

ST. DAVID'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



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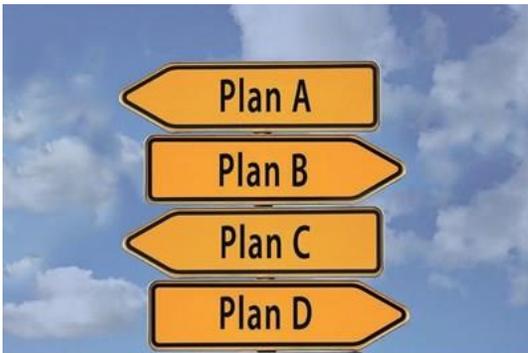
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Ministers:	The People of St. David's Lutheran Church
Pastor:	Rev. LaDonna E. Thomas
Parish Administrator:	Pam Kemper
Music Director:	Jeff Good
Sexton:	Cindy Blum
Communications Coordinator:	Jennifer Sterling
Treasurer:	Joan Barnes
Financial Secretary:	Sharon Blouse
President:	Mack Warner
Vice-President:	Charlie Evans
Secretary for Council:	Linda Rohrbaugh

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK...
“Leading in a Time of Great Change and Uncertainty”

Do you ever stop to think about what you were doing before the covid-10 pandemic began to consume so much of our lives? I’ve been thinking lately about what our church leaders, our congregation council, was working on before our focus and attention had to so abruptly change and hit a hard stop.

Our congregation council had just taken a day of retreat. Much of that retreat was spent working on a set of core values. Core values are statements that describe our congregation when we are at our best and they are the lens through which we make decisions about our life together. At that March retreat, we identified a preliminary set of core values, which we planned to share with the congregation and get feedback – which we’re still hoping to do.



One of the proposed core values, generated quite a bit of discussion: “Led by God, we adapt our ministry to the needs of today.” Some weren’t sure that describes us or should describe us. Others thought it did or should. By the end of the day, it made it into our list. And, this pandemic has shown that adaptability does describe us at our best and it has helped us make several decisions along the way!

This really hit home for me this past Sunday and into this week. Our congregation worshipped in at least four different ways- none of which existed before the pandemic. Some worshipped in-person in our pavilion. Some worshipped digitally, through our YouTube channel. Some worshipped by reading the week’s scripture and sermon that was printed and mailed to them. And still others worshipped by a conference call in which we shared communion. One person was on the call as she rode in a car for a trip her family was making that morning. When you read all of those, it’s obvious: yes, we are adaptable. We – you and me – can and do adapt our ministry to the needs of today.

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Led by God we adapt our ministry to the needs of today. That core value does, indeed, describe who we are when we are at our best. It's a value that is helping our leaders make decisions about what our worship life will be like as we move towards worshipping again in our building (you can read more about that process later in this newsletter). Adaptability is helping our ministry teams like Provide-A-Lunch (PAL) and Laundry love continue to serve those in need in our community, but to do it in safe, physically distanced ways.

Adaptability activates creativity. And so, I hear stories about people pulling up the digital worship on their commuter and then calling another person who does not have a computer or internet so that person can listen to the worship service on their telephone. Adaptability is at work when people who would normally visit with and show concern for others as they stood in the gathering area, now make a point to call one another on the phone regularly. Adaptability is when Sunday School becomes a family activity with resourced provided by the church.

What were we doing before the pandemic started consuming our lives? At St. David's we were debating about whether being adaptable is a core value for us. It seems obvious now – yes, we do adapt our ministry to the needs of today. This will certainly be a critical core value as we move forward in our ministry of serving Christ and community!

God's peace and blessings!

Pastor LaDonna

Our Progress Towards Indoor Worship



When can we be back in the sanctuary for worship? That is one of the most frequently asked questions, coming most often from the hearts and souls of people who treasure corporate worship in the beauty and tradition that our sanctuary offers.

Our Pandemic Response Team is working on a definitive answer to that question. Here are the things the team has recommended be in place before offering worship in our sanctuary (some of these are in our control, and some are not):

1. A 14 consecutive day decline in the percentage of positive tests for Covid in our area. The source of our data for this percentage is this website <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>. We are specifically watching the PCR testing positivity rate. The World Health Organization Recommends that “reopening” be considered when that percentage is at or below 5% for 14 consecutive days.
2. A commercial “fogger” that sanitizes high touch surfaces has been purchased. This will allow us to sanitize pews and chairs in a safe and efficient manner.
3. Although masks and physical distancing will be utilized when we are in the building, the quality of the indoor air, especially in the sanctuary has been a concern. Our heating/air conditioning system is not able to completely exchange the air with fresh, clean air. Our HVAC system just recirculates old air in the building. Good, clean ventilation is considered essential to mitigating the spread of COVID and other viruses. Four portable commercial HEPA filters were recommended for use in either the sanctuary or fellowship hall. The congregation council approved the purchase of three and the fourth has been donated. The units are on order with delivery expected late in September or early October.

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4. The team is preparing a written plan for the logistics of worshiping inside the building. These logistics include, seating plans, scheduling, sanitizing, orders of worship, removing hymnals, bibles, and other “touch” items from the pews, and recruiting and training volunteers to carry out the plan.

As you can see from just this summary of details, there is a lot that goes into resuming worship in the building, as compared to the simple decision to suspend, that was made last March. Because we are waiting on Covid cases to decline to an acceptable level and waiting for the delivery of air purifiers, the team cannot give a specific date for being back in the sanctuary for worship. Our hope that we can do that by early October, which will be just about the time the weather turns too chilly to be in the pavilion.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about the work of the pandemic response team, you are welcome to be in touch with Mack Warner, chair of the team.



Worship at St. David's

We invite you to engage in worship in any of these four ways

Sundays: In-person in our pavilion at 9:00 A.M. or 10:45 A.M.

This is a brief service of Word and Sacrament. Holy Communion is distributed by using pre-packaged wafer and juice that worshiper pick up at they enter. If is right for you attend, wear a face mask and bring a chair.

Worship in our homes: Each Saturday a worship video is posted to our St. David's YouTube Channel. The service is available 24/7 and included music, scripture, sermon and prayers.



Communion in our homes via conference call: Once a month, participants can prepare a home altar/table and have available a small amount of bread and wine/juice. You can join the conference call by calling this toll-free number (844) 855-4444. The access code is 3533716#. On the call, Pastor LaDonna leads a brief devotion, prayer and consecrates the elements for communion. ***The next conference call is Sunday, September 13th at 8:15 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.***

The weekly scripture reading, sermon and announcements are sent via US MAIL to those who cannot attend in-person or access the YouTube channel. If you do not receive the mailing and would like to, please call the church office at 717-632-1922.

O Come Let us us Worship God!

Finance Committee Meeting September 22nd at 7:00 P.M.

October 1st at 7:00 P.M. we are holding a Preliminary Budget Meeting.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property committee will be meeting at church in the pavilion on September 1st, at 7:00 P.M. Please bring a lawn chair to sit on.

P.A.L. (PROVIDE-A-LUNCH)

Volunteers are needed to cook, serve the meal, and clean up after the meal on the 2nd Saturday of each month for the Hanover Area Council of Churches (HACC). Our next Saturday to serve is September 12th between the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Come for all or part of this outreach ministry. The location is 136 Carlisle Street, Hanover. Please contact Mary Bixler if you have any questions.



Items for September: Cooking spray, egg noodles, cream of chicken soup, fresh carrots, dish soap, salad dressing, ziplock bags, and black pepper.

LAUNDRY LOVE

We have had a successful year. Every second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 P.M., our team meets at Suzi Suds on North Carlisle Street, Hanover. We greet customers and offer to pay for their laundry to be washed. While the washing is being done, there is time to visit with patrons, share some snacks, and do activities with the children. It is nice meeting our neighbors in a different way by talking to them and learning about them and their needs. If anyone would like to provide a donation towards the snacks that we provide for the evening, please see Michelle Quelet. We can still use some help during these evenings. If you are able, please join us on September 8th at 6:00 P.M. Hope to see you there. We are just meeting to give everyone their money this month.



PINK ENVELOPES are going for Laundry Love this month.

SPONSORSHIPS FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

Sponsorships for online worship are now being accepted. The cost is \$60 (while we are not worshipping in person, this replaces the sponsorship for bulletins, communion and worship supplies). Sponsors will be noted in the weekly announcements and in the online worship. Please call the church office (717-632-1922) or email (stdavidlutheran@yahoo.com) to become a sponsor. October 11th, 18th, and 25th, is still available.

CHURCH STAFFING DURING “STAY AT HOME ORDER”

- Our office administrator, Pam Kemper’s office hours will be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
- Pastor LaDonna day off will be on Monday’s.

BOUNDLESS RETREAT FOR YOUTH

Julie Smith and family have a lot of vegetables that are coming in the next couple of weeks. If anyone would like some of these vegetables, please call Julie at 717-633-1498 to see what has come in for picking. You can also pick up vegetables on Sunday mornings at Church. You can then leave a donation for the Youth trip to Boundless which was changed to July 24-28, 2022.

HELLO FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE,

We just wanted to post this note to let you know that because of Covid-19, we are cancelling the remaining events for this year. Those events include the Campfire/movie night and the Christmas Party. We will continue working on safe ways to gather this wonderful church family together sometime in the near future. In the meantime we pray that you all stay safe and hopefully you are well. We miss seeing all of you.

The Fellowship Committee

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR MEETING

On September 10th at 6:30 P.M. there will be a Christmas Bazaar meeting in fellowship hall. We are looking for people who are willing to come into the kitchen to make soup and bread. What are the possibilities to reinvent the bazaar? If you cannot attend, please call Cindy Blum at 410-596-7171 to let her know you are interested in helping.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

09/02	Courtney Palko	09/21	Madeline Huntington
09/05	Patsy Stevens	09/22	Diane Hess
09/05	Eric Baumgardner	09/22	Graig Huntington
09/08	Lisa Jo Smith	09/23	Nicholas Baumgardner
09/09	Pearl Saltzgeber	09/24	Esther Smith
09/10	Weston Schaffer	09/25	Judy Fulton
09/12	Johnny Wilson	09/26	Mary Wildasin
09/14	Harold Sanders	09/26	Kevin Green
09/16	Joyce Arndt	09/26	Lori Green
09/16	Sandy Wildasin	09/27	Pastor LaDonna
09/20	Kristin Bevil	09/27	Anna Hempfing
09/20	Lucas Rinehart	09/27	Greg Noble
		09/28	Caleb Bevil

THANK YOU:

- Everyone who helped with setting up for Church every Sunday.
- Everyone who helped with the P.A.L. program
- Everyone who helped with the Laundry Love.
- Response Team for trying to keep everyone safe at Church during this time of Covid-19.
- Everyone who sent back their survey to help the Response Team out.
- Sue Utz and Shelly Frock for all that they do for the Summer Lunch Program.

FROM THE COUNCIL

As of now fellowship hall will not be rented out until the new year or maybe longer. All events as of right now have been canceled.



What a difference in the kitchen. Would like to thank Tim Hartman, Harold Utz, Kevin Barnes, Mack Warner and Dave Bixler for taking down and putting up the new ceiling and lights.

Ladies you can see now.



Would like to thank Debbie Kronsteiner for trimming the weeds between the trees and Kevin Barnes and Mack Warner for trimming the trees.

Can't wait for all of you to get back to Church and see some of things that were done while you were all gone.

Thank you to Dave Bixler and Joan Barnes for trimming all the shrubbery.

Thank you to Cindy Blum for all the work she has done in each room.

Special thank you for Pastor LaDonna, Jeff Good, Joyce Arndt, Mack Warner and Kevin & Joan Barnes for setting up the pavilion every week.

Thank you to Jean Nash for making masks for anyone who didn't have one.

PRAYER LIST

PRAYERS FOR our teachers and children that are going to school.

COMFORT FOR Mary Bixler and family at the death of her brother, Jack.

FOR THOSE RECEIVING PASTORAL VISITATION AT HOME:

Ethel Meckley, Gladys Shearer, Millie Miller, Tony Laughman, Edna Rickrode, Ada Mancha, Kiki Beyers, Joyce & David Plank, Ann Hempfing, Dorothy Grogg, Mary Wildasin Clyde & Reda Gotwalt, Frank Martin, and Margie Utz.

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH

Doris Saltzgeber, Shirley Garrett, Brian Kopp, Arlene Kopp, Angela Kieny, Charles & Barbara Sickles, Frank & Hazel George, Kim Laughman, Julie Groft, Harold Utz, Dave Barnhart, Deb Klindedinst, Melvin & Marjorie Wentz, Hilda Schuchart, , Suzie Luks, Kaleb Trump, Travis Trump, Mary Lou Davis, Tom Phillips, Sunny Blouse, Ryan Laughman, George Hesse, Brock Beckham, Allison Trump, Tim Kurtz, Tim Lawrence, Sherry Bentzel, Diane Baumgardner, Dan Webber, Peggy Perin, Debbie Halleran, Dale Dyer, Kent & Donna Myers, David & Bea Waybright, Bea Reynolds, Marie Wisensale, Andrew Staub, Alicia Gauger, Vanessa Mummert, Rosemary Gamber, Bob McSherry, Carolyn Miller, and George Hauck.