

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2026

P – Presider

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. 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**

***INVOCATION**

We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

***GREETING**

P: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

R: Blessed be God forever.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

L: A reading from Ezekiel.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40 *(sung responsively)*

Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,*
and I shall keep it | to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your law;*
I shall keep it with | all my heart.

Make me go in the path of | your commandments,*
for that is | my desire.

Incline my heart to | your decrees*
and not to | unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from watching | what is worthless;*
give me life | in your ways.

Fulfill your promise | to your servant,*
which you make to | those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach | which I dread,*
because your judg- | ments are good.

Behold, I long for | your commandments;*
in your righteousness pre- | serve my life.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

L: A reading from Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Please stand are you are able in honor of the Gospel.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

“Earth and All Stars!”

Hymn #731

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

We bow our heads in honor of the mystery of the Incarnation.

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

Our heads are raised.

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: By his grace, Christ has gathered us in his name. Our prayer will be granted by our Father in heaven, for we know that Jesus is here in our midst.

A brief silence.

A: That the members of the universal Church may walk together in unity, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those engaged in the Catechumenate Process here at Shells – Douglass, Anna, Lauren, Lucas, Lexi, Emma, Evelyn, and Julia, 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, Dominic, Blake, Keegan, Michael, Stephen, Chris, Ryan, John S., and John T., let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the nations and places 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, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That leaders of nations may respect human rights and reject repression and torture, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That people whose actions separate them from the Church may be reconciled, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That we may be just and loving as we live out the commandments of God in this community, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who suffer in any way, especially – Crystal B., Mildred B., Diana B., Linda D., Sam D., Edward E., Betty E., Crist E., Cristin E., Nadine E., Mim F., Ed F., Herb F., Diane G., Peter H., Shirley H., Nancy I., Keira K., Tregan L., Blaine M., Lucas S., Larry S., Bev U., Jack U., Don W., and Gen W., 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: That the dead may be cleansed and prepared for eternal unity with Christ, especially Sarah F., David K., Kendra K., Harry M., Anna Mae M., Michael N., Edgar P. Jr., Edgar P. Sr., Frieda T., and Michael Y., let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

P: Lord God, our Father, grant the prayers of your people. We join them to the intercession of Jesus in our midst, our brother, priest, and king, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated while the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

*HYMN

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

R: we give you thanks and praise.

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

R: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

R: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

R: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.**

***BLESSING**

We make the sign of the cross as God blesses us this day.

P: May the Lord bless us, ☩ protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing ”

Hymn #543

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Presider/Homilist	Seminarian Seth Roseman
Assistant	Karen Gussler
Lector	Nadine Espenshade
Acolyte	Emma Jurell (+), Julia O'Brien, Lily Iachini
Greeters/Ushers	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger

THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK

Celebrant	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Deacon/Homilist	Deacon Marsha Roscoe
Assistant	Karlene Jaggan
Lector	Brenda Frye
Acolyte	Darby Sims
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Greeters/Ushers	Tom & Sandy Mader
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (July 31, 2026)

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$244,655.68

General Fund Expenses: \$172,325.20

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$3,360.06

Capital Improvement Fund: \$23,290

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

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Sherry Ulsh & Lori Feaster in honor of Jack & Beverly's 68th wedding anniversary.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the CROP WALK. 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, and Michael Yancheff.*

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 for children/youth 5th-12th grade.

Welcome Back Brunch 2026 will be September 20. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for donations.

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: *Crystal Blair, Mildred Bower, Diana Budd, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Edward Elliott, 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, Tregan Layton, Blaine Moreland, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh, Jack Ulsh, Don Whitehaus and Gen Whitehaus.* To have a name added or removed to this Sunday Prayer List please contact the Church Office.

It's never too early to start thinking about the start of the school year. We are blessed to have members of our congregation who teach our children on a daily basis. While some things are provided for the classroom, not everything is, so we'd like to help them out. Elmer glue sticks, scissors, pre-sharpened pencils, tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, EXPO markers, pencils and thick Crayola markers are always needed. We appreciate your help in supporting the important people in our children's lives.

Race Track Project: We will be collecting razors, shaving cream and deodorant in the month of August and toothbrushes, toothpaste and shampoo for the month of September. Thank you all for your kind support for this cause.

St. John Lutheran Church Hoernerstown will be hosting another hog maw dinner on September 13 at 5pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Our Annual Women's Retreat with Christ Lutheran Church Elizabethtown is scheduled for September 18-20 at Gretna Glen (87 Old Mine Road, Lebanon Pa, 17042). Cost: \$170.00 (price includes 5 meals, lodging, and Bible study supplies. Balance due August 31 with a check made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Arrival time is 6pm Friday evening through 1pm Sunday afternoon. What to bring: twin sheets/bedding/pillow, towels, comfy clothes and comfy shoes, snack to share, bible/pen. Any Questions, please contact Celia Domines, 717-367-2786 or cell 717-449-0663 or education@christlutheran-etown.com

...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.

SAVE THE DATES:

September 10 at 7pm – Choir Rehearsal begins
September 13 – Sunday School begins (*Blessing of Backpacks*)
September 13 at 5pm – Hog Maw Dinner at St. John Hoernerstown
September 18-20: Women's Retreat at Gretna Glen
September 20 – Welcome Back Brunch
September 21 at 2pm – Bible Study begins at Shells
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 11 – CROPWALK @ Memorial Park
October 18 at 9am – Feast of St. Luke with Healing Liturgy
October 24 from 5-8pm – Annual Fall Festival
November 11 at 7pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)

This week at Shells:

September 6 at 9am - Liturgy of the Word
The Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Brunch at Manada Hill Diner
September 8 at 6:30pm – Lion's Club
September 8 at 6:30pm – Parish Council
September 10 at 7pm – Choir Rehearsal
September 13 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist
The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Blessing of the Backpacks
9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation
10:45am Adult Forum – Deacon Marsha Roscoe
Brunch at Manada Hill Diner

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."

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Cell: 717-870-4505

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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)