

SHELLS MESSENGER

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 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:

You are invited to join in prayer with the Susquehanna Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity at Shells on August 24 at 9am for a half-day retreat. We will pray the Daily Office and close with a Liturgy of Holy Eucharist with the installation of our newly elected chapter dean. Shells Fellowship Ministry will provide a light brunch as well as a luncheon for the day. *Please contact Erna O'Brien if you are willing to help with fellowship for the day.*

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

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

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 to children/youth 5th-12th grade.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 4 from 6-8pm at East Hanover Township Park. We are in need of folks to be at our booth (combined with St. John Hoernerstown) to hand out snacks and we are in need of donations of individually wrapped baked goods/snacks. Please sign up in the Narthex.

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

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.

Dear Shells family,

Thank you so much for providing the reception after Father John's ordination. We are indeed blessed that He has Welcomed Father John, Samantha and baby Mary to our congregation.

In Christ's Service

Sharon Slagel

St. Paul's Council President

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (June 30, 2026)

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$200,727.84
General Fund Expenses: \$151,524.48

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$3,210.06
Capital Improvement Fund: \$22,940
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: \$2,770

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – AUGUST

*Angie Gonzales, Blake O'Brien, Colton O'Brien, Shane O'Brien, Diane Suhr, Sherrie Kauffman,
Wade Mader, Vicki Hilbert, Prya Jaggan, Riley Gonzales, Kyle Gordon, Azyel Jaggan, Joanne
Manchester, Audrey Neiswender*

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

8/1	Seth Frye	8/13	Sue Smith
8/4	Jack Ulsh	8/14	Erna O'Brien
8/6	Ed Murphy	8/15	Ellie Roush
	Douglass Howard	8/19	Scott Espenshade
8/9	Rick Hoover	8/22	Olivia Gordon
8/10	Linda Rose	8/23	Pria Jaggan
8/12	Tregan Layton	8/26	Michelle Sholder
	Thurston Manchester		

VBS Rainforest Falls – Exploring the Nature of God!

A special **THANK YOU** to our **VBS team** for an **AWESOME, AMAZING**, week of Rainforest Falls VBS, that ran from Sunday, July 12 - Thursday July 16! We shared an incredible week playing, learning, growing, and becoming better friends – Exploring the Nature of God!

We started each night of Rainforest Falls exploring this amazing, God-created world at Sing and Play Tune Lagoon, learning cool Bible songs, watching our Dr. Flutterby skits, learning daily Bible Points and meeting our Bible Buddies! We shared God sightings, evidence of God in everyday life, and added creation cutouts to our God Sightings Celebration spot all week. Then our crews divided into groups, rotating between Imagination Station, Wild Games, and Rooted Bible Adventures. We ended each night at Canopy Closing, talking about our awesome day, watching our Spotlight VBS show and singing awesome Bible songs. Our “Fruit Snacks” drawing each night was a highlight of the week!

We held a Celebration closing program Thursday night for our parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors, to share our exciting, incredible week of VBS, followed by Shells tradition of Rita’s Italian ice after the program. Our Thursday evening social highlight was a “pie-in-the-face” of Father Barnes, by the last name drawn from our contest, Owen Bright!

As part of Rainforest Falls VBS, we participated in an outreach project, collecting money that will bring fruit trees to families in Central America. \$9 can provide one tree seedling, plus support in planting and caring for the trees. By the end of the week of VBS we collected \$379.25. That’s enough for 42 fruit trees! We are challenging Shells congregation to match our VBS donations; accepting donations through the end of July!

We provided a light fellowship meal each night in the Social Hall, for kids, families and volunteers, from 5:15 to 6pm. Approximately 50 meals per night were served during our VBS week! Thank you to everyone for your food donations for our meals and snacks, and to our fellowship team, who helped prepare and serve these delicious meals!

We were excited to have 30 children participate at VBS, and missed our families who were on vacation and couldn’t join us this year! Stay tuned throughout the rest of the year for other special VBS activities and watch for our Save-the-Date for VBS 2027!

We had 19 youth and teen staff, (“WOW, GOD!”) and 32 adult volunteers helping kids have a fun-filled, faith-filled week at Rainforest Falls! Thank you to all our volunteers for your time and commitment, and making this another awesome, amazing VBS!! “WOW, GOD!”

Directors:

Barbara Dupler

Angelina Gonzales

Michelle Sholder

Assistant Director:

Sandy Mader

Station Leaders:

Sing & Play Tune Lagoon & Canopy Closing: Barbara Dupler, Erica Strang

Rooted Bible Adventures: Fr. Barnes

Imagination Station: Angie Gonzales, Michelle Sholder, Candy Dupler

Wild Games: Diane Suhr, Nora Holler, Addison Leppo, Dominic Tolland

Treetop Treats & Fellowship Meal: Erna O'Brien, Gen Whitehaus

Fellowship Meal Team: Brenda Frye, Karen Gussler, Karlene Jaggan, Sherri Kauffman, Audrey Neiswender, Don Whitehaus

Spotlight VBS/Photo Booth & Photographers: Colin Blair, Amber Jaggan, Jacob Mende, Caelan Sims

Sound & Video Tech: Ryan Jaggan

Registration/Attendance: Sandy Mader, Deacon Kristen Barnes

Dr. Flutterby Skits: Erica Strang, Lucas Terry

Crew Leaders:

Crew Caper (Pre-K): Connie Terry, Sheryl Rozman, Lauren O'Brien, Lucas Terry

Crew Tango (Pre-K): Patty Harmon, Anna Holler, Kylie Troy

Crew Seymour (Kdg.-Gr. 1): Janet Klos, Raelene Smith, Emily Dupler, Mary Shellenberger

Crew Dottie (Gr. 1-2): Linda Blair, Jenn Landucci, Emma Jurell, Zoey Haas

Crew Tia (Gr. 2-3): Mike Bouchard, Katie Shellenberger, Evelyn Mende, Julia O'Brien, Rowyn Sims

Crew Howie (Gr. 4-5): Crystal Blair, Julie Heisey, Dylan Klos, Joseph Rutherford, Colton Tolland

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Mildred Bower, Bobbie Boyer, Diana Budd, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Edward Elliott, Betty Espensshade, Crist Espensshade, Cristin Espensshade, Nadine Espensshade, Ed Fake, Mim 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 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 Sulliva, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

Those who have died:

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony: 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, 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 Grace Herd, Shane Gordon, Frances Lingle, Robert Schlott, and Irvin Shertzer.

Family & Friends: Saadia Baker, Conrad Baylock, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Jean Brown, Nancy Bucks, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Roberta Centurian, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Beverly Drake, Dale Espensshade, Joan Espensshade, Erma Fiedler, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Celine Gudelski, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Larry Hall, Emily Hand, Rob Herman, Clarence Hitz, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Kerm Katzaman, Joyce King, Sam King, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Evadne Kopp, Delores Kuntz, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, Linda Kissinger, Barb Morrow, Nancy Osokie, Leo Polvekosky, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, Tony Prisco, Michael Riley, Laura Lou Rinker, Molly Reinhart, Ryan, Suzanne Shaeffer, Barry Shirk, Barry Spatz, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Avis & David Wagner, Dale Walmer, Aria Wenner, Kyle Wentz, Terry Whitehaus, 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: August/September

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
August 2 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Diane Gotshall	Abigail Blair	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
August 9 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Nancy Iachini	Lily Iachini	Louise Murphy	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
August 15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary @ 7pm	Raelene Smith	Raelene Smith	Julia O'Brien (+), Lucas Terry, & Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
August 16 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sherry Ulsh	Olga Miller	Darby Sims	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
August 23 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen Whitehaus	Lisa Lugovich	Anna Iachini	Don Whitehaus	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kameron
August 30 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Raelene Smith	Diana Budd	Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Amber Jaggan & family	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
September 6 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade	Emma Jurell (+), Julia O'Brein, & Lily Iachini	Audrey Neiswender	Rick & Linda Blair	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
September 13 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Karlene Jaggan	Brenda Frye	Darby Sims	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
September 20 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sherry Ulsh	Steve Espenshade	Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
September 27 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen Whitehaus	Erica Strang	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Louise Murphy, Bobbie Boyer & Karen Gussler

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).

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Ordinary Time 18	3	4 10am Staff Meeting 6-8 pm National Night Out	5	6	7	8
9 Ordinary Time 19	10	11 6:30pm Parish Council 6:30pm Lion's Club	12	13 3pm Finance	14	15 7pm Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
16 Ordinary Time 20	17	18	19 Food Pantry	20 Food Pantry	21 Food Pantry	22
	<i>Father Barnes Vacation</i>					
23 Ordinary Time 21	24 9am Society of the Holy Trinity Day Retreat	25	26	27	28	29
30 Ordinary Time 22	31					

**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:

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