

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](http://WWW.STDAVIDSLUTHERAN.ORG)

Church Office: 814.479.4110

**The Messenger**  
**August 2025**

**September Messenger**  
**The deadline is Friday, August 15**

## *From Pastor Mark.....*

It's almost the middle of July and I was visiting one of our parishioners this past week. When I arrived at their residence, the television was turned on and tuned to the Hallmark channel with its ***Christmas in July*** movies playing. I chuckled to myself when I realized that Christmas was now less than six months away which means Advent isn't far behind.

As we turn our calendar pages to August, we enter a month of anticipation. Anticipation of those last days of summer vacation. Anticipation of our graduates heading off to college and our nests being a little emptier. Anticipation of our children who are still in school of a new academic year with all the preparation of buying new clothes and school supplies. Anticipation of our children who are beginning that journey of kindergarten and first grade, some of our children will enter middle school and even high school. There is the anticipation of a new year of faith formation at St. David's. Anticipation of a new year of Overtime ministry at St. David's. The kicker is we live our lives going from one life-event to the next. The question we are always asking is: ***What's up next?*** Perhaps we need a reorientation.

Anticipation and hope go hand-in-hand. Anticipation is a forward-looking activity and hope is joined to anticipation because of the anticipated outcome at the conclusion. August reminds us that the Season of Advent is only four months away. We enter into the time of the hopeful anticipation of celebrating Christ's birth and entrance into humanity and we enter into the time of hopeful anticipation of Christ's promised return.

One of my favorite New Testament verses is Hebrews 11:1: ***Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen*** {KJV: ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***} Faith is defined as both the assurance of what is hoped for and the conviction of what is not visible. I like to say that the word, "***IS***" can be compared to the equals sign of a math equation, an absolute without question. August, like the month of December, is a time when we get wrapped up in the busy-ness of preparation and anticipation of back-to-school, or back-to-whatever is the flavor of the busy-ness in our lives.

If anticipation and hope go hand-in-hand, preparation also goes hand-in-hand with anticipation. My invitation this August is that we take time to step back and ponder what kind of kingdom of heaven preparations are we making. What kind of kingdom we anticipate will determine what preparations we are making.

God Bless,

*Pastor Mark*

## **Congregational Input Needed**

### **Columbaria**

Dave Barabas proposed to council the idea of building a columbarium in the grove by the garage. There are not many areas where cremated remains can be interred in our area and coupled with the fact that St. David's did not have a cemetery, Dave felt that building a columbarium would be beneficial for our church and community. Council has been discussing this idea, and a subcommittee was formed to begin looking into the creation of this final resting place for urns and cremated remains.

One company consulted for more information is Eickhof, an American company, who provides this information about columbaria: "A columbarium is an above-ground dignified structure containing cremains or ashes in urns. Columbaria (plural) have been used since ancient times to provide an elegant final resting place for the cremation remains of loved ones.

Today, cremation far outpaces traditional burial as the preferred final disposition option. The costs and considerations associated with conventional funerals greatly surpass those associated with cremation and inurnment into a permanent resting place, such as a columbarium.

Sadly, in many locations where dignified columbaria are not present loved ones face the peril of deciding whether to bury cremated remains in a cemetery plot (or atop the grave of a parent or ancestor) or hold on to them until a better decision is reached. Often, this decision is delayed, unfortunately leading to the urn being shelved in a closet or forgotten."

Dave shared with council that many families simply don't know what to do with urns and cremation remains, and thus many of them are stored improperly and dishonorably.

The idea is to begin with one columbarium, approximately 100 spaces, and then add additional columbaria, benches, and gardening as the space grows. There are many different options for designs; however, before the council and the subcommittee proceed any further, input from the congregation is needed. Cathy Lilly has several books and information from the companies we are considering.



### **Kaufman Cemetery**

Dennis Williamson has approached St. David's council about taking over the Kaufman Cemetery, located just up the road from the church. Several church members and other Lutherans are buried in the non-denominational cemetery which has been managed by the Williamson family for years. As the family ages, and younger generations have moved away or have no interest, Dennis is looking for a group or organization to own and maintain the property.

Currently, it is estimated that there are 100 remaining lots to be used in the cemetery, with about half of those already sold. Dennis said that funerals are typically held about four times per year, and they try to avoid burials when the ground is frozen. Ground maintenance would also be an issue; currently, the property is mowed approximately 10 times a year at a cost of \$250/mowing.

Right now, the Kaufman Cemetery bank account has \$60,000 in it, which would cover maintenance and care for several years. However, should St. David's claim the cemetery, we would need to add the property to our insurance, and perpetual care would be needed regardless of income. Cemeteries do not pay taxes in Pennsylvania.

St. David's Council would like to open the floor for comments, questions, and suggestions after services on August 24 and 31 and then hold a congregational vote after the service on Rally Sunday (September 7) to determine the church's wishes for how to proceed with the columbaria and Kaufman Cemetery. Please prayerfully consider what is best for our church and our community and help us to make choices regarding these matters.



## Birthdays

- 1 Donald Stover\*\*\*101 Marilyn Way,  
**Johnstown, PA 15904**  
Charles Yingling
- 3 Bill Andrews  
Travis Horner  
Jenn Moore
- 4 Vernon Miller
- 5 Logan Collins  
Renee Eash  
Sarah Kotch  
Michele Naugle  
Dane Rouser
- 7 Jacob Black  
Matthew Desort  
Janice Yoder\*\*\*527 Maple Spring Rd,  
**Hollsopple, PA 15935**
- 8 Talia LaRue  
Katie Layton  
Krista McKenzie  
Amelia Mitchell
- 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.

St. David's Worship & Music Ministry Team

(Non-Profit Organization)



**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2025**  
**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://boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)  
\*Exclusions Apply



### Ronald Tessari

Memorial Fund

Bill & Sherri Andrews

Dave & Cindy Liska

Von & Marsha Parkins

Nancy Asper

Bill & Patty Sulosky

Vinny Froehlich

Darlene Geist

Doug & Maureen Puchko

Roxy & Joe Valchine

Mike & Debbie Thomas

Walter Kleinmeyer

Vince & Karen Sakony

### Earl "Buck" Sleaf

Von & Marsha Parkins

### David Brotz

Barry & Lois Springer

### David Barabas

Barry & Lois Springer

Bill & Sherri Andrews



## CONTACT US

Interim Pastor Mark Fischer

[pastormarkfischer@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkfischer@gmail.com)

717-870-4757 (cell)

Brett Merberger, Minister of Music

[bmerberger@gmail.com](mailto:bmerberger@gmail.com) \*\*new email

Brian Byer, Financial Secretary

[finance@stdavidslutheran.org](mailto:finance@stdavidslutheran.org)

Jessica Brewer, Office Secretary

[stdavids\\_sec@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net)

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

814-479-4110 (church office)

Brad Kaufman, Custodian



Lutheran Church.

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

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Lauren Bungard \* Cathy Lilly

Angie McKool \* Lynn McDaniel

Kristie Byer\* Jack Winters\* Jeff Eash

Greg Lilly\* Mary Jane McCready

Rachel Thomas-Kimmel \* Patty Rullo

## PRESCHOOL Registration

We still have spots for 3- and 4-year-old preschool for the 2025-2026 school year and we are hiring for a closer for the school year 2:30-5:30 M-F. Call Jen at 814-479-7390.



814-479-7390

Jennifer Percinsky: Director

[learningplacestdavidsgmail.com](mailto:learningplacestdavidsgmail.com)

Halie Griffie, Asst. Group Supervisor

Janet Lord: Asst. Group Supervisor

Brianna Mohle: Asst. Group Supervisor

## ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

Jerrold Cannistraci\* Cathy Lilly

Cindy Liska\*Angie McKool

Patty Rullo\*Linda Shrader\*Becky Robinson



To God's people of St. David's: I am not sure how a community this large was able to accomplish the feat, but you did an excellent job of keeping the observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination a secret from me! As I scanned the worshipping community last Sunday (June 29), I saw many and various persons who represented all 50 years of my life as a pastor and bishop of God's people in Christ. What a gift! Made possible by you ... the good people of St. David's Evangelical Church.

Thank you ... to the Council, the Worship & Music Team, Jessica, Brad, the "AC Repair Crew", members of the Altar Guild, lectors and communion assistants - Angie Pile, Elizabeth and Nick Hunsberger, the set-up team, the clean-up team, my "singing granddaughters", Brett who made the organ ring, son, Pr. Nathan for his proclamation of God's Word, and to Pastor Fischer for "paying attention to an anniversary that can easily be overlooked" and inviting the congregation to make the observance a special reality. I am humbled by your expressions of love and support shared with me personally or in cards and letters. Thirty-seven years ago, when Barb, Nathan, Aaron, Elizabeth and I came to this community, you welcomed us. Five years later when I was called to become the Bishop of the Allegheny Synod, we were all saddened, but you said "there is no reason for you to leave". So, we stayed and what a blessing life with you has been! We have cherished our lives with you, our partners in faith, and with the people of the Conemaugh Township community.

Again, thank you to everyone who attended and who helped make the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination a reality. It is an event Barb and I will not soon forget. May Almighty God continue to bless you ... and us ... the people of St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

+Bishop Gregory R. Pile



We need teachers/helpers in our some of our Sunday School classes! Our programs are easy to follow and our kids are eager to learn Gods word! Instructors are needed to take over some Confirmation classes. We do have a teacher for one Confirmation Class. There are 3 more. You could tag team this with someone. You will have guidance! Another Youth Ministry that needs leadership is the Acolytes. You would work with Pastor Fischer in scheduling, training, etc. Please prayerfully consider these Youth Ministries! Please let

Cathy Lilly know if you have any questions or interest [calilly.cl@gmail.com](mailto:calilly.cl@gmail.com) or 814-233-0429.



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 would like more time, you can let us know. 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](mailto: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.

**St David's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Davidsville, PA 15928**  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2025

**Call to Order / Biblical Reflection and Prayer**

- Meeting was called to order @ 6:32 PM.
- Prayer was led by Pastor Fischer.

**Approval of Minutes / May 28, 2025 meeting**

- Approval of minutes via e-mail occurred on June 9, 2025.

**Role / Excuse Absences**

- Present members: Lauren Bungard, Kristie Byer, Pastor Fischer, Cathy Lilly, Greg Lilly, Mary Jane McCreedy, and Rachel Thomas-Kimmel, and Jack Winters.
- Absent members: Jeff Eash, Lynn McDaniel, Angie McKool, and Patty Rullo.

**Agenda**

- Motion to approve the agenda, with addition of guest Dennis Williamson, was made by Lauren Bungard and seconded by Rachel Thomas-Kimmel.
- All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

**Guest**

- Dennis Williamson: He is the manager of the Kaufman Cemetery Association with his brother, Lee. They are getting older, their sons/daughters are either not in the area or not interested, and they think St. David's would be a good fit and would like to pass the responsibility of the cemetery to the church. The cemetery is mostly full; there are 2 or 3 burials per year. They allow two cremations per lot; the lots are \$400 each and there are 100 unfilled lots; 50 have been sold and 50 are available. They have almost \$60,000 in the bank, \$5,000-\$8,000 in checking and the rest in CDs. The Kaufman Cemetery Association currently owns the land and the cemetery is well-kept. Gerald Peterson from Stoystown, PA handles the maintenance, which costs \$250 each time and is usually done 10 times per year. Mike Samone handles snow removal, and any tree removal needed. With the cost of maintenance, they lose money versus the amount of income received; they lose about

\$1,000 per year. The families would bear the cost of opening and closing the grave, which is a fee of \$400 collected at the funeral service. The families are also responsible for the upkeep of the headstones. They have not received any inquiries from government entities (federal, state, or local) and Dennis was unsure of the legal process if St. David's would decide to take ownership of the cemetery. They do not have an official tax exemption, but they have not been paying taxes for the cemetery. They do not have insurance on the cemetery.

**Reports**

- Pastor's report: Was given by Pastor Fischer.
  - Polka Fest/VBS: Pastor Fischer thanked all who worked to make the Polka Fest and Vacation Bible School run smoothly and with great benefit to all who came.
  - Vacation in August: Next week of vacation will be in August, will schedule it around their granddaughter's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday and her dedication.
  - Marna hand problem: Pastor Fischer's wife, Marna saw an orthopedic hand specialist and will most likely require surgery to fix, in late July/early August. Pastor Fischer will be out 1-2 days.
  - Pastor Fischer was appreciative of the support for Bishop Emeritus Pile's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ordination celebration.
  - Challenges calling a Pastor: The biggest challenge facing churches in the United States and elsewhere is a shortage of people who are called to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Many congregations go years before they call a Pastor. Pastors are retiring in large numbers and fewer people are going to seminary. More and more synods and congregations are relying on lay-worship assistants to provide worship and preaching leadership to congregations. Pastor Fischer will be writing on this topic in the August and September Messengers and is asking the council to prayerfully think of people at St. David's who would be

good candidates for the lay-worship ministry program.

- Financial Report: Was given by Brian Byer
  - Summer offering is typically low, recommended announcements to congregation to setup recurring online giving and providing instructions.
  - The next finance meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2025.
- Ministry team coverage: Lynn McDaniel needs added as a Council member on the Fellowship Team; she is also on the alter committee. Jack Winters needs added as a Council member on the Emergency Team.
- Vacation Bible School: Cathy Lilly stated VBS was a great success. There were a lot of kids from throughout the area. She will draft a letter to send to attendees from outside St. David's, inviting them to St. David's if they do not have a church. There will be a Sunday School meeting on July 11, 2025.
- God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) – Greg Lilly mentioned they are planning for several GWOH projects including a fundraiser for Lutheran World Relief, members needing assistance with home chores, kits for students and teachers at school, and meals on wheels dessert collection. They have decided the sandbox update would be too much to complete in one day. The quilting group is looking for 3" c clamps and also a history of when St. David's began making quilts.
- Emergency Team: Was given by Jack Winters. Deb Harris is working on setting up a team meeting.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- Columbarium: The Team had a short meeting before the Council meeting. Discussed two companies:
  - Sunset Memorial & Stone from Canada. Sunset did not like our grounds or the power lines and have been persistent even though we are in early discussions.

- Eickhof Columbaria Inc. from Minnesota. They provided brochures and their products are manufactured in Minnesota. Traditional urns or ossuaries (urn bags) can both be used.
- The next step is to determine if there is interest in the congregation. Announcement will be put in the August Messenger, along with a meeting after church to vote. God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Sunday was recommended for the voting. Rachel Thomas-Kimmel will draft letters/announcements with the columbarium and cemetery information.
- Fellowship Hall: Meeting needs scheduled to review at a later date.

#### **New Business:**

- New Council Member: Jack Winters is serving in honor of Dave Barabas.
- Request from Quilters group: Katie Jones asked Cathy Lilly if their quilters group could have retreats in the St. David's Fellowship Hall. There are around 30 members in the group and they have retreats three times per year, for three days in a row, and from 7:00 AM-8:30 PM each day. Cathy Lilly cleared it with the Learning Place, but we need some additional information. Do they need access to the kitchen and what dates are they planning, to ensure they do not conflict with activities already scheduled. Also need to determine what St. David's is charging for the Fellowship Hall as part of the updates needed to the Fellowship Hall agreement. Council will then vote through email.

Next meeting will be July 31, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren A. Bungard, Council Secretary

# Sequanota's Annual



## GOLF BENEFIT

**REGISTER NOW**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 18**

Summit Country Club

**REGISTER BY**

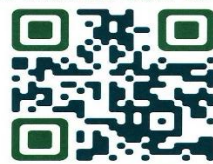
Scanning the QR code

Email: [contact@sequanota.com](mailto:contact@sequanota.com)

Phone: 814-629-6627



REGISTER a team or  
SPONSOR a tee or hole



Each year, St. David's Lutheran Church opens the Fellowship Hall to host around 200 students following home Conemaugh Township football games on Friday nights at Overtime. The students, in grades 7–12, are fed chocolate chip cookies and pizza, play cornhole and other games, and know that they have a safe location to socialize. However, this ministry needs volunteers or Overtime may not be able to continue. We are looking for adults (18 and over) in the Conemaugh Township area who can give a few hours of their time on Friday nights during football season... we need you!

Volunteers are asked to show up at St. David's Fellowship Hall (lower level) between 8 and 8:30 (Overtime begins at 9 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m.). Help is needed in the kitchen, at our registration tables, setting up and cleaning up, and in general, mostly being an observant chaperone. Volunteers need to have up-to-date clearances filed with our church office and are welcomed for some or all of the dates: **August 22, September 12, and October 3 (Homecoming), 10 and 24**

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Kimmel ([rachel.b.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.b.thomas@gmail.com) or 814.248.1670).

To submit your clearances, please contact Jessica, St. David's Church Secretary, at [stdavids\\_sec@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net).

✱August 3 (Communion) ✱

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)

Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)

Communion Assts- Buck Sleek & Doug Shrader (8); Bill Bergman & Mary Jane McCready (10:30)

Lectors – Linda Shrader (8); Bill Bergman (10:30)

Ushers- Buck & Pam Sleek (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic

✱August 10 (Intinction) ✱

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)

Altar- Luana Eppley (8); Faye Buncich (10:30)

Communion Assts- Patty Rullo & Ronna Marisa (8); Randy Whetzel & Jack Winters (10:30)

Lectors – Patty Rullo (8); Randy Whetzel (10:30)

Ushers- Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Jack Winters & Jeff Rowe (10:30)

Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

✱August 17 (Intinction) ✱

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)

Altar- Sue Risch (8); Mandi Tercek (10:30)

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

Lectors – Erin Sotosky (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)

Ushers- Sotosky Family (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)

Counters- Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa & Joyce Gindlesperger

✱August 24 ✱ (Intinction)

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)

Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Lois Tessari (10:30)

Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)

Lectors – Sue Risch (8); Wendy Figard (10:30)

Ushers- Joe & Sue Risch (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic

✱August 31 ✱ (Communion)

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)

Altar- Gail Berkebile & Kathy Carnahan (8); Sherri Andrews, Lynn McDaniel & Becky Robinson (10:30)


Communion Assts- Gail Berkebile & Bella Kotch (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)

Lectors – Gail Berkebile (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)

Ushers- Melissa Maddy & Bella Kotch (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)

Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the church Facebook page.</b> <i>Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar and to the schedule posted on the narthex door.</i>					1 Secretary on Vacation	2
3 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	4	5	6	7 6:30 PM Worship & Music (P)	8	9
10 8 AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	11	12	13	14	15 September Messenger 	16
17 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	18	19	20 1PM Staff Meeting (C19)	21	22 9-11 PM Overtime (FH9)	23 6 PM Family Game Night
24 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Outdoor Worship/ Communion (weather permitting)	25 1:30 PM Office Closes Early	26	27 6PM LP Board Meeting 7PM GWOH (C16)	28 9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 6:30PM Council Meeting (FH9)	29	30
31 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	September 1 Office Closed-Holiday <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>				<b>Typical</b> secretary office hours Monday 9AM-2:30PM Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9AM-3PM Thursday 7AM-12PM (For summer only)	