

## **SHELLS MESSENGER**

**Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church**

***December 2024***

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.

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

**December 1 at 9am - First Sunday of Advent**

*Children in Worship*

December 2 at 6:30pm - Bible Study at Shells

**December 4 at 3pm – Grantville Ministerium Vespers at Shells**

*Food and Fellowship to follow*

December 7 from 9am-1pm – Holiday Market at St. John Hoernerstown

**December 8 at 9am – Second Sunday of Advent**

December 8 at 10:15am – Annual Congregation Meeting, Advent Family Event, and Potluck

December 8 from 6-8pm – Christmas Cookie Baking

December 9 at 6:30pm - Bible Study at St. John Hoernerstown

**December 11 at 3pm – Grantville Ministerium Vespers at Faith UCC Grantville**

*Food and Fellowship to follow*

**December 15 at 9am – Third Sunday of Advent**

December 15 at 3pm – Christmas Caroling

December 16 at 6:30pm – Bible Study at Shells

**December 18 at 3pm – Grantville Ministerium Vespers at St. John UMC Grantville**

*Food and Fellowship to follow*

**December 22 at 9am – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Christmas Decorating after Worship*

### **THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS**

**December 24 at 4pm – Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Eve at St. John Hoernerstown**

**December 24 at 7pm – Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Eve Vigil (Family Liturgy)**

**December 24 at 10pm – Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Eve at Night**

**December 25 at 10am - Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day**

*Food and Fellowship to follow*

December 28 – Teen and Young Adult Event at Camp Kirchenwald

*Food, Fellowship, and... Axe Throwing!*

**December 29 at 9am – Feast of the Holy Family**

**January 5, 2025 at 9am – Second Sunday of Christmas**

**January 6, 2025 at 6:30pm – Epiphany of the Lord**

*Incense will be used*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May the hope of Christ's birth and return in glory inspire us this Advent and Christmas Season. May the Lord bless us with faith in the Christ Child to walk the journey of the cross, through death, into his everlasting life. I wish you all a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas.

Your servant in Christ,  
Father Barnes

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**What is the RECEPTION OF THE CANDIDATES AND CATECHUMENS?**

This is the First Stage and Welcome Rite for the Catechumenate Process here at Shells. On December 1, 2024 we welcome those preparing for the Rite of Confirmation. This particular Rite is the way the Church officially welcomes people into the process of full membership and life in a community of faith. Each candidate will be signed with the cross of Christ and reminded of Jesus' claim on their lives. An important part of the Rite, as a congregation, we make promises to walk with the candidates and to share with them in the worshipping of God and the study of God's word. We have now been committed, through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, to care for these souls and to uplift them in prayer as they prepare to make promises before God and this congregation. **This year, we welcome Emma Jurell, Julia O'Brien, and Evelyn Mende.**

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**This month's special offering will go to benefit ELCA Good Gifts.** Please pick up a piggy bank in the Narthex.

**Our Annual Congregation Meeting, Advent Family Event, and Potluck will be held on December 8.** A sign-up for the meal is in the Narthex.

**Holiday Marketplace: December 7 from 9am -1pm at St. John Lutheran Church Hoernerstown.** Cookies by the pound! Local vendors with homemade foods and crafts. Come shopping for your last-minute Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

**The 2025 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex.**

**We welcomed Ridley Harmon and Evelyn Wiltraut into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during the month of November. We also welcomed Mike Bouchard and Roberta Anderson as new members through the Rite of Transfer.**

**Race Track Project:** We will be supplying toiletry bags for 20 women and 30 men this year. We will be assembling them on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for your kind support for this cause.

**We will be updating our 2025 member directory.** If you have any updates from the previous directory, please contact the office at shellsadmin@shellschurch.org by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**If you would like to order poinsettias for Christmas, please complete the order form.** Each plant will cost \$8.00. Please make check out to "Altar Guild". Orders will need to be placed in the offertory plate by December 8. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Espenshade or Diane Suhr.

**If you are willing to light the Advent Wreath for one of the Sundays of Advent, please email the Church Office or sign up in the Narthex.** We welcome singles, couples, families, and youth to read the responsive readings and light the Advent wreath during Sunday Worship.

## SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

*“Joy to the World, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.”*

The **Senior Choir** is working on choral selections for Advent and preparing special music for the Christmas season. Senior choir rehearses weekly on **Thursday** evenings from **7:00 – 8:15pm**. Please join us for this special season!

Choir Schedule:

Dec. 1 – No choir (Supply organist)

Dec. 8 – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling – Hand Chime Choir*  
*Come, Redeemer, Come to Us – Senior Choir*

Dec. 15 – *A Tiny Child Will Come – Senior Choir*

Dec. 22 – *Gloria – Shells Bells*  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – Senior Choir*

Dec. 24 – 7pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
10pm Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

Dec 29 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Our ***Children In Worship*** Sunday School music program continues for our preschool through sixth grade children. Please see our December schedule below:

**Dec. 8 – Hand Chime Choir** - *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* – Prelude, followed by Sunday School and confirmation class. (Hand Chime rehearsal at 10:30am during congregational meeting.)

**Dec. 22 – Shells Bells** will be playing *Gloria* for the Prelude, followed by Sunday School and confirmation class.

**Dec. 24 – 7pm Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service** – The Sunday school children will present a nativity tableau, in costume, at our 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service. **Rehearsals** will be held **Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** and **22<sup>nd</sup>** at 10:30am, to assign tableau parts, size costumes, and practice the gospel presentation. Please meet in the choir room following worship. I hope your child/children will join us for these special services!

The **Christmas Band Ensemble** will be playing at our Christmas Eve services. **Rehearsals** will be **Thursdays** from **6:30 – 7pm**, Dec. 5, 12 and 19th. Please let me know if you play an instrument and are interested in joining this ensemble.

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 from **10:30 to 11:00 am**. The Handchime Choir is working on music for our 7pm Christmas Eve service. Please join us to discover Handchimes!

Please contact me if you are interested in sharing in our music program with special music and/or instrumental music during the Christmas season. I can be reached by cell/text 717-991-8862, or email scbjd@aol.com. I hope you will join us for this special time of year!

With peace and joy,  
Barbara Dupler, *Director of Music*

## Financial Q&A from the Finance Committee

***I am withdrawing funds from my IRA and would like to direct some to Shells Lutheran Church. How can I do it?***

If you are 70 ½ and are withdrawing funds from your Traditional IRA to satisfy your required minimum distribution, you may want to consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”).

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCD’s can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (“RMD”) for the year as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from a Traditional IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions including Social Security and Medicare.

Here are the requirements:

- You must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD
- QCD’s are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year’s required minimum distribution, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

*The key rule to remember is that the distribution must be made directly to the charity and not the owner or beneficiary.* Distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or else it will be counted as a taxable distribution. The owner or beneficiary can receive this check and deliver it to the charity but he or she cannot deposit the check and then make out another one to the charity.

You should always consult your financial advisor if you are thinking about a QCD.

If you would like further information about contributing a QCD to Shells Lutheran Church, contact Charles Schreiber at 717-361-3823.

### STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(October 31, 2024)*

#### 2024 Approved Budget \$277, 995

Income: \$234,687.68	Love of Family Contributions: \$5,565
Expenses: \$217,614.22	Local Food Pantry Contributions: \$3,557.14
Capital Improvement Contributions: \$28,420	Abiding Memorial Fund: \$1,380
Adult Forum: \$401.51	Emily Lingle, Friends in Action: \$1,195
Richard Sarker, Missionary: \$1,000	Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU: \$5,022
World Vision (VBS): \$1,050	ELCA World Hunger: \$896.01
Anonymous Donation: \$1,000	Lutheran Disaster Response: \$13,445

### **BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – DECEMBER**

*Kevin O’Brien, Bethany Espenshade, Erica Wilkinson, Ellie Frye, Megan Frye, Bobbie Boyer, Dan Boyer, Isaac Mende, Julia O’Brien, Lauren O’Brien, Colton Tolland, Alfred Howard, Brandon Suhr, David Roush, Sequoia Wilkinson, Chris Leppo*

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

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

12/3	Dick Wenner	12/18	Jordan Frye
12/5	Rick Blair	12/19	Terry Kamerzel
12/6	Erica Strang	12/24	Ruth Espenshade
12/12	Bert Gussler	12/26	Benjamin Long
	Brenda Frye	12/27	Mildred Bower
	Cecilia Stremmel	12/29	Elizabeth Leppo
12/14	Abigail Blair	12/30	Betty Lou Cain

**Prayer List:** Linda DeMario, Betty Espenshade, Don Espenshade, Ed Fake, Mim Fake, Herb Fisher, Al Germann, Angie Gonzales, Alfred Howard, Doug Howard, Jr., Nancy Iachini, Tom & Terry Kamerzel, Keira Karijomenggolo, Sandy Mader, Iva Rodemaker, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh, Jack Ulsh, Don Whitehaus, Our Shells Family Shut-ins, Our Law Enforcement Officers and Service Women & Men, especially Matt Gordon, Crist Espenshade, Nikolas Jaggan, Domonic DeFrank, Keegan Wenner, Stephen Lugovich, Blake O'Brien, Michael Knaub, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

**Those who have died:**

**Those in the Shells Church Catechumenate Process** (*please pray for the formation of those preparing for full Confirmed/Voting membership in this congregation*): Jordan Frye, Lexi Frye Emma Jurell, Evelyn Mende, Julia O'Brien, and Nora Holler.

**Family & Friends:** Saadia Baker, Nancy Balmer, Skip Balmer, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Owen Burns, Cory Cerperich, Karen Domenico, Verna Ebersole, Joan Espenshade, Jeanne Flickinger, Christie Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Anne Gordon, Tom Gussler, Emily Hand, Rob Herman, Michael Hudak, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, Dan Martin, Barb Morrow, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, Tony Prisco, Michael Riley, Laura Lou Rinker, Ken Rebeck, Molly Reinhart, June Rohrbach, Yvonne Rosenberger, Ryan, Suzanne Shaeffer, Bill Shultz, Janet Shultz, Kathy Spangler, Jay Stahl, Steve Tentylo, Stephanie Wagner, Aria Wenner, Kyle Wentz, Carol Wilson, and Jennie Womack.

**Anyone wishing to place someone on the prayer list** may call Theresa at 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: December/January**

	Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter /Usher	Altar Care
<b>December 1 Advent 1</b>	Karen Gussler	Ed Fake	Douglass Howard, Anna Iachini and Ellie Frye	Audrey Neiswender	Joe & Diana Budd	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
<b>December 8 Advent 2</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Gen Whitehaus	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Bert & Karen Gussler	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade

<b>December 15 Advent 3</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Diane Gotshall	Lucas Terry	Audrey Neiswender	Rick & Linda Blair	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
<b>December 22 Advent 4</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Lisa Lugovich	Nora Holler	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
<b>December 24 Christmas Eve at 7pm</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Lexi Frye	Douglass Howard, Ellie Frye, and Abigail Blair	N/A	Tom & Sandy Mader	
<b>December 24 Christmas Eve at 10pm</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Karen Gussler	Mary Shellenberger, Jacob Mende, Gabe Gonzales	Louise Murphy	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	
<b>December 25 Christmas Day at 10am</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Erica Strang	Douglass Howard	N/A	N/A	
<b>December 29 Holy Family</b>	Ralene Smith	Karen Gussler	Lexi Frye	Louise Murphy	Joe & Diana Budd	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>January 5 Christmas 2</b>	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade	Lilly Iachini, Lucas Terry, and Emma Jurell	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
<b>January 6 Epiphany of the Lord at 6:30pm</b>	Karlene Jaggan & Karen Gussler	Steve Espenshade	Douglass Howard, Lexi Frye, Jordan Frye, & Ellie Frye	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	
<b>January 12 Baptism of the Lord</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Brenda Frye	Julia O'Brien	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
<b>January 19 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Steve Espenshade	Evelyn Mende	Audrey Neiswender	Rick & Linda Blair	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
<b>January 26 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Erica Strang	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger

**If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date please find a replacement and notify the Church Office by Wednesday of each week.**

## DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Advent 1</b> <i>Children in Worship</i> Adult Forum Hand Chime Choir 6pm Scouts	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>3</b> 6pm Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 3pm Grantville Ministerium Vespers at Shells  6pm Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  6:30pm Christmas Band Rehearsal  7pm Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Holiday Market at St. John
<b>8</b> <b>Advent 2</b> Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation Annual Congregation Meeting, Advent Event, & Potluck Hand Chime Choir 6-8pm Christmas Cookie Baking 6pm Scouts	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>10</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  6:30pm Parish Council  Lion's Club	<b>11</b> 3pm Grantville Ministerium Vespers at Faith UCC Grantville	<b>12</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  6:30pm Christmas Band Rehearsal  7pm Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation Hand Chime Choir Christmas Eve Rehearsal Adult Forum 3pm Christmas Caroling 6pm Scouts	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>17</b> 6pm Cub Scouts	<b>18</b> 3pm Grantville Ministerium Vespers at St. John UCC Grantville  6pm Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 6pm Cub Scouts  6:30pm Christmas Band Rehearsal  7pm Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Advent 4</b> Children/Youth/Sunday School & Confirmation Christmas Eve Rehearsal Tree Decorating 6pm Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John	<b>24</b> <b>7pm Christmas Eve Family</b>  <b>10pm Christmas Eve Night</b>	<b>25</b> <b>10am Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Young Adult Event
<b>29</b> <b>Holy Family</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**SHELLS EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, STS, Pastor**

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**Council Members:**

C. Blair, K. Espenshade, B. Frye (S), C. Frye, S. Mader (VP), R. Smith (P), T. Terry, S. Ulsh(T)