

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

Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit No. 117
Johnstown, PA

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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
June 2025

July Messenger
The deadline is Monday, June 16

From Pastor Mark.....

During the month of June, we will read the Parable of the Good Samaritan as our Gospel reading. It's one of my favorites. We know the basics of the parable by heart: 1) A man decides to travel between Jerusalem and Jericho and gets mugged. 2) A priest and a Levite, two very religious Jewish people, not wanting to defile themselves pass by on the other side of the road. 3) A Samaritan man, one of the most hated and despised people by Israelites, stops and renders this beaten man aid and is willing to pay whatever it costs to nurse this man back to health. This parable becomes a barometer or yardstick by which our actions are measured to determine one's fitness to enter the kingdom.

However, perhaps we forgot the very beginning of this story that begins with the question by a person well versed in Jewish Torah, "***What must I do to inherit eternal life?***" Of all the questions anyone could ever ask, this one takes the gold medal for oxymoronic questions. Let's break it down:

- 1) ***What must I do...?*** >>> This half of the question gives one the impression that a mandatory, required action on the part of the person must happen. Makes me think of a question an employee would ask his/her employer who wants to get promoted. Maybe that is what this Scribe/Expert in the Law was thinking, that following Torah wasn't enough to get him into heaven so he needs to be promoted into heaven.
- 2) ***What must I do to inherit eternal life?*** >>> This is where the question becomes oxymoronic. You can't do anything to inherit. It's all about what someone else does which is A) that person has to die. B) That person has to name you as someone who will benefit from their dying. **You can't do a single thing!!!!!!** I would love to see how the show, *The Chosen* presented this scene. C) What this Scribe desires, eternal life, is the ultimate object to desire.

Jesus gives this man the "***rope***" by which he can "***hang***" himself, and he asks the Scribe, "***What is written in the Law? How do you understand it?***" After all, this man is educated and learned in the in's and out's of Torah; this should be a no-brainer question for this person to answer. The Scribe quotes two passages from Torah, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. If you read these two passages in their setting and place in Torah, they do not address the gift of eternal life. Rather Torah speaks on how Israel should live in relation to God, its fellow Israelites, and other non-Israelite people. I have not found any mention of eternal life and what one must do in Torah.

Jesus' response to the Scribe's answer is that the Scribe has answered correctly. I'm not sure why Jesus gave this response because this man's answer is not correct. Maybe Jesus is letting the Scribe live in his own version of reality and the Scribe can think he is justified.

The Season of Time after Pentecost is a time when the Church focuses on the teachings of Jesus. What can we learn from reading and hearing these stories from Jesus? Are we going to walk and live in our own versions of reality like this Scribe? The reality is there is nothing we can do to inherit eternal life; eternal life is a free gift given to us by God in response to Jesus' death and resurrection. Living faithfully is not an "***If...then....***" way of life. Grace is not conditional; grace is unconditional. Living faithfully means one responds because God has acted not if God has acted and to respond without barriers or boundaries.



As our choral season comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication, passion, and talent that you have poured into our musical journey together. Your hard work and commitment have truly made this season an unforgettable one.

Throughout rehearsals and performances, you have brought your unique gifts and talents to the forefront, creating beautiful music that has touched the hearts and souls of everyone who has had the pleasure of listening. Your harmonies have lifted spirits, conveyed emotions, and instilled a sense of joy and inspiration within our congregation.

I am continuously amazed by the level of dedication each of you brings to our choir and musical ensemble. Your commitment to your craft and to our community is truly admirable, and I am deeply grateful for the time and effort you have invested in making this season a resounding success.

As we reflect on the memories we have created together and the music we have shared, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation for each and every one of you. Thank you for your passion, your talent, and your unwavering commitment to our musical family.

Here's to the memories we've made, the music we've created, and the bonds we've forged. May our music continue to uplift and inspire all who hear it.

Exciting times are ahead as we gear up for our Polka Service and Polish Festival on June 22nd! This year, we're looking to make our event even more vibrant and engaging, and we need your help to make it happen.

We're reaching out to our wonderful church community to kindly ask for donations of themed baskets for our basket party. Your generous contributions will not only enhance the festivities but also support our church's initiatives and programs. Donations can be dropped off at the church office by June 20th.



We are also looking for volunteers to help prep food on June 20 and June 21, as well as helpers on the day of the festival, June 22. We will need Kitchen workers, money collectors for the dinners, volunteers to run the games and people to help with selling tickets and overseeing the basket party. If you are able to help in anyway, please sign up on the sheets in the church narthex.

Thank you in advance for your support and enthusiasm. Let's come together to make this year's Polish Festival a resounding success!

~ Brett Merberger

**Reminder: One worship service at 9:30am for Sundays
June 22 & June 29 for Polka Fest and Fifth Sunday.**

Birthdays

- 1 William Brotz
Jerry Spangler
- 2 Peyton Reckner
Adam Marsh
- 3 Rustin Studer
Sarah Worst
- 4 Jeff Summits
- 5 Pat Custer*****5242 Gallium Court, Apt 103 Cambridge, MD 21613-3698**
Frank Glovach
Jonathon Hart
Rev. Nelson Ilgenfritz *****82 Rosemont Ave. Johnstown, PA 15905**
- 6 Jack Boyer Jr.
Payton Miller
Victor Santacroce
Matthew Zern
- 8 Joshua Bergman
- 9 Dave Barabas
Debra Hart
Brooke Szala
- 10 Bailey Kist
Corey Layton
Nathan Stevens
- 11 Pat Bergman
Michael Cotchen
- 12 Ava Byer
- 13 Abigail Shaffer
- 14 Alan Johnson Jr.
- 15 Dillon Boyer
Eli Robinson
- 16 Brycen Rowe
- 17 Tom Ravenscraft*****127 N. Walnut St., Davidsville, PA 15928**
Mark Stover
Zachary Svencer
Michelle Wozniak
- 18 Mercedes Mull
- 19 Keri Brandenburg
Ronna Marisa*****183 Marisa Lane, Hollsopple PA 15935**
- 20 Beth Custer
Emily Boyles
William Franke
Marilyn Lindberg
James Ribaric
- 21 Margot Cannistraci
- 22 Joyce Hoffman
Shirley Vinosky

- 23 Sharon Blough
- 26 Alec Carpenter
- 27 Ben Frick
Christine Saylor
- 29 Lindsey Bumbarger
Michael Krynicky-Busija
Drew Golias
Shannon Heiser
Traci Moore
Jackson Sotosky
Samuel Worst
- 30 Jeremy Blough
Serena Bridges
Richard Layton Jr.

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.



Prayer Chain
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.



Josephine Spangler

Memorial Fund
Adult Sunday School Class

David J. Brotz

Memorial Fund
Adult Sunday School Class
Pat Sleek



The **St. David's Lutheran Church Service Team** is helping Somerset

County Meals on Wheels with desserts. **Desserts will be collected on SUNDAY, June 8th, 2025.** The collection will take place in the narthex between 8:00- 11:00 AM. Desserts requested by Meals on Wheels include:

- 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.



Call for Summer Special Music Volunteers

As our faithful choir takes a well-deserved break over the summer months, we are looking to fill our worship services with special music provided by the many talented individuals and families in our congregation. Whether you sing, play an instrument, or have a musical group you'd like to share, we would love for you to be a part of our summer worship experience! A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Please consider sharing your gifts to help make our summer services meaningful and joyful through music. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

*And the
Winners
are...*

- ❖ Camp Sequanota
 - ❖ St. Davids Vacation Bible School
 - ❖ Camp PARC
 - ❖ Equipment for Live Streaming
- They will each receive \$1,000 extra funding!**



WE NEED YOUR HELP

On Sunday, June 22nd St. David's will be holding its annual **POLKA FEST**, and we are in need of help. This is one time we think having too many cooks in the kitchen is appropriate! To make this event go as smoothly as possible we need volunteers to help with the **COOKING PREP** on Friday, June 20th, and Saturday, June 21st.

On Saturday, June 21st we will also be needing help with setting up the fellowship hall. On Sunday we will need people to serve food, be cashiers, and run some simple games, ETC. Remember, many hands make light work and with your help we can make this a joyous occasion for everyone!

Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church and can be placed in the box in the narthex!



CONTACT US

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



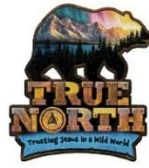
Attention Parents of Graduates!

If your son/daughter is graduating from High School, College, Graduate School or Vocational School, please let the church office know by **June 6th**, so we may celebrate their success as a church family. Please email stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net with the name of graduate, school and any additional information you will to share.



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



Pointing the way to fun!

Something grrrrreat is coming!

June 16th-20th
Mon-Thurs 6 - 8 PM
Fri 9 AM - 5 PM



All children going into K-5 are welcome to join us for a week of fun and fellowship at St. David's this summer!

June 16th-20th
VBS 6-8 PM

Drop off at 5:45 PM
 Friday @ Camp Sequonota 9 AM-5 PM
 Family showcase Friday at 4:30 PM
 Bussing will be provided to and from camp on Friday

REGISTRATION
 April 1 - May 25, 2025



401 N. Main Street, Davidsville • stdavidslutheran.org • (814) 479 - 4110



On Sunday, May 4th we celebrated the Rite of Confirmation! It was also a special day in the lives of **Matthew David Desert, Molly Elizabeth Hunsberger, Mesa Sage Mishler, Grace Marie Mitchell and Rachel Kaylynn**

Pile our 2025 confirmation class. After two years of conscientious study, worship and service, these 5 confirmation students will be affirming their baptism and confirmed as members of our congregation. Please congratulate these students on this important step in their faith journey.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Lauren Bungard* Cathy Lilly
Angie McKool *Lynn McDaniel* Kristie
Byer Dave Barabas* Jeff Eash *Greg Lilly
Rachel Thomas-Kimmel * Patty Rullo
Mary Jane McCreedy

St David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2025

Call to Order / Biblical Reflection and Prayer

- Meeting was called to order @ 6:30 PM.
- Prayer was led by Pastor Fischer.

Approval of Minutes / March 27, 2025 meeting

- Approval of minutes via e-mail occurred on April 7, 2025.

Role / Excuse Absences

- Present members: Dave Barabas, Lauren Bungard, Kristie Byer, Jeff Eash, Pastor Fischer, Cathy Lilly, Greg Lilly, Mary Jane McCready, Angie McKool, Patty Rullo, and Rachel Thomas-Kimmel
- Absent members: None.

Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dave Barabas and seconded by Mary Jane McCready.
- All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

Reports

- Pastor's report: Was given by Pastor Fischer.
 - Festival of Homiletics: Hosting site is no longer needed, there are only two attendees from the Johnstown Conference, and they are going to attend at Frieden's Lutheran Church.
 - Johnstown/Laurel Highlands Joint Caucus Meeting: Scheduled for May 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Open to anyone in the congregation that would like to learn about what is happening in the Allegheny Synod.
 - 2025 Confirmands: Matthew Desort, Molly Hunsberger, Mesa Mishler, Grace Mitchell, Rachel Pile.
 - Motion to approve their acceptance into the St. David's congregation was made by Greg Lilly and seconded by Lauren Bungard.
 - All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.
 - Continuing Education: Pastor Fischer will attend an event hosted by the Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic-Methodist Consortium of West Virginia May 12-14, 2025. He will arrange coverage for pastoral care.
 - Windber Woods – Pastor Fischer was asked to lead worship at Windber Woods, on the first Sunday of each month, in the afternoon beginning May 4, 2025.
 - Mount Calvary: Pastor Fischer was approached to lead Saturday evening services at Mount Calvary Lutheran. Several discussions occurred:
 - Jessica reached out to Cathy Lilly regarding whether she would be responsible for providing bulletins for the Mount Calvary and Windber Woods services. Pastor Fischer stated she would not be responsible for these bulletins.
 - St. David's previously had a Saturday evening service prior to COVID. There are members that stopped attending when that service was removed. If Saturday services are added, they should be held at St. David's. Mount Calvary members would be welcome/invited to attend.
 - Concerns over Pastor Fischer overstretching his schedule with additional services. He will see how the schedule goes through the summer.
 - Horner's Lutheran Church: Approached Pastor Fischer about doing a shared ministry. Their Pastor is part-time, with a reduced salary, and they spent \$10,000 of their savings to cover the Pastor. Pastor Fischer is unsure if any other churches have been approached and what this would look like, he is scheduled to meet

with the Pastor and will get more details. Council would need to have a better understanding of the details of what would be provided and the benefits.

- Pastor Fischer approached the water authority regarding the continuing water issues leading to shutdowns.
- Communication Team: Angie McKool provided update that the team has a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, April 29, 2025.
- Learning Place Board Report: Was given by Cathy Lilly, Jennifer had her baby and is currently on maternity leave.
- Worship & Music Ministry: Was given by Cathy Lilly, Polka fest is scheduled for June 22, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

- New Council member: – Jack Winters and Lynn McDaniel were both willing to fill the remainder of the open Council spot. Council voted, ending in a tie. Lynn McDaniel was selected by Pastor Fischer based on a blind selection.
- Fellowship Hall: Times documented in the policy are vague. Brad Kaufman requested no outside use of the church on Sundays – treat it as the Sabbath. Rachel Thomas-Kimmel, Cathy Lilly, and Lauren Bungard will review the policy.
- Tithing Money Options for 2025: \$4000.00 tithe. The Congregation will vote for their top four projects on April 27, 2025. Below is the list of projects recommended by council:
 - Learning Place Playground
 - Somerset Area Ministerium (SAM)
 - St. Davids Vacation Bible School
 - Camp Sequanota
 - Equipment for Live Streaming
 - Pavilion
 - Camp Park
 - St. Francis Caring and Sharing
 - Somerset County Mobile Food Bank
 - Veteran Community Initiative, LLC
- Constitution updates: Pastor Fischer was notified by Synod that there were issues with St. David's revisions made last year. Synod provided the items missed, duplicated, or not consistent. Council will review and discuss at the May meeting.

New Business:

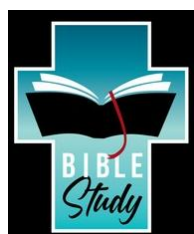
- Columbarium – Discussed the need to have a committee with members from different teams including Property and Finance/Stewardship. Dave Barabas, Cathy Lilly, Patty Rullo, and Kristie Byer volunteered to be on the committee. The committee will look into the costs involved and then survey the congregation to determine if there is enough interest. The committee will meet on May 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Pastor Fischer will reach out to a Pastor that already has a columbarium to find out what costs are involved with maintenance and will reach out to the Allegheny synod with legal questions regarding pros/cons of combining St. David's two property deeds. The upper lot is a standalone property and would qualify for this purpose.
- Staff bonuses – The Stewardship and Finance Team has recommended a 3% staff quarterly bonus, which totals \$1,084.43. Motion to approve the 3% staff bonus was made by Kristie Byer and seconded by Dave Barabas. Cathy Lilly will let Brian Byer and Doug Shrader know.

Next meeting will be May 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer



Respectfully submitted,
Lauren A. Bungard
Council Secretary

June 1 (Communion) ✱
Acolytes- (8); (10:30)
Altar-Deb Harris (8); Mandi Tercek (10:30)
Communion Assts- Deb Harris & Buck Sleek (8); Patty Rullo & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Lectors –Deb Harris (8); Marna Gilman-Fischer (10:30)
Ushers- Buck & Pam Sleek (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic
✱ June 8 (Intinction) ✱
Acolytes- (8); (10:30)
Altar- Sue Risch (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
Communion Assts- Bill Bergman & Ronna Marisa (8); Sarah Worst & Sonya Andrews (10:30)
Lectors – Bill Bergman (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)
Ushers-Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews
✱ June 15 (Intinction) ✱ Father's Day
Acolytes- (8); (10:30)
Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Lynn McDaniel, Beck Robinson & Sherri Andrews (10:30)
Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Wendy Figard & Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
Lectors – Bella Kotch (8); Wendy Figard (10:30)
Ushers- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Jeff Rowe & Jack Winters (10:30)
Counters- Lou Ann Reckner & Joyce Gindlesperger
✱ June 22 ✱ (Intinction) Polish Service with Rosie & The Jammers
Acolytes- (9:30)
Altar- Pam Sleek (9:30)
Communion Assts.- Mary Jane McCready & Sue Risch (9:30)
Lector –Mary Jane McCready (9:30)
Ushers-Joe & Sue Risch (9:30)
Counters- Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa & Joyce Gindlesperger
✱ June 29 (Intinction) ✱ One Combined Service
Acolytes- (9:30)
Altar- Ronna Marisa (9:30)
Communion Assts.- Hunsberger Family (9:30)
Lector – Hunsberger Family (9:30)
Ushers- Hunsberger Family (9:30)
Counters- Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa & Joyce Gindlesperger



Monday Bible Study will be on summer break from May 26th thru September 1st.
Bible Study will begin again on September 8th at 6PM.

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	2 6PM Brownies (CR2)	3	4	5 5:30PM Daisy Troop (C19)	6	7
8 8AM Meals on Wheels (N) 8AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	9	10	11 Office Closes @ 12	12 6:30PM Worship & Music(P)	13	14
15  8 AM Worship/ Communion 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	16 6-8PM Vacation Bible School @ St. David's 	17 6-8PM Vacation Bible School @ St. David's	18 1PM Staff Meeting (P) 6-8PM Vacation Bible School @ St. David's	19 6-8PM Vacation Bible School @ St. David's	20 9-4PM Vacation Bible School @ Camp Sequanota 9AM Polish Festival Prep (K & FH9)	21 12PM Polish Festival Prep (K & FH9)
22 Polish Festival 9:30AM Polka Service 12-4PM Festival Music Provided by Rosie & The Jammers	23	24 6 PM Sage Herbalists (FH9)	25 6PM LP Board Meeting 7PM GWOH (C16)	26 9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 6:30PM Council Meeting (FH9)	27 5PM Boyer/ Roberts Rehearsal	28 2 PM Boyer/ Roberts Wedding
29 9:30 Worship/Communion Service	30	<p>For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the church Facebook page.</p> <p><i>Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar and to the schedule posted on the narthex door.</i></p> <p>Typical secretary office hours are Monday- Friday 9AM-3PM.</p>				