

SHELLS MESSENGER

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2026

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:

February 20 – Hershey Bears Hockey Game
 March 22 - Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral
 April 18 - Walk at East Hanover Township
 May 17 - Mini Golf
 June 20 - Knoebels

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex. Dates still available are May 10, 24, 31, June 14, 28, August 2, 9, October 18, December 20 & 27.

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 must 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 717-991-321

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Grantville Food Pantry. Please pick up an envelope in the Narthex.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 It is a joy for me to be able to serve with you and join in the celebration of Christ's birth each year. I give thanks to God for your shared ministry and for your kindness to all the staff. Thank you for your generous Christmas gifts and continued support. I wish you all a very happy New Year.*

*Your servant in Christ,
 Father Barnes*



ASH WEDNESDAY Wed., Feb. 18 at 7pm
 February 22 at 9am—First Sunday in Lent
 March 1 at 9am—Second Sunday in Lent
 March 8 at 9am—Third Sunday in Lent
 March 15 at 9am—Fourth Sunday in Lent
 March 22 at 9am—Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Stations of the Cross—Fridays at 3pm
 Midweek Worship—Wednesdays at 7pm
(Location to be determined)

HOLY WEEK
March 29 at 9am—Palm Sunday 
 March 30 at 7pm—Monday of Holy Week
 March 31 at 7pm—Tuesday of Holy Week
 April 1 at 7pm—Wednesday of Holy Week
 April 2 at 7pm—Holy/Maundy Thursday
 April 3 at Noon—Stations of the Cross
 April 3 at 7pm—Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

THE SEASON OF EASTER 
 April 4 at 7pm—The Great Vigil of Easter
 April 5 at 6:30am—Sunrise Morning Prayer
April 5 at 9am—Easter: The Resurrection of our Lord
 April 12 at 9am—Divine Mercy Sunday
 April 19 at 9am—Third Sunday of Easter
 April 26 at 9am—Fourth Sunday of Easter
 May 3 at 9am—Fifth Sunday of Easter
 May 10 at 9am—Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14 at 7pm—Ascension of our Lord
 May 17 at 9am—Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 24 at 9am—The Day of Pentecost

SPECIAL EVENTS
March 22 at 4:30pm
 Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral (Hbg.)
March 28 at 11am
 Easter Egg Hunt & Luncheon at St. John's (Hoernerstown)
April 18 at 9am
 Walk at E. Hanover Twp. Park
May 17 at 2:30pm
 Mini Golf at Meadows Frozen Custard

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (December 31, 2025)
2025 Approved Budget \$295,815

General Fund Income: \$277,062.79
 General Fund Expenses: \$294,633.31

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$6,673.50
 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
 ELCA Good Gifts \$50

Our House

A welcome mat may not be displayed, but peals of invitation are sent throughout the neighborhood. For those who enter and are greeted by smiles, the next stop is the spacious living area to find a seat. After meaningful conversation one is directed to the kitchen for hospitality and friendship. The smell of coffee permeates the room with the “at home” feeling. There are other rooms in this house: rooms where children play and study, spaces filled with melodious sounds, a place to laugh or discuss concerns.

287 Shells Church Road is our home. It provides us shelter, warmth, and family as does the address where our mail is received. It is our responsibility to care for our home.

On the exterior there's the roof, windows, siding and driveway. Then there's the manicuring of the lawn, shrubs, and trees. Inside expenses can be appliances, heating sources, and plumbing. Insurance on the house is a must.

Costs for these necessities continue to rise. Increased giving is one way to promote a healthy home. A skill or talent which avoids an expenditure can be offered to offset expenses. Consider prayerfully how you will help care for your home!

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – FEBRUARY 2 AT 7PM

Please bring a candle to be blessed as part of this liturgy. Throat/voice blessings will take place after worship.

SCOUT SUNDAY, SUPERBOWL SUNDAY, AND PANCAKE BRUNCH – FEBRUARY 8

Please bring non-perishable food items and loose change to benefit the Grantville Food Panty and route for your favorite team in the Super Bowl. Our Scouts will assist with leading worship as well as provide a pancake brunch after worship. A freewill offering will be collected at the brunch to benefit the scouts.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER – FEBRUARY 17 FROM 5:30-7:30PM

Join us for a feast and fellowship before the Lenten Fast begins. The burning of palm branches will take place at 6:30pm to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE
SOUP SUPPER AT 5:30PM - WORSHIP AT 7PM

February 25 @ Shells, March 4 @ St. John Hoernerstown, March 11 @ Shells, March 18 @ Faith UCC, March 25 @ St. John Hoernerstown

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD AT 3PM ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT

**Toffee-Topped Cheesecake Bars
(makes 36 bars)**

Ingredients:

1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup powdered sugar
1/3 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/3 cups (8-oz pkg) HEATH BITS O'BRICKLE Toffee Bits, divided



Baking Steps:

1. Heat Oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine flour, powdered sugar, cocoa and baking soda in a medium bowl. Cut butter into the flour mixture with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into bottom of ungreased 13X9X2-inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes.
3. Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add sweetened condensed milk, eggs and vanilla ; beat until smooth. Stir in 3/4 cup toffee bits. Pour mixture over hot crust. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until set and edges begin to brown.
4. Remove from oven. Cool 15 minutes. Sprinkle remaining toffee bits evenly over top. Cool completely. Refrigerate several hours or until cold. Cover ; store leftovers bars in refrigerator.

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – FEBRUARY

*Lily Klos
Brenda Frye
Ruth Espenshade
Jared Espenshade*

*Lucas Smith
Keith Espenshade
Rick Smith
Evelyn Jurell*

Tom Terry

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Feb 01	Kathy Peffer
	Patty Harmon
Feb 07	Blaine Moreland
Feb 15	Karen Gussler
Feb 16	Gabe Gonzales
Feb 18	Barbara Dupler
	Owen Bright
	Wesley Bright
Feb 19	Jeremy Longreen
Feb 20	Connie Terry
	Evelyn Jurell
	Roberta Anderson
Feb 21	John Terry
Feb 23	Edward Elliott
Feb 25	Gerry Hess
Feb 26	Livy Leese
	Don Lind
	Tami Crow

SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

*“Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David’s stem in the birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

*Grants us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.”*

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise ELW #310

The time after Epiphany is bookended by two events: Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration. This block of liturgical time can be viewed as an ever-ascending journey from the waters of the Jordan River to the cloud-soaked top of the mountain. The time between these bookends focuses on the way God is made manifest in the world in Jesus Christ. The Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday after Epiphany is the beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, defined by many as the most important of Jesus’ teachings. Our music during this time reflects the themes of light, baptism, cross and discipleship. The season of Epiphany concludes with the Transfiguration of Our Lord.*

An invitation to join choir and share in our music ministry is extended to all! **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 fifth grade, providing opportunities for them to share in worship in many ways. The children will be participating in worship on Sunday, **February 1**, with **Shells Bells** playing “*This Little Light.*”

Children & Youth Hand Chime Choir for grades 2nd 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 **Hand Chime choir** is playing **February 1**.

CHOIR SCHEDULE:

Feb. 1 – *Children In Worship – Shells Bells – “This Little Light”/ Hand Chime Choir “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

Feb 2 – Presentation of Our Lord – No choir

Feb. 8 – *“This Little Light of Mine” – Senior Choir*

Feb. 15 – *“We Are Marching in the Light” – Senior Choir*

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday – *“Lord, Create in Me” – Senior Choir*

Feb. 22 – *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” – Senior Choir*

Please don't hesitate to call, text or email if you have any questions –
Cell phone, 717-991-8862; or email at scdbjd@aol.com.

In joyful songs of praise,

Barbara Dupler

Director of Music

* *Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress*

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Diana Budd, Sam Dupler, Betty Espenshade, Crist Espenshade, Cristin Espenshade, Nadine Espenshade, Ed Fake, Mim Fake, Herb Fisher, Diane Gotshall, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Blaine Moreland, Kevin O'Brien, 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, Ryan, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

Those who have died:

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony: Amber Sherman and Ryan Jaggan, Tyler Smith and Caitlin Reed

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 *Alvin Huber, Lester T. Kamerzel, Claude Mader, Robert Mader, Frank Wall Jr., Anna Yancheff, Michael Yancheff, Jay Vogler, Phylis Vogler*

Family & Friends: Saadia Baker, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Roberta Centurian, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Verna Ebersole, Joan Espenshade, Lori Farro, Erma Fiedler, Bob Gagliardi, Eileen Gagliardi, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorter, 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, Linda Kissinger, 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, Barry Shirk, Janet Shultz, Kathy Spangler, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Stephanie Wagner, Dale Walmer, Aria Wenner, Kyle Wentz, Carol Wilson, Jennie Womack and Linda Yarnell.

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: February/ March

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
February 1 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Raelene Smith	Julia O'Brien	Lauren O'Brein, (+) Mary Shellenberger, & Douglass Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Sherman & Family	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
February 2 Presentation of the Lord @ 7pm	Karlene Jaggan	Abigail Blair	(+) Lucas Terry, Douglass Howard, & Ellie Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	

February 8 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Erica Strang	Julia O'Brien, (+) Lexi Frye, & Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
February 15 Transfiguration of the Lord	Karlene Jaggan	Raelene Smith	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Douglass Howard, & Lucas Terry	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
February 18 Ash Wednesday @ 7pm	Karen Gussler	Olga Miller	(+) Anna Iachini, Lily Iachini, & Nora Holler	Louise Murphy	Tom & Carol Gordon	
February 22 First Sunday of Lent	Sherry Ulsh	Gen Whitehaus	Nora Holler	Don Whitehaus	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
February 25 Midweek Lenten Worship @ 7pm			Douglass Howard		Tom & Sandy Mader	
March 1 Second Sunday of Lent	Gen Whitehaus	Douglass Howard	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Abigail Blair, & Nora Holler	Don Whitehaus	Bert & Karen Gussler	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
March 8 Third Sunday of Lent	Raelene Smith	Lisa Lugovich	Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Amber Sherman & Family	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
March 11 Midweek Lenten Worship			Emma Jurrel		Rich & Nadine Espenshade	
March 15 Fourth Sunday of Lent	Karen Gussler	Diana Budd	Lucas Terry	Audrey Neiswender	Rick & Linda Blair	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
March 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent	Karlene Jaggan	Karen Gussler	Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
March 31 Palm Sunday	Sherry Ulsh	Brenda Frye	(+) Lucas Terry, Douglass Howard, & Ellie Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Audrey Neiswender & Diana Budd	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon

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).

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ordinary Time 4 <i>Children in Worship</i> ~Adult Forum ~10:30am Hand Chime Choir ~6pm Scouts	2 7pm Presentation of the Lord	3	4 6:30pm Worship, Music, and Altar Care Ministry	5 7pm Choir	6	7
8 Ordinary Time 5 ~SCOUT and SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY Children/Youth/ Sunday School & Confirmation ~Pancake Brunch ~ 6pm Scouts	9 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	10 6:30pm Lions Club 6:30pm Parish Council	11	12 7pm Choir	13 5:30pm Wedding Rehearsal	14 2pm Ryan Jaggan & Amber Sherman Wedding
		<i>Father Barnes Vacation</i>				
15 Transfiguration ~Children/Youth/ Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30am Hand Chime Choir ~ 6pm Scouts	16 5:30pm Race Track Meal 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	17 5:30-7:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	18 Noon Ash Wednesday @ St. John 7pm Ash Wednesday @ Shells Food Pantry	19 7pm Choir Food Pantry	20 3pm Stations of the Cross Food Pantry Hershey Bears Game	21
22 First Sunday of Lent ~ Children/Youth/ Sunday School & Confirmation ~Adult Forum ~ 6pm Scouts	23 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	24	25 5:30pm Soup Supper 7pm Midweek Lenten Worship @ Shells	26 7pm Choir	27 3pm Stations of the Cross	28

**SHELLS EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Council Members:

D. Budd, S. Espenshade, B. Frye (VP), C. Frye (S), S. Mader (P), M. Stremmel, T. Terry, R. Jaggan (T)