

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: WWW.STDAVIDSLUTHERAN.ORG

Church Office: 814.479.4110

The Messenger
August 2024

September Messenger
Deadline is Thursday, August 15

From Pastor Mark:



Meet Stumpy the Japanese cherry tree. This tree is one of hundreds of Japanese Cherry trees that line the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. Nothing special to look at. Stumpy is the hunchback of cherry trees. To be honest, I don't know that I would want that tree in my back yard. You wonder how this tree manages to even bloom given its short stature and lack of

limbs. It is a tree of indeterminate age, thought to be around 25 years old. Yet year after year, Stumpy continues to defy the odds and bloom & blossom. It has survived at least six presidential election cycles, earthquakes (2011), blizzards (January 2016), hurricanes (Hurricane Isabel, 2003), record low's (2009, 8 above) and high's (summer of 2011 & 2012 with several days well above 100 degrees). Stumpy has survived **AND** thrived when other Japanese cherry trees in the Washington, D.C. area have not fared well at all. **WHY?**

Which begs the question: Why do some churches thrive and other churches do not? I can think of three reasons why churches thrive: 1) Creativity & Innovation, 2) Hospitality, and 3) Generosity.

1) Creativity & Innovation>>>>Churches that do not innovate and change do not grow. Especially since COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic, congregations needed to be creative and innovative if they wanted to remain healthy. I believe St. David's does a good job of being creative and innovative. Instead of utilizing the counselors at Camp Sequanota, our VBS program was led by our Jr./Sr. High youth and we had over 40 young children who attended all or some of the days. St. David's took a leap of faith with the Jr./Sr. youth and **WOW** it worked. If a church is not willing to risk and take that leap of faith, one will never know what fruit can come from it.

2) Hospitality>>>>Churches that are opening, welcoming, and extend hospitality thrive and grow. If you talk to people who lead seminars on church growth and innovation, like Mark Tidsworth and Dave Daubert, a common theme for growing churches is that they are open, welcoming, and extend hospitality. This year, 2024, we have welcomed five new families into our fellowship and I received a message from another person that they are interested in joining our fellowship here at St. David's. If you ask any of these families, I am willing to bet that of the things they like about St. David's is that they feel welcome here and that their gifts and talents are appreciated. Another example of hospitality is the Overtime Ministry. On the Fridays that we hosted the Overtime Ministry last fall, I don't have enough fingers and thumbs to count the number of times, I heard the students thank me for having this program. We have opened our doors and made these young people feel welcome.

3) Generosity>>>>>Generous churches are thriving churches!!!! If you are free on a Wednesday night that the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team meets, you will hear the conversation center on how St. David's blessed with its financial gifts and how we, St. David's, can share the abundance over and above seeing that the bills of the congregation are paid. Did you know that St. David's tithes to the Allegheny Synod 10% of its monthly offering. That tithe does more than pay the salaries of the Allegheny Synod staff; it goes to help students of the Allegheny Synod enrolled in seminaries throughout the ELCA, it goes to help support the ministry of Camp Sequanota, and it goes to further the work of the ELCA churchwide organization like helping to plan a national youth gathering.

An author wrote, "***Complacency becomes rot.***" This is so true. As well as our VBS program ran, and it ran very well, it was necessary to sit down and review the week to see how we can make it better. That is what the VBS Ministry Team did the week after; sit down with all those involved in a leadership role and brainstorm what went right, what could be improved, and begin to plan for VBS 2025. In the St. David's congregation constitution, church council members can only serve one full three-year term and then go off church council for a year if they want to serve another term. That is smart; many churches allow members to serve two three-year terms consecutively, go off for a year, and then come back to church council and serve another two three year terms. Same for committees/ministry teams. Where there is no "***new blood***", creativity and innovation slow to a crawl and can eventually not happen.

I am writing this reflection in the days after our Sunday conversation on the third petition of The Lord's Prayer: ***Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.*** We, as disciples, are called to be active and willing participants in seeing that God's will is done here on earth. This is the work to which we have been called in our baptisms: to actively participate in the work of the Church so that God's will is done here on earth. If you have thought about participating on a ministry team, volunteering at St. Francis Caring & Sharing, serving on St. David's church council, or any other cause that seeks to do God's will, stand up, raise your hand, whatever. If we don't do the work of the Church, God will find others to do it.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark W. Fischer



God's Work Our Hands would like your input regarding members and/or community residents who may need help with household chores such as cleaning, painting, outside clean up (leaf raking), etc. If you are aware of anyone in need, please contact Bill Andrews at pinkand@atlanticbb.net or 814-341-2742 with information. Thank you!

St. David's Worship & Music Ministry Team

(Non-Profit Organization)



**ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**
One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

Brett Merberger 814-242-5092

For more details visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](https://www.boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)

*Exclusions Apply

THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

On behalf of the worship and music team and the entire church community, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your incredible dedication and hard work that made this year's Polish Festival a resounding success. Your generous donations of time, effort, and enthusiasm truly made a difference and created a memorable event for everyone involved.

We couldn't have achieved this without your support and commitment. Your willingness to pitch in, whether it was setting up, cooking delicious food, organizing activities, or assisting guests, exemplifies the spirit of community and service that defines our church.

Looking forward, we are excited about the possibilities for next year's festival and are confident that with your continued support, it will be even better. Thank you once again for your invaluable contributions.

Brett Merberger

Welcome
to our
Church Family



Want to make St. David's your church family? Please fill out the pew pads and drop in the offering plate or you can speak with any council member about joining St. David's Lutheran Church.



Sonya Andrews *Lauren Bungard *Mike Grose*Deb Harris* Cathy Lilly
Jill Mitchell*Sue Risch *Doug Shrader
Ronna Marisa* Angie McKool * Bob Troxell

Come join us at
Lutheran Day
at the
Altoona Curve

Sunday, August 18
Game begins at 6 pm

Please order your tickets by Sunday, August 4; email alleghenysynodcurvetickets@gmail.com or call/text 814.934.9941. Mail payments to the Synod Office, 701 Quail Ave., Altoona, PA 16602.

Tickets - \$7.00/each

Performance by Christian band The Gathering before the game.
Fireworks following the game!

**Please see Pastor Mark
about Curve tickets
before the August 4th
deadline.**



Our last outdoor worship service for the year will be held on August 25th at 10:30am (weather permitting) In order to accommodate and welcome all who would like to participate, we have made a few changes / improvements to how we will proceed. The altar will be placed on the sidewalk, leading to the parking lot away from the garage. We will have several easy up tents placed on the parking lot so those who feel unsteady walking on the grass can easily sit in shade and on flat hard surface. This will also allow everyone to walk up the sidewalk to receive communion without worry. Everyone is asked to bring their lawn chair, but we will have chairs available as well. If you do not wish to participate in the outdoor worship, regular service inside the sanctuary will be held at 8am. We hope you will join us!



Birthdays

- 1 Donald Stover***101 Marilyn Way,
Johnstown, PA 15904
Charles Yingling
- 3 Bill Andrews
Travis Horner
Jenn Moore
- 5 Logan Collins
Renee Eash
Sarah Kotch
Michele Naugle
Dane Rouser
Mary L. Summits
- 7 Jacob Black
Matthew Desort
Janice Yoder***527 Maple Spring Rd,
Hollsopple, PA 15935
- 8 Talia LaRue
Katie Layton
Krista McKenzie
Amelia Mitchell
Ron Tessari
- 9 Logan Walerysiak
- 10 Kathy Alberti
- 11 Ashley Kopp
Juniper Mishler
- 12 Tom Harris
James Sulosky
- 14 Ryan Cotchen
Brandon Hart
Sandy Ilgenfritz***82 Rosemont Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15905
Leah Kauffman
Rena Kauffman
Erika Winters-Rowe
- 15 Candice Dunn
Isaiah Kimmel
Adam Kmett
- 16 Lauren Bungard
- 17 Jennifer Bennett
Shelly Ann Marsh
Matthew Meyers
- 18 Angie Pile
Kristi Williamson
- 19 Kody Brotz
- 21 Carol Meehleib***204 Chestnut St.
PO Box 273, Davidsville, PA 15928
- 22 Kayla Blasko

- Faye Buncich
Diane Carpenter
Harvey Kegg Jr.
- 23 Lily Berkebile
Beth Fetterman
John Rullo
Gabriel Valentine
- 24 Linda Rosa
- 25 Solomon Tresnicky
- 26 Kristy Mishler
Tabitha Studer
Robert Yoder Jr.
- 27 Brian Kist
- 28 Baily Hart
Kaden Valentine
- 29 Craig Parkins
Kelly Vann
- 31 Wendy Figard

If we've missed you, please call the church office to 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.



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



Summer Learning Place Staff
814-479-7390

Jennifer Percinsky: Director
Niki Cable: Asst. Group Supervisor
Brianna Mohle: Asst. Group Supervisor
Halie Griffie, Asst. Group Supervisor
Avery Custer, Asst. Group Supervisor
Bayley Pattison, Asst. Group Supervisor
Abigail Sarver, Aide
Tori Wiley, Asst. Group Supervisor



It's that time of the year again...school will begin on August 22nd! This is just a reminder that the school bus will be coming through St. David's. So please stop when you see the bus and drive slow! The traffic pattern for parents is entering through the top parking lot, dropping off/picking up at the Learning Place main doors, and exiting through bottom parking lot. Thanks!

-St. David's Learning Place Staff



We would like to wish our friends Mia, Grayson, and Easton a very Happy Birthday!



St. David's Learning Place still has spots available for Preschool 4 for the 2024-2025 school year. Please contact Jen at 814.479.7390 or learningplacestdavids@gmail.com

School Year Learning Place Staff
814-479-7390

Jennifer Percinsky: Director
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
Abigail Sarver, Aide
Cheyann Showman: Asst. Group Supervisor
Stacie Opett: Asst. Group Supervisor
Gina Yacynych: Preschool 3 lead teacher

ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

Jerrold Cannistraci
Joyce Gindlesperger
Rachel Kimmel
Cathy Lilly
Cindy Liska
Angie McKool
Patty Rullo
Linda Shrader



BIRTHDAY SERVICE PROJECT

Westmont Johnstown Girl Scout Service Unit is teaming up to support children in need by assembling birthday kits to donate.

Questions?
Contact
Maureen Kalfas
814-248-9926
maureenkalfas@gmail.com

Collecting the following items:
9x13 aluminum cake pan with lid, Funfetti cake mix, Funfetti icing, case of Sprite cans, box of candles, Walmart gift card, Dollar Tree gift card
**Any donation is much appreciated! We will use the gift cards to purchase any items needed to complete the kits.
Donations will be collected until 9/1/24.

Please help support Lily Berkebile, Paige Berkebile, & Margot Cannistraci! Please place donations in the gift wrapped box in the Narthex.



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
God's Work Our Hands Day of Service
&
Rally Day
Sunday, September 8, 2024

Theme: "You are now entering the Mission Field."

[see the sign above the narthex doors as you leave worship]

Schedule for the Day

8:00 AM – Worship at St. David's

9:00 AM – Gathering & Community Building

9:30 AM – Worship at St. David's

(including the installation of our Sunday School & Catechetical Teachers)

10:45 AM – Games & Community Building

11:30 AM – Lunch

12:15 AM – Embark for our projects in the local Mission Field

3:00 PM – Conclude

Watch for further details in bulletin announcements and be sure to join the day by completing the signup sheets found in the announcement racks in the rear of the nave. PLEASE plan to be a part of this mass movement into the Mission Field right outside our doors!



A reminder from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team during these summer months when we take vacation and time away that the financial needs of St. David's Lutheran continue: Utilities to be paid so our building is cool and the lights are on, upkeep and maintenance of the church building grounds doesn't stop, and the salaries of our staff need to be paid. Jessica is here most days during the summer from 9:00AM-3:00PM Monday-Friday if you wish to drop off your tithe. You can go to www.stdavidslutheran.org and click on the "GIVE" link for our online giving portal. If you have not set up an online account, you will need to do that before your gift can be processed. Any questions about online giving, please see or call Jessica. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

St David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2024

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Role / Excuse Absences

- Present members: Sonya Andrews, Lauren Bungard, Cathy Lilly, Ronna Marisa, Doug Shrader, Deb Harris, Bob Troxell, Angela McKool, Sue Risch, Jill Mitchell, and Pastor Fischer
- Absent members: Mike Grose

Biblical Reflection & Prayer

- Biblical Reflection and Prayer was led by Pastor Fischer

Approval of Minutes / June 3rd

- Approval of the minutes via e-mail, June 3rd

Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Cathy Lily and seconded by Jill Mitchell
- All in favor, none abstained, none opposed, motion passed

Reports

- Pastor read over his report which consisted of numerous items such as two families will be joining St David's on June 30th, Vacation Bible School was a great success, working on revising the St David's Constitution, along with the recognition of Dave Finney's service to not only St David's, but as well as the Allegheny Synod
- Financial Report was given by Doug Shrader.
- ✓ Need to have reports from Brian on savings accounts listed on the financial statement to help not only Council, but the financial committee to give recommendations on spending.

- ✓ Suggested that Brian attend the Council meetings for just the time to give financial reports. Doug and Sonya to discuss with him.
- Emergency Team: Deb Harris reported that she is in contact with people on setting up an active shooter training for the church.
- Learning Place: Cathy Lilly reported that the new playground is to be arriving next month
- Communications: Angie McKool is finalizing the new pamphlets to hand out displaying our church and their offerings (worship, teams, organizations, etc.) for the public or those looking to join

Unfinished Business

- Council Nominees
- ✓ Went over list of names and asked that any / all council members start speaking to people recommended to consider volunteering of their time to serve on council.
- Constitution Amendments: Pastor Fischer and Sonya working on

New Business

- Reminding all Spending plans or requested budgets for all Ministry Teams due to Finance Team as quickly and soon as possible. Work on the new Budget to start shortly.

Next Meeting is July 25, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Respectfully submitted


Deborah J. Harris
Council Secretary

* August 4 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)
Altar-Kathy Naugle (8); Leisha Black (10:30)
Cantors – Wendy Figard (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Communion Assts-Deb Harris & Ed Hart (8); Avery Custer & Bill Bergman (10:30)
Lectors –Deb Harris (8); Bill Bergman (10:30)
Ushers- Ed & Deb Hart (8); Buck & Pam Sleek (10:30)
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews
* August 11 (Intinction)
Acolytes- NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)
Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Sherri Andrews (10:30)
Cantors – Judy Brotz (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Communion Assts-Sotosky family (8); Wendy Figard & Mary Jane McCready (10:30)
Lectors –Erin Sotosky (8); Wendy Figard (10:30)
Ushers- Sotosky family (8); Carole Williams & Joyce Gindlesperger (10:30)
Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Joyce Gindlesperger
* August 18 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)
Altar- Deb Hart (8); Pam Sleek (10:30)
Cantors – John Liska (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Dave & Sis Barabas (10:30)
Lectors –Albert Meehleib (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
Ushers- Dennis & Kathy Naugle (8); Jack & Carol Winters (10:30)
Counters- Dave & Cindy Liska, Jean Magdelinic
August 25 (Intinction) * Outdoor Service @ 10:30am
Acolytes- NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)
Altar Sue Risch (8); Sonya Andrews (10:30)
Cantors –Mary Jane McCready (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Communion Assts- Sue Risch & Ronna Marisa (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Lectors –Linda Hoover (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)
Ushers- Joe & Sue Risch (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

Anyone willing to be a worship volunteer can call the church office 814-479-4110 or email Jessica at stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net. Monthly emails are sent out asking for availability before scheduling.



AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Typical secretary office hours are Monday- Friday 9:00AM-3:00PM. <i>Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar located on the website.</i> www.stdavidslutheran.org For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the website.</p>				1	2 Pr Mark's Day Off Office Closes @ 12PM	3 11AM L. Nagy (FH9)
4 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	5 6PM Bible Study(21A-C) ⚠ See Note (Aug 5-9) ←	6	7 7PM GWOH (C19)	8 6:30PM Worship & Music (P)	9 Pastor Mark's Day Off	10
11 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	12 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	13	14 11AM Staff Meeting (C19)	15 September Messenger 	16 Pastor Mark's Day Off	17
18 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	19 11AM Service Team (C19) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C) 6PM 3-Year-Old Orientation (FH9)	20 6PM 4-Year-Old Orientation (FH9)	21	22	23 Pastor Mark's Day Off	24
25 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Outdoor Worship/ Communion	26 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	27	28 6PM LP Board Meeting (FH9) 7PM GWOH (C19)	29 9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 7PM Council Meeting (FH9)	30 Pastor Mark's Day Off	31



The church secretary, Jessica, will be on vacation **August 5-9** during this time office hours will vary. She will return on Monday, August 12th. In case of an emergency please contact Interim Pastor Mark Fischer **by cell 717-870-4757 or email: pastormarkfischer@gmail.com**