

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
November 2025

December Messenger
The deadline is Monday, November 17

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For the most up to date schedule please check the calendar on the church Facebook page. <i>Any changes to hours will be noted on the church calendar and the schedule posted on the narthex door.</i>						
All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends-fall back Apple Dumppling Sale 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion 12PM Confirmation Class (FH9) 3PM L. Black (FH9)	9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop #27016 (FH9) 6PM Bible Study	6PM Girl Scout Jr. Troop #40050 (C19)	6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	Secretary Off-Refer to Pastor's weekly schedule for office hours 7PM JSO Community Strings (FH9)		8AM-9PM Reserved (FH9) 9AM-4PM Camp PARC (C19)
8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion 12PM Progressive Friendsgiving (FH9)	9AM YOGA (FH9) 12PM Bloodmobile (FH9) 6PM Bible Study	6PM Daisy Troop #51375 (C19)	1 PM Staff Meeting (C19) 6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	6:30 PM Worship & Music 7PM JSO Community Strings (S)		
8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion 5:30PM C.T. Soccer Banquet (FH9)	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9AM YOGA (FH9) 4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop #27016 (FH9) 6PM Bible Study *** See Notes	6PM Girl Scout Jr. Troop #40050 (C19)	6PM Adult Choir 7:30PM Bell Choir	9AM Blanket Day (FH9) 6:30PM Council Meeting (FH9) 7:30 PM JSO Community Strings Concert (S)		
8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	9AM YOGA (FH9) 6PM Bible Study	6PM Daisy Troop #51375 (C19)	11AM LP Friendsgiving (FH9) 5:30PM LP Board Meeting		 Closed Thanksgiving	12-6PM Reserved (S & FH9)
First Sunday of Advent 8AM Worship/ Communion 9:15AM Sunday School/Catechism 9:15AM Sunday Parent Class (CR2) 10:30AM Worship/ Communion	 Typical secretary office hours Monday 9AM-2:30PM Tuesday-Friday 9AM-3PM Notes: Pastor Mark is on vacation November 17-29. Pastord coverage will be listed in the weekly announcements.					Printed 10/16/25

From Pastor Mark.....

Recently, there was a news article in The Washington Post about an Afghan refugee who has been taken into custody by I.C.E. This man had been resettled in the United States after the Afghan government collapsed in August 2021. This man and hundreds of other Afghans provided the United States with interpretative services and other assistance to our armed forces and others who helped in the rebuilding of Afghanistan after the 2002 removal of the Taliban. Because of their assistance to the United States, these men and women would be targeted by the new Taliban forces that now control Afghanistan and most likely be tortured, be executed, or be imprisoned. Their evacuation along with their families was a correct action by the United States Government to save their lives. The U.S. did a similar evacuation back in 1975 when the South Vietnamese government fell to the Viet Cong/North Vietnam. And until this man's detention, I am sure he was extremely grateful for the saving actions of the U.S. Government.

What made me think of this unnamed Afghan refugee in this month of November is that we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the 4th Thursday of the month. Often, families will go around the table on Thanksgiving Day and say for what they are thankful for this past year. Some of the named blessings are family, a new sibling, health & recovery from an illness or surgery, friends, school, home, etc. Do any of us ever give thanks for what Jesus did for us on the cross? We confess in the 2nd articles of the Apostles' Creed: ***He...was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he arose again.*** God became a willing participant in human life even to the point of allowing himself in the person of Jesus to be put to death for the sins of humanity. Do we ever remember to give thanks for what Jesus did?

To be honest, it is not something I ever gave much thought to at Thanksgiving time: do we ever remember to give thanks to Jesus for what he did for all of humanity? Until I read the story about this outsider, I had never thought about giving thanks at Thanksgiving for the sacrifice Jesus made for humanity and for the sacrifice the people like this man made to help the United States transform his country into something more than it had been. His work may have helped save the lives of American soldiers. His work, according to the article, made a difference in the lives of the Afghan people. In recognition of his sacrifice, this man and his family were given sanctuary here in the United States when the Afghan government supported by the United States collapsed. The sanctuary this man and his family received is the United States saying "***Thank you***" for all you did. In this season of thanksgiving, is it right that this man, who sacrificed much in service to the United States, be deported and sent back to Afghanistan where he most likely will be summarily executed as a traitor?

This year, we celebrate Thanksgiving between Christ the King Sunday and the Feast Day of St. Andrew the Apostle. On Christ the King Sunday, we celebrate a king whose power and authority is not found in strength, not found in the largesse of soldiers or chariots, not found in the amount of land controlled or the number of people ruled over. On Christ the King Sunday, we celebrate a king whose power and authority is found in weakness and humility. On Christ the King Sunday, we celebrate a king whose power and authority is found in the form of a suffering servant for all. On Christ the King Sunday, we celebrate a king who exemplified what it means to live a life taking care of "***the least of these.***" In St. Andrew the Apostle, we find a fisherman who leaves everything behind to follow Jesus. Does Andrew get it right all the time or even some of the time? Hardly! After Jesus' ascension, tradition has Andrew going throughout portions of Greece preaching the Gospel and founding the Christian church in what is now Constantinople. Tradition has Andrew martyred in 60AD by crucifixion in Patras, Greece. This year, let us give thanks for Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross, for St. Andrew who brought the Gospel good news to the people of what is now modern-day Greece, and for the assistance of those Afghans who worked with the U.S. military.

From Pastor Mark....

During the month of October, many of the members of St. David's received an email that purported to have been sent by me. This email asked the recipients to buy hundreds of dollars' worth of gift cards for Macy's and Target. This email was craftily written to make it seem like it was sent by me. The email address used was similar to my professional email and it had my title and name (even my last name was spelled correctly).

First and foremost, **I will never ask a parishioner for cash or gift cards as a contribution.** Some of you have let me know that if there is a special need within the faith community of St. David's, you are willing to help. I have had those special needs, and I have asked. I will call you by phone to make the request. And any contributions that are given are to be made in the form of a check.

Second, there are always "**Red Flags**" with an email like the one that was sent out in October. Those **Red Flags** were: 1) The name of the church; St. David **NOT** St. David's. 2) At the conclusion of the email it says, "**Peace and Grace.**" Over 90+% of my emails and 100% of written correspondence, I conclude communications with "**Gratefully.**" 3) I am the **Interim Pastor**, not **Pastor.**" 4) The email address is not the one I use professionally. This email address has a "." between **pastor** and **mark** and my last name is spelled incorrectly with an additional "**r**" at the end.

Third, Call!!!! Call me (717-870-4757). Call the church office (814-479-4110). Do not assume anything when you get an email like this asking for you to "**discreetly**" to do something.



Annual Youth Apple Dumpling Fundraiser

Baking: Saturday, November 1st
Pick Up: Sunday, November 2nd

1. Volunteers should plan to join us on Saturday, November 1st for the youth apple dumpling fundraiser.
2. Youth & Adult volunteers can sign up in the narthex to help all day starting at 9am until finished. Come anytime!
3. Lunch will be provided for ALL volunteers between 12-1PM
4. Apple Dumpling pre-order forms are available in the back of the sanctuary. Order forms are due to the church office by Monday, October 20th. Pick up on Sunday, November 2nd after each service.
5. Apple Dumpling will be sold after svcs on Sunday, November 2nd



St. David's annual meetings will be held on Sunday, November 2nd & Sunday, November 9th. Meetings will take place after each service. The purpose of part one shall be to present the nominees for Congregational Council and Synod Assembly Delegates to the congregation and to allow for additional floor nominations and to ask any questions.

Additionally, the proposed annual Ministry Spending Plan will be presented and discussed. The purpose of part two shall be to elect members of the Congregation Council and to vote on the annual Ministry Spending Plan. Voting will take place after each service.

November Birthdays

- 2 Tony Berkebile
Susan Mankamyer
Halen McKool
- 3 Susan Blasko
Amanda Walters
- 4 Hannah Babl
Jeff Eash
Blake Horner
- 6 Brian Mowery
Pamela Sleek
Maggie Telenko
- 7 Chad Virostek
- 8 Lori Griffith
Craig Springer
Hayley Sweeney
- 9 Erin Sotosky
- 10 Kathleen Carnahan
- 11 Lindsay Fetterman
Bobbi Page***100 Main Street, PO Box
126, Hollsopple, PA 15935
Patricia Rullo
Stuart Springer
Kara Wozniak
- 12 Gail Berkebile
Jon Shaffer
Jeffrey Thomas
Kevin Thomas
- 14 Danika Black
Danyelle Herbold
- 15 Jenna Heiser
Alexander Marsh
- 16 Barbara Cotchen
Joshua Naugle
- 17 Kimberly Edsall
Ian Harrington
Bruody Oswalt
- 18 Becky Robinson
Hollis Thomas
Carole Williams***1614 Moonlite Park,
Hollsopple, PA 15935
- 19 Douglas Custer
- 20 Amanda Griffith
- 22 Angela McKool
- 23 Isabella Kotch
- 24 Jake Feathers
- 25 Theresa Deal
Cindy Liska
Brianne Wilkey
- 26 Lexi Byer

- 27 Timothy Telenko
- 28 Linda Shrader
- 29 Paige Berkebile
Katie Galasso
Ashley Golias
David Good
Craig Stevens
- 30 Elliott Zern

If we've missed you, please call the church office to 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 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.



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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Lauren Bungard*Cathy Lilly

Angie McKool*Lynn McDaniel

Kristie Byer*Jack Winters

Jeff Eash* Greg Lilly

Rachel Thomas-Kimmel *Patty Rullo



FOB's that are no longer needed for St David's please return to the church office. Questions, contact the church secretary, Jessica. 814-479-4110 or email stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On All Saints' Sunday (November 2nd) at both the 8:00AM & 10:30AM services, we will be remembering all who have died and entered into God's eternal Kingdom since All Saints' Sunday last year.

As a way of celebrating, the sanctuary windows will be places for families and loved ones to put momentos of those remembered.

If you have not received a letter regarding this and would like to remember a loved one that has passed, please contact Pastor Fischer or the church office.

ST. DAVID'S LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

Jerrold Cannistraci* Cathy Lilly

Cindy Liska*Angie McKool

Patty Rullo*Linda Shrader*Becky Robinson



814-479-7390

Jennifer Percinsky: Director

learningplacestdavids@gmail.com

Felica Beglin: Asst. Group Supervisor

Pam Carhart: 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 Layla, James, Anley, Leo, Owen, and Nolan a very Happy Birthday!

We have been very busy since school started, we have had so many adventures and we are learning lots!



We are looking for a staff member to join our team for split shift from 7-8:30AM and 2-5:30PM M-F.

More hours available if wanted!

Contact Jen: learningplacestdavids@gmail.com

Dear Members of St. David's Church,
Thank you very much for the
thoughtful back to school gift bag.
It was full of so many things we use
every single day. Thank you for
thinking of us as we head back
into our classrooms to begin another
school year.

With gratitude,
Kelly McCull
Conecquot Township Kindergarten

St David's Church + Mr. Bergman,
Thank you so much for
providing our teachers with these
incredibly useful care packages!
The thought + time it took to
put them together was much
appreciated. This was a
great pick-me-up for our
teaching staff. Sam RUSA
Elem. Principal

Everyone,

THANKS
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS

Thank you for thinking of us at
the start of school! These items
are always in need and can + will
be used throughout the school year.
Thank you!

Mrs. Wanda Piskuric
K+1 Learning Support

Lutheran World Relief

In a matter of 4 weeks, we, the stewards of St. David's, gathered a total of \$2,500 for the compassionate ministry of Lutheran World Relief (LWR), which is 25% over our original goal! In addition, 19 blankets, made by the "knotty ladies" and GWOH "knotters", are being sent to LWR as well. **Great job, people of St. David's!** The \$385 received on the final Sunday is being designated for blankets (\$5 per blanket means that \$385 will buy 77 blankets -- fantastic!). LWR will use the remaining \$2,115 for personal care kits, school kits, education opportunities, for seeds and animals sharing them with families in poor communities across the globe to assist them in becoming self-sufficient. The recipients of these gifts, we are touching with our offerings, will be helped in times of crisis and as they learn to become self-sustaining. Imagine how thankful those individuals and families will be. **Because of our monetary and blanket gifts** people somewhere in our world, in the not too distant future will be saying to an LWR worker ... THANK YOU! Blessed by God, we, in turn, are empowered to be a blessing to others!

Happy Friendsgiving



The Jr & Sr High Sunday School Class would like to announce an upcoming event in November! Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 9th** for the first ever **Progressive Friendsgiving!** Signup sheet located in the narthex. This year the class has several projects in mind, but are undertaking one very large project. St. David's cabin at Sequanota is in need of repairs starting with the removal of the top of the chimney and a new roof to help stop water damage. This year, we have a goal of raising \$5,000 by May 2026 to make that happen. We would like to continue this program for years to come, till the entire cabin is renovated. If you feel moved to send a donation, please mail it to St. David's Lutheran Church attention: Sequanota Project (PO Box 427 Davidsville, PA 15928). Thank you for your consideration and help to make this project a reality.



Reformation Sunday is a big day for St. David's Sunday School with a huge celebration during the Sunday School hour in the fellowship hall! The children's Sunday School classes will rotate to 3 stations that will teach them about Martin Luther and the beginning of the Lutheran church. Please have your child wear red on October 26, 2025 as we celebrate this important event in our church history!



**COME
JOIN US**



The First Ladies Lunch Bunch on September 23 was a resounding success! 26 women of St. David's gathered at Sequanota for a delicious lunch and a planning session on future activities. As a heads up for busy schedules and an invitation to any others with an interest in joining this gathering, here are upcoming dates planned for the next 3 months: Tuesday, October 21, Tuesday, November 18 and Tuesday, December 16. The October Lunch Bunch will again be held at Sequanota. All gatherings will begin at 1PM. Stay tuned for more details. Mark your calendars!



ADVENT
Advent Projects will start on Sunday, November 30th more details will be available in weekly announcements in the coming weeks!!

St David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting Minutes
September 25, 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 / August 28, 2025 meeting

- Approval of minutes via e-mail occurred on September 2, 2025.

Attendees / Excused Absences

- Present members: Lauren Bungard, Jeff Eash, Pastor Fischer, Cathy Lilly, Greg Lilly, Mary Jane McCready, Lynn McDaniel, Patty Rullo, and Jack Winters.
- Absent members: Kristie Byer, Angie McKool, and Rachel Thomas-Kimmel

Agenda

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

Guests

- Sherri Andrews and Jerrod Cannistraci, Call Committee: Provided an update on calling a new pastor. There is a large discrepancy between the number of congregations and the number of ordained ministers. Recently there were some that looked promising and they are going to reach out to them. The call process is confidential and specific details could not be provided.
- Deb Harris Budget: Brought to Council concerns about the financial state of St. David's. We're all a team and Finance is tasked with ensuring St. David's is financially sound. Presented the proposed budget for 2026, which will be a deficit of \$43,292 with the requested raise for Pastor Fischer and a deficit of \$37,944 without the increase. The Interim Covenant was discussed and a statement was added after the fact that was not approved by Council, this would void the covenant. It was also discussed that the other staff members not receiving a raise or bonus.
- Tom Mitchel: With the announcement of Lady's group starting to meet, the men at St. David's are trying to do the same. wanted to make sure approval was not required. No need for approval from Council.

Reports

- Pastor's report: Was given by Pastor Fischer.
 - Church Archive items: Patricia Lohr provided Pastor Fischer with pictures and other items from St. David's past. Patty Rullo said a lot of historical items are in the storage building and agreed to put these items in the storage.
 - Advent soup and sandwiches: Pastor Fischer would like to add a mid-week Advent soup and sandwiches. Deb Hart agreed to coordinate the food. Pastor Fischer will discuss dates with Jessica and Brett to ensure there are no scheduling conflicts.
 - New members: New family will be received on September 28, 2025 and there are others that will be received in the coming weeks.
 - Interim agreement: Pastor Fischer is willing to forego the increase for 2026. Council will have an executive session to discuss after the regular portion of the Council meeting.

- Vacation Coverage: Soon-to-be Reverend Christy Harford has agreed to cover pastoral care in October while Pastor Fischer is on vacation. On Stewardship Sunday, October 19, 2025, Pastor Steve Lynn will be preaching and Pastor Larry Hoover will preside at both services.
- Stewardship Themes: Stewardship Team provided monthly Stewardship Themes for 2026. January's theme will be Stewardship of new Beginnings.
- Emergency Team: Jack Winters stated the Emergency Team setup a schedule for door coverage for while Brad Kaufman is recovering from surgery.
- Learning Team: Cathy Lilly provided update that Sunday school is going great, they have a lot of kids and help and they have teachers for confirmation.

Unfinished Business:

- Columbarium/Cemetery: Survey results were overwhelmingly against taking over the cemetery. There is enough interest to further look into the columbarium, will move ahead with doing more research and details on what would be involved.
- Fellowship hall: Updates to the Fellowship Hall document are still being worked on.
- Memorial designation: Brian Byer to get back to Council on this.
- Brad's surgery/time off: Update on Brad Kaufman's surgery progress was provided and it will potentially be the end of December 2025 until he is cleared to do strenuous labor. Patty Rullo discussed that the Worship team and other volunteers have been meeting to clean on Saturdays, they just need to do light cleaning. Brad Kaufman suggested going forward, meeting twice a year to do a deep cleaning and mentioned the carpeting has never been cleaned, may need to have Stanley Steamer come in and give an estimate. Was also discussed that the children and youth may do a lock-in and could assist with cleaning. More help will be needed as the holidays get closer.

New Business:

- "Bees in the Belfry": Ehrich Pest Control is coming on Tuesday to spray. Will bring ladder truck and there will be two guys to spray. With the bees they are noticing what looks like holes in the windows
- Team duties: All teams need to step up to cover things while Brad Kaufman is off. Also discussed the light outside that needs replaced.
- New Council member recruitment: Already have some church members that are interested, but if there is anyone, we think would be good, discuss with them. Want to have people that will make wise decisions for the church.

An Executive Session took place to discuss personnel items.

This was Mary Jane McCready's last Council meeting as she is moving out of the area. Everyone thanked her for being on Council and wished her the best.

Next meeting will be October 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren A. Bungard
Council Secretary

* November 2 (Communion) * All Saints Sunday
Acolytes- Anna Hunsberger (8); Amelia Mitchell (10:30)
Altar- Pam Sleek (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Communion Assts- Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Patty Rullo & Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Lectors-Buck Sleek (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)
Ushers- Pam & Buck Sleek (8); Need Volunteers (10:30)
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews
* November 9 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- Brody Byer (8); Aria Miller (10:30)
Altar- Sue Risch (8); Pat Sleek (10:30)
Communion Assts-Bill Bergman & Sue Risch (8); Wendy Figard & Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
Lectors- Bill Bergman (8); Wendy Figard (10:30)
Ushers- Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Carole Williams & Joyce Gindlesperger (10:30)
Counters- Joyce Gindlesperger & Lou Ann Reckner
* November 16 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- Canyon Mishler (8); Braeden Black (10:30)
Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Sherri Andrews (10:30)
Communion Assts- Sotosky Family (8); Jack Winters & Sarah Worst (10:30)
Lectors- Erin Sotoksy (8); Keli Williams (10:30)
Ushers-Sotosky Family (8); Jeff Rowe & Jack Winters (10:30)
Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic
* November 23 (Intinction) *
Acolytes- Elijah Marsh (8); Brycen Rowe (10:30)
Altar-Linda Shrader (8); Lois Tessari (10:30)
Communion Assts- Tom & Deb Harris (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Lectors- Deb Harris (8); Randy Whetzel (10:30)
Ushers-Joe & Sue Risch (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Counters- Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa & Joyce Gindlesperger
* November 30 (Communion) *
Acolytes- Elle Mowery (8); Charlotte Worst (10:30)
Altar- Ronna Marisa (8); Amanda Tercek (10:30)
Communion Assts-Ronna Marisa & Bella Kotch (8); Sonya Andrews & Sarah Worst (10:30)
Lectors- Bella Kotch (8); Sonya Andrews (10:30)
Ushers- Bella & Sarah Kotch (8); Sonya Andrews & Bill Andrews (10:30)
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews



We are looking for some additional team members for any of the ministry teams at St. David's (**Finance, Stewardship, Communication, Property, Fellowship, Service, Worship & Music, Altar Guild, Children & Youth, Emergency & Learning.**) please reach out to the chair of the team or you contact the church secretary at 814.479.4110 or email stdavids_sec@atlanticbb.net.