

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

Non-Profit
Organization
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MISSION STATEMENT

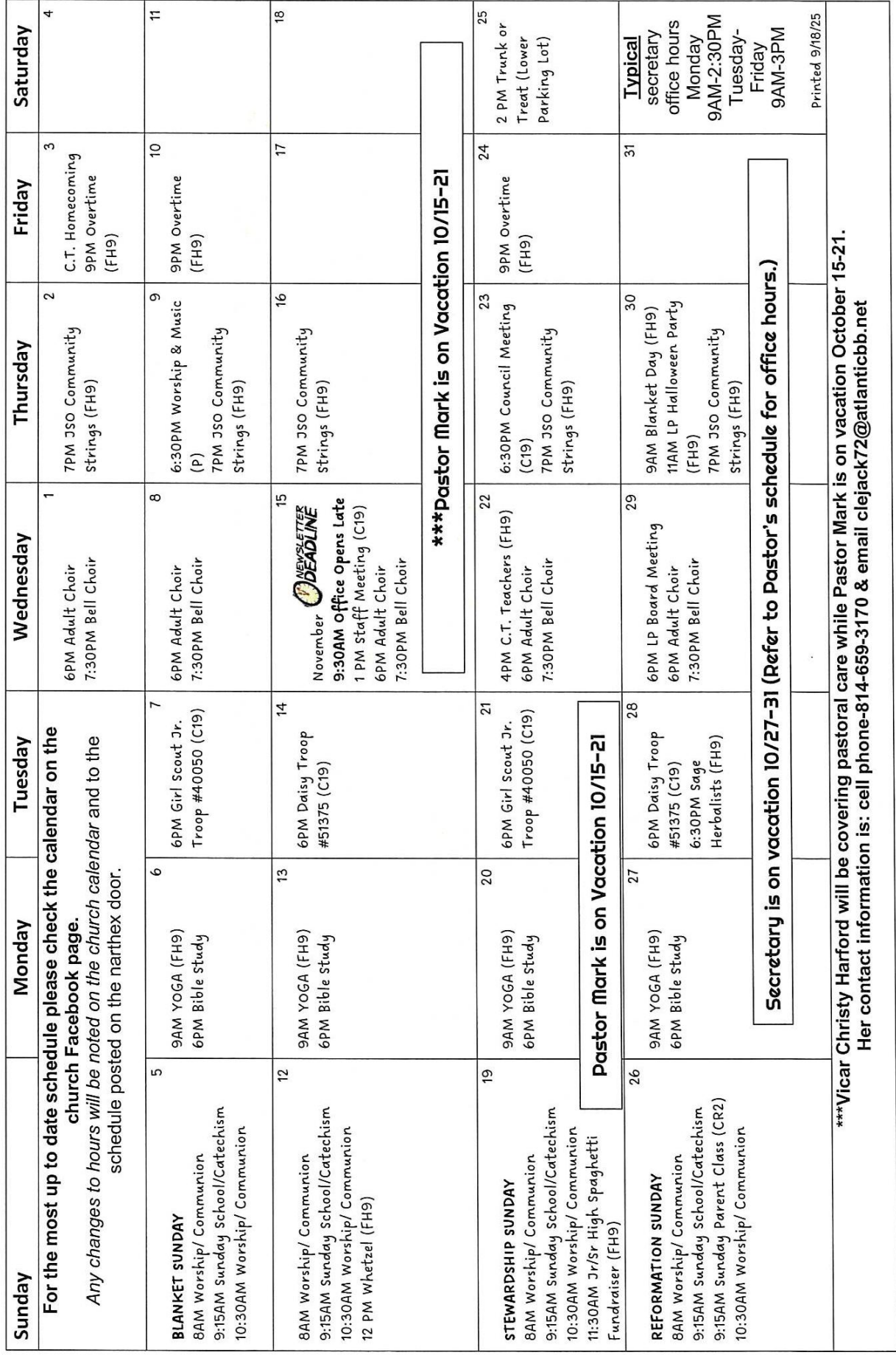
"Glorify God, Share the Love of Jesus, Do Good works thru Service."

Church Web Site: WWW.STDAVIDSLUTHERAN.ORG

Church Office: 814.479.4110

The Messenger
October 2025

November Messenger
The deadline is Wednesday, October 15



Random thoughts.....

I love riding roller coasters{But only on YouTube}. Roller coasters combine fear and excitement all in one big thrill especially if it is the newest, latest, and greatest that pushes the envelope of the ride. There is the anticipatory gut check as you are taken up the initial incline and then the sheer terror as you hang over the drop and then the steep, dive to the ground and you wonder, “***Am I going to live through this?***”

Perhaps you may have felt that fear and excitement when your children were born; there is no instruction manual to go with your newborn son or daughter. Or when you got a promotion at work that involved supervising other people. Ministry is often like this. I remember the first time I led worship as a supply pastor in seminary. Even though I had successfully passed the required worship and preaching classes, I remember the fear of messing up something during the worship service.

Change is like riding a roller coaster, especially in a church. There is fear and excitement all at the same time. Change is necessary for continued growth in any organization, especially the Church. In the next ten years, the Church and especially churches in Somerset/Cambria Counties will see profound change as our members age and enter God’s eternal kingdom. What will St. David’s look like in 2035? Will St. David’s still have two services? Will St. David’s be able to afford to continue supporting a pastor alone? Or will it have to partner with another congregation and share a pastor? What ministries will St. David’s be supporting and sustaining?

Jesus talked about salt losing its saltiness and thereby its effectiveness. This week at the Allegheny Synod Pastors’ Convocation, we talked about the importance of being creative and thinking outside our “***silos.***” Another way is to say that congregations are looking at remaining salty. Asking tough questions like: ***Who is our neighbor?*** and ***How to be a good neighbor?*** Responding to change and anticipating change are critical to an organization’s viability. I would love to hear what new ideas for ministry you have. Call me. Make an appointment.

Gratefully,
Pastor Mark W. Fischer

Another Not-so-random thought

I want to take a moment and write about where St. David’s is financially through August, 2025. August means that we are 2/3 through our calendar year. Through August, our giving totals \$211,699; that is a little over \$4000 ahead of last year; that’s a positive. That said, St. David’s 2025 giving is \$12,000 less than the budgeted giving and our spending on a number of line items has exceeded what was budgeted. For example, inside building maintenance is \$3,400 over budget, snow removal is \$1,500 over budget, Added all up, our expenses so far exceed our giving by \$29,325 through August. I know many of us are feeling the strain of continued high food prices, high fuel prices, and increased utility costs plus the unexpected like auto repair bills. I’m right there with you.

This is my ask: If you need to bring your giving up-to-date, please help by doing so. If you can find some extra, please add it to your current giving. Thank you.

Gratefully,
Pastor Mark W. Fischer
Interim Pastor



Birthdays

- 1 Locklyn Parkins
- 2 Emilee Naugle
- 3 Ben Cotchen
Lesley Williamson
- 4 Maria Holdsworth
Eric Kmett
- 5 Abigale Brotz
Roger Griffith
- 6 Thomas Risch
Brandy Stevens
Robert R. Yoder*****527 Maple Spring Rd, Hollsopple, PA 15935**
- 7 Giada Altimore
Ashley Gindlesperger
Annette Henry
Robert Kuhn*****1161 Pinecrest Blvd Johnstown, PA 15905**
- 8 Devin Cobaugh
Emma Mitchell
Melanie Oswald
- 9 Tricia Custer
Joanne Ravenscraft*** **127 N. Walnut Street, Davidsville, PA 15928**
- 10 Thomas Alberti
Grant Donaldson
Thomas Lehman
Daniel Mishler II
- 12 Emily Allison
- 13 Luke Tresnicky
- 14 Lonnie Bungard*****161 Mitchell Court, Johnstown, PA 15905**
Stormie Cannistraci
Brett Robinson
- 15 Aaron Good
- 16 Laura Clark
Billie Thomas
- 17 Andria Kaufman
Isaac Tresnicky
- 18 Adam W. Naugle
Robert T. Reckner
- 19 Erin Fetterman
James Reckner
- 20 Steven Buncich
- 21 Kevin Henry
David Horner Jr. *****113 Hickory Street, PO Box 105, Davidsville, PA 15928**

- Jonathan Liska
Brandon Studer
- 22 Richard Turner*****2000 Cambridge Dr, Rm 530 Davidsville, PA 15928**
- 23 Madyn Markferding
- 24 Natalie Haines
Kara Virostek
- 25 Brooke Mishler
- 26 Luana Eppley
Judy-LaMantia-LaRoy
- 27 Mason Hart
Owen Robinson
- 28 Elissa Gearhart
Stacy Hart
Ryan Liska
Pamela Reckner
- 29 Nicole Moyer
Jim Reynolds
- 30 Jerrod Cannistraci
Drake Rouser
- 31 Jeffrey Custer
Sarah Jean Gindlesperger*****2000 Cambridge Dr, Rm 533 Davidsville, PA 15928**

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.

St. David's Worship & Music Ministry Team
(Non-Profit Organization)



**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2025
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION
For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

Brett Merberger 814-242-5092

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends
*Exclusions Apply



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* Mary Jane McCreedy
Rachel Thomas-Kimmel * Patty Rullo



CONTACT US

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



Blanket Sunday will be on October 5th, 2025. A donation of \$5.00 will purchase a new blanket. The new blankets are distributed, along with the knotted ones that are assembled here at St. David's, by Lutheran World Relief worldwide, as well as in the United States. The need is great, and your generosity is appreciated. Some of the blankets made by our Knotty Ladies will be on display on the wall up front that Sunday.



My Faith Commitment to God and St. David's

Commitment cards will be available starting October 5th. They should be filled out individually by congregational members from confirmation age and up. We are asking that you bring this card on Stewardship Sunday, October 19th. Cards will be placed in baskets in front of the church and then burned after services.

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 Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, from 2-4PM. It will be held in our lower lot. We are asking people to sign up to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. We are also asking for donations of candy. **Please note if you sign up to decorate and hand out candy you do not need to purchase your own candy.** Thank you.



Stewardship & Finance Teams Note

Summer months are always difficult financially for our church. Due to decreased attendance and donations falling off.

As of August Financials, we are around \$12,000 below our tithing budget. We are around \$10,000 over our budgeted expenses YTD. Some key reasons are: \$3,000 for needed new computers, \$2,800 for air conditioning repairs, \$1,000 for sidewalk heat repairs and snowplowing was \$2,500 over budget. Also \$31,000 was taken out of the Unified Savings Account to cover expenses YTD.

Therefore our bottom line is an estimated shortfall of \$29,000 for the Congregations approved Ministry Spending Plan this year. We ask that the Congregation consider this in their giving for the remainder of the year.

Thank You,
Stewardship & Finance Teams

The Meals on Wheels collection that was held on Sunday, September 7th received:

- 14 ½ dozen Cookies
- 17 Cakes
- 10 trays of Brownies
- 32 Breads
- 2 dozen muffins
- 2 dozen Cinnamon Rolls

THANK
YOU

Thank you to all who donated to this service team project. Next collection will take place on December 7th.



I would like to thank everyone that came to the house and cleaned up my garden and repaired the beds on Rally Day. It was greatly appreciated.

~Bob Yoder

Please Join Us For A
Walk-Thru Basket Raffle & Bake Sale

To Benefit
ROGER HUNT

Proceeds go to help with medical expenses for Roger, a valued member of our community who is now on a long road to recovery after a farming accident in July 2025.

October 11 10 am - 6 pm	October 12 9 am - 1 pm
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Riverside Firehall
615 Liberty Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905

Regular Basket Tickets
\$5 per sheet
\$20 for 5 sheets

Premium Basket Chances
Sold Separately

Live drawing on Facebook
October 12 at 1:30 pm, winners will be called shortly after

Please contact
Lynn McDaniel
814-244-2573 or
Boeky Robinson
814-244-0742
about making a
monetary or
basket donation
for the event.

God's Work Our Hands/Rally Sunday

God's Work Our Hands/Rally Sunday 2025 is "in the record books". The people of St. David's were, once again, the hands of our Lord as we completed several projects for the community. This year roughly 80 people gave several hours of their time and talent on Sunday, September 7 to be a part of the GWOH outreach movement, which included:

- Organizing and heavy cleaning at St. Francis Sharing and Caring Thrift Store.
- Packing 52 Teacher Kits for Elementary Teachers at Conemaugh Township and Johnstown Christian School.
- Building one and three quarters 24-foot garden box beds and weeding beds.
- Organizing several very large boxes of games, CD's, and tapes for sale at the St. Francis Thrift Store.
- Knotting 8 quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
- Providing lunch for the group.

Additional members helped those 80 members provide 77 dessert items for Somerset County Meals on Wheels and various items for over 52 Teacher Kits. Thank you for your response! Also thank you to Rachel Kimmel for recording the day's activities on film. Check out the presentation in the narthex. Thank you also to the several individuals who, in Brad's absence, "went beyond the call of duty" with set-up and clean-up and to our congregation staff Jessica Brewer, Brett Merberger, Brad Kaufman, and Pastor Fischer for helping to make the day a success.

We are blessed by God, and in turn, our words and actions become a blessing to other persons and ministries in our community. Thank you!

But we are not done! As noted last week, the Lutheran Church is celebrating the 80th anniversary of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) this year. So, in addition to the many quilts and blankets we send to LWR, this year we are encouraging a monetary in gathering of gifts for this ministry. The goal is \$2,000 by the time of Blanket Sunday in October. Ellie Hunsberger, the GWOH Team's poster creator, kicked off the ingathering by giving \$20 before leaving for college. So, we have 1% of our goal! She is counting on us to provide the other 99%! LWR brightly colored envelopes are in the pew racks. White envelopes can be found on the table in the narthex. Please use them for your gifts. Place the envelopes in the offering plates. Checks can be made out to St. David's Ev. Lutheran Church. Partner disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ ... TOGETHER we can successfully move this last 2025 GWOH project to the finish line!



The Jr & Sr High Sunday School Class would like to announce two events coming up in October and November! Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 19th** for their annual Spaghetti Dinner after church till 1:00pm and for **Sunday, November 9th** for the first ever Progressive Friendsgiving! Details will be coming. 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.

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Davidsville, PA 15928
Council Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2025

Call to Order / Biblical Reflection and Prayer

- Meeting was called to order @ 6:34 PM.
- Prayer was led by Pastor Fischer.

Approval of Minutes / July 31, 2025 meeting

- Approval of minutes via e-mail occurred on August 4, 2025.

Attendees / Excused Absences

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

Agenda

- Cathy Lilly requested an addition to the agenda to add Doug Shrader as a guest.
- Motion to approve the agenda with the addition, was made by Patty Rullo and seconded by Mary Jane McCready.
- All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

Guest

Doug Shrader: Discussed concerns with the congregational vote on St. David's taking ownership of Kaufman Cemetery and building a columbarium on St. David's property. He does not believe the due diligence was done and the congregation is not being fully informed. Council discussed that we are aware there will be legal, financial, and other concerns that would need further researched. The intent of the vote was to determine whether there was interest in building the columbarium and/or taking ownership of the Kaufman Cemetery. Either avenue would be looked into further if there was congregational interest.

Reports

- Pastor's report: Was given by Pastor Fischer.
 - Pastor Fischer was approached about using St. David's as a neutral site for an ordination service. A candidate has been called to a two-point parish and the ordination service needs to be held at a neutral location. The church parishes are Benscreek Lutheran and First Lutheran Johnstown. There will not be a need for the Fellowship Ministry Team or Worship and Music Ministry Team to be involved. Pastor Fischer spoke with Brett Merberger and he is okay with the organist from First Lutheran playing.
 - Pastor Fischer is looking into putting a trip to Greece and Turkey together for next year. It would be a journey of many of the places where Paul planted churches. It would be in September 2026 and open to area churches with around 15-20 people.
 - Pastor Fischer will have pastoral care lined up for his vacation in October by the September Council meeting.
 - Bible time with St. David's Learning Place will start Monday, September 8, 2025.

- New family joining: New members, Brandon, Jackie, and Griffen Stevanus, will be received on September 28, 2025.
- Confirmation class: The confirmation class program is coming together. Students and parents will be asked to sign a covenant detailing the expectations.
- Windber Woods: Residents and staff at Windber Woods are grateful for Pastor Fischer leading worship and offering Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. About 30 residents attend the service.
- Increase for non-member weddings: Pastor Fischer recommended increasing the cost for non-member weddings at St. David's to \$500. This fee covers the cost of the use of the church, the custodian, and bulletins. The Council will consider and vote on this at a future council meeting.
- Financial Report: Cathy Lilly will submit a request to the Finance Team requesting an increase to the confirmation budget.
- Learning Place Board: Cathy Lilly stated the board is conducting interviews for an open position.
- God's Work Our Hands: Is scheduled for September 7, 2025.
- Overtime: St. David's Learning Place brought to Council's attention that when they came in on Monday following the August 22, 2025 Overtime, the men's restroom was a mess. It was assumed it was left that way from Overtime. Announcements will be made to address this.
- Communications Team: Lou Ann Reckner and Angie McKool have been working on getting access to the St. David's website. Receiving the access code has been an issue. They will wait another day and try again.

Unfinished Business:

- Columbarium/Cemetery: Bishop Emeritus and Barb Pile presented a survey to Cathy Lilly as a better approach to request congregational input on the columbarium and cemetery rather than having the vote on September 7, 2025. The recommended survey will be made available to the congregation with a request to have them returned by September 21, 2025 ahead of the next council meeting.
- Fellowship hall: Updates to the Fellowship Hall document are still being worked on.
- Request from quilters group: Cathy Lilly has not heard back from Katie Jones with additional details.
- Memorial designation: Brian Byer to get back to Council on this.

New Business:

- Brad Kaufman's elbow surgery: He had the surgery and will be off for 6 weeks. Pastor Fischer will look into the sick leave and vacation available and discuss with him. Council discussed the need to make sure cleaning and upkeep is still happening while he is out. Greg Lilly will make sure God's Work Our Hands is aware and that they will take care of cleaning up and also ordering any needed paper products. Cathy Lilly will also talk to Property and Emergency Teams on their plan for coverage. There could be potential for cleaning the church to be a God's Work Our Hands project, but is likely too late.

Next meeting will be September 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren A. Bungard, Council Secretary

✱October 5 (Communion) ✱ Blanket Sunday	
Acolytes- (8); (10:30)	
Altar-Ronna Marisa (8); Faye Buncich (10:30)	
Communion Assts- Sotosky Family (8); Bill Bergman & Sarah Worst (10:30)	
Lectors- Erin Sotosky (8); Marna Gilman-Fischer (10:30)	
Ushers-Buck & Pam Sleek (8); Need Volunteers (10:30)	
Counters- Doug & Linda Shrader, Jean Magdelinic	
✱October 12 (Intinction) ✱	
Acolytes- (8); (10:30)	
Altar- Luana Eppley (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)	
Communion Assts- Ronna Marisa & Bella Kotch (8); Patty Rullo & Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)	
Lectors- Bella Kotch (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)	
Ushers-Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)	
Counters- Lou Ann Reckner & Joyce Gindlesperger	
✱October 19 (Intinction) ✱ Stewardship Sunday	
Acolytes-Brycen & Kyla Rowe (8); Brycen & Kyla Rowe (10:30)	
Altar-Kristie Byer (8); Lynn McDaniel & Becky Robinson (10:30)	
Communion Assts-Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Sonya Andrews & Jack Winters (10:30)	
Lectors- Linda Hoover (8); Sarah Worst (10:30)	
Ushers-Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Jeff Rowe & Jack Winters (10:30)	
Counters- Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews	
✱October 26 (Communion) ✱ Reformation Sunday	
Acolytes- (8); (10:30)	
Altar- Deb Harris (8); Lois Tessari (10:30)	
Communion Assts- Deb Harris & Sue Risch (8); Bill Bergman & Wendy Figard (10:30)	
Lectors-Deb Harris (8); Cathy Lilly (10:30)	
Ushers-Joe & Sue Risch (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)	
Counters- Sue Risch, Joyce Gindlesperger & Ronna Marisa	



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, 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



If anyone has a FOB they no longer need 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