

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
December 2024

January Messenger
Deadline is Monday, December 15

From Pastor Mark: Turning The Page

December 1st is the beginning of a new liturgical year for the church and December 1st is also the first Sunday of Advent. ***Turning the Page*** is a good metaphor to describe what happens in December. Advent is a time to not only ***turn the page*** liturgically; it is a time when we can ***turn the page*** in our own lives.

Advent is a season of preparation, waiting, watching and a season of hope for the arrival of Jesus, hence the liturgical color of blue. The word, “advent” is derived from the Latin word, “***adventus***” and means “***coming***” and/or “***arrival***.” But for what are we preparing, waiting, watching, and hoping? As the retailers and advertisers want us to believe, we are waiting, preparing, watching, and hoping for what we will find under the Christmas trees in our houses. If we believe this, we have missed the mark of the Season of Advent. The Season of Advent is a time when we should be remembering the first coming of Christ and our preparing, waiting, watching, and hoping for Christ’s return.

For this Advent Season, I am asking you to consider what are you preparing for? This Advent Season, I am asking you to consider what are you waiting for? This Advent Season, I am asking you to consider what are you watching for? And lastly, this Advent Season, I am asking you to consider what are you hoping for in your life and the lives of those whom you love? To “***Turn the page***” in your lives.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are two seasons we need in order to get to Easter Sunday and resurrection. We can’t get to the cross and the empty tomb without the incarnation of God in the flesh in the person of Jesus. It takes a birth and a baby to get there; we need to turn the page. This has been a year of new things here at St. David’s; we have done some new things: Christmas and Easter choir concerts, a Polka Fest, VBS run by our Jr/Sr High youth, Blessing of the Pets, and Trunk or Treat. Through the month of October, we have welcomed eight new families into our church family. We have also said good-bye to a number of well-loved members. We have “***turned a lot of pages***” in 2024. The Good News of the Gospel continues to be proclaimed. While the future sometimes seems uncertain, all of us continue to look forward in the hope and Christ’s return that is sure and certain. All of us will ***continue to turn the page*** every year as we look forward to that sure and certain hope of Christ’s return.

Marna and I give thanks for the wonderful family with which has been gifted to us here at St. David’s. It is a blessing and an honor to serve you and to call this church family our home. We extend to all of you our best wishes for a joyful and hope filled Advent and Christmas as we welcome the Christ child again into our hearts and lives and we all look forward to Christ’s return.

Gratefully,

Pastor Mark and Marna Fischer



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



St. David's Church monthly donation to the St. Francis Sharing & Caring Food Pantry is boxed macaroni & cheese. Please remember to grab several boxes, the next time at the store, and place them in the wooden crate in the narthex. Thank you for your faithful commitment to this ministry!



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



LIVE WREATHS WITH BOW FOR SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

**AT THE CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY SWANK HOUSE**

\$25.00/EACH

**9:00AM UNTIL WE ARE
SOLD OUT!**



Members & Guests joining us for Sunday worship are reminded to fill out the attendance sheet in the pew pads located at the beginning of each pew. Thank you for taking the time to help us with our record keeping!



The 2025 Ministry Spending Plan passed with 90-yes and 0-no.

The St. David's Constitutional changes passed with 90-yes and 0-no.

Elected by Congregation to Council:

- Kristie Byer
- Rachel Kimmel
- Dave Barabas
- Jeff Eash
- Greg Lilly
- Mary Jane McCready
- Patty Rullo



We will hang the Christmas greens on Sunday December 22nd after the 10:30 service. A soup & sandwich lunch will be provided prior to decorating. We are looking for volunteers to decorate and carry decorations from the garage to the church. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex. It's fun and good fellowship!



The final deposit of the year will be made on **Monday, December 30th** for the 2024 contribution statements. Any contributions received after that will be recorded on the 2025 statements.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ella Brandenburg
- 2 Pastor Larry Hoover**6677 Glades Pike
Somerset, PA 15501
Steele Venet
- 3 Caroline Feightner
Jason Weber
- 5 Scott McKool
Mike Moyer Sr.
Melissa Spishak
- 6 Barbara Adams
Brooke Fetterman
Dwayne Varner
Sean Varner
- 7 Todd Berkebile
- 8 Aedan Varner
- 9 Sherry Kist
Britany Siehl
William Venet Jr.
- 10 Wendy Harker
Quinn Mowery
- 11 Will Benning
Roberta Cordek
Morgan Sleek
- 12 Mea Rouser
- 13 Ruth Dellavecchia**2000 Cambridge Dr.
Rm 603, Davidsville PA 15928
- 14 Richard Edsall
Michael Hart
Kevin Kotch
- 16 Bradley Gearhart
Stephen Summits
- 17 Melissa Maddy
Kathy Naugle
- 18 Catherine Deal
- 19 Ella Mandel
Yvonne Janidlo
- 20 Katie Vann
- 21 Jill LaRue
- 22 Jessica Collins
- 23 Sally Blue
- 24 Dennis R. Naugle

- 25 Paige Deal
Holly Russo
- 27 Alicia Saylor
- 28 Jeremy Bergman
Carrie Liska
David Nicholson
Christopher Sweeney
Sandra Thomas**747 Mount Carmel
Drive, Windber, PA 15963
Seth Zaman
- 29 Roseann Layton
Kimberly Reckner
Amanda Tercek
- 30 Trenton Troxell
- 31 Dave Brotz**137 Bear Hollow Rd,
Davidsville, PA 15928
Jonathan Jones
Margaret Whetzel

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.



**MEALS
on
WHEELS**

The *St. David's Lutheran Church Service Team* will be helping with desserts for the

Somerset County Meals on Wheels. **Desserts will be collected SUNDAY, December 8th** in the narthex between the hours of 8:00-10:00AM. **Desserts can be baked, or store bought.**

- Cakes – no icing, but chips and sprinkles are acceptable.
- Cookies – 2 dozen minimum
- Brownies – no icing
- Breads – (Banana, Zucchini, Blueberry)

ALL DESSERTS MUST BE IN DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS. Thank you.



**Live Nativity at Davidsville
Community Church**

The Conemaugh Township Ministerium is again sponsoring the Live Nativity at Davidsville Community Church. The dates are December 13th from 5:00-8:00PM & 14th from 2:00-8:00PM. There is no admission charge, and all are welcome to come, see, and hear the Christmas story. Pastor Mark and Marna are participating as Mary and Gabriel in this year's program. Hope to see you there.



**Advent Mid-Week Services at
First Methodist Church,
Somerset**

On the Wednesdays in Advent, November 27th, December 4th, 11th, * 18th, The Somerset Area Ministerium is sponsoring mid-week Advent worship services at First Methodist Church, Somerset. 1st Methodist is located at 149 W. Patriot Street, Somerset. The program begins at 12:00PM with a musical program by local musicians followed by the service at 12:30PM. Lunch follows immediately after the worship service, around 1:00PM. An offering is taken each Wednesday and goes to support the work of the Somerset Ministerium in providing funds to help people with utility bills, housing assistance, and food assistance. Pastor Mark will be giving the message at the December 18th service. All are welcome. Any questions, please see Pastor Mark.



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.



814-479-7390

Jennifer Percinsky: Director
Brianna Bray, Preschool 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 would like to wish our friends Elizabella, Gabriel, and Evan a very Happy birthday!

St. David's Christmas program will be December 19th from 6-7pm in the church.



We will be closed December 24th to January 1st, reopening January 2nd.

The staff at St. David's would like to wish everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

**ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE
BOARD MEMBERS**

Jerrod Cannistraci* Rachel Kimmel
Cathy Lilly*Cindy Liska*Angie McKool
Patty Rullo*Linda Shrader



Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the annual Apple Dumpling sale! A huge thank you to those who donated the apples and supplies! We had 14 youth, and 10 adults made 400 apple dumplings. All apple dumplings were purchased by you, the people of St. Davids, and together we raised just over \$1,000.00!

Thank you all again!
The Children and Youth Ministry Team.



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. For these reasons, St. David's will offer a special "Longest Night" service on **Saturday, December 21st at 6:30PM**. Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.



Make plans to join us Christmas Eve at 4:30PM & 7:30PM. Special music will begin a half hour prior to each service.



We warmly invite you to join us for a special **Traditional Lessons and Carols Service** on **January 3rd at 6:30 PM**. This beautiful service will

feature the **Adult Choir**, a **Brass Quintet**, and the **Handbell Choir**, all providing uplifting music with traditional carols and original tunes that will fill your heart with the joy of the season. Following the service, enjoy light refreshments and fellowship with your church family. We hope to see you there as we celebrate the season together through music and worship!



As the new year begins, we invite you to join us for a special celebration of the Epiphany, the moment when the light of Christ is revealed to the world. On **January 5th at 10:30 AM**, our choir will

present a **Service of Epiphany Lessons and Carols** — a beautiful tradition of scripture readings, carols, and hymns that reflect on the mystery and joy of the season.



A big Thank You to everyone who donated to the Back to School Drive organized by the St. David's Jr & Sr High Sunday School Class. It was a huge success and 5 schools received needed items for their students. Supplies went to Johnstown Elementary, Johnstown Middle School, Conemaugh Township High School, North Star Middle School, and Somerset Middle School.

God's Work Our Hands Additional Thank You Notes

Yes, it has been three months since we 'entered the mission field right outside our doors' serving our community through God's Work Our Hands. But our work continues to be appreciated. In fact, we received two more thank you notes in late October from the Early Head Start (EHS) Program of Somerset County and Conemaugh Township Emergency Medical Services (CTEMS).

Paige Hetz, the EHS Manager wrote, "Somerset County Early Head Start would like to express the utmost appreciation and gratitude for the incredibly generous donation of new baby items ... [which] will help relieve stress and bring a little bit of sunshine to [the families we serve]."

Terry Ruparic, the CTEMS Manager wrote, "... thanks to the God's Work Our Hands crew that came to Conemaugh Twp. EMS and cleaned our garage. Your kindness is most appreciated."

The note from each of these community services can be found on the bulletin board across from the Office.



Second thoughts from Pastor Mark

Back in 1984, my mother-in-law was admitted to York Hospital with an irregular heartbeat. She needed a pacemaker. When I visited her the first night after she was admitted, I said that I would call her church and let Pastor Devan know that she was a patient at YH. Mom said to me, "***Oh No! Don't call Pastor Devan.***" "***Why?***" I asked. Mom's reply, "***He's a busy man. Don't bother him.***" My reply, "***No Mom, this is what he is to be busy about.***"

I need your help, please!!!! Between November 1-12, 2024, we have had two members enter the Church triumphant. I was not aware these two people were ill. I have said jokingly and also seriously that I have my cell phone with me 24/7/365 and the only time I won't hear the phone ring is when I am out mowing our yard. I care very deeply for the spiritual lives of all of the disciples of St. David's. If you know a disciple of St. David's is ill even if that person or family does not worship regularly, please let me know. Call the office, call my cell phone, send me a text message, send me an email, send me a Facebook message, whatever and I will reach out. The family or person may not want a visit but a phone call letting them know they are being held in prayer is spiritual food for the soul.

St. David's is a large congregation. My church directory runs 27 pages long. Compared to other Lutheran congregations in the Johnstown area, this is a large congregation. It may not seem that way to you when you look back fondly on the 70's, 80', 90's and early 2000's. In those years, St. David's was overflowing with families and children and there were multiple called pastors serving here. I don't know and I can't know everyone's story

; I would love to know the stories. If you call and let me know that Mrs. Claus is ill, I won't tell her who told me. I will extend the love of Christ and offer any pastoral care to her and to the family that they need.

Gratefully,
Pastor Mark

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting
October 24th, 2024

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Prayer by Pastor Fischer

Role / Excuses / Absences

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

Motion to Approve Minutes

- Approval of minutes via e-mail, September 9, 2024

Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda was made by Lauren Bungard and seconded by Ronna Marisa.
- All in favor, none abstained, none opposed, motion passed

Reports

- Pastors Report: Went over Hurricane Relief headed by Pastor Nathan Pile, scheduled vacation, and new church directory
- Financial Report: Given by Doug Shrader. It was brought up and discussed about sending out the monthly reports to "All" team leaders. Also to display the monthly budget for congregation by posting on the bulletin board.
- Motion was made by Doug Shrader and seconded by Mike Grose All in favor, none abstained, motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- We are still in need of two nominees for council
- Employee Evaluations: Pastor is scheduling with staff to be completed before year's end.

New Business

- 2025 Holy Week service schedule: Two services on Ash Wednesday and One for Maundy Thursday.
 - Motion was made by Deb Harris and seconded by Ronna Marisa to adopt these dates.
 - All in favor, none abstained, motion passed.
- November Meeting will be moved up one week to the date of November 21 due to the original date falling on Thanksgiving.
- Discussion on replacing the restroom door upstairs was had and it was agreed to have Brad get pricing for further discussion
- It was brought to Council's attention about the Pickup Truck and Trailer that is being parked in the lower parking lot. This presents several issues, such as liability, setting precedence, among others.
 - Motion was made to have Brad talk to the owner and have it moved from the lower lot.
 - This was made by Lauren Bungard and seconded by Sonya Andrews.
 - All in favor, none abstained, motion passed.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah J Harris
Council Secretary

✱ December 1 (Communion) ✱

Acolytes- **Need Volunteer** (8); Rachel Pile (10:30)

Altar- Kathy Naugle (8); Lois Tessari (10:30)

Cantors –Mary Jane McCready (8); Choir (10:30)

Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Wendy Figard & Nick Hunsberger (10:30)

Lectors – Linda Shrader (8); Wendy Figard (10:30)

Ushers- Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Nick & Beth Hunsberger (10:30)

Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

✱ December 8 (Intinction)

Acolytes- **Need Volunteer** (8); **Need Volunteer** (10:30)

Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Pam Sleek (10:30)

Cantors –Judy Brotz (8); Choir (10:30)

Communion Assts- Mike & Melissa Grose (8); Patty Rullo & Mary Jane McCready (10:30)

Lectors –Albert Meehleib (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)

Ushers- Joe & Sue Risch (8); Dave & Sis Barabas (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Dave & Sis Barabas

✱ December 15 (Intinction) ✱

Acolytes- Matthew Desort (8); **Need Volunteer** (10:30)

Altar-Luana Eppley (8); Sherri Andrews (10:30)

Cantors –Wendy Figard (8); Choir (10:30)

Communion Assts- Sotosky Family (8); Bill Bergman & Jack Winters (10:30)

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

Ushers- Sotosky Family (8); Jeff Rowe & Jack Winters (10:30)

Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

✱ December 22 (Intinction) ✱ Youth & Children Christmas Program at 10:30am

Acolytes- **Need Volunteer** (8); St David's Youth (10:30)

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

Cantors – Gail Berkebile (8); Choir (10:30)

Communion Assts- Tom & Deb Harris (8); St David's Youth (10:30)

Lectors –Deb Harris (8); St David's Youth (10:30)

Ushers- Tom & Deb Harris (8); St David's Youth (10:30)

Counters- Lou Ann Reckner, Jean Magdelinic & Yvonne Janidlo

✱ December 24 ✱ (Intinction) ✱ Christmas Eve Services 4:30 & 7:30 PM

Acolytes-Kyla & Brycen Rowe (4:30); **Need Volunteer** (7:30)

Altar-**Need Volunteer** (4:30); Ronna Marisa (7:30)

Communion Assts- Buck Sleek & **Need Volunteer** (4:30); Randy Whetzel & Sonya Andrews (7:30)

Lectors – **Need Volunteer** (4:30); Bill Bergman (7:30)

Ushers- Buck & Pam Sleek (4:30); Doug & Linda Shrader (7:30)

Counters-Doug & Linda Shrader, Joyce Gindlesperger & Ronna Marisa

* December 29 (Intinction) * ONE SERVICE at 9:30AM

Acolytes- **Need Volunteer** (9:30)

Altar- Sue Risch (9:30)

Cantor –Gail Berkebile (9:30)

Communion Assts- Greg & Cathy Lilly (9:30)

Lector – Sue Risch (9:30)

Ushers- Greg & Cathy Lilly (9:30)

Counters- Sue Risch, Joyce Gindlesperger & Yvonne Janidlo

ADVENT MAIN EVENTS!

FAMILIES, PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST THREE SUNDAYS!



SUNDAY, DEC 1
9:00AM-10:15AM

****Families welcome!****

Please bring the whole fam to:

- learn about the Jesse Tree
- make heirloom ornaments
- knot blankets for shut-ins
- enjoy fellowship, community, and refreshments!!

9am start to enjoy the hot chocolate/apple cider bar and treats!



SUN, DEC 8
9:00AM-10:15AM

****Families welcome!****

Older children will continue knotting blankets for shut-ins.

Younger children will create clay ornaments.



SUN, DEC 15
9:00AM-10:15AM

****Families welcome!****

We will organize the Backpack Project donations and have them ready for delivery.

CAROLING 1pm
All are welcome to carol at Country Manor!



SUN, DEC 22
9:00AM-10:15AM

Pageant Rehearsal
9:00am-10:15am

PAGEANT!!!
10:30am service



TUE, DEC 24
CHRISTMAS EVE



4:30pm Service

7:30pm Service



CHILDREN & YOUTH TEAM

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/Communion 1:00PM Confirmation Class #2 (FH9)	2 Church Office Closed 9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scouts (CR2) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	3 5PM Sage Herbalists Christmas Party (FH9)	4 6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	5 5:30PM Daisy Troop Meeting (C19) 6PM Adult Sunday School Christmas Party (FH9)	6 5PM St. Francis Sharing & Caring (FH9)	7
8 8-10AM Meals on Wheels Collection 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion 5-7PM E. O'Donnell (FH9)	9 9AM YOGA (FH9) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	10 11:45AM Office Closes Early for Staff Christmas Lunch	11 6PM LP Board Meeting 6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	12 6:30PM Worship & Music (P) 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)	13 12:30PM Office Closes Early 6PM Slezak's Christmas Party (FH9)	14
15 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	16 9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scouts (CR2) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C) January Messenger 	17	18 6 PM Adult Choir 7:30 PM Bell Choir	19 5:30PM Daisy Troop (C19) 6PM LP Christmas Program (S & FH9)	20	21 9AM Christmas Program Practice 6:30PM The Longest Night Service
22 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM Christmas Program Practice 10:30AM Worship/Communion/ Christmas Program 12PM Lunch/Hanging of the Greens	23 9AM YOGA (FH9) 10:30AM LP Use (FH9)	24 Church Office Closed 4:30PM Christmas Eve Worship/ Communion 7:30PM Christmas Eve Worship/Communion	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Church Office Closed- Holiday	26 	27	28
29 9:30AM Worship/Communion	30	31 Church Office Closed	January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office Closed- Holiday	Typical secretary office hours are Monday- Friday 9AM-3PM. Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar located on the website. www.stdavidslutheran.org For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the website.		

Printed 11.19.24



St. David's Learning Place is closed Tuesday, December 24-Wednesday, January 1st Reopen January 2nd.
Custodian, Brad will be on vacation December 26-January 2nd