

Friendly Messenger

2020

June

In the Spotlight: Samuel Biggerstaff

Lent, Easter, and this Easter Season have been like no other this year. Even so, the church year goes on—for nothing stops God’s redeeming and loving activity in this world! On May 31st the 50 day Season of Easter will culminate in the Festival of Pentecost. We will celebrate the birth of the church and remember anew how the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Church was created. We continue to celebrate the continued presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

The teaching ministry of confirmation is one of the many ways we observe and celebrate the continued activity of God in the Church.

This year, two of our confirmands will complete their two-year catechetical instruction. Samuel Biggerstaff and Rylan Johnson have faithfully attended monthly confirmation sessions for the last two years. They have learned about the church year, creeds, sacraments, and comparative religion. They will both have the opportunity to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and become adults in the church. Samuel will affirm his baptism on Pentecost and Rylan’s confirmation date will be scheduled later in the summer. Both occasions are joyful for Samuel and Rylan, their families, Sardis, and the universal Church. This month, we highlight Samuel!

Full name: Samuel Clayton Biggerstaff

Birthdate: Dec 9, 2005

Baptismal date and place: April 9, 2006 (Palm Sunday) at Grace Lutheran Church

Favorite food: chicken tenders

Least favorite: salad

Samuel is in the eighth grade and will be moving on to high school in the fall. His

favorite class was language arts, especially as they learned new vocabulary words. His least favorite class is math. The end of the school has looked very different this year as Covid 19 has forced schools to go to distance learning. It has been hard to transition to online learning from home, but he has been able to get more done because it is easier to focus and he has more time. There has been a lot of work to do and he has spent the large amount of the day working on school assignments.



It has been hard to not be able to see anybody or talk to his friends or get fast food. Sometimes it can get boring because not as much is going on. As it has had its challenges, this Covid 19 time has also had its blessings. He has been able to spend more time with his family. They have time to watch movies and play games together. Overall, Samuel acknowledges that Covid 19 has changed his life a bit, but he just works around it the best he can. What good advice!

Outside of school work, Samuel likes to read, watch tv, and try DIY projects. He is also accomplished in karate and must wait until he turns 16 to test for his black belt. Both he and his dad are able to practice some as the sensei posts Facebook livestream classes.

Samuel and Rylan completed two years of confirmation instruction. We collaborate with a group of six ELCA congregations. Each session we focus on a different aspect of Lutheran theology, church history, and scriptural understanding. Samuel liked the activities we did outside, especially when we played some games with the large colorful parachute when we talked about time in the church year.

One session in particular stood out to him. In his first year, we invited a student from Lenoir Rhyne to share her faith journey. She was a basketball player who had come to realize God's love for her. Now, she wants to share that message with the world. She talked about her experience in college and how it led her to feel closer to God.

This two year process is designed to teach confirmands about the faith. And in the curriculum we used, *Confirm not Conform*, we aspired to equip students with the knowledge and perspectives they needed to make an informed decision about their beliefs. In this process, Samuel said he learned more about God and made more connections between scripture and how we can live our lives. And in a powerful statement of faith, he said, "God changes our lives." Indeed, that is true! What an inspiring affirmation of faith! May God continue to bless Samuel on his faith journey.

Stay tuned to celebrate Samuel's confirmation on May 31st on Facebook livestream! God is always at work forming and transforming us with Christ's Holy Spirit!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adrienne Martin



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Summer Worship Schedule

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! Over the past few weeks, I have told you to expect to hear from the Sardis council about our worship plans for the next couple of months. The council has met to discuss the possibilities and recommendations from the Worship & Music Committee about the safest way for us to gather. Based on the latest research that indoor sanctuary services are currently hotspots for the spread of COVID 19, the council has voted in favor of holding a monthly drive-in worship service on the first Sunday of the months of June and July.

We are awaiting further guidance from the NC Synod about when and how to gather for indoor services. Our hope in the meantime is to make worship safe and available for everyone. In this effort, we will continue to livestream our Sunday morning worship services each week and gather for a monthly drive-in worship service at 9 am on June 7th and July 5th, weather permitting. It is possible we will continue these services into the fall. The council will reassess possibilities as new information becomes available.

A drive-in worship service is the safest way for us to gather at the moment. On those Sundays, you will be invited to attend church in your car! A platform and sound system will be set up in between the playground and the sign from which Frank and I will lead the service. You will be invited to park in a particular spot and stay in your vehicle for the duration of the service. Cars will be distanced at least 6 feet away from each other so you may roll your windows down to hear and participate in the service. You will receive direction on where to park and how to exit.

You can expect these services to be shorter than the livestreamed services. We will still pray, hear God's word, and sing together. We will get to see each other's faces and be physically present at a safe distance. I am looking forward to it! If you are not yet comfortable with coming out to this monthly service, please take care and stay in. Our Facebook livestream service will still be available in June!

The worship bulletin will continue to be posted on Facebook if you would like to use your phone/tablet or print it out ahead of time. We will also have printed bulletins if you need one. We ask that you remain in your vehicle for the entirety of the service and go into the church only in the event of an emergency. If it is an emergency situation, we will have someone stationed by the door to let you in.

I am grateful to our Worship & Music Committee and to our Council for discerning how we most inclusively and safely gather for worship in these trying times. Let us listen and heed the grace-filled Spirit of Christ in the world and pray for healing and strength for all those affected by the corona virus. I hope to see you on June 7th at 9 am for our drive-in service!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adrienne

What to Remember for Sunday, June 7

9 am service time

This service is an option. Our livestreamed service will still be available at 10:30 am.

Weather permitting (If weather does not permit, a phone tree call will let you know if the drive-in service has been cancelled and the regular streaming service will be held)

Please enter only by the playground drive and exit by the cemetery.

Someone will direct you where to park and how to exit.

Please remain in your vehicles for the duration of the service.

You may bring your own bulletin or up to two may be provided for each vehicle.

Offering will be collected in a bucket as you exit.

There are opportunities to help! Please let Jane know if you can help carry equipment before or after the service.

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
February 9, 2020

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Rick, Carolyn

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 10 council members in attendance. Kathy had prayer. Terry read minutes from the January Council Meeting and from the Congregational meeting on February 2nd. Motion was made by Jon to accept the minutes as presented, Bryan seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Joe; The Building Fund balance is \$4,337.06, General Fund balance for January is \$12,109.29 and the Cemetery Fund is \$1,972.69; Ken motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jon seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report for January and upcoming events

Visits = 18

- Confirmation meeting at Startown, Monday, January 13
- Lenten planning with Mt. Zion and Startown, Tuesday, January 14
- VBS planning meeting, Tuesday, January 14
- Installation of new associate at Holy Trinity, Sunday, January 26
- Annual report and congregational meeting, Sunday, February 2
- Evangelism Meeting, Tuesday, February 4
- Fred T. Foard Seniors luncheon, Wednesday, February 5 (surgery)
- LIGHTS luncheon, Thursday, February 6 (weather)
- Confirmation at St. Paul's Startown, Sunday, February 9

Upcoming

- ELCA and NC Synod annual reports due
- Confirmation planning meeting, Monday, February 10
- VBS Planning Meeting, Tuesday, February 18
- Lilly Conference Call, Thursday, February 19
- Bold Women's Sunday, February 16
- 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination Service, February 23
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 25
- Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 26
- The Season of Lent (February 26-April 9)
 - Lenten Supper and Service, Sunday, March 1
 - Lenten Supper and Service, Sunday, March 8
- Evangelism Meeting, Tuesday, March 3

Pastor Martin stated that she has worked on reports that are due, searched for a Bible Study curriculum, been planning for Lent, visiting, working with WELCA on Bold Women's Sunday, and preparing for Sunday services. She is also happy to say that our new communion minister in training, Gene Biggerstaff, and her have reviewed the home communion liturgy and have made two communion visits together. The plan is to do a couple more together and ask to commission him to make visits.

She was very impressed with our annual report booklet. We have really accomplished a lot this year and that is due to the giftedness and faithfulness of the good people of Sardis. In her verbal report she thanked the congregation and Scholarship Committee for the wonderful gift of making it possible to pay off her student debt! She again mentioned that Sardis is a shining star in the synod for the way it has helped her with her debt, so much so that the Program Director for Faith + Finances + Freedom has

asked if Sardis might put together a video to share with other congregations about how the Endowment was developed and how the ministry of Scholarship Committee was developed. She was also happy to announce that Bible Study will resume during the Season of Lent. It is called "Making Sense of the Cross" and will be a wonderful and engaging study.

Old Business

Ken gave an update from the Property Committee. The holy shrubbery around the front of the church has been trimmed.

New Business

Joe passed out a new contact list for the council and a job description for the council from the Synod's web page.

Joe reminded the council that the retreat would be on March 21st at the Catawba Valley Country Club. Pastor Martin recommended Pastor Ben Krey to lead the retreat with a topic of evangelism and sharing our faith. Pastor Krey charges \$250 plus expenses. Total costs would be approximately \$600. Tim made a motion to have Pastor Krey conduct the workshop, Bryan seconded the motion, motion carried.

Joe stated that the locks on the office needed to be changed. It is unknown how many keys have been distributed but if someone needs a key, they can ask Joe for one. Jon made a motion to replace the locks on the office doors. Bruce seconded, motion carried. Joe and Terry will change the locks.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

Need to add Congregational Meeting.

Added notes about the Covid-19 Pandemic

March 13, 2020

It was recommended by the Bishop that we suspend all activities at the church through the end of May. Joe asked online for a response from the Council. After much discussion online, the Council decided by mutual agreement to suspend activities through May 30. Note: At or about the same time, Governor Cooper banned all gathering of 50 people or more.

March 15, 2020

Pastor Adrienne held worship using Facebook Live. It is estimated by comment numbers that we had over 70 people watching the service.

March 19, 2020

Email from Joe Biggerstaff

The conference of Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Catawba County has proposed doing collaborative online services during Holy week and Easter Sunday. Here are the main points of the proposition:

Regular services would continue online on Facebook as long as the situation demands it. On the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee, services would originate from Sardis with Nena providing music.

During Holy Week, seven to nine pastors would lead the service at a host church. The service would be livestreamed on a neutral Facebook page for ELCA churches of Catawba County. That way, the page would belong to all the churches, not just one.

This is the proposed schedule: Palm Sunday, Old St. Paul's; Maundy Thursday, St. Luke's; Good Friday, Sardis; Easter Vigil, Grace Chapel or Zion (all night prayer vigil until 11 am Easter Sunday service with churches signing up for prayer time; Easter Sunday, Holy Trinity with synod staff preaching, 11 am. We would still have our Sunrise Service from Sardis with Pastor Adrienne and Nena.

Pastor Adrienne wanted to bring this before the council before committing to participating. Please let me know if you approve via text.

Thank you,

Joe

Move approved through text vote.

March 21, 2020

The NC Synod Council just completed their quarterly meeting using online technology. As we reviewed our Core Values and Vision Statement, we noted that the last line of that vision is “all for the sake of the world.” With great sadness yet with firm conviction that for now, love for the world God so loves looks like an empty church building, we commend these three strong recommendations—even expectations.

Following the directives of President Trump, Governor Cooper, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we urge no gatherings of more than 10 people in any NC Synod congregation.

Following the CDC and the recommendations this week of our ecumenical partners, we recommend this “no gatherings of more than 10 people in any NC Synod congregation” policy be extended until at least May 12.

The Synod Gathering will not be happening in May. We are still committed to gathering as a synod this year if that is possible. A decision will be made at the Synod Council meeting in late May.

Even so, especially so, we trust in God’s provision and the eventual Easter joy that we will all celebrate whenever we are able to gather again.

For the sake of the world,

Your North Carolina Synod Council

March 22, 2020

Pastor Adrienne, Nena Babb, Gene Biggerstaff and Terry Bledsoe held service at Sardis and broadcast the service using Facebook Live. It is estimated by comment numbers that we had over 90 people watching the service.

March - May 2020

All services held online.



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

UPDATE ON VBS

Caring for the Earth and Me Virtual Community VBS 2020

Our community churches (Sardis, Plateau and Zion) will be hosting a virtual VBS for 2020 to keep us safe and help us learn about God. Caring for the Earth and Me Virtual VBS will be June 14-16 at your house. We will have a drive thru VBS opening from 4-5 PM on Sunday June 14th to pick up your Care Package and instructions for how to join the fun virtually each day. Don’t worry, we are saving the On the Farm VBS fun for 2020! Please contact April Fulbright for information or questions.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all that participated in our Blood Drive on the 20th we had 39 Presenting Donors and collected 31 pints..



**American
Red Cross**

A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father in heaven."

Here God would encourage us to believe that he is truly our Father and we are truly his children—in order that we may approach him boldly and confidently in prayer, even as beloved children approach their dear father.

"Hallowed be your name."

To be sure, God's name is holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may also be holy for us.

How is this done?

When the Word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as children of God, lead holy lives in accordance with it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches, profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

"Your kingdom come."

To be sure, the kingdom of God comes of itself, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.

How is this done?

When the heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit so that by his grace we may believe his holy Word and live a godly life, both in time and hereafter forever.

"Your will be done, on earth as in heaven."

To be sure, the good and gracious will of God is done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also be done by us.

How is this done?

When God curbs and destroys every evil counsel and purpose of the devil, of the world, and of our flesh which would hinder us from hallowing his name and prevent the coming of his reign, and when he strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word and in faith even to the end. This is his good and gracious will.

"Give us today our daily bread."

To be sure, God provides daily bread, even to the wicked, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that God may make us aware of his gifts and enable us to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Everything required to satisfy our bodily needs, such as food and clothing, house and home, fields and flocks, money and property; a pious spouse and good children, trustworthy servants, godly and faithful rulers, good government; seasonable weather, peace and health, order and honor; true friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

We pray in this petition that our heavenly Father may not look upon our sins, and on their account deny our prayers, for we neither merit nor deserve those things for which we pray. Although we sin daily and deserve nothing but punishment, we nevertheless pray that God may grant us all things by his grace. And assuredly we on our part will heartily forgive and cheerfully do good to those who may sin against us.

"Save us from the time of trial."

God tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God may so guard and preserve us that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into unbelief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, but that, although we may be so tempted, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

"And deliver us from evil."

We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all manner of evil, whether it affect body or soul, property or reputation, and that at last, when the hour of death comes, he may grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.

"Amen."

It means that I should be assured that such petitions are acceptable to our heavenly Father and are heard by him, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and promised to hear us. "Amen, amen" means "Yes, yes, it shall be so."

June**Birthdays**

- 6/1 Meredith Gladden
Margaret Whitener
- 6/2 Leevada Young Wood
- 6/7 Rylan Johnson
- 6/10 Jamie Shiffman
- 6/12 Wayne Jarrett
Lexi E. Little
- 6/13 Kay Whitener
Margaret Ham
- 6/20 Daniel Whitener
Marshall Whitener
- 6/23 Garry Richard
- 6/24 Alan Jarrett
- 6/25 Betty Nail
Kerby W. Smyre
- 6/27 Michelle F. Little
Rita Lutz
Bruce Sigman
- 6/30 Phyllis J. Biggerstaff

Council Contact

Kenneth Propst

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

- June 7** Jon Gladden
June 14 Tim Whitener
June 21 Rick Johnson
June 28 Gene Biggerstaff

June**Anniversaries:**

- Bryan & Phyllis Hood 6-1
Joe & Scottie Wyant:6-6
Mike & Sherrie Midgett 6-10
Garry & Leevada Wood 6-12
Mike & Felicia Hollar 6-16
Bruce & Sharon Sigman 6-16
Al & Sylvia King 6-19
Kay & Jack Whitener 6-28
Gene & Donna Biggerstaff 6-29

Baptismal Birthdays:

- 2 Evelyn Fulbright 1974
Darrell Fulbright 1974
- 6 Phyllis S. Reep 1965
- 10 Wesley Weaver 1962
Betty Sue F. Whitener 1945
- 16 Rylan Johnson 2006
- 17 Meredith Gladden 1994
- 19 Lexi Wood 2011
- 20 Chelsea Midgett 1993
Nate Johnson 2004
- 25 Jon and Jeff Gladden 1961
- 27 Carrie Bledsoe Yousef 1976
- 29 Jill Powell Bledsoe 1956
- ??? Mike Hollar 1952
- ??? Marie Speagle 1982

**TUNE INTO FACEBOOK ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT
10:30AM FOR OUR LIVE STREAM
WORSHIP SERVICE.
DVD'S ARE AVAILABLE.**



June 2020
Sardis Lutheran Church

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

****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

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**

