# LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 28, 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

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymn #269

\*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,

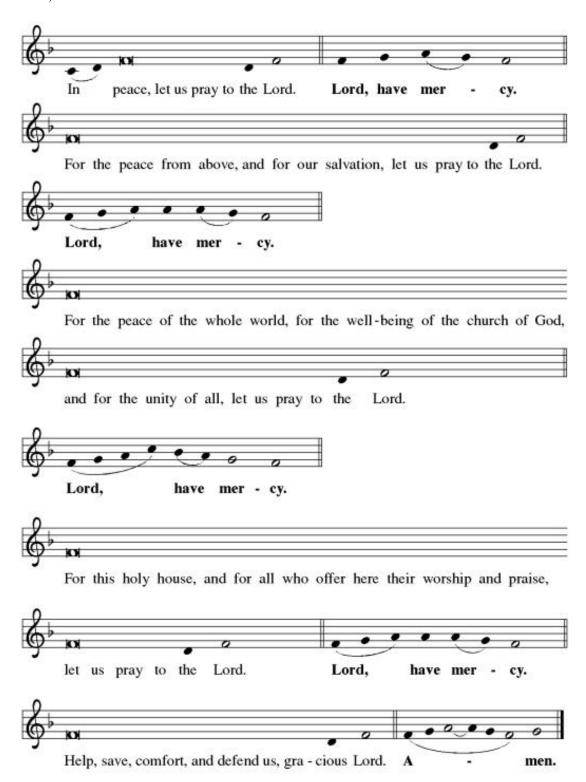
R: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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



## \*GLORY TO GOD



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; 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 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

L: A reading from Sirach.

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins —a house raised in justice to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

# **PSALM 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5** (sung responsively)

Blessed is everyone who | fears the LORD, who walks | in his ways!

For you shall eat the fruit of your | handiwork; blessed shall you | be, and favored.

Your wife shall be like a | fruitful vine in the recesses | of your home;

your children like | olive plants

a - | round your table.

Behold, thus is | the man blessed who | fears the LORD.

The LORD bless | you from Zion:

may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days | of your life.

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-21

L: A reading from Colossians.

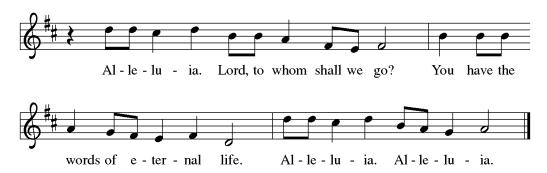
Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

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 Luke.

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 Luke 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

**HOMILY** 

Please stand as you are able.



- Remember thou
   What glory now
   The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.
   The angel host
   Can never boast
   Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.
- The world may hold
  Her wealth and gold;
  But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.
  To Him hold fast
  Until at last
  A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

#### \*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: The family of Nazareth inspires us to imitate the virtues of holiness and piety. With this ideal before us, we ask the Lord to hear our prayers on this family day.

A brief silence.

A: For the family of the Church, that we may give respect and dignity to all God's children, let us pray to the Lord.

# R: Hear our prayer.

A: For those engaged in the Catechumenate Process here at Shells – Douglass, Anna, Lauren, Lucas, Lexi, Emma, Evelyn, Julia, and Nora, 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 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, Stephen & Jodi, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R: O God, hear us.

A: For the family of people and nations, that the rights of the old and the young will be upheld for the sake of peace, justice and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.

## R: O God, hear us.

A: For all our families, that those separated from their family circle will find a home with God's People, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R: O God, hear us.

A: For broken families, that God's reconciling forgiveness will be granted and accepted, to restore all relationships of love, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R: Hear our prayer.

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., Blane M., Iva R., Rena S., Amber S., Lucas 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 our departed relatives and friends, and all the departed, that they may be gathered into the eternal joy of their heavenly home, especially, Ralph, Sara, Paul, Franklin and Adela, let us pray to the Lord.

# R: Hear our prayer.

C: Father in heaven, by subjecting himself to Mary and Joseph, your Son sanctified home life at Nazareth. As we offer our prayers, help us to follow his example, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

#### R: Amen.

# **MEAL**

#### **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

Please stand as you are able.

\*OFFERTORY HYMN

"What Feast of Love"

Hymn #487

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

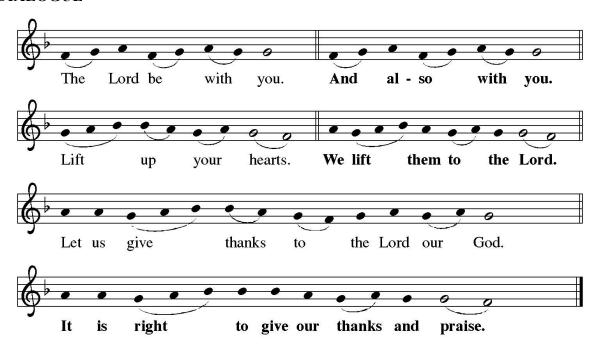
C: Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice of praise and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

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.

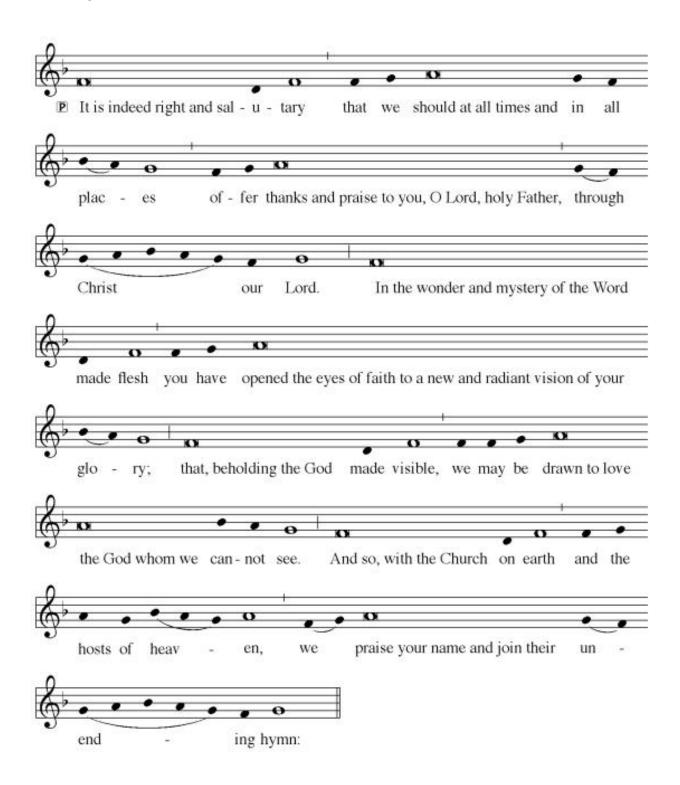
C: Lord, accept this sacrifice of praise and through our worship unite our families in peace and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

R: Amen.

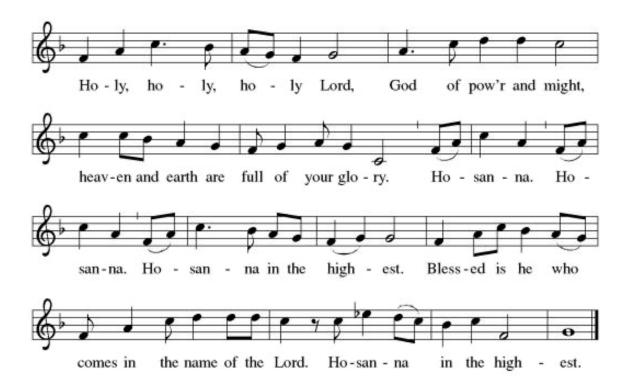
## \*DIALOGUE



# \*PREFACE



# \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

C: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a Virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



C: Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill + us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

We make the sign of the cross asking God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.
that we may praise and glorify you 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.

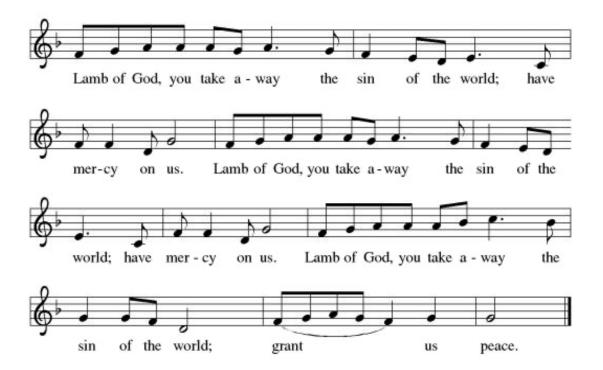
## \*PEACE

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.

## \*LAMB OF GOD



#### \*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**

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"	Hymn #282
"In the Bleak Midwinter"	Hymn #294
"What Child Is This"	Hymn #296

*Please stand at the direction of the Celebrant.* 

#### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

C: Let us pray. Eternal Father, we want to live as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in peace with you and one another. May this communion strengthen us to face the troubles of life. Grant 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

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Hymn #287

#### \*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, STS Karen Gussler Assistant Lector Karen Gussler Acolyte Evelyn Mende Communion Assistant Louise Murphy Greeters/Ushers Tom & Sandy Mader Organist Barbara Dupler Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger Altar Guild

## THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK

Celebrant/Homilist The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, STS Assistant Raelene Smith Lector **Douglass Howard** Lilly Iachini Acolyte Audrey Neiswender Communion Assistant Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender Greeters/Ushers Organist Barbara Dupler Altar Guild Diana Budd & Carol Gordon

# STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (November 30, 2025)

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

General Fund Income: \$242,809.57
General Fund Expenses: \$271,045.30
Grantville Food Pantry: \$5,753.74
Capital Improvement Fund: \$42,080
Adult Forum: \$824
ELCA World Hunger: \$2,555
Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$1,695
Lutheran Disaster Response \$3,085

Central PA Food Bank \$1,000 Kid to Kid (VBS): \$600 Love of Family \$5,968 Abiding Memorial Fund: \$52,375

Gotshall Music Memorial \$6,437.25

This month's special offering will go to benefit ELCA Good Gifts. Please pick up a piggy bank in the Narthex.

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Olga Miller

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember *Ralph Gussler*, *Sara Plouse*, *Paul Shelahamer*, *Franklin & Adela Wagner*.

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex.

**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, Blane Moreland, Iva Rodemaker, Rena Sattazahn, Amber Sherman, Lucas 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.

#### Shells Church Family Fun Event to Hershey Bears Game

Friday, February 20, 2026 @ 7pm \$10 per ticket with \$15 parking pass per car.

The church is paying for a \$5 snack voucher for each person.

You <u>must</u> be able to walk several flights of stairs to sit in our assigned seats.

We do have a few handicapped seats available, but they are not above our regular seats.

Please sign up & pay by Sunday, February 1, 2026

(Cash or check to Shells Lutheran Church). Tickets are non-refundable.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

Questions: Please see or call Kathy at 717-991-3212

## 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  $70 \frac{1}{2}$  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.

# **SAVE THE DATES:**

January 6 @ 7pm – The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 23, 2026 - Family Game Night at Shells
February 20, 2026 - Hershey Bears Hockey Game
March 22, 2026 - Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral Harrisburg
April 18, 2026 - Walk at East Hanover Township Park
May 17, 2026 - Mini Golf
June 20, 2026 - Knoebels

# **This week at Shells:**

December 28at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist
The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Brunch at Manada Hill Diner

January 4 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist
The Second Sunday of Christmas

Children in Worship 10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Adult Forum Brunch at Manada Hill

# 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), Ryan Jaggan (T), Diana Budd, Tom Terry, Steve Espenshade, Mark Stremmel

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram and "like/subscribe" our church page!

We have WiFi!

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran** Password: **GodIsAwesome** (case-sensitive)