

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](http://WWW.STDAVIDSLUTHERAN.ORG)

Church Office: 814.479.4110

## **The Messenger—March 2026**

*"Stewardship of Time- Do you use it wisely?"*

**April Messenger  
Deadline is Monday, March 16**

## *From the Pastor.....*

This year, we began the season of Lent early, in mid-February. For me, Lent is a very special time of year. It is also, one of if not my most favored seasons of the Church year. Why? Because you can't get to the cross and Good Friday without journeying through Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent. And without the cross and Good Friday, one cannot not get to Easter Sunday and the Good News of the resurrection. Lent pulls, tugs, brings us into that time of reflecting on not only our own sinful actions, and words and deeds but also to remember that without the cross, Jesus could not have made atonement for our sins and won for us the gift of eternal life and salvation.

Stuck in the middle of Lent is ***Laetare Sunday***, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. On this Sunday, the Church changes its focus. I have often wondered about the history and origin of this Sunday and I thought we could all learn something about the significance of this day, ***Laetare Sunday***.

Instead of the solemnness of the other Sundays in the Season of Lent, the Church looks on ***Laetare Sunday*** as a day for joy and rejoicing. ***Laetare Sunday*** takes its name from the opening antiphon sung or spoken at the beginning of the mass in the Western Church on this particular Sunday. The opening antiphon is taken from Isaiah 66:10 and Psalm 22:1: ***Rejoice Jerusalem and assemble, all you that love her; rejoice with you, you who were in sadness...I rejoiced when they said unto me: let us go to the house of the Lord!*** For this Sunday, there is a shift in the penitential nature of the Season of Lent. ***Laetare Sunday*** is meant to be a day of joy and celebration despite all the deep, dark penitential nature and observations of Lent. In French-Canadian Provence of Quebec, people will dress up in costumes and go door-to-door for treats in a Halloween-like celebration.

We would do well to be reminded that joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit; St. Paul writes in his letter to Galatians, "*But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* {Galatians 5:22-23}. I know there are many times in our lives, it is hard to rejoice or find joy in our lives. St. Francis of Assisi believed that joy was a weapon against evil. St. Francis wrote, "*The devil rejoices most when he can snatch away spiritual joy from a servant of God.....When spiritual joy fills hearts, the serpent throws off his deadly poison in vain* {Celano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Life, chapter LXXXVIII}.

***Laetare Sunday*** is a good time to remind us to keep our eyes on what is ahead, an empty tomb and a resurrected Jesus Christ and what this means for us. And to crush the devil and all his empty promises with holy joy.

Referenced works:

[www.ncregister.com/blog/indomitable-joy](http://www.ncregister.com/blog/indomitable-joy)

[www.ncregister.com/blog/laetare-sunday-best-kept-secret](http://www.ncregister.com/blog/laetare-sunday-best-kept-secret)

[www.christianheritage.com/media/lent-and-laetare-sunday](http://www.christianheritage.com/media/lent-and-laetare-sunday)



### **Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Sandwich**

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Soup and Sandwich meal beginning on February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mark is looking at a Series titled “*Witness at the Cross, A Beginners Guide to Holy Friday*” by Dr. Amy Jill Levine, a New Testament professor at Vanderbilt School of Theology. The books dives into the people present at Jesus’ crucifixion. Dinner will begin at 5:30PM; the devotional time will begin around 6:15PM and last until 7:00PM-ish. If you find making the mealtime is a challenge, that’s ok. You are still welcome to come for the devotional time (Brown bagging is allowed). We have secured 20 copies of the book; the cost is \$6.00. If you would like a copy, please see Pastor Mark by Ash Wednesday. If more copies are needed, we will order more.

**We are in need of volunteers to supply the soup & sandwiches each week.** Meals will be held on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. **You can sign up on the sheets available in the narthex.**



During Lent adult choir practice will be held from 7:00-8:00 PM and bell choir practice from 8:00-9:00PM.



**SIGN Up for St. David’s Online Giving** by going to the church website [www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://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.



2026 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 LW” on the chart by Sunday morning. Please return the white containers from the flower arrangements by Friday. PREPAYMENT OF ALTAR FLOWERS IS REQUIRED.



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



**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**



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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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.



814-479-7390  
 Jennifer Percinsky: Director  
 learningplacestdavids@gmail.com  
 Madison Bebee, Asst. Group Supervisor  
 Felica Beglin: Asst. Group Supervisor  
 Pam Carhart: Asst. Group Supervisor  
 Stephanie Castro, Asst. Group Supervisor  
 Halie Griffie, Asst. Group Supervisor  
 Brianna Mohle: Asst. Group Supervisor  
 Gina Yacynych: Preschool 3 lead teacher



St. David's Learning Place would like to wish our friends Olivia, Gianna, Bowen, Brayden, Givanni, and Daisy a very happy birthday!



We will be having an open house on March 12th from 5:30p-7p for anyone interested in our Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

## ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

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



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!



### First Communion 2026

- **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class, during Sunday School Hour
- **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class, during Sunday School Hour
- **Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Kids to have short practice on how to take communion.
- **Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Kids will take 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at the 9am service

The Sunday School lessons are for ALL students in 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. These classes are not required, but **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED**. Kids taking 1<sup>st</sup> Communion will learn why Lutherans take this sacrament every Sunday. Also, parents of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion students are encouraged to attend...it allows you to continue the conversation at home.

# GIVE BLOOD

St. David's Fellowship Hall.

The next Red Cross bloodmobile will be held on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from **12-5:30 PM** in the



Daylight savings begins at 2AM, on Sunday, March 8<sup>h</sup>, remember to set your clock ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

YOU ARE GOD'S  
work of art

EPHESIANS 2:10

*"Your gifts and support make a difference in this Congregation's effort in doing God's work in this community. Thank You"*

 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans\***  
**Let's thrive.®**

**Don't forget to direct  
Choice Dollars®**

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial who have been designating Choice Dollars have until **March 31, 2026**, to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars. Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funds can help support organizations you care about. Don't let your designated Choice Dollars expire. Help support St. David's Lutheran Church ministries. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice".

## It's Pierogi time!



Back by popular demand... the Children and Youth team is selling Gosia's Pierogies for Easter. Orders and payment are due by March 15, and pierogies will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday. Flavors include potato & cheese, sauerkraut, potato & feta, sweet potato, jalapeno, and cottage cheese; each dozen is \$8. Order forms are in the narthex.

## Holy Humor Sunday



The Holy Humor Service is a Christian worship tradition typically observed on the Sunday after Easter that celebrates the resurrection through laughter, joy, and playful elements in the service. Its roots trace back to early Christian theology known as risus paschalis ("the Easter laugh"), which portrayed the resurrection as God's great reversal — a divine surprise in which Christ defeats sin and death. Some early and medieval preachers used humorous imagery and stories in Easter sermons to help people feel the victory and joy of the resurrection.

The practice faded for centuries but was revived in the late 20th century, especially in Lutheran and Methodist congregations in the United States. Modern Holy Humor services may include jokes, lighthearted sermons, playful music, and congregational participation, all centered on Easter joy. The purpose is not to be irreverent, but to express theological truth through celebration — emphasizing that the resurrection is good news worth rejoicing over together.

Holy Humor Sunday will be celebrated on **April 12, 2026**, with a special movie-themed worship service full of laughter, creativity, and joy. This year's message will be delivered by Brett Merberger, featuring a sermon titled "Blind Faith or Do You Have to See It to Believe It?" with a bit of magic mixed in to bring the theme to life. Following the service, everyone is invited to stay for our volunteer appreciation dinner and the always-entertaining annual confirmands vs. council trivia contest. Come join us for a day full of fun, celebration, and fellowship!



## Birthdays

- 1 Nicole Edsall
- 2 Berlynn Frick  
David Hart  
Colten Huffman  
Alex Pozun
- 3 Weston Oaks  
Gentry Sotosky
- 5 Jacob Bennett  
Evelyn Hart  
Abby Virostek  
Robert J. Yoder\*\*\* **321 Plank Rd,  
Hollisopple, PA 15935**
- 6 Ian Golias  
Deborah Yingling
- 7 Michael Grose  
Leo Marisa\*\*\***183 Marisa Lane,  
Hollisopple, PA 1535**  
Amy Niovich  
Keli Williams
- 8 Keith Horner  
Lexi Mankamyer
- 9 Gabriel Kozak  
Ashley Kozak
- 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,  
Davidsville PA , PA 15928**

- 18 Anna Hunsberger  
Sophia Altimore  
Linda Eash
- 19 Diane Miller
- 20 Cindy Fisher  
Terri Lehman  
David Liska\*\*\***114 Fairview Dr.  
Davidsville PA 15928**
- 21 Brian Byer  
Tressa Szala  
Randy Whetzel
- 22 Devin Ciarimboli  
Julianne Fetterman  
Canyon Mishler  
Susan Seese  
Shaina Thomas
- 23 Melissa Pozun  
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 celebrate their 80+ birthdays. Please contact the church office (814-479-4110) for additions or corrections.

# CHILDREN & YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

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**MAR  
8**

**Youth Sunday - youth led service  
at 10:30**

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**MAR  
15**

**You can order pierogis now! Orders  
and payments are due March 15.**

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**MAR  
29**

**Palm Sunday, Easter egg hunt  
Pick up pierogies after 10:00**

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**APRIL  
3**

**Good Friday - Jr./Sr. High scripture and  
choral readers needed, dinner & practice  
at 5:00 PM, service at 7:30. Wear black.**

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**APRIL  
5**

**Easter Sunday**

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**APRIL  
12**

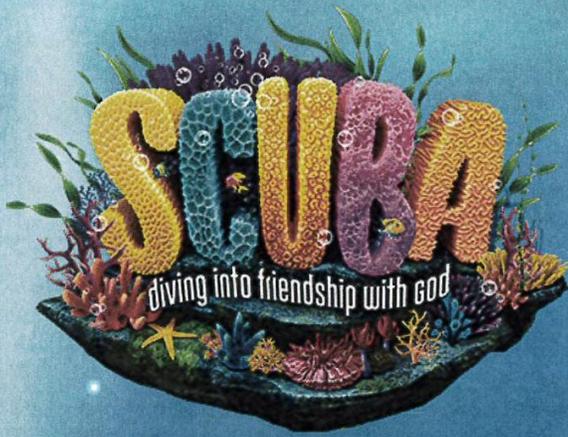
**Council vs. Confirmation  
trivia**

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**JUNE  
15-19**

**VBS**

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**St. David's VBS**  
**June 15-19, 2026**  
**6 PM - 8 PM**

Join us at St. David's Lutheran  
Church for Vacation Bible School  
2026 as we dive into friendship  
with God!

Friday, June 19 will  
be a full day of  
fun at Camp  
Sequonota!

**Register  
Here!**



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Davidsville, PA 15928

# Council Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026

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**Present:** Sonya Andrews, Jeff Eash, Pastor Fischer, Angie McKool, Doug Shrader, Lois Tessari, Rachel Thomas-Kimmel, Paul Weygandt.

**Absent:** Kristy Byer, Patty Rullo, Lynn McDainel, Sue Risch, Jack Winters

## Call to order/Biblical Reflection and Prayer

- Call to order - 6:34
- Prayer led by Pastor Fischer

**Council Meeting Minutes, Jan 8, 2026** - Motion to approve: Paul, Second: Doug, motion passes

## Pastor's Report

- Youth Gathering June - July - Minneapolis
- Feb 22, 2026 - New member reception

## Old Business

- Financial report will be provided Feb 10th
- Children & Youth - Will organize Youth Gathering for 2027
- Communications - A/V MEETING Thursday 6pm
- Columbarium - Meeting coming up to discuss ideas
- Stewardship - Focus for this year will be on participation using peoples time and talents
- Memorial designation - Documentation for funds designated in someones name for a specific purpose or time limit
- Covenant - Tabled

## New Business

- Endowment Fund - Motion to raise the base to \$155,000: Doug, Second: Paul, motion passes
- Tithe of \$2,250 recommended, voted on, and approved by stewardship committee: Motion: Jeff, Second: Lois, motion passes (Bring tithe suggestion to next council meeting - top two will receive \$1,125 each)
- Brad to contact the council president to approve spending of over \$600
- Blood Drive - (102 units in 2025 - 102 lives saved, per Linda Shrader) This is an important ministry we provide space for. The team is asking for \$97.36 for refreshment reimbursements from the Counemaugh Township Ministerium in 2025 - and \$53.09 for Jan 2026. It is unclear if CT Ministerium is still in existence so St David's will reimburse up to \$400 per year to cover these costs. Motion: Jeff, Second: Rachel, motion passes
- Supply ministers - Synod recommendation is \$190 for two services. Motion to adopt this price: Lois, Second: Paul, - motion passes
- Next meeting Feb 26th, 2026 6:30
- Adjourned 7:32

✱ March 1 (Communion) ✱

Acolytes- Sarah Kotch (8); Violet Studer (10:30)

Altar- Pam Sleek (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)

Communion Assts-Buck Sleek & Bella Kotch (8); Gail Berkebile & Wendy Figard (10:30)

Lectors –Bella Kotch (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)

Ushers-Buck & Pam Sleek (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)

Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews

✱ March 8 (Intinction)

Acolytes-Elle Mowery (8); Braeden Black (10:30)

Altar-Linda Shrader (8); Lois Tessari (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, Mike & Melissa Grose

✱ March 15 (Intinction) ✱

Acolytes- Bella Kotch (8); Canyon Mishler (10:30)

Altar-Luana Eppley (8); Faye Buncich (10:30)

Communion Assts- Janelle & Elle Mowery (8); Sonya Andrews & Patty Rullo (10:30)

Lectors – Elle Mowery (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)

Ushers- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Jeff Rowe & Jack Winters (10:30)

Counters - Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic

✱ March 22 (Intinction) ✱

Acolytes-Lexi Byer (8); Gemma Studer (10:30)

Altar- Kristie Byer (8); Cathy Lilly (10:30)

Communion Assts- Sue Risch & **Need Volunteer** (8); Bill Bergman & Greg Lilly (10:30)

Lectors – **Need Volunteer** (8); Bill Bergman (10:30)

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

Counters- Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa & Joyce Gindlesperger

✱ March 29 (Communion) ✱

Acolytes-Owen Zoldey (8); Kyla Rowe (10:30)

Altar-Ronna Marisa (8); Leisha Black & Jodi Tresnicky (10:30)

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

Lectors Elle Mowery (8); Marna Gilman-Fischer (10:30)

Ushers-Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); **Need Volunteers** (10:30)

Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic

# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion 11:30AM VBS Meeting (FH9)	2 9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30PM Girl Scout Troop #27016 (FH9) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	3 6PM Daisy Troop #51375 (C19)	4 5:30PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	5 <b>Secretary Off~ Refer to Pastor's Schedule for Office Hours</b>	6	7 11AM A. Petrilla (FH9)
8 <b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</b> 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM Youth Sunday Practice 10:30AM <b>Youth Sunday</b> Worship/ Communion	9 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	10 6PM Girl Scout Troop #40050 (C19) 6PM Stewardship/ Finance Meeting (FH9)	11 5:30PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	12 5:30 PM LP Open House 6:30PM Worship & Music (P)	13	14 B. Byer (FH9)
15 <b>Pierogi Fundraiser Order Deadline</b> 8AM Meals on Wheels Collection 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism Easter Egg Hunt 9:15AM First Communion Class 10:30AM Worship/Communion 5 PM B. Byer (FH9)	16 <b>April Messenger</b>  12PM Blood Drive (FH9) 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	17 <b>12PM Office Closes Early</b> 11AM LP Use (FH9) 1PM Ladies Lunch Bunch (FH9) 6PM Daisy Troop #51375 (C19)	18 5:30PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	19 6PM Columbarium Committee Meeting (C16) <b>***SEE NOTES***</b>	20	21
22 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM First Communion Class 10:30AM Worship/Communion	23 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	24 6PM Sage Herbalists (FH9) 6PM Girl Scout Troop #40050 (C19)	25 5PM LP Board Meeting 5:30PM Soup & Sandwich Meal (FH9) 6:15PM Mid-Week Lent 7PM Adult Choir 8PM Bell Choir	26 9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 6:30 PM Council Meeting (CR2) 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)	27	28
29 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM First Communion Class 9:15AM Parents Sunday School (CR2) 10:30AM Worship/Communion <b>Pierogi Fundraiser Pick Up</b>	30 6PM Bible Study(21A-C)	31 6PM Daisy Troop #51375 (C19)	<b>***NOTES*** Pastor Mark is on vacation starting Thursday, March 19-Monday, March 23.</b>  <b>Secretary Office Hours: Monday 9AM-2:30PM; Tuesday-Thursday 9AM-3PM; Friday 8AM-2PM (Any changes will be noted on the church calendar. Check the website for most up to date schedules <a href="http://www.stdavidslutheran.org">www.stdavidslutheran.org</a>)</b>			