

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

February 2022

Epiphany – The Manifestation of Our Lord

We are now in the Epiphany season, the weeks between Christmas and Lent. Since at least the Fourth Century this has been a time in which the Church has shown the manifestation of Jesus as the Christ. God the Father's acknowledgement of the human Christ of God's only begotten Son and the anointing with the power from on high are the chief thoughts of this season.

At Christmas we commemorate a historical event, the Birth of Jesus. People rejoice over the fact that the Savior is born. Epiphany, however, commemorates that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem is recognized by the world. Jesus was manifested as God, and the world recognizes Him as God. The relation of the Nativity and Epiphany is that at Christmas God appears before the world as a human being and at Epiphany this man appears before the world as God. The Gospel of John links the two festive events, "The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth (Christmas); we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (Epiphany)."

The Epiphany reveals to the world that the man Jesus is God. How could the man born in Bethlehem show that He is God? Only by signs and wonders. All His miracles point out to the world that Jesus is God. His whole life is an Epiphany, a manifestation of Himself as God before the world. St. John lists the "signs" of Jesus as the promised Messiah, as we saw several weeks ago in the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The Epiphany season begins and ends with God the Father declaring of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." The Gospel lessons for this season give us new manifestations of Christ's character Sunday by Sunday.

The Epiphany season ends with Jesus leading three of His disciples up a mountain where He is transfigured. From that moment, Jesus goes back down the mountain, and we begin the Lenten season with Jesus on another mountain where He overcomes three temptations of Satan.

I encourage you during the Sundays of the Epiphany season to contemplate this as we are led deeper into our faith in Christ. I would be happy to discuss any of this with you.

Now I want to change the subject. Some of you have asked about my family. I lost my wife, Carol, after 57 years of marriage, with her death a year ago in January. I continue to miss her, but am comforted by the words of our Lord Jesus and His promise of the Resurrection. We have four children: Dawn who with her family lives in Charlotte; David, who with his family lives in Washington, DC; Jeff, who with his wife live in Reading, PA; and Mike, who with his family live in Washington, DC. We have seven grandchildren, two in college; one working in Arizona; one working in Pittsburg; and three who will finish high school in Washington this Spring.

During our time together, I hope to get to know you better. Feel free to contact me if I, as a pastor, can be of service to you.

Pastor Bill Hollar

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 February on the 2nd at Ebenezer Methodist Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Social Ministry Committee Plans Fifth Sundays NOISY Offering

The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting everyone's spare change on each of the four Fifth Sundays in 2022. At the end of the year, the four offerings will be combined to send to Lutheran Services Good Gifts Department to purchase a domestic animal (chicken, cow, pig, goat, etc.) to help support the ELCA's efforts to fight hunger in over 80 countries. To find out more about the ELCA Good Gifts efforts, visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org>.

The first FIFTH Sunday is January 30. Please bring your loose change and drop in the bucket in the narthex to make a NOISE to fight hunger. Other fifth Sundays are May, July and October.



Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
December 12, 2021

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Susan, Carolyn

New members present: Ray, Nena, Kristin, Roger

Bruce Sigman called the meeting to order, Tim Whitener had devotions.

Kathy Weaver read the November minutes. Tim made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Mike Midgett seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Bruce presented the Treasurer's Report: The Building Fund has a balance of \$7,501, the Cemetery Fund balance is \$1,266 and the General Fund balance is \$9,243. There were no questions about the funds so Jon Gladden made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, April seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Pastor's Report

Grace and peace,

Greetings in these days of preparation as we look for the birth of the Christ Child and Christ coming again! In Advent, we wait and look for the signs of where and how God moves in the common occurrences of our daily lives. I trust there have been many signs of God's presence and the Holy Spirit's activity as we approach the birth of the Christ child. It has been a joy to have the holiday activities we have been able to resume.

This past month, I have continued to plan and prepare for worship, lead Bible Study and Prayer Group, make visits, and thinking ahead about details during my sabbatical. I am excited about some new developments. In general, I believe we are looking at a strong future of exciting new possibilities. Our committees have been having great meetings and exploring faithful and creative ways of ministry.

ANGELS for Christ is gearing up and planning to start up Youth Group meetings in August. Robin and Cynthia Stuart will be co-directors of the youth groups and will use January through March to study and plan for the next year. Robin will be taking some trainings and talking with Tammy Jones West and Van Van Horne. They will be great resources as we develop this ministry! She may also be visiting Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to help with and learn from their Youth Group during that time.

As for my sabbatical plan, I have learned that the time has three components: rest/personal, spiritual renewal, and learning. For my personal renewal, I am planning to visit some friends and family that I have not been able to see for years. Spiritually, I am planning to attend a weekend of Via de Cristo and some time at silent retreat at a monastery in Charleston, SC. Professionally, I am planning to attend Ignite the Church Conference. There are many programs I have been looking into, but I also want to have realistic expectations and make the most of this time of sabbatical renewal. I will be able to sign up for opportunities in January.

Cont. Council report

Summary of Activities

- Lifeline Synod Meeting at Synod Office, Tuesday, November 16
- Prayer Group, Tuesday, November 16th
- Christ the King Sunday, Sunday, November 21
- Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 21
- Confirmation, Sunday, November 21 at 3 pm
- Graveside Service for Randy Blankenship, Monday, November 22
- Bible Study, Tuesday, November 23rd
- Joint Thanksgiving Service at Plateau, Wednesday, November 24
- First Sunday in Advent, Sunday, November 28
- Acolyte Training, Sunday, November 28th at 3 pm
- Meeting with Jane, Pastor Hollar, and Dwayne, Monday, November 30
- Bible Study, Tuesday, November 30th
- Prayer Group Meeting, Tuesday, November 30th
- Hosted Fred T. Foard Seniors, Wednesday, December 1
- LIGHTS Conference Meeting, Thursday, December 2
- Choir Practice, Thursday, December 2
- Home Communion Minister, Gene Biggerstaff commissioned, Dec 5
- Synod Coaching session, Monday, December 6
- Evangelism Committee Meeting, Monday, December 6
- Bible Study, Tuesday, December 7th
- Prayer Group, Tuesday, December 7th
- Decorate the Christmas Tree, Saturday, December 8
- Land Use and Property Committee Meeting, Wednesday, December 8
- Choir Practice, Thursday, December 9
- Council Meeting, Sunday, December 12

Upcoming

- Bible Study, Tuesday, December 14th, 10 am
- Blue Christmas Service, Wednesday, December 15th, 7 pm
- Confirmation, Sunday, December 19th, 3 pm
- Drive-thru Live Nativity, Sunday, December 19
- Bible Study, Tuesday, December 21, 10 am
- Prayer Group, Tuesday, December 21 at 7 pm
- Christmas Eve Service, Friday, December 24th at 10:30 pm
- Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 26th
- Meet and Greet for Pastor Bill Hollar, Sunday, December 26th
- Vacation December 27-January 2

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Adrienne Martin



Church Council
MEETING

Cont. Council report

Old Business:

Mask Wearing and Sunday Offering collection: It was brought to the attention of the council about some concerns of passing the offering plates. Terry Bledsoe made a motion to return to the collection basket in the Narthex, Bryan Hood seconded, and the motion passed. After some discussion it was decided to keep the mask wearing decision as “strongly recommended” in place, with each parishioner making their own decision.

Use of the Fellowship Hall: With an increase in requests to use the hall, a suggestion was made to have some criteria on how, when, and who might use the hall especially during the covid restrictions. Gene Biggerstaff made a notion to create a sub-committee to study and create those criteria so a standard will be established. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed. Hopefully the sub-committee will be presented at the next council meeting.

New Business: none brought up

Mission and Goals

Outdoor Worship Area: Tim Whitener – the Land Use Committee and the Property Committee have met and are looking at funding the potential structure. Pastor Adrienne and Bruce mentioned a resource to help churches raise funds for specific projects. Mike Ward, a Synod Financial consultant, would be contacted to assess our needs and assist in finding the best way to raise funds. April Fulbright made a motion to have a Zoom meeting with Mike Ward at the January meeting, if possible, to learn more. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Youth Ministries: April stated that the highway side classrooms have been reorganized and are now more efficient in use. She also mentioned checking ideas for the upstairs space, the storeroom in the older section, and also looking for a youth office space for Robin Stuart and Cynthia, the new youth directors. The goal is to restart youth meetings in the fall of 2022.

Technology Services: Terry and Ben Whitener are looking at a complete system update. The old and new systems are currently working well together but will eventually need to be upgraded.

Senior Citizens: no current updates

Ray Whitener (Evangelism Committee) hopes to have the Shepard’s meal in March. Also, the possible need to somehow increase the ease of use of the Sardis website – at this time there are no plans for this. Lastly – election of officers for the coming year.

Jon made a motion for Gene to be Vice-chair of the Council. No further nominees and a unanimous vote later, Gene was elected. Kathy volunteered to remain as Council secretary for the next year.

Bruce thanked the leaving Council members – Terry Bledsoe, Bruce Sigman, Tim Whitener and Carolyn Hoyle and also welcomed the incoming members – Ray Whitener, Nena Babb, Kristin Teague and Roger Lutz.

With no further business the meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary

February 2022
Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Bible Study	2 Groundhog Day 12:00 FTF Seniors meet at Ebenezer	3 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	7	8 10:00 Bible Study	9	10 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship Service. 2-4 Wedding Shower Hollar/Weaver	14 Valentines Day	15 10:00 Bible Study	16	17 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY	21 President's Day	22 10:00 Bible Study	23	24 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 6:30 Lutheran Men in Mission	28					

SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Interim Pastor: Rev. Bill Hollar (C) 828-461-3838, (H) 828-464-4999 hollarw@bellsouth.net

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

Council Chair: Gene Biggerstaff (C) 828-381-0039 genebiggerstaff@gmail.com

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

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.

COUNCIL CONTACT ASSISTING MINISTER

Kathy Weaver

February

USHERS

Women of the Church

- 2/1 Evie Jo Carroll
- 2/6 Margaret Propst
- 2/9 Bill Whitener
- 2/10 Ethan Carroll
- 2/15 Amy S. Kilpatrick
Mike Whitener
- 2/16 Buster Bledsoe
Hope Gladden
- 2/21 Sylvia King
Ashley Yow
- 2/23 Alan Fulbright
- 2/25 Carolyn Hoyle
- 2/27 Jeff Wilson

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Jane Moretz

CLEAN-UP

Sandra Roseman

**SATURDAY MEAL
DELIVERY**

For—Catherine Houser,
Garry, Leevada and Lexi Wood

- Feb. 5** No Meal Delivery
- Feb. 12** Sylvia King
- Feb. 19** No Meal Delivery
- Feb. 26** April Fulbright

Anniversaries:
Bill/Mae Whitener 2- 3
Dwayne & Barbara Whitener 2-11

Delivery Week BACKPACK PROGRAM

- Feb. 4** Roger, Marilyn and Jane
- Feb. 11** Joe and Phyllis
- Feb. 18** Gene and Donna
- Feb. 25** Dwayne and Barbara

VOLUNTEER DECEMBER	6th	13th	20th	27th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Nena Babb	Mike and Felicia Hollar	WOMEN ELCA	Pete & Sheila Ramsey
ACOLYTE	Jane Moretz	Ray Whitener	Jane Moretz	Keaton Farnsworth
CHILDRENS CHURCH	Nena Babb	Jennifer Whitener	Cynthia Stuart	Heather Carroll
CRUCIFER	Marilyn Teague	Hayden Johnson	Marilyn Teague	Roger Teague
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Becky Gladden			
GREETERS	Leevada & Lexi Wood	Ken & Margaret Propst	Felicia Hollar & Kay Whitener	Kay Whitener, Bruce Sigman
LAY READER	Jon Gladden	Al King	Sylvia King	Gene Biggerstaff
SECURITY	Bryan Hood	Ken Propst	Wayne Jarrett	Zach Stuart

****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**

