

Friendly Messenger

2020

July



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It may not feel like it, but time is passing. The passing of time is inevitable, even if it seems slow right now. It's part of who we are as humans, as creatures. Time defines who we are. In this time of pandemic and unusual time, we may feel lost in the haze of the suspension of our activities.

The great preacher Thomas Long tells the story that if you listened carefully to Jimmy Reed's records, there could sometimes be heard, ever so faintly in the background a soft woman's voice murmuring in advance the next verse of the song. They say that Reed was so absorbed in the beat and guitar riffs of his music that he simply could not remember the lyrics, and the woman's voice was his wife, devotedly coaching her husband through the recording sessions by whispering the coming stanzas into his ear as he sang.

When Jesus was present, he was the one who instilled in his disciples the words of life, coached them through the understanding of the Kingdom, and taught them joyful commandments. But as Jesus faces his crucifixion and departure, the disciples will be on their own without him. But he promises that he will not leave them orphaned.

He promises the gift of the Holy Spirit: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth..."

We might recognize this experience. Jesus tells his followers that the role of the Holy Spirit is, in effect, to whisper or sing the lyrics of the Gospel into the ears of the faithful.

The reason we need the Holy Spirit murmuring the gospel in our ears is that we are notoriously forgetful. As one commentator pointed out, "an early Christian definition of being lost... was to have amnesia." We can be amnesiacs who cannot keep our calling clearly in mind. We are caught up in the rhythms, but we forget the lyrics. We know we are created to serve and love one another, but the pressure builds and the temptation to seek revenge is strong and we simply forget who we are and what we are called to do and be in life.

The doctrine of sin discloses that the loss of memory is not a momentary lapse. Having lost our memory, we now choose forgetfulness again and again, preferring the oblivion of amnesia to the remembering of Jesus' commands.

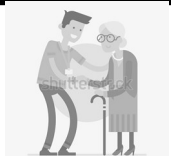
A frequent device of soap operas is to have a principle character developing amnesia. He or she is in a new place, with a new job, a new set of friends. This plot device is endlessly fascinating since it speaks to our fantasies about forgetting the old self and embarking on a new identity.

The point is the lure of forgetfulness. One way to describe sin is willful forgetfulness. We choose amnesia. We decide as an act of will not to remember that we are God's very own son, God's very own daughter.

God's mercy is, in part, the grace of memory. God's Spirit whispers in our ear, telling us what we cannot—or will not—remember, refreshing our memory about who we are and to whom we belong.

Our activities may be suspended now and for a while. As COVID 19 cases spike in North Carolina, we will continue to hold live-stream worship services on Facebook and our monthly drive-in services until it is deemed safe by the state and the NC Synod. Remember that you belong to God. You are beloved by God. You are called by God to walk in love and justice. We have a story. When we can't remember, God remembers, and by the grace of God, the Spirit whispers the lyrics of the saving gospel in our ears.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adrienne



The Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens Will not meet in July

SOCIAL COMMITTEE ONGOING EFFORTS

Although we are not attending services and therefore not dropping off donations, the Social Committee is still working to collect items for various programs. Hopefully, members are collecting items at home. Below is a reminder of the collection projects to serve as a reminder as you run across different items at home or a trip to the grocery.

- **Personal Care packets and Blankets** - (timing is to have them ready to take to Zion in November.) so hopefully the congregation will be back in some type of in person setting and can collect. This is the towel, nail clippers, comb, toothbrush, etc. If you prefer you can give money and the committee will buy the items.
- **Coat Drive** - Collect as normal starting in the fall.
- **ECCCM** - Continue collecting food and grocery bags.
- **Pregnancy Care Center** - Baby Items
- **Hugs** - Stuffed animals for law enforcement officers
- **Soda cab tabs** - For Ronald McDonald House
- **Box Tops** - For Crossnore Children's Home

JULY FOOD DRIVE FOR BANOAK FAMILIES

Since the Backpack Program does not resume until October, the Social Committee is working with the Banoak Guidance Counselor to identify families that have food insecurity during this time. On July 5, during the Drive In Service we will be collecting non-perishable food for the families that the Counselor identifies during the coming months. To practice safe distancing, please place the donated items in a grocery bag in front of your car. After the service members of the committee will collect food, package some for the already identified families and store the rest in the end Sunday School room for distribution later. Thanks for helping out our community families.

NOTE FOR AUGUST:



Our next drive in service after July 5th will not be the first Sunday in August, but rather on August 16th, the third Sunday and it will be at 8:30AM. We will partake in Holy Communion even if we are meeting indoors by then.

A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

What is baptism?

Baptism is not merely water, but it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.

What is this Word of God?

As recorded in Matthew 28:19, our Lord Christ said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

What gifts or benefits does Baptism bestow?

It effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and grants eternal salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare.

What is this Word and promise of God?

As recorded in Mark 16:16, our Lord Christ said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."

How can water produce such great effects?

It is not the water that produces these effects, but the Word of God connected with the water, and our faith which relies on the Word of God connected with the water. For without the Word of God the water is merely water and no Baptism. But when connected with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul wrote to Titus (3:5-8): "He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. This saying is sure."

What does such baptizing with water signify?

It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and be put to death, and that the new man should come forth daily and rise up, cleansed and righteous, to live forever in God's presence.

Where is this written?

In Romans 6:4, St. Paul wrote: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Recommendations from Worship and Music for Worship during Phase 2.5

Since NC virus numbers are swiftly rising 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 continuing with our plans for the 50th anniversary of ordained women to recognize Pastor Adrienne on August 16th and will make a decision about the services for Pastors Mary Louise and Anna in mid to late July. (Mary Louise had been asked to be the Homecoming speaker and be honored on that Sunday. We will need to make a decision about delaying or even canceling that event in the upcoming months.)

We recommend that August 16th be the drive-in service for August (as opposed to the first Sunday) to allow for larger attendance even if we are able to be indoors by then. This is the Sunday to honor Pastor Adrienne.

We recommend (combined input from Altar Guild and W & M committees) communion be held outdoors during the August 16th drive-in service. To be administered in the safest possible manner we would use pre-sealed cups that contain the wafer under the top peel back cover and juice under the second peel back label. (Similar to an applesauce or pudding cup) A box of 100 of these sealed element cups has been donated so no cost to the church. When directed, one adult from each vehicle will come forward to a table set up in front of the trailer (where Pastor and Frank are located) pick up the needed number of element cups for their family and return to their vehicle. Pastor Adrienne will also have available a blessing-type card for children that can be taken back to the vehicle by that same adult. When everyone has received the sealed elements Pastor Adrienne will continue with “The body of Christ....” The congregation will then all take communion together from their vehicle.

July Birthdays

7/2 Kristin Teague
 7/3 Frank Griffin
 7/6 Alex Midgett
 7/10 Allison W. Short
 Catherine D. Hood
 7/12 Pastor Martin
 7/16 Becky Gladden
 7/18 Gary Speagle
 7/19 Dorothy Lutz
 7/21 Rick Lutz
 Zayde Yousef
 7/23 Carol Mayer
 7/26 Wanda Stallings
 Maleah G. Duncan
 7/28 Paisley A. Hood
 7/29 Susan Jones
 7/31 Al King
 Monte Speagle

Anniversaries

Ben & Jennifer Whitener 7-30

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 5 Dorothea Wyant
July 12
July 19 Benny & Edna Fulbright/Terry & Linda Wilson
July 26 Randy & Joyce Speagle

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Bruce Sigman

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

July 4 No Meal Delivery
July 11 Margaret Whitener
July 18 **No Meal Delivery**
July 25 Carolyn Hoyle

Baptismal Birthdays

7 Ben Whitener 1985
 9 Barbara J. Whitener 1968
 Evie Jo Carroll 2017
 10 Annette Fulbright Richard 1948
 Chris Johnson 1983
 Gary Speagle 1949
 13 Jonathan Fulbright 1975
 Cooper Carroll 2014
 14 Marilyn P. Teague 1946
 24 Kerby W. Smyre 1988
 25 Adrienne E. Martin
 Phyllis Biggerstaff
 30 Caitlan Townsend 1989

July 2020
Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 9:00 Drive-in Church 10:30 Facebook Live	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 Facebook Live	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 Facebook Live	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 Facebook Live	27	28	29	30	31	

****NOTE****

If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Also, check your Family Bible and advise your baptismal date. 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: Joe Biggerstaff, biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com

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

Independence Day

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

AMERICAN
 DECLARATION
 FOURTH JULY
 PARADES
 BRITAIN
 PATRIOT
 MINUTEMEN
 FREEDOM
 INDEPENDENCE
 FIREWORKS
 REDCOATS
 GLORY

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2219/>

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**

