

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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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
March 2025

April Messenger
Deadline is Monday, March 17

From the Pastor.....

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th with Ash Wednesday and the Church enters into this other-worldly season that is supposed to be different than all the other seasons of the Church year. Some years ago, a pastor told me that Lent was her favorite season of the church year. I didn't quite know what to make of her comment until I had experienced a Season of Lent as a seminary student. Then I got what she meant; one cannot get to the empty tomb without walking with Jesus all the way to the cross and his crucifixion and death. To fully appreciate the Season of Lent, one must immerse oneself into following and walking with Jesus all the way even to the cross. Because you cannot get to the empty tomb otherwise.

There is a more somber, solemn tone to worship and some events or happenings like weddings don't take place during Lent. This is the reason we take out the hymn of praise and we change the Gospel acclamation from "*Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go...*" to "*Return to the Lord, you God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*"

For Lent this year, I have crafted a sermon series titled "*The Five Senses of Faith.*" Each Sunday, I will explore one of our senses and how we can better understand how the beauty and mystery of God's molding and shaping of humanity.

- Hearing, Mark 4:1-20/Matthew 13:1-23, *Can You Hear Me Now?*
- Sight, Mark 10:46-52, *Seeing is Believing or Is It?*
- Taste, Psalm 34:1-10, 22 & Matthew 14:13-21, *I'm Not Going to Try it; You Try it*
- Touch, Matthew 9:18-26, *Reach out and Touch Someone*
- Smell, Isaiah 3:16-4:1, John 11:17-34 *What's That I smell?*

Lent is one of those times when we are called to take a deeper dive into learning and understanding what it means to be a faithful yet sinful follower of Jesus Christ. I hope you will join us for this Lenten journey of faith.

Gratefully,

Pastor Mark W. Fischer



The *St. David's Lutheran Church Service Team* will be helping with desserts for the Somerset County Meals on Wheels. **Desserts will be collected on SUNDAY, March 23rd in the narthex between the hours of 8:00-11:00AM. 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.



Lutheranism 101

Last month, I talked about the “*altered*” vs “*unaltered*” versions of the Augsburg Confession. This month, I want to talk about what exactly is the Augsburg Confession.

Background:

- In 1517, Luther published his 95 Theses which kicked off the Reformation
- In 1521 at the Diet of Worms, Luther defended his writing and theological positions and was condemned as a heretic. It was at this time Luther went into seclusion and hiding under the protection of Frederick the Wise.
- Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire convened a ***Diet*** or ***Council*** to be held in Augsburg (Part of modern day Germany) in June, 1530. The purpose of this ***Diet*** was to allow those attending to decide on three issues: 1) What to do about the incursion of the Ottoman Empire into Holy Roman Empire (HRE) territory. 2) Deal with issues of policy and well-being of the HRE. 3) Reach a compromise on the religious and theological issues raised by the German reformers. This is when the Augsburg Confession was presented and read.

The Augsburg Confession was written by Phillip Melanchthon with help from Johanne Brenz and presented in Latin and German on June 25, 1529. The Augsburg Confession contains twenty-one articles on matters of faith and seven articles on remedying abuses of the Roman Catholic Church. In August, 1530, The Roman Catholic presented their reply is what is known as ***The Confutation***. A list of these twenty-eight articles is on the bulletin board across from Pastor Mark’s office. The Augsburg Confession is the first document after the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds in The Book of Concord. More to follow....Stay tuned....

IT’S TIME FOR SOME LENT MADNESS!!!!

2025 LENT MADNESS.ORG

Athanasius of Alexandria
Richard Meux Benson
Irenaeus of Lyon
James the Just
Quiteria
Rose of Lima
Yvette of Bray
Zechariah

Ancient & Apostolic

Elizabeth of Hungary
Felicity
Mechthild of Magdeburg
Ninian
Ursula
Verena of Zuzach
Agatha Lin Zhao
Lucy Yi Zhenmei

Modern Monastics

ROUND OF 32

FAITHFUL 4

ELITE 8

SANTLY 16

Gregory the Great
Hugh of Lincoln
Onesimus
Philip, Deacon and Preacher
Wenceslaus
Francis Xavier
Nicolaus Zinzendorf
Zita of Tirol
Emily Cooper
Dunstan
Hiram Kano
Lucy of Syracuse
Sundar Singh
Theodore of Amos
Katharina Zell
Zenaida

Round of 32

THE GOLDEN HALO

Forward Movement
www.forwardmovement.org

Lent Madness is a fun way to have a Lenten discipline and learn a little something about people of faith over the two millennia plus that the church has been in existence. Set up along the lines of NCAA March Basketball Madness, two people in the life of the church “***face-off***” against each other and you vote for the one you want to move to the next round after reading a short article written about these two people.

It concludes just before Easter Sunday with the final saint still standing wins the “***Golden Halo***.” Go to www.lentmadness.org to sign-up to receive your email and to learn more about Lent Madness.

 **CONTACT US**

Interim Pastor Mark Fischer
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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



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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Joan V. Lintz
Memorial Fund
Lee & Joan Williamson

Mildred Liska
Memorial Fund
Dave & Judy Brotz

Carol J. Yoder
Memorial Fund
Debra & Leila Croyle



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
BOARD MEMBERS**

Jerrod Cannistraci* Cathy Lilly
Cindy Liska* Angie McKool
Patty Rullo* Linda Shrader* Becky Robinson

Pre-K Registration



St. David's Learning Place is now enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year. Please contact Jen at 814.479.7390 or at learningplacestdavids@gmail.com 3 and 4 year old Preschool spots available.



The Learning Place is seeking summer and fall staff, please contact Jen if interested 814-479-7390!



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.



Birthdays

- 1 Nicole Edsall
- 2 Berlynn Frick
David Hart
Colten Huffman
- 3 Weston Oaks
Gentry Sotosky
- 5 Jacob Bennett
Evelyn Hart
Abby Virostek
Robert J. Yoder*** **321 Plank Rd,
Hollsopple, PA 15935**
- 6 Ian Golias
Deborah Yingling
- 7 Michael Grose
Leo Marisa*****183 Marisa Lane,
Hollsopple, PA 1535**
Amy Niovich
Keli Williams
- 8 Keith Horner
Lexi Mankamyler
- 10 Jonathon Kimmel
- 11 Jeffrey Eash
- 12 Judith Brotz*****137 Bear Hollow Road
Davidville, PA 15928**
Tara Gearhart
Chris Huss
- 13 Bodhi Thomas
Lee Williamson*** **24 Kensington
Square, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**
- 14 Eli Gearhart
Elizabeth Hunsberger
William Naugle
- 15 Laci Fetterman
Daniel Griffith
- 16 Daniel Brotz
- 17 Edward Hart*****102 Rachele Avenue,
Davidville PA, PA 15928**
Anna Hunsberger
- 18 Sophia Altimore
Linda Eash
- 19 Diane Miller
- 20 Terri Lehman

- David Liska
- 21 Brian Byer
Tressa Szala
Randy Whetzel
- 22 Devin Ciarimboli
Julianne Fetterman
Canyon Mishler
Susan Seese
Shaina Thomas
- 23 Jennifer Speck
- 26 Todd Bacon
Bruce Naugle
Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile
- 27 Rachel Pile
Sonja Stevens
- 28 Bradley Noon
Sabina Russo
Michelle Schneck
- 29 Vicki Vann
- 30 Paige Donaldson
Clifford Fetterman
Jessica Lindberg
- 31 Douglas Shrader
Dylan Tercek
Dustin Wozniak

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.



Sunday School News: Erin Sotosky will be teaching First Communion Classes on March 30th & April 6th for the 1st- 3rd Sunday School

Class AND their parents during Sunday School 9:15am to 10:15am in our classroom 19. First Communion Practice will be held on April 13th at 9:15am. First Communion for these students will be held on April 20th at the 9:00am service on Easter Sunday.



Upcoming Events at Camp Sequanota

Tuesday Lenten Bible Study on Zoom March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15

Join Pr. Nathan & Pr. Kevin Shock for a study of the book Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life with a curriculum entitled "House Divided and a World on Fire" by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale. This curriculum was developed for the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA and will inspire deeper conversation and discernment about how we live as disciples. All are welcome! We will meet weekly on Zoom to explore God's story intertwining in our story.

More information will be posted closer to the date on Camp Sequanota's website in the near future

Young Adult Retreat March 21-23, 2025

This weekend retreat is intended for young adults ages 18-35. It is time to gather with peers and discuss living life as young adults. Please come join the conversation as we discuss the struggles of living today as a young Christian. Resources will include video clips and Substack articles. Join us for board games, faith discussion, food and plenty of laughter.

Cost: \$50 (Young Adults: 18 - thirty-something)

Love your Mother (Earth) Retreat & Happy Camper 5K Fun Run April 26-27, 2025

We all need to be outside more. Whether it is a five minute walk, resting by a stream, or a new year's goal to hike more - nature tells us who we are and whose we are. Join us this weekend for a 5K walk through nature as it springs to life, some Bible study, tree planting and an engaging session on how practicing our role in caring for our home. We only have one planet - this weekend is designed to help us appreciate and take ideas home to live more faithfully as a steward of it. Happy Camper 5K Fun Run is April 26th. Registration fee for fun run is \$50.

Cost: Lodging and Meals by donation There is not a set fee for this weekend retreat. Please attend and donate as you are able to offset the cost of lodging and meals. The Happy Camper Fun Run 5K registration is separate. All proceeds for the 5K benefit Summer Camp Scholarships.

Go to www.sequanota.com/events/descriptions to register.

More to come about **Spring Benefit Dinner & Mother's Day Banquet** in April and May Newsletters



Mid-Week Lent Soup & Sandwich meals will be held on March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd & 9th. **We are in need of volunteers to supply the soup & sandwiches each week. You can sign up on the sheets available in the narthex. **** The evening begins with the meal served at 5:15PM followed by service at 6:15PM in the fellowship hall.

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2025

Call to Order / Biblical Reflection and Prayer

- Meeting was called to order @ 7:02 PM
- Prayer was led by Cathy Lilly

Approval of Minutes / January 2, 2025 (December meeting)

- Approval of minutes via e-mail occurred on January 11, 2025.

Role / Excuse Absences

- Present members: Lauren Bungard, Kristie Byer, Jeff Eash, Cathy Lilly, Greg Lilly, Mary Jane McCready, Angie McKool, Patty Rullo, Rachel Thomas-Kimmel
- Absent members: Dave Barabas, Bob Troxell, and Pastor Fischer

Agenda

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

Guests

Jerrod Cannistraci and Sherri Andrews provided current status on Pastoral Transition Process Summary. St. Davids Site profile has been completed. Waiting to hear from Bishop/Synod with any candidates. Would then be up to Call Committee to interview and observe the candidate, and then decide whether to make a recommendation to Council.

Reports

- Pastor's report: Was given by Cathy Lilly.
 - Pastor will be away at a Continuing Education event February 5-6, 2025 and February 20, 2025.
- Financial report: Was given by Brian Byer.

Brian Byer discussed the endowment fund and the 10% tithe (\$4000) for 2025.

- Motion to raise the endowment fund base for 2025 to \$135,000 was made by Angie McKool and seconded by Greg Lilly. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.
- Second motion to tithe \$4000 to projects within the community was made by Patty Rullo and seconded by Greg Lilly. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed. Council will discuss project recommendations at next month's meeting, which will then be voted on by the congregation.

Cathy Lilly discussed computer replacement for Brian and Jessica. Windows 10 is now in end of life and the computers will not support an upgrade to Windows 11. Brian will look into costs to replace and potentially replacing with laptop computers instead of desktop computers.

Cathy Lilly mentioned planning for Vacation Bible School (VBS) has started. The dates are June 16-20, 2025. Friday will again be all day at Camp Sequanota and the other days will be evenings at St. Davids.

Rachel Thomas-Kimmel announced that the Children & Youth will be holding a soup sale on February 9, 2025 after services. If anyone would like to donate soup, contact the Children & Youth Team and drop off donations on Saturday, February 8, 2025 between 9-12.

Unfinished Business:

- 2025 Executive Board Nominations (Vice presidency). Motion for Rachel Thomas-Kimmel to be Council Vice President was made by Cathy Lilly and seconded by Angie McKool. Rachel accepted the nomination. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.
- Ministry team coverage – Additional coverage was discussed. Patty Rullo is on the Service Team, Cathy Lilly will join Children & Youth, Greg Lilly will join God’s Work Our Hands, and Kristie Byer will join Stewardship and Finance.
- Check signers – 3 council members still need to verify information and sign paperwork at the bank. Then Brian Byer will provide schedule out to signers.

New Business:

- Summer services –Outdoor services are being discussed for a week in May, July, and August this year.
- Brad discussed outside maintenance with Cathy Lilly and whether we will continue the lawn care/maintenance contract used last year. We will need to reach out to Grose General Services, LLC to determine if they are interested in continuing services and to obtain a new quote. Brad was also concerned about internal tasks that are not completed when he is on vacation. We will look into cleaning agencies that could be hired to cover during these times.

Other Business/Discussions for the good of the church:

Council meeting time was discussed and motion to move time to 6:30 PM going forward was made by Rachel Thomas-Kimmel and was seconded by Kristie Byer. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

Next meeting will be February 27, 2025 at the new time of 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren A. Bungard
Council Secretary

* March 2 (Intinction) * YOUTH SUNDAY
Acolytes- (8); St David’s Youth (10:30)
Altar-Ronna Marisa (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); St David’s Youth (10:30)
Lectors –Ronna Marisa (8); St David’s Youth (10:30)
Ushers- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); St David’s Youth (10:30)
Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic



* March 5 (Communion) * ASH WEDNESDAY

Acolytes- (1:30); Matthew Desort (7:00)
 Altar- Ronna Marisa (1:30); **Volunteer Needed** (7:00)
 Communion Assts- Ronna Marisa & Patty Rullo (1:30); Wendy Figard & Lou Ann Reckner (7:00)
 Lectors –Patty Rullo (1:30); Wendy Figard (7:00)
 Ushers- Leo & Ronna Marisa (1:30); Mike & Melissa Grose (7:00)
 Counters- Lou Ann Reckner, Mike & Melissa Grose

* March 9 (Intinction) *

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)
 Altar-Kathy Naugle (8); Mandie Tercek (10:30)
 Communion Assts- Hunsberger Family (8); Buck Sleek & Mike Grose (10:30)
 Lectors – Hunsberger Family (8); Buck Sleek (10:30)
 Ushers- Hunsberger Family (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)
 Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

* March 16 (Intinction) *

Acolytes- Matthew Desort (8); (10:30)
 Altar-Kristie Byer & Luana Eppley (8); Faye Buncich (10:30)
 Communion Assts- Sotosky Family (8); Mary Jane McCreedy & Randy Whetzel (10:30)
 Lectors – Sotosky Family (8); Randy Whetzel (10:30)
 Ushers- Sotosky Family (8); Jack Winters & Jeff Rowe (10:30)
 Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic

* March 23 (Intinction) *

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)
 Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Gail Berkebille (10:30)
 Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); & Patty Rullo & Wendy Figard (10:30)
 Lectors – Linda Shrader (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)
 Ushers- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); (10:30)
 Counters- Joyce Gindlesperger, Sue Risch & Ronna Marisa


* March 30 (Communion) *

Acolytes- (8); (10:30)
 Altar-Linda Shrader (8); Lois Tessari & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
 Communion Assts-Sue Risch & Linda Shrader (8); Sarah Worst & Greg Lilly (10:30)
 Lectors – Marna Gilman-Fischer (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)
 Ushers- Joe & Sue Risch (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
 Counters- Sherri Andrews, Sue Risch & Yvonne Jandidlo



Acolyte signup sheets for the months up to **April 2025** posted to the bulletin board, across from the church office ... **please sign up**. Acolytes continue to be needed for each of our Sunday 8 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. services. Your volunteering is a gift to the congregation. Thank you in advance for hearing the call and saying "here am I, I will serve".

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the website or the church Facebook page.						1
2 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM Youth Sunday Practice 10:30AM Youth Sunday Worship/ Communion	3 9 AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scouts (CR2) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	4	5 Ash Wednesday 1:30 & 7PM Worship/ Communion Svcs 6PM Adult Choir 6:25 PM GWOH (C16)	6 5:30PM Daisy Troop (C19) 6:30 PM Fellowship Team (C19)	7	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	10 9 AM YOGA (FH9) 1PM Staff Meeting (C19) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	11	12 5:15PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	13 6:30PM Worship & Music (P)	14	15 10 AM J. Bivens (FH9)
16 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/Communion	17 April Messenger  Secretary Off 12PM Blood Drive (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scouts (CR2) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	18	19 5:15PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	20 5:30PM Daisy Troop (C19)	21	22 s. Barabas (FH9)
23 8AM Meals on Wheels Collection 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/Communion	24 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	25 6PM Sage Herbalists (FH9)	26 5:15PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 6PM LP Board Meeting 7PM GWOH (C16) 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	27 9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 6:30 PM Council Meeting (C19) 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)	28	29
30 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15 AM First Communion Class #1 9:15AM Parent SS group (CR2) 10:30AM Worship/Communion	31 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	Typical secretary office hours are Monday- Friday 9AM-3PM. <i>Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar located on the website (www.stdavidslutheran.org)and to the schedule posted on narthex door.</i>				Printed 2.20.25