

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

May 2022

New Life

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

What a wonderful celebration we had on the Resurrection of our Lord! I had been looking forward to celebrating this holy festival together! I am grateful for the ways each one of you showed up for our Holy Week commemoration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ! It is always the holiest of weeks.

The Season of Easter has begun and lasts 50 days. Scripturally, during this time, Jesus has been raised to resurrected life and is walking the earth, waiting to ascend to the Father. His wounds are still visible, but he is healed, whole, and full of new life. He makes appearances to his disciples, and we would expect, providing guidance to the disciples as they form the early Church. In his resurrection, Christ has birthed a new era!

For us, these 50 days are a time to enjoy the fruits sown in our Lenten labors. They are meant to cultivate new life, Christ-life, in us. What discipline did you pick up this year? How did it go?

One of my Lenten disciplines was rest, and another one was attunement. For me, attunement was listening for my physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and responding to them in a compassionate way. The second part of attunement was opening myself to opportunity and being a curious participant. Well, I learned that you can see a lot of life when you slow down!

Attunement may sound like an easy discipline, and perhaps for many of you, it would be! For me though, it can sometimes be a challenge. I can easily whiz by the roses without stopping to smell them! It is in those moments, however, that God may be doing something new!

I had the chance to see that during my sabbatical. I was visiting my Mom and one morning we went out to pick up some fresh eggs because she was planning to bake that day. She has some friends who operate a family farm. They sell fresh eggs, fresh vegetables, and goat's milk soap. We usually just quickly stop by to pick up eggs and chat for a minute. I usually wait in the car.

We went to their house and my Mom chatted a few minutes with the husband of the couple, Johnny. They talked for a few minutes and I sat in the car and saw that a big package was delivered to their door. In their conversation, I heard that he was waiting for something refrigerated. He could not see it nor could he hear a notification that it had arrived. I did not want him to miss his package so as my Mom was wrapping up, I opened my door, said hello, and told him a package had just been dropped off on the other side of the house.

He said, "Thank you, it's for my goats...Hey, would you like to see them? We have a four week old one. I need to feed her."

Cont. Pastor Adrienne 's article:

Now, normally, I would have said, "Well, thank you, but I need to get back, I have work to do." However, today, I had a clear schedule; and remembering my Lenten discipline of attunement, I said yes.

Johnny led my Mom and I through the gate to see the chicken coup (which included a chicken called "The King" for Elvis (how cool is that??); the reservoir, and the goat pen. They had several goats and one of them, a beautiful white one, locked eyes with me as we approached their gate. When we entered, we see her laying down. Johnny said, "That one is expecting. We found that the baby is breached so we have her scheduled for a C-section tomorrow."

Without much more, we walked on to see the baby goat. We walked to the stable and he held the little black baby goat in his arms and bottle fed her. She was a cutie! Another one of the goats was so affectionate and seemed to have the nature of a dog rather than a goat! She wanted to be petted and loved.

While we were feeding the baby goat and getting a layout of the land, Johnny stopped and walked over to the white goat we had passed earlier. He said with concern, "I think she's in labor." Of course, I couldn't even tell she was in labor, but Johnny did. He started working with her to try to turn the kid around.

"She is going to deliver. I have got to get this baby turned around."

My Mom and I stood by. We felt helpless. We stayed on the phone trying to get in touch with his wife the vet. No one answered. He was concerned for the lives of both mother and the baby.

He turned to us and asked, "Do you think you could take your rings off and help me turn this baby around?"

I was stunned, but I could see that this mother was in distress and pain. I said "I will do my best." Pushing myself beyond my fear and queasiness, I took off my rings, put on the gloves he gave me, I knelt down and followed Johnny's instructions.

We worked and worked to no avail. The hoof of the kid came out and we were scared for the mother. We continued to try to turn the baby, but to no avail. I was praying with all my might that we wouldn't lose this mother and baby.

And then, Johnny realized that what we thought was a back hoof, was actually a front hoof! Then came out its little nose and tongue. We still had hard delivery work to do, but this was a much better situation. Finally we got the little goat out and got it breathing.

Once it was breathing, I stood up and started to black out. I sat down on some nearby steps and then got up to walk a few paces away. I thought, "If I'm going to pass out, I've gotta find some clean grass!"

Cont. Pastor Adrienne 's article:

However, I held on to the fence and caught my breath. The second kidd came out quickly and safely. Mother and babies were fine!

Johnny thanked us for being there and for helping. We texted with them a little bit later and he and his wife said that they were taking special care of these new babies and had even named the one I helped deliver, "Adrienne", and the second one, "Debbie", after my Mom! We have gone back to visit them and have that special connection!

If I had just powered through my day, I would have missed out on that amazing experience. I had never birthed new life into the world. It is a beautiful and messy thing.

I invite you to consider the sprouts of new life growing in your life. God is always doing a new thing!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Adrienne



Blood Drive Sardis Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
6103 NC Hwy 10 W
Hickory, NC 28602

Tuesday, May 3rd
2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please visit 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 to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Come to give April 19-May 19 for your chance to win a travel trailer camper that sleeps 8! Plus, you'll also receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice, all courtesy of our partners at Suburban Propane! Terms apply, see rcblood.org/camper.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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 May on the 4th at Sardis Lutheran Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Blessing Box

Sardis's Blessing Box continues to be heavily used by members of the community, especially on weekends. From April 13-20 over fifty items were donated and then claimed. Please remember to share any non-perishable items you have with the less fortunate through the Blessings Box. There is always room for items. Suggestions are cans of soups, pasta, chicken, tuna, vegetables, fruit or dry goods like macaroni, cereal, or beans. Helping the food insecure is a valuable outreach for our congregation.

It has been reported that a person was taking advantage of the area Blessings Boxes and collecting the food to sell at the Flea Market. Hopefully, this is not still going on, but regardless, we need to continue to support the individuals and families that will go hungry without our help.

WELCA NEWS

The amount of food the congregation collected and delivered to ECCCM at Newton was 464 lbs. Thank everyone for their generous contributions.

Mother's Day . . . A Special Time to Honor and Remember

The Sardis WELCA is planning a special Mother's Day Celebration for May! To celebrate Mother's Day and remember the matriarchs of our congregation the Sardis WELCA is hosting a floating LEGACY MOTHER'S CAKE TASTING from 1:00-5:00 pm on Saturday, May 7 in Sardis's Fellowship Hall. Mothers, daughters, grands, and greats are all invited to attend! There will be cakes from the recipes of our past and present mothers. Peanut Butter, Coconut, Chocolate, Orange Dreamsicle, Red Velvet, Blueberry, gluten free, sugar free cakes, as well as others too numerous to mention, are being prepared in the tradition of some of the famous Sardis bakers.

Plan to come as families, enjoy tasting these delicacies and reminiscing about mothers past and celebrating the mothers present. In order to properly plan, we ask that you fill out the form that will be placed in the upcoming bulletins.

In the past attendees have been asked to bring in items for various agencies. For 2022, please plan on bringing a monetary donation to support the Lutheran World Relief efforts to help the Ukrainian families who are fleeing for their safety and leaving everything behind.

Second Noisy Offering Coming May 29

May is one of the four months that has 5 Sundays in 2022 so the Social Ministry Committee will again be collecting everyone's spare change in a bucket on the fifth Sunday, May 29, 2022. (Memorial Day weekend). As a reminder, at the end of the year, all four offerings will be combined to send to Lutheran Services Good Gifts Department to purchase a domestic animal (chicken, cow, pig, goat, etc.) to help support the ELCA's efforts to fight hunger in over eighty countries. To find out more about the ELCA Good Gifts efforts, visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org>. Please bring your loose change and drop in the bucket in the narthex to make a NOISE to fight hunger. Of course, noiseless paper money is welcome also.

Personal Care Kits

The Social Ministry Committee will continue collecting items for Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief during May. The simple items included in a personal care kit provide self-care items, critical germ fighting materials and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Items need for the kits are:

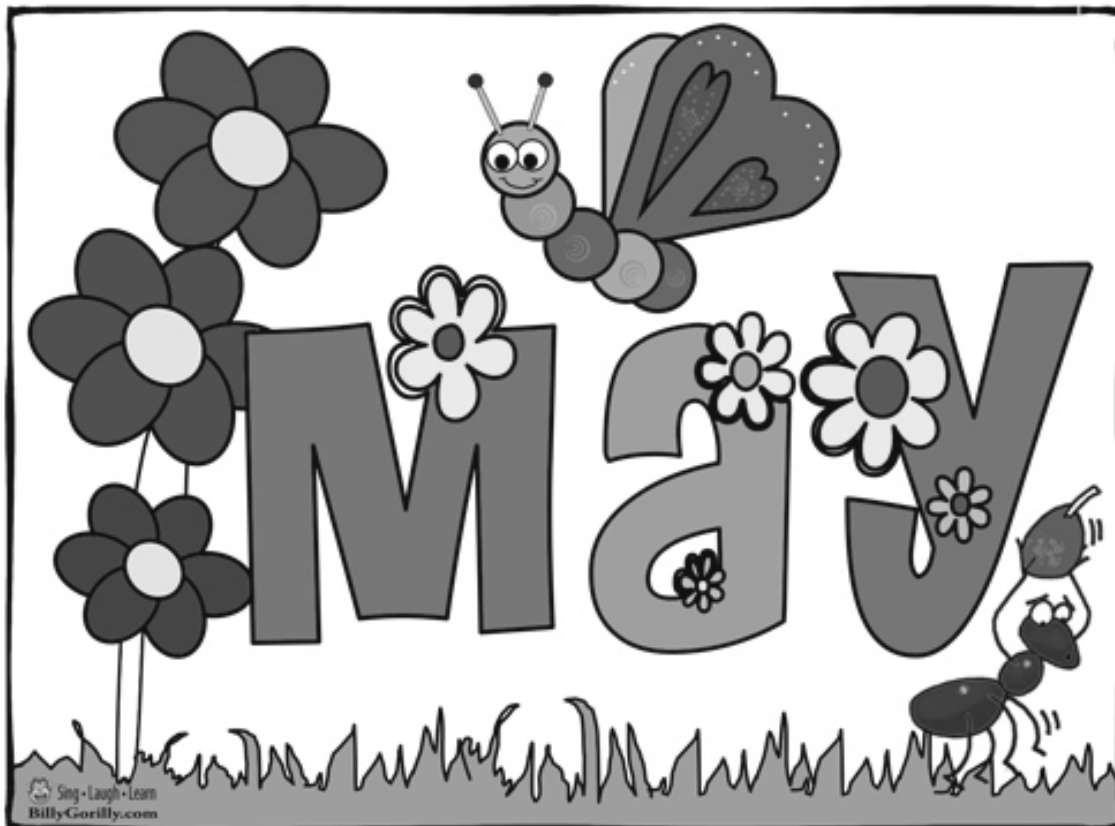
- *One light-weight towel (20" x 40" to 52" X 27") dark colors recommended*
- *Two or three bath size bars of soap in original wrapping*
- *One adult size toothbrush in original wrapping*
- *One sturdy comb*

One metal nail clipper

If you prefer, you can donate \$7.00, and members of the committee will purchase these items.

Upcycle your Drink Can Tabs and Prescription Bottles

Remember you can bring your drink can tabs and prescription bottles and place them in the baskets in the narthex and WELCA will deliver them to the proper agency.



Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 13, 2022

Members Present:

Gene, Susan, Kathy, Bryan, April,
Ben, Jon, Ray, Roger, Nena, Kristin

Gene Biggerstaff called the meeting to order, Nena Babb had devotions.

Kathy Weaver read the minutes from the February meeting. Ray Whitener made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Jon Gladden seconded, and the motion passed.

Gene presented the treasurer's reports. The Building Fund as of February 28th had a balance of \$16,517.19, the Cemetery Fund \$1,159.83 and the General Fund \$3,644.58. Bryan Hood made a motion to accept the reports as presented, Kristin Teague seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report

I apologize for missing tonight's meeting. The way the Lenten services were set up, I am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church tonight for their Lenten service which is at 6:00 p.m.

I am nearing the end of my service at Sardis. I have greatly enjoyed working with you. Your congregation has great leadership and participation in worship and other activities. The committees do their jobs and cooperate with each other. And Jane, in the church office, is a valuable resource to the congregation. Sardis is a healthy congregation which reflects that you also have healthy pastoral leadership. I thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord along with you at Sardis.

During February, I made the following visits:

SHUT IN AND SICK –
 By phone due to COVID restrictions – 24
 Hospital – 2
 In office – 1
 Rest Home – 1
TOTAL VISITS - - - - 28

Meetings and Activities:

Three Sunday worship services
Tuesday morning Bible studies – 4

One Prayer group meeting (Other Tuesday I was in the Bishop's Online study group but was in contact with them before the meeting.)

Fred T. Ford Seniors lunch and meeting at Grace Lutheran Church – Feb.2.

Sardis COVID Committee meeting – Feb. 6.

Sardis Council meeting – Feb. 6

Sardis Annual Meeting for Reports - Feb. 13.

Meeting with Frank Griffin to plan for Lenten services – March 17.

Meeting with Pastors for final plans for the Lenten services - March 16.

Council min. cont.

I continue to work in the Pastor's Office Monday through Wednesday. Other work I do at home to have the use of my computer and printer. However, you can connect with me anytime by phone – home 828-464- 4999 or cell phone 828-461 3838 or by email hollarw@bellsouth.net.

Pastor Bill Hollar

On March 20th, Kristin Teague will present Pastor Bill with a scrapbook on his last Sunday with us. The scrapbook was made by Jane Moretz the church secretary. She collected cards and notes from congregation members and created the scrapbook.

Old Business

Covid Sub-Committee: Recommendations from recent meeting and Council decisions.

Masks and social distancing will both be optional.

Bathrooms will change to fully open.

No Choir, therefore, no processional – will begin at Easter sunrise service

Communion 1st Sundays and Festival Days – will defer to Pastor Adrienne

No “passing the plate” offering – Basket will remain in the Narthex

Single line, one side at a time Communion – wine handed out by assistant

Restricted Fellowship Hall usage – now open

No touching during “Sharing the Peace” – optional

Limited committee meetings – now open

Total service printed in bulletin – No Hymnals, will speak to Jane about pricing

Pew registers will be reinstated.

After some discussion Kathy made motion to accept the new recommendations by the Covid committee, Jon seconded, and the new recommendations were approved.

Security system: Ben Whitener presented the quote from Lake Hickory Security of \$4,739 for 24-48 hour recording, any backup equipment and monitoring would be an extra cost. The Tech Committee did not recommend and are still searching systems and companies.

Fellowship Hall-Youth rooms-Tables: Terry Bledsoe has picked up tables the unused tables and has begun work on the Pastor Displays.

Outdoor Worship Area: No updates at this time

Sound System: No major updates except the material cost has increased almost 3x what was originally estimated. They are also looking into a stand mic for the communion table.

Playground Equipment: The equipment had been ordered but there are extended delivery delays. The pavement will be replaced and the swings will be delivered sooner than the other equipment.

Council min. cont.

New Business

Lenten Offerings: Jon made a motion we send the offerings to Lutheran World Relief, which is currently helping in Ukraine. Nena seconded and the motion passed.

Council Retreat: It was decided to wait until Pastor Adrienne returns.

Safe Gatherings: April Fulbright said she has already completed the screening on-line and had no trouble. The fee has already been paid for the individuals that need to do the screening. April agreed to write up a procedure/policy for the church to have on record concerning the need for the screenings and who will need to participate.

Easter Breakfast: Ken Propst has suggested Norman's Café cater the meal with the church funding. A menu was provided to the church council with an estimated cost of \$8 per person. A suggestion of 100 – 125 plates be ordered with a donation box setup Easter morning. Jane will make a signup sheet for families to list the number of persons staying for breakfast. Norman's will deliver, setup and pickup after the meal. Sardis will provide drinks, plates, silverware and will serve the food. Norman's will need the order at least 2wks ahead of time.

With no other business to discuss Jon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting April 10th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary



Agape Day Camp is coming!

July 17-22, 2022

to St. Paul Lutheran Church—Startown

Watch for future mailings,
or check with your church.
Registration opens in May.

PLEASE SEE THE REGISTRATION FORM INSERT IN YOUR BULLETIN



Be part of the first Synod Gathering, EVER!

Bring a group from your congregation

ALL are welcome to attend. Come for one, two, or all three days!

Learn More at: nclutheran.org/event/2022-synod-gathering/

Register by April 26 and SAVE!



Keynote Speaker,
Dr. Jacqueline
Bussie, author of
*Love without
Limits*



Preaching
Thursday,
ELCA Presiding
Bishop Elizabeth
A. Eaton



Preaching Friday,
the Rev. CeCee
Mills, NC Synod
Asst. to the
Bishop



Preaching
Saturday,
the Rev. Tim
Smith, Bishop,
NC Synod

50th Anniversary (+2) Celebration of the Ordination of Women

Worship, Fellowship, Learning Opportunities, and More

Event Location: Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC

May 2022
Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA	2 6:30 Youth Group Planning Meeting	3 10:00 Bible Study 2—6:30 Blood Drive 7:00 Prayer Group Zoom	4 12 Noon FTF Seniors meet at Sardis. Sardis to provide drinks...	5 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	6 Pastor's Sabbath Day	7 1—5 Mother 's Day Cake Tasting
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:30 Assisting Minister Training 7:00 Church Council	9	10 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Scholarship Committee Meeting	11	12 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day	14
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	16	17 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group Zoom	18	19 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor's Sabbath Day	21
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	23	24 No Bible Study	25 5:00 Deadline for June NL	26 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	27 Pastor's Sabbath Day	28
29 9:30 Combined all classes Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live Collecting spare change for Lutheran Services Good Gifts 6:30 LMM	30	31 No Bible Study				

SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Pastor: The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 pastor@sardislutheran.com

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tgriffin59@gmail.com

Council Chair: Gene Biggerstaff (C) 828-381-0039 genebiggerstaff@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 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

Bryan Hood

May

USHERS

Bruce Sigman, Randy Speagle, Jill Bledsoe, Ralph Stallings

- 5/5 Andrew Ruggles, Jr.
- 5/10 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
Clay Smyre
- 5/31 Carrie Yousef

COMMUNION PREPARATION

CLEAN-UP

Donna Biggerstaff

Sharon Sigman

**SATURDAY MEAL
DELIVERY**

For—Catherine Houser,
Garry, Leevada and Lexi Wood

- May 7** Nene Babb
- May 14** No Meal Delivery
- May 21** Phyllis Biggerstaff
- May 28** No Meal Delivery

Anniversaries:

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

Delivery Week

**BACKPACK
PROGRAM**

- May 6** Roger, Marilyn, Jane
- May 13** Joe and Phyllis
- May 20** Gene and Donna
- May 27** Dwayne and Barbara

<i>VOLUNTEER</i> <i>May</i>	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Andy & Anita R.	Roger & Marilyn T.	Greg & Kerby S.	Ralph & Wanda S.	Al & Sylvia King
ACOLYTE	Tryston S.	Austin P.	Hayden J.	Marilyn T.	Marshall W.
CHILDRENS CHURCH	Cynthia S.	Jennifer W	Nena B.	Heather C.	Jennifer W.
CRUCIFER	Cayden H.	Bruce S.	Austin P.	Tryston S.	Samuel B.
GREETERS	AL & Sylvia K.	Rita L. & Darrell J.	Ben & Edna F.	Kristin T. & Margaret W.	Ken P. & Nena Babb
LAY READER	Becky G.	Ray W.	Marilyn T.	Al K.	Sylvia K.
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena
SECURITY	Rick L.	Ralph S.	Bruce S.	Rick J.	Zachary S.

****NOTE****

If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know.
Thank you. [Sardis Lutheran Church](#); [Sardis Lutheran Church | Facebook](#); <https://instagram.com/sardislutheranchurch...>

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.

Save the date:

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

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

