

NEWS AND NOTES

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Preparing for the Future

The focus of my ministry at St Daniel's is **preparing you for the future.**

The worship and spiritual life of St Daniel's are in good shape. You have great singing and music, decent attendance for the size of the

MOST CONGREGATIONS ACT LIKE
THE FUTURE WILL BE A REPEAT OF
THE RECENT PAST. WE CAN BE
CERTAIN THAT WILL NOT BE THE
CASE.

membership, a real sense of community, and lay people visiting older and shut-in members. These are all signs of health in the congregation. Consequently, the Council has asked that I *focus on improving communication and helping the staff and members work together* to accomplish our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

The *staff members* of St Daniel's are all competent and committed to our mission. I have

met with each of them individually in addition to having weekly staff meetings. We are completing the process of devising job descriptions which began before my arrival. That will enable me to work with each of them to establish goals for the coming year. I am enjoying working with them!

A major area of concern for me about your ministry is its sustainability. This is less a concern about the declining size of the congregation than it is about the various liabilities St Daniel's has undertaken without apparent concern for their cost. For example, St Daniel's owns outright two old cemeteries, on either side of Church Road. Cemeteries today are a liability because fewer and fewer people are being buried. Currently 52% of those who die nationally are cremated, and that percentage is growing. That means people are not buying cemetery lots, but the sale of lots is how cemeteries have paid for mowing and upkeep. As a result there is a crisis in perpetual care funds: if mowing costs \$500 a month, a cemetery needs \$100,000 in its perpetual care fund to produce income just to pay for that. St Daniel's has NO perpetual care funds for its cemeteries, and no one has

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BING REVAMPED!

Beginning September 9, Children's Church will take place every Sunday with dismissal from the sanctuary after the Prayer of the Day. Children ages pre-k through grade six will be welcomed for a lesson, craft and games, and will return to the sanctuary for Communion.

After worship, Pastor Detweiler will be leading an adult Bible study of the gospel of Mark each Sunday.

calculated the annual cost of mowing and maintaining them.

In addition, St Daniel's has a large building that produces almost no rental income. In the past, when the pre-school and medical clinic were begun, they were seen as benevolent activities of the congregation, a good thing. But no monetary value was placed on the free use of the space. That will need to change so we know exactly what our commitments cost.

Planning for the future requires us to estimate what repair and maintenance projects are coming up in the next 10 years so that we can be prepared for their cost. The Social Hall is almost 15 years old. It has a flat roof. They typically last 20 years and are very expensive to replace. We have to figure out how we can maintain this large building for the future. (The mortgage is being paid off steadily: the real issue for the future is maintaining that large space that produces little income.)

St Daniel's has received a number of significant bequests over the years, some of which have been put into designated funds. At this point we have to ask, though, if it makes sense to have so many separate funds.

Can we manage our finances and ministries more efficiently? *Can we use the Schmick and future bequests to establish an endowment fund adequate to produce the income to pay for building repairs and cemetery maintenance in the future?*

Today no congregation can survive on giving alone. They need earned income as well as endowment and capital income. St Daniel's is fortunate to have generous and committed members, and leaders capable of making prudent decisions for the future. We need to take our time making decisions that will have lasting consequences. For that reason we will not be making a decision about the Schmick bequest soon. I expect that we will have several congregational meetings before that decision is made by the congregation.

Another area of great concern to me is that *St Daniel's has been ignoring its congregational constitution and by-laws*. They could use some revision (especially the by-laws), but in the meantime they must be followed. There is no position of Co-President, nor is there a position of Financial Secretary in those documents. Consequently, those positions do not exist and responsibilities have to be shifted accordingly. (I frankly do not understand why there would be co-presidents - that's what a vice-president is for.)

Communication is an issue at St Daniel's because:

- there are so many committees and work groups that act independently without keeping the pastor and Council officers informed of their progress between meetings
- Council has not held committees accountable
- Committee memberships have been lifelong instead of for three year terms, renewable once
- It is not centralized in the church office and overseen by the pastor
- We still have a monthly rather than weekly newsletter
- Many members do not have email, which limits the ability to produce a weekly newsletter efficiently

I am working with the Council and its officers to centralize communication in the church office. That is the only way for it to improve. We are also working on the other issues I identified in this letter, especially the issue of accountability.

We have been called together at St Daniel's to make disciples for Jesus Christ in this community. As we hold each other accountable to that mission, we will be able to strengthen the ministry of Jesus Christ through this congregation!

In Christ,
Pastor Detweiler



ACTUAL GIVING VERSUS BUDGET

	Current Giving July 2018	Current Month Budget	2018 Year to date	Budget Year to Date
General Fund	\$16,722	\$17,125	\$115,168	\$120,625
Building Fund	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,400	\$ 29,829	\$ 22,300
Benevolence:				
Discretionary	\$ 2,046	\$ 1,800	\$ 12,798	\$ 12,560
Designated	\$ 339	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,753	\$ 6,500
Totals	\$23,005	\$23,325	\$ 163,547	\$161,985
 Total Income	 \$24,938	 \$ 25,885	 \$ 173,355	 \$ 181,385
Total Expenses	(\$28,641)	(\$ 30,520)	(\$ 229,387)	(\$ 204,272)
Net Income/(Expense)	(\$ 3,704)	(\$ 4,635)	(\$ 56,032)	(\$ 22,887)

Mortgage Balance as of 07/31/18 - \$151,427.83 Monthly Mortgage Payment - \$3,192.81 Maintenance Fund Balance - \$21,452 Mortgage Fund - \$60,131

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 2018

- A *Special Congregation Meeting* to share information and answer questions about the transition between pastors will be held on September 30, 2018 immediately following the worship service
- Beginning September 4, *church office hours* will be:
Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00: the office will be closed on Friday
- Council is reviewing the Constitution and By-laws to make certain we are operating in accord with them
- *God's Work, Our Hands Sunday* is September 9. All are invited to go to Laurel Center in Hamburg to work and visit Carl & Johanna Adams
- Harvest Home will be held on September 23rd
- The offering is to remain at the altar until the conclusion of the worship service
- Pastor Detweiler has asked the Mutual Ministry Committee to be the nucleus of a "*Transition Team*" to work with him in preparation for a call to a new Pastor
- There was a brief discussion about the need to bring *income and expenses* into balance. Over the last several years, St Daniel's has accumulated a deficit of \$122,000. So far this year, we have spent \$25,000 more than was budgeted.
- The above issue is among those the reconstituted Finance Committee will be addressing, starting at their September meeting.
- Beginning September 9th, Children's Church will be held after the prayer of the day. There will not be a children's Sunday School hour following worship. This will be reviewed as more children begin attending St. Daniel's.
- Also beginning September 9th, Pastor Detweiler will lead the adult Sunday School class after worship service. It will be held in the chapel.
- Executive Council will meet on Monday, September 17th @ 5:00 p.m.
- Church Council will meet on Wednesday, September 19th @ 7:00 p.m.



SATURDAY - OCTOBER 13
7:00am to 3:00pm

QUILT RAFFLE - 2:30pm
(Proceeds benefit St. Daniel's youth)

FALL FEST IS COMING - HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Buy raffle tickets for the handmade quilt and many other prizes. Sell to friends and co-workers. Available in the narthex every Sunday!
- Place Fall Fest posters at local businesses to advertise
- Donate Flea market treasures - someone will love them! We also need canning jars
- Craft tables still available if you know someone who has crafts to sell
- Donate a silent auction basket
- Make chicken noodle or vegetable soup - or baked items (**especially homemade pies!**)
- Help to sort flea market items - see Huey Evangelista

HELP IS NEEDED - WHEREVER YOU CAN - BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER!
IF YOU ONLY HAVE AN HOUR - WE NEED YOU - EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!

SUPPORT FALL FEST BY COMING ON OCTOBER 13 AND ENJOYING!

- Country Breakfast served from 7:00-10:30am - New menu item - SCRAPPLE
 - Flea market opens at 7:00am - Fill a bag for \$8.00 - Come early for the best bargains!
 - Enjoy DJ Terry Schnitter, Adult & Teen Challenge Choir, Al Shade and daughter
 - Bid on silent auction items
 - Bring your children and grandchildren for the fun children's games
 - Come and shop: Flea market, hand-made brooms, canned items, produce, patronize our crafters, buy food items to take home
 - Buy mums and pumpkins (available after Labor Day)
 - Come for lunch: soup, chili, pot pie, hamburger, French fries, hot dogs, steak sandwiches, ice cream, home-made candy, ham & turkey deli sandwich, soft pretzels, apple dumplings baked goods. **Take some home with you - no need to cook!**
 - Fall Fest is held rain or shine - but prayers for nice weather are appreciated.
-
- **VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN ANY WAY YOU CAN!** (Set-up, at a stand, clean up)
Support your Fall Fest Committee



MAKE APPLE DUMPLINGS FOR FALL FEST! Thurs., Oct. 11

All men and women invited. We need rollers, mixers, and peelers.
Come when you can, starting at **9:00am**. Leave when you must!
See Marie Peiffer to offer your help!



SUNDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9

Immediately following the first hymn, children will be escorted to the Sunday School wing for Children's Church!

At the July Faith Formation Team meeting, the committee decided to proceed with a revamp of our Sunday School/GIFT/Children's Church program. Beginning on September 9, Children's Church will be held every Sunday with dismissal from the sanctuary after the first hymn. Children ages pre-k through grade six will be welcomed for a lesson, craft and games. Eight teams of teachers have been assembled to lead one class on a rotating schedule. With eight teams, no adult will miss church every Sunday. Our teens and confirmands will serve as helpers and they too, will only be assigned every 4-6 weeks.

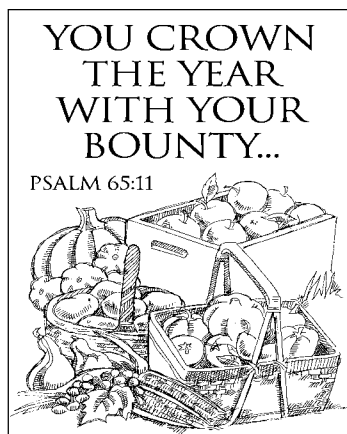
Spread the word so that our children will hear about the love of Jesus Christ!



Pastor Detweiler will be leading an adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings beginning September 9.

Join him in the Chapel at 10:15am every Sunday!

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 23



"We gather together" is the start of a hymn of thanks. As we give thanks for our blessings, once again we gather at our annual Harvest Home worship service. We celebrate by placing our gifts of food in our chancel, both fresh produce and non-perishable items. These gifts go to the Conrad Weiser Pantry and can be brought on Sat., Sept. 22, 9:00-11:00am, or to worship on Sunday, Sept. 23.

We will also celebrate our gifts of knotted quilts for Lutheran World Relief by displaying them on the pews. We have already sent more than 50 quilts. Since then busy hands have completed more than 100 additional quilts.

Come to see the beautiful display, worship with St. Daniel's and lift our praise and thanks for our bountiful "harvest".

Youth News

September 2018

As the new school year begins, I want to lift each of you in prayer that your year is full of learning opportunities, friendships and achievement of personal goals. Always be kind to one another and take time everyday to spend a few quiet moments talking with Jesus.

On September 9, we are beginning a new format of Sunday School this year in conjunction with Children's Church. Each Sunday, we will dismiss from the church service, children ages pre-K through grade six. We will have a Bible lesson, a craft and games related to the lesson. We need those of you who were just confirmed to serve as helpers. Since no one should miss the church service every week, there will be rotating teams assigned consisting of a teacher and a helper or two. I will meet with you to discuss further details. Our hope is that this format makes it easier for families with children to come to church and then be able to return to their busy day more quickly than with Sunday School only beginning at 10:30 like before.

September 9 – "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. In past years we have gone to Berks Heim, but this year, we will visit with Pastor and Mrs. Adams at the Laurel Center in Hamburg. They look forward to visits from our congregation and still settling in to their new environment. We will also take along some sort of "goody bag" to distribute to each resident at Laurel just like we did at Berks Heim. We will leave immediately following worship and make a quick stop at Cracker Barrel for lunch.

September 23 – The youth have been asked to again make chili for Fall Fest. Since youth benefit from the Fall Fest proceeds in the way of discounted events, I would like each of you to consider staying after worship to help with this project. Parents, we are asking each of you to contribute 2 lbs. of hamburger if possible. Fall Fest committee has been very generous to the youth and this is something we can give in return. See sign up sheet on youth bulletin board.

Looking ahead into October, if you wish to mark your calendars.....October 7 is the annual Crop Walk at Gring's Mill. I am unable to go that date due to a family wedding that weekend, but would love to see St. Daniel's represented. Please see me if you can walk as I will register a team online. Some money has already been collected through the donations from the produce from St. Daniel's garden grown by Andy Harakel.

Fall Fest is on October 13 and youth are in charge of crafts and games. We will set up outside this year which will be more fun for all. Hope you are each able to help for a few hours.

September 2018

*Beginning September 9, Children's Church will be held during worship for children ages Pre-K through grade 6.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00a Breakfast 9:00a Worship	3 Happy Labor Day! OFFICE CLOSED!	4 1 st Day Preschool 11:00a—1:00p PEP Club 7:00p Active Social Ministry Meeting	5 1 st Day Pre K NO CLINIC 7:00p Finance committee Meeting	6 11:00a Staff Meeting	7	8 Social Hall Rented
9 9:00a Worship* 10:15 Adult Sunday School Resumes 10:15 God's Work, Our Hands; Laurel Center	10 9:00a Quilters 5:00p Exec. Committee Meeting 7:00p Fall Fest Meeting	11 8:00a Breakfast at Heidelberg 6:30p Clinic Board Meeting	12 1:30p Endo Clinic 6:00p Clinic 6:00p Faith Formation Team Meeting	13 11:00a Staff Meeting	14	15
16 9:00a Worship* 10:15a Adult Sunday School	17 9:00a Quilters 9:30a Quilt Knotting 6:30p Transition Team Meeting	18 6:00p Women's Clinic	19 9:30a PEP trip to Gruber Wagon Works 6:00p Clinic 6:30p Bingo @ Wernersville Hosp. Bldg. 35 7:00p Council Meeting	20 11:00a Staff Meeting	21	22 9:30a Harvest Home Set-up
23 9:00a Worship/Harvest Home* 10:15a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Youth Chili Making for Fall Fest	24 9:00a Quilters 7:00p Cong. Care Team Mtg.	25 2:00p-7:00p Blood Drive	26 1:30p Endo Clinic 6:00p Clinic 6:30p CCT Advisory @ Trinity Kutztown	27 11:00a Staff Meeting	28	29
30 9:00a Worship* 10:15a Info. Congregational Mtg. NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL						



9/01 - Richard Labe
 9/02 - Ronald Leeper
 9/03 - Donald Speicher
 9/04 - Benjamin Moody
 9/05 - Brian Schittler
 9/07 - Mark Wolfskill
 9/07 - Caitlyn Pool
 9/10 - Harry Kissinger
 9/11 - Steven Zerbe
 9/13 - Amy Bright
 9/13 - John Sonon
 9/14 - Charles Duffy
 9/16 - Sherry Speicher
 9/17 - Amber Speicher
 9/18 - Kay Schlegel
 9/18 - Alyssa Miller
 9/20 - Dorothy Ravert
 9/20 - Jacob Speicher
 9/21 - Dolores Hauer
 9/21 - Andrew Harakel
 9/22 - Christopher Hauer
 9/23 - Abigail Kissinger
 9/23 - Chase Kissinger
 9/24 - Geraldine Yoh
 9/24 - Carol Lee Krater
 9/25 - Karlie Heistand
 9/26 - Judy Speicher
 9/26 - Jamie Boyer
 9/28 - Mary Catherine Leeper
 9/28 - Billy Jacobs
 9/30 - Larry Achey
 9/30 - Jenna Phillips
 9/30 - Benjamin Kline



9/03/11 - Jenna & Jeremy Sweigart
 9/03/81 - Susie & Mike Zerbe
 9/07/85 - Shirley & Robert Feeg
 9/10/83 - Grace & John Schittler
 9/13/86 - Dolores & Les Hauer
 9/14/91 - Lisa & Rick Merkel
 9/18/65 - Barbara & Fred Davis
 9/19/87 - Gretchen & David Patti
 9/24/11 - Michelle & Steven Zerbe
 9/30/89 - Robin & Gary Miller



Elsie Ulrich died on July 31, 2018 at the age of 86. She was the beloved sister of Mary Ulrich, Minnie Duffy and Irwin Ulrich. She was pre-deceased by four brothers and two sisters.

Elsie was a lifelong member of St. Daniel's and served on church council and many committees. She will be missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Elsie's family and friends.



The family of Elsie Ulrich wishes to thank all her friends from St. Daniel's for their prayers, sympathy, love and support. We appreciate the many cards shared during our loss of a special sister, Elsie.

Elsie's Family -
 Mary, Irwin, Minnie & Charles

Dear St. Daniel's,
 Thank you for the Pastor's visit and the food. Thank you also for your caring thoughts.
 Thank You,
 Betty Moyer



**ROBESONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH
BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. DANIEL'S**

TUESDAY, SEPT. 25 - 2:00-7:00pm

The blood drive will benefit the Miller-Keystone blood center and local hospitals. If you have not already signed up and would like to donate blood, please call Cheryl Moody at 610-926-6522, or sign up for the drive online at www.giveapint.org.

There is a great need for blood in our community. Thank you for your support!

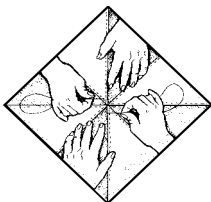
Next blood drive: Trinity Lutheran, Robesonia
Thursday, December 6



Congratulations to Madison Bright who was selected to receive a Scholarship Award from St. Daniel's Educational Opportunity Fund in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Her contributions to the work of our church were impressive. She has been identified as a Isabel Becker awardee.

Best wishes to Madison as she begins her studies at Jefferson University.



QUILT KNOTTING - Sept. 17 - 9:30am

Join us to help complete quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They will be displayed on the pews on Harvest Home Sunday, September 23.



**WERNERSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL
BINGO and PIZZA PARTY - Sept. 19, 2018 - 6:30pm**

We will meet at Building 35

Clients look forward to St. Daniel's volunteers every year for the Bingo Party. You can help by being a volunteer "host" and by donating prizes. They bring so much joy to the clients.

T-shirts (Large or XL sizes only) * men's baseball caps * playing cards * socks
sweaters * body lotion * toiletries * afghans * adult coloring books
markers * crayons * jewelry (no pins) and LARGE boxes of tissues
Please **NO STUFFED ANIMALS. NO staples of any kind can be in the prizes**

The recipients will be pleased and grateful for your thoughtfulness.
A box will be in the narthex for your donations. **THANK YOU!**

HARVEST HOME OFFERING

Financial offerings on Harvest Home Sunday will go toward the "Potato Project." Crops planted this spring by "Hart Harvest" are raised to benefit the food pantries for Greater Berks Food Bank. The project needs our help to help hungry neighbors in need.

The Potato Project is has volunteers (some from St. Daniel's), who come together to plant, tend and harvest potatoes, carrots, corn, field corn and soy beans. **The crops are given to recipients at our local pantries.**

This spring Joan McGuigan, Marie Peiffer, Merv Frantz, Bonnie Duffin, Linda Preston and Pastor Rebecca helped cut seed potatoes for planting at St. Peters (Beckers) Lutheran Church in Maiden creek. Last year this project produced 169,000 lbs. of potatoes. We learned the project **needs help.** The operating budget for seed, fertilizer, fuel, pesticides) is \$47,000 and through May only \$13,907. has been received. Equipment was sold and some planting was reduced but a deficit, a **big deficit** remains.

Help is needed to harvest potato and carrot crops in October/November. (Check the website www.facebook.com/potatoproject.)

Please consider your donation in the envelopes provided to help the Potato Project. **Funds are needed to continue this worthwhile project.**

CAMP NOAH

Camp Noah was held to help children displaced by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Many have come to Reading. Thirty-eight children came to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Reading August 13-17. Huey Evangelista was a camp volunteer at the bilingual camp and relied on an excellent interpreter for communication.

Katie Lyon, Pastor of Christ Lutheran in Reading, was the head of the camp. Approximately 30 volunteers assisted. Breakfasts and lunches were provided by congregations in both the East and West Berks Mission Districts. St. Daniel's provided lunch for kids and staff on Aug. 15. Carole Schmehl secured Thrivent funding to support the project. She and Jay shopped for supplies. Bonnie Duffin, Gloria Dietrich, Mary Catherine Leeper, Linda Preston and Carole Schmehl prepared lunch, and Jim and Chrissy Griesemer provided watermelon and Dieffenbach potato chips. Cheryl Moody picked up and delivered the drinks in the midst of the Hamburg flooding.

Jay Schmehl drove the "delivery" car to St. Luke's, where St. Daniel's gift was warmly received. Additional Thrivent funds were used to fill other needs of the campers.

Reading Eagle printed the story of Camp Noah on Aug. 19. The article is posted in the narthex. Read it to find out more about Camp Noah.

PEP (PEOPLE ENJOYING PEOPLE) CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEP MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPT. 4 AT 11:00am. Please note change in date.

We will welcome Elizabeth Sustello from the Berks County Genealogical Society. Please mark your calendars for what promises to be an interesting presentation. Bring your lunch; dessert and beverages will be provided. We are asking for a \$5. donation per person for this event. See sign up sheet on PEP bulletin board.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19: Everyone is invited to go to the Berks County Heritage Center and Gruber Wagon Works for a tour. We will leave the church at 9:30am or you may choose to meet us there at 10:00am. The cost is \$6 for those age 60 and above or \$8 for others. If we get a group of 15 or more, the cost would be \$4 per person. After the tour we will have lunch at Blue Marsh Italian Restaurant.

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GREETERS

9/02 Geoff & Connie Terpstra
9/09 John & Grace Schittler
9/16 Calvin Yoh
9/23 Cheryl Moody
9/30 Lois Ranck

FELLOWSHIP HOSTESS

Pat Bechtel

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS

9/02 Jay Schmehl, Trudy Zerbe
Terry Speicher
9/09 Bob Feeg, Pat Bechtel
Merle Witzke
9/16 Dave & Melanie Jacobs
Steve Bright
9/23 Calvin Yoh, Cheryl Moody
Dottie Ravert, Brian Yoh
9/30 Joel Boyer, Harold Schappell
Terry Williams, Ron O'Brien

NEWSLETTER & ADVERTISING

Amy & Steve Bright

FLOWERS

9/02 Susie & Mike Zerbe in honor
of Birthdays & Anniversary
9/09 Steve & Amy Bright
9/16 Randy Bright in honor of
Suzanne's Birthday
9/23 Dennis Zerbe in memory
of Betty Zerbe
9/30 Harold & Elaine Schappell

BULLETINS

9/02 No Sponsor
9/09 Amy & Steve Bright
9/16 Randy Bright in honor of
Suzanne's Birthday
9/23 Fred & Barbara Davis in
honor of Anniversary
9/30 No Sponsor

ATTENTION!

One of our goals is to improve communication with St. Daniel's members.
As part of this process, beginning in September, all newsletter articles
should be emailed to the church office at stdanch@comcast.net.

ST. DANIEL'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church is to provide a caring and joyful community shaped by the love of God in Jesus Christ committed to nurturing people's faith in God and sharing His gifts of hope and love with the world around us.