

LAMPLIGHTER

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. DAVID LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 2026



St. David Lutheran

January 2026

Sunday, January 4—Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am—Sunday School

10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 11—Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 am—Sunday School

10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 18—Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am—Sunday School

10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 25—Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am—Sunday School

10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

**A caring community called to love, serve and proclaim
God's eternal grace to all people.**

Dear Friends in Christ,

A new year often arrives with a familiar question: *What will I do differently this year?* January invites us to reflect, reset, and resolve. While many New Year's resolutions focus on health, finances, or productivity, the beginning of a new year also offers a holy opportunity—to tend our faith and deepen our life with God.

As Lutherans, we trust that God's grace does not depend on our resolutions or our ability to keep them. We are already claimed in baptism, already loved, already forgiven. Spiritual practices are not about earning God's favor, but about making space to notice God's presence in our daily lives. Resolutions rooted in faith are less about self-improvement and more about spiritual attentiveness.

Here are a few gentle, grace-filled resolutions that can help nurture faith, prayer, and spirituality in the year ahead:

1. Create a simple rhythm of prayer.

Prayer does not need to be long or eloquent. Consider setting aside a few minutes each day—perhaps in the morning or before bed—to speak honestly with God or to sit quietly in God's presence. You might pray the Lord's Prayer, read a psalm, or simply say, "Thank you" and "Help." Faith grows when prayer becomes a habit rather than a performance.

2. Engage Scripture regularly, not perfectly.

Rather than resolving to read the entire Bible, try reading a short passage each day or each week. The daily lectionary, Sunday readings, or a devotional can provide a manageable starting point. Ask simple questions as you read: *What stands out? Where do I hear good news?* Trust that the Holy Spirit works even through small portions of God's Word. And if you'd like to do this kind of work rooted in community, join us on Tuesday evenings at 7pm or Wednesday mornings at 10:30am for our weekly bible studies at church!

3. Worship consistently.

Regular worship grounds us in God's promises and connects us to the body of Christ. When we gather around Word and Sacrament, we are reminded that faith is not a solo journey. If traveling or dealing with health issues, participating online can still be a meaningful way to stay connected.

4. Practice gratitude as a spiritual discipline.

Each day, name one or two things for which you are thankful. Gratitude helps us recognize God's gifts, even in challenging seasons. Over time, this practice can reshape how we see the world—with hope, humility, and trust in God's provision.

5. Serve with intention.

Faith is formed not only in prayer but in love for our neighbors. Consider one way you might serve—through the congregation, a local organization, or simple acts of kindness. Service reminds us that God is at work through us, for the sake of the world God loves.

As we step into this new year, may we remember that God is already ahead of us, meeting us with mercy and new beginnings. Whatever resolutions we keep—or fail to keep—God's faithfulness remains constant. May this year be one in which we grow, not in perfection, but in trust, prayer, and love.

Grace and peace in the New Year!

Pastor Greg+

St. David Church Council December Highlights 2025

The St. David Congregational Council met, Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 6 pm for the monthly meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken, as needed.

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music: Raleigh Ringers to perform November 14th, 2026, at St. David's

Learning: Christ Walk date scheduled March 22, 2026.

Property: Volunteer needed to monitor and order paper products for the church.

Snack Sacks: Received \$900 from MCEC

Financial Report: see attached November 2025

Elected officers for 2026:

President-Nate Hendrix

Vice President- Chris Dooley

Secretary- Andy Schumpert

Assistant Secretary-Sylvia Wessinger

Treasurer- Drew Laughlan

Financial Secretary-Lenny Bugay

Kate Labelle- Youth representative

Next Council meeting January 11, 2026

Council Retreat January 31, 2026

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - OPERATIONS
MONTH ENDED November 30, 2025

	ACTUAL	SPENDING PLAN	Actual Compared to Spending Plan	
RECEIPTS:				
Receipts (Includes Envelopes & Other Receipts)	\$ 512,959.80	\$ 547,292.46	-\$34,332.66	-6.3%
Transfer of Dedicated Funds	<u>16,193.78</u>	<u>0.00</u>		
Total Receipts (Includes Envelopes & Other Receipts)	<u>\$ 529,153.58</u>	<u>\$ 547,292.46</u>	-\$18,138.88	-3.3%
DISBURSEMENTS:				
ELCA & Synod Support	\$50,315.28	\$50,875.00	-\$559.72	-1.1%
Total Salaries	256,683.93	278,234.44	-\$21,550.51	-7.7%
Office/Miscellaneous	46,994.11	35,537.26	\$11,456.85	32.2%
Worshiping & Music	16,209.97	7,241.63	\$8,968.34	123.8%
Learning	6,273.31	5,637.50	\$635.81	11.3%
Scholarships	2,100.00	2,475.00	-\$375.00	-15.2%
Confirmation	4,868.04	687.50	\$4,180.54	608.1%
Youth & Family Services (CYFM)	1,745.56	6,416.63	-\$4,671.07	-72.8%
Young-At-Heart/ Tone Chimes	276.74	229.13	\$47.61	20.8%
Serving	650.00	1,741.74	-\$1,091.74	-62.7%
Witnessing	202.14	2,520.87	-\$2,318.73	-92.0%
Supporting	838.66	825.00	\$13.66	1.7%
Congregational Life Comm	450.58	1,375.00	-\$924.42	-67.2%
Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies	3,581.15	2,750.00	\$831.15	30.2%
Utilities	32,862.76	35,291.63	-\$2,428.87	-6.9%
Insurance	20,795.88	20,166.63	\$629.25	3.1%
Vehicle(s) Maintenance	2,939.46	1,833.37	\$1,106.09	60.3%
Maintenance of Bldg. & Equipment	32,774.10	41,250.00	-\$8,475.90	-20.5%
Service Contracts	39,200.64	32,541.63	\$6,659.01	20.5%
Landscaping	23,550.00	18,791.63	\$4,758.37	25.3%
Payroll Preparation Service	899.60	870.87	\$28.73	3.3%
Debt Payment (Principal and Interest)	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	<u>\$544,211.91</u>	<u>\$547,292.46</u>	-\$3,080.55	-0.6%
RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) DISBURSEMENTS	(\$15,058.33)	<u>\$ 0.00</u>		
TRANSFER OF FUNDS - for debt principal payments	0.00			
Funds Applied to Debt Principal	0.00			
Available for Operations Beginning Balance 2025	<u>168,250.81</u>			
AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS AS OF 11/30/2025	<u>\$153,192.48</u>			

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - OPERATIONS
MINISTRY REPORT
MONTH ENDED November 30 2025

	ACTUAL
RECEIPTS:	
Receipts (Includes Envelopes & Other Receipts)	\$ 512,959.80
Transfer of Dedicated Funds	<u>16,193.78</u>
Total Receipts (Includes Envelopes & Other Receipts)	<u><u>\$ 529,153.58</u></u>
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Worship & Music	
Music, altar, bulletins, supply pastor & instruments	\$ 16,209.97
ELCA & Synod Support	\$ -
Salaries	\$ 111,396.26
Support expenses allocation	\$ 82,966.08
Debt payment allocation	<u>\$ -</u>
Worship & Music Sub-Total	<u>\$ 210,572.32</u>
Learning	
Education, Youth & family ministry, scholarship, VBS, etc.	\$ 15,263.65
ELCA & Synod Support	\$ -
Salaries	\$ 73,641.55
Support expenses allocation	\$ 82,966.04
Debt payment allocation	<u>\$ -</u>
Learning Sub-Total	<u>\$ 171,871.24</u>
Serving	
Social ministry, ELCA missionary support, & Global missions	\$ 650.00
ELCA & Synod Support	\$ 37,736.46
Salaries	\$ 35,823.06
Support expenses allocation	\$ 18,805.46
Debt payment allocation	<u>\$ -</u>
Serving Sub-Total	<u>\$ 93,014.98</u>
Witnessing	
Evangelism, Stewardship & Hispanic ministry	\$ 202.14
ELCA & Synod Support	\$ 12,578.82
Salaries	\$ 35,823.06
Support expenses allocation	\$ 20,149.35
Debt payment allocation	<u>\$ -</u>
Witnessing Sub-Total	<u>\$ 68,753.37</u>
Total Disbursements	<u><u>\$ 544,211.91</u></u>
RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) DISBURSEMENTS	
	\$ (15,058.33)
TRANSFER OF FUNDS - for debt principal payments	0.00
Funds Applied to Debt Principal	0.00
Available for Operations Beginning Balance 2025	<u>168,250.81</u>
AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS AS OF 11/30/2025	<u><u>\$ 153,192.48</u></u>

PRAYER SHAWLS: If you like to knit or crochet and would be interested in making prayer shawls for St. David's Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Peggy Trump at (717) 315-0262. In addition, if you know someone who is going through a difficult time and would benefit from a shawl to bring them love, comfort, and warmth, please reach out to Peggy.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YARN you have donated to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. At this time we do not need anymore.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Over the weekend of January 23-25, gather at Lutheridge for Faith Ablaze!

Faith Ablaze is for current high school students that want to take their faith to the next level. Led by campus pastors and college students, participants will discover what their faith is like after Confirmation and how it can make a difference in the world.

In 2025, the Faith Ablaze theme is "being Extra." During this time, students will look at some of the "extra" characters from the Bible and discover how God might be calling us all to be a little more extra. Participants will be able to choose between 3 workshops led by campus pastors and have some time in small groups to talk more, led by a college aged counselor.

Youth will enjoy the beauty of Lutheridge in the winter, have freedom to choose different activities and areas of interest, and set their faith on fire through inspiring conversation.

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REFORMERS

DID YOU KNOW that St. David has a small group ministry for young(er) men? Come and check out the Reformers, a ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission geared toward men in the middle 1/3rd of life (18-50ish)! Please contact Brad Sox or Jim Bickley for information and to be added to the Band App where event and meeting information is posted. We hope to see you there!

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MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING

STILL HOPES

Glenda Boozer
2116 Still Hopes Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 530-4961

Betty Shull
1 Still Hopes Drive RM 3254
West Columbia, SC 29169

SPRING OAK @ LEXINGTON

Patricia Mathias
5422 Augusta Road, RM 203
Lexington, SC 29072

OAKLEAF VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON

Robert Smith
Room 210
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 358-2733

WELLMORE HEALTH CARE

Tish Sox
200 Wellmore Drive
Skilled Nursing Care
Room 4114
Lexington, SC 29072

Jim Brazell
200 Wellmore Drive
Lexington, SC 29072

Gail Brazell
200 Wellmore Drive
Lexington, SC 29072

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

Ernest Shull
2993 Sunset Blvd.
Room 204
West Columbia, SC 29169

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE FOR TRANSITIONS IN COLUMBIA - The Mary Group is doing our annual warm clothing collection for our homeless neighbors. Please donate any items for cold weather you may have or want to purchase. Give items to Renee Sox or put in red basket in Commons Area. We will collect through January 2026.

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OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY IS EXPRESSED TO:

The family of Joan Smith in her death on November 30.

The family of Peggy Sox in her death on December 18.

The family of Patsy Shull in her death on December 23.

The family of Frances Roberts in her death on December 23.

May they be supported by the Good News of Resurrection Victory in Christ.

Bulletin Board

FOODS FOR FOOD PANTRY

In January is Sunday, January 4, and again on February 1. Place Your items in the boxes in the Narthex.

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday

9:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am-2:00 pm

Lunch time varies

2025

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nate Hendrix (President)	Ann Alexander
Christopher Dooley (Vice-President)	Austin Corley
Andy Schumpert (Secretary)	Deana Hage
Sylvia Wessinger (Assistant Secretary)	Tricia Hood
Drew Laughlan (Treasurer)	Jim Kinard
Lenny Bugay (Financial Secretary)	Robbie Ruple
Kate Labelle (Youth Member)	Jamie Sox
	Barry Stricklin

THE CANCELLED STAMP PROGRAM

This program is still going on. It was started at St. David by Sybil Quattlebaum in 1972. Thanks to all who have kept this ministry going by bringing your stamps to us. The income from their sales goes to support preparation, publishing, and distribution of a new Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools.

Please place your cancelled stamps in the box in the David Sunday School Classroom. Do not remove the stamps from the paper (leave $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{3}$ " border), BUT, if stamps are already off the paper, they have a buyer for them. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ENTIRE ENVELOPES IN THE BOX, THEY TAKE UP TOO MUCH ROOM.

If you have any questions, please call Sheila Kinard at (803) 600-9363.

Again, thank you for your participation in the past and looking forward!

WHEN YOU NEED TO RESERVE one of the buses for a church function, a room in one of our buildings, or borrow tablecloths for a church function, call the Church Office at (803) 356-3035. If you want to reserve the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen or Family Life Center **for a non-church event** you must come by the office to do so and leave a check for \$100 as a deposit. The check will be returned after the area is inspected by Property Committee and all check list items have been reviewed. The key can be checked out the day before the event.

If you borrow tablecloths, please wash, fold and return to the Church Office within two days following use.

No white tables or chairs can be removed from St. David for any reason.

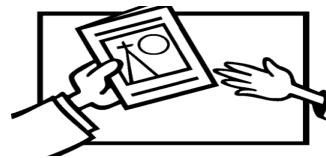
BULLETIN CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

JANUARY 4 – Steven & Janice Fipps

JANUARY 11 –

JANUARY 18 –

JANUARY 25 –



COMMUNION GIFTS FOR JANUARY



JANUARY 4 – Steven & Janice Fipps

JANUARY 11 –

JANUARY 18 –

JANUARY 25 –

FLOWER CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

JANUARY 4 – Steven & Janice Fipps

JANUARY 11 –

JANUARY 18 –

JANUARY 25 – Fran & Bernie Lee



ALTAR FLOWERS

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

JANUARY 4 –

JANUARY 11 –

JANUARY 18 –

JANUARY 25 –

NURSERY HELPERS FOR JANUARY

JANUARY 4 –

JANUARY 11 –

JANUARY 18 –

JANUARY 25 –

USHERS FOR JANUARY—Lenny Bugay, Mark Amick, Lee Breuer, Gary Dooley, Leon Trump

WE ARE LOOKING for nursery volunteers during worship, and they must be safe haven trained. Contact Nicki Temples 803-553-0640 if you would like to volunteer.

CONTACTING THE CHURCH

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Church Phone: 803-356-3035

Gloria, Secretary - office@stdavid.net

Seong-Sil Kim—Director of Music -
music@stdavid.net

Otto, Choir Director - choir@stdavid.net

CONTACTING PASTOR GREG

Pastor Greg may be reached by calling the Church Office during Office Hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 803-356-3035.

e-mail: pastor.greg@stdavid.net

SOCIAL MEDIA

Visit Our Web Page: stdavid.net

Find / Like Us On: FACEBOOK

COUNCIL INFO & REPORTS:

Council President - Charles Schumpert

PUBLICIST for Local Media: Pam Fox
803-315-4029 or Believe.pf@gmail.com
(2 weeks notice needed prior to church event)

ATTENTION:

LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE for the February Lamplighter is January 15. We need your group's news and activities. If your group or committee has something newsworthy coming up, get your article in to the Church Office on or before the 15th of January. Any article received after the 15th, will go in the March Lamplighter. Thank you for your cooperation.

IF YOU HAVE an article for the Lamplighter Weekly, please submit before 2:00 pm on Wednesday of each week. Any article submitted after that will go in the following week.

THERE IS A sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sign up to be a Greeter. If you are interested in serving in this capacity using your gifts and talents, please sign up in the Narthex.

A COPY OF CHRIST IN OUR HOME is available for every family. There are large and regular editions available in the Narthex. The current book is for January, February, March.

THE 2026 SIGN-UP POSTER for flowers, bulletins and communion gifts is now up in the Narthex. You can sign up for your important dates now.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Maria Canepa	13	Patti Puza Renee Sox	24	Andy Schumpert
2	Barbara McDaniel Joan Suhr	14	Jessica McKinney	25	Keri L. Webb
3	Camrie Dooley Gabriel Schumpert	16	Danny Shull	26	Kathleen Schnabel Margaret Fetner
4	Elizabeth M. Scott	18	Olivia Dickey Steve Pullie John Palmer	27	Preston Rikard Cody Sox
7	Beverly Roof Joyce Thompson	19	Jeffery Frye	28	Jim Riddle Fowler Price
8	J. J. Puza Donna Dooley	21	Kelly Goodale	29	Jackie Brunson Fran Lee Jim Bickley
10	Kathy Kozma Pat Rucker	22	Cathy Dooley Allie Bremer	30	Weston Sox
11	Betty Enlow Julie Baldwin Jamie K. Sox Victoria Sox Kimette Amodio Danielle Martin Thomas Lindler	23	Caylee Schumpert Steven Fipps Willie Culick Amanda Huber	31	Alexia Peake Bruce McFarland

If your name was left off this month's list, please call the church office so we may add it to next year's list.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

JANUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY, January 4 - TBD

SUNDAY, January 11 - No regular youth events (Church Council)

SUNDAY, January 18 - 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, January 25 - High School @ Lutheridge for Faith Ablaze

FEBRUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY, February 1 - TBD

SUNDAY, February 8 - No regular youth events (Church Council)

SUNDAY, February 15 - TBD

SUNDAY, February 22 - 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

More info on these events can be found on the Band app.

FALL CONFIRMATION SCHEDULES:

6TH & 7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION DATES - SUNDAYS, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

January 18, 2026

March 15, 2026

May 3, 2026

February 15, 2026

April 19, 2026

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DIRECTORY CHANGES

DON'T FORGET...IF YOU MOVE...

Please call the Church Office with your new address.

IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Please call the Church Office with your new phone number.

Ali Burnette

207 Spring Creek Court

Lexington, SC 29072-7948

ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS: To allow the Church Office to complete assembly of the St. David Church Annual Report for 2025 in a timely manner, we ask each chairperson to submit your committee's report **No later than January 15, 2026.**

Reports should be ONE PAGE in length and may be

- Mailed to: St. David Lutheran Church

132 St. Davids Church Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

- E-mailed (office@stdavid.net)

- Or hand-delivered to the Church Office (Monday-Thursday—9:00 am-5:00 pm)
(Friday—9:00 am-2:00 pm)

Thank You

from the staff of St. David!

The staff of St. David wish to express a heartfelt thank you to all the members of St. David!

It is a blessing to serve with you. We appreciate the help you give us with your time, talents and treasure throughout the year. You are a true blessing to each of us.

We wish you a blessed and happy new year, and we look forward to seeing you and working with you in the year to come.

Pastor Greg Brown

Otto Hage

Song-Sil

Gloria Miller

DON'T WAIT - DO IT NOW



There's a saying, it isn't done until the paperwork is done. The Cemetery Committee is in the process of confirming burial intentions with church members and non-member relatives by completing burial request and assignment forms. Also, due to a change in church policy, some non-members previously approved for burial but not paid, now need to pay their burial assignment fee. The first notice was sent in April, and a follow-up is being sent in January. Ensure you have an assigned cemetery plot by responding to these letters before March 31st, 2026.

Although there are vacant plots in one or more of "your family squares" (squares are no longer available) does not mean you have a burial spot. For at least the past two decades, all burial plots, even in a family square, have only been individually assigned. All plots are considered VACANT until assigned to someone. *More than a verbal reply of intent is necessary. Each person needs to submit a burial request form.* Additionally, non-member relatives require Council approval of their burial request with concurrent payment of the burial assignment fee*. After you pass away is not the best time for your family and the church to find you a burial plot. * -Burial fees are subject to change as established by the Church Council.

See Bernie Lee either to check that indeed you have a plot assigned or to make your written request for assignment.

Welcome New Members

who have been received during this year.

Received March 2, 2025

Dianne Jeffcoat

Dean Seiler

March 10, 2025

Chris Osier

Received April 13, 2025

Seth Brock

Brent Dowd

Marshall Gagne

Brenda Hart

Ronald McKinney, Jessica McKinney, Bruce McKinney

Ellie Nord

Received September 14, 2025

Bryant & Elizabeth Edsell

Received December 14, 2025

Melvin Baldwin

Alyssa Carpenter

Dan Contreras

Danielle Sims, Anna Sims, J.D. Sims

Ronnie Warfield

Marc Woodlief

**ST. DAVID LUTHERAN CHURCH
132 ST. DAVIDS CHURCH ROAD
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29170**

FOR OUR VISITORS TO FIND OUT ABOUT...

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Stop by the Church Office on Sunday morning at 9:30 am and talk to Jennifer Jeffcoat, Sunday School Director.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – Call Amy Ruple at 803-351-1412. Choir for all children 3 years old through fifth grade.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA – Call Emily Labelle at 803-447-3711.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Call Pastor Greg at 803-356-3035.

YOUNG AT HEART – Talk to Linda Turner at 803-530-1496 about monthly meetings, trips, activities and ministries.

MEMBERSHIP – New members are always welcome at St. David! Please talk to Pastor Greg on Sunday or call the Church Office.

MUSIC MINISTRY – We have choirs for all ages: vocal, handbell and instrumental.

CAMPUS MINISTRY – Contact Kirsten Davis at 803-920-5305 or missykrea100@aol.com or Laurie Harmon at 803-530-5608 or Isharmon58@gmail.com or Sylvia Wessinger at 803-331-7766 or sylvia.wessinger@gmail.com.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION – Call Marvin Sox at 803-315-6499. Meetings are the first Monday night of each month at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **REFORMERS** – Brad Sox at 803-309-3922 or Jim Bickley at 864-684-3871.