

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
July 2024

August Messenger
Deadline is Monday, July 15

From Pastor Mark...A reflection on the 3rd Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

In mid-June, I had a conversation with someone and he asked how my vacation was; my reply was that I had a great Sabbath. Many of you know that I worked at the U.S. Women's Open Golf Tournament the week of May 26th. With the exception of Monday, May 27th, the weather was great, I got to see some great golf, spend time with children & grandchildren, stop and see friends, meet people from all over the United States and other countries who had come either to see the golf tournament or work it like I was doing. We had free housing courtesy of Marna's son, Evan, found out that our third grandchild will be a girl, and we got to worship at a church where I had served as their interim pastor in Lebanon County. It was a good, relaxing, refreshing, and renewing time. I came back to St. David's looking to embrace all the activities of the summer and look forward to the resumption of fall activities. When asked if I had a good vacation, I replied that I had a good sabbath.

All of the events of that week had me thinking about the commandment to keep the Sabbath Day and to make/keep it holy. The Ten Commandments are found in the 20th chapter of Exodus and with the third commandment is a brief retelling of the creation story about God's creative work for six days and resting on the 7th and the command that on the Sabbath day, one including the foreigner is to do no work of any kind on the Sabbath day. BTW, we derive the word, *sabbatical*, a set-aside time from our vocation, from the word, *sabbath*.

As we enter the summer months, many of us take vacations to our favorite places like the shore or to visit family who live a distance from us. Do you treat your time away from your homes, your normal routines, your vocations as a time of Sabbath renewal? I hope you do. The 3rd commandment is to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. In Luther's time, the Roman Catholic Church of the Middle Ages had created a preponderance of "*holy*" days when one was expected to attend mass. Luther, in his writings on the third commandment, held it to be more important for a person to spend sabbath time apart from work and to spend time with God's word rather than having to be seen in at mass.

My wish for all of you is to have a blessed summer, and if you do take time away for vacation, that you have safe travels, and that you find a way to make it a holy time of renewal for your soul as well as your body.

Gratefully,

Pastor Mark W. Fischer



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

THANK YOU VBS COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

VBS is coming to St. David's on June 17th to June 21st from 6 to 8pm Monday thru Thursday, and day at Sequanota on Friday June 21st. There will be a program at St. David's in the sanctuary at 4:30pm on Friday, June 21st open to everyone to see what the children have learned about Noah, David, Jonah, Sarah, and Jesus.

It will be a wonderful week full of Bible Study, Crafts, and Games. A lot of time and effort has gone into creating VBS this year including the curriculum and promotion. Please make certain you thank the members of the VBS committee who gave countless hours to make the program possible.

VBS Committee: Tom Mitchell, Chrissy Troxell, Angie McKool, Melissa Maddy, Mandie Tercek, Amanda Tresnicky, Sarah Worst, Cathy Lilly, and Pastor Fischer

Special Thanks to Amelia Mitchell, who took a lead on VBS and recruited fellow Jr/Sr High Classmates, developed the daily lanyard pins, and worked on so many projects that VBS would not be possible.

Huge thanks to our youth who stepped up for a week to make VBS loads of fun: Charlotte Worst, Anna Hunsberger, Josey Sotosky, Landon Romesburg, Amelia Mitchell, Rachel Pile, Molly Hunsberger, Mesa Mishler, Isabella Kotch, Grace Mitchell, Gentry Sotosky, Danika Black, Kyla Rowe, Braeden Black, Gemma Studer and Ava Byer.

Lastly, the adult volunteers who are giving their time this week: Tom Mitchell, Chrissy Troxell, Pastor Fischer, Brett Merberger, Cathy Lilly, Sarah Worst, Mandie Tercek, Melissa Maddy, Amanda Tresnicky, Barb Pile, Jean Magdelinic, Kristie Byer, Andy Byer, Pat Rullo, Lois Tessari, Jill Mitchell, and Marna Gilman-Fischer.

Thank you to Camp Sequanota for allowing us to use their facilities and Brad, St. David's custodian & Jessica, St. David's secretary for all their help.

In the past everyone had VBS, now it is a few churches, and it comes down to volunteers. Not many people are willing to take time to do the planning and also volunteer for a week to make this program possible. Without St. David's Youth and their lead, Amelia Mitchell, we would not have VBS. We are so lucky to have the amount of youth we have at St. David's and that they have a giving spirit. Keep VBS in your prayers for this year and next and may it continue to be a part of St. David's Faith Ministry.



THE ALTAR FLOWER CHART is located on the wall across from the bulletin board. The cost is \$40.00 per vase. Fill out what is to be printed in the announcement sheet on the chart. On Sundays following the 10:30 AM service you make take the Altar flowers. If there is anyone that has signed up for flowers in remembrance of a loved one and does not want the flowers, please mark **“Take to LVV”** on the chart by Sunday morning. Please return the white containers from the flower arrangements by Friday. **PREPAYMENT OF ALTAR FLOWERS IS REQUIRED.**



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 recur.



Birthdays

- 1 Tanner Shirley
Kory Siehl
- 3 Cynthia Conner
Brandon Desort
Michael Henry
- 6 Melanie Byer
Jessica Cable
Kyle Drenner
- 7 Mary Horner*****113 Hickory St. PO Box
105 Davidsville, PA 15928**
Susan Lehman
Josey Sotosky
- 8 Rylee Sweeney
- 9 Lori Boyles
Elsie Fetterman*****170 Hillcrest Ave.
Davidsville, PA 15928**
- 10 Austin Ricotta
Charles Reynolds
- 11 Dustin Helsel
Jamie Reid
Mackenzie Shirley
- 12 Kevin Reid
- 13 Travis Boyles
Eli Golias
- 14 Timothy Johnson
- 15 Mila LaRue
Jean Magdelinic
Steven Risch
Michelle Whetzel
- 16 Lyndsey Griffith
Juliah Walters
- 17 Nathan Brickner
Dustin Hart
Abigail Zern
- 18 Sarah Boyles
- 19 Leisha Black
Beth Golob
James Harrington
- 20 Justin Henry
- 21 Michael Folton
Ethan Yoder
Noah Ribaric
- 22 Geeg Eash
Stephanie Edsall
Diane Noon
- 23 Jackie Johnson

- Luke Weber
- 24 Amy Wright
- 26 Claire Benning
Noah McCormick
- 27 Noah Berkebile
Paxton Feathers
Wanda Mastillo
- 28 Melissa Grose
Jack Winters
Susan Zaman
- 29 Scott Fetterman
Mary Helen Hruska
Megan Walerysiak
Mathew Yoder
- 30 Jeanne Derricott
Leigh Kerekes
Michael Moyer, Jr.
- 31 John Eppley
Ronald Pauley
Joseph Risch
Blake Zaman

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



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

The Meals on Wheels collection that was held on Sunday, June 9th received:

- 2 dozen Cookies
- 12 Cakes
- 5 trays of Brownies
- 16 Breads

THANK
YOU

Thank you to all who donated to this service team project. Next collection will take place on September 8th. More details to follow.



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

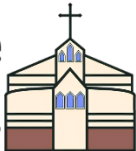
Jessica Brewer, Office Secretary
 stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net
 www.stdavidslutheran.org

814-479-4110 (church office)
Brad Kaufman, Custodian



Group Updates: Text @stdavidmen to 81010

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



Our second outdoor worship service will be held on July 28th at 10:30am. 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!



Congratulations to the Class of 2024

Conemaugh Township

Jon Allison
 Michael Folton
 Colton Huffman
 Mercedes Mull
 Drake Rouser
 Mea Rouser

Richland

Rylee Sweeney



In April 2024 **Elliott Finney** graduated from the **University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing & Information**, with a **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science**. The School of Computing & Information is one of the 17 schools & colleges located on the University's main campus in Pittsburgh.

Congratulations Elliott!



Summer Learning Place Staff
814-479-7390

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

We already had a fun filled June, we are excited for much more in July!



St. David's Learning Place would like to wish our friends Raina, Scarlett, Abigail, and Paxton a very happy birthday!



We are currently seeking staff members to join our St. David's Learning Place team for the 2024-2025 school year. All inquiries must be willing to obtain all PA childcare clearances, CPR/first aid, fire safety, and all other required training. Positions available for the 2024-2025 school year are 4-year-old lead teacher, closer 2:30-5:30pm shift and 2 assistant group supervisors. If interested, please contact Jen at 814-479-7390.



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

LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

Rachel Kimmel, Angie McKool, Jerrod Cannistraci, Linda Shrader, Joyce Gindlesperger, Cindy Liska, Patty Rullo & Cathy Lilly.



Sanford Ray Gindlesperger

Bob & Carol Yoder
Family & Friends of Sanford
Dave & Cindy Liska
Gene & Jo Spangler (Overtime)



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!

More thoughts from Pastor Mark....

During the month of June, I celebrated my 65th birthday a couple of weeks early. I had a colonoscopy. No, I'm not a glutton for punishment. The gastro doctor who did my colonoscopy in 2019 said I should get another in five years. I've been having problems (not going to be specific) and my PCP sent me to see a gastro-doctor for a colonoscopy. From the time I arrived at Blair Gastro and until I walked out the door, I was at their facility about two hours. The good news is everything looks normal with the exception of non-bleeding hemorrhoids (Yay! No Preparation H needed). And I even got pictures to take home with me. No, I'm not sharing them.

If you are someone who has put this procedure off, please don't. I read an online article recently where a 27 year-old woman died from colon cancer, leaving behind a husband and children. Colon cancer is a quiet deadly killer because most people don't see a doctor when they have a digestive problem or they don't even know there is a problem. Most if not all insurances cover colonoscopies 100%. I consider having a colonoscopy well-worth the peace of mind. Please do not put this off.

St David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2024

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

Role / Excuse Absences

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

Approval of Minutes / May 3rd

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

Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Grose and Seconded by Lauren Bungard
- All in favor, none abstained, none opposed, motion passed

Guests

- Sherri Andrews went over the site profile and listed any changes prior to submission
- Deb Harris made a motion to approve the profile with said changes and was seconded by Cathy Lilly.
- All in favor, none abstained, none opposed, motion passed
- Tally on votes for disbursement of tithing by the congregation on Capital Gains Used were as follows:
Camp Sequanota, CT Outreach, Church Outside Pavilion, Vacation Bible School

Reports

- Doug Shrader gave an overview of the financials.

Unfinished Business

- Council Nominees: Working on list of names provided by council.

New Business

- Learning Place Playground: Cathy Lilly reported that the playground will be updated as per the guidelines of the National Playground Construction Company. This will be paid for by the Learning Place.
- Motion to allow the LP to install a new playground was made by Deb Harris and seconded by Ronna Marisa.
- All in favor, none abstained, none opposed, motion passed
- New signage for the church is being handled by Doug & Brad. (Children at Play, Slow Children, etc.)
- Constitutional Amendments: Need to rewrite some verbiage and once written, a letter will need to be sent out to the congregation for approval. Cathy Lilly, Sonya Andrews, and Pastor Fischer will work on getting this completed.
- Received a thank you from the CT Outreach for supporting them at this year's prom in their Tie-Dye Room

Old Business

- Tally on votes for disbursement of tithing by the congregation on Capital Gains Used were as follows:
Camp Sequanota, CT Outreach, Church Outside Pavilion, Vacation Bible School

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting will be held on June 27 @ 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J Harris,
Council Secretary

Recap of the 36th Annual Allegheny Synod Assembly

On June 14th-15th, the congregations of the Allegheny Synod gathered for worship on Friday, June 14th and for the business meeting on June 15th at the Blair County Convention Center. A synod assembly is much like the annual meeting of a congregation: a necessary part of the life of being church. Budgets are adopted, people are elected to positions of leadership within the synod, and reports are presented by the various ministries supported by the Allegheny Synod. As your interim pastor, I find synod assemblies to be a place to meet colleagues and other lay people as well as to conduct the business of the synod and also to get new ideas for doing ministry.

We did all that on Saturday. During the morning session, a budget was adopted for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2025, people were elected to the Allegheny Synod Council and to serve on various committees, a new secretary of the synod was elected with the announced retirement of Dave Finney, people were elected to represent the Allegheny Synod at the ELCA Church Assembly in August 2025, and we heard reports from the various staff people of the synod. In the afternoon, we heard reports from the various supporting ministries of the Allegheny Synod like Camp Sequanota, Penn State Campus Ministry, Lutheran Advocacy in Pennsylvania, the prison ministry at FCI-Loretto, United Lutheran Seminary, and several others.

Some take-aways from the Allegheny Synod Assembly:

- Bishop Lebo, A2B Shock, and United Lutheran Seminary representative, Chel Huth talked about the need that synods and in particular, congregations, are going to have to look to home-grow their worship and pastoral care from within. Currently there are over 600

congregational openings with less than 300 pastors looking to take a new call. A significant percentage of these pastors are limited where they can relocate geographically due to spousal employment or the needs of their children, or other commitments. In 2024, a high percentage (90%+) of the less than 200 graduating M.Div. students are returning to their home synods for calls. Since the 2023 synod assembly, The Allegheny Synod had four students complete their Certificate in Theological Studies, one student graduated seminary and they are either ordained or serving their internships. I am most likely one of the last people who went through the assignment process and was assigned here to the Allegheny Synod. As a side note, the Allegheny Synod and St. David's is losing one of the longest tenured lay worship assistants when Dave Finney relocates to West Virginia this fall. His service to the synod as secretary and lay worship assistant will be greatly missed. Thank you for your service, Dave.

- Rev. Rebecca Horn was elected to the position of Allegheny Synod Secretary.
- This year, Camp Sequanota is employing four camp counselors who are from Perus, Pakistan, Mexico. This is an intentional decision by the camp leadership to broaden the experience of the campers by interacting with people of other cultures.
- Also, Camp Sequanota is also hosting a week of campers who are Muslim, and campers from the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, and also hosting the PA State Police Cadet Camp.
- B.E. Pile spoke about a preaching grant initiative titled, "*Go Tell It In The Mountains.*" More on this to come...

* July 7 (Intinction) *

Acolytes- **NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)**

Altar-Ronna Marisa (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)

Cantors – Wendy Figard (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)

Communion Assts- Ed Hart & Wendy Figard (8); Avery Custer & Buck Sleek (10:30)

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

Ushers-Ed & Deb Hart (8); Buck & Pam Sleek (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Joyce Gindlesperger

* July 14 (Intinction)

Acolytes- **NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)**

Altar- Linda Shrader (8); Lois Tessari (10:30)

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

Communion Assts-Patty Rullo & Linda Shrader (8); Lou Ann Reckner & Mary Jane McCready (10:30)

Lectors –Patty Rullo (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)

Ushers- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Carole Williams & Joyce Gindlesperger (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Joyce Gindlesperger

* July 21 (Intinction) *

Acolytes- **NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)**

Altar-Deb Harris (8); Mandi Tercek (10:30)

Cantors –Judy Brotz (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)

Communion Assts- Tom & Deb Harris (8); **Need Volunteers (10:30)**

Lectors –Deb Harris (8); **Need Volunteer (10:30)**

Ushers- Dennis & Kathy Naugle (8); Jack & Carol Winters (10:30)

Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Jean Magdelinic

* July 28 (Intinction) * Outdoor Service @ 10:30am

Acolytes- **NEED VOLUNTEERS (8); NEED VOLUNTEERS (10:30)**

Altar- Luana Eppley (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)

Cantors – John Liska (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)

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




Lectors – Ronna Marisa (8); **Need Volunteer (10:30)**

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

Counters- Dave & Cindy Liska, Sue Risch

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.

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6 PM Bible Study(21A-C)	2 Office Closes Early @ 1:30PM	3	4  Office Closed-Holiday	5  Pr Mark's Day Off Secretary Off	6
7 8 AM Worship/ Communion 10:30 AM Worship/ Communion	8 6 PM Bible Study(21A-C)	9	10 1 PM Staff Meeting (C19)	11	12 Pastor Mark's Day Off	13
14 8 AM Worship/ Communion 10:30 AM Worship/ Communion	15  6 PM Bible Study(21A-C)	16	17 6PM Stewardship/ Finance Meeting (C19)	18	19 Pastor Mark's Day Off	20
21 8 AM Worship/ Communion 10:30 AM Worship/ Communion	22 12 PM Blood Drive (FH9) 6 PM Bible Study(21A-C)	23 6PM Sage Herbalists (FH9)	24	25 9 AM Blanket Day (FH9) 7 PM Council Meeting (FH9)	26 Pastor Mark's Day Off	27
28 8 AM Worship/ Communion 10:30 AM Outdoor Worship/ Communion	29 6 PM Bible Study(21A-C)	30	31 6 PM LP Board Meeting (FH9) 7 PM GWOH (C19)	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.		