

St. David's Ev. Lutheran Church
401 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 427
Davidsville, PA 15928

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Organization
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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—July 2026

"Stewardship of Freedom, Remembering the Military & Vacationers"

August Messenger
The deadline is Wednesday, July 15



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)						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>Pastoral CARE</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>Pastor Mark is on vacation June 26- July 11. Pastoral care coverage June 26-July 4 Rev. Penny Koontz 814-442-7091 and July 5-July 11 Rev. John Barichivich 386-589-2375.</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: right;"> <p>1</p> </div> </div>						
5 8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Worship/Communion Svc	6	7	8	9 Office Closes at 12:30PM 6:30PM Worship & Music Meeting (P)	10 Office Closed— Holiday	11 
12 8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Worship/Communion Svc	13 12PM Blood Drive (FH9)	14	15 AUGUST MESSENGER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	16 Office Closes at 12:30PM 6PM Columbarium Committee Meeting (C19)	17	18
19 8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Worship/Communion Svc	20	21	22 5:30PM LP Board Meeting (CR2) 7PM GWOH (C16)	23	24	25
Secretary is on vacation July 20-24 & Pastor Mark @ Con- Ed Lancaster Theological Seminary July 20-23						
26 8AM Worship/ Communion Svc 10:30AM Outdoor Worship/ Communion Svc	27	28 6PM Sage Herbalists (FH9)	29 Office Closes at 10:30AM	30 9AM Blanket Day (FH9) Office Closes at 12:30PM 6:30PM Council Meeting (FH9)	31	Printed 6:17:26

From the Pastor.....

The July Stewardship theme is *Stewardship of Freedom*. That is an appropriate theme as we as a nation celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence and in 2026, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of that event. We've just observed Memorial Day, and shortly before that, the Pennsylvania Primary Election. Many, myself included, would consider participating in both events "quintessentially American."

Whether we do so as people of Christian faith, people of another faith, or people of no faith, we are united in commemorating the sacrifices others have made on behalf of our nation and its values of democracy and freedom, and claiming our right to participate in the election of our leaders – both of which we should never take for granted.

I am proud to be a citizen of the United States. I have visited/toured six European countries plus Israel, Tanzania, and Canada; while I enjoyed visiting all of them, I was glad to be back home. And I am follower of Jesus Christ. But how do I best live out both identities in my daily life? How does my Christian faith inform my citizenship, and my neighbor's citizenship? And what do I expect my citizenship to say about my Christian faith, and my neighbor's religion?

This is not an easy article to write. It is not an easy stance to take. Our Lutheran Christian worship is intended for one thing, and one thing only: the proclamation of the gospel. The former bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, Rev. James Dunlop, once said in a sermon, "The church is the people of God gathered around Word and Sacrament; nothing more, and nothing less." Proclaiming the gospel, in my mind, does not include commentary about trends in human politics, no matter how disturbing they may be. But Christian nationalism threatens the church's ability to proclaim the gospel, and that's why I'm writing this article⁴. Because God's politics of caring for the last, the least, and the lost are at the forefront of the gospel.

In recent years, the phrase "Christian nationalism" has come to be used in political and religious circles alike. In case it's unfamiliar or ambiguous, Christian nationalism is an ideology which merges together aspects of Christian and American identity, to the detriment of both. It's more than simply an attitude that the United States was founded with Christian values in mind. The United States was, to an extent founded as such since the known religions at the time of the adoption of the *Declaration of Independence* and *The U.S. Constitution* were Judaism and Christianity. Or that Christianity and democracy are highly compatible, they are, to an extent. Christian nationalism implies – or, at times, insists – that all Americans should be Christian, and that "real" Christians are absolutely, unquestionably are loyal to America.

To help differentiate what is healthy and appropriate faith and patriotism from Christian nationalism, consider what we've seen in recent years about Hindu nationalism in India, Islamic nationalism in Syria and Afghanistan, Buddhist nationalism in Sri Lanka, and Orthodox Christian nationalism in Russia. In each case, the structures, symbols, and institutions of faith are used to validate and consecrate the actions of government, from war to tyranny to ethnic cleansing.

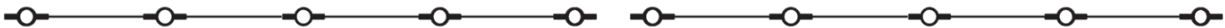
This isn't about party affiliation, even if members of one party come to more consistently align with religious nationalism in their own setting. In our country, it's not about Republican or Democrat or Independent or third-party affiliations. Nor is it about a specific denominational affiliation. Christian nationalism is a threat to our constitutional republic, and a threat to the health and vitality of Christian expression in our country. (That's right: the great irony of Christian nationalism is that it costs the souls of both the church and the nation.) It transfers the right worship of God to the worship of worldly power and domination, and in doing so, forgoes the witness, teaching, and example of Christ, who guided and shaped his followers towards lives of love not hate, mercy not vengeance, service not harm, and sacrifice not entitlement.

Claiming God to be on the side of your political party, or leader is dangerous. Instead, we are called to discern God's side, and get on it. Christian nationalism was at the forefront of the Doctrine of Discovery{{The Doctrine of Discovery traces back to Papal Bulls which authorized European powers to conquer the lands of non-Christian lands}}. This doctrine gave rise to European colonization and imperialism in Africa, Asia, and the

Americas, the Transatlantic slave trade... and the rise of both the Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan following World War I. Christianity did not give rise to these movements; Christian nationalism did.

Why am I writing this? Why am I wading into a conversation about politics? First, I am compelled by my love of Jesus, and the vocation (my calling) placed within me at my baptism, to share Christ's gospel of radical love, inclusion, and forgiveness to all people. Christian nationalism does not promote these gifts of God's grace to anyone outside those holding the reins of power. Second, I am urged by the highest ideals of our nation: liberty, equality, and democracy. Christian nationalism extends these ideals only to those who fall within its narrow parameters of acceptance. Women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ persons, indigenous people, people of non-Christian faith, and people of no faith are pushed aside by Christian nationalism and its permissive attitude towards racism, patriarchy, and bigotry.

I also realize that this may be a difficult article to read, and I welcome conversation to come out of it moving forward. To that end, I've scheduled three opportunities to come together to discuss one of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's primary teaching documents, The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective. These sessions will be held between Sunday worship starting at 9:15AM on July 26th, August 2nd and August 9th. This social statement was adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 1991, and it provides a framework for thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. Copies are available at www.elca.org and I will print out 15 or so for you. I believe this social statement may be a helpful starting point for talking about how to live out our lives of faith in our civic engagement with one another.



Join us for a fun-filled, family-friendly comedy magic show featuring
Brett Merberger, better known as Professor Pocus!

Prepare to be amazed by mind-boggling magic, interactive surprises, plenty of laughs, and unforgettable moments for all ages.

 **Saturday, August 1**

 **2:00 PM Show**

 **6:00 PM Show**

 **Fellowship Hall**

Bring your family, invite your friends, and come experience an entertaining afternoon of wonder, laughter, and mystery with Professor Pocus

Admission is free and all ages are welcome!





Congratulations to the Class of 2026
Conemaugh Township

Emily Allison
Ella Mankamyer
Isaac Marsh



Laci Fetterman graduated Cum Laude from Coastal Carolina University in December 2025. She obtained her B.S. in Finance. She is now working in the Financial Aid Department at Coastal Carolina in South Carolina.

Shelby Fetterman graduated from West Virginia University Class of 2026.

Sam Worst graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in music education and trombone performance. He will continue his studies by attending Duquesne University for graduate school.



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



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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Sandy and I sincerely thank you for the wonderful celebration of my Fiftieth Ordination Anniversary. We thank each of you for all your kindness, cards, and well wishes. We are certainly blessed to be a part of this faithful and caring Community of Faith. We thank God for putting us here.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ilgenfritz



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

We are a people of faith called to express **our** faith in and through **our** lives. Martin Luther wrote of this faith, "Our faith is a living, busy, active mighty thing." As **you** steward **your** gift of faith, how is it living, busy, active, and mighty in **your** daily life?



Birthdays

- 1 Ellie Luscher
Tanner Shirley
- 3 Cynthia Conner
Brandon Desort
- 6 Melanie Byer
- 7 Pastor Mark Fischer
Josey Sotosky
- 9 Elsie Fetterman***170 Hillcrest Ave.
Davidsville, PA 15928
- 10 Charles Reynolds
- 11 Mackenzie Shirley
- 13 Eli Golias
- 15 Mila LaRue
Jean Magdelinic*** 106 N Walnut Street
Davidsville, PA 15928
Steven Risch
Michelle Whetzel
- 16 Lyndsey Griffith
- 17 Abigail Zern
- 19 Leisha Black
James Harrington
- 22 Diane Noon
- 23 Luke Weber
- 27 Noah Berkebile
Paxton Feathers
- 28 Melissa Grose
Jack Winters
Susan Zaman
- 29 Mary Helen Hruska
- 30 Jeanne Derricott
Leigh Kerekes
- 31 John Eppley
Ronald Pauley***1781 Tire Hill Road
Davidsville, PA 15928
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 celebrate their 80+ birthdays. Please contact the church office (814-479-4110) for additions or corrections.



A big shout out and thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and helpers who provide excellent Christian education to our Preschoolers through Adults throughout the year! We appreciate you all so much! And a thank you to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and anyone else who makes sure these kiddos get to Sunday School each week! Thank you to Brett for our music with the Pre k through 3rd grade, the older students for the Youth Sunday, Marty Party program, the Christmas Program and our acolytes! We had a successful year and hope to grow next year!

Cathy Lilly, Learning Team



We are seeking volunteers to assist with counting the weekly offering after 10:30AM church service.

This vital ministry requires individuals who are dependable and attentive to detail. Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving, please contact the church office.



The Service Team would like to THANK those that donated desserts for Somerset County Meals on Wheels on June 14th

- Cakes– 6
- Brownies –6 trays
- Cookies– 10 dozen
- Nut Roll– 1
- Apricot Rolls –2
- Poppy Seed Roll– 1
- Carrot Cakes– 2
- Zucchini Breads– 6
- Gob cake–1



Congratulations St David's Congregation! The roof on Davidsville Pastoral Cabin #8 has been replaced! Your donations to the Camp Sequanota Cabin #8 Renovation Project have been put to good use by replacing the roof and allowing the Jr & Sr High Sunday School Class to paint the walls and floor, replace curtains & shower curtains, and to do small updates like new mirrors and hooks. The students worked so hard and you empowered them by your giving. Thank you so much for making Cabin #8 special at Sequanota! And we will be back in the fall to fundraise for renovating the bathrooms!



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 gailgoliass@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.



**God's Work Our Hands/
Rally Sunday is two months
away!**

Sunday, September 13, 2026

- 8:00 AM Worship // 9:00 AM Ministry Team Fair & Fellowship
- 9:30 AM Worship // 10:45 AM Ministry Team Fair & Fellowship
- 11:30 AM Lunch
- 12:15 PM Service Projects (finishing no later than 3 pm)

**Be sure to place the date on your
calendar TODAY!**



Eugene Spangler

Adult Sunday School Class

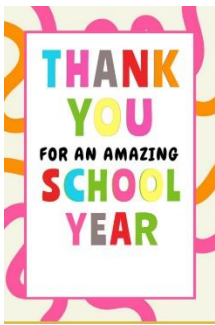


With
Deepest
Sympathy...

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of ***Eugene "Gene" Spangler*** who passed away on June 13th at the age of 101. We commend him to our merciful Savior in the sure and certain hope of resurrection.



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



St. David's would like to extend a thank you to all the families, friends, volunteers, board members, and staff for a safe and successful school year!

ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE
BOARD MEMBERS

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



We only have a few spots 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



We would like to wish our friends Abigail and Jaden a very happy July birthday!



St. David's Church picnic will be held at Camp Sequanota, on Sunday, August 16th. More details to follow. Watch the announcements and August messenger.



A Thank You Note!



We love having you in choir!

As another choir season comes to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our choir and handbell choir members for your hard work, dedication, and faithful commitment throughout the year.

Your willingness to share your time and talents has enriched our worship services and brought beauty, inspiration, and joy to our congregation. Whether through song or the ringing of bells, your ministry has touched many lives and helped lead others in worship.

Thank you for your countless rehearsals, your perseverance, and the wonderful spirit you bring to our music programs. It has been a privilege to make music with each of you.

I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall as we begin another exciting season together.

With sincere appreciation,
 Brett Merberger

The May council meeting was cancelled due to not having enough for a quorum. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25th.

* July 5 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- Matthew Desort (8); Macey Whetzel (10:30)
Altar- Pam Sleek (8); Faye Buncich (10:30)
Communion Assts- Patty Rullo & Wendy Figard (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Lectors –Patty Rullo (8); Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Ushers- Buck & Pam Sleek (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews
* July 12 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- Molly Hunsberger (8); Margot Cannistraci (10:30)
Altar-Linda Shrader (8); Sherri Andrews (10:30)
Communion Assts-Tom & Deb Harris (8); Bill Bergman & Need Volunteer (10:30)
Lectors – Deb Harris (8); Bill Bergman (10:30)
Ushers- Tom & Deb Harris (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)
Counters- Lou Ann Reckner & Joyce Gindlesperger
* July 19 (Intinction) *
Acolytes-Owen Zoldey (8); Mila LaRue (10:30)
Altar-Kristie Byer (8); Pat Sleek (10:30)
Communion Assts-Linda Shrader & Bella Kotch (8); Lou Ann Reckner & Need Volunteer (10:30)
Lectors – Bella Kotch (8); Marna Gilman-Fischer (10:30)
Ushers- Sarah & Bella Kotch (8); Jack & Carol Winters (10:30)
Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader
* July 26 (Intinction) * 10:30 AM Outdoor Service (weather permitting)
Acolytes- Quinn Mowery (8); Miley Tercek (10:30)
Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Lois Tessari (10:30)
Communion Assts- Gail Berkebile & Elle Mowery (8); Sarah Worst & Need Volunteer (10:30)
Lectors – Elle Mowery (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)
Ushers-Joe & Sue Risch (8); Need Volunteers (10:30)
Counters- Sue Risch & Ronna Marisa



Outdoor Worship Services will be held on June 28, July 26 & August 30 for the 10:30am services (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!