

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."

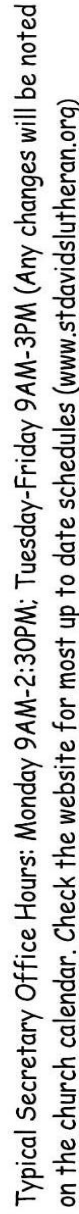
Church Web Site: WWW.STDAVIDSLUTHERAN.ORG

Church Office: 814.479.4110

Messenger-October 2026

"Stewardship of the Forests as they display their brilliant colors and shed their leave to restore the ground"

November Messenger
The deadline is Thursday, October 15



Brad, custodian is on vacation, October 25-31

From the Pastor.....

October is here. There is change happening. We can feel that season of fall has arrived in Somerset County.

Change is also happening in how Lutheran churches worship. One of, if not the biggest, challenge facing congregations is the lack of pastors available for call to our congregations. Currently, there are multiple congregations/parishes with active Mission Site Profiles who are looking to call a pastor in the Johnstown Conference and who have been looking to call a pastor for more than two years. In 2026, our seven Lutheran seminaries graduated less than 100 Lutheran candidates for ordination. Pastors are also more reluctant to relocate due to spousal employment, home ownership, and the needs of their children. In 2026, a record number of pastors will transition from active ministry to retired.

It is difficult for pastors when they want to go on vacation to be able to find an ordained pastor available for supply. I have been lucky to have Pastor Ralph Hamer agree to supply at St. David's, when I go on vacation. I am able to secure his services as a supply pastor mostly because I ask him months in advance. That will soon change as Pastor Hamer has accepted a call to be the pastor at First Lutheran, Altoona. Then there are retired pastors who have no interest in doing supply coverage. Many of the Lutheran congregations without a pastor rely on Lay Worship Assistants to lead worship and give Holy Communion using pre-consecrated bread and wine. The same is true for congregations where there isn't a pastor available to be appointed as an interim pastor; lay worship assistants are the ones who cover worship leadership {if they are available}. If there is a funeral or wedding, it falls to a pastor who is free on that particular day.

Congregations today, whether it be Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, etc., are having to "**home grow**" their pastors. This means raising up people who hear the Holy Spirit calling them to be the theological presence to and for a congregation. There are two paths for people who feel the Holy Spirit calling them. It is in these two paths that the *Go Tell It In The Mountain* preaching initiative becomes a great tool for people engaged in becoming Lay Worship Assistants or ordained pastors. The initiative, sponsored by the Allegheny, Northwest PA, and Upper Susquehanna Synod, is a series of tools to help a pastor, a Lay Worship Assistant, or a person enrolled in the T.E.E.M. program become a better proclaimer of the Gospel Good News.

The first path is the **Lay Worship Assistant Path**. As a Lay Worship Assistant, one would continue in their current vocation and take preparatory classes on Bible, worship leadership, Lutheran heritage, and preaching. This would lead to a certification as a **Lay Worship Assistant**. Primarily, a Lay Worship Assistant would be responsible for leading worship and preaching at their home church when A) the called pastor is unavailable or B) there is no called pastor. The Lay Worship Assistant would be able to say what Sundays he or she is available, and the Lay Worship Assistant would be compensated at the supply rate established by the synod.

The second path is the **T.E.E.M.** {**T**heological **E**ducation for **E**merging **M**inistries} path. In this path, a person would enter the ELCA candidacy process and take a series of sixteen intensive classes over a period of years, serve an assigned congregation(s) on a very part-time basis including Sunday worship, complete an internship year. Then, having satisfactorily completed all the steps, this person is approved for ordination. There would be a negotiated compensation while a person is serving the congregation(s) prior to ordination.

I am now in my fourth year as your interim pastor. Where has the time gone? St. David's has welcomed Marna and I into your church family with open hands and arms; it feels much like home. Some of you have even come to me and said that I am "**your pastor**." I am grateful for the words of affirmation for my work. However, I am the interim pastor of St. David's Lutheran Church.

From where will the next pastor for St. David's come? The reality is the next pastor is a person who recognizes the Holy Spirit speaking to them in ways they never conceived and calling them to a new path. I have had that experience. Friends and acquaintances have, being led by the Holy Spirit, have spoken positive and affirming words about my call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Just today {Monday, September 14th}, I experienced the Holy Spirit speaking to me through a ministry colleague and I am going to seriously consider her words.

You may say that you do not have the gifts of speaking or visiting or teaching or patience to do the work necessary. Trust me when I say the Holy Spirit will be with you. God provided a ram for Abraham so he wouldn't have to sacrifice his son, Isaac. God will provide for you even when you least expect God to do so.

*Gratefully,
Pastor Mark*



Thank you to everyone who participated in God's Work Our Hands Sunday! The day was quite successful. Because of the stewards within the life of our congregation ...

- 103 persons were fed with God's Word in liturgy, sermon, and meal.
- 84 people were served lunch.
- A variety of persons discovered more about the many ministry teams and groups who spearhead the life of our congregation and several made a commitment to become a part of those teams and groups.
- Small trees and brush were removed and chipped from around a very pleased community member's garage.
- Flower beds were weeded, shrubs were trimmed, and a chain link fence was weed wacked at the home of a now very happy and thankful community member.
- Two benches were put together and the sandbox pressure washed behind the church building.
- The large pavilion at Sequanota was painted.
- The St. Francis Sharing and Caring building was made neater and cleaner – outside windows were washed, a "zillion" boxes were condensed to make space for walking in the building, the lunch room was cleaned, windowsills cleaned, the main floor room was swept, the "buy it now" area was dusted and counters cleaned, carpets were swept ... and a brand new baby crib and mattress was received for selling!
- 60 'cheer up' bags which included a lightly-used stuffed animal, coloring book, markers/crayons, "smiling" goldfish snack bag, a cross keychain, and an encouraging note from each child with their own artwork on it were packed. In addition, 2 large bags of stuffed animals were given by two families and C.T. Police Officer Brian Dale visited. He answered questions and explained how the police are there to help families during difficult situations. He encouraged the children not to fear the police but instead walk up and talk to them and invited them to sit in a new police cruiser.
- 80 LWR School Kits were packed and 6 boxes of movie and music CDs were organized and re-packed for St. Francis Sharing & Caring.
- The Service Ministry Team received for Somerset Co. Meals on Wheels
 - 7 Pumpkin Rolls
 - 19 dozen cookies
 - 26 cakes
 - 42 loaves of bread
 - 6 trays of brownies
 - 2 dozen muffins
 - 1 dozen cup cakes

Wow a lot was done by stewards of the St. David's community within the span of just a few hours. Many hands mean light ... and difference making ... work! Thank you to all!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Together We Can
Restore • Maintain • Rebuild
Our Church • Our Home • Our Future

Most everyone is aware that our church, God's house of worship, is in need of repairs and updates. Council has approved a **\$400,000 Capital Campaign**, which will begin in October.

OUR GOAL:
\$400,000

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE:



Outside cross



Tree removal and trimming



Sanctuary lighting



Kitchen ventilation



Kitchen floor



Kitchen appliances and updates



Repair of holes and cracks in the stained glass



Staged replacement of the lower parking lot

The plan is to complete these projects in stages, as donations are received. Our goal is to make these important improvements without incurring the additional cost of a bank loan.



Please remember that our regular monthly expenses will continue throughout the Capital Campaign.

We prayerfully ask that you look into your hearts for additional contributions above your weekly tithe to help restore, maintain and rebuild our place of worship.

*Together, with faith and generosity,
we can care for God's house and ensure that it continues
to serve our congregation and community for years to come.*

Thank you for your prayers, consideration and generous support!



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Our faith is a ... busy, active ... thing.
[Martin Luther]

Jesus says let the light of your faith shine. So, while it is important to continually nurture your faith, we are not to hide it under a basket. A steward actively expresses his/her faith with words and acts of love, forgiveness, mercy and justice. Are **you** ensuring **your** faith is busy and active? Have **you** made a commitment to 'activate' **your** faith by becoming involved in a team or group in the St. David's community? If so, great! If not, there is no better time than NOW!

Contact INFORMATION

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 (office)

Brad Kaufman, Custodian

ONLINE giving



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.



A huge Thank You to the Efficient Crew: Kerry Horner, Bill Andrews, Doug Shrader who removed the many trees that were encroaching on my garage & driveway. They went above & beyond my expectations. I am very grateful for their help.
God's Work, Our Hands.

Carole Williams

CHURCH COUNCIL

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

**BREATHE.
PRAY. YOGA.**

An 8-Week Series

Take time to breathe, pray, stretch, and renew in a welcoming and peaceful setting.

September 21 – November 9, 2026

9:00 AM – 10:20 AM

St. David's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

**\$65 for the 8-Week Series
\$10 Daily Drop-In**

*Come as you are.
Join Us!*

**Questions?
Call Elizabeth
814-525-2894**

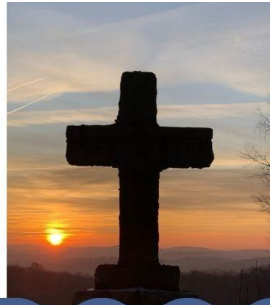
Breathe
Pray
Yoga



October 16-18

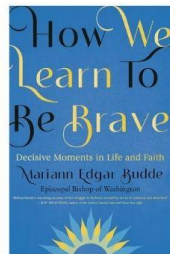
SUSTAIN

An Adult
Retreat



We all have decisive moments in our life. How do we find the courage to live into these moments? In the hustle of life, in the challenges of relationships, and in the deconstruction of culture, it can feel overwhelming to push back. Come join us for a book discussion and a weekend away with time for conversation and renewal.

Our conversations will be guided by the book *How We Learn To Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Edgar Budde



All are welcome!

Register online or call the office.

Cost: \$170 (double room)/\$210 (single room)

Looking Ahead...

The Annual Youth Apple Dumping Fundraiser will be coming up in early November.

Watch the weekly announcements in October for Pre-Order forms and volunteer information!



We would like to wish our friends Larin, James, Mason, Anley, and Leo a very happy birthday!



814-479-7390

learningplacestdavids@gmail.com

Jennifer Percinsky: Director/

Preschool 4 Lead Teacher

Felica Beglin: Preschool 3 Lead Teacher

Halie Griffie, Asst. Group Supervisor

Brianna Mohle: Asst. Group Supervisor

Skylar King, Teacher's Aide

Gina Yacynych, Substitute Teacher

LEARNING PLACE BOARD MEMBERS

Jerrold Cannistraci* Becky Robinson

Cindy Liska* Mary Helen Hruska

Patty Rullo* Linda Shrader* Cathy Lilly



**WE WILL BE HAVING A HALLOWEEN/FALL
PARADE ON OCTOBER 29TH AT 11AM.**



Birthdays

- 2 Mike Kozak
- 3 Ben Cotchen
- 4 Eric Kmett
- 5 Roger Griffith
- Robert R. Yoder***1000 Vista Drive Apt
906, Davidsville, PA 15928
- 7 Annette Henry
- 8 Emma Mitchell
- Melanie Oswalt
- 9 Joanne Ravenscraft*** 127 N. Walnut
Street, Davidsville, PA 15928
- 10 Thomas Lehman
- Daniel Mishler II
- 12 Emily Allison
- 14 Lonnie Bungard***161 Mitchell Court,
Johnstown, PA 15905
- Stormie Cannistraci
- Elias Kozak
- Brett Robinson
- 15 Aaron Good
- 16 Laura Clark
- Billie Thomas
- 17 Andria Kaufman
- 18 Robert T. Reckner
- 20 Steven Buncich
- 21 Kevin Henry
- Brandon Studer
- 23 Eden Borodach
- 24 Natalie Haines***695 W. Campus Ave.
Hollsopple, PA 15935
- Kara Virostek
- 25 Brooke Mishler
- 26 Luana Eppley
- Judy-LaMantia-LaRoy
- 27 Owen Robinson
- 29 Jim Reynolds
- 30 Jerrod Cannistraci
- 31 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!



Blanket Sunday will be on October 4th, 2026. 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.

The Worship & Music Team will be selling
Boscov's Coupons again this year.
Cost is \$5 for 25% off Discount Shopping
Pass

One Day Only * Wednesday, October 21st
Shop 8AM-11PM

Please see Brett Merberger 814-242-5092

Boscov's
FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS IN-STORE & ONLINE
ONE DAY ONLY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM

25% OFF*
LOWEST SALE PRICES
SHOPPING PASS

Enjoy 25% off* your purchase in-store or online. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. Present this pass at checkout to receive your discount.
Valid Wednesday, October 21, 2026 only.

\$5 DONATION PER PASS

100% of proceeds benefit the local non-profit organization where the pass was purchased.
*See reverse side for a list of merchandise receiving 15% and 10% Off as well as exclusions.
For more details visit [boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event](https://www.boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event)



The Jr/Sr High Sunday School Class will be hosting their annual spaghetti dinner on Sunday, October 11th from 11:30AM to 1:30PM in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30AM service. The price of the meal is \$12.00 at the door. Dinner includes salad, spaghetti, bread, and dessert. Take out is available. All proceeds go to St David's Jr/Sr High projects including renovation of the Sequanota Cabin #8 bathrooms. The class will be at Benscreek Lutheran Church on October 4th at 9am for a youth Sunday to promote the Sequanota Project and to also invite our friends at Benscreek Lutheran to the spaghetti dinner! Please mark this on your calendar and we hope to see you at the October 11th dinner.

Tuesday Noon Recitals
October 2026

October 6
"The Golden Age of Song – Songs of Irving Berlin and Cole Porter". Kim Rauch – piano and vocals.

October 13
"Coco and Poglein sing Simon and Garfunkle"
Sam Coco and Barry Poglein

October 20
Kevin Clemens - Organ classics
by John Cook, Percy Fletcher, and Gordon Balch Nevin

October 27
Déjà vu, Piano Guitar duo
featuring Rich Kingera and Bob Bretz.

Recitals are followed by a light luncheon.
Offered without charge thanks to generous donors, patrons, and funding from The 1889 Foundations and Thrivent.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
415 Vine Street, Johnstown
814-536-7521 firstlutheran@wpia.net



Stay Connected with Our Church on Facebook!

We invite you to like and follow our church's Facebook page to stay updated on upcoming events, special services, and community activities. We also share photos and inspiring messages to keep us all connected throughout the week! If you've been blessed by our church, we'd love for you to leave us a positive review on Facebook. Your kind words help others find our church and experience God's love.

Thank you for being part of our church family!
Follow us today:

[Https://facebook.com/SaintDavidsLutheran](https://facebook.com/SaintDavidsLutheran)



Altar flowers bring warmth and beauty to our sanctuary as we gather for worship. We are grateful to Schrader's for providing beautiful arrangements and excellent service.

Beginning **January 1, 2027**, the cost of a floral arrangement will increase from **\$40** to **\$45** due to rising supply costs.

We invite you to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or give thanks by sponsoring altar flowers. Your gift helps beautify our worship space and blesses our church community. To purchase a vase of flowers, please sign up on the sheets or contact the church office.

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church Davidsville, PA
Council Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2026

Present: Sonya Andrews, Rachel Kimmel, Kristie Byer, Patty Rullo, Jeff Eash, Doug Shrader, Paul Weygandt, Lois Tessari, Sue Risch, Pastor Fischer

Absent: Lynn McDaniel, Angie McKool

- Call to order: 6:34 p.m.
- Prayer by Pastor
- Council meeting minutes approved via email
- Approval of agenda: First Doug, Seconded by Lois
- Guests: None
- **Reports**
 - Pastor's Report
 - Brad on vacation Oct. 25 – Nov. 1 and Dec. 26 – Jan. 2
 - Update on CTMA dissolution
 - Community garden at the church – would anyone be interested? There is grant money available. Doug was interested in being part of the committee and Paul is checking on information with another church for how they do theirs. This would need to go through Property Team.
 - Pastor on vacation Nov. 12 – 18. Still looking for supply pastor.
 - Financial Report (Doug)
 - Financial statements were reviewed
 - Brian was unable to attend but provided a summary of the budget over the past seven months.
 - Property Report (Paul)
 - Paul provided an update on ongoing property team initiatives
 - Motion: First Paul, Seconded by Doug; all in favor
 - St. David's will begin a Capital Campaign for \$400,000 in October for necessary upgrades and repairs to the church with the intention of "pay as we go" and not taking out any loans.
 - The finance team will provide more detail when the capital campaign kicks off in October.
 - Necessary big items include:
 - Staged replacement of lower parking lot
 - Outside cross replacement
 - Kitchen repairs and updates, including asbestos abatement
 - Learning Place (Patty)
 - LP Board has voted on repayment schedule to church for new flooring
 - Floor replacement is satisfactory
 - LP Board discussed how better to connect LP families to the church

- Overtime (Rachel)
 - Announcements have been sent to local churches for inclusion in their weekly announcements; a few inquiries have been made, but no one has committed to volunteering yet
 - Overtime starts next week and volunteers are still needed – clearances needed.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - Church picnic
 - Well-attended despite rain: about 60 people showed up
 - Hope to increase attendance and participation next year
 - GWOH
 - Doug covered email sent out to ministry teams about recruiting members for GWOH Sunday and offered clarification on recruitment.
 - Teams especially needing volunteers: lectors, offering counters, etc.
 - Team members will wear beads or other identifying items to recruit new members and show what congregants are involved in which teams.
 - A photographer is needed for the church service/luncheon – Rachel is hoping to return by the time teams disperse to cover project photos. Pastor volunteered Marna. It was also suggested that congregants should take their own photos, too, and upload them.
- **New Business**
 - Council voting is coming up – potential new council members will need contacted.
- **Adjournment:**
 - 7:46 p.m.
 - Next meeting: September 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.



ST. DAVID'S WILL BE HOLDING OUR ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT EVENT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM. WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO DECORATE THEIR VEHICLES AND PASS OUT CANDY, AS WELL AS DONATIONS OF BAGS OF CANDY.

A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR VOLUNTEERS AND A COLLECTION AREA FOR CANDY DONATIONS ARE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

BRETT MERBERGER

October 4 (Communion) * Blanket Sunday	
Acolytes-	Elijah Marsh (8); Brycen Rowe (10:30)
Altar-	Linda Shrader (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Communion Assts-	Deb Harris & Buck Sleek (8); Patty Rullo & Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Lectors –	Deb Harris (8); Patty Rullo (10:30)
Ushers-	Buck & Pam Sleek (8); Joyce Gindlesperger & Carole Williams (10:30)
Counters-	Lou Ann Reckner, Joyce Gindlesperger, Patty & John Rullo
October 11 (Intinction)	
Acolytes-	Lexi Byer (8); Charlotte Worst (10:30)
Altar-	Luana Eppley (8); Lou Ann Reckner (10:30)
Communion Assts-	Hunsberger Family (8); Randy Whetzel & Sarah Worst (10:30)
Lectors –	Beth Hunsberger (8); Randy Whetzel (10:30)
Ushers-	Leo & Ronna Marisa (8); Bill & Sherri Andrews (10:30)
Counters-	Bill & Sherri Andrews, Sonya Andrews
*October 18 (Intinction) *	
Acolytes-	Gemma Studer (8); Danika Black (10:30)
Altar-	Sue Risch (8); Lynn McDaniel & Becky Robinson (10:30)
Communion Assts-	Elle Mowery & Linda Shrader (8); Wendy Figard & Bill Bergman (10:30)
Lectors –	Elle Mowery (8); Marna Gilman-Fischer (10:30)
Ushers-	Doug & Linda Shrader (8); Jack Winters & Jeff Rowe (10:30)
Counters-	Doug & Linda Shrader & Deb Harris
*October 25 (Communion) * Reformation Sunday	
Acolytes-	Gentry Sotosky (8); Erin Borodach (10:30)
Altar-	Ronna Marisa (8); Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Communion Assts-	Sotosky Family (8); Greg & Cathy Lilly (10:30)
Lectors –	Erin Sotosky (8); Gail Berkebile (10:30)
Ushers-	Joe & Sue Risch (8); Ruth & Jerry Pozun (10:30)
Counters-	Sue Risch, Ronna Marisa, Mary Helen & Lud Hruska



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.