

# **SHELLS MESSENGER**

## **Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church**

### ***May 2025***

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.

### **Holy Week and Easter 2025**



## **Palm Sunday 2025**



*Thank you to everyone who assisted with our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter liturgies.*

## **EASTER SEASON 2025**

**April 27 at 9am – The Second Sunday of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy**

**May 4 at 9am – The Third Sunday of Easter**

**May 11 at 9am – The Fourth Sunday of Easter with the Blessing of Mothers**

**May 18 at 9am – The Fifth Sunday of Easter with 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Please RSVP for the luncheon at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/200th-anniversary-lunch-with-bishop-dunlop-tickets-1295310892749?aff=oddttdtcreator>

**May 25 at 9am – The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 28 at 7pm – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vespers in Thanksgiving for the Laying of the Cornerstone**  
Dessert and Fellowship to follow.

**May 29 at 7pm – The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

**June 1 at 9am – The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**June 8 at 9am – The Day of Pentecost**

**June 8 from 1-4pm – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House**

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

**The 2025 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex.** The following dates are still available: June 22, July 27, August 31.

**The racetrack project will be collecting items each month this year.** May & June will be deodorant and shampoo, July & August will be toothbrushes and toothpaste, September & 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.

**Please save the date for the women's retreat with Christ Lutheran Church Elizabethtown on September 26-28.**

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary needs by May 1:** Baby photos of parishioners (regardless of if photo was taken at Shells or you were a member at that time) as well as any Shells memorabilia - Baptism, Confirmation, Wedding certificates and older Shells bulletins or newsletters, etc. These items will be returned to you after the June 8<sup>th</sup> Open House.

**Anyone interested in helping to make hymn book markers,** we will be making them on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Betty Espenshade's house. Any questions please contact Sandy Mader at 717-856-2713.

**We will be celebrating 200 years since the construction of the Shells Lutheran Church building with six separate events.** On Sunday June 8, we will be hosting a community open house. I would like to make the church building as clean and welcoming as we can. In order to make this possible, I have created a list of things that need done. 1. outside flower beds - 2. pressure washing exterior of church - 3. cleaning all windows - Christian Ed building and Sanctuary - 4. cleaning all globes on scones and chandeliers - 5. straightening up/cleaning classrooms - 6. deep house cleaning various areas - 7. other areas that you may see. We are not planning a Spring Workday - so if you are interested, I am thinking of getting most of these items done in May. Please see Steve Espenshade if interested.

**Calling all crafters!** Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> we will be crafting all day to support the Alzheimer's Association's "Longest Day" campaign. If you are interested in joining us, or would like to pledge support to the cause, please reach out to Angie Gonzales at 717-370-1497 or [amgonzales510@gmail.com](mailto:amgonzales510@gmail.com).

**ANNUAL GRANTVILLE COMMUNITY YARD SALE.** At the 251 Firehouse Rd. Grantville, PA. (Benefit Racetrack Chaplaincy of America @ Penn National). **SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025.** RAIN OR SHINE. Anyone interested in reserving a space, there are registration forms in the narthex on the bulletin board.

**Here is the registration for volunteering at the Central PA Food Bank on May 6, 2025.** Please forward this link to the participants who plan on volunteering for them to register: [https://volunteer.centralpafoodbank.org/registrations/47o7c1ySAG/claim\\_spot](https://volunteer.centralpafoodbank.org/registrations/47o7c1ySAG/claim_spot). We have this date open to 10 volunteers. Our New address is **3908 Corey Road, Harrisburg PA 17109**. We appreciate your flexibility and commitment during this transition and look forward to seeing you at our new location. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out!

**Save the date for the May 3-4 "May the Fourth Be with you" Lock-in for all children and youth.** We will start with dinner at 6pm. Those 4th grade and under are welcome to stay till 9pm on the 3rd. Sunday the 4th will be the last Children in Worship for the 2024-2025 Year. Please reach out to Angie Gonzales or Fr. Barnes with any questions.

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### **STEWARDSHIP/GIVING** (*March 31, 2025*)

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#### **2025 Approved Budget \$295,815**

General Fund Income: \$61,063.45      Love of Family Contributions: \$0  
 \*General Fund Expenses: \$78,137.27      Grantville Food Pantry Contributions: \$2,991.74  
 Capital Improvement Contributions: \$1,485      Abiding Memorial Fund Contributions: \$50,320  
    Adult Forum Contributions: \$237

*\*Includes funding of budgeted expenses, laptop replacement for Father Barnes, property insurance, and fellowship*

**Account Balances:** General Operating Fund: \$71,581, Abiding Memorial Fund: \$45,828  
 Higher Education Fund: \$8,000, Capital Improvement Fund: \$199,681,  
 Love of Family: \$18,289, Adult Forum: \$955

**Total Cash Balance: \$344,334**

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### **BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – MAY**

*Erica Strang  
 Jeremy Longreen  
 Nora Holler  
 Holly Roush  
 Tami Crow*

*Nicole Long  
 Cory O'Brien  
 Zane Stayton  
 Lincoln Leese  
 David Terry  
 Roberta Anderson*

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

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### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

May 6	Christian Stremmel	May 18	Caitlin Holland
May 8	Ava Espenshade	May 21	Carrie Leese
	Linda Longreen		Joshua Murphy
May 11	Colin Blair	May 24	Gracelyn Hilbert
	Benjamin Rodemaker	May 26	Keith Espenshade
May 14	Schenley Layton	May 28	Catherine Germann
May 16	Diane Suhr		Crist Espenshade IV
May 17	Chris O'Brien	May 31	Matthew Terry
	Ronnie Carter		



# Celebrating 200

## JOIN US FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN 2025

### Sunday, MAY 18

11:00am

Cedar Grove, Grantville

#### **LUNCH WITH THE BISHOP**

Join us for a festive lunch  
with Rev. James S. Dunlop,  
Bishop of the Lower  
Susquehanna Synod.

### Wednesday, MAY 28

6:30pm

Church

#### **VESPERS & DESSERT**

### Sunday, JUNE 8

1:00-4:00pm

Church

#### **OPEN HOUSE**

The community is invited  
for Church and Cemetery  
Tours, demonstrations,  
music, food and Fun!

### Sun.-Thu. JULY 6-10

5:00-8:15pm

Church & Grounds

#### **VACATION**

#### **BIBLE SCHOOL**

5 nights of fun, food,  
activities and learning for  
kids (age 3 thru grade 5).  
Special celebration  
Thursday night!

### Sunday, AUGUST 17

4:00-6:00pm

Church

#### **VESPERS w/Previous Pastors & DINNER**

### Sun., SEPTEMBER 21

4:00-6:00pm

Cedar Grove, Grantville

#### **HYMN SING & PIES**

Closing event with your  
favorite hymns and pies!

287 SHELLS CHURCH ROAD

GRANTVILLE, PA 17028

717-469-2586 shellsadmin@shellschurch.org

www.shellschurch.org



It's time for kids to hit the trail....for adventure!

Shells VBS – July 6 – July 10, 2025

Meal 5:15 – 6:00pm/Program 6:00 – 8:15pm

**Register at – <https://vbspro.events/p/shellsvbs2025>**

At True North, kids discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world! True North is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot! Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us at Compass Closing each night at 7:45pm, a daily celebration of our rock-solid faith in Jesus!



So mark these dates on your calendar: July 6-10, 2025. The fun starts with a light meal being served from 5:15 – 6:00pm in our Social Hall, followed by our program beginning in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm and will end at 8:15pm.

True North is for kids from preschool, 3 yrs. of age, to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. (Grade completed) Kids 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older can join us as volunteers!

Register your child/children at <https://vbspro.events/p/shellsvbs2025>. Paper registration forms are also available in the narthex.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Barb Dupler, 717-991-8862 or Sandy Mader at 717-856-2713.

## SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

*“At the Lamb’s high feast we sing,  
praise to our victorious king,  
who has washed us in the tide,  
flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!*

*Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days;  
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!*

*ELW #362 v.1, 8*

A special note of thanks to our Senior Choir, our Sunday School Children and youth, our S.S. teachers, our Hand Chime choir and instrumentalists, for sharing in our music ministry during our Lenten journey, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the glorious celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord! Thank you all for sharing your gifts, enhancing our liturgy with your musical offerings!

The **Senior Choir** will continue to lead worship during the Sundays of Easter. The choir rehearses **Thursday** evening **7:00 – 8:15pm**. An invitation to join choir and share in our music ministry is extended to senior high youth through adults!

Our **Children In Worship** Sunday School music program continues for our children in preschool through sixth grade. Shells Bells, our children’s bell choir, play and learn music as part of the Sunday school opening each week, in Miss Connie’s classroom, beginning at 9am. It is truly a joy to work with the children, as they share in our music ministry. We are proud of all their contributions as they enhance and lead worship each month! The children will take part in worship on Sunday, **May 4**.

Our Children & Youth **Handchime Choir** rehearsals continue for grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through senior high, the **first and third Sunday** of each month. We rehearse in the choir room immediately following worship, 10:30-11:00am. Our ringers are working on music for the Easter season. Please join us to discover handchimes!

Please don't hesitate to call, text or send me an email if you have any questions -- cell phone, 717-991-8862, or email at [scdbjd@aol.com](mailto:scdbjd@aol.com).

With joyful songs and praise,  
Barbara Dupler  
Director of Music

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit:** Rick Blair, Linda Blair, Joe Budd, Linda DeMario, Barbara Dupler, Betty Espensshade, Crist Espensshade, Don Espensshade, Mim Fake, Ed Fake, Herb Fisher, Al Germann, Randy Gotshall, Bert Gussler, Alfred Howard, Douglass Howard Jr., Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Iva Rodemaker, 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, Crist Espensshade, Nikolas Jaggan, Domonic DeFrank, Keegan Wenner, Stephen Lugovich, Blake O'Brien, Michael Knaub, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

**Those who have died:**

**Those in the Shells Church Catechumenate Process** *(please pray for the formation of those preparing for full Confirmed/Voting membership in this congregation)*: Lexi Frye, Emma Jurell, Evelyn Mende, Julia O'Brien, and Nora Holler.

**With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith.** This month we remember *Joseph Bell, Laura Bell, Leonard DeMario, Melvin Espensshade, Charles Harmon, Connie Osvaldo, John Price, Sr., Bette Wolfe, and Edward Wolfe.*

**Family & Friends:** Saadia Baker, Nancy Balmer, Skip Balmer, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Verna Ebersole, Joan Espensshade, Jeanne Flickinger, Bob Gagliardi, Eileen Gagliardi, Christie Gamber, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Michelle Gillette, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Emily Hand, Rob Herman, Michael Hudak, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Kerm Katzman, Joyce King, Skip Kline, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Joanne Lauver, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, Rose Mangle, Dan Martin, Barb Morrow, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, Tony Prisco, Michael Riley, Laura Lou Rinker, Ken Rebuck, 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: May/June**

	<b>Assistant</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Greeter /Usher</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>
<b>May 4 The Third Sunday of Easter</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Evelyn Mende	(+) Lily Iachini, Lucas Terry, & Ellie Frye	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>May 11 The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Diane Gotshall	Julia O'Brien	Don Whitehaus	Joe & Diana Budd	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
<b>May 18 The Fifth Sunday of Easter (Bishop's Visit)</b>	Raelene Smith	Lisa Lugovich	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Jacob Mende, Emma Jurell, & Douglass Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
<b>May 25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade	Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
<b>May 28 Anniversary Vespers at 7pm</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Steve Espenshade	Lucas Terry, (+) Abigail Blair & Julia O'Brien	N/A	Rick & Linda Blair	
<b>May 29 Ascension at 7pm</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Karen Gussler	Douglass Howard	Don Whitehaus	Joe & Diana Budd	
<b>June 1 The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Brenda Frye	Lily Iachini	Louise Murphy	Bert & Kaern Gussler	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
<b>June 8 Day of Pentecost</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Steve Espenshade	(+) Ellie Frye, Abigail Blair, & Douglass Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Rick & Linda Blair	Joe & Diana Budd
<b>June 15 The Most Holy Trinity</b>	Raelene Smith	Erica Strang	Anna Iachini, Lily Iachini, & (+) Lucas Terry	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>June 22 Corpus Christi with Hymn Procession</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Ed Fake	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Jacob Mende, Emma Jurell	Don Whitehaus	Joe & Diana Budd	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler, Bobbie Boyer
<b>June 29 The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Karen Gussler	Ralene Smith	Douglass Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

**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).**

## MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Children and Youth Lock-In @ 6pm
<b>4</b> <b>Easter 3</b> <i>Children in Worship</i> 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum 6pm Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>6</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  6:30pm Strategic Planning Meeting	<b>7</b> 6pm Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Easter 4</b> 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum 6pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>13</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 6pm Girl Scouts	<b>15</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Easter 5</b> Bishop's Visit 11am Luncheon at Cedar Grove 6pm Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 5pm Race Track Meal  6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>20</b> 6pm Cub Scouts	<b>21</b> 6pm Girl Scouts  Food Pantry	<b>22</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  7pm Choir Rehearsal  Food Pantry	<b>23</b> Food Pantry	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Easter 6</b> 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:30pm Anniversary Vespers and Dessert</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7pm Ascension of the Lord</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</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: 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)