

Friendly Messenger

March

2020

One of my favorite quotes throughout my lifetime has been the one so famously written in the poem *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost: "Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." It is generally taken to mean that taking the road less traveled is more meaningful; however, Robert Frost has said that this poem is tricky. It is not an anthem about individualism and non-conformity, but rather points to the stories we create about our lives and how we interpret our choices. The paths are, according to Frost, equally traveled and interchangeable. That may be true of life. As we mark our foreheads and enter the Season of Lent, this may be an interesting question to keep in our minds. Another question we may want to consider is "how does our faith affect our path?" Yes, we rejoice that Christ has paved the way and reconciled us to God in Christ, but what about in the meantime? The Season of Lent provides a time of reflection, meditation of action about what matters to us and where our loyalties lie. It is meant to be a time of turning. One professor in seminary described how Lent was a time of baptismal instruction for those new to the faith and at the Easter Vigil, would physically turn as they renounced their old ways and turned to the new. The Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg describes it beautifully in his book *Here and Now: The Year in the Presence of the Resurrected Christ*: They were standing in the dark, on the night before Easter, before a pool of water not far from the place where Jesus had been entombed. For several years of the waning fourth century, they had been preparing to enter the church, and tonight they would do it. But first they were told face west, toward the sunset and the power of death, and say, "I renounce you, Satan, and all your works, and all your pomp, and all your service." Then they turned around, and facing the rising sun repeated the words of affirmation they had recently been taught: "I believe in God, the Father almighty . . ." That turning from west to east, from darkness to light, from Satan to Christ, sums up the preparation they had gone through. For years, with the help and support of their Christian guides, they had weaned themselves from what their age considered important -- the bread and circuses which took up so much attention, the petty idolatries which promised healing, good luck, or a glimpse of the future. Instead of such recreations, they used their free time to care for the poor, and (eventually) to learn about the faith which had attracted them. Their preparation, the bishop would warn them, had not destroyed Satan, but the Sovereign of Lies had followed them right to the baptismal waters, just as the Pharaoh had pursued the Israelites. They were, then, to address the Slaveholder personally, and turn toward the freedom of Christ.

The Season of Lent and its preparation is not a matter of choosing between two equal and interchangeable paths. One is headed toward the path of life, the mind of Christ, and the other is headed toward the allegiances and loyalties of the world.

While the Season and disciplines of Lent are typically communicated as a time of fasting, penance, and renunciation, it is important that we look to what we affirm. What do we believe? Where is life? We are turning... we are turning toward Jesus the Christ! And that path is one that matters above all things!

This Lenten Season we will return to the Ten Commandments. For the first three weeks, we will hear a message from Moses about our relationship to God, each other, and the community. We will put this in the perspective of the God's love for us in the suffering and death Jesus suffered for us on the cross so that we may be healed. This year will be a little bit different because we will not be having the group of pastors rotating churches as in previous years. With colleague changes in the area it is a transition year for our Lenten group, but we will still collaborate some with St. Paul Startown. I will get to be with you the first three weeks. The fourth week, I will go to St. Paul Startown and Pastor Ralph Kraft will be with you here. He will bring a word about discipleship. The last week of evening services (Sunday, March 29), we will have a shared service with St. Paul Startown at Trinity Ridge. We will meet there at 6:45 pm for service with desserts to follow. If you would like to help us bring residents to the service, come a little bit earlier. Our final evening service theme will be The Church. In the meantime, please remember to sign up to help provide meals for Sunday evenings!

Finally, Bible Study will be resuming on Tuesdays at 10 am starting March 3. Our study is "Making Sense of the Cross." It will be an enriching study and I encourage you to attend as we explore the mystery and profundity of the cross and the love of God.

Lenten Schedule

Sunday, March 1	Commandments 1-3 (Relationship with God)
Sunday, March 8	Commandments 4-6 (Relationship with each other)
Sunday, March 15	Commandments 7-10 (Relationship with larger community)
Sunday, March 22	Discipleship
Sunday, March 28 (Trinity Ridge)	The Church

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Adrienne

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
January 12, 2020

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with all council members in attendance. Carolyn had devotions and prayer.

Terry read minutes from the December Council Meeting and from the called council meeting on December 22nd. Motion was made by Ken 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 \$4,700.83, General Fund balance for December is \$584.07 and the Cemetery Fund is \$1,972.69; Jon motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Ben seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report for December and upcoming events

Visits = 16

- Shepherd's Dinner, Monday, December 9
- Advent Prayer Service, Wednesday, December 11
- Decorating sanctuary for Christmas, Saturday, December 14
- Cat Square Parade, Saturday, December 14
- Marriage of Linda Bandy and Terry Wilson, Saturday, December 21
- Children's Christmas Program, Sunday, December 22
- Christmas Eve Service
 - o Prelude Music 10:15 pm
 - o Service 10:30 pm
- Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 29
- o Vacation of Christmas week (Dec 25-January 3)
- WELCA, Sunday, January 5
- Sardis Sisters Movie Night, Tuesday, January 7
- Fred T. Foard Senior's Luncheon, Wednesday, January 8
- Worship & Music Committee Meeting, Wednesday, January 8
- Worship planning with Frank, Thursday, January 9
- Confirmation at St. Stephens, Sunday, January 12
- All Committee Night, Sunday, January 12

Upcoming

- Lenten planning with Mt. Zion and Startown, Tuesday, January 14
- VBS planning meeting, Tuesday, January 14
- Annual report and congregational meeting, Sunday, February 2
- Fred T. Foard Seniors luncheon, Wednesday, February 5
- LIGHTS luncheon, Thursday, February 6
- Confirmation at St. Paul's Startown, Sunday, February 9
- ELCA and NC Synod annual reports due
- Bold Women's Sunday, February 16
- 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination Service, February 23
- Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 26

Pastor Adrienne stated that we were blessed with the great Advent worship services and festivities. We are now entering into the Season of Epiphany and looks forward to planning for Lent.

Old Business

Ken gave an update from the Property Committee. The paving at the back of the church has been completed at a cost of \$450 by William Wilson Grading Company. The company donated \$300 back to the church.

New Business

Becky Gladden, for the Music and Worship Committee, presented the Worship Calendar for 2020. The ELCA is celebrating 50 Years of Ordination of Women in 2020. To honor women pastors, Pastor Anna and Doug will be our guests on April 26, we will honor Pastor Adrienne on August 16 and Pastor Mary Louise Sitton will be our guest for Homecoming, September 26. The Worship Calendar is included at the end of this report.

Joe stated that the Congregational Meeting will be February 2nd. Ken motioned to get Norman's to cater the meal with the congregation providing desserts. Sherry seconded. Motion carried.

Joe asked what date for the Council Retreat. Ken motioned we have it on March 21st at the Catawba County Country Club, Tim seconded, motion carried. Topics to be determined.

Joe stated that the Evangelism Committee would like to invite the Sigmon Stringers on either July 18th or the 25th. Terry motioned for them to proceed, Ken seconded, motion carried.

Tim reported that the Land Use Committee survey has a walking path as the most frequently mentioned item. They would like to pursue pricing for this. The council verbally instructed them to proceed.

A request from Jacob Schronce to address the congregation for Veterans Stand Down was presented. Rick motioned to allow, Kathy seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting**February 2, 2020**

Joe called the meeting to order after a meal in the fellowship hall. 64 members were present for the meeting. Printed annual reports were handed out. Committees gave their annual reports for the year. Pastor Adrienne said that Sardis was a shining example of pastoral support in North Carolina and nationally. Sardis feels equally blessed with Pastor Adrienne.

Dwayne Whitener gave the Finance Report and informed the congregation that due to a error, federal taxes had not been paid in previous years resulting in taxes, fines and interest still being owed of approximately \$20,000. We do not have that in the budget.

The council made a motion to take a loan from the Endowment Funds up to \$25,000.00. This is needed to pay the IRS for penalties and interest accumulating since 2015 on unpaid payroll taxes. The church will pay the Endowment Fund back at a rate of approximately \$1075 per month and 3% interest. Ken seconded. After discussion, the motion carried with no one opposing.

With no more business the meeting adjourned.

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary



Seniors

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in March on the 4th here at Sardis. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

Hymn Choir

The Sardis Hymn Choir will sing the second Sunday in March. The hymn will be "In the Cross of Christ I Glory". We welcome you to join us in the choir room to prepare for worship at 10:15am.

Lenten Series Schedule

The penitential Season of Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 26th at 7 pm. We will be marked with ashes as a reminder of our mortal life in light of God's love. On each Sunday evening of March, we will meet for Evening Lenten Services. Our theme for this Season will focus on the The Ten Commandments and God's redeeming love for the world. Each week the supper will start at 6 pm and the service will start at 7 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for families to sign up for hosting the meal. If you are interested in being a reader for the dialogue/monologue part, please contact Pastor Adrienne. Stay tuned for more information in our next newsletter about our Lenten series!



Property Committee



March 14th at 9:00 AM the Property Committee has planned an annual clean-up day for both the outside and inside of the church. Please plan to assist in this project in preparing our grounds and worship space for Spring time and Easter.

WELCA

Thank you to all who donated food for the Food Drive WELCA had in February. This will go a long way in helping the less fortunate families in our community. Also please remember Sardis is to help volunteer at ECCCM on the fourth Monday of each month. You can go anytime during the day Monday

Thank you

- We have one more Sunday to provide Peanut Butter to ECCCM. Bring your PB jars Sunday March 1st.
- **EASTER LILIES for 2020** Sardis WELCA will be taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn our chancel on Easter Sunday. Look for your order blanks and information in your bulletins & on the table in the narthex later this month.
- Remember to bring flowers to adorn the cross on Easter Sunday.

FROM EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The next Evangelism Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00pm.

Sardis Shepherds and Spouses. Evangelism Committee Members and Spouses

You are invited to attend an Appreciation Dinner at Sardis for all the hard work you do throughout the year. This year's Dinner will be held at Sardis on **Saturday, March 28th, 2020 at 5:00pm.** Please let Ray Whitener know if you will not be able to attend, in order for the committee to have enough food. Put a sheet in his mailbox at the church so he can get a headcount.

2020 Evangelism Calendar

April 18th, 2020 Family Night Bingo. The committee would like to ask if you would be willing to donate items for this event, please get in touch with Leevada Wood or Susan Jones. Time is 5:00pm and food will be served.

May 30th, 2020 Dinner and A Movie Night. Dinner at 5:00pm, Movie at 6:00pm. Check your bulletin and future newsletters for the movie that will be shown.

July 15th, 2020 The Sigman Stringers will be performing. More information will be in the future newsletters.

August 15th, 2020 Back to School blast. Ice Cream Social with emphasis this year on student Back Packs. Time will be Announced

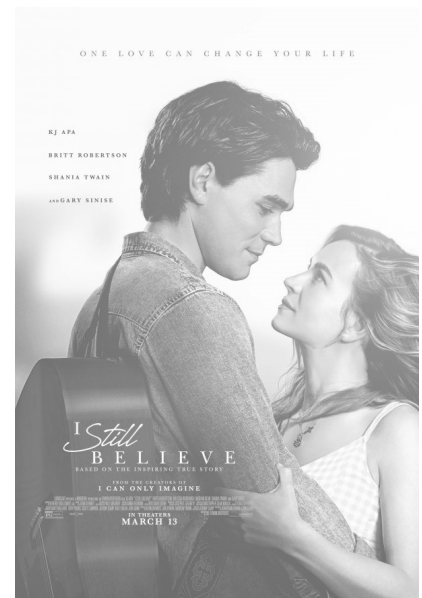
October 31st, 2020 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat

Monday Night, December 7th 2020 6:00pm Evangelism Committee and Shepherd's Christmas Party Courtstreet Grille, Mt. View

Sardis Sisters

Our March outing will again be a "Movie Night". "I Still Believe". A true life story of Christian music mega star Jeremy Camp. Jeremy's remarkable journey of love and loss proves there is always hope in the midst of tragedy and that faith tested is the only faith worth sharing. Movie is being released March 20th so March 24th sounds like a great Tuesday to go. Time will be announced in bulletin.

FYI—April 3rd, Friday night, Hudson Dinner Theater Productions presents "The Dixie Swim Club" Dinner and play \$30.25. Tickets are already on sale. Let Susan Jones or Donna Biggerstaff know ASAP if you are interested. This will be great fun!



Bold Women Sunday February 2020

Bold women – It's about living out our Baptismal call: being a disciple of Christ.

Today is the day Sardis has chosen to recognize and celebrate all Lutheran women who *have acted or are currently acting boldly* in their faith.

Bold women making a difference in the lives of others. Bold women making a difference at Sardis!

- Who was your first woman Sunday School teacher? **A Bold woman**
- Who was the first woman elected to serve on the church council? **A Bold woman**
- As Council Chair? **A Bold woman**
- The first woman to usher? To lay read? To be an assisting minister? **A Bold woman**

Some of the boldest women I've known at Sardis **have been**/and **are** our women pastors. This year, 2020, we join all across the United States to celebrate and honor 50 years of women who have boldly accepted calls to be pastors in the ELCA.

In 1991, Sardis Worship & Music committee and church council hired Mary Louise Sitton as our music director. She remained in this position for almost a decade. During her tenure Mary Louise begin to feel a nudge and then a call to ministry. In 1999 she left us to enter seminary. And so began our openness to accept BOLD WOMEN to lead our congregation in WORD as well as song.

In 2006, knowing that we, as the body of Christ, are ALL called, we looked beyond gender and called our first woman pastor, Anna Merritt. Under Pastor Anna's "bold" tenure we continued to grow and thrive. Perhaps her "boldest" contribution was easing us into every Sunday communion.

In 2016 we called our next, and current, Bold Woman pastor – Adrienne Martin. How happy and blessed we are at Sardis that she acted boldly in accepting her call to ministry! We are daily the recipients of Pastor Adrienne's boldness as she leads us in our walk with Christ.

This year in April, August, and September we will celebrate each of our women pastors.

During the April 26th service Pastor Anna will deliver the sermon and we will celebrate with Anna and Doug during a catered luncheon in the fellowship hall. Following the August 16th service, we will hold a reception honoring Pastor Adrienne. And, Pastor Mary Louise Sitton will be here to preach during our Homecoming service on September 13. How proud we are at Sardis to be a part of the lives of each of these Bold Women!

I'd like to close with an excerpt from an article that first appeared in the Jan/Feb 2005 issue of Lutheran Women Today magazine:

When God created women God put something in us that was exhibiting itself within that parable of the widow and the unjust judge – **persistence.**

In the parable, maybe Jesus was saying, "Go deeper within yourself. God has given you a double portion of determination, a double portion of resilience, a double portion of perseverance. You can do anything that you put your heart to do."

If all of us will just reach down and realize that double portion within ourselves, we'll do wonders, and we'll not be seen as weak, we'll be seen as the most powerful – the Boldest - people in the world.

Becky Gladden



Kindly RSVP by March 23,2020

LOCATION

Safe Harbor's Chloe Waldrop Taylor Renewal Center 112 2nd Avenue SE, Hickory, NC, 28602

**We are excited to announce
a collaborative new
community initiative
that connects
your congregation
to give in a way
that gives back to your church!**

You are invited

to be in on the launch of this exciting new initiative to hear how God is working through Safe Harbor to tour our new facilities, hear testimony of life transformation, connect with other church leaders, and be updated on Safe Harbor's programs to be sure your church is represented- if you are unable to attend, feel free to invite another pastor or church leader to attend in your place and RSVP for them

Light Refreshments will be served

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

4. capital of Ireland
5. a type of Irish dance
7. if you do not wear green on March 17 this will happen
9. the day St. Patrick's Day falls on
11. the national emblem of Ireland
12. yellow and blue make _____
13. from Ireland

Down

1. the 3rd month of the year
2. good fortune
3. nonsense or misleading talk
6. called the Emerald Isle
7. a starchy vegetable
8. a sprite
10. 4 leaf _____

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March

3/2 Sheila Ramsey
Ronnie Weaver
Barbara J. Whitener
3/4 Richard Covington
Mike Midgett
3/5 David Fulbright
3/6 Lucas Richard
Kendra M. Starkey

3/11 Laythe Yousef
3/13 Robin Stuart
3/16 Patsy Johnson
Joe D. Biggerstaff
3/17 Mike Hollar
3/19 Ralph Ramsey
3/20 Sandra Roseman
3/22 Carolyn Truitt
3/24 Nate Johnson
Shuford Whitener

3/27 Shannon Hollar
Teresa E. Starkey
3/30 Ron Crawley
Wesley Weaver

Anniversaries:

Wayne & Elaine Jarrett
3-3

Garry & Annette Richard
3-8

March**Baptisms**

1 Lauren Speagle 1998
6 Lucas Richard 1980
Alisa Truitt 1966
8 Bryon Hollar 1981
13 Frank Weaver 1923
14 Scottie P. Wyant 1937
22 Grace Hoyle 1925
25 Alfred Whitener (1951)
Dwight Gladden 1951
Wayne Jarrett 1951
27 Grayson Whitener 2011
?? Joyce Speagle 1969

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

Mar 1	Marilyn Teague	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
Mar 8	Tryston Sylvester	Samuel Biggerstaff	Roger Teague
Mar 15	Kathy Weaver	Ray Whitener	Dawn Covington
Mar 22	Ray Whitener	Marilyn Teague	Ralph Stallings
Mar 29	Jane Moretz	Jennifer Whitener	Ken Propst

USHERS

Roger Teague, Darrell Jarrett, Ralph Stallings, Bryan Hood

ALTAR FLOWERS SECURITY CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Mar 1	Ralph & Sheila Ramsey	Ken Propst	Teresa Starkey
Mar 8	Buster Bledsoe	Wayne Jarrett	Margaret Whitener
Mar 15	Bruce & Sharon Sigman	Nelson Speagle	Nena Babb
Mar 22	Richard & Dawn Covington	Rick Lutz	Cynthia Stuart/ Heather Carroll
Mar 29	Dwight & Hope Gladden	Rick Johnson	Jennifer Whitener

LAY READERS & GREETER

Mar 1	Hope Gladden	Darrell Jarrett, Carol Mayer
Mar 8	Dawn Covington	Kay Whitener, Bruce Sigman
Mar 15	Kathy Weaver	Nena Babb, Phyllis Hood
Mar 22	Sylvia King	Felicia Hollar, Betty Sue Whitener
Mar 29	Becky Gladden	Ben Fulbright, Evelyn Fulbright

COMMUNION PREPARATION AND CLEAN-UP

Sharon Sigman Barbara J. Whitener

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Bryan Hood Ray Whitener

Mar 7	Carolyn Hoyle	Mar 1	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Patsy
Mar 14	No Meal Delivery	Mar 8	Dwayne, Tryston, Al & Sylvia
Mar 21	Donna Biggerstaff	Mar 15	Dwayne, Tryston, Mike & Sherrie
Mar 28	No Meal Delivery	Mar 22	Dwayne, Tryston, Sandra, Nena, Susan
		Mar 29	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Patsy

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY OFFERING COUNTERS

<u>Delivery Week</u>	<u>BACKPACK PROGRAM</u>	<u>Pickup Warehouse</u>
Mar 6	Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff	Barbara E. Whitener
Mar 13	Rick & Rita Lutz	
Mar 20	Gene & Donna Biggerstaff	
Mar 27	Dwayne & Barbara E. Whitener	

March 2020 Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion, Baptismal Recognition 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	2	3 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Evangelism Meeting	4 12:00 FTF Seniors at Sardis 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 2:00 Confirmation at Sardis 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	9	10 10:00 Bible Study	11 10:00 Nellie B's 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 9:00 Clean up day, outside and inside
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	16	17 10:00 Bible Study	18 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21 8:30 Council Retreat, CC Country Club
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	23 ECCCM Volunteer	24 10:00 Bible Study Sardis Sisters movie "I Still Believe" TTBD	25 10:00 Nellie B's 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28 5:00 Shepherd's Appreciation Dinner
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Sardis Prayer Group 6:45 Lenten Service at Trinity Ridge bring a desert	30	31 10:00 Bible Study				

****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, Musician@sardislutheran.net

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff, biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com

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

You are responsible to register yourself.

2/9/2020

Gmail - Fwd: Special E-News--Synod Gathering 2020

The graphic features a green background with a white crosshair. In the top right, a dark grey box contains the text "February 6, 2020" in white and "Registration opens!" in white script. In the center, the word "SYNOD" is in white sans-serif, with "gathering" in white script below it, flanked by horizontal lines. In the bottom left, a dark grey box contains "MAY 28-30, 2020" in white, and "Lenoir-Rhyne University" in white bold sans-serif below it.

Join Lutherans from all across the synod as we gather for worship, fellowship, and learning together. Be a part of the first EVER Synod Gathering!

Come for the entire three-day event or come for a day. You'll be glad you did!

Highlights include:

- Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, author of *Love without Limits*, as keynote speaker
- Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women at Hollar Mills
- Musician Mark Mummert leading daily worship
- Fellowship, worship, learning opportunities and more

Who should come? All NC Synod Lutherans. Everyone! All are welcome. Bring a group. Unlike synod assembly, congregations are not limited to two voting members and their rostered ministers. Please bring everyone!

Speakers & special guests

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, is an award-winning author, professor, theologian, public speaker, and student of life in all its messy beauty. Her books include *Love Without Limits* (2018) and *Outlaw Christian* (2016). Jacqueline teaches religion, theology, and interfaith studies classes at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where she also serves as the Director of the Forum on Faith and Life. Every day she is amazed and grateful that she actually gets paid to do the three things she loves most: 1) interact with incredible students, 2) write, and 3) try to make the world a more compassionate place.



Musician-in-residence, Mark Mummert, is Cantor at Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), Worcester, MA where he



leads the music in all worship services, conducts the Trinity Choir, Trinity Choristers, Trinity Junior Choristers, and is artistic director of the Music at Trinity fine arts series. Prior to moving to Worcester, Mark was the 2015 Distinguished Visiting Cantor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Mark served as the Director of Worship at Houston's Christ the King Lutheran Church (2008-2015) and as Seminary Musician at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1990-2008).

Bible Study leader, the Rev. Kendra Mohn, has been at Trinity Lutheran, Fort Worth, TX since 2010. Pastor Mohn was raised on a farm near Cherokee, Iowa, where she grew up showing 4-H livestock, taking music lessons, working at the local radio station, and helping out at church. She is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, IA, the University of Pittsburgh, and Luther Seminary. She also holds a PhD in Biblical Studies. Her academic interests include the ways that gender, empire, and power intersect in the New Testament. She loves teaching, learning, and thinking critically with others about how the church, the academy, and contemporary culture intersect.



Learning opportunities

Learning opportunities will take place on: Thursday afternoon, May 28, Friday afternoon, May 29, and Saturday morning, May 30. There will be three types of sessions:

- **60-minute Workshop:** These sessions are teaching/learning sessions with stated and specific learning objectives during which attendees gain useful information, advice or technical assistance about a specific topic.

Example: "Constitution: What is it? Why have one? How to update it!" led by Michael DeNise

- **2.5-hour Workshop:** These sessions are ideal for advanced-level trainings requiring additional time for attendee participation and small group break-outs.

Example: "Adaptive Leadership in Action: Moving to Change" led by Bishop Erik Gronberg.

- **60-minute Caucus:** A time for affinity groups or people working on similar projects to gather and exchange ideas, network, and build community; an opportunity to convene a group of interested participants to discuss a specific topic.

Example: "Dwelling with those Experiencing Homelessness" led by Emily Norris.

See the schedule of learning opportunities

See full descriptions of learning opportunities

Schedule & cost

THURSDAY, May 28

8:00 a.m. Registration opens
 10:00 a.m. Welcome and opening worship
 11:30 a.m. Keynote—Dr. Jacqueline Bussie
 12:30 p.m. Lunch/Bible study by group

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2:30-5 p.m. Learning Opportunities
 5:00-7 p.m. Dinner at LR or own your own
 7:00-9 p.m. Reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women
 9:15 p.m. Evening worship (compline)

FRIDAY, May 29

9:00 a.m. Morning prayer
 9:30 a.m. Bishop Tim time
 10:30 a.m. Keynote—Dr. Jacqueline Bussie
 Lunch/Bible study by group
 2:30-5 p.m. Learning Opportunities
 5:00 p.m. Worship
 Evening fun, food, games
 8:30 p.m. Evening worship (compline)

SATURDAY, May 30

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 9-11:30 a.m. Learning Opportunities
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 2:00 p.m. Closing worship

Come for all three days (yes, please!) or choose the one-day or two-day registration option. Register soon to take advantage of the Early Bird savings. EARLY BIRD: Feb. 6 through April 15. LATE: April 16 through May 15.

REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird all 3 days \$100
 Early Bird 2-day \$80
 Early Bird 1-day \$40

Late all 3 days \$120
 Late 2-day \$100
 Late 1-day \$50

HOUSING @LR
(per night)

Double occupancy \$37
 Single occupancy \$42

Off-site housing options will be available at local hotels; stay tuned to the Gathering webpage.

MEALS @LR
(all meals are optional)

Breakfast \$8.50
 Lunch \$10
 Dinner \$18

See all menus. Eating on campus will ensure your prompt attendance at learning opportunities.

How to register

What do you need to know before you begin the registration process?

Look at this list of items you will need to know before you register yourself or someone else. **List of items.**

Watch this video of Assistant to the Bishop, Tammy Jones West, explaining the registration process.



Register today!

2/9/2020

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Bulletin insert

Promote Synod Gathering in your congregation!

Use this bulletin insert to promote Synod Gathering in your congregation.

Stay tuned to future issues of *Synod E-News* for additional promotional materials.



Timeline & deadlines

April 15

Early bird discount ends.

April 16

Late registration begins.

May 15

Final registration deadline.
Last day to register for LR housing.

May 28-30

First-ever Synod Gathering!

Visit the Synod Gathering Website

Special E-News | NC Synod, ELCA | 704-633-4861 | nclutheran.org

NC Synod ELCA | [1988 Lutheran Synod Drive](http://1988LutheranSynodDrive.com), Salisbury, NC 28144

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