

**SHELLS MESSENGER**  
**Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**March 2026**

Vibrant Worship + Active Service  
 Accessible Education + Enriching Fellowship  
 287 Shells Church Road, Grantville, PA 17028  
 717-469-2586  
[www.shellschurch.org](http://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:**

March 22 at 4pm - Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral  
 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.

**A sign-up sheet for the midweek Lenten meals is in the narthex.** Shells will be hosting on February 25 and March 11.

**We will again be collecting items to make Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.** There will be a basket in the Narthex to place the items. Our goal is 30 kits, so we will be in need of 30 lightweight bath towels, 60 bath size soaps, 30 toothbrushes, and 30 metal nail clippers. Your donation of one or many items will be greatly appreciated. You may also make a monetary donation. If you have any questions, please see Sheryl or Connie. Thank you in advance.

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

**THE SEASON OF Lent**  
 thru PENTECOST  
 at SHELLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 287 Shells Church Rd., Grantville  
[shellschurch.org](http://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 March Family Fun event! Via Crucis by Franz Liszt - A Musical Stations of the Cross Devotion presented by the Diocese of Harrisburg Schola Cantorum on March 22 at 4:00pm. Join the Diocesan Schola Cantorum and professional soloists in prayer and reflection as they present a musical devotion in procession of the Stations of the Cross. We will carpool and leave the Shells Church parking lot at 3pm. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan on attending.**

**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.

**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.

***Jesus Christ Superstar* will be performed at the Forum Auditorium March 20-22, 2026.** For tickets go to [openstagehb.com](http://openstagehb.com). Our own Lucas Terry is in the chorus!

***Guys and Dolls* will be performed at Central Dauphin High School March 6-8, 2026.** For tickets go to [cdhsmusical.org](http://cdhsmusical.org). Our own Anna Holler is starring as Furgeson!

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**MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**SOUP SUPPER AT 5:30PM - WORSHIP AT 7PM**

February 25 @ Shells, March 4 @ St. John UMC Grantville, 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**

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*To our Dear Church Family, Kevin and I are so humbled by the outpouring of support we've received along with food, cards, and phone calls from so many of you following his back surgery and my fall. This experience has been a real eye-opener for us and it's not recommended! You are all so very much appreciated. Thank you!*

*Erna and Kevin O'Brien*

*Dear Shells Church, Thank you for the fantastic celebration of my 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. I am truly grateful for your kindness and support in ministry. Blessings, Deacon Kristen Barnes*

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**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!

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

General Fund Income: \$23,561.06

General Fund Expenses: \$24,017.75

**Special Funds YTD Contributions**

Grantville Food Pantry: \$140

Capital Improvement Fund: \$325

Downtown Daily Bread: \$30

ELCA Good Gifts: \$120

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH**

<i>Rick Blair</i>	<i>Rich Espenshade</i>
<i>Diane Gotshall</i>	<i>Terry Kamerzel</i>
<i>Jack Ulsh</i>	<i>Mildred Bower</i>
<i>Patty Harmon</i>	<i>Bert Gussler</i>
<i>Karen Lingle</i>	<i>Connie Terry</i>

***God will never forget that you are his child.*****BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Mar 02	Nadine Hoover
Mar 05	Stephen Shellenberger
Mar 10	Philip Edwards
Mar 12	Raelene Smith
Mar 16	David Terry
Mar 19	Ken Espenshade
	Dave Rodemaker
Mar 20	Mike Hilbert
	Evan Dupler
Mar 22	Michael Hilbert, II
Mar 23	Herb Fisher
	Colton Tolland
Mar 24	Colton O'Brien
Mar 25	Patricia Dengel
Mar 26	Brian Long
Mar 27	Kyle Gordon
Mar 28	Tyler Smith
Mar 29	Evelyn Wiltraut
Mar 30	Tom Mader
	Emily Dupler
Mar 31	Rick Crow

## SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

*O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin  
and free us from our past.*

ELW 319

On Ash Wednesday, we began our forty-day Lenten journey toward Easter. Our hymns, songs and choral repertoire for the season portray a wide array of the images and subjects that help us actively remember the Paschal Mystery -- our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. The Senior Choir is working on choral offerings, enhancing and leading the congregation in worship.

An invitation to join choir and share in our music ministry is extended to senior high youth through adults. Please consider joining us for the Lenten and Easter season! **Senior Choir** rehearses **Thursday evenings 7:00 – 8:15pm.**

Our ***Children In Worship*** Sunday School music program continues for our children in preschool through fifth grade. Shells Bells, our children's bell choir, play and learn music as part of the Sunday school opening each week, in Miss Connie's classroom, beginning at 9am. The children will take part in worship on **March 1**. Shells Bells is playing *Amazing Grace* and our children/youth will be serving in numerous leadership roles during the service.

**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday is March 29.** The children will lead the congregation in the *Procession with Palms* and present the scripture reading with rhythm instruments from Matthew 21:1-11.

Our Children & Youth **Handchime Choir** for grades 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 play in church on **March 8 and March 29**. Please join us to discover handchimes!

### CHOIR SCHEDULE:

Mar. 1 – *Children In Worship – Shells Bells – Amazing Grace*

Mar. 8 – *Show Me, Teach Me, Lead Me – Senior Choir*

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross – Handchime Choir*

Mar. 11 – Mid-Week Lenten Service (7:00pm) *Senior Choir*

Mar. 15 – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – Senior Choir*

Mar. 22 – *Lord, Listen to Your Children – Senior Choir*

Mar. 29 – *Were You There – Senior Choir*

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor – Handchime 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](mailto:scdbjd@aol.com).

In joyful songs of praise,

Barbara Dupler

Director of Music

\* *Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress*

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## 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, 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, 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:** 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 *Rachel Dodson, Janet Espenshade, Steve Plouse, Janet Reed, Herb Shaull, Mark Zerby.*

**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, Kathy Spangler, Barry Spatz, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Avis & David Wagner, 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.

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### Worship Assistants Schedule: March/April

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
<b>March 1 Second Sunday of Lent</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Douglass Howard	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Abigail Blair, & Nora Holler	Don Whitehaus	Bert & Karen Gussler	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
<b>March 8 Third Sunday of Lent</b>	Raelene Smith	Lisa Lugovich	Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Amber Sherman & Family	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

<b>March 11 @ 7pm Midweek Lenten Worship</b>	N/A	N/A	Emma Jurrel	N/A	Bert & Karen Gussler	
<b>March 15 Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	Karen Gussler	Diana Budd	Lucas Terry	Audrey Neisweinder	Rick & Linda Blair	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
<b>March 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Karen Gussler	Abigail Blair	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
<b>March 29 Palm Sunday</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Brenda Frye	(+) Lucas Terry, Douglass Howard, & Ellie Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Audrey Neiswender & Diana Budd	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
<b>April 2 @ 7pm Holy/Maundy Thursday</b>	Karlene Jaggan & Karen Gussler	Lisa Lugovich	Douglass Howard, Ellie Frye (+), & Lexi Frye	N/A	Rick & Linda Blair	
<b>April 3 @ 7pm Good Friday</b>	Karlene Jaggan & Sherry Ulsh	Raelene Smith	Julia O'Brein	N/A	Amber Jaggan & Family	
<b>April 4 @ 7pm Easter Vigil</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Karen Gussler, Raelene Smith, Steve Espenshade, & Lisa Lugovich	Mary Shellenberger (+), Abigail Blair, & Emma Jurrel	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
<b>April 5 Easter Sunday</b>	Karen Gussler	Brenda Frye	Mary Shellenberger (+), Nora Holler, & Lucas Terry	Audrey Neisweinder	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
<b>April 12 Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	Raelene Smith	Steve Espenshade	Emma Jurrel	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>April 19 Easter 3</b>	Karen Gussler	Erica Strang	Julia O'Brein	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Jaggan & Family	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
<b>April 26 Easter 4</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Raelene Smith	Nora Holler	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	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).**

## MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Children in Worship</i> ~10:30am Hand Chime Choir ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper <b>7pm Midweek Lenten Worship @ St. John UMC</b>	<b>5</b> 7pm Choir	<b>6</b> <b>3pm Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Lions Club  6:30pm Parish Council	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper <b>7pm Midweek Lenten Worship @ Shells</b>	<b>12</b> 7pm Choir	<b>13</b> <b>3pm Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30am Hand Chime Choir ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>17</b> 7pm Synod Conference Assembly @ Tree of Life	<b>18</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper <b>7pm Midweek Lenten Worship @ Faith UCC</b>  Food Pantry	<b>19</b> 7pm Choir  Food Pantry	<b>20</b> <b>3pm Stations of the Cross</b>  Food Pantry	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:45am Adult Forum ~4pm Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg ~6pm Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells  6:30pm Card Ministry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Noon LARC Lunch at Harrisburg Diocese  5:30pm Soup Supper <b>7pm Midweek Lenten Worship @ St. John Hoernerstown</b>	<b>26</b> 7pm Choir	<b>27</b> <b>3pm Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>28</b> 11am Easter Egg Hunt & Luncheon @ St. John Hoernerstown
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> ~9am Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation ~10:30am Youth Group ~10:45am Adult Forum ~6pm Scouts	<b>30</b> <b>7pm Monday of Holy Week</b>	<b>31</b> <b>7pm Tuesday of Holy Week</b>				

**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)