

# Friendly Messenger

2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you well! I pray you had a meaningful Easter celebration despite our accommodations and restrictions on that Easter morning. We know, however, that Easter is not just one day, but 50 days. We are in the Easter Season. I know there is a lot of uncertainty and even fear during this time. We are having to do a lot of things very differently. It was very difficult for us to lose a beloved member, Ray Weaver, and not be able to gather all together with the family at the graveside. I know this community holds them in love and prayer. A memorial service will be held in the future.

When you receive this newsletter we will not quite yet know when we will resume gathering in person for worship again. The Sardis council has decided to abide by the expectation to hold off on in person gatherings until May 12. We will have more information from our governor and synod in another week or two. However, it might be closer to May 12 before we hear and are able to determine our plans for the upcoming weeks. Once we have more information and have made a determination, we will communicate this as soon as possible.

I was reflecting on Easter and how it was different this year, I thought of all of the intensity and range of emotion that first Easter. While some gospels report joy at the resurrection, joy that Jesus, the disciples' Lord and Teacher, was raised from the dead, there was also a lot of trauma, guilt, grief, despair, fear, and uncertainty. On the first Sunday after Easter, the disciples hid in their homes in fear for their lives. The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead and was alive after a brutal execution, was extremely threatening to the ruling powers and it was dangerous for them as his followers.

On that first Sunday, they were gathered together in the house and Jesus appeared. Closed doors and windows didn't stop the Lord. He appeared to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus invited Thomas (the one who didn't get to see him in the early resurrection appearances) to touch his hands and his sides. "Do not be faithless but believing." At that point, Thomas did believe and confessed, "My Lord and my God." Jesus accepted Thomas with all of his doubts and out of the mouth of a doubter came a grand moment of faith.

That is the way it is with doubt and faith sometimes. Doubt and faith are not really opposite each other. Faith, rather, lives on the edge of doubt. Doubt gives faith its character of risk and becomes the catalyst for a stronger faith.

So, what do we do with our doubts? I think it's best to do what Thomas did. Bring our doubts to the Lord. Jesus will not turn us away. He knows that honest doubt is often the prelude of faith. Jesus is always ready to receive those who doubt into his presence. He showed Thomas his hands and his side. He wills to show you what you need in order that you might come to a stronger faith.

We may not be in the presence of Jesus the way Thomas was, however, you can be present at those places where Jesus has promised to be present for you. Jesus has promised to be present wherever and whenever two or three gather in his name. He has promised to be present whenever we eat and drink in his name (which we will one day do again). Jesus has promised to be present wherever His story is told.

When Jesus appeared to them behind their locked doors, he said, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and side. He commissioned them to tell his story to the world. "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." That is what Jesus said to them. Then he did something that sounds strange upon first hearing. He breathed on the disciples and said to them, "receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

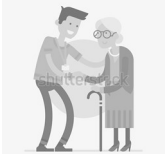
What is this breathing on the disciples about? Remember in Genesis, the story of God creating the first humans. We read that there the Lord God formed the first person of dust from the ground, "...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..." The breath of God is the life of God. God breathed life into Adam's nostrils, into Adam's being. That life is God's Spirit.

We can read this story as a NEW creation story! Jesus shatters our captivity to death. Jesus conquered death's stronghold on life. In John, he breathes new life into his disciples. And then? Then Jesus tells his disciples to proclaim his message of love and forgiveness to the world.

Perhaps this COVID-19 experience may give us time to come along with Thomas. Bring all of your doubts to the Lord. Come along as friends and SHARE the story of Jesus. Come along and read his story once again in Holy Scripture. God's Spirit is present in the telling of the story of Jesus, seeking to overcome your doubts, and lead you to faith. It is part of becoming a new creation.

Jesus speaks a special word of blessing over all who come to faith in our day and age: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Grace and peace, Pastor Adrienne



FTF Senior's will not meet in May.

### **THINGS TO PONDER ABOUT FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

Charles Dickens wrote in his novel A TALE OF TWO CITIES “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Which one is it for us? Many in our congregation remember with gladness “the good old days” Many may remember the depression years and the lines for food. Were these the worst of times? Depending on how young you are, you might think 9-11 was the worst of times; when time seemed to stand still for a day or a week. Now we move forward to the time of today. We are forced into staying home (except for grocery and food runs and other essential errands). We have been secluded into spending time at home with families and doing home projects and home schooling, and if you were fortunate enough to keep your job maybe you work from home. Is this the worst of times or the best?

We have all missed out on many opportunities to be able to do things that in other years we took so much for granted. Birthday celebrations, anniversaries, graduations and family times just to name a few. Some families have had to lay to rest loved ones without being able to celebrate their lives with proper tribute and traditional burials. Events at churches have all been cancelled or postponed until a later date. Evangelism events that are enjoyed each year such as Family Night Bingo, Movie Night, and our annual Shepherd's Appreciation Dinner have been delayed. Music and Worship had to cancel a celebration for Pastor Anna Merritt and her husband Doug. WELCA will have to cancel a very popular event for Mother's Day that is held every year. Mostly, we missed out on celebrating Holy Week and Easter celebrations. It would seem that these are indeed “the worst of times”.

But all is not gloom and doom for us. We are fortunate to be able to watch our service live each week by internet on Facebook. That is better than no service at all, but it still is not the same as being here in person each week. Soon (and hopefully by the first of June) we will come together again to worship in person. We will gather again at 9:30 am for Sunday School and 10:30 am for worship just like we used to do “in the best of times”. Hopefully we now realize that God is the one who is in control of our life and he controls our destinations. Hopefully we haven't become lazy and have let Sunday become just another day. When the time arrives for us to worship together again, help us to fill the church pews and celebrate our return to Sardis. Make it “the BEST of times”.

**Ray Whitener-Evangelism Chair**





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# MISSION SUPPORT

2019

[ Thank You ]

To the members of

## Sardis

from the

## NC Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In grateful appreciation for giving

# \$3,944.96

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Synod Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

### The First Article: Creation

"I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth."

I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that he has given me and still sustains my body and soul, all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together with food and clothing, house and home, family and property; that he provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves me from all evil. All this he does out of his pure, fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness on my part. For all of this I am bound to thank, praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

### The Second Article: Redemption

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead."

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, delivered me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold but with his holy and precious blood and with his innocent sufferings and death, in order that I may be his, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

### The Third Article: Sanctification

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen."



I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and abundantly forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.

**May**

**Birthdays**

- 5/3 Linda Wilson
- 5/5 Andrew Ruggles, Jr.
- 5/9 Dwight Gladden
- 5/10 Kathleen Weaver  
Mae Whitener  
Kallista McGinnis
- 5/11 Annette Richard
- 5/12 Ferne Baker
- 5/20 Brenna Wilson
- 5/21 Ben Whitener
- 5/24 Randy Speagle  
Logan Yow  
Avery Yow
- 5/29 Renee' Ramsey
- 5/31 Carrie Yousef

- Anniversaries:**  
**Rick and Patsy Johnson**  
 5- 12  
**Osama & Carrie Yousef**  
 5-17  
**Andy and Anita Ruggles**  
 5- 19  
**Terry & Jill Bledsoe**  
 5-27

**MAY**  
**Baptismal Birthdays**

- 11 April R. Fulbright 1977
- 16 Shannon Hollar 1976
- 17 Libby Butts 1964  
Sheila W. Ramsey 1964  
Nelson Speagle 1964  
Kimmie Speagle 1964  
Dwayne Whitener 1964  
Debbie Wise 1964
- 18 Zachary Stuart 2003  
Cynthia Stuart 2003  
?? Sylvia King 1939

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

- May 3**
- May 10**
- May 17** Jane Moretz                      Jennifer Whitener                      Mike Midgett
- May 24** Samuel Biggerstaff                      Nena Babb                      Ben Whitener
- May 31** Hayden Johnson                      Bruce Sigman                      Leevada Wood

**USHERS**

Wayne Jarrett, Mike Midgett, Rick Lutz Zach Stuart

**ALTAR FLOWERS /SECURITY/ CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

- May 3**
- May 10**
- May 17** Greg & Kerby Smyre                      Rick Lutz                      Nena Babb
- May 24** Ralph & Wanda Stallings                      Zach Stuart                      Cynthia Stuart &  
Heather Carroll
- May 31** Al & Sylvia King                      Bruce Sigman                      Jennifer Whitener

**LAY READERS & GREETERS**

- May 3**
- May 10**
- May 17** Jon Gladden                      Kay Whitener & Bruce Sigman
- May 24** Dawn Covington                      Evelyn Fulbright, Phyllis Hood
- May 31** Kathy Weaver                      Felicia Hollar, Betty Whitener

**COMMUNION PREPARATION AND CLEAN-UP**

Donna Biggerstaff                      Sharon Sigman

**COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER**

Ben Whitener

**SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY/OFFERING COUNTERS**

- May 2** Sylvia King                      **May 3**
- May 9** No Meal Delivery                      **May 10**
- May 16** April Fulbright                      **May 17** Dwayne, Tryston, Mike, Sherrie
- May 23** No Meal Delivery                      **May 24** Dwayne, Tryston, Sandra, Nena,  
Susan
- May 30** Nena Babb                      **May 31** Dwayne, Tryston, Al, Sylvia

**Delivery Week      BACKPACK PROGRAM**

**Pickup Warehouse**

- May 1** Gene & Donna Biggerstaff                      Joe Biggerstaff
- May 8** Dwayne & Barbara Whitener
- May 15** Dawn Covington & Carolyn truitt
- May 22** Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff
- May 29** Rick & Rita Lutz

## May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 10:00 Nellie B's 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion	18	19	20 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion	25	26	27 10:00 Nellie B's 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 <b>PENTECOST</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion & Confirmation 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 LMM						

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

*If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Also, check*

### SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Pastor: The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 [pastor@sardislutheran.net](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.net)

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, [Musician@sardislutheran.net](mailto:Musician@sardislutheran.net)

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff, [biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com](mailto:biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com)

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

*Spring into life.*

Give blood.



**Blood Drive**  
**Sardis Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall  
6103 NC Hwy 10 W  
Hickory, NC 28602

**Wednesday, May 20, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Sardis Lutheran to schedule an appointment.

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

*Note: Come to give May 15-31 for a special Red Cross T-shirt by mail, while supplies last! You will NEED to make an appt. Lots of walk-ins and at this time it is not a good idea. Call Jane Mon-Thur prior to 12:00 PM at the church (704-462-2081) and she will help you make an appointment. Must wear masks while in the drive and some will be available. They also do extra wipe down and take temperatures before you are allowed in. Spaces will be farther apart than usual unless the ban is lifted by this time.*



N E W M E X I C O O S A K S A R B E N H E F Y  
 A S U C Y W E S T V I R G I N I A M L F T Q I  
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 ALASKA  
 ARIZONA  
 ARKANSAS  
 CALIFORNIA  
 COLORADO  
 CONNECTICUT  
 DELAWARE  
 FLORIDA  
 GEORGIA  
 HAWAII  
 IDAHO  
 ILLINOIS  
 INDIANA  
 IOWA  
 KANSAS  
 KENTUCKY

LOUISIANA  
 MAINE  
 MARYLAND  
 MASSACHUSETTS  
 MICHIGAN  
 MINNESOTA  
 MISSISSIPPI  
 MISSOURI  
 MONTANA  
 NEBRASKA  
 NEVADA  
 NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 NEW JERSEY  
 NEW MEXICO  
 NEW YORK  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 NORTH DAKOTA

OHIO  
 OKLAHOMA  
 OREGON  
 PENNSYLVANIA  
 RHODE ISLAND  
 SOUTH CAROLINA  
 SOUTH DAKOTA  
 TENNESSEE  
 TEXAS  
 UTAH  
 VERMONT  
 VIRGINIA  
 WASHINGTON  
 WEST VIRGINIA  
 WISCONSIN  
 WYOMING

## 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.**

**To continue the mission and ministry of Sardis it is important that we continue to tithe and to give our offerings during this time of precaution.**

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



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

