

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

Messenger-August 2026

"Stewardship of evaluating our own personal lives"

September Messenger
The deadline is Monday, August 17



AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Typical Secretary Office Hours: Monday 9AM-2:30PM; Tuesday-Wednesday 9AM-3PM; Thursdays 7AM-12:30PM & Friday 9AM-3PM (Any changes will be noted on the church calendar. Check the website for most up to date schedules www.stdavidslutheran.org)						
8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Worship/Communion Svc	3	4	5	Office Closes at 12:30PM 6	7	1 2PM Magic Show (FH9) 6PM Magic Show (FH9)
8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Worship/Communion Svc	9	10	11	12	13	14
8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Worship/Communion Svc	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30AM Worship/Communion Svc 12PM Church Picnic at Sequanota (Large Pavilion)	23	24	25	26	27	28
8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Outdoor Worship/ Communion Svc	30	31				

Pastor Mark at Con—Ed Event in Gettysburg August 10–13



From the Pastor.....

What's in a name???? Words matter. Our names or how we choose to name someone or something is a witness to our identity, our individuality, and our history.

A couple of examples:

- One of my dachshunds is named ***Kleine Vashti, Queen of Huyard***. ***Kleine*** is German for “little”, ***Vashti*** is from the Book of Esther and she was the Queen of Persia, and I used to live on Huyard Avenue in New Holland, PA.
- My son, ***James Laurentz Fischer***, is named after his grandfathers using their middle names.
- My brother, ***Gregory Scott Fischer*** and I, ***Mark Wayne Fischer***, have no connection on either our paternal or maternal sides of our family because our mom and dad didn't like any of the suggestions that came from their parents for names.

If we are adopted, we take on the surname of the family to which we are now joined. This person is no longer ***Jane Sally Doe***; she is now ***Jane Sally Smith***. Same as when a marriage is solemnized; the woman often takes the surname of her husband.

In 1987, three Lutheran bodies joined into one; The LCA (Lutheran Church in America), The ALC (American Lutheran Church), The AELC (Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) came together to form The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). It is no accident that the commission that brought these three Lutheran bodies into one chose ***Evangelical*** as the beginning of the name of this new Lutheran organization. The synods of the ELCA reflect that as well; we are part of ***The Allegheny Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***. Congregations when they revised their constitutions as part of this new Lutheran body were strongly encouraged to include the word, ***Evangelical***, as part of their congregational name if it wasn't already part of their name. In our congregational constitution, we are St. David's ***Evangelical*** Lutheran Church.

What does it mean to be “***Evangelical***?” The word, “***Evangelical***”, comes from the Greek word: *ὁ εὐαγγέλιον* {O U-ang-gell-ion} translated means ***The Good News***. There is also a verb form, *εὐαγγελίζω* {U-ang-gell-id-zo} translated mean ***Share the Good News***. While that word may be in our name, congregations often leave it out and if it is in our letterhead {***Evangelical*** is on St. David's letterhead} and other church material {***Evangelical*** is on our worship folders and on our newsletters], people don't use it in conversation and such.

Back to the question: What does it mean to be ***Evangelical***? That begets: How do we live out being ***Evangelical***? I believe we can be ***evangelical*** by living out Jesus' new commandment in John 13:34-35: {Jesus said to his disciples} “***A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all, people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.***” We show what Good News looks like and in loving one another, we are ***Good-Newsing*** those with whom we meet in our everyday lives. They get a heaping portion of what it means to live out the love of Jesus.

Not saying it is easy to love one another as Jesus has loved us. To be honest, there are some people I struggle with to love as Jesus has loved me. Not going to name names. It is just part of what it means to be human and in being human, it means I am a sinner. I let pride, jealousy, anger,

resentment, and the list can go on to infinity all get in the way of loving another person. I leave **evangelical** out of who I am. Being **Evangelical** then is not part of my identity.

How one is **evangelical** is individual. St. Paul writes in 1st Corinthians 12:4-6: **Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.** Each of us has a different set of gifts and how I am **evangelical** will be different from how you are **evangelical**. Sometimes, we don't even know we are being **evangelical**; we just do it. I love it when I see two brothers coming forward for Children's Message on a Sunday. They come forward holding hands; that is an expression of what it means to be **evangelical**. Or three sisters standing arm-in-arm together looking over the cookies on the coffee bar this past Sunday. That is a visible witness of what it means to be **evangelical**. I am willing to bet that this is a natural instinctive response by these people. They just didn't know they were being **evangelical**.

As we wind down this summer and look to September and the change of seasons, perhaps we can see in each other what it means to be **Evangelical**.

Gratefully,
Pastor Mark



Report to church council on the 2026 Synod Assembly.

First, I would like to thank the congregation for giving me and Lois the opportunity to attend the 2026 Synod Assembly as a representative of our church. It was a privilege to participate, and we returned feeling, encouraged, and grateful for the experience.

The theme of this year's assembly was "God is doing new things". Throughout the assembly this theme was reflected in worship, presentations, and reports. The speakers were outstanding, offering messages of Hope, Faith and Encouragement for the future of the church. The theme was rooted in *Isaiah 43:19-21* "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make away in the wilderness and rivers in the desert the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise." This passage reminded us that God is continually at work, bringing new life, new opportunities, and new ministry, even in times of challenge and uncertainty.

One of the highlights of the assembly was Bishop Shock's report. He shared these thoughtful words. "God is indeed doing a new thing. I'm not even sure what to name it yet, but I'm noticing things all throughout our Synod that point to it. However, we name the new thing, I pray that we keep growing together in Christ and growing together and ministry so that God may grow all kinds of new things among us." His message encouraged us to remain open to the Holy Spirit and to trust that God continues to guide and strengthen the church for ministry and the changing world. We left the assembly with a renewed appreciation for the work being done throughout our Synod and a deeper confidence that God continues to lead his people into new opportunities for ministry and service.

The message that stayed with me was that God is not finished with us. God is still doing new things in our Synod, in our congregation, and in our lives. We are grateful to have witnessed that spirit of hope and renewal, and we thank you for all allowing us to represent St. David's.

Patty Rullo & Lois Tessari

Abraca-HaHa! with Professor Pocus

2 FREE shows: August 1st at 2:00PM & 6:00PM

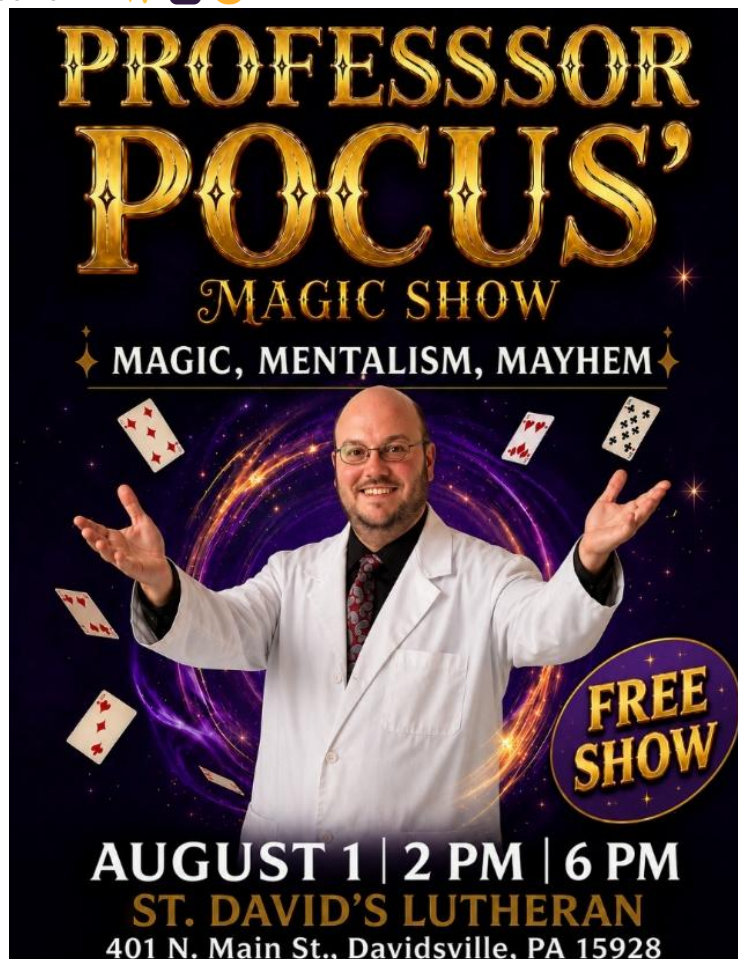
Hold onto your socks... because if your shoes fly off from laughing, you'll need them!

Join **Professor Pocus** for **Abraca-HaHa!**, a wildly interactive comedy magic show packed with impossible magic, ridiculous surprises, audience participation, and enough silliness to make even the serious grown-ups laugh out loud. Watch objects appear, disappear, and occasionally refuse to cooperate as Professor Pocus attempts to keep his experiments under control!

Will the magic work perfectly? Probably not. Will something unexpected happen? Absolutely. Will someone from the audience become the star of the show? Almost certainly!

Featuring mind-boggling magic, hilarious antics, and fun for kids, parents, grandparents, and anyone who enjoys laughing until their cheeks hurt, **Abraca-HaHa!** is the perfect recipe for family entertainment.

Warning: Side effects may include uncontrollable giggling, spontaneous applause, and a sudden desire to learn magic tricks of your own! ✨🎩😄





St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's Work Our Hands Day of Service

Rally Day

and

Ministry Team Fair

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Theme: "Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing." [Martin Luther]

Schedule for the Day

8:00 AM – Worship at St. David's

9:00 AM – Ministry Team Fair & Community Building

9:30 AM – Worship at St. David's (including the installation of our
Sunday School & Catechetical Teachers)

10:45 AM – Ministry Team Fair & Community Building

11:30 AM – Lunch

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

3:00 PM – Conclude

God's Work Our Hands/Rally Sunday, September 13, will be yet another opportunity to express the power of faith. Martin Luther, once said, that "Faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing." By that he means that daily our faith is fed and renewed by the Holy Spirit, not for keeping to ourselves, but is God's gift to us that we might freely and confidently in faith engage our life and the world around us.

So, once again on Sunday, September 13 the community of St. David's will gather for a day of new beginnings of faith formation through Sunday School and catechism and for a day of service. In addition, since the people of St. David's express their faith through our many ministry teams, committees, and groups; the Stewardship Team thought GWOH/Rally Sunday would be a great day to include a ministry team/committee fair. The intent is to help each member of our community become more familiar with the various teams that help our faith to be more living, busy, active, and mighty within our church family and the wider community. They also hope that the fair will encourage persons to sign-up as new members of those teams, committees, and groups. The schedule for the day is printed above. A sign up sheet will be available beginning in August in the announcement racks in the rear of the nave or you will be able to use a QR code. All are welcome to be a part of the day and its several activities! Many hands (ours) make light work (God's)!



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 (President)
Rachel Thomas-Kimmel (Vice President)
Angie McKool (Secretary)
Kristie Byer, Jeff Eash, Lynn McDaniel
Sue Risch, Patty Rullo, Doug Shrader,
Lois Tessari & Paul Weygandt



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

"Our faith is a living...thing."

Being a **steward** of a **living** faith means ongoing nurturing and growing... through regular worship, engagement and study of God's Word, talking and listening to God in prayer, and offering **our** time, talent, and treasure daily. How are **you** ensuring **your** faith is a **living** thing?



Interim Pastor Mark Fischer
pastormarkfischer@gmail.com
717-870-4757 (cell)
Brett Merberger, Minister of Music
bmerberger@gmail.com
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



One of the 2026 God's Work Our Hands projects at St. David's this year involves providing 50 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. There are 8 different items needed for the kits - [notebooks, rulers, pencil sharpeners, pencils, pens, blunt scissors, erasers, and crayons]. Look for the big black board in the narthex, and then **1) please take one, two or several tags, 2) purchase the item/s and 3) bring them to the church and place them in the collection box in the narthex.** Thank you in advance for participating in this world-wide ministry of Lutheran World Relief. Let's make a difference TOGETHER as the people of St. David's!



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.

PREACHING COHORTS

Go Tell It IN The Mountains Initiative is fortunate to offer a variety of cohort options led by highly gifted and experienced coaches. Both Clergy and Lay Leaders are invited to explore a free opportunity to grow, connect, and strengthen your preaching through our upcoming cohorts!!

- **Coach Shawn Clerkin**- 1st Monday late afternoon/ early evening- via Zoom
- **Coach Jim Vitale**- 4th Sunday @ 3PM- via Zoom
- **Coach David Pencek**- 2nd Monday @ 10AM- via Zoom
- **Coach Regina Holliday**- 2nd Thursday @ 7PM at Christ Lutheran Church in Grantville, MD
- **Coach Jean Kuebler**- 1st Tuesday @ 5:30PM- hybrid via Zoom and @ 5414 E. Lake Rd Erie, PA

Space is limited- Sign Up Now @ the link below or scan the QR Code

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EA4AE29A5F8C34-64504438-preaching>





Birthdays

- 1 Donald Stover***101 Marilyn Way,
Johnstown, PA 15904
Charles Yingling
- 3 Bill Andrews
Travis Horner
- 5 Sarah Kotch
- 7 Jacob Black
Matthew Desort
Janice Yoder***1000 Vista Drive Apt
906, Davidsville, PA 15928
- 8 Talia LaRue
Amelia Mitchell
- 10 Kathy Alberti
- 11 Ashley Kopp
Juniper Mishler
- 12 Tom Harris
- 14 Ryan Cotchen
Sandy Ilgenfritz***82 Rosemont Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15905
Erika Winters-Rowe
- 15 Isaiah Kimmel
Adam Kmett
- 16 Lauren Bungard
- 17 Shelly Ann Marsh
Matthew Meyers
- 18 Angie Pile
- 21 Carol Meehleib***204 Chestnut St.
PO Box 273, Davidsville, PA 15928
- 22 Faye Buncich
Diane Carpenter
- 23 Lily Berkebile
John Rullo
- 24 Linda Rosa
- 25 Solomon Tresnick
- 26 Kristy Mishler
Tabitha Studer
Robert Yoder Jr.
- 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 celebrate their 80+ birthdays. Please contact the church office (814-479-4110) for additions or corrections.



Eugene Spangler

Leo & Ronna Marisa

Tom & Bobbi Page



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

If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, contact Gail or Jessica, the Church Secretary or any member of the Prayer Chain.



There will be a Sunday School Meeting on Sunday, August 23rd between services at 9:15am in the fellowship hall. If you are not able to attend but would like to help, please contact Cathy Lilly or call the church office at 814-479-4110. Sunday school resumes September 20th.

ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE

BOARD MEMBERS

Jerrod Cannistraci* Becky Robinson
Cindy Liska* Mary Helen Hruska
Patty Rullo* Linda Shrader* Cathy Lilly

Preschool Orientation

For families who enrolled their child in Preschool 3 and 4 for the 2026-2027 school year, there will be orientation on August 17th at 6pm.



St. David's Learning Place would like to wish our friends Mia, Briar, Kennedi, and Lena very happy birthdays!

happy FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE AUGUST 26TH.

WE CANNOT WAIT TO SEE EVERYONE, AND WE HOPE
YOU ALL HAD A GREAT SUMMER!



Summer Staff
814-479-7390
Jennifer Percinsky: Director
learningplacestdavids@gmail.com
Pam Carhart * Faith Drake
Halie Griffie * Brianna Mohle



It's that time of the year again...school will begin on August 26th! 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 bottom parking lot, dropping off/picking up at the Learning Place main doors, and exiting through top parking lot. Thanks!

-St. David's Learning Place Staff



We have **ONE** more spot open for Preschool 4 for the 2026-2027 school year!

Enrollment ends soon.

First Day of school is August 26th.

Contact Jen at
learningplacestdavids@gmail.com OR
814.479.7390

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Davidsville, PA

Council Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2026

Present: Sonya Andrews, Pastor Fischer, Lynn McDaniel, Sue Risch, Patty Rullo, Lois Tessari, Kristie Byer, Doug Shrader

Absent: Rachel Kimmel, Jeff Eash, Paul Weygandt, Angie McKool

- **Call to Order:** 6:34 PM
 - **Prayer** by Pastor
 - **Council Meeting Minutes** from April 30, 2026 were missing and May's Meeting was cancelled
 - **Guests:** Cathy Lilly - (Learning Place) presented issues with the floors, solution to follow
 - Sherri Andrews - update from the Call Committee
 - Motion to contact Bishop's office and invite the listening team to discern the best gifts needed to call a candidate for pastoral care - First Patty, Second Lois, 1 oppose, motion passes.
 - **Pastor's Report**
 - Would SDLC be interested in being a travel hub for Somerset Area Ministerium ride program? Action item - Patty to reach out to Jen and report back
 - Guest Preacher on July 12th.
 - **Financial Report**
 - Finances are where we predicted them to be for the year.
 - **Property Report**
 - Moving forward with replacing all light bulbs and the team is still looking into estimates for other projects needing completion
 - **Communications**
 - Cameras installed and internet updated in the church, hoping to have the live feed ready by Gods Work Our Hands in Sept.
 - **Unfinished Business**
 - **Columbarium:** have had several meetings still gathering information and estimates
 - **Fellowship Hall:** Tabled
 - **Church picnic:** Motion to have one service Aug 16 at 9:30 - First Patty, Second Sue, motion passes.
 - **New Business**
 - **Meeting adjourned** at 8:14
- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, July 30, at 6:30 p.m.

TEAM LEADERS AND MINISTRY PARTICIPANTS

The people of St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church seek to be a blessing by ministering to one another and to our wider Conemaugh Township community and the world. These several ministries happen because some of our members are committed to being good stewards of their time and talent by serving on various ministry teams. Their efforts make a difference in persons' lives. But more can be done! We just need more hands!

Therefore, we are having a Ministry Team Fair on God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 13, 2026. The Stewardship Team believes this to be an opportunity to help arouse participation on all the teams and ministries at St. David's.

But many of our members need more information about the teams. Their ongoing work and "Good News" endeavors need to be shared. We are hoping all teams will have someone representing their team on Sunday, September 13, 2026 to promote their team ministry. Coverage would be from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. after the first service and from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. after the second service and prior to lunch.

You can create a one page flyer highlighting your team or use the Share Your Talents Flyer already available to distribute to interested parties. Plus, have your team representative prepared to talk about what your team does.

In addition to the seventeen team ministries listed on the Share Your Talents Flyer, we have an opportunity to generate interest for other ongoing ministries at St. David's. It would also be nice to have volunteers to promote the following ministries: acolytes, altar guild, communion assistants, lectors, ushers and counters.

I, for one, will be asking people to volunteer for some of these ministries along with the stewardship and finance teams. The "Good News" of our ministry teams needs to be shared!

So, let's have a fun filled day in promoting community, fellowship, and service at St. David's. Please rally your team members to participate in the Sunday September 13 GWOH Ministry Team Fair. Hey let's do this together. Remember 'many hands makes light work'!

Sincerely,
Douglas Shrader
Stewardship Chair
DougwShrader@gmail.com
814.659.7760



Outdoor Worship Service

will be held on August 30 for the 10:30am service (weather permitting). In order to accommodate and welcome all who would like to participate, we ask that if you wish to sit on the blacktop lot under a tent, please let us know the week before so we can have that available to you. 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 8:00am. We hope you will join us!



Church Picnic

**AUGUST 16th
ONE SERVICE
@ 9:30**

**Followed by a Picnic at
SEQUANOTA's
Large Pavilion
Meet us there @ 12**

Games

Swimming

Fellowship

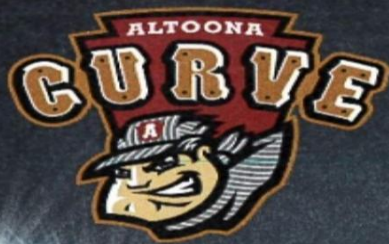
A-E Potato/Pasta
F-K Salad
L-P Desserts
Q-Z Vegetable

Let us know if you're coming, sign up in
the Narthex or call the office

Spend the afternoon
with us and the evening
at Lutheran Day @
Altoona Curve

Bring
your
own
water
bottle

*Join us for an evening of
food, fellowship, fireworks, and fun at*



**Lutheran Day
at the
Altoona Curve**

Sunday, August 16

Game begins at 6 pm

Please order your tickets by Sunday, August 2.

Email your order to alleghenysynodcurvetickets@gmail.com or text
814.934.9941. Mail payments to the Allegheny Synod Office,
916 Hickory St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

**200-level Terrace
tickets:
\$11/each**



All tickets must be paid for in
advance and may be picked up
at the Synod Office or at our
will call table by the ticket office
the evening of the game.

✱August 2 (Communion) ✱

Acolytes-Rachel Pile (8); Solomon Tresnicky (10:30)
 Altar-Ronna Marisa & Kathy Carnahan (8); Leisha Black & Jodi Tresnicky (10:30)
 Communion Assts-Gail Berkebile & Buck Sleek (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)
 Lectors – Gail Berkebile (8); Bill Bergman (10:30)
 Ushers- Buck & Pam Sleek (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)
 Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader

✱August 9 (Intinction)✱

Acolytes-Sarah Kotch (8); Violet Studer (10:30)
 Altar- Linda Shrader (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
 Communion Assts- Bella & Sarah Kotch (8); Wendy Figard & Sonya Andrews (10:30)
 Lectors –Bella Kotch (8); Wendy Figard (10:30)
 Ushers- Bella & Sarah Kotch (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)
 Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

✱August 16 (Intinction) ✱ ONE SERVICE @ 9:30AM

Acolytes-Elle Mowery & Braeden Black (9:30)
 Altar-Gail Berkebile (9:30)
 Communion Assts-Sotosky Family (9:30)
 Lectors – Erin Sotosky (9:30)
 Ushers- Sotosky Family (9:30)



St. David's Church picnic at Sequanoia at 12:00PM

✱August 23 (Intinction) ✱

Acolytes-Bella Kotch (8); Canyon Mishler (10:30)
 Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Cathy Lilly (10:30)
 Communion Assts- Deb Harris & Linda Shrader (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
 Lectors – Deb Harris (8); Keli Williams (10:30)
 Ushers- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
 Counters- Joyce Gindlesperger & Lou Ann Reckner

✱August 30 (Intinction) ✱ 10:30 AM Outdoor Service (weather permitting)

Acolytes-Lexi Byer (8); Gemma Studer (10:30)
 Altar-Sue Risch (8); Lynn McDaniel & Becky Robinson (10:30)
 Communion Assts- **Need Volunteers** (8); Sarah Worst & **Need Volunteer** (10:30)
 Lectors –Beth Hunsberger (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)
 Ushers- Joe & Sue Risch (8); Jack & Carol Winters (10:30)
 Counters- Sue Risch & Ronna Marisa