St. David's Ev. Lutheran Church 401 N. Main Street P.O. Box 427 Davidsville, PA 15928 Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 117
Johnstown, PA



MISSION STATEMENT

"Glorify God, Share the Love of Jesus, Do Good works thru Service."

Church Web Site: <u>WWW.STDAVIDSLUTHERAN.ORG</u>

Church Office: 814.479.4110

The Messenger April 2025

May Messenger Deadline is Thursday, April 17

An Easter Reflection by Pastor Mark...

This year, the season of Lent continues well into the month of April; April 20th is one of the latest days on which Easter can fall. Spring flowers are blooming and we yearn for Easter Sunday to arrive.

Luke 23 ends with Jesus' body in the tomb and the women who have accompanied Jesus leaving the tomb and going to wherever they are staying to prepare spices. Their intent is to return to the tomb after the Jewish Sabbath and properly prepare Jesus' body for burial.

Chapter 24 begins with the word, "BUT." In fact, the Greek word for "but" is used four times in the first five verses. English translators, however, do not reflect that frequent useage in their work. That word, "but" should clue us in that something is about to change. There is a reversal coming and the writer of the Gospel of Luke lets us know there is change happening and it is no small change.

Luke 24:1-5: "<u>But</u> on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 <u>But</u> they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3<u>but</u> when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5<u>But</u> the women were {filled with fear}* and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

It is no accident the writer of Luke wanted to make the point that something had changed by repeating the Greek word for "but." The "BUT" is there was no body when on the day before the Sabbath there was a body. The "BUT" is the resurrection Good news: Jesus is not here <u>BUT</u> he is risen.

If "but" signals good news in the gospel, what do the "buts" in our lives signify? We have encountered "buts." Often we think of a "but" event, we think of it as a precursor for something bad about to happen to us or has happened to us. I could name a number of current events in 2025 where "but" was the precursor for bad news. And that the bad news outweighs the good news.

Regardless of how the world thinks of "but" being the precursor of hearing about bad news or events, the Easter Sunday "BUT" is always Good News. This year that is the Resurrection Good News: BUT.

Marna and I wish all a blessed Easter Season this year.

Pastor Mark W. Fischer

^{*}Closer translation of the Greek. Most English translations use the word "terrified."



Interim Pastor Mark Fischer pastormarkfischer@gmail.com 717-870-4757 (cell)

Brett Merberger, Minister of Music MusicMinister@stdavidslutheran.org

Brian Byer, Financial Secretary finance@stdavidslutheran.org Jessica Brewer, Office Secretary stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net www.stdavidslutheran.org 814-479-4110 (church office) Brad Kaufman, Custodian



And one series of yoga.... after another.

Shed the cold and snowiness and think SPRING! Join us for the next morning yoga series to bend and breathe and pray the new life of spring into your life (eventually)! Your body will thank you!

A ten-week session has begun and ends Monday, May 19. The class starts at 9am. The series is \$80 or \$10 per class drop-in. All classes are beginner friendly. Join us this season and bring a buddy-yoga has so many health benefits and is for everyBODY! Contact Elizabeth with questions 525-2894.



SIGN Up for St. David's Online Giving by going to the church website www.stdavidslutheran.org click on *GIVE*, click on *SIGN IN*. You will need to

register for a new account. Once you are registered you can give to the General Budget (unified) Capital Campaign or Endowment Fund using a credit card or bank account. You may also choose to make your gift recurring.



314-479-7390

Jennifer Percinsky: Director Brianna Bray, Prescool 4 lead teacher Felica Beglin: Asst. Group Supervisor Pam Carhart: Asst. Group Supervisor Niki Cable: Asst. Group Supervisor Janet Lord: Asst. Group Supervisor Brianna Mohle: Asst. Group Supervisor Stacie Opett: Asst. Group Supervisor Gina Yacynych: Preschool 3 lead teacher



St. David's Learning Place is now enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year. Please contact Jen at 814.479.7390 or at

learningplacestdavids@gmail.com 3 and 4 year old Preschool spots available.



St. David's Learning Place would like to wish our friends Parker, Redland, Aubriella, Brody, and Penelope a very Happy Birthday!

The staff at the Learning Place would like to wish everyone a healthy and blessed Easter.

ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

Jerrod Cannistraci* Cathy Lilly
Cindy Liska*Angie McKool
Patty Rullo*Linda Shrader*Becky Robinson



The Learning Place is seeking summer and fall staff, please contact Jen if interested 814-479-7390!



401 N. Main Street, Davidsville • stdavidslutheran.org • (814) 479 - 4110

March 30 SKY ZONE

Join St. David's
youth for a
Sunday of
adventure at
Sky Zone in
Monroeville!

All youth and families are invited! Youth under 5th grade will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Youths' admission will be covered by the church/children and youth team.

We will have an early lunch after Sunday School at the church and head to Monroeville for time at Sky Zone!



Jr. High and Sr. High will be enjoying dinner together after Sky Zone.

RSVP by scanning the QR code

Lutheranism 101

Recently, I was presented with an inquiry about Holy Communion. That inquiry gave me pause to reflect on 1) What do the various Lutheran Confessional documents say about Holy Communion?, 2)Who should be allowed to come to the Lord's Table? & 3) Should someone be excluded from the Lord's Table?

1) What do the various Lutheran Confessional documents say about Holy Communion?

>Article X of the Augsburg Confession says that the true body and blood of Jesus are truly present under the form of bread and wine. Any teaching that The Lord's Supper is a unrepeatable historical event, as a memorial of Christ's death, or as a spiritual encounter with Christ are rejected.

>In Luther's Small Catechism, Luther writes that it is the true body and blood of Jesus under the bread and wine. The benefit of he eating and drinking is found in the words, "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin" shows us that forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

2) Who should be allowed to come to the Lord's Table?

>Yes, there are faith traditions that will exclude people from coming to The Sacrament of Holy Communion. When I preside/officiate at a funeral and there is Holy communion, I will say something to the effect that all are welcome to come to the Table and that I recognize that there are faith traditions that would rather a person not commune. That person is still welcome to come forward for a blessing.

>I will not turn away anyone who comes up to me during distribution with their hands open to receive the Body of Christ regardless of their age. Luther is the Large Catechism call Holy Communion "Food for the Soul." Young children are curious and inquisitive and they like to imitate and model what they see their parents doing. I know there are young children here at St. David's who have not participated in First Communion Class who receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Tradition and practice when I was growing up was that one could not come to Holy Communion without first being confirmed which at Union Lutheran Church was 10th grade. In the late 60's/early 70's, there was a movement toward letting elementary age and above commune by participating in a First Communion Class. I think the age/grade was 10 yrs/5th grade. At St. David's, First Communion Class happens in 2nd grade.

>>If your child desires to commune earlier than 2nd grade, it would be helpful for parents to talk with their children about what is taking place in the eating and drinking. If parents are not sure what to say, please come and see me.

3) Should someone be excluded from the Lord's Table?

>We all sin and fall short of God's expectations. We are all in need of forgiveness for our sins. We all need to come to the table for the food and drink that nourishes and feeds us so we can live and resist the devil and all his empty promises and we can live faithfully. I would not exclude anyone because sin is sin regardless of the sin; there is no hierarchy on sin. Might I counsel someone on the need to be repentant; yes. But exclude them from The Lord's Table? No.



Stay Connected with Our Church on Facebook!

We invite you to like and follow our church's Facebook page to stay updated on upcoming events, special services, and community activities. We also share photos and inspiring messages to keep us all connected throughout the week!

If you've been blessed by our church, we'd love for you to leave us a positive review on Facebook. Your kind words help others find our church and experience God's love.

Thank you for being part of our church family! Follow us today:

Https://facebook.com/SaintDavidsLutheran

April

BIRTHDAYS

- Wayne Kauffman***192 Kaufman
 Church Rd, Davidsville PA 15928
 Redland Studer
- 2 Miley Tercek
- 3 Sarah Bergman
- 4 Carolyn Simko Jenna Telenko
- 5 Thomas Feightner Cooper Valentine
- 6 Richard Cobaugh Roy Oswalt Jr. Jake Parkins Katherine Troxell
- 7 Christa Jones Mark Von Lunen
- 8 Buck Sleek II Greyson Studer
- 9 Megan BoyerKara GoughenourMarlene KotchAmanda Tresnicky
- 10 Nicole Bacon
 Damian Markferding
 Pat Sleek***132 Mossy Lane,
 Johnstown, PA 15905
- 11 Justin Gindlesperger
- 14 Laura Saylor
- 15 Brielle Ciarimboli
- 16 Leora Parkins
- 17 Christopher Conner
 Josiah Custer
 Roger McDaniel***119 Crestview
 Drive, Davidsville, PA 15928
 Walter Shank II
 Warren Speck
 Carol Winters
- 18 Dennis Williamson
- 19 Jolene Kmett
- 20 Elijah Marsh Robert Troxell
- 21 Russell Miller Brian Naugle Vanessa Risch

- Wesley Speck James Szala
- 22 Christianna Miller Mike Walters Jr.
- 23 Sis Barabas Sally Hessler
- 24 Tom Fetterman Scott Summits
- 25 Jerry Blough Christine Troxell
- 26 Isla Siehl
- 28 Beverly Moyer Lew Tresnicky
- 29 Pippa Cannistraci Samuel McCormick

If we've missed you, please let us know so we can recognize you properly!



***Please remember the following people with a card as they remember their 80+ birthdays. Please contact the church office (814-479-4110) for additions or corrections.



The St. David's Prayer Chain would like to support anyone in need of prayers. When given a prayer request, our group will pray for that person for two weeks. If you

provide an address, we will send a card to that person. To submit a prayer request please contact Gail Berkebile at 814-525-1673 by phone or text or email to gailgolias@yahoo.com
If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, contact Gail or Jessica, the Church Secretary or any member of the Prayer Chain.

would like more time, you can let us know. If you



Men's Group Remind Text *StDavidMen* to 81010



At the February Church Council, the St. David's Church Council approved a 50% scholarship towards the cost of Camp

Sequanota Camp fees. If your son or daughter plans to attend Camp Sequanota, please let Pastor Mark know so he can communicate with the treasurer and Camp Sequanota to make sure the scholarship money is paid. Also, if you are in need of additional financial assistance, please talk to Pastor Mark; he has resources available to ensure that any child who wants to attend camp can do so. All conversations will be kept confidential.



Join us for Easter Breakfast!

Please join us in between Easter services. Breakfast will be available from 7:45 – 8:45AM.

If you can donate pastries, breads, donuts, muffins, fruit, etc. for breakfast, we would greatly appreciate it. Someone will be at the church this Saturday morning, April 19th, from 9 – 11am to accept your donations. You can also bring any donations on Easter morning. Please do not bring casseroles in order to keep the breakfast as simple possible. Volunteers are also needed to set up and clean up. If you're able to help and planning to go to the later service, come early Easter morning to help set up (we'll meet in the kitchen at 7); If you can help and are planning to go to the early service, stay later and help with cleanup. If you have any questions, you may contact Sherri or Pink Andrews 814-479-7061 (leave a message and someone from the fellowship team will get back to you).

Thanks! The Fellowship Team



After receiving very positive feedback from last year, we are happy to announce that we will be celebrating a service of "Holy Humor" at both the 8am & 10:30 am services, on April 27th. This is the Sunday where the tradition, since medieval times, in many churches has been to laugh at the devil because God has pulled the ultimate prank of raising Christ from the dead. We hope you will join us for a service filled with laughter, joy, celebration of our risen Lord. Come, experience worship in a new and hilarious way! We welcome all to dress in your craziest outfit or Halloween costume and bring your favorite noise maker!

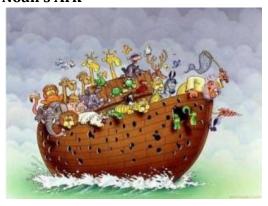


April 27th is Volunteer Appreciation Sunday and all are welcome - Volunteers, those considering being a Volunteer and those that are thankful for

volunteers! The Worship & Music team wanted to set aside time to be thankful for all the gifts of time and talent that contribute to the faith life of St David's. What better way than a meal and fellowship! Please join us at 12:00PM on April 27th in the Fellowship Hall. Signing up (located in the Narthex) is greatly appreciated. But if you miss signup, please don't let that keep you from joining us. See you then!

The Worship & Music Team

Everything I learned about I life, I learned from Noah's Ark



- **1. Plan ahead.** It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- **2. Stay fit.** When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something Really big.
- **3. Don't listen to critics.** Do what has to be done.
- **4. Build your future** on the high ground.
- **5. For safety's sake**, travel in pairs.
- **6. Two heads** are better than one.
- **7. Speed isn't always an advantage**. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
- **8. When you're stressed**, float for a while.
- **9. Don't forget** that we're all in the same boat.
- **10. When the doo-doo gets really deep**, don't sit there and complain shovel!
- 11. Stay below deck during the storm.
- **12. Remember that the ark was built** by amateurs & the Titanic was built by professionals.
- **13.** Remember that the woodpeckers **INSIDE** are often a bigger threat than the storm **OUTSIDE**.
- **14.** No matter how bleak it looks, there's always a rainbow on the other side.
- 15. DON'T MISS THE BOAT!!!!

On Sunday, April 27th after the late service. St. David's Confirmation class will be challenging St. David's Council to a game of Bible and Small Catechism trivia. Come down and cheer on your favorite team!

CHILDREN & YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS



St David's Evangelical Lutheran Church Davidsville, PA 15928

Council Meeting Minutes February 27, 2025

Call to Order / Biblical Reflection and Prayer

- Meeting was called to order @ 6:31 PM.
- Prayer was led by Pastor Fischer.

Approval of Minutes / January 30, 2025 meeting

Approval of minutes via e-mail occurred on February 6, 2025.

Role / Excuse Absences

- Present members: Dave Barabas, Lauren Bungard, Kristie Byer, Jeff Eash, Pastor Fischer, Mary Jane McCready, Patty Rullo, and Rachel Thomas-Kimmel
- Absent members: Cathy Lilly, Greg Lilly, Angie McKool, and Bob Troxell

Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dave Barabas and seconded by Jeff Eash.
- All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

Reports

- Financial report: Was given by Brian Byer.
- Pastor's report: Was given by Pastor Fischer.
 - Vacation: May 19-24, 2025 and June 15 and 22, 2025. Pastor Fischer discussed pastoral coverage during those times.
 - Sequanota scholarship: St. Davids will cover 50% of the cost of any St. Davids member going to the week-long camp. Pastor Fischer will discuss with Jessica about advertising this to let members know.
 - 60th anniversary of building: Pastor Fischer mentioned the 60th anniversary of being in this building is coming up.
- Children & Youth: Was given by Rachel Thomas-Kimmel
 - They are working on a flier for upcoming events. Will be doing another pierogi sale orders will be delivered the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Planning trips to Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park in Altoona and Kabuki Japanese Steakhouse. There are no plans, at this time, for attending the Youth Convention in New Orleans 2027.
- God's Work Our Hands: Will be meeting Wednesday, March 5, 2025 to start planning.
- Patty Rullo needs added as a Council Member for the Learning Place Board.

Unfinished Business:

- Computer replacement for Brian Byer and Jessica: Discussed Laptop vs Desktop pricing, cost was not previously budgeted. Brian will talk to Mark Degory for an estimate on when they would need to be replaced again, so the cost can be budgeted for next time.
 - Motion to replace both desktops, 1 with a laptop and 1 with a desktop not to exceed \$2500 in total was made by Dave Barabas and seconded by Jeff Eash.
 - All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.
- Emergency team member from council: Pastor Fischer will join and will reach out to Brad Kaufman.

New Business:

- Wedding Planner (Pastor): Pastor Fischer discussed wanting wedding parties to invest in a
 wedding planner. Further discussion took place and it was recommended that a person be
 designated for each wedding, either a member of the Bridal Party or member of church St. Davids
 that can act as a coordinator/point person for the day of the ceremony. Pastor Fischer will make
 the update to the wedding planning guide that wedding couples should have a point person, that
 would be a volunteer, not someone that is paid. Pastor Fischer will send to Council to review
 planner.
- Tithing Options for 2025: \$4000.00 tithe. Below is a list of the projects recommended last year and new projects suggested, will discuss complete list at March meeting.
 - Learning Place Playground
 - Somerset Area Ministerium (SAM)
 - Conemaugh Township Youth Outreach Does not exist
 - St. Davids Vacation Bible School
 - Camp Sequanota
 - Equipment for Live Streaming
 - Pavilion
 - Camp Park
 - St. Francis Caring and Sharing
 - Somerset County Mobile Food Bank
 - Veteran Community Initiative, LLC

Other Business/Discussions for the good of the church:

• Fellowship Hall Guidelines and questions: Discussion around whether the fellowship hall can be rented on Sundays. Rachel Thomas-Kimmel stated there is a vague statement in the Fellowship Hall policy that no cooking is to occur while church services are taking place. Will update the Fellowship Hall to be clearer that the fellowship hall cannot be used before noon on Sundays and to establish a time hall renters would need to leave (potentially 9:00 PM) to allow Brad Kaufman time to cleanup and also setup for yoga on Mondays. Was decided that while these updates are being made, the whole policy should be reviewed. Rachel Thomas-Kimmel will forward Fellowship Hall agreement for all to review.

Rachel Thomas-Kimmel mentioned wanting to streamline communication between council members, potentially a text thread to make it easier to discuss quick turnaround items such as whether services should be canceled during inclement weather, will discuss further at the March Council meeting.

Next meeting will be March 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM in C19 upstairs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer

Respectfully submitted, Lauren A. Bungard Council Secretary

* April 6 (Communion) *

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)

Altar-Ronna Marisa (8); Sherri Andrews, Lynn McDaniel, Becky Robinson (10:30)

Communion Assts- Bill Bergman & Ronna Marisa (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)

Lectors - Bill Bergman (8); Keli Williams (10:30)

Ushers-Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Buck & Pam Sleek (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic

* April 13 (Communion) * PALM SUNDAY

Acolytes-(8); (10:30)

Altar-Deb Harris (8); Pam Sleek (10:30)

Communion Assts- Sotosky Family (8); Wendy Figard & Mary Jane McCready (10:30)

Lectors - Deb Harris (8); Randy Whetzel (10:30)

Passion Readers: N – Narrator [Deb Harris] + Christ [Pastor Mark] V – Voice [Brett] C – Crowd

[Congregation] (8); N – Narrator [Randy Whetzel] + Christ [Pastor Mark] V – Voice [Brett]

C - Crowd [Congregation] (10:30)

Ushers-Sotosky Family (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)

Counters- Sherri & Sonya Andrews

* April 17 (Communion) * MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM

Acolytes

Altar-Need Volunteer

Communion Assts- Mike & Melissa Grose

Lector-Marna Gilman-Fischer

Ushers- Mike & Melissa Grose

Counters- Lou Ann Reckner, Mike & Melissa Grose

※ April 18 ※ GOOD FRIDAY 7:30PM

Acolytes, Communion Assts, Lectors, Ushers- St David's Youth

Altar- Volunteers needed to help set up Easter Sunday

Counters- Sherri Andrews & Jean Magdelinic

♣ April 20 (Intinction) ♣ EASTER SUNDAY/ FIRST COMMUNION

Acolytes-(6:30); (9:00)

Altar-Ronna Marisa (6:30); Volunteer Needed (9:00)

Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (6:30); Sonya Andrews & Jack Winters (9:00)

Lectors - Doug Shrader (6:30); Sonya Andrews (9:00)

Ushers-Leo & Ronna Marisa (6:30); Jack Winters & Jeff Rowe (9:00)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Joyce Gindlesperger

* April 27 (Communion) * HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Acolytes-(8); (10:30)

Altar- Sue Risch & Kathy Carnahan (8); Pat Sleek (10:30)

Communion Assts- Nick & Beth Hunsberger (8); Patty Rullo & Mary Jane McCready (10:30)

Lectors - Marna Gilman-Fischer (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)

Ushers- Joe & Sue Risch (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)

Counters- Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa & Joyce Gindlesperger



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the church Facebook page. Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar and to the schedule posted on the narthex door.		1	2 5:15PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	3 5:30PM Daisy Troop (C19) 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)	4	5
6 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15 AM First Communion Class #2 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scouts (CR2) 6PM Brownies (CR2) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	8	9 1PM Staff Meeting (C19) 5:15PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	6PM Property (C19) 6:30PM Worship & Music(P) 6:30 PM Fellowship (C16) 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)	Office Closed	1-2 PM C&Y Fundraiser Pierogi Pick Up (FH9)
SUNDAY 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM SS/Catechism/Egg Hunt (FH9) 9:15 AM First Communion Practice 10:30AM Worship/Communion C&Y Fundraiser Pierogi Pick after svcs	9AM YOGA (FH9) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	15	16 6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	5:30PM Daisy Troop (C19) Maundy Thursday 7PM Worship/Communion May Messenger Newsletter DEADLINE	6PM Good Friday Practice 7:30PM Good FRIDAY Service	9-11AM Set Up/Drop Off Breakfast Donations (FH9)
6:30AM Worship/ Communion 7:45-8:45AM Easter Breakfast (FH9) 9:00AM Worship/Communion/First Communion	21 Office Closed-Holiday 9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scouts (CR2) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	22 6PM Sage Herbalists (FH9)	23 6PM LP Board Meeting 6PM Adult Choir 7PM GWOH (C16) 7:30PM Bell Choir	9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 6:30PM Council Meeting (C19) 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)	25	26
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM Parent SS group (CR2) 10:30AM Worship/Communion 12 PM Council vs. Confirmation Trivia & Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (FH9)	28 9AM YOGA (FH9) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	29	30 6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	Typical secretary office hours are Monday- Thursday 9AM-3PM. Friday 8AM-2PM (during Lent)		