

Friendly Messenger

January 2021

Christmastide One Day at a Time



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

This is my second newsletter article attempt for January! I wrote my first draft before Christmas and felt satisfied until a couple of days later when I felt something pulling at me. I was missing something. I eventually realized I was so ready to rush out of 2020 that I had glossed over the whole Christmas Season and even the marking of the Epiphany of our Lord!

That is my confession to start off the new year!

I thought it might be good for me to take a step back and slow down.

The Season of Christmas, also known as Christmastide, is 12 Days. It is 12 days because that is what Christian theology has determined to be the amount of time that passed between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Magi. I usually remember this because I have a dear friend who is Russian Orthodox. Her Christmas celebration takes place on our observance of the Epiphany of our Lord.

I don't want to rush through this season or The Epiphany of our Lord. They are too important!

To slow down, I thought about taking the Christmas Season one day at a time. I found the perfect song to help me do that: none other than *The 12 Days of Christmas*! It is an old carol. Historians believe it developed from a children's game in 1780 England. By some, it is thought to be a way via "secret code" in which persecuted Christians could clandestinely teach Christian theology. However, while scholars debate about its Christian symbolism, it is clear that this carol is meant to celebrate the 12 days after Christmas. The song begins with the birth of Christ and ends with the coming of the wise men on January 6.

Even if its theological symbolism is debated, it is a useful construct to connect each day of the Christmas Season. Perhaps reflect on a lyric each day!

The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.

The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.

The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues.

The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.

The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.

The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.

The 7 Swans A-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.

The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.

The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.

The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.

The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

These gifts come from one's "True Love". This person's true love has been overflowing with generosity and love with an abundance of gifts. In any time or place the earthly gifts corresponding with each spiritual gift would be quite pricey! How much more are the gifts of the faith!

This carol intends to remind us that our True Love is not a sweetheart, but is Jesus Christ! This Love is not romantic or flowery or even pleasant. This Love gets on our level, gets its hands dirty for us, gets hurt, and gets killed for us. This love is fierce and profound. One source I read about this said that Love was truly born on Christmas Day. Our True Love was born that day. Jesus the Christ, our True Love, has literally gone to Hell and back for us. We always see the manger in light of the cross. As the song goes, the "partridge in the pear tree" was used to represent Christ because the partridge is willing to sacrifice its life if it needs to protect its young from predators.

I invite you to let this song rest and sing in your heart during these 12 days of Christmas. Our True Love was born that Christmas Day. Love drew the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men to witness its advent. It draws us too. Let us witness it brighter and brighter as we experience and share the love and truth of Christ!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adrienne



2021 Annual Report and Volunteer Schedules

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to get out volunteer signup sheets for 2021. However, it is time to be planning this. I will repeat 2020 Service Volunteers in 2021 unless I hear from you. Also Committee Chairs remember your reports that will be due in January. Council will decide how this yearly presentation of the report will take place.

Thank you Jane Moretz, Secretary/Treasure

If you have not received your Offering Envelopes for 2021 please call the office to arrange a pickup time. Also the Word in Season's have arrived and I have put them in the large mail box at the end of the sidewalk.

A special thank you to all that contributed canned food for the luminaries at our Live Nativity Service. There were 580 cans collected and will be delivered to ECCCM.

Christmas Treats

Many thanks to the Lutheran Men in Mission and Alfred Whitener for supplying goodies for our Annual Treat Bags. The children and seniors look so forward to receiving them each year.

Winter Bible Study Options

If you are interested in participating in a Bible Study this winter, please let Pastor Adrienne know. The Winter Bible Study will be kept to an hour or less per weekly Zoom meeting.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for the wonderful and generous Christmas bonus you gave me! I am deeply appreciative and touched by your gift. I will put it to good use! It is an honor to serve with you and I look forward to seeing how our Lord Christ works in and through us this year!

No Drive-in Service for January

There will be no drive-in worship service for the month of January.

Sardis Lutheran Church
 Council Minutes
 November 5, 2020

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

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with 11 council members in attendance. Kathy had devotions.

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

No Treasurer's report was given.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:

Grace and Peace to you!

I hope everyone is staying as safe and as well as possible right now. COVID19 has gotten close to home. A few of our families have been affected and so far, and thankfully, recovering. Flu season is also around the corner which may require us to be even stricter about the suggested guidelines.

I continue to make phone calls to check in and respond to congregational needs as best I can. Some committees are also meeting to adjust to make adapted plans. I have been very grateful for how adaptive we have been during this time. My hope and prayer is that while this time is difficult, we may also come out of this renewed and open to be reshaped for faithful service in a post COVID world.

Worship planning and preparation have been in the forefront as we approached Reformation and All Saints Sunday. Frank and I have also been considering plans for Advent and Christmas as the seasons approach. I am looking forward to our Advent Zoom Bible Study based on the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Our Scholarship Committee has helped our project to provide a video for the Lifeline Fund. The committee generated a list of recipients for us to name. The Fund has helped a lot of folks! This video will be used to show Sardis as the example to the NC Synod as well as synods in Region 9.

I have also been waiting to hear if I am needed to serve on a case for the Synod's Discipline Committee. This committee serves when there has been an occurrence of misconduct that does not have a precedent to resolve it. I was elected to this committee three or so years ago at Synod Assembly. This committee is a called committee that only meets upon need. So far, the committee has not met. Unfortunately, a situation has arisen that might require the Discipline Committee to meet.

I have been excited about the plans our ANGELS for Christ team has been making. The Halloween Movie Night went very well and provided a safe event for the community. We even had some new faces! I am looking forward to the Live Nativity on December 20th!

Summary

Lifeline Zoom Meeting, October 13
 Children's Christmas Program Meeting, Wednesday, October 21
 Drive-in service turned livestreamed Reformation service
 Rylan's confirmation to be rescheduled.
 Halloween Movie Night, Friday, October 30
 All Saints Drive-in Worship Service, Sunday, November 1
 All Saints Conference Livestreamed Service, Sunday, November 4
 Cancelled due to rally and other concerns
 Thanksgiving Eve Service Zoom Meeting, Wednesday, November 4th
 Council Meeting, Wednesday, November 4th
 Continuing Education class, Monday and Thursdays, October 12-November 19

Upcoming

Drive-in service and congregational meeting, Sunday, November 15th
 Christ the King Sunday, November 22
 Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 25th at 6 pm
 Vacation November 30th-December 6 (with the exception of December 3 for Bible Study!)

Also Upcoming: Advent & Christmas Plans

First Sunday of Advent, November 29
It's a Wonderful Life Zoom Advent Bible Study, December 1 at 7 pm
 Drive-in service, December 6 Jon Gladden preaching
 Shepherds Appreciation Dinner, Monday, December 7 at 6 pm (?)
 Christmas Caroling has been cancelled due to COVID19
It's a Wonderful Life Zoom Advent Bible Study, December 8 at 7 pm
It's a Wonderful Life Zoom Advent Bible Study, December 15 at 7 pm
 Blue Christmas/Darkest Night Service, Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm (Facebook Live)
 Live Nativity, Children's Program, Sunday, December 20th, 6-8 pm
It's a Wonderful Life Zoom Advent Bible Study, December 22 at 7 pm
 Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 9 pm, with prelude at 8:45 pm
 Vacation (December 28-January 4)

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Adrienne Martin

Old Business

No old business

New Business

At the October meeting, 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 was to contact Southern Steeple Jacks for a plan of action and costs to repair. Joe had received the cost estimates from Southern Steeple Jacks. Southern Steeple Jacks will furnish the equipment and labor and materials for the removal of the steeple and replacing the damaged plywood under the steeple with installing with new shingles if able to match and then install the steeple back with a fiberglass shingle saver under the steeple to protect the shingles and caulk and seal. after the steeple is installed it will be cleaned. the work will take about three days. if there is any major damage to the roof the cost will be extra by not being able to see under the shingles and if the steeple will need to be painted after cleaning the cost will be an extra \$ 850.00 and by having to rent the lift for a week added more to the cost. Price \$ 12,375.00

Dwayne stated that since this needed to be done quickly, the first step is to contact the insurance company and see if any of this is covered. Perhaps the recent wind storms is responsible for part of the damage. Hopefully part will be covered. The rest of the cost would come from the yearly draw from the cemetery fund plus the building fund. This will postpone part of our Benevolence until the first part of the year. Jon motioned that we proceed with contacting the insurance company and with Southern Steeple Jacks to repair the damage to the roof. Ken seconded . The motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne stated that the Boy Scouts had filed for bankruptcy. Bishop Smith recommends that all churches that had a Boy Scout troop in the past should file a Proof of Claim form to protect them from possible financial loss. Pastor Adrienne is reaching out to the Synod for guidance.

Pastor Adrienne stated that she had been approached by someone asking to add links to our website to services they provided. This has been discussed in council before. If we allow on agency or business to do this then it opens the door for many requests. The council declined the offer.

Rick asked for the council's approval to have a Blood Drive on December 7. Council approved.

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

Congregational Meeting 2nd Part
November 15, 2020

Joe reopened the meeting at the beginning of the service. Ballots were distributed for the Budget, Church Council, Nominating Committee, and Scholarship Committee. The Budget passed unanimously, Gene Biggerstaff, April Fulbright, Susan Jones, and Mike Midgett were elected to the Council. Dwayne Whitener, Jane Moretz, Joe Biggerstaff, Marilyn Teague, Rick Johnson, and Sherrie Midgett were elected to the Nominating Committee. Phyllis Biggerstaff was elected to the Scholarship Committee.

Joe adjourned the meeting after announcing the results of the election.

Winter Wonderland

W	I	C	G	N	I	T	A	K	S	T	R	Z	D
N	D	N	A	L	R	E	D	N	O	W	D	C	L
W	O	N	R	A	R	O	R	K	A	W	O	Z	L
S	B	T	S	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	L
K	D	R	N	I	I	C	I	C	L	E	L	N	N
I	L	N	O	L	L	O	W	Y	T	S	O	R	F
I	N	T	W	L	F	L	C	S	L	S	P	N	S
N	S	R	B	A	R	L	A	N	L	L	G	I	N
G	L	E	A	F	O	T	L	N	I	P	P	Y	S
N	K	T	L	W	Z	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G
A	S	N	L	O	E	L	G	L	I	S	T	E	N
D	D	I	W	N	N	Z	N	A	D	L	O	C	T
S	O	W	E	S	D	R	A	Z	Z	I	L	B	O
W	H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	I

NIPPY
 SNOWBALL
 HOT CHOCOLATE
 SNOWFLAKE
 FROSTY
 ICICLE
 SKATING
 WONDERLAND
 SLEDDING
 FROZEN
 BLIZZARD
 SKIING
 SNOWFALL
 GLISTEN
 WINTER

**January 2021
Sardis Lutheran Church**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

					1	2
<u>No Drive-in Service for January</u>						
3 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live Supply Pastor, Mark Howell	4	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live 7:00 Council Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live	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.					

****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

January Birthdays

1/3 Mildred Fulbright
 1/4 Catherine Houser
 1/8 Susan F. Lewis
 Graysen Whitener
 1/14 Dianne Nail
 1/18 Bryon Hollar
 1/24 Ralph Stallings
 1/28 Kipton Jennings
 1/29 Sharon Sigmon

ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 3 Catherine Houser
Jan. 10 Kathy Weaver
Jan. 17 Ben & April Fulbright
Jan. 24 Carolyn Hoyle
Jan. 31 Dwayne & Barbara Whitener

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Carolyn Hoyle

Jan. 3 Ray Whitener

Jan. 10

Jan. 17 Jon Gladden

Jan. 24 Gene Biggerstaff

Jan. 31 Ben Whitener

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY/IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO

AT THIS TIME.

Anniversary:

Ralph & Sheila Ramsey 1-11

Jan. 2 Donna Biggerstaff
Jan. 9 No Meal Delivery
Jan. 16 Jill Bledsoe
Jan. 23 No Meal Delivery
Jan. 30 Dawn Covington

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**

