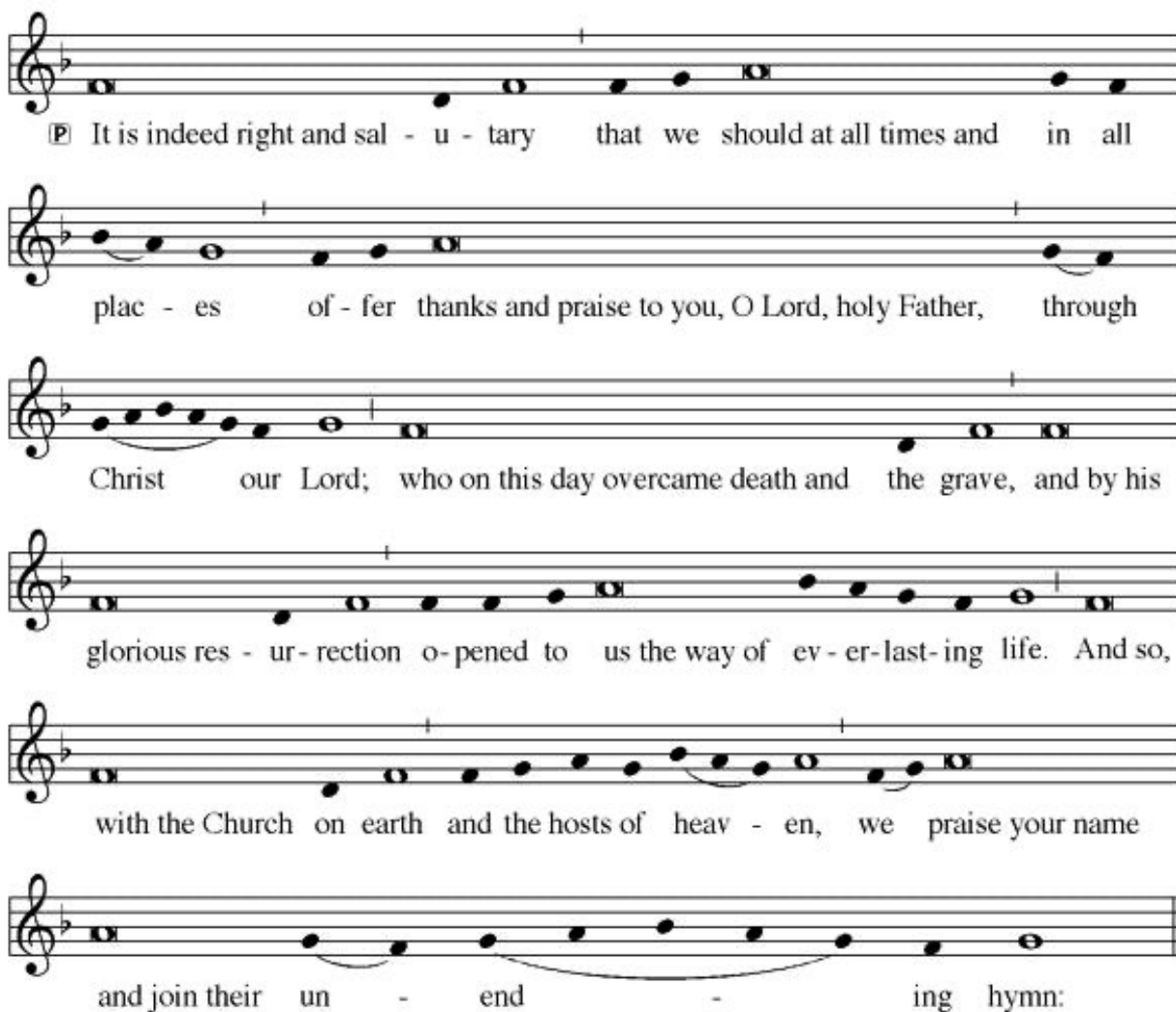
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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



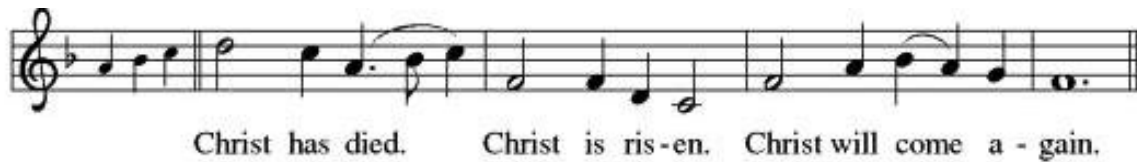
*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 our 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: Sara, David, Kendra, Harry, Anna Mae, Michael,*
Edgar, Frieda, and Michael.
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 remain standing after sharing the Peace.

*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. 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, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Hymn #335

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Hymn # 802

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Hymn #471

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you are the holy bread of life. Bring to the glory of the resurrection the people you have redeemed by the wood of the cross. We ask 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**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Hymn #803

***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	Raelene Smith
Lector	Lisa Lugovich
Acolyte	Mary Shellenberger
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Greeters/Ushers	Rick & Linda Blair
Organist	Janice Mills
Altar Guild	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer

THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK

Celebrant	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Homilist	The Rev. Dan Biles, <i>STS</i>
Assistant	Gen Whitehaus
Lector	Brenda Frye
Acolyte	Douglass Howard
Communion Assistant	Don Whitehaus
Greeters/Ushers	Tom & Sandy Mader
Organist	Janice Mills
Altar Guild	Dinae Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (*August 31, 2025*)

2025 Approved Budget \$295,815

General Fund Income: \$179,001.95

General Fund Expenses: \$198,288.40

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$5,513.74

Capital Improvement Fund: \$40,450

Adult Forum: \$479

ELCA World Hunger: \$2,555

Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$1,025

Lutheran Disaster Response \$2,870

Central PA Food Bank \$1,000

Kid to Kid (VBS): \$600

Love of Family \$5,770

Abiding Memorial Fund: \$51,325

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Bert & Karen Gussler in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Love of Family Fund. 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 *Sarah Fogelsonger, David Kirkpatrick, Kendra Kramer, Harry Mader, Anna Mae Metzger, Michael A. Nickle, Edgar Plouse Jr., Edgar Plouse Sr., Frieda Terry.* 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.

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, Iva Rodemaker, Rena Sattazahn, Lucas Smith, Tracy 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. September & October will be bar soap & combs and November & December will be tissues and lip balm. Thank you all for all of your help and continued support of this worthy cause.

Beginning on Wednesday, September 10 at 2pm, we will host a grief support group in the Social Hall. Dates for grief support: September 17, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17, January 7.

Randy Gotshall Memorial Music Benefit will be held Saturday, September 20th at the Gratz VFW Grounds on 424 Specktown Rd., Lykens, PA from 12-5 pm. There will be four bands, food truck availability. Music, music, music and more music. A day that Randy would love. All donations go to benefit Shells Lutheran Church and Randy's gravestone.

The Grantville CROPWALK will be October 12th at 1:30 at Memorial Lake.

This week at Shells:

September 14 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross

9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation

Food and Fellowship after Worship

10:45am - Adult Forum

Brunch at Manda Hill

5pm Hog Haw Dinner @ St. John Hoernerstown

September 15 at 5pm – Race Track Meal

September 15 at 5:30pm – Finance Meeting

September 15 at 6:30pm – Bible Study @ St. John

September 16 at 6:45pm – Worship, Music & Altar Guild Meeting

September 17 at 2pm – Grief Support

September 17-19 Food Pantry

September 18 at 7pm - Choir Rehearsal

September 20 from 11am-3:30pm – East Hanover Park Day

September 20 from 12 – 5pm – Randy Gotshall Memorial Music Benefit

September 21 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation

Food and Fellowship after Worship

10:45am - Adult Forum

Brunch at Manda Hill

SAVE THE DATES:

September 14 @ 5pm – Hog Maw Dinner at St. John Hoernerstown
September 20 from 11am-3:30pm – East Hanover Park Day
September 21 from 4-6pm: 200th Anniversary Hymn Sing and Pie Social
September 26-28: Women's Retreat at Gretna Glen
September 29 @ 7pm - Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (*Blessing of First Responders*)
October 4 @ 3:30pm – Feast of St. Francis (*Blessing of the Animals*)
October 11 - National Acolyte Festival in Washington DC
October 12 – 1:30pm Grantville CROP Walk @ Memorial Lake
October 18 at 7pm – Feast of St. Luke with Healing Liturgy
October 25 from 5-8pm – Annual Fall Festival
November 11 @ 6:30pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)

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), 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*)
