

SHELLS MESSENGER

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 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:

April 18 at 9am - Walk at East Hanover Township
 May 17 at 2:30pm - Mini Golf
 June 20 - Knoebels

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex. Dates still available are May 31, June 14, 28, August 2, 9, and October 18.

Due to very generous donations, we now have enough towels, wash clothes & soap for our toiletry bags for the racetrack project. Please keep the donations coming for the rest of the items we will need. Thank you for your generous response to our needs.

As we continue through the Lenten Season, our collection of items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits is coming to a close. Thank you very much to those who have donated towels and clippers. We have the required numbers, and are very thankful. We are still in need of soap (56) and combs (25). Again, thank you for your support. Last year the kits were distributed for Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Wildfires in California, Severe weather in the South and Midwest and Flooding in Texas. We will be collecting through Sunday, March 29th. Again, thank you for your support. Sheryl and Connie, Service Ministry

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Love of Family Fund. Please pick up an envelope in the Narthex.

Acolyte Training/Refresher Course will be held on April 19 after Hand Chime Choir.



THE SEASON OF Lent
 thru PENTECOST
 at SHELLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
 287 Shells Church Rd., Grantville
shellschurch.org 717-469-2586

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

Join us for our April Family Fun event! We will be meeting Saturday, April 18th at 9am at East Hanover Township pavilion for a spring stroll through the park. Please bring your own water bottle and snack if needed. Please see Bethany Espenshade with any questions.

Shells Church Road cleanup. We need volunteers to help keep Shells Church Road attractive and Litter free. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Do you have emergency contacts set up in your phone contacts? It's important for everyone to have that. You should have at least your spouse (partner) and a family member who does not live with you. Go to contacts in your phone, click on emergency contact. It will ask what the relationship of that person is. Select the appropriate one. It's that simple.

Drug Take Back Day is Saturday April 25, 2026 from 10-2. The following locations are accepting all medications and needles: Milton S Hershey Medical Center, Palmyra Family Medicine office, Nyes Road Family Medicine office, Lancaster Medical Center, Holy Spirit Hospital. Any questions, please see Kathy Espenshade.

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(February 28, 2026)*

2026 Approved Budget \$306,815

General Fund Income: \$46,191.64

General Fund Expenses: \$51,475.93

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$792.06

Capital Improvement Fund: \$655

Downtown Daily Bread: \$30

ELCA Good Gifts: \$120

Love of Family \$50

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – APRIL

*Jordan Frye
Pauletta Shelahamer
Grace Peterson
Jean Wiest
John Terry
Dave Rodemaker
Linda Blair
Benjamin Roush
Karen Gussler
Cecila Coenen
Betty Lou Cain
Aidan Mende
Mike Hilbert*

*Barbara Dupler
Glen Peterson
Haidee Peterson
Diana Budd
Rosemary Deibler
Erna O'Brien
Christina Frye
Rena Sattazahn
Bev Ulsh
Bryson Terry
Crystal Blair
Stephen Shellenberger
John Terry*

God will never forget that you are his child.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Apr 3	Justine Wiltraut		Holly Roush	Apr 26	Betty Espenshade
Apr 4	Rick Elliott		Albert Germann, Jr.		Jameson Hilbert
Apr 7	Chad Leese	Apr 13	Sarah Bright	Apr 27	Karen Elliott
Apr 10	Vicki Hilbert	Apr 17	Charlotte Tolland	Apr 30	Amber Jaggan
	Erik Espenshade	Apr 18	Kelly Kauffman		
	Lucas Terry	Apr 20	Lilah Jurell		
Apr 12	Ed Fake	Apr 21	Zane Stayton		

SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

On Ash Wednesday we began our Lenten journey, the 40-day liturgical season that concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter. The **Senior Choir**, while immersed in the season of Lent, is also preparing for the liturgies of Holy Week and The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter. An invitation to join choir and share in our music ministry during this season is extended to all. Senior Choir rehearses **Thursday** evenings from **7:00 – 8:15pm**.

Children in Worship continues for our children in preschool through senior high, with the children next participating in worship on the Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday, **March 29**. The children will help lead the congregation in the *Procession with Palms*, and present the scripture reading from Matthew 21:1-11, accompanied with rhythm instruments. The confirmands will participate in the Passion reading. I hope your child/children will join us for this special service.

Our Children & Youth **Handchime Choir** for grades 2nd through senior high youth continues with rehearsals the **first and third Sunday** of each month. We rehearse in the choir room immediately following worship, 10:30-11:00am. Our ringers are working on music for the Lenten and Easter season, and will also play in church on **March 29**. Please join us to discover handchimes!

CHOIR SCHEDULE:

March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion – *“Were You There?”* – *Senior Choir*

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” – *Handchime Choir*

Processional Gospel with Rhythm Instruments – *Children/Youth Sunday School*

April 2 – 7:00pm Maundy Thursday – *“Cross of Jesus”* – *Senior Choir*

April 3 – 7:00pm Good Friday (no choir)

April 4 – 7:00pm Great Vigil of Easter (no choir)

April 5 – Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter – *“Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds”* – *Senior Choir*

April 12 – Supply Organist (no choir)

April 19 – *“Day of Arising”* – *Senior Choir*

April 26 – *“Jesus, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”* – *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.

With joyful songs and praise,

Barbara Dupler

Director of Music

An adventure you'll fall for!



New friends 🌿 Amazing experiments 🌿 Creative games
 Super-fun snacks 🌿 Surprising adventures 🌿 Incredible music

SHELLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Location: _____
(church name)

JULY 12 - JULY 16, 2026

Save these dates: _____
(VBS dates)

MEAL 5:15-6:00pm/ PROGRAM 6:00-8:15pm

Each day's fun happens from: _____
(daily start and end times)

www.shellschurch.org

For more information, call or visit: _____
(church phone number and web address)

vbspro.events/p/shellsvbs2026

Register online here: _____
(registration web address)

Permission to photocopy this resource from Group's Rainforest Falls VBS granted for local church use only.
 Copyright © 2026 Group Publishing, a division of David C Cook. group.com/vbs

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: Bobbie Boyer, 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, Tregan Layton, Blaine Moreland, Erna O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien, 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, Domic 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: 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 *Scedella Mader, Patsy Plouse, Sylvia Plouse, Richard Sattazahn, Doris & Herb Shaull, The Rev. Alfred M. Strang.*

Family & Friends: Saadia Baker, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Roberta Centurian, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Beverly Drake, Joan Espenshade, Rick & Lori Farro, Erma Fiedler, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Emily Hand, Jason Hash, Rob Herman, Clarence Hitz, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Kerm Katzaman, Joyce King, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Evadne Kopp, Delores Kuntz, 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, Barry Spatz, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Avis & David 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: April/May

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
April 2 @ 7pm Holy/Maundy Thursday	Karlene Jaggan & Karen Gussler	Lisa Lugovich	Douglass Howard, Ellie Frye (+), & Lexi Frye	N/A	Rick & Linda Blair	
April 3 @ 7pm Good Friday	Karlene Jaggan & Sherry Ulsh	Raelene Smith	Julia O'Brien	N/A	Amber Jaggan & Family	

April 4 @ 7pm Easter Vigil	Karlene Jaggan	Karen Gussler, Raelene Smith, Steve Espenshade, & Lisa Lugovich	Mary Shellenberger (+), Abigail Blair, & Emma Jurell	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
April 5 Easter Sunday	Karen Gussler	Brenda Frye	Mary Shellenberger (+), Nora Holler, & Lucas Terry	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
April 12 Divine Mercy Sunday	Raelene Smith	Steve Espenshade	Emma Jurell	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
April 19 Easter 3	Karen Gussler	Erica Strang	Julia O'Brien	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Jaggan & Family	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
April 26 Easter 4	Karlene Jaggan	Raelene Smith	Darby Sims	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
May 3 Easter 5	Sherry Ulsh		Douglass Howard (+), Anna Icahini, Lily Iachini	Audrey Neiswender	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
May 10 Easter 6	Gen Whitehaus	Diane Gotshall	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
May 14 at 7pm Ascension	Karlene Jaggan	Lisa Lugovich	Douglass Howard (+), Anna Icahini, Lily Iachini	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
May 17 Easter 7	Raelene Smith	Gen Whitehaus	Emma Jurell	Don Whitehaus	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
May 24 Day of Pentecost	Karen Gussler	Nancy Iachini	Mary Shellenberger (+), Darby Sims, & Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Amber Jaggan & Family	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler, & Bobbie Boyer
May 31 Holy Trinity	Karlene Jaggan	Olga Miller	Julia O'Brein (+), Lucas Terry, Douglass Howard	Audrey Neiswender	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

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).

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm Wednesday of Holy Week	2 7pm Holy/Maundy Thursday	3 Noon – Stations of the Cross 7pm – Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	4 7pm – The Great Easter Vigil
5 6:30am – Easter Sunrise 9am Easter: The Resurrection of our Lord	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Divine Mercy Sunday ~ 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:45am Adult Forum ~ 6pm Scouts	13 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	14 6:30pm Lions Club 6:30pm Parish Council	15	16 7pm Choir	17	18 9:30am Walk @ Eash Hanover Township Park
19 Easter 3 ~ 9am Children/Youth/ Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:30am Hand Chime Choir 10:45am Acolyte Training ~ 6pm Scouts	20 5pm – Food Pantry 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	21 6:30pm – Learning Ministry	22 Food Pantry	23 7pm Choir Food Pantry	24 Food Pantry	25
26 Easter 4 ~ 9am Children/Youth/ Sunday School & Confirmation ~ 10:30am Youth Group ~10:45am Adult Forum ~ 6pm Scouts	27 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	28	29	30 7pm - Choir		

**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)