

Friendly Messenger

April 2021

Easter Seedlings

The Resurrection of our Lord is approaching, and we, along with millions of other disciples, will witness the empty tomb. Like those first disciples who first discovered it, it will be up to us to figure out what this empty tomb means.

We have some Easter seedlings that we gathered during our Lenten journey. Our disciplines lead up to Easter, and in the Season of Easter we may see the fruits of our Lenten disciplines grow. A couple of weeks ago, we heard the words of Jesus, "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal" (The Message).

For our Lenten Series, we explored what it means to love God above all else and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We hosted guest speakers to preach a word about what right relationship looks like in their corner of the field.

Our first week, The Rev. Todd Byrd preached about faithful ways of loving ourselves. He spoke about how a lack of self-love can drain our capacity to love others. We can only love others well when we honor and take care of ourselves first. We are deserving of love and are beloved children of God. Sometimes we forget that!

The second week, Faith Health Nurse Carolyn Thompson talked about advocacy in the health field. In this time of pandemic, disparities in healthcare have intensified, and many folks do not have transportation to vaccination sites. She invited us to consider the transportation resources we might provide.

The third week, The Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood, Executive Director of the Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry, spoke about the greatest commandment as it relates to poverty. She has learned that it is in sitting and hanging out with our neighbors that helps us to see them as beloved children of God. Then we see that the judgments we often hold against them are unfounded. Jesus reached out to everyone who was outcast and let them know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made. That is part of our calling too.

The fourth week, The Rev. Bill Garrard spoke about Earth. He shared the story of how the Green Bible was produced. He shared that earth is dying. He provided biblical principles of creation care, reminding us that God created us to take care of the world. Human decisions have a powerful impact on all of creation. We are responsible and have been given the awesome God-given authority and ability to care for the creation. He encouraged us to be image bearers of God as we care for the earth.

Cont. Pastor letter,

The fifth week, the Rev. Reggie Longcrier, founder and Executive Director of Exodus Homes, brought new life and perspective to the greatest commandments in light of the story of the Good Samaritan. He shared a powerful story about an experience he had in Nigeria where he visited a prison. Those who live on Planet Earth are our neighbors. God cares about everybody, and especially those who are left by the roadside of life. He invited us to consider anyone in need as our neighbor and to speak truth to power, even if it is risky.

If you did not have a chance to tune into the Lenten Services, I invite you to watch the recordings! These summaries hardly do them justice! Their perspectives were insightful and refreshing, even if it brought us face to face with a harsh world. Even in a harsh world, God still speaks, God still delivers, God still loves. They were wonderful gifts--a wealth of inspiration--that our guest preachers gave us!

These are our seeds. They are seeds of knowledge, insight, reality, and God's great love for all people. At the heart of this series is God's amazing love, for you, for me, for us, for everybody, and perhaps especially those who are experiencing the harshness of life outside of community. God's great love for us is what sets us free to care about others. That is why we seek justice, or as The Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood put it, right relationship with each other. Because of God in Christ Jesus, the Gospel is in our hearts; and we are its voice and its hands. God gives us that grace!

I invite you to consider these seeds of justice and how they might take root in the Season of Easter. That is when all the efforts we made in Lent may flourish! I pray we keep learning, keep praying, and keep growing. You never know what may become a tree!

Blessings,
Pastor Adrienne

SYNOD ASSEMBLY, JUNE 3-5

Synod Assembly is going to be held online via Zoom this year. If you would like to attend as a voting member or as a guest, please let Pastor Adrienne know! Registration is open until May 1st.

Pastor Martin will be on vacation (April 5-12). Please call the office or council contact if you have a pastoral request.

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM WELCA FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD FOR OUR ECCCM FOOD DRIVE. WE WILL ADVISE HOW MANY POUNDS THAT WERE COLLECTED IN AN UPCOMING BULLETIN.



BUY A TREE

The church front yard is in need of tree replacements. Some of the old trees will be cut down and new trees will be planted. The new trees will cost \$81.00 each and we will need to purchase 6. If you would be interested in using some family memorial monies or adopting a tree in honor or memory of a loved one please contact the office by April 11th. The trees will be planted Saturday March 27th on Church Clean-up Day.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 28th Palm Sunday

10:30am Drive-in Worship Service and Holy Communion (communion cups will be handed out for Maundy Thursday Service lower driveway at end of service today).

April 1st 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service And Holy Communion.

April 2nd 7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service.

April 3rd Altar Committee meet at 10:00am to clean brass. (we will be wearing mask and observing social distancing guidelines).

April 4th 7:00am Drive-in Easter Sunrise Service and Holy Communion



UPCOMING DRIVE-IN DATES

April 18th 10:30 am (April 25th for rain date)

May 2nd 10:30 am

May 23rd 10:30 am (Pentecost)

REOPENING COMMITTEE

What will the worship service look like when we're able to come back inside? (singing, communal prayer, Holy Communion, etc). The following have agreed to serve on a Reopening Committee to address this question and more.

Ray Whitener, Marilyn Teague, Rick Johnson, April Fulbright, Ken Propst, Becky Gladden, Sherrie Midgett

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
February 14, 2021

All Members Present Bruce, Kathy, Terry, Jon, Bryan, Gene, Susan, April, Tim, Pastor Adrienne, Ben, Mike, Carolyn

Bruce called the meeting to order via Zoom. Kathy had devotions.

Minutes from the January 10th meeting were read with no changes from the Council. Motion was made by Jon to accept the minutes; Carolyn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bruce presented the Treasurer's report. The General Fund balance was \$10,011 as of January 31. The reconciled Building Fund balance was \$13,077; the Cemetery Fund was \$1,437. Jon made a motion to accept the report, Susan seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:
Greetings in the name of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you so much for voting early on the Farnworth's request to join Sardis! It worked out very well to have their joining and baptisms on the great Festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord! We had met weekly since the beginning of January, going over Lutheran theology and practice. When we were ready to move forward with joining all of the sudden the Season of Lent was upon us! We had planned for them to join the first Sunday of Lent, however, my liturgical sensibilities kicked in and I felt it would be best to find another time. Since the early Church, Lent has been the time in which candidates for baptism underwent instruction (catechesis) in preparation for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

That is why it is best to have a baptism before the Season of Lent or wait until Easter. Thank you for acting so quickly. After all of the preparation we did, I did not want us to have to hold off until Easter!

Since our last meeting, I have spent my time:

Preparing for weekly services.

Responding to pastoral requests.

Making phone calls as I can.

Preparing for meetings.

Reflecting and writing for the Annual Report and preparing for the meeting.

Providing information and articles for the newsletter.

Collecting information for the annual Parish Report to the ELCA.

Organizing the conference study and our congregation's study called Six Weeks on Money.

Planning our Evening Lenten Series, developing the service, scheduling preachers, and recording times.

Summary of Meetings and Events

Worship planning with Frank (ongoing!)

New Member Meeting, Friday, January 15

Technology Committee, Sunday, January 17

Funeral planning for Joe Fulbright, Wednesday, January 20

Funeral Service for Joe Fulbright, Friday, January 22

Conversation with Dr. Mindy Makant, Monday, January 25

ANGELS for Christ, Tuesday, January 26

New Member Meeting, Friday, January 29

Drive-thru pick up for Annual Meeting (cancelled due to weather)

LIGHTS conference meeting, Thursday, February 4

ANGELS meeting with Dr. Makant, Thursday, February 4

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 7

Memorial Service for Jack Whitener, Wednesday, February 10

Lifeline Meeting, Thursday, February 11

Drive-thru for Ash Wednesday Service, Sunday, February 14

Ashes and element packets for Holy Communion

Lenten Sunday School materials for children and youth

Women of the ELCA led food drive (first collection date)

Cont. Council minutes:

Upcoming

I am excited to report that we have a strong group for our study Six Weeks on Money. I was very excited our conference was awarded the grant that made this course free. We are going to be meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:45 pm. I am looking forward to how this may provide a framework on having a healthy and generous relationship with money. We will meet every week during Lent and then will provide feedback on the program.

I am very excited about our Lenten series this year. I will very much miss working with the group of pastors and congregations with whom we have been working the last four years; however, sometimes it is good to change things up a bit. One of the advantages this year has brought is more time to reflect. Something that has been stirring in my heart and spirit is a desire to learn more about the complex issues underlying community needs. I sometimes feel out of touch with what 'right relationships' with our neighbors looks like and I have a desire to learn about it. I thought someone else might feel similarly.

I think this is a life-giving direction and expect it to be refreshing, and perhaps renewing and transformative. I would like to make sure to heed my calling of leading us to live into our baptismal covenant to seek and pursue peace and justice, serving all people. In my mind, learning comes first!

This Lenten series is based on The Greatest Commandment which is to love God above all else and to love your neighbor as yourself. I have invited speakers, most of whom are preachers, to preach about this commandment as it relates to their ministry setting. I shared my idea with Rev. Sandi Hood (community outreach at Carolina Caring) and she recommended some colleagues to invite. I believe their presentations will be very insightful. Here is the schedule:

Week One: "Loving Ourselves, a Christian Perspective"

Preacher: The Rev. Todd Byrd, Crossroads Counseling

When: Sunday, February 21st at 7 pm

Week Two: "Loving Our Neighbor:

A Healing Hand in a Time of Crisis"

Preacher: Carolyn Thompson, Faith Community Nurse, FaithHealth Catawba

When: Sunday, February 28th at 7 pm

Week Three: "Loving Our Neighbor: When I Was Poor..."

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood, Executive Director of Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

When: Sunday, March 7th at 7 pm

Week Four: "Loving Our Neighbor: The Earth Groans"

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Garrard, retired pastor and EarthKeeper

When: Sunday, March 14th at 7 pm

Week Five: "Loving Our Neighbor: Exodus Homes"

Preacher: The Rev. Reggie Longcrier, Executive Director of Exodus Homes

When: Sunday, March 21st at 7 pm

I expect to learn a lot and invite you to attend as well as family and friends who you think would be interested!

New Developments

I am happy to hear that many of us have gotten our vaccines. I hope with time, we will be able to meet back inside all together soon! We are getting there!

We are continuing to provide DVDs of our worship service to Trinity Ridge. They very much appreciate being able to have worship resources for their residents. I have also asked the new chaplain, the Rev. Judy Drysdale to visit Betty Clay when she can.

I am happy to announce that ANGELS for Christ is working diligently on how we can best minister to our children and families. Robin Stuart presented the idea to send each child a \$10 gift card to Chic-Fil-A (or PDQ) to show our support as they navigate this new and stressful world of online learning. She mailed out 40 gift cards with a note of encouragement and support. Hopefully, parents can take a night off from cooking and they can enjoy a relaxing meal together. I am grateful to Robin for her care!

ANGELS for Christ also met via Zoom with Dr. Mindy Makant, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Lenoir-Rhyne University on Thursday, January 4th. I had talked with Dr. Makant some hopes and goals I

Cont. Council minutes:

had for our children and family ministry and she offered to meet with us as a consultant. I found the conversation very helpful and she affirmed our ANGELS group as being great theologians. She really liked how we acknowledged children as not just the future church, but the church now.

She gave us some good questions to consider as well as some curriculum we might consider. The curriculum choices could invite a big investment; however, if we lay a good foundation for faith formation, I believe it will well be worth it. We are planning to meet again in the next three weeks to continue discussing the questions she gave us.

On a personal note, I am happy to announce that I have started helping as a Resource Parent for Catawba County. On Fridays, I have been spending time with a 15-year-old during the day so that she does not have to spend her time at the agency. I am waiting on a placement and this is giving me some good experience in the meantime. I appreciate your prayers as I pursue this new venture!

I am deeply grateful for you and the ministry we share. I remain inspired and grateful for your generosity, flexibility, and faithfulness. Those are precious spiritual gifts!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Adrienne Martin

Old Business:

Steeple Repair – Terry After doing some research into the possible repair costs verses the cost of a new steeple it was decided to purchase a new steeple, since the current steeple is at least 24yrs old. The cost will be less and by using Memorial Funds along with insurance the purchase price and installation should be covered. The new steeple has been ordered and should be here by 03-16-21. Sardis will be responsible for the unloading when it does arrive. Terry will get with the Property Committee to decide the best course for disposal for the old steeple. The price of the new steeple does include the shingle saver and lightning protection.

Property Committee – Land use Since no decision has been made for the land purchased from Greg Fulbright, he has requested to continue to farm the land until such time as the church has made a plan for it. The Property Committee recommended that Greg be allowed to use until that time. Jon made a motion that we accept the committees' recommendation, Tim seconded, and the motion passed.

Fellowship Doors – It was decided that the doors need to be sanded and repainted/sealed. Bruce and Terry will work to find someone to accomplish this when the weather gets warmer.

Church Sign - Tim The "Sponsor A Letter Campaign" notice put in the newsletter response was great, all letters have been purchased and ordered. Sign Solutions will remove and install the letters, but it has been suggested that the sign be cleaned between removal and installation of the letters. Bruce volunteered to clean the sign.

New Business:

Lenten Offerings – It was suggested that this year the offerings be given to the different organizations the speakers represent. A list of the speakers and their organizations will be listed in the March newsletter. Terry made a motion to accept this recommendation, Jon seconded, and the motion passed.

Children's Ministry – April Dr Mindy Makant presented a choice of curriculums for children's bible study or Sunday school. The team at Sardis were drawn to the "Good Shepherd" studies. The programs develop "faith formation" going forward in the children's lives. April and the group are planning for Sept 2021 Sunday school rollout.

Outdoor Worship – Bruce The Worship & Music Committee have begun discussions on increasing the drive-in services per month, depending on the weather and availability of the sound system provided by Joe Biggerstaff. Palm Sunday and Easter are the current drive-in services planned. Becky Gladden, chair of the Worship & Music committee, suggested the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of each month, but this is not yet set. Because of some church members work schedules it was decided to continue with the 1st Sunday of each month and the second Sunday will depend on the celebration/holiday days set throughout the church calendar. The Worship & Music Committee will schedule outdoor services on a 3-month time frame. April made a motion to accept this decision, Jon seconded, and the motion passed.

Tech Grant – Terry Sardis received a grant from the Synod of \$3300 to use for any technology the church might need. Several items have either been ordered or are being considered to improve the worship service. A video switcher – will allow additional video sources, additional cameras, and wireless mikes. Also, the short to the pastor's mike has been fixed.

A computer had been donated as a replacement for the one currently used by Jane Moretz, secretary of the church. The old computer will be used upstairs to assist with the services. Frank is now able to use his iPad/phone to upload music into the organ.

Bruce brought up that the next Council meeting would be during a Lenten service, so it was decided to change the meeting to Monday March 15 at 7pm.

Jon made a motion to adjourn and the meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary



2020 Mission Support

Thank you!

to the members of
Sardis
of the North Carolina Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

in grateful appreciation for giving
\$27,908.46
for Mission Support beyond the congregation
for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA

Bishop, North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2021 Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion. FB Live	2 7:00 Good Friday Service, FB Live	3 10:00 Altar Committee meet
4 EASTER 7:00 Drive-in Worship Service and Holy Communion FB Live	5 Pastor Vacation	6 Pastor Vacation	7 Pastor Vacation	8 Pastor Vacation	9 Pastor Vacation	10 Pastor Vacation
11 Pastor Vacation 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live 7:00 Church Council	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 Drive-in Worship Service, FB Live	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live	26	27	28	29	30	

****NOTE****

If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Thank you.

SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Pastor: The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 pastor@sardislutheran.net

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com

Council Chair: Bruce Sigman (C) 828-310-5851 bruce.camping@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 secretary@sardislutheran.net

April

4/1 April Fulbright

4/5 Marvin Kiser

4/7 Rick Johnson

4/8 Isaac Hollar

Jane Moretz

Hayden Johnson

4/9 Cooper Carroll

4/11 Jon 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

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****ALTAR FLOWERS**

Apr 4 Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff

Apr 11 David & Rebecca Ritz

Apr 18 Kristin Teague

Apr 25 Ben & Jennifer Whitener

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

April Fulbright

Apr 4 Nena Babb

Apr 11 Jon Gladden

Apr 18 Kathy Weaver

Apr 25 Ben Whitener

**SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY/IF COMFORTABLE
DOING SO AT THIS TIME.**

Apr 3 Jill Bledsoe

Apr 10 No Meal Delivery

Apr 17 Dawn Covington

Apr 24 No Meal Delivery



REMEMBER: you can find this NL, the weekly calendar and Sunday Sermons on the website: <https://sardislutheran.com/> mark it as a favorite and check it out often.

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.

Methods for Giving

Gifts may be made online by clicking on the green "Give" button on our NEW website www.sardislutheran.com or our Facebook page.

or

Gifts may be mailed to:
Sardis Lutheran Church
6103 W. NC 10 Hwy.
Hickory, NC 28602

or

You may bring your gifts by the church during office hours. Place your gift in the basket out front and ring the bell to alert the office of your gift.

God bless you and keep you in his care.

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

