

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

March 2022

## OUR LENTEN OBSERVANCE

On Ash Wednesday, March 2, we begin our observance of the forty days of the holy season of Lent. Probably the Lenten season had its origin during the days of the early church, in the desire to continue in the lives of the faithful followers of Christ, the sorrow and mourning experienced by the disciples during the hours when their Lord was crucified and lay in the grave. This sorrow was turned into joy when He was returned to them by the Resurrection.

St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "Therefore we have been buried with Him by Baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we, too, might walk in newness of life." The basic purpose of Lent is the preparation for the rising to newness of life at Easter. All Lenten observances aim at permanent improvement in the Christian. Lent is the time for practice and training in virtues and self-denial that are to be permanent and habitual in the renewed life after Easter.

We, too, are to rise with Christ at Easter and walk with Him in newness of life. In preparation, we will spend the coming weeks in examining our lives to discover attitudes, practices, and habits which do not fit with the new life into which we have been born by Holy Baptism. It is a time of penitence, of putting out of our lives all that remains of the old life or has crept in once more. But it is also a time of special prayer, for without the help of the Holy Spirit nothing will be accomplished in us.

Therefore we add additional worship services during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. Each Sunday night between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday we will gather for special services to reflect on all of this. This year, four congregations will join in a series of services entitled, "IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY," based on the theme verse, "*Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*" (Joel 2:13) The pastors will rotate between the congregations each week.

The pastors and churches participating are Andrew Miller (Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church), Marcus Ollis (Beth Eden Lutheran Church), Ralph Kraft (St. Paul's Lutheran Church), Bill Hollar (Sardis Lutheran Church), and on the last Sunday in Lent Adrienne Martin. The services at Sardis begin at 7:00 pm. See announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

I hope you will plan to join with us each Sunday during Lent.

*Pastor Bill Hollar*

## 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 March on the 2nd at Grace Lutheran Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



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## LENTEN SERVICES

### “In View of God’s Mercy”

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Romans 12:1*

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God’s mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed.

*All evening Lenten Services will start at 7:00PM*

*March 2, 2022 ASH WEDNESDAY **Mercy in Ashes** • Joel 2:13 • As we are marked with ashes on this day, a reminder to us of our sins, we are reminded, too, of the mercy of our God who lifts us from our ashes to new life in Christ. Rev. Bill Hollar, Interim Sardis Lutheran Church*

*March 6, 2022 WEEK ONE **Mercy in Betrayal** • 1 Peter 3:11 • Though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus’ sake. Rev. Bill Hollar, Interim Sardis Lutheran Church*

*March 13, 2022 WEEK TWO **Mercy in Suffering** • 1 Peter 2:23 • No life is without suffering, but our sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed to us in Jesus by God’s great mercy. Rev. Marcus Ollis, Beth Eden Lutheran Church*

*March 20, 2022 WEEK THREE **Mercy in Relationships** • Ephesians 4:32 • Within the communities God has placed us, we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ has cared for us in his love and mercy. Rev. Andrew Miller, Old St. Paul Lutheran Church*

*March 27, 2022 WEEK FOUR **Mercy in Temptation** • 1 Corinthians 10:13 • In the midst of temptation, our merciful God provides us with a way out through his Son, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin. Rev. Ralph Kraft, St. Paul-Startown Lutheran Church*

*April, 3, 2022 WEEK FIVE **Mercy in Service** • Hebrews 6:10 • In response to God’s kindness to us in Jesus, we serve in mercy the needs of those around us by Christ’s example. Rev. Adrienne Martin, Sardis Lutheran Church*

**HOLY WEEK**—Rev. Adrienne Martin

*April 9, 2022 Easter Egg Hunt 1—3PM*

*April 10, 2022 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM*

*April 14, 2022 Maundy Thursday 7:00PM*

*April 15, 2022 Good Friday 7:00PM*

*April 17, 2022 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30AM*

## WELCA NEWS

Sardis WELCA will sponsor our annual food drive again this year. Our collected food will go to ECCCM. We will collect food in conjunction with the Lenten season beginning March 6th with April 3rd being our last collection day. Below are items most needed by ECCCM

Canned Fruits  
Canned Soups  
Canned Meats  
Canned Pasta  
Peanut Butter  
Anything with pop top lids (for homeless population)

Please share what you are able to share with others who are less fortunate.

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*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.*

*These lines from the children's hymn by Cecil Frances Alexander, one of mother's favorites, express so much of how she viewed the world. She saw the best in people and taught that in the life that she lived. The family of Martha Griffin are so thankful that the Lord God made all of you at Sardis Lutheran Church, and we are so thankful for your kindness in all the gestures of love – the cards, the calls, the facebook messages, and especially the prayers in our time of loss. Mother knew, as we do, that she was truly loved at Sardis, and she loved being part of this fellowship the last years of her life here on earth.*

*We thank you so much for your continued love and prayers,*

*Frank, Eddie and Sierra Griffin*

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*To the Sardis Singers & Ringers,*

*I would like to thank you all for your very generous Christmas gift. This thank you is belated, but I know you forgive this under the circumstances of this past Christmas season. More than the monetary gift and card, I want to thank you for your continued support throughout the years, especially these last years dealing with the uncertainty of pandemic. It has been a week by week journey, but everytime there was opportunity, you were there – in whatever capacity the circumstances called for. That is dependability I have not known before. You all are special, and I love you all!*

*Thank you, and God Bless!  
Frank*

## Social Ministry Collections for Outreach in our Community, State and World

During Lent and Easter, the Social Ministry Committee has three projects to reach out to those in need. The first will be a project for our community. In March, the committee will purchase non-perishable items and prepare bag lunches for the Homeless Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchens are not open on weekends, so donations of bag lunches are needed to share with the homeless to help them through the weekend.

The second project is a global project. It is the collection of items for Personal Care Items. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a personal care kit provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Items need for the kits are:

- One light-weight towel (20" x 40" to 52" X 27") dark colors recommended*
- Two or three bath size bars of soap in original wrapping*
- One adult size toothbrush in original wrapping*
- One sturdy comb*
- One metal nail clipper*

The Social Ministry Committee will collect these in March and April and send to Lutheran World Relief for distribution.

If you prefer, you can donate \$7.00 and members of the committee will purchase these items. The final project for this committee during March and April is a new project for the Lutheran Services of the Carolinas and Sardis. The committee will be collecting items for hygiene kits for New Americans. Different church communities will be receiving new Americans during the next three months. Asheville is expecting 100 and Raleigh is expecting 220+. The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting the following items and making kits for the Lutheran Services of the Carolinas to distribute.

*Items needed for the adult kits are:*

- Regular sized toothpaste*
- Toothbrush*
- Soap*
- Shampoo*

*Items needed for the child kits are:*

- Children's toothpaste*
- Children's toothbrush*
- Children's shampoo*
- Body wash*

Sardis Lutheran  
Church Council Minutes  
January 9, 2022

Members Present: Pastor Bill Hollar, Gene, Susan, Kathy, Ben, Jon, Mike, Ray, Roger, Nena, Kristin  
April

Gene Biggerstaff called the meeting to order, Ray Whitener had devotions.

Kathy Weaver read the minutes from the December meeting. April Fulbright made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Nena Babb seconded, and the motion passed.

Gene presented the treasurer's reports. The Building Fund as of December 31<sup>st</sup> had a balance of \$7,670.62, the Cemetery Fund \$1,159.83 and the General Fund \$12,533.65. Kathy made a motion to accept the reports as presented, Susan Jones seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report

Since I have just began my service with you, having been on the job one week, I don't have a lot to report yet. It is an honor to serve among you at Sardis Lutheran Church while Pastor Adrienne is on Sabbatical. I have started getting to know the members of the congregation and how you carry out your mission.

During the past week I have been involved in the following ways.

In the church office Tuesday and Wednesday, 9am to 1 pm;

Phone contacts with 7 shut-ins. The purpose was to introduce myself and check on each person. I would like to follow up with an in person visit if conditions and the person permits a visit.

Pastor Adrienne left me a list of people on whom I should make visits and I plan to begin contacting them this week.

Bible Study Tuesday morning.

Sardis Prayer Group Tuesday evening.

Fred T. Ford Seniors Group lunch and meeting at Wesley Chapel Wednesday morning.

Worship and Music Committee Thursday evening.

Attended with members of Sardis, funeral for Martha Griffin Saturday.

From my limited experience with Sardis, it appears that I should be available to the members and work at the Pastor's office Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9 am to 2 pm. This could change as I see what works best. I hope to make visits to shut-ins, nursing homes, hospitals, and others in the afternoon, if COVID rules permit. Otherwise, I'll continue to make visits by phone. I am also open to advice of the Council about this.

As long as it does not conflict with my work at Sardis, I am continuing to conduct Thursday morning chapel at Trinity Village as a volunteer. COVID rules still prevent local pastors from doing this volunteer service and since I am still considered staff, I can do this. The new chaplain is at Trinity Ridge on Thursdays and unavailable for this. At the same time, I will be able to visit any members or friends of Sardis who happen to be at Trinity Village.

I am looking forward to serving with you these three months. I am always open to advice and suggestions from the Council since I am new to Sardis.

My phone numbers are: home 828-464-4999 and cell 828-461-3838. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I'll call you back as soon as possible. Please send text messages to the cell number. My email is hollarw@bellsouth.net.

Pastor Bill Hollar

Council min. cont.

Old Business:

Covid Committee: The Sub-committee has not yet been established. Gene will head this committee with hopefully April, Kristen Teague, Ben Whitener and Mike Midgett as members. Meeting dates will be established as soon as the committee is formalized.

Fund Raising Committee: Gene will meet with Dwayne Whitener and possibly make arrangements to meet with Mike Ward, a fund-raising advisor from the Synod.

Fellowship Hall: April reported that 2 workdays resulted in additional storage space and the need for designated areas. Items found are “youth stuff”, bible school items and decorations in several areas in the church. Current Chrismons, stored in cardboard boxes need new storage containers. Some storage cabinets need to be removed and better cabinets acquired. April will put together a list of items that we may be able to get rid of. The “library” contains Sunday school items that are no longer used, and we may be able to move out. Two unused tables were also mentioned as unused. It was brought up that Terry Bledsoe could use the wooden tables to make the Pastor’s display cabinets. This last will be considered and brought before the council at a later date. There were also some items gathered that will be mentioned to the Property committee to be disposed of or saved.

Outdoor Worship Area: No new updates were available

New Business:

Parking Lot Fire: A report was received from the authorities concerning the details of the fire. Insurance is yet to be filed and there are concerns about coverage. The Property Committee will get repair cost estimates and possible parking signage for the future. There is also warning tape around the damaged playground area.

Security cameras: Dwayne is getting estimates from security companies concerning adding cameras to the church’s property. Ben suggested the best place to start in purchasing is to establish “what do we want?” as far as visibility, recording, etc. He will follow up with Dwayne to narrow the choices available, and the cost.

Annual Meeting: Usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of February with a lunch meal after the service. After some discussion, Nena Babb made a motion to conduct the meeting immediately after the service and having no meal. April seconded and the motion passed. After the service on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> the annual reports will be handed out and discussed if there are any questions.

With no further New Business, Jon Gladden made a motion to adjourn and April seconded. The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting TBD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary

## Called Council Meeting Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Gene Biggerstaff called the meeting to order with the follow council members present – Bryan, Ray, Mike, Susan, Nena, Jon, Ben and Kathy.

Three items were brought up for discussion and vote.

The wooden children's tables that are no longer used, are we good to let Terry Bledsoe repurpose them into the pastors' display cabinets. With a unanimous consent it was approved to let Terry move the tables and begin the work on the displays.

Date for the congregational meeting, usually held on the second Sunday in Feb after church with a meal. It was decided to continue with the second Sunday (Feb 13<sup>th</sup>) but have the meeting right after the service after passing out the Annual Report booklets. No meal would be served, and the meeting would be held in the Sanctuary.

Date for the Feb council meeting. Our meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month, but with the annual meeting after the service and the Super Bowl that evening, it was decided to switch to the first Sunday (Feb 6<sup>th</sup>) for the council meeting. All present were in agreement and the other council members would be notified of the change.

Respectfully,  
Kathy Weaver, Council secretary

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**March 2022**  
**Sardis Lutheran Church**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group Zoom	2 12:00 FTF Seniors meet at Grace  7:00 Ash Wednesday Service and Holy Communion	3 No choir rehearsal	4	5
6 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Lenten Service	7	8 10:00 Bible Study	9	10 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 5:30 Church Council 7:00 Lenten Service	14 6:30 Youth Planning meeting for Egg Hunt	15 10:00 Bible Study  7:00 Prayer Group Zoom	16	17 <b>St Patrick's Day</b> 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 7:00 Lenten Service	21	22 10:00 Bible Study	23 5:00 Articles for April NL due	24 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and FB Live 6:30 LMM 7:00 Lenten Service	28	29 10:00 Bible Study	30	31 7:15 Choir Rehearsal		

### SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Interim Pastor: Rev. Bill Hollar (C) 828-461-3838, (H) 828-464-4999 [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**

Nena Babb

**March**

**USHERS**

Rick Lutz, Ben Fulbright, Marilyn Teague, Zachary Stuart

3/2 Sheila Ramsey  
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

3/24 Nate Johnson  
Shuford Whitener

3/27 Shannon Hollar  
Teresa E. Starkey

3/30 Ron Crawley  
Wesley Weaver

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Sharon Sigman

**CLEAN-UP**

Kristin Teague

**SATURDAY MEAL  
DELIVERY**

For—Catherine Houser,  
Garry, Leevada and Lexi Wood

**Mar 5** No Meal Delivery

**Mar 12** Rita Lutz

**Mar 19** No Meal Delivery

**Mar 26** Margaret Whitener

**Delivery Week BACKPACK PROGRAM**

**Mar 4** Roger, Marilyn, and Jane

**Mar 11** Joe and Phyllis

**Mar 18** Gene and Donna

**Mar 25** Dwayne and Barbara

**Anniversaries:**

**Wayne & Elaine Jarrett 3-3**

**Garry & Annette Richard 3-8**

<b>VOLUNTEER MARCH</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>		Buster Bledsoe	Bruce & Sharon Sigman	Richard & Dawn Covington	Hope Gladden
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Marshall Whitener	Austin Propst	Hayden Johnson	Paisley Hood	Marshall Whitener
<b>CHILDRENS CHURCH</b>		Cynthia Stuart	Jennifer Whitener	Jennifer Whitener	Heather Carroll
<b>CRUCIFER</b>	Marilyn Teague	Samuel Biggerstaff	Rick Johnson	Keaton Farnsworth	Paisley Hood
<b>GREETERS</b>		Rita Lutz, Darrell Jarrett	Ben and Edna Fulbright	Margaret & Shuford Whitener	Ken Propst
<b>LAY READER</b>	Jennifer Whitener	Austin Propst	Jane Moretz	Gene Biggerstaff	Jon Gladden
<b>SECURITY</b>	Rick Lutz	Rick Lutz	Bruce Sigman	Rick Johnson	Ralph Stallings

**\*\*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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### **Save these dates:**

**Youth planning meeting for Egg Hunt March 14th at 6:30 pm**

**Easter Egg Hunt April 9th 1-3pm. Egg hunting, games, fellowship, snacks and more.**

**Community VBS June 26-30 Jerusalem Marketplace at Zion Lutheran Church**

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

