

FRIENDLY MESSENGER



December 2021

A Beautiful Season

Advent is one of the most beautiful seasons of the Church Year. Theologian Rachel Held Evans captures this beauty in her blog:

“Advent is a season of anticipation, of holy waiting. It is a waiting characterized not by idleness or even contented peace, but by prophetic yieldedness and active hope.

Perhaps more than any other season in the Christian calendar, Advent acknowledges the already-and-not-yet nature of the Kingdom of God. In remembering the anticipation of Christ’s first coming, we acknowledge and nurture our anticipation of Christ’s second coming. *Advent is a season for the prophets, for the dreamers, for the poets.* A great light has shown, but there is still so much darkness to pierce, so much gloom to overcome.

Advent should be a season of surprises too, of God showing up when and where we least expect Emmanuel: in a womb, in a barn, as a poor minority in an oppressive empire, at the soup kitchen, at that church service you resisted attending, in that family member with whom you disagree, in every corner of this world from Ferguson, Missouri, to Palestine, to your kitchen. It is a season to slow down and pay attention, *to listen to the prophets*, to look for God in God’s distressing disguises.”

Usually, we think of Advent as the pre-Christmas Season, and in some ways, it is. Yet, it is its own distinct season. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming”. It originally was a season of preparation for holy baptism at the time of Epiphany, but in the sixth century was tied to the second coming of Christ. For the church, it is a season both of remembering Christ’s birth and anticipate Christ coming again. This year, I invite you to think of coming home, *homecoming*, including the best and warmest preparations for the holiday.

Each Sunday, we will light a candle in our Advent wreath. Each week, I invite you to reflect on what hope, peace, joy, and love look like for you this year. What might it look like in our community? What does it look like for our neighbor?

Advent Week One: Hope
Advent Week Two: Peace
Advent Week Three: Joy
Advent Week Four: Love
Christmas Eve: The Christ Candle



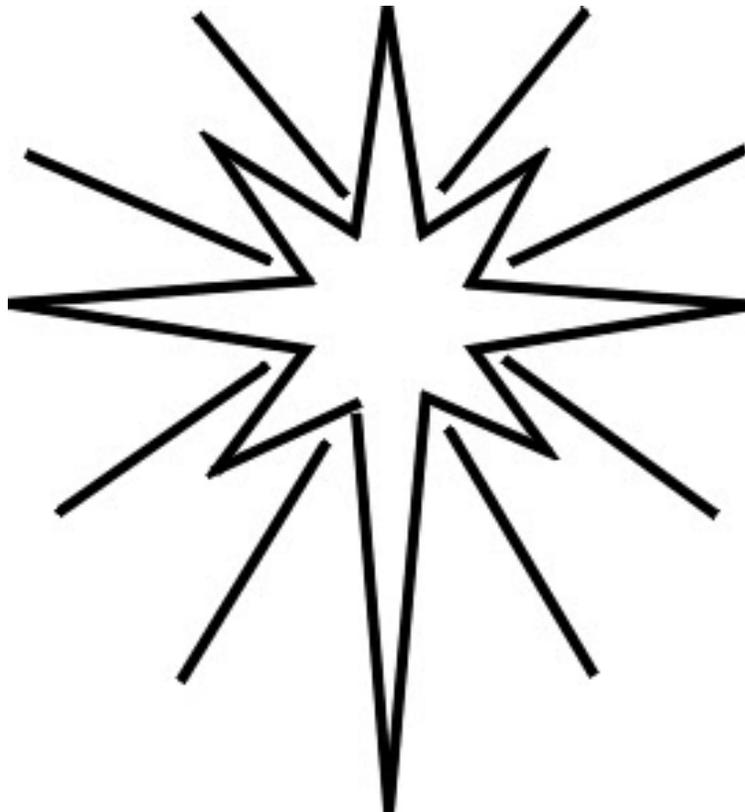
Cont. Pastor's letter

In this season of holy expectation, a new world is being called forth. God is always doing a new thing. It is a time to dream. It is a time to hope. It is a time to believe. We never know what may take root. Just like the Branch of Jesse, little did the world know that away in a manger tucked away, the Savior of the world was born. In him, all would be redeemed. Christ made all things possible. May your hopes and your dreams shine brightly in your heart this season!

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love
Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Adrienne



FTF Seniors

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in December on the 1st at Sardis Lutheran Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

Results of the Congregational meeting:

2022 Spending Plan passed

Church Council: Kristin Teague, Ray Whitener, Roger Lutz, Nena Babb

Nominating Committee: Terry Bledsoe, Bruce Sigman, Tim Whitener, Jill Bledsoe,
Roger Teague, Donna Biggerstaff

Scholarship Committee: Heather Carroll, Sylvia King

DRIVE IN LIVE NATIVITY

We are hosting a live nativity on Sunday, December 19 from 6:00 to 7:30PM. Please consider donating cans prior to this event. Please place in the sanctuary at the front. The cans will be donated to ECCCM. Anyone, children or adults, who want to participate can contact Heather Carroll. We will have a practice on Saturday, December 18 at 5:00. Participants can get their costumes at this time. Thanks!

WELCA NEWS

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Come join us on Saturday morning December 11th at 9 am to decorate our Church for Christmas. All are welcome. We especially need a couple men to help climb the ladder

HELP WITH MEAL DELIVERY

Please consider helping with the rotation of Saturday meal delivery. Just because we call it Saturday meal delivery doesn't mean you have to take it on Saturday. If another day through the week suits you better just arrange it with the folks we take to. Please add your name to the Time and Talent survey or put a note in Dawn's box if interested. See Dawn if you need more information.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Team will be participating in the Catsquare Christmas Parade this year (weather permitting). The parade starts at 1:00 pm on Saturday, Dec. 11th. If you are interested in riding in the parade please let Ray Whitener know. This year will be a little different in that we will NOT be allowed to throw anything (candy) from the participating vehicle. If you are going to participate, we will need to be lined up along the parade route by 12:00.

**Evangelism Committee Meeting-Monday December 6th, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Social Committee Thankful for Sardis Congregation's Continued Sharing

As 2021 ends – with all the loss, challenges and needs of our congregation, the Social Committee wants to share a special thank you to all members of the congregation who continued to share their blessings with others. From the Canned Food drive at Easter to the Coat Drive in November, members stepped up to help meet the needs of others.

Personal Care Kits and Quilts. In 2020, Lutheran World Relief was not able to accept Personal Care Kits, quilts or other items. In 2021, the traditional fall synod-wide collection restarted. Sardis was able to *send twenty-one kits and thanks to Sylvia King four quilts to the annual fall gathering.*

Winter Coat Drive. In October and November many adult and children coats were donated. The coats were delivered to the Hickory Soup Kitchen in mid-November-right before this last freezing wintry weather started.

Thanks to everyone.



Blessings Box

Many thanks go out to you for supporting our Blessings Box located at the play ground area. It is being stocked almost daily and items are being taken daily as well. A huge thank you goes out to Honey's Super Market for their donation of 104 cans of soup and various canned meats this week. Also thank you Gene and Donna Biggerstaff for being our pick up person.

*Happy Thanksgiving to our
Sardis Congregation!*

SARDIS PRAYER GROUP

Our Prayer group meets twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00pm via ZOOM.

Our Prayer Group prays for everyone on our prayer list bi-weekly. Names will start to rotate off every four weeks. Once a month, we are going to send out a prayer postcard letting the person know they were lifted in prayer. If you have submitted a name for the prayer list and would like that person to receive a prayer card, please contact the office to provide their address.



Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
October 10, 2021

Members Present:

Pastor Adrienne, Bruce, Gene, Susan, April
Tim, Ben, Mike, Kathy, Carolyn, Terry, Bryan

Members Absent:

Jon

Bruce called the meeting to order, Ben Whitener had devotions

Kathy read minutes from September 13th meeting. Terry made a motion to accept minutes as read, Susan seconded. The motion passed.

Bruce presented the September treasurer's reports. The Building Fund as of September 30th was \$6,916.00, Cemetery Fund was \$1,266.83 and General Fund balance \$6,778.49.

Pastor's Report

Grace and Peace to you!

We are in the month of the Festival of the Reformation! Martin Luther once said, "All we who believe on Christ are kings and priests in Christ." It is good for us to remember this great change in history and the Holy Spirit's continued activity in the Church. It reminds us that God works through each and every one of us.

In this last month, we have returned to Sunday School and resumed more of our Fall plans. I have been making some home visits as needed and have been permitted access into the hospitals again. Our First Communion class has met twice and I have really enjoyed our class time together as we explore the meaning and practice of the Lord's Supper. We will meet two more times this month.

Confirmation is set to start next week, October the 17th. We had originally planned to start earlier, but after a conference confirmation meeting, Beth Eden has in joined on the class I had planned. We are also including a student from Bethany Lutheran to assist them in their time between pastors. To allow them time to get their students plugged in, we pushed our timeline back a couple of weeks. We will have a service project each month and meet for curriculum study on the third week of each month.

I would like to share some exciting news about Brysen. He has been adopted! After we were quarantined for a week due to possible close contact with some who had covid19, we found out that a family was very eager to adopt him. It is somebody he already knew and loved and because of kinship priority, the process was moved along very quickly. On Wednesday, Brysen moved to live with his new family. I am grateful for the time we had together and am happy that he was excited about the adoption. Thank you to everyone for the love and hospitality we were able to show him!

Summary of Activities

- Bible Study, Tuesday, September 14
- Conference Confirmation Meeting, Tuesday, September 14
- Rostered Minister Zoom Meeting, Wednesday, September 15
- Covid19 Quarantine, Wednesday, September 15-Wednesday, September 23
- Synod Coach session, Thursday, September 23
- Bible Study, Tuesday, October 28
- Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 3
- First Communion Class, Sunday, October 3
- Bible Study 10 am, Tuesday, October 5
- Installation of Spiritual Director and Campus Pastor at LRU, Wednesday, October 6
- Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon, Wednesday, October 6

Cont. Council min.

- Worship and Music Committee Meeting, Wednesday, October 6
- On-call for Pastor Heather Langan, (St. Mark's, Conover) Friday, October 8-Saturday October 9
- First Communion Class, Sunday, October 10
- Land Use Committee Meeting, Sunday, October 10
- Council Meeting, Sunday, October 10

Upcoming

- Bible Study, Tuesday, October 12
- Regional Convocation, October 11-12
- Confirmation Class, Sunday, October 24
- First Communion Class, Sunday, October 17
- Bible Study, Tuesday, October 19
- Prayer Group Meeting, Tuesday, October 19
- On-call for Pastor Heather Langan, October 21-24
- Bible Study, Tuesday, October 26
- Synod Coaching session, Wednesday, October 27
- Reformation Sunday with First Communion, October 31
- Bible Study, Tuesday, November 2
- Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon, Wednesday, November 3
- LIGHTS Conference Zoom meeting, November 4
- All Saints Sunday, November 7
- Confirmation Service Project at First Presbyterian, Sunday, November 7
- Lifeline Synod Meeting at Synod Office, Tuesday, November 16
- Joint Thanksgiving Service at Plateau, Wednesday, November 24

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Adrienne Martin

Old Business:

Medicare discussions with Linda Bristow have not yet been set.

FTF Seniors: Suggestion was made for the Dec luncheon scheduled to be held at Sardis to have a back up meeting place in case the Covid cases do not decrease and indoor eating is still prohibited inside the Fellowship Hall.

Property Committee: It was brought to the attention of this committee that the front wooden doors are not sealing/shutting properly. This will be looked checked and a recommendation brought back to the Council.

New Business:

2022 Spending Plan: Dwayne Whitener, head of the Financial Committee, presented the 2022 spending plan. The plan was presented with three options – 1st plan with note repayments; 2nd plan with note repayments and sabbatical cost; 3rd plan with sabbatical cost and no note repayments.

Sabbatical Policy: Since Sardis has never had a Sabbatical policy the Financial Committee, with Dwayne as lead, followed the NC Synod guidelines and prepared a “Proposed Sabbatical Policy and Procedure” document that will provide guidance for this initial sabbatical request and future requests. A copy of this document was provided to each Council member and will be available to church members.

The Synod recommends 3 months to 2 yrs every 7 years a pastor is ministering. Pastor Adrienne has requested Jan – March 2022. The 2nd and 3rd spending plan options included the Sabbatical cost. A reimbursement of \$3000 will be coming from the Synod to help with the cost of an Interim pastor while Pastor Adrienne is out.

Cont. Council min.

The suggested Interim, Pastor William Hollar, will be contacted and invited to attend a council meeting for discussion of duties.

Terry made a motion to remove the 3rd plan option, April seconded and the motion passed. Gene made a motion to meet on Oct 24th to vote on the spending plan option to present to the congregation and the approval of Pastor Adrienne's request for Sabbatical leave. Kathy seconded that motion and the motion passed.

Bereaved Family Dinners: WELCA wishes to continue to provide food via purchased food items instead of cooked meals. This proposal resulted in a new line item to be added to the spending plan as "Special Events" to cover this expenditure.

It was brought to the attention of the Council that the sign providing the Graveyard policies is not visible to visitors of the graveyard. Tim will check into this and provide the requested signage.

Communion: The Worship and Music Committee brought to the Council a proposal to end the usage of the communion packet and return to regular communion distribution. The Altar Committee confirmed they have enough of the packets to continue through the 3rd Sunday in Nov, depending on communing numbers. The plan would be to begin regular communion distribution the first Sunday in Advent. Kathy made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee. Terry seconded and the motion passed.

Mission and Goals:

Outdoor Worship Area: Tim reported that the Land Use Committee is continuing to meet and researching options.

Fellowship Hall: April reported that the group is studying the current use of available cabinet space and hopes to come up with more efficient plans on their usage.

Technology: Ben had no new update at this meeting

Senior Citizens: Susan reported that the Exchange Box has been completed and will soon be installed near the playground area.

With no further business Susan made a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting Nov 14th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary



Sardis Council Meeting
October 24, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Adrienne, Jon, Bruce
Tim, Mike, Carolyn, Kathy, Bryan, Gene, Susan

Absent: April, Ben Terry

Bruce called the meeting to order and had prayer.

Items for Discussion

Sabbatical Request: The motion for Pastor Adrienne's request was presented to the council by the Finance Committee. A change in the Sabbatical Policy of the NC Synod allows the resident pastor to request sabbatical leave every 6 years instead of the standard 7. An offer was made from an anonymous donor offering to increase weekly giving to offset the cost of an interim pastor. This will gladly be considered if needed. A copy of the pastor's request letter was given to each council member.

Spending Plan: Gene made a motion to consider and present to the congregation the spending plan that contains the note repayments and the sabbatical cost, thus approving the Pastor's request. Susan seconded and the motion passed to accept the spending plan. This 2022 plan will be presented to the congregation at the first Sunday of the Congregation Meeting.

A suggestion was also made to present the Pastor's request for a sabbatical to the Congregation on Oct 31st, prior to the service. The thought being to keep the Congregation informed and to make them aware before the spending plan was presented at the upcoming Congregational meeting. Gene volunteered to present the information to the Congregation.

Some information on the Interim pastor was presented and the hope is he will be able to attend the Nov council meeting if possible.

Gene made a motion to adjourn, Carolyn seconded. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weaver
Council Secretary

December 2021
Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 FTF Seniors at Sardis	2 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/ Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Acolyte and Crucifer Training	6 7:00 Evangelism Committee meet	7 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group ZOOM	8 6:30 Land Use Committee	9 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9:00 Hanging of the Greens 1:00 Cat Square Christmas Parade
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	13	14 10:00 Bible Study	15 7:00 Blue Christmas Service	16 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	17	18 5:00 Practice for Drive In Nativity and pick up costumes
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 3:00 Confirmation 6:00—7:30 Drive Thru Live Nativity	20	21 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group ZOOM	22 5:00 Deadline for January NL	23 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	24 10:15 Candle Light Service	25 
26 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live Immediately following Worship Meet and Greet Pastor Hollar 6:30 Lutheran Men in Mission	27 Pastor Vacation 27—31	28 No Bible Study	29	30	31	

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.

SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

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

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.com

COUNCIL CONTACT ASSISTING MINISTER

Rick Johnson/Mike Midgett

December

USHERS

Roger Teague, Darrell Jarrett, Ralph Stallings, Bryan Hood

12/9 Tracy Richard
Samuel Clayton Biggerstaff

COMMUNION PREPARATION

CLEAN-UP

12/12 Betty Jo Weaver
Gene Biggerstaff

Jane Moretz

Marilyn Teague

12/16 Phyllis Hood

**SATURDAY MEAL
DELIVERY**

12/20 Heather J. Carroll

For—Catherine Houser,
Garry, Leevada and Lexi Wood

12/22 Garry Wood

12/27 Steven Yow

Dec. 4 No Meal Delivery

12/29 Dawn Covington

Dec. 11 Carolyn Hoyle

Barbara E. Whitener

Dec. 18 No Meal Delivery

12/31 Betty Sue Whitener

Dec. 25 No Meal Delivery

Anniversaries:

Evan & Pat Lail 12-13

Tim & Barbara Whitener 12-18

Delivery Week

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Dec. 3

Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff

Dec. 10

Gene & Donna Biggerstaff

Dec. 17

Dwayne & Barbara Whitener

VOLUNTEER DECEMBER	5th	12th	19th	24th	26th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Susan & Amy Jones	Adrienne Martin	Ray & Margaret Whitener		Wayne & Elaine Jarrett
ACOLYTE	Kathy Weaver	Hayden Johnson	Marilyn Teague	Cynthia Stuart	Jane Moretz
CHILDRENS CHURCH	Cynthia Stuart	Jennifer Whitener	Nena Babb		Heather Carroll
CRUCIFER	Ray Whitener	Tim Whitener	Samuel Biggerstaff	Kathy Weaver	Tryston Sylvester
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Gene Biggerstaff			Tim Whitener	
GREETERS	Nena Babb, Annette Richards	Margaret & Marshall Whitener	Leevada & Lexi Wood	Ken & Margaret Propst	Darrell Jarrett, Carol Mayer
LAY READER	Jon Gladden	Jane Moretz	Leevada Wood	Ray Whitener	Gene Biggerstaff
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston, Al, Sylvia	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne, Tryston, Sandra, Nena, Susan
SECURITY	Rick Lutz	Zach Stuart	Wayne Jarrett	Bryan Hood	Ken Propst

****NOTE****

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

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.

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6103 W NC 10 HWY
HICKORY NC 28602

