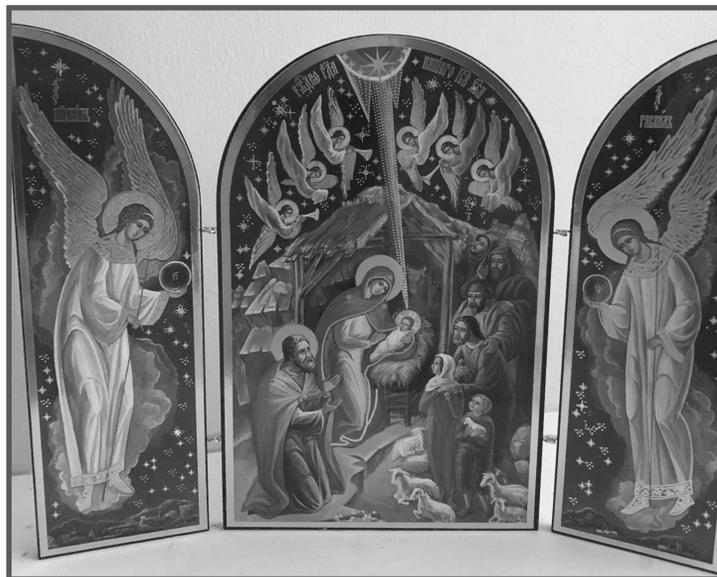


# Friendly Messenger

December 2020



Have you ever imagined what Christmas would be like in a pandemic? I don't think Anybody could have expected this!

This year a lot of our traditions will look different. In fact, we probably won't be able to enjoy quite a few of our traditions, namely the ones that invite us to gather. With COVID19 cases on the rise, the CDC is suggesting that we hold off on family gatherings and shared meals. This year is so different than the ones we usually plan.

While our traditions may need to be on hold this year, one thing remains the same: God's love made flesh. This is our hope. Our hope is in Christ's coming and in Christ's coming again. We live in the now and not yet.

Consider the first Christmas. There was darkness. There was fear. There were no lights. No decorations. No Christmas trees.

Yet, looking at the Nativity icon above, we see a humble scene transformed into one that is magnificent. It is made glorious! The glory that shines is not manufactured. It is cosmic. It is divine glory that brightens the darkness. It is not just the magic of the cultural Christmas season with its gift-exchanging, spiced goodies, and generalized good will; rather it is the profound cosmic mystery of salvation that makes Christmas so special. It is hope touched down! At Christmas, the hope of the resurrection awakens our souls!

We have special plans for the week of Christmas. Partaking in Holy Communion is one of our special traditions on Christmas Eve. How profound to think that the body and blood of the little baby in the lowly manger will become the means of our salvation! It is a powerful tradition. This year, although we will gather virtually for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we will still be able to share in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For us to safely do this without a drive-in service, we will do this in two phases. With this method, we are drawing from the tradition of our Catholic and Orthodox brothers and sisters in the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified. This sounds like a high liturgy, and it is; however, it basically allows us to administer the sacrament on one day, and partake of the sacrament at a later time.

Having the opportunity to take Holy Communion on Christmas Eve will happen in two phases. On Sunday, December 20th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will consecrate the bread and the wine in our virtual livestreamed service. After our virtual service, you are invited to drive-through our parking lot from 11:45 am to 1 pm to pick up your consecrated bread and wine packet to take home with you. You will also receive a candle. Save your communion packet and candle until Christmas Eve!

On Christmas Eve, we will return to our liturgy for Holy Communion. At the appointed time, we will then, all together, take our sacrament of bread and wine. If you cannot tune into the service, that's okay, around 10 pm, partake of your packet of the body of Christ and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please prepare to drive through for pick-up on Sunday, December 20th from 11:45 am -1 pm. We will be in the parking lot, ready for you to get your communion elements and candles! We will deliver Holy Communion element packets and candles to those who are homebound. If you would like to request someone deliver your communion elements, please call the office and let us know. Also, on the 20th, remember that we are having our FIRST LIVE NATIVITY from 6 to 8 pm! It's going to be great! Please make an effort to come!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Adrienne

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### **A note from Frank**

*My Dear Sardis Family,*

*Words cannot express my thanks and gratitude for the many cards and sentiments that you gifted me with on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. I have never been so surprised and humbled in all my life as being recognized with a day in my honor. Opening my gift, I found a beautiful Nativity Icon. I look forward to displaying it with our decorations this Christmas.*

*I have known from the beginning that God blessed me by leading me to Sardis. That reality became even more clear as I sat with Mom and Sierra after our 2-hour trip home and read each card containing the love that only God's people can show. I agree with what Pastor Adrienne said in her sermon that morning as the wind blew the rain drops and leaves from the trees, that Sardis is "the best congregation in the North Carolina Synod." Amen! Not only have you embraced me, but you have also embraced my Mother and Sierra and made us all part of the Sardis family.*

*I would also like to thank Joe, Jon, Ray, Tim, Gene, and Pastor Adrienne for the musical gift. I cannot think of a better song, "When We All Get to Heaven." "What a day of rejoicing that WILL BE!" It was beautiful and what a blessing! You brought back memories throughout my life with that song.*

*Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church has been a good place for God to put this Baptist-raised, Lenoir-Rhyne trained church musician. I get to embrace it ALL.*

*Thank you all,*

*Frank*

Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
October 11, 2020

Members Present	Members Absent
Joe, Ken, Bryan, Jon, Terry, Bruce, Tim, Kathy, Ben, Sherrie, Carolyn, Pastor Adrienne	Rick

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm with 11 council members in attendance. Sherrie had devotions.

Minutes from the September Council Meeting were read with no changes from the Council. Motion was made by Jon to accept the minutes, Ken seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne Whitener, Finance Committee Chair. The General Fund balance was \$4,719.66 as of September 30, 2020; the Building Fund balance was \$5,555.49, the Cemetery Fund was \$1,437.69. Ken made a motion to accept the Financial Report as read, Jon seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Council Meeting October 11, 2020 Pastor's Report

It is good to see you in person! Kudos to the council for meeting via Zoom these past months! Since March, we have seen the blessing and limitations of technology! We have accomplished a lot regardless! I'm really proud of how we have proceeded through this difficult time, and I give thanks for you!

I know this is a deeply stressful time. It is understandable with all that is going on, the pandemic, deaths rising as a result of COVID19, schools returning, With the pandemic, racial unrest, and the election. People in our community are experiencing all sorts of stress. I am keeping everyone in prayer for wholeness and peace. I encourage everybody to do what they can to take care of their mental health with vacation, phone calls, and things that nourish the soul and spirit. I have been so grateful for the way we reach out to take care of each other, even in the restrictions of COVID19.

Although it may seem as though many of our activities are suspended, we have continued to act on behalf of the heart of who we are and why we are here: God's mission to us and through us. The congregation has responded to the collection requests by the Social Ministry Committee and Children's Ministry. Thank you to our team who makes our Backpack Program continue to help families in need.

While we may not be able to gather like we did, we are still working together. It takes many people, everybody, to make a church. We all have a part, and gifts, to contribute to the mission we share. As the pandemic sheds new insight and perspective, I have been considering our mission statement and what it looks like in this context. I will continue to reflect on it, and take each statement on its own. I would invite you to do so too!

Our mission statement: 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.

So we:

Serve together as disciples of Christ.

- Attend virtual church services.
- Serving needs of the community with collections and drives.
- Help families through the Backpack Program.

Teach the word to invite people into a life of knowing Jesus.

- Weekly worship and our drive-in services.
- Drive-thru Vacation Bible School
- Sunday School lessons provided in the spring.

Encourage each other in faith through reaching out to the needs of the community and individuals.

- Social Ministry drives and collections.
- Goody bags for students.

Encourage each other in personal mission through reaching out to the needs of the community and individuals.

- Phone calls, cards, and messages that we send each other.
- Committees working together to assess and respond to needs.

We are advised to let go of the idea of “returning to normal.” At least, that is the message I am getting in almost all of my continuing education events. This is the new normal. It reminds me of Isaiah 42: 9: “Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.” One of the many messages of Isaiah is that God is always doing a new thing, even, and especially, in the midst of crisis.

There is a lot of grief in this. The Israelites were no strangers to grief. Grief is a part of change. We have reasons to grieve. Many of the old ways we loved are not safe. Many people have died. Many more people may die. It is my hope and prayer that they can be prevented.

We also have reason to rejoice. For some things, the really fundamental, important things, stay the same. We are God’s beloved children. We are a community built on Christ. We share in Christ’s mission. We are God’s children. 2 Corinthians 5:17: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!” If we embrace the important things that never change, we can handle the things that must.

At least, this is how I have been thinking about it! I believe we are all doing our best. And I am really proud of how we have been gracious and adaptable!

Since last month, I have continued to lead worship and respond to pastoral care requests as best I can. I have made a few in-person visits, either outside and/or socially distanced. I have attended committee meetings and other meetings as needed. It is my goal to be involved and supportive as safely as possible!

In the last week of September, we lost a lifelong and beloved member, Frank Weaver. We held his funeral on Tuesday, September 29. Only family was present. I also presided at the wedding of Dena Townsend Propst and Crystal Hunt on Friday, October 2. I had planned to take some vacation time the last week of September; however, I postponed it due to Frank’s funeral. I will plan to find another time!

I have focused on continuing education, taking two classes on our new online reality. I have taken Church in a Digital Age provided by the NC Synod, and Online Church Engagement hosted by Carey Neiuwulf. I am also signed up for a few of the virtual classes offered in place of Synod Convocation. I will also start an intense continuing education class called TIPS-MAPP starting next week. I have been discerning the possibility of becoming a foster parent for the State of NC and this class will help me learn about the process, and will teach medical and parenting skills. It will be twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays, from 6 pm - 9 pm.

Finally, I was so honored and delighted (and surprised!) on Sunday when the congregation gave me cards and the beautiful stained glass piece for Pastor Appreciation Month! That meant so much to me and I was deeply touched! It was like water for the soul! I am so honored and grateful to be serving with you! I am grateful for you!

Upcoming

- Lifeline Fund Meeting, Wednesday, October 13
- CE TIPS-MAPP classes, Monday and Thursdays, 6 pm-9pm (October through end of November)
- Reformation Drive-in Service, Sunday, October 25th at 10: 30 am
  - Confirmation of Rylan Johnson
  - Congregational Meeting documents distributed
- CE: “COVID19: Fear to Faith” NC Synod Convocation, Tuesday, October 27
- Halloween Movie Night, Friday, October 30
- All Saints Sunday, Sunday, November 1 and first part of Congregational Meeting
- Drive-in Service and Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 15th at 10:30 am
- Christ the King, Sunday, November 22
- First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, November 29

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Adrienne Martin

Old Business

Ken reported that a stone had been turned over in the graveyard and had been fixed by the stone company at no charge.

New Business

Dwayne presented the proposed Spending Plan for Sardis Lutheran Church for 2021 to the council. The total budget which includes \$8,725.00 in repayment of notes is \$194,330. \$16,000 transferred from the Parsonage Fund, minus \$2,250 for flower income and \$6,890 from the cemetery fund, the net budget is \$169,190.00. This requires an average contribution of \$3,253.65 per month. Ken made a motion to present the budge to the members at the annual meeting, Bryan seconded, motion carried.

Ken reported that the roof was leaking below the steeple. After inspection, it was determined that the steeple had worn a hole in the shingles. The steeple will need to be lifted and the hole repaired. The steeple also needs to be cleaned during this process. Terry is to contact Southern Steeple Jacks for a plan of action and costs to repair.

Joe presented the reopening information from the Synod for information to the council included below. Becky went over the Phase 3 Recommendations from the Music and Worship Committee, included below. Terry made a motion to accept the Phase 3 recommendations, Ken seconded motion carried. Recommendations included below.

Joe reviewed the process for the November Congregational meetings and the election and budgeting process. At the October 25th drive in service the budget and nominees for church council and other committees will be given to the members. Copies will also be available at the church. On Nov 1 Joe will open the meeting on the online service. Any more nominations can be sent via Facebook comments or written note dropped at the church within 2 days. The election and the budget will be voted on November 15th at the drive in service. If it is raining, the congregational meeting will remain open the voting will occur of November 22nd at a drive in service.

Tim reported that the Land Use Committee had contacted Greg about sowing grass on the two acres behind the church.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer  
Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

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Sunday Nov 1, 2020

Joe called the annual congregational meeting to order.

A Spending Plan was passed out to the congregation and a list of nominations for Church Council, Nominating Committee and Scholarship Committee. Joe stated that Nena Babb had withdrawn her name from consideration.

Joe stated that nominations would be received through the next week.

Any questions on the spending plan are to be directed to Dwayne Whitener.

The meeting was left open for voting on November 15,2020.

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

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## Re-Gathering Task Force Recommendations (Phase 2.5 & 3)

Synod Council met September 10-12 via zoom and in lite of Governor Cooper's move to "Phase 2.5," the NC Synod council approved congregations worshipping less than 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors for those congregations that meet this criteria and meeting guidelines for re-gathering.

September 30th, Governor Cooper moved us into "Phase 3" but this did not change number of people for mass gatherings.

Please wear Mask!!!!

1. We recommend refraining from in-person gatherings of more than 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors until the NC governor moves us into Phase Three. (These new numbers correspond with NC's Phase 2.5 & Phase 3) Indoor numbers may need to be less than 25 depending on the limits of your facility when considering physical distancing requirements.
2. We recommend children or youth events of no more than 25 people: outdoors, physically-distanced, and with face coverings.
3. We recommend developing in-person gathering protocols and an implementation plan in writing prior to gathering, especially around distribution of communion. (Helpful resources for developing plans and protocols can be found on the synod's Ministry in a Time of COVID-19 page under the Re-Gathering tab.)
4. We recommend beginning to celebrate Holy Communion with appropriate protocols, following the physically-distanced 25 indoors and 50 outdoor recommendations of Phase 2.5 & Phase 3. (Reference the ELCA document: Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship)
5. We continue to recommend no singing or chanting. Musical activities such as handbells, guitars, violins, etc. are low risk options.
6. We continue to recommend no fellowship meals, coffee hours, or other such events that make physical distancing difficult.

These are from the ELCA and serve as good guidelines for communion:

- \* Those preparing and serving communion should sanitize their hands immediately before distributing communion; doing so in view of the congregation may help in reducing anxiety.
- \* During the Great Thanksgiving, the presiding minister may stand back from the table and not further touch the bread and cup.
- \* Congregations should refrain from kneeling or standing close together at a communion rail or in a line.
- \* Wafers may be a safer option than bread during this time. A package of wafers can be emptied onto a paten with minimal touch. Bread requires more handling.
- \* Common cup and intinction are not recommended.
- \* If distributing wine in small glasses in trays, ensure that the glasses are spaced far enough apart to minimize people's touching of other glasses.
- \* Also we suggest everyone stay masked until they return to their seat and then eat the bread/wine or at least out of the way of the presider.

Diane Ryan  
Supply & Interim Coordinator  
A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated  
704-633-4861 x9564 or direct line 704-680-9564  
1988 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury NC 28144  
[www.nclutheran.org](http://www.nclutheran.org) | [www.facebook.com/NCSynod](https://www.facebook.com/NCSynod)

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**Governor Cooper has mandated masks and reinstated gatherings of ten people indoors and 25 outdoors until further notice....**

**Recommendations from Worship and Music for Worship during Phase 3  
(no gathering number change)**

Since NC virus numbers continue to rise and we know that indoor sanctuary services are currently “hotspots” for the spread of COVID-19 and that live-streamed and/or outdoor services are the safest and most inclusive, the Worship and Music committee recommends the following:

We recommend continuing to live-stream our service with our congregation remaining at home.

We recommend continuing to live-stream the service and hold a once per month drive-in service and delay indoor service until deemed safe by the state and the NC ELCA guidelines. We recommend that the drive-in service time be changed to 10:30.

We recommend that the congregation not sit in chairs outside their vehicles during the October 25 drive-in service due to the celebration of Holy Communion. We feel some members may not feel safe exiting their vehicles and walking through seated family groups to get to the element tables and back to their vehicles.

We recommend that when we do sit outside for services/events that everyone remain masked (covering nose and mouth) and remain at least 6 feet apart. We recommend that parking attendants have available disposable masks for anyone who arrives without a mask. We are still limited to 50 people gathering outdoors.

We recommend that a re-opening committee be established to compile written guidelines for indoor gathering including but not limited to: entering/exiting, movement inside, seating, cleaning/sanitizing, time limitations.

Pastor Adrienne, Frank Griffin, the Worship and Music committee and Altar Guild will meet to plan the re-gathering service and new indoor Holy Communion guidelines.

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## RESULTS OF ANNUAL ELECTION

Budget 2021 - Passed

Church Council – 2021-2023 April Fulbright, Gene Biggerstaff, Mike Midgett, Susan Jones

Nominating Committee – 2021 Dwayne Whitener, Jane Moretz, Joe Biggerstaff, Marilyn Teague, Rick Johnson, Sherrie Midgett

Scholarship Committee – 2021-2023 Phyllis Biggerstaff

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## LIVE NATIVITY



Sardis will be hosting a live nativity on December 20 from 6:00-8:00. If you are interested in participating, please contact Heather Carroll or Pastor Adrienne. We will have two practice sessions-Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 and Saturday, December 19 at 5:00. Add these dates to your calendar! Please plan to bring small cans of food to our drive-in service on Sunday, December 13th to donate to ECCCM. These cans will be used at our live nativity and later donated. Thank you so much for your help!

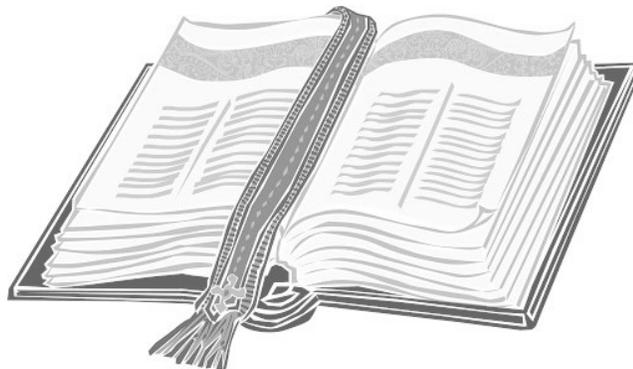
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## Advent Bible Study: Our Greatest Gift: A Wonderful Life in Christ

This Bible study is based on the classic 1946 American Christmas movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. The movie tells the fascinating story about George Bailey, who is having so many problems that he is thinking about ending it all. An angel is then sent from Heaven and helps him by showing him what life would have been like if he had never been born.

This story is woven into the story of the first advent of Jesus Christ and the anticipation of the advent to come. It will be a fruitful study to explore the dynamic tension of the Season of Advent.

Due to concerns over safety and wellness in this time of pandemic, this study will take place via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 pm during Advent. Meetings will be held on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. If you would like to participate and/or need additional assistance about Zoom, please contact Pastor Adrienne. If you are interested in participating, you are encouraged to watch the movie ahead of time!



## **From the Social Committee**

### **Gratitude and Appreciation**

The members of Sardis continue to serve those in need both collectively and individually. Thanks to all who support the ongoing efforts to reach out to those in need.

### **Personal Care Kits**

Thanks to all the congregation members who donated to the Personal Care Kits. There are **Twenty-Five individual kits** ready to go!

### **Winter Coat Drive**

The Social Committee will again be collecting gently used winter coats to donate to the Hickory Soup Kitchen and The Cornerstone Table in December. Please bring your donations to the December Drive in Service and place in front of your car. Members of the Social Committee will collect and deliver them.

### **Egg Cartons**

Please continue to donate your egg cartons during the Drive-In Services or drop them by the church office. ECCCM continues to have a shortage as churches are not meeting regularly.

### **Individual Acts of Sharing**

Many members of the congregation continue to show Christ's love by reaching out on an individual basis to assist those in need. Various members of the church donate food, conduct phone calls, run errands, contribute Christmas items, and offer financial help to those experiencing hard ships. Sardis continues to serve those who are experiencing hardships during this pandemic by being of service to others. If you know of needs in the community, please contact the pastor and she can channel the needs to the appropriate committee.

## **Banoak Backpack Program**

Members of the church are again sponsoring the Backpack Program for the 2020-2021 School year. This year deliveries are on Mondays versus Fridays. Since half of the students attend school on Monday/Tuesday and the other half on Wednesday/Thursday, the Guidance Counselor ask for the week's food bundles to be delivered on Mondays. At the request of the school it is a *no contact delivery* due to the pandemic. Workers call the school secretary who rolls out a grocery cart to receive the bags. Congregation members take the bags, place them in the cart and then ring the office bell to tell the secretary the bags are there.

## December 2020 Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study via Zoom  <b>Pastor Adrienne Vacation 11/30-</b>	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 Worship Ser- vice, FB Live  4:00 Live Nativity practice	7	8 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study via Zoom	9	10	11	12
13 10:30 Drive-in Wor- ship Service, FB Live  7:00 Council Meeting with new 2021 mem- bers (possibly meet outside weather per- mitting)	14	15 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study via Zoom	16	17 7:00 PM Service for Healing, FB Live	18	19 5:00 Live Nativity practice
20 10:30 Worship Ser- vice, FB Live  6:00—8:00 PM Live Nativity	21	22 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study via Zoom	23	24 8:45 PM Can- dlelight Service FB Live	25 Christmas Office closed	26
27 10:30 Lesson and Carols FB Live	28  <b>REMEMBER: you can find this NL, the weekly calendar and Sunday Sermons on the website: <a href="https://sardislutheran.com/">https://sardislutheran.com/</a> mark it as a favorite and check it out often.</b>  <b>Pastor Adrienne Vaca- tion 12/28-1/4</b>	29	30	31		

Please call the Church Office for any Pastoral needs during Pastor Martin's vacation time or call Rick Johnson, Council contact for December.

**\*\*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](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.net)

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, [tfgriffin59@gmail.com](mailto:tfgriffin59@gmail.com)

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff, [biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com](mailto:biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com)

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

## December Birthdays

12/3 Betty Clay  
 12/9 Tracy Richard  
 Samuel Clayton Biggerstaff  
 12/12 Betty Jo Weaver  
 Gene Biggerstaff  
 12/16 Phyllis Hood  
 12/20 Heather J. Carroll  
 12/22 Garry Wood  
 12/27 Steven Yow  
 12/29 Dawn Covington  
 Barbara E. Whitener  
 12/31 Betty Sue Whitener

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Dec. 6** Susan & Amy Jones  
**Dec. 13** Adrienne Martin  
**Dec. 20** LMM  
**Dec. 27** Wayne & Elaine Jarrett

### COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Rick Johnson	Dec. 6	Jon Gladden
	Dec. 13	Tim Whitener
	Dec. 20	Rick Johnson
	Dec. 27	Gene Biggerstaff

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

#### Anniversaries:

**Evan & Pat Lail 12-13**

**Tim & Barbara Whitener 12-18**

**Donald & Evelyn Fulbright 12-21**

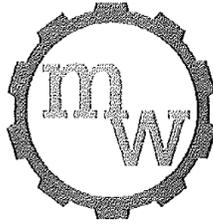
**Dec. 5** No Meal Delivery  
**Dec. 12** Carolyn Hoyle  
**Dec. 19** No Meal Delivery  
**Dec. 26** No Meal Delivery

# Christmas

I	K	M	M	D	N	O	D	G	Y	M	A	S	B
J	O	S	A	A	C	L	E	I	T	A	E	N	H
A	C	A	A	E	T	N	D	M	I	N	Y	O	D
C	T	M	E	R	S	M	C	A	V	E	N	W	E
K	F	T	F	B	S	E	O	N	I	G	S	F	C
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R	I	I	M	E	N	R	R	E	A	F	N	A	R
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F	J	E	N	I	A	S	S	S	O	O	U	L	S
A	N	G	E	L	C	F	H	J	N	A	S	A	I

CANDY CANES  
 TREE  
 JOLLY  
 JACK FROST  
 GINGERBREAD  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 CRACKERS  
 MANGER  
 CHRISTMAS  
 MERRY  
 FRIENDS  
 DECORATIONS  
 NATIVITY  
 SANTA CLAUS  
 GIFTS  
 FAMILY  
 ANGEL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/124/>



**meals on wheels**  
OF CATAWBA COUNTY

September 30, 2020

Sardis Lutheran Church  
6103 NC Hwy 10 W  
Hickory, NC 28602

Sardis Lutheran Church,

Meals on Wheels of Catawba County would like to express appreciation for the donation of \$367. We could not operate Meals on Wheels without the financial and volunteer support of the community, so please know that your contribution makes a big difference. Many seniors will be able to remain at home as a result of your donation. Others will know they have not been forgotten because of your help.

Your contribution is tax deductible and our Federal Tax ID # is 56-6001814.

Thank you for joining us in providing this valuable service.

Sincerely,

Heather Ball  
Senior Nutrition Services

[catawbacountync.gov](http://catawbacountync.gov)  
Senior Nutrition Services

507 Boundary Street | PO Box 207 | Newton NC 28658 | 828.695.5610



**MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.**

# Empower2Employ

## What is it?

- Empower2Employ is a three month non-paid internship program to benefit both Safe Harbor's program participants and local businesses.
- Empower2Employ is a collaboration between local business leaders and Safe Harbor. Women who have completed 9 months of our Whole Woman Recovery Program are eligible to apply for a non-paid internship through Empower2Employ. Local businesses interview the candidate to see if she is a good fit for a 3 month unpaid internship with their company.

## Why is it necessary?

After 9 months of residential recovery and mentoring, our clients are ready to take the next steps to living independently, while still in a supportive environment. We all benefit when women who have battled substance use and poverty gain the training, skills and confidence that prepare them for meaningful employment.

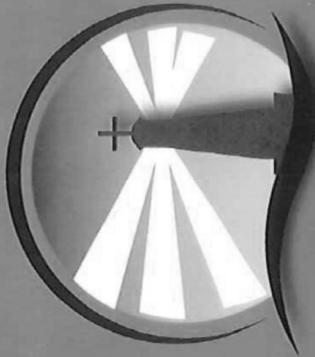
## Why should your business partner with Safe Harbor through Empower2Employ?

It is a win-win for our local business partners. Not only do they get the opportunity to impact a woman's life but they also get an intern who is eager to learn new things and be productive.



**Safe Harbor**  
Anchoring Lives Through Christ

# Empower2Employ



**Safe Harbor**  
Anchoring Lives Through Christ

A Christ-centered community  
for rebuilding,  
renewing and recovery

Vicki Murray  
Executive Director  
vicki@safeharbornc.org  
828-326-7233

Tracy Parsons  
Whole Woman Manager  
tracy@safeharbornc.org  
828-855-9055

Safe Harbor  
210 2nd Street SE  
Hickory, NC 28602  
828-326-7233



**IMPACTING  
LIVES IN THE  
WORKPLACE**

## Restoration

### A Community Effort

Safe Harbor's Whole Woman Recovery program takes a holistic approach for healing from substance use disorder.

We believe that getting to the root causes of harmful behavior is crucial for lasting change. Therefore, we utilize evidence-based methods, in addition to exploring emotional and spiritual issues.

Safe Harbor's Whole Woman Program addresses 8 major life areas: Recovery, Relationships, Spirituality, Education and Employment, Financial, Legal, Mental and Emotional, Physical Wellness and Independent Living.

After being in our program for 9 months, women focus on obtaining an unpaid internship with a local business to build employable skills to help in gaining independence and exhibiting accountability.

Empower2Employ invites local businesses with a heart for helping to partner with Safe Harbor in a beautiful collaboration for RESTORATION!



## How are the participants prepared?

### Assessment

Each participant's educational background and career interests are assessed and documented.

Our staff works with the residents to create a long-term plan with incremental goals. The goal is not just to get a job, but to engage their talents, skills, and passions in meaningful work.

### Work Experience

Each participant works 20-25 hours per week, over an 9 month period, at Safe Harbor's social enterprise, ReSource Warehouse. During this time, they are trained in customer service, retail management, cashiering, product placement, marketing and teamwork.

### Training

In Safe Harbor's Whole Woman program participants receive training and education in computer skills, communication, conflict resolution, professionalism, resume creation and interview techniques.



## How you make a difference

Your company can play a vital role in helping women become self-sufficient. We work with business leaders to create the right fit for their business, their employees and Whole Woman participants.

### Empower2Employ Partners

- Believe in second chances
- Become part of the larger community working together to overcome the stigma of addiction
- Benefit by providing a positive 3 month work experience for Whole Woman participants

### Now What?

1. E-mail or call Vicki Murray our Executive Director to get an interest form and the Empower2Employ handbook.
2. Once the paperwork is complete and your business is approved, we will contact you when a woman in our program is ready for her internship.
3. You will interview the candidate to assess if this experience is a good fit

### Other Ways to be Involved

- Facilitate a training seminar
- Invite participants to a job fair
- Serve as a job search coach or career mentor
- Contact us about hiring a Safe Harbor Whole Woman graduate at your business.

## 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.**

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### Methods for Giving

Gifts may be made online by clicking on the green "Give" button on our NEW website [www.sardislutheran.com](http://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**

