

SHELLS MESSENGER

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2025

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:

September 29 @ 7pm - Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (*Blessing of First Responders*)
Please invite first responders to attend worship with you. Wearing uniforms is encouraged.

October 4 @ 6:30pm – Feast of St. Francis (*Blessing of the Animals*)
Please gather in the pavilion with your pets or a photo of your pet.

October 11 - National Acolyte Festival in Washington DC
See article in newsletter.

October 18 at 7pm – Feast of St. Luke with Healing Liturgy
There will be a portion of the liturgy set aside for the laying on of hands and anointing for healing.

October 25 from 5-8pm – Annual Fall Festival
See article in newsletter.

November 11 @ 6:30pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)
Please invite any veterans or active duty persons to attend worship with you. Wearing uniforms is encouraged.

The racetrack project will be collecting items each month this year. October will be bar soap & combs and November & December will be tissues and lip balm. Thank you all for your help and continued support of this worthy cause.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex. Chaplain Ben will be visiting us for worship at 7pm on October 18 and 9am on October 19.

We will be hosting a grief support group in the Social Hall. Dates for grief support: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17, January 7.

The Grantville CROP Walk will be October 12th at 1:30pm at Memorial Lake. Please pick up a packet in the Narthex to receive sponsors.

Do you feel called to serve as a Worship Assistant?

Did you know that we need at least 7 volunteers each time we gather for Worship? Worshipping God in the Lutheran Tradition is not a spectator sport.

There are a variety of ways to serve in the worshipping of God here at Shells 🏡 Church 🏛️ - here are a few!

- Assistant to the Celebrant: prays the Prayers of Intercession and assists with Communion Distribution.
- Greeter/Usher: welcomes folks when we gather, hands out bulletins, collects the offering, and invites people to receive Communion.
- Lector: reads the appointed scriptures for the day.
- Communion Assistant: assists with Communion distribution.
- Acolyte/s: carries the cross or processional torch, holds the missal book for the Celebrant, and rings the altar bells during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- Cantor: chants the Psalm for the day.
- Bell Ringer: rings the 1853 steeple bell at the beginning of Worship and during the Lord's Prayer.
- Altar Guild: prepares the Sanctuary for Worship and the celebration of Holy Communion.

No matter your age, please prayerfully consider serving in one or more of these capacities. Be sure to reach out to the Church Office or Fr. Barnes if you are willing to serve.

For the month of October we are collecting items for Susquehanna Service Dogs as an offering for the Blessing of the Animals liturgy. Here are the requested items: **Gift Cards** (Amazon, Giant Food Stores, Chewy, Home Depot, Weis Market, Lowes, PetSmart, Target, Tractor Supply Co., Visa gift cards). **Dog Treats** (Charlee Bear Cruncher Dog Treats). **Dog Toys & Supplies** (Benebone/Wishbone Chew Toy – Size: Large (any flavor), KONG Classic (Red), Size Large, Extreme (Black), Size: Large, West Paw Toppl, Size Large, West Paw Zogoflex Zwig, Outward Hound Slow Feeder Bowl, Size Large). **General Supplies** (Safari Professional Nail Trimmer for Dogs – Size Large, 18 gallon or larger storage totes, Paper Towels – Brawny or Bounty, Postage Stamps, Avery 5160 1” x 2-5/8” Address Labels, Avery 5163 2” x 4” Shipping Labels). Please bring your donations to the Narthex during the month of October.

The National Acolyte Festival will be held on October 11 in Washington DC. We will depart from Shells at 6am in our rental van and aim to return after dinner at 6:30pm. Be sure eat breakfast before arriving and bring a packed lunch. Dinner will be provided on the way home. While we hope all of our acolytes sign up to be a part of this event, we strongly encourage our confirmation students to take part in the festivities. We will also need chaperones as well. Please reply to this email by September 28th to sign up your acolyte or to be a chaperone. The festival runs from 9am to 2:30pm, and begins as participants join in the longest and most colorful procession imaginable—the Grandest of Processions—as we prepare to gather around Christ's table for a festival Holy Eucharist. Following the service, participants are invited to spend the afternoon exploring the Cathedral, the grounds, or join a variety of fun workshops and offerings: perfect your thurible techniques, help build the LEGO® Cathedral, create a liturgical streamer, take a look at Cathedral treasures, or peruse exhibitors.

FALL FESTIVAL 2025 - On Saturday, October 25 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. Please invite your family and friends and bring toilet paper or paper towels as a donation to support Susquehanna Service Dogs.

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."*

Psalms 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 5**.

Our **Children and Youth Handchime Choir**, for children entering 2nd grade through senior high youth, is starting a new season! The Handchime Choir rehearses the **first** and **third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 – 11:00 a.m.**, beginning **October 5**. 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.

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

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (*August 31, 2020*)**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
 Love of Family \$5,770
 Kid to Kid (VBS): \$600
 Central PA Food Bank: \$1,000
 Abiding Memorial Fund: \$51,325

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 Espenshade		Iva Rodemaker
10/11	Rosemary Diebler		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: Diana Budd, Sam Dupler, Crist Espensshade, Cristin Espensshade, Nadine Espensshade, Ed Fake, Mim Fake, Herb Fisher, Diane Gotshall, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Iva Rodemaker, 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, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

Those who have died: Joe Budd

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony: Amber Sherman and Ryan Jaggan.

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

Family & Friends: Saadia Baker, Skip Balmer, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Verna Ebersole, Joan Espensshade, Lori Farro, Erma Fiedler, Bob Gagliardi, Eileen Gagliardi, Christie Gamber, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Emily Hand, Jason Hash, Rob Herman, Michael Hudak, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Kerm Katzaman, Joyce King, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Joanne Lauver, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, 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, Bill Shultz, Janet Shultz, Kathy Spangler, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Stephanie Wagner, Aria Wenner, Kyle Wentz, Carol Wilson, and Jennie Womack.

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: October/November

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
October 5 The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sherry Ulsh	Julia O'Brien	(+) Ellie Frye, Emma Jurell, & Nora Holler	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
October 12 The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Brenda Frye	Julia O'Brien	Audrey Neiswender	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
October 18 @ 7pm Feast of St. Luke	Karen Gussler	Raelene Smith	Douglass Howard	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
October 19 The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen Whitehaus	Steve Espenshade	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
October 26 Reformation Sunday	Raelene Smith	Erica Strang	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Lucas Terry, & Douglass Howard	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler, Bobbie Boyer
November 2 All Souls Day	Karen Gussler	Lexi Frye	(+) Emma Jurell, Julia O'Brien, Ellie Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Sherman & Family	Diane Suhr & Terry Kameron
November 9 The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sherry Ulsh	Gen Whitehaus	Evelyn Mende	Don Whitehaus	Rick & Linda Blair	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
November 11 @ 7pm Feast of St. Martin of Tours	Raelene Smith	Steve Espenshade	(+) Lucas Terry, Lexi Frye, & Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Carol Gordon	
November 16 The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Raelene Smith	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Evelyn Mende, & Ellie Frye	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
November 23 Christ the King	Gen Whitehaus	Diane Gotshall	(+) Julia O'Brien, Abigail Blair, & Ellie Frye,	Don Whitehaus	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
November 30 First Sunday of Advent	Raelene Smith	Nancy Iachini	Mary Shellenberger	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	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).

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2pm Grief Support 6:30pm Family Fun Meeting	2 7pm Choir	3	4 3pm Feast of St. Francis w/ Blessing of Animals
5 Ordinary Time 27 Children in Worship 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum	6 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	7 6:30pm Parish Council	8 2pm Grief Support	9 7pm Choir	10	11 National Acolyte Festival
12 Ordinary Time 28 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum 1:30pm CROP Walk @ Memorial Lake	13 6:30pm Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John Hoernerstown	14	15 2pm Grief Support	16 7pm Choir	17	18 7pm Feast of St. Luke w/ Healing Liturgy
19 Ordinary Time 29 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum	20 Race Track Meal 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	21	22 2pm Grief Support Food Pantry	23 7pm Choir Food Pantry	24 Food Pantry	25 2pm – Bishop's Installation @ St. Matthew Lutheran Hanover, PA 5-8pm Fall Festival
26 Reformation Sunday 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum & Youth Group	27 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	28	29 2pm Grief Support	30 7pm Choir	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:

C. Blair, S. Espenshade, B. Frye (VP), C. Frye (S), S. Mader (P), M. Stremmel, T. Terry, S. Ulsh (T)