

# ***SHELLS MESSENGER***

**Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church**

***February 2023***

Vibrant Worship + Active Service

Accessible Education + Enriching Fellowship

287 Shells Church Road, Grantville, PA 17028

717-469-2586

[www.shellschurch.org](http://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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With hope and faith in the newborn King we have made our way into the green season where Jesus calls his disciples into ministry. He now extends this call to each and every one of us and affords us a variety of ways to become involved with the Worship, service, education, and fellowship at Shells Church. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a part of the life and ministry of this congregation. We have many liturgical and secular celebrations during the month of February. From Souper Bowl Sunday to the observance of Ash Wednesday, there are many ways to gather around Word and Sacrament to hear God's grace, receive his Sacrament, and engage with the world. If you haven't been to Shells in quite some time, perhaps there is no better time than now to return to the Lord our God? I invite you all to attend our many liturgies and social activities this month and beyond.

As we journey into the season of Lent, may we become even more aware of our sheer need for God in our lives. May we consider how we are utterly dependent on God's grace and mercy and are in dire need of a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. May we deepen our prayer lives, consider our stewardship of God's gifts, and engage in acts of charity. May we root ourselves each day in our Baptismal calling that God has so graciously gifted to us.

I know that many of you have experienced great loss and deep sadness over the last few years. It has been an honor to walk these journeys with so many of you - both during and after these life-changing moments. After prayerful discernment, it seems like there would be a benefit to offering a group for us to meet together and talk more about our grief and the hope we have in Christ Jesus. If you would be interested in participating in a grief support group, please reach out to me and let me know your availability (days of the week that are usually available - morning, afternoon, evening). I will then begin to put a schedule together and hopefully get it on the March calendar to be a part of the Season of Lent.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Father Barnes

### **SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY**

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' Baptism and end with the Transfiguration of Our Lord. We sing "Shine, Jesus, Shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire." The Transfiguration of Our Lord is the last Sunday before Lent. Alleluia is bid farewell on this Sunday and will not be used until Easter. Our music during this time reflect the themes of light, baptism, cross and discipleship.

On February 22, Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten journey. The Senior Choir is working on psalmody and choral offerings, enhancing and leading the congregation in worship. An invitation to join choir and share in our music ministry is extended to Senior High youth through adults – please join us! **Senior Choir** rehearses **Thursday** evenings from **7:00 – 8:15pm**.

Our ***Children In Worship*** Sunday School music program continues for our children in preschool through sixth grade, providing opportunities for them to share in worship in many ways. The children learn music for *Shells Bells*, scripture readings with rhythm instruments and new songs for worship. *Shells Bells* play and learn music as part of the Sunday school opening each week. The children will be participating in worship on **February 5**.

Our **Children & Youth Handchime Choir** for grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through senior high youth continues with rehearsals the **first and third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 – 11:00am**. We're learning ringing techniques, recognizing notes and working on music for worship. The Handchime Choir is scheduled to play on **February 19**. Please join us to discover Handchimes!

#### CHOIR SCHEDULE:

Feb. 5 – *Children In Worship – Shells Bells – "This Little Light of Mine"*

Feb. 12 – *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" – Senior Choir*

Feb. 19 – *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" – Senior Choir*  
*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" – Handchime Choir*

Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday (7pm)

Feb. 26 – First Sunday in Lent

Please call, text or email if you have any questions – Cell phone, 717-991-8862; home phone, 717-469-0127; or email at [scdbjd@aol.com](mailto:scdbjd@aol.com).

With joyful songs and praise,  
 Barbara Dupler  
 Director of Music

**The 2023 Altar Flower sign up sheet is available in the narthex.** The following dates are still available: February 5, April 23, 30, June 4, 11, July 30, August 6, September 17, October 22, 29, December 31. Please remember to fill out a purple form for the dedication.

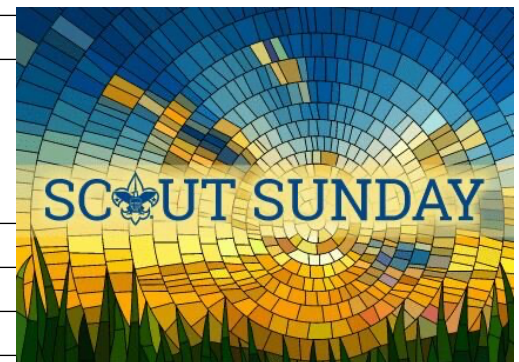
**The adult Sunday School class will be starting early on the Race Track Project since our goal is provide 150 toiletry bags for 2023. (100 men & 50 women)** We will now be collecting articles throughout the year. **January & February we will be collecting towels with a wash cloth.** March & April will be shave cream and razors. May & June will be deodorant and shampoo. July & August will be toothbrushes and tooth paste. September & October will be bar soap and combs. November & December will be cubed tissue boxes and lip balm. Any of these items can be donated at any time during the year. Thank you all for your kind support of this cause.

**Knitting Skills:** If you are interested in learning to knit, or furthering your skills, we will be knitting on February 16 and 23, from 1-2 pm. Please bring a pair of size 8 needles (I would recommend wooden, if you're going to buy them) and a worsted weight yarn. If you already have needles and yarn, bring what you have. Any questions, she Sheryl Rozman or Linda Blair.



**On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12, please bring non-perishable food items and coins to route for your favorite team!** The table will be in the Narthex and the collection will benefit the Grantville Food Pantry.

**Shells will host Scout Sunday on February 19 at 9am.** Please wear your uniform to church and talk to Father Barnes or Angie Gonzales about volunteering to assist with Worship.



**The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held from 5:30-7:30pm in the Social Hall on February 22.**

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**February 2 at 6:30pm (Shells) - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas:** We will gather around Word and Sacrament to bless the candles used for Worship this year. St. Blaise day is February 3 and he is Patron Saint of voices. After Communion on February 2, we will offer a blessing of voices this year.



**February 22 at Noon (St. John) and 7pm (Shells) - Ash Wednesday:** Join with us as begin the Lenten Season with the Imposition of Ashes.



**Fridays in Lent (Shells) - Private Confession and Forgiveness** from the Lutheran Book of Worship **6-7pm** followed by **Stations of the Cross at 7pm**. No appointment is needed for Confession - simply come to the church and wait your turn in the back pews. There will be a chair up front facing the altar for the penitent to sit in.



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**WITH THANKS:**

Dear Father Barnes and Congregation,

Thank you so much for all of the items you blessed our residents with this week! We are thankful for the soaps, deodorants, towels, washcloths, and other hygiene items you dropped off. These items provide such a practical blessing in our care of these people.

Thank you again, and Merry Christmas,  
Amy Stair, Director of Development - Bethesda Mission

It is with grateful hearts that Rocky and I extend a great “big” thank-you for all the delicious meals, cards, phone calls and prayers we have received. They made a difference and we are so fortunate to have such a loving family at Shells.

God Bless all of you.  
Nancy and Rocky Iachini

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – FEBRUARY**

<i>Lily Klos</i>	<i>Lucas Smith</i>
<i>Brenda Frye</i>	<i>Keith Espenshade</i>
<i>Ruth Espenshade</i>	<i>Rick Smith</i>
<i>Jared Espenshade</i>	<i>Evelyn Jurell</i>
<i>Tom Terry</i>	

***God will never forget that you are his child.***

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Feb 01	Kathy Peffer
	Patty Harmon
Feb 04	Corine Potter
Feb 07	Randy Gotshall
	Blaine Moreland
Feb 15	Karen Gussler
Feb 16	Gabe Gonzales
Feb 18	Barbara Dupler
Feb 20	Connie Terry
	Evelyn Jurell
Feb 21	John Terry
Feb 23	Edward Elliott
Feb 25	Gerry Hess
Feb 26	Livy Leese
	Don Lind
	Tami Crow





**Prayer List:** The Family of Rose Espenshade, Mim Fake, Al Germann, Angie Gonzales, Randy Gotshall, Alfred Howard, Doug Howard, Jr., Keira Karijomenggolo, Tregan Layton, Lincoln Leese, Lisa Lugovich, Sam & Amanda Mende, Iva Rodemaker, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh, Jack Ulsh, Our Shells Family Shut-ins, Our Law Enforcement Officers and Service Women & Men, especially Christ Espenshade, Nikolas Jaggan, James Hess and Blake O'Brien, Chris O'Brien, and our Witness Ministry.

**Those who have died:** Rose Espenshade

**Those in the Shells Church Catechumenate**

**Process** (please pray for the formation of those preparing for full Confirmed/Voting membership in this congregation: Emily Dupler, Jordan Frye, Gabe Gonzales, Jacob Mende, Mary Shellenberger, Anna Holler, Shane O'Brien, Riley Gonzales, Jacob Sholder, Audrey Neiswender

**Family & Friends:** Saadia Baker, June Balakonis, Nancy Balmer, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Donald Brink, Fran Buchanan, Anna Buck, Owen Burns, Roxanne Dombrosky, Verna Ebersole, Karen & Roy Elliott, Craig Feaster, Mary Feaster, Kathy Fouse, Michael Gelehorte, Anne Gordon, Rob Herman, Michael Hudak, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Roy Laudermilch, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Barb Morrow, Amanda Peck, Lisa Pesta, Edgar Plouse, Tony Proscio, Michael Riley, Ken Rebuck, Molly Reinhart, June Rohrbach, Donald Romberger, Yvonne Rosenberger, Ryan, Suzanne Shaeffer, Jan Smoyer, Larry Spitler, Kathy Spangler, Jay Stahl, Matt Stayton, Steve Tentylo, Bill W., Cookie Watts, Kyle Wentz, Terry Whitehaus, Carol Wilson, and Jennie Womack.

**Anyone wishing to place someone on the prayer list** may call Theresa at Shells office, at 717-469-2586 or email at [shellsadmin@shellschurch.org](mailto:shellsadmin@shellschurch.org). Also, please remember to remove the names when it is appropriate.

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**PLEASE CONTACT FATHER BARNES TO SET UP YOUR 2023 HOUSE BLESSING!**



**2023**  
**Monday Evening Meals at the Track**

By spring we will have served  
a meal nearly every Monday  
for twenty-one years.

	1	2	3	4	5
JANUARY	2 New Life	9 St. John's U.M.	16 Shell's	23 Faith	30 Derry Presbyterian
FEBRUARY	6 New Life	13 St. John's U.M.	20 Shell's	27 Faith	
MARCH	6 New Life	13 East Hanover Mennonite	20 Shell's	27 Faith	
APRIL	3 New Life	10 St. John's U.M.	17 Calvary U.M.	24 St. Andrews	
MAY	1 New Life	8 St. Margaret Mary CCW	15 Shell's	22 Faith	29 Derry Presbyterian
JUNE	5 New Life	12 St. John's U.M.	19 Shell's	26 Faith	
JULY	3 New Life	10 Calvary U.M.	17 Shell's	24 Faith	31 Derry Presbyterian
AUGUST	7 New Life	14 St. John's U.M.	21 St. Andrew's	28 Faith	
SEPTEMBER	4 New Life	11 Calvary U.M.	18 Shell's	25 Faith	
OCTOBER	2 East Hanover Mennonite	9 St. Margaret Mary CCW	16 Shell's	23 Faith	30 Derry Presbyterian
NOVEMBER	6 New Life	13 Calvary U.M.	20 Shell's	27 St. Andrew's	
DECEMBER	4 New Life	11 St. John's U.M.	18 Shell's	25 Faith	

*Food Pantry  
Volunteers  
will serve as  
noted:  
New Life  
Week 1  
St. John's  
Week 2  
Shell's -  
Week 3  
Faith -  
Week 4  
--Week 5*

**Questions?**  
Please call  
Corinne  
DeRita at  
717-533-2183  
or Elsie  
Geesaman at  
717-469-0388

**Contacts:** Faith United Church of Christ—Karen Keaton—(717) 979-2870  
New Life Assembly of God—Elsie Geesaman— (717) 469-0388  
Shell's Lutheran—Church Office—(717) 469-2586  
St. John's United Methodist—Betsy Babik (717) 469-1909  
Penn National Race Track— (717) 469-3288  
Derry Presbyterian—Loretta Chubb (717) 856-8709  
Calvary United Methodist—Betty Albright—(717) 545-4009  
St. Andrew's—Judy Dillon ([pdillon707@aol.com](mailto:pdillon707@aol.com))  
East Hanover Mennonite Church—Brenda Bauman—(717) 469-0766  
St. Margaret Mary CCW—Gigi Luto (717) 497-0978

*Please call the track on Monday  
and let them know what the menu  
will be so that it can be announced  
during the day!*

## Financial Q&A from the Finance Committee

### ***I am withdrawing funds from my IRA and would like to direct some to Shells Lutheran Church. How can I do it?***

If you are 70 ½ and are withdrawing funds from your Traditional IRA to satisfy your required minimum distribution, you may want to consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”).

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCD’s can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (“RMD”) for the year as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from a Traditional IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions including Social Security and Medicare.

Here are the requirements:

- You must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD
- QCD’s are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year’s required minimum distribution, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

*The key rule to remember is that the distribution must be made directly to the charity and not the owner or beneficiary.* Distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or else it will be counted as a taxable distribution. The owner or beneficiary can receive this check and deliver it to the charity but he or she cannot deposit the check and then make out another one to the charity.

You should always consult your financial advisor if you are thinking about a QCD.

If you would like further information about contributing a QCD to Shells Lutheran Church, contact Charles Schreiber at 717-361-3823.

### STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(December 31, 2022)*

#### **2022 Approved Budget \$255,000**

Income: \$261,719.21

Expenses: \$245,917.02

Love of Family 2022 Contributions: \$3,865

Local Food Pantry 2022 Contributions: \$3,111.67

Capital Improvement 2022 Contributions: \$50,240

Abiding Memorial Fund: \$3,355

**2023 Offering Envelops can be picked up in the Narthex.** If you do not have envelopes and wish to receive them please contact Rich Espenshade or the Church Office.

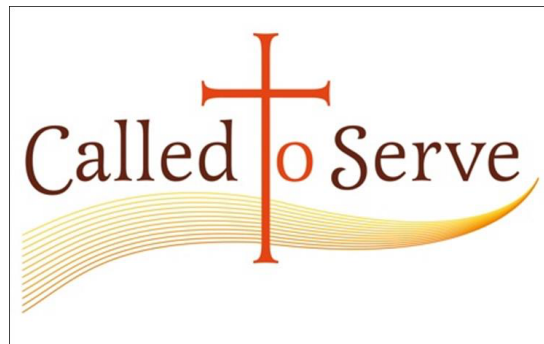


### Worship Assistants Schedule: February/March 2023

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
<b>February 2 Presentation of the Lord @ 6:30pm</b>	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade		Gen Whitehaus	Joe & Diana Budd	
<b>February 5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Riley Gonzales	Douglass Howard, Riley Gonzales & Gabe Gonzales	Carol Gordon	Tom & Sandy Mader	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
<b>February 12 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Diana Budd		Louise Murphy	Joe & Diana Budd	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
<b>February 19 Transfiguration of the Lord</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Karen Gussler	Douglass Howard and Anna Iachini	Don Whitehaus	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
<b>February 22 Ash Wednesday @ 7pm</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Steve Espenshade	Anna Iachini	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	
<b>February 26 First Sunday of Lent</b>	Raelene Smith	Nadine Espenshade		Carol Gordon	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>March 5 Second Sunday of Lent</b>	Karen Gussler	Douglass Howard	Gabe Gonzales	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Carol Gordon	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
<b>March 12 Third Sunday of Lent</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Brenda Frye		Carol Gordon	Rick & Linda Blair	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
<b>March 19 Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Steve Espenshade		Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade

<b>March 26</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of</b> <b>Lent</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Erica Strang		Don Whitehaus	Joe & Diana Budd	Sandy Mad- er & Katie Shellen- berger
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**We are still in need of children/youth to sign up to serve as acolytes for Sunday and weekday liturgies as well as lectors, prayers/intercessors, and greeters/ushers on Children in Worship Sundays (First Sunday of the Month).** Please check your calendars and sign up ASAP as the first date available, February 2 at 6:30pm, has no one signed up. Here is the direct link to the page for you to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ea5a82-da6f8c70-church#/>. If you would prefer to have the Church Office schedule your child/youth as we have in the past, please reach out and we can continue that practice using this format as well as the Newsletter to notify you.



### **Ash Wednesday Reflection**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.



### **Mid-Week Lenten Grantville Ministerium Worship 2023**

We will gather with Faith UCC, St. John UMC, and St. John Lutheran Hoernestown for **7pm** Wednesday Mid-Week Worship during the Season of Lent. Soup suppers before Worship will be brought back this year and start at **5:30pm**. More information on the preaching theme will be coming in the March 2023 Newsletter.

March 1 - Faith UCC  
 March 8 - Shells Lutheran Church  
 March 15 - St. John UMC  
 March 22 - Faith UCC  
 March 29 - St. John Lutheran Church

## February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>6:30pm - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b>  Senior Choir after Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Ordinary Time</b> <b>5</b> <i>Children in Worship</i> - Coffee and Fellowship after Worship - 10:30am Hand Chime Choir - 10:45am Adult Forum	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>7</b> 6:30pm - Worship, Music, and Altar Care Meeting		<b>9</b> 7-8:15pm Senior Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Ordinary Time</b> <b>6</b> <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> - 9:00am Youth Sunday School/ Confirmation - Coffee and Fellowship after Worship - 10:45am Adult Forum	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	15	<b>16</b> 7-8:15pm Senior Choir  Food Pantry	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> <i>Children in Worship</i> <i>Scout Sunday at Shells</i> - Coffee and Fellowship after Worship - 10:30am Hand Chime Choir - 10:45am Adult Forum	<b>20</b> Racetrack Meal  6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>21</b> 5:30-7:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Super	<b>22</b> <b>Noon - Ash Wednesday</b> (St. John)  <b>7pm - Ash Wednesday</b> (Shells)	<b>23</b> 7-8:15pm Senior Choir  Food Pantry	<b>24</b> <b>6-7pm Private Confession</b>  <b>7pm - Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Lent 1</b> - 9:00am Youth Sunday School/ Confirmation - Coffee and Fellowship after Worship - 10:45am Adult Forum	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>28</b>				

**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: charlieschreiber@embarqmail.com

**Council Members:**

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