

# Friendly Messenger

2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. I know this has been a difficult month, with not being able to gather in-person for worship, to put off all meetings and plans, and to wonder when this high alert for the corona virus is going to end. This has not been easy. It has been an unusual and tense time where we are all trying to figure out how to adapt to and make the best of this situation. I am grateful that many of you have tuned into our livestreamed service on Sunday mornings. To paraphrase, Jesus tells us that *whenever* two or three are gathered in His name, there He will be, so I trust He is with us as we gather as a virtual community. We are still the Body of Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that you are staying in as much as possible and taking all proper precautions. It will be some time before we gather in person again. In March, the Synod Council, the leadership of the North Carolina Synod, met via conference call, and prayerfully discerned how we go forward for the time being. They commend the following expectations:

- That we continue to follow the directives of President Trump, Governor Cooper, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of having no gatherings of more than 10 people in any NC Synod congregation. And following those recommendations and those of our ecumenical partners to extend this policy until at least May 12.

The Sardis council has voted on and approved this recommendation. It will be some time until we gather in person again. However, we are in this together. We are still connected. We are still the Body of Christ. We are still the Church. The church is here, it is beautiful, and it is a delight to see when we livestream, but WE, God's baptized children, are the Church. We have been staying connected through phone calls, letters, online worship, phonetree messages, and Facebook. We have been utilizing technology to stay connected and to proclaim the Gospel. We are continuing our mission and ministry as we are able. I am grateful to our committees and committee chairs, our congregational council, and everyone, for how we have been walking together through all these changes and adjustments. Thank you to our Banoak Backpack Program Team who made sure that the families we serve still received their food supplies. Thank you to our food delivery ministers who keep their distance while still delivering food to the folks who rely on it.

It is my prayer that we make space for God's activity where even in the midst of this difficult time, we grow in faith and trust toward God and love toward neighbor. We can take this time to step back and reflect on God's activity in our lives and the mission at Sardis. Where might God be pointing our eyes? How is this changing us, pruning us, showing us? Where might there be new signs of life growing? I pray that as we will be refreshed by each other's presence when we meet in person again, that we will be refreshed in mission and outreach. So we may continue our mission and ministry here at Sardis, please mail in your tithes and offerings each week. We have also set up an online system for giving and instructions regarding that are included in this newsletter.

Continued:

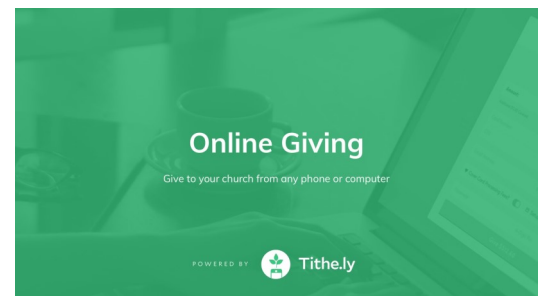
The Catawba Conference of ELCA churches has also been in conversation about how we collaborate and share resources in this unique time. A number of churches have come together and are brainstorming Holy Week services that will be livestreamed on a neutral channel for the participating churches (and everyone) to watch. This is still in the works, but we will observe Holy Week, including our Easter Sunrise Service on Facebook livestream. More details will follow once our schedule and plans are finalized. Even as we gather together via online, we will proclaim, “CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!” Nothing, not empire, not death or the devil or any force could stop the power of God from raising Jesus from the grave. The love and power of God is truly all mighty. As Paul exhorts in his letter to the Romans, that he is convinced “nothing, neither, death, nor life, nor angels, nor rules, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” In Holy Baptism, we abide in that constant connection of love.

Finally, let us keep one another in prayer. Let us follow precautions by washing our hands and staying at home. Let us keep one another in prayer, knowing that there are prayer requests and needs. Pray for those affected by the virus. Pray for medical professionals and caregivers. Pray for our governmental and church leaders. Call a neighbor. Let us make an extra phone call a day, checking in on each other, checking in with an organization that helps serve people in need. Help someone connect to our livestreamed service. Keep a journal reflecting on this time. Pray about God’s work and His mission through Sardis. Cherish the people you stay with and the time you have together. Give thanks for a God who loves us; who loved us so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but have eternal life.” God loves this world and loves you too. Hold on to this.

I look forward to gathering for worship on Facebook. See you there!

God’s love and mine, Pastor Adrienne

**To continue the mission and ministry of Sardis it is important that we continue to tithe and to give our offerings during this time of precaution.**



A link called Tithe.ly has been added to our Facebook page and Website to make online contributions. In this time of COVID 19, we need to remember that our church stands tall and proud as your symbol that God is with us. Your continued tithing is essential in making this happen. There will be a link on Facebook and the Website to click on that will take you directly to our personal Tithe.ly page. This is a confidential and secure page that only you and the church administrators can view. With this being very new, you need to be advised that a test has been run and everything should work smoothly. There is a slight fee, which will be deducted from your contribution amount when using this link. We will continue using this link, going forward, for anyone wishing to make their church tithes online instead of our traditional envelope collection. A statement can be run from Tithe.ly and a statement will still be given from the church, as well. That way you will be able to check your statements for accuracy.

According to the statement, on page four from our Bishop, Tim Smith, it will be several weeks before we will be allowed to open our doors on Sunday Morning. In the meantime tune in to the service each Sunday via Facebook or ask the church for a recorded disk of the service.

### **STEPS TO INSTALL AND USE THE TITHE.LY LINK:**

***BEFORE LEARNING THE STEPS TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE, YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING IF TITHE.LY IS SECURE... WE ASSURE YOU THAT THE LINK IS SECURE.***

All financial information is encrypted and stored by our banking partner BB&T to PCI DSS Level 1 compliant standards. PCI DSS Level 1 compliance is a set of rules stated by credit card companies and audited by an independent third party. It is the highest possible rating one can get in the electronic payment processing industry. Additionally, Tithe.ly forces HTTPS for all transaction services using TLS.

### **WHAT ARE THE WAYS WE CAN GIVE?**

- Cash & Check – Our normal or current giving via USPS.
- ACH bank transfer – Bank transfer donations are supported by Tithe.ly church giving. Donors can set it up and manage their connected accounts themselves.
- Credit & Debit Card – Donors can give using their VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or AMEX.

**WHEN ARE THE FUNDS DEPOSITED?** The short / simple answer is that we deposit funds directly into your bank account every day with a two day lag. This means that funds raised on Sunday hit your bank account on Tuesday.

### **INSTRUCTION SUMMARY**

#### **FOR ONLINE GIVING:**

Go to Website or Facebook and click “Give” The first time you sign in you will be asked to sign up. Here you will enter your email address, create a password and a four digit pin. (Please write this down or remember it as no one has access to this information but you). The next step is to enter your debit/credit card information. Save and continue to make your contribution. Please note that you will have the ability to choose Building Fund or General Fund for your contribution.



**North Carolina Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

March 21, 2020

# Special E-News

The NC Synod Council just completed their quarterly meeting using online technology. As we reviewed our Core Values and Vision Statement, we noted that the last line of that vision is “all for the sake of the world.” With great sadness yet with firm conviction that for now, love for the world God so loves looks like an empty church building, we commend these three strong recommendations—even expectations.

- Following the directives of President Trump, Governor Cooper, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we urge no gatherings of more than 10 people in any NC Synod congregation.
- Following the CDC and the recommendations this week of our ecumenical partners, we recommend that the “no gatherings of more than 10 people in any NC Synod congregation” policy be extended until at least May 12.

The Synod Gathering will not be happening in May. We are still committed to gathering as a synod this year if that is possible. A decision will be made at the Synod Council meeting in late May.

Even so, especially so, we trust in God’s provision and the eventual Easter joy that we will all celebrate whenever we are able to gather again.

For the sake of the world,

Your North Carolina Synod Council

**TUNE INTO FACEBOOK ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT  
 10:30AM FOR OUR LIVE STREAM  
 WORSHIP SERVICE.  
 DVD’S ARE AVAILABLE.**



## April Birthdays

4/1 April Fulbright  
 4/7 Rick Johnson  
 4/8 Isaac Hollar  
 Jane Moretz  
 Hayden Johnson  
 4/9 Cooper Carroll  
 4/11 Jon Gladden  
 Jeff Gladden  
 Felicia Hollar  
 4/12 Alma Fulbright  
 Carolyn McGinnis  
 4/20 Elaine Jarrett  
 4/23 Greg Fulbright  
 4/25 Marilyn Teague  
 4/30 Chris Johnson  
 Cynthia Purcelle

## SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY

Apr 4 Jill Bledsoe  
 Apr 11 No Meal Delivery  
 Apr 18 Dawn Covington  
 Apr 25 No Meal Delivery

## Anniversaries:

Jon & Becky Gladden 4-12  
 Randy & Joyce Speagle 4-13  
 Marilyn & Roger Teague 4-17  
 Jeff & Rebecca Wilson 4-17  
 Richard & Dawn Covington 4-21  
 Ethan & Heather Carroll 4-30

## Baptisms

7 Lindy Wilson 1957  
 9 Samuel Biggerstaff 2006  
 11 Carolyn Hoyle 1954  
 Pat Lail 1954  
 Randy Speagle 1954  
 12 Alfred Whitener 1953  
 Shuford Whitener 2015  
 14 Terry Bledsoe 1957  
 Patsy W. Johnson 1957  
 15 Dawn Covington 1962  
 21 Robin Stuart 1974



He is  
**RISEN**

# A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### **The First Commandment:**

**"You shall have no other gods."**

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

### **The Second Commandment:**

**"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."**

We should fear and love God, and so we should not use his name to curse, swear, practice magic, lie or deceive, but in every time of need call upon him, pray to him, praise him and give him thanks.

### **The Third Commandment:**

**"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."**

We should fear and love God, and so we should not despise his Word and the preaching of the same, but deem it holy and gladly hear and learn it.

### **The Fourth Commandment:**

**"Honor your father and your mother."**

We should fear and love God, and so we should not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

### **The Fifth Commandment:**

**"You shall not kill."**

We should fear and love God, and so we should not endanger our neighbor's life, nor cause him any harm, but help and befriend him in every necessity of life.



**The Sixth Commandment:****"You shall not commit adultery."**

We should fear and love God, and so we should lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, each one loving and honoring his wife or her husband.

**The Seventh Commandment:****"You shall not steal."**

We should love and fear God, and so we should not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by dishonest trade or by dealing in shoddy wares, but help him to improve and protect his income and property.

**The Eighth Commandment:****"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

We should love and fear God, and so we should not tell lies about our neighbor, nor betray, slander or defame him, but should apologize for him, speak well for him, and interpret charitably all that he does.

**The Ninth Commandment:****"You shall not covet your neighbor's house."**

We should love and fear God, and so we should not seek by craftiness to gain possession of our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor to obtain them under pretext of legal right, but be of service and help to him so that he may keep what is his.

**The Tenth Commandment:****"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."**

We should love and fear God, and so we should not abduct, estrange or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants or cattle, but encourage them to remain and discharge their duty to him.

**What does God declare concerning all these commandments?**

He says, "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. We should therefore fear his wrath and not disobey these commandments. On the other hand, he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep them. We should therefore love him, trust in him, and cheerfully do what he has commanded.

## OUR MISSION

**Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church serves together as disciples of Christ, teaches the word to invite people into a life of knowing Jesus, encourages each other in faith and personal mission through reaching out to the needs of the community and individuals.**

**All Holy Week Services will be found on the website [www.Catawba Lutherans.org](http://www.CatawbaLutherans.org). The link will be posted on our Facebook page close to the time of services.**

Palm Sunday	10:30 am
Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Good Friday	7:00 pm
Easter Morning	11:00 am

We will also have our Sunrise Service streamed live on our Facebook page at 6:30 am

**SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6103 W NC 10 HWY  
HICKORY NC 28602**

