LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 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** *"The King Shall Come"* Hymn # 260

***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. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE - Hope

L: The season of Advent begins. We wait in hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We remember his coming among us in humility at Bethlehem, we rejoice that he comes to us even now in Word and Sacrament, and we await his coming again in glory. The prophet Isaiah declares: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."* We light this first candle as a sign of hope. Though the world is filled with darkness, the light of Christ shines among us. God's promises are sure, and his salvation is drawing near.

The first candle is lighted.

Come, Lord Jesus, and be our hope.

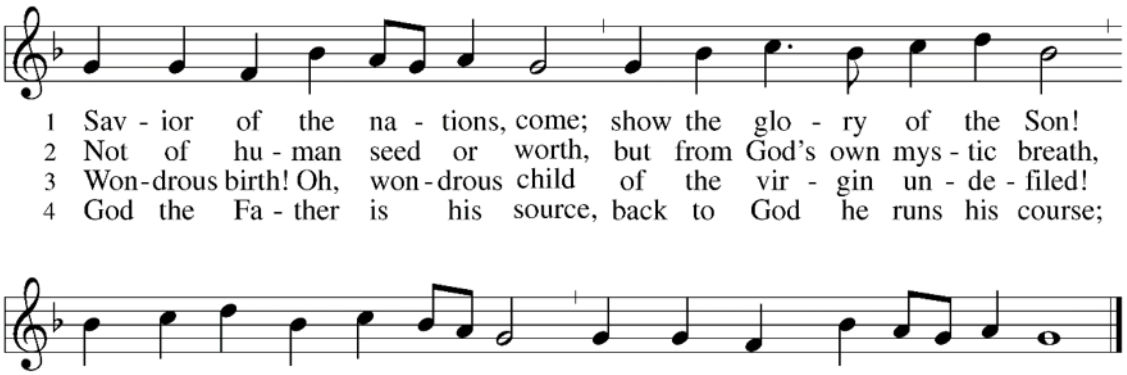
R: Come, Lord Jesus, and be our hope.

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, you have promised that your Son will come to bring light to those who dwell in darkness. Keep us watchful in hope and steadfast in faith, that we may welcome Christ with joy when he comes. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

R: Amen.

Please join in singing verse 1 of the following hymn:

Savior of the Nations, Come



WORD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 64:1-9**

L: A reading from Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 *(sung responsively)*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;*
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,*
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
O LORD | God of hosts,*
how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?
You have fed them with the | bread of tears;*
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
And so will we never turn a- | way from you;*
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

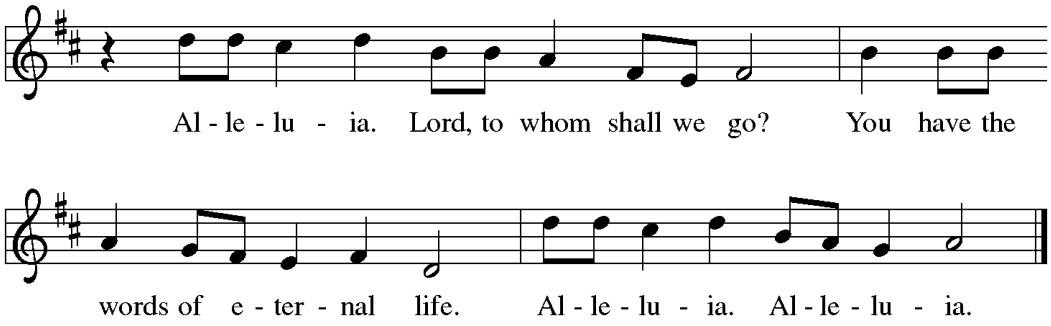
L: A reading from First Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Mark.
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** **Mark 13:24-37**

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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** *"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"* Hymn #435

***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: As advent begins, we hear our Lord challenging us to be alert and ready for him. The prayers we offer for others express a faith that is attentive and alive.

A brief silence.

A: That the holy Church may be united in fidelity to the gospel of Jesus Christ, 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, Abigail, 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 politicians may act with integrity and keep God's ways in mind, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That people distracted by the worldly pleasures may return to the saving grace of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: That each one of us gathered here may trust in God's pardon and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who suffer in any way, especially – Linda B., Mildred B., Linda D., Sam D., Diane E., Edward E., Betty E., Crist E., Cristin E., Nadine E., Mim F., Ed F., Herb F., 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 mercy and love of God may perfect those who have died, especially *Rosemary, Sara, Samuel, Curtis, John, Oscar, Gayle, and Alex,* let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

P: Hear our prayers, loving Father, as we prepare for the return of your Son. We ask this, through Christ our Lord.

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** *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* Hymn #240

***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** *"Soon and Very Soon"* Hymn #439

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK	
Presider/Homilist	Seth Roseman
Assistant	Sherry Ulsh
Lector	Diana Budd
Acolyte	Douglass Howard
Greeters/Ushers	Tom & Sandy Mader
Organist	Janice Mills
Altar Guild	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK	
Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*
Assistant	Raelene Smith
Lector	Emma Jurell
Acolyte	Julia O'Brien (+), Abigail Blair, Lucas Terry
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Greeters/Ushers	Bert & Karen Gussler
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(October 31, 2026)*
2026 Approved Budget $306,815

General Fund Income: $285,307.64
General Fund Expenses: $243,368.85

Special Funds YTD Contributions
Grantville Food Pantry: $3,795.06
Capital Improvement Fund: $24,875
Downtown Daily Bread: $1,590
ELCA Good Gifts: $120
Love of Family: $43,078
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
Lutheran Disaster Response: $330
CROP Walk: $565
Campus Ministry @ WVU: $680

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Larry & Diane Suhr in loving memory of Alex Suhr.

Our Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck will be held on December 6. A sign-up sheet for the meal is in the Narthex.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Grantville Food Pantry. 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 *Rosemary Diebler, Sara Rhoads Bostdorf, Samuel Garrison, Curtis Gussler, John Lingle & Oscar Lingle, Gayle Shifflett, and Alex Suhr.* To have a name added to this list please fill out one of the remembrance cards in the narthex and place it in the offering plate. Names are typically remembered around the loved one's birth date, death date, or baptismal anniversary.

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: *Linda Blair, Mildred Bower, Linda DeMario, Sam Dupler, Diane Elliott, Edward Elliott, Betty Espenshade, Crist Espenshade, Cristin Espenshade, Nadine Espenshade, Mim Fake, Ed Fake, Herb Fisher, 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.

Race Track Project: This is what we are still in need of: Shampoo 22, Toothbrushes 48, Razors 83, Deodorant (men & women) 35, and shave cream (men & women) 51.Thank you for all your donations and generosity.

The cookie bake will be on Saturday, 12/5 from 6-8pm.

We are collecting new and gently used coats and blankets to be donated to Bethesda Mission and Downton Daily Bread. A grey bin is in the Narthex for your donations. Thanks for your continued support of this annual event. – Sherry Ulsh

The 2027 Altar Flower Chart is available in the narthex.

Shells Church Family Fun Event to Hershey Bear Game. Sunday, January 3, 2027 @ 3 pm. $14 per ticket per person with $15 parking pass per car. (If you have a Hershey Park Pass, you won't need a parking pass for this date). Seats will probably be in Section 216. The Church is paying for a $5.99 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 may not be directly above our regular seats. **Please sign up and pay by Sunday 12/13/2026. (cash or check to Shells Lutheran Church). Tickets are non-refundable. Signup sheet will be posted in the Narthex.** Any questions, please see Kathy Espenshade or call 717-991-3212

Grantville Ministerium Live Nativity Volunteers Needed. December 11, 12, 18, 19. 7pm (arrive by 6:30pm) - 8:30pm. Located at Fabe's Corner - intersection of 743 and 22. Please sign up in the narthex and note which dates you can volunteer. We would like to have a list of participants by December 6.

Zion Women Christmas Luncheon, Saturday December 12 from 1 to 4pm: This year, we are pleased to extend an invitation to the ladies of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church - Hoernerstown, Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church - Grantville, and United Methodist of Union Deposit to join us. We will gather at Skyline Restaurant on Rt 22 Harrisburg. This year's menu includes a buffet of Ham and Stuffed Chicken Breast. Donation to attend is $10 per person + 1 non-perishable food item for our Adopt a Family benefit. In addition, donations appreciated for Merakey Group Home. See flyer for more details. RSVP to Joan Bonawitz 717-460-6220 or Sue Sipe 717-579-9306 **by Dec 5th.**

PetPros of Hershey (owned by parishioners Diane and Edward Elliot) has an immediate opening for a part time Dog Walker/Pet Sitter. *Candidate must be 18 years or older, *Candidate must own reliable transportation and have current driver's license, *Candidate must have professional and/or personal experience working with animals, *Pay rate is $16/hr to start, $1/hr increase after 90 day review. *15-20 hours per week. *Must have availability Monday thru Friday plus every other weekend for all shifts noted: Morning: 7am-930am, Midday: 1030am-330pm, Evening: 4pm-8pm. To see the complete Job Ad, visit Indeed.com and search PetPros of Hershey. To apply or for more information, please either email at diane@petprosofhershey.comor visit our website at petprosofhershey.com and click on the Now Hiring button. *If we don't have a 3rd employee by January, we will ask for anyone who wishes to volunteer, any help would be greatly appreciated

…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.

<u>This week at Shells:</u>

November 29 at 9am - Liturgy of the Word

The First Sunday of Advent

9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation
Food and Fellowship after Worship
Youth Group
10:45am - Adult Forum
Lunch at Manada Hill

November 30 at 2pm – Bible study at St. John

December 1 at 6pm – Cub Scouts

December 2 at 12pm – Midday Prayer at Zion UD

December 3 at 6pm – Girl Scouts

December 2 at 7pm – Vespers at Shells

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

December 3 at 6pm – Cub Scouts

December 3 at 7pm – Choir Rehearsal

December 5 from 6-8pm – Advent Cookie Bake

December 6 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Second Sunday of Advent with the Welcome of the Catechumens

Children in Worship
10:30am – Handchime Choir
Annual Congregation Meeting
Advent Family Event and Potluck Lunch
6pm – Boy Scouts



Sun., November 29 (Advent 1)
9am Holy Eucharist
Wed., December 2
7pm Vespers
Sun., December 6 (Advent 2)
9am Holy Eucharist
Wed., December 9
7pm Vespers at Zion Union Deposit
Sun., December 13 (Advent 3)
9am Holy Eucharist
3pm Christmas Caroling
Wed., December 16
7pm Vespers at St. John Hoernerstown
Sun., December 20 (Advent 4)
9am Holy Eucharist
Wed., December 23
7pm Vespers
Thu., December 24 (Christmas Eve)
2pm Worship at Zion Union Deposit
4pm Worship at St. John Hoernerstown
7pm Family Worship
9:30pm Traditional Worship
Fri., December 25 (Christmas Day)
10am Worship w/ Brunch

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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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" to our church page!

We have WiFi!
Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**
Password: **GodIsAwesome** *(case-sensitive)*