

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

January 2022

## Merry Christmas!

Joy, O Joy, Peace and Good Will! Merry Christmas!

Christ our Savior is born! As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in the lowly manger, we are invited to marvel in the gift of the Christ Child: Son of God and Son of Man. O come let us adore him!

So many Christmas hymns and carols swirl in our spirits this season. We wait to sing Christmas hymns at church during Advent, but we may hear them on the radio or sing them in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas; and when Christmas actually does come, then we may sing them loudly for all to hear!

During Advent, we acknowledge the tension in which we live. We live in the “already, but not yet.” We both prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the Christ Child Jesus and celebrate his birth while also looking for Christ to return. So when Christmas comes, what happens to the “not yet” of Advent? We often treat Christmas as a holiday, a one day event. However, Christmas is actually a season of the Church year. For 12 days, we are in the Season of Christmas.

Those 12 days are celebratory. And we need a little Christmas, right? I think so, especially in this time of continuing pandemic. This year in the Season of Christmas, I invite you into the spiritual practice of joy as we continue to wait for the coming of our Savior.

I suggest this because it is my experience to drop the spiritual focus we take during Advent. I stop being concerned with preparation. I'm happy Christmas has come! Most of the time, my preparations for the second coming of Christ cease and I instead feel a sense of closure. I can appreciate my gifts and the holiday and move on.

But preparations continue! Remember to be ready when Christ comes! It will be a joyous and salvific day!

In this Season of Christmas, I invite you to revel in a Christmas hymn. At the risk of the exclusive language, I offer this one to you:



Cont. Pastor message

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen Let  
nothing you dismay Remember,  
Christ, our Saviour Was born on  
Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy Com-  
fort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy*

Tidings of Comfort and Joy, Pastor Adrienne

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**Sabbatical Update and Welcome**

I am deeply touched by your supportive response to my sabbatical request. I am very grateful for the council’s approval and the affirmation of the congregation. It means so much to me to have your support as I seek to rejuvenate and grow as a leader. I am looking forward to the opportunity of seeking spiritual renewal and learning new skills needed to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an ever changing world.

While I am on sabbatical leave from January through March, our ministry will continue as usual. Sunday worship, Sunday School, committee meetings, Bible Study, confirmation, Lenten services, and all the wonderful activities we typically enjoy. Pastor William (Bill) Hollar will be serving as interim pastor. He will be available for administrative and pastoral needs. More specific information will be available as he begins his interim ministry in January. Pastor Hollar will preach each week with the exception of one Sunday per month, and will provide pastoral care during the week. Pastor Hollar brings a wealth of wisdom and experience.

He graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College, attended Trinity Seminary in Ohio, and earned his Doctorate at Drew University. He has served in parishes in five different states and served as an interim at several churches in North Carolina. He has most recently served as chaplain to Trinity Village here in Hickory. He will be here with us on Sunday, December 26th for a Meet and Greet after worship. Welcome to Pastor Hollar!

I am grateful for your understanding of this important time away for rest and renewal. I will greatly miss you during my sabbatical and will look forward to seeing you when I return!

Blessings,  
Pastor Adrienne





**Seniors**

## 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 January on the 5th at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

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## 2022 Annual Report and Volunteer Schedules

Committee Chairs remember your reports are due in January.

Thank you Jane Moretz, Secretary/Treasure

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## WELCA

Bereavement Meal Changes; As many of you know we had to change the way we offer bereavement meals over the last two years during the pandemic. Positive feedback has been given by a number of people. The ladies of the church provide sandwich trays, chips, and drinks purchased from Lowes Foods. We would like to continue our Sardis hospitality touch by making our own desserts. The family can decide to eat in the fellowship hall or take the food home for the family to enjoy there.

We will keep our three groups for this. We will begin with group 1, then group 2, then 3. The co-chairs will order the food, pick up and deliver to the church. This is where we need your help. Please make a donation to Sardis WELCA and in the memo or on the envelope write Bereavement Meal Fund and place in the offering plate. We will keep a separate account of this money. The church will pay for this and then WELCA will reimburse the church. When the fund is depleted we will ask for money again. You may also be asked to make a dessert but it should only be every several years since that's all that ladies will be making.

Please don't hesitate to ask Dawn Covington or a WELCA member if you have a question. There will be a meeting with co-chairs in January for a better explanation and step by step instructions.

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## THANK YOU!

Dear Members of Sardis,

Thank you so much for my Christmas bonus! What a wonderful and lovely surprise! I am touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness. I am grateful for you and deeply appreciative of the many ways each of you contribute to the ministry we share. I am honored to serve with you and will put this gift to good use!

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Adrienne

Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
November 14, 2021

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Ben, April

Bruce Sigman called the meeting to order, Mike Midgett had devotions.

Pastor Adrienne Martin introduced our interim pastor, Pastor William Hollar. He was kind enough to give us a short biography of his years in ministry, which is extensive. We also discussed duties that the Council would expect him to participate in. With approximately 20 hrs per week available of Pastor Bill's time not all of Pastor Adrienne's meetings and commitments will be able to be filled every week. Some items brought up were of course the monthly Council meeting, weekly bible study and worship & music committee meeting. He will have one Sunday off a month and will provide a Pastor's report each month for Council meeting. The Synod will assist in helping to fill the empty Sunday position. The confirmation classes will be covered by Beth Eden.

Kathy read minutes from the October 24th meeting. Jon Gladden made a motion to accept minutes as read, Mike seconded. The motion passed.

Bruce presented the October treasurer's reports. The Building Fund as of October 31st was \$7,358.06, Cemetery Fund was \$1,266.83 and General Fund balance \$7,739.74. Gene Biggerstaff made a motion to accept the reports, Bryan Hood seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Pastor's Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. First, I would like to give thanks for what an awesome congregation we have! During this pandemic, Sardis has been giving faithfully and generously. And last week, we had a family in need of urgent assistance and the response was amazing! Because of their compassion and generosity, we were able to take care of the emergency and the family is in a much better position! Thanks be to God!

Stories like this are what it looks like to be the Church. How overwhelmingly beautiful it can be! There are so many beautiful stories of the Church being the Church. It is my prayer that we continue to grow in mission, justice, and mercy for the sake of the world.

This month we have enjoyed numbers of covid19 cases going down. I hope the trend continues! The downward trend has helped us phase back in more and more as safely as possible. Ministry continues! Confirmation started on October 24th. Our First Communion Class met the first four Sundays of the month and on Reformation Sunday, they partook of their first Holy Communion with their families. It is a significant step in their faith journeys!

We have also started our Prayer Group back which already has been a huge blessing. We are gathering virtually via Zoom on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month. We lift up those on our prayer list and bring forth other petitions.

This time of year requires a lot of planning. When ordinary time ends, we get ready for a new church year. Reformation, Christ the King, and Advent are always in mind. This year, we have added a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance to honor the memory of those who died during the pandemic. We had wanted to do it earlier in the year, but held off because of increasing covid19 rates. Finally, we decided to plan it and go for it since numbers were looking better and we did not want it to get too late.

I have been planning and preparing for worship, leading Bible Study, preparing to lead the combined Sunday School class, and making visits. I have done my best to be attentive to the preferences of those I visit. Some prefer in-person visits, and some prefer phone calls instead. I am happy to oblige based on comfort level.

#### Summary

- Worship & Music Committee Meeting, Wednesday, October 6
- Blessed Blessing Box, Sunday, October 10
- First Communion Class, Sunday, October 10
- Land Use Committee Meeting, Sunday, October 10
- Council, Sunday, October 10
- Bible Study, Tuesday, October 12
- Regional Convocation, October 11-12
- Discretionary Fund Meeting, Thursday, October 14
- First Communion Class, Sunday, October 17
- Funeral for Kathleen Weaver, Tuesday, October 19
- Prayer Group Meeting, Tuesday, October 19
- On-call for Pastor Heather Langan, October 21-24
- Attended funeral for Poneez Stallings, Saturday, October 23 ● Confirmation, Sunday, October 24
- Bible Study, Tuesday, October 26
- Installation Service for Pastor CeeCee Mills, Wednesday, October 27 ● Synod Coaching session, Wednesday, October 27
- Outdoor Movie Night, Friday, October 29
- Reformation Sunday with First Communion, October 31
- Joint Sunday School program
- Bible Study, Tuesday, November 2 Wednesday, November 3 ● All Saints Sunday, November 7
- First part of Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 7 ● Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, Sunday, November 14, 4 pm

#### Upcoming

- 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
- Joint Thanksgiving Service at Plateau, Wednesday, November 24 ● First Sunday in Advent, Sunday, November 28
- Acolyte Training, Sunday, November 28th at 3 pm
- Host Fred T. Foard Seniors, Wednesday, December 1
- Prayer Group, Tuesday, December 7th
- Decorate the Christmas Tree, Saturday, December 11
- Drive-thru Live Nativity, Sunday, December 19
- Christmas Eve Service, Friday, December 24th at 10:30 pm ● Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 26th

#### Items for Action/Discussion

- Wedding shower request



Church Council  
**MEETING**

Council min. cont.  
Old Business:

Interim Pastor: After a discussion of Pastor Hollar and his qualifications, Jon made a motion to accept Pastor Bill as the interim during Pastor Adrienne's sabbatical. Gene seconded and the motion passed. It was suggested that a contract be written/drawn up listing the duties the Council requests and presented to Pastor Bill. Pastor Adrienne, Bruce and Dwayne Whitener will write this and talk over the expected duties with Pastor Bill.

December guidelines: The Synod still requires that masks be worn during services. After some discussion Jon made a motion that mask wearing be strongly recommended, Mike seconded, and the motion passed. We will once again start regular services using acolytes, crucifers, lay readers, ushers and assisting ministers. Communion will stay on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays monthly and festival Sundays, with the Pastor and communion assistants wearing gloves.

#### New Business

Property Committee: Problems with the old septic tank near the cemetery and the outside faucet leaking was brought up. A plumber was called and the tank was pumped out, a new drain line installed and the outside faucet fixed for a total of approximately \$900.

#### Mission and Goals

Outdoor area: Tim Whitener – the Land Use Committee met with a contractor and are receiving quotes for grading.

Fellowship Hall: No update, April Fulbright not available.

Technology: Terry Bledsoe – no response yet on the second grant request. Pastor Adrienne will follow up on this. A new DVD recorder will be purchased if the funds are received.

Senior Citizens: Susan Weaver reported that the Blessing Box has been installed, filled with groceries and is being used. It was reported that the box has been filled several times and that a local grocery store, Honey's, has provided groceries to be used to fill the box.

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

Next meeting Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary

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Thank you to all who contributed to the collection of canned goods that were used during the live Nativity drive thru on Sunday Night (12-19-21). 376 lbs of food was delivered to ECCCM at Newton. They were greatly appreciative of the donation.

## Sardis Lutheran Church November meeting 2021

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - Bruce Sigman called the meeting to order. As the spending plan was being handed out, he invited Dwayne Whitener up to discuss the Spending plan. Dwayne, as head of the Finance Committee, explained changes in dollar amounts, and also line-item description changes. He pointed out the new addition of payroll taxes and sabbatical cost. Dwayne also went over the new "Sabbatical Policy and Procedures" document that the Finance Committee produced following the Synod guidelines. With no questions for Dwayne the plan will go to the Congregation as is. Bruce pointed out those nominated for Council and asked if any additional names were to be added, Jon Gladden made a motion to close the nominations, Al King seconded the motion, and the nominations were closed. Bruce asked if any additional names were to be nominated for the Nomination Committee, Al made a motion to close nominations, Jon seconded the motion, and the nominations were closed. Bruce asked if any additional names were to be submitted for the Scholarship Committee, Al made a motion to close the nominations, no seconds and the nominations were closed. With no questions and the nominations closed, Bruce suspended the meeting until Nov 21st.

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> meeting continuation – Bruce called the meeting to order and asked if anyone needed another copy of the spending plan or had any questions. With no questions, the ushers handed out the ballots. The ballots were taken up with the results to be given at the end of the service.

Results – Spending Plan - passed

New Council members – Ray Whitener, Kristin Teague, Nena Babb and Roger Lutz.

New Nominating Committee – Terry Bledsoe, Jill Bledsoe, Tim Whitener, Roger Teague, Donna Biggerstaff and Bruce Sigman.

Scholarship Committee – Heather Carroll and Sylvia King



**January 2022**  
**Sardis Lutheran Church**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	3	4 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group ZOOM	5 12:00 FTF Seniors Wesley Chapel	6 6:00 Worship & Music Committee meeting 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	10	11 10:00 Bible Study	12	13 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live	17	18 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group ZOOM	19	20 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live	24	25 10:00 Bible Study	26	27 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 6:30 Lutheran Men in Mission	31					

**SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Bill Hollar (C) 828-413-5819 [hollarw@bellsouth.net](mailto:hollarw@bellsouth.net)

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

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

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

Ray Whitener

**January**

**USHERS**

Ken Propst, Mike Hollar, Nelson Speagle, Ben Whitener

1/3 Mildred Fulbright

1/4 Catherine Houser

Thomas Gregory Smyre

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

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Marilyn Teague

**CLEAN-UP**

Sherrie Midgett

**SATURDAY MEAL  
DELIVERY**

For—Catherine Houser,  
Garry, Leevada and Lexi Wood

**Jan. 1** Donna Biggerstaff

**Jan. 8** No Meal Delivery

**Jan. 15** Jill Bledsoe

**Jan. 22** No Meal Delivery

**Jan. 30** Dawn Covington

**Anniversary:**

Ralph & Sheila Ramsey  
1-11-85

**Delivery Week BACKPACK PROGRAM**

**Jan. 7** Roger, Marilyn and Jane

**Jan. 14** Joe and Phyllis

**Jan. 24** Gene and Donna

**Jan. 31** Dwayne and Barbara

<b>VOLUNTEER DECEMBER</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Catherine Houser	Kathy Weaver	Ben & April Fulbright	Carolyn Hoyle	Dwayne & Barbara Whitener
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Hayden Johnson	Marshall Whitener	Kathy Weaver	Hayden Johnson	Keaton Farnsworth
<b>CHILDRENS CHURCH</b>	Cynthia Stuart	Jennifer Whitener	Nena Babb	Heather Carroll	Jennifer Whitener
<b>CRUCIFER</b>	Samuel Biggerstaff	Marilyn Teague	Nena Babb	Roger Teague	Bruce Sigman
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Kathy Weaver				
<b>GREETERS</b>	Kay Whitener & Bruce Sigman	Evelyn Fulbright & Phyllis Hood	Jill Bledsoe & Barbara E. Whitener	Rita Lutz & Annette Fulbright	Margaret Whitener & Nena Babb
<b>LAY READER</b>	Dawn Covington	Jon Gladden	Becky Gladden	Kathy Weaver	Hope Gladden
<b>SECURITY</b>	Wayne Jarrett	Nelson Speagle	Rick Lutz	Zach Stuart	Wayne Jarrett

**\*\*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.**

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

