

# Friendly Messenger

November 2020

## In the Spotlight: Rylan Johnson

A Mighty Fortress is our God! This is the Lutheran anthem of the Reformation. While our drive-in service may have been cancelled due to rain, we moved the festival day service inside and livestreamed it on Facebook. Inside the sanctuary, we sang a special musical rendition of Psalm 46, "God is Our Refuge." What spoke to me that day was that we, not the building, are living stones and the power of Christ is what makes our foundation so strong.

The Reformation is a day to commemorate the history of the Protestant Reformation. We may take pride in our Lutheran heritage with some caveats. We can however, CELEBRATE the continued presence and activity of the Holy Spirit of the Risen Christ in our lives and in the world! This is one reason why Reformation is often chosen for a confirmand to affirm his faith. However, there are many Sundays on which we may celebrate this wonderful gift!

Rylan Johnson will affirm his faith in an upcoming service. He has completed his two-year catechetical instruction. He faithfully attended monthly confirmation sessions the last two years, learning about the church year, the two sacraments, mission, and justice. This month, we highlight him and give thanks for his commitment!

What is your favorite food? Tacos at El Sarape

Least favorite food? Spaghetti

Birthdate: June 7, 2006, Hickory

Baptismal date: June 16, 2006 at Sardis

Rylan is a freshman at Fred T. Foard High School. He likes it so far because students have more freedom than in middle school. In addition to a new school and newfound freedom, the pandemic has drastically changed how students learn. This year, Rylan has a combination schedule in which he attends classes two days a week and has three days of distance learning. While he has liked having some additional free time, online school is more difficult than regular school.

Keeping track of assignments due can be a challenge! He also misses seeing his friends!

This semester he is taking Microsoft PowerPoint, Math I Honors, English I, and Earth and Environmental Science. His favorite class of all time was gym in middle school because it provided a break from school work during the day.

When he is not at school or doing school work, he has been enjoying free time at home with his family. That is a blessing that the pandemic has brought. He has more time to do things he likes such as playing games on his PC. Two of his favorite games are *Fortnight* and *Call of Duty*. He plays competitively with other online players. He prefers this over television and other media.



Growing up, Rylan liked Easter the most of all church services. He especially liked the annual tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt! He also has good memories of going to his Grandmother's house on Easter weekend for a family gathering and playing kickball. Rylan's favorite confirmation sessions included the games and activities we played as part of our lessons.

Rylan feels equipped to affirm his faith in the Lutheran tradition and to become an adult member of Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church. He will join us "living stones" in the church of Christ as we engage in mission and ministry. We give thanks for his faithfulness and pray for his discovery of the unique way that God will call him to share the Gospel in the world.

Blessings,  
Pastor Adrienne

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Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
September 10, 202

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

Joe called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:05 pm with 11 council members in attendance. Jon had devotions.

Minutes from the August Council Meeting were read with no changes from the Council. Motion was made by Ken to accept the minutes, Rick seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Joe, submitted by Dwayne Whitener, Finance Committee Chair. The General Fund balance was \$8,202.84 as of August 31, 2020; the Building Fund balance was \$4,910.45, the Cemetery Fund was \$1,437.69. Kathy made a motion to accept the Financial Report as read, Bruce seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Another month passes! We are, day by day, making our way through this pandemic. We have kept in mind the mission to which God has called us and have continued our plans to the utmost of our ability. I continue to pray for everyone's wellness and safety.

While the pandemic has put a halt to many things, it does not stop the passing of time or eliminate the needs of life. Work and school have resumed; surgeries are scheduled. Life goes on and it seems now like we are all waiting to see how Labor Day and the fall will affect COVID19 trends. It is still looking like it will be a long-term adjustment.

Adaptation is so important in a time like this. While this is a desperate and heavy time, it is also a time to reflect on how we are church and how we might explore life-giving ways of being church together. I believe we have been creative and resourceful during this time.

Since our last council meeting, we have had the first of our commemorations of the Anniversary of Women's Ordination on August 16<sup>th</sup>. It was such a wonderful day! I felt so appreciated and I so deeply appreciate the privilege of serving at Sardis! On that Sunday, we also collected and blessed school supplies for Banoak and Blackburn Elementary Schools. Our Social Ministry Committee has been very active and responsive to community needs. As for our other commemorative services for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, we will see about rescheduling our Sundays with Pastor Anna and Pastor Mary Louise once traveling is safe again.

We continue to have worship online as well as monthly drive-in services. I am so grateful to everybody who makes the services possible. I am appreciative of Nena who helped us continue from the beginning and hope we can publicly acknowledge her and thank her for her music ministry during the early days of the pandemic. I am grateful for Frank who comes each week and offers his support as needed. We do our best for worship planning given the restrictions and are planning to make a few changes for September.

In addition to worship planning and preparation, I respond to pastoral needs as best as I can. I am exploring using Zoom as a platform to help with pastoral requests and meetings. Two weeks ago, I hosted a social hour on Zoom to which six people attended. It was nice to connect for some casual conversation. I have also attempted to use Zoom for a virtual visit and a meeting for wedding planning. I will start to plan with Dena Propst Townsend and her partner Crystal this week. Their wedding will be on Friday, October 2 off-site.

I am also doing my best to stay up on continuing education. I finished the continuing education course "The Hidden Curriculum of White Supremacy" and have signed up for my next continuing education class called "Being Church in a Digital Age." I am also signed up for other webinars that will be offered as part of Fall Convocation (which was cancelled due to the pandemic). I'm about halfway there!

While there are so many discouraging trends happening in the world, I deeply believe the Holy Spirit is continuing to move and work in the world. We have continued to be in ministry and I am grateful for everyone's faithfulness during this time. I am delighted to say that I have been in conversation with Austin Propst about joining Sardis. I would like to bring this request before the council for approval.

### Old Business

Ken reported that everything that could be turned off to save power had been turned off. This is in an effort to save money.

Joe had reported that the no touch soap and sanitizer dispensers were installed at the church. Since these were not to be installed until August, Joe his going to check if we will be charged for July. As a follow up, Joe reported that we would not be charged until we start using the church building again.

## New Business

A discussion was held about the Sigmon Stringers Concert. The concert was approved earlier by the Council to be a drive in concert. Due to restrictions being loosened by the Governor, people are asking too sit in lawn chairs. Becky reported that if we do allow, it is limited to 50 people, masks and social distancing apply. Tim asked about the playground, it will be closed during the concert.

Jon made a motion to develop a pamphlet with rules and expectations to be given out as people entered. Carolyn seconded. Motion carried. Pamphlet info below:

Welcome to Sardis Lutheran Church, Sigman Stringers Concert!

In order to comply with State protocols for public gatherings we ask for your cooperation with the following guidelines during this event.

This is primarily a drive in concert. If you wish to view the concert from your vehicle proceed to your left and you will be directed to a parking space. If you wish to sit in the back of a truck this is considered as remaining in a vehicle, proceed to the left. Please remain in your car for the concert.

**According to State Guidelines, we can allow up to 50 persons to set in chairs of their own provision. Family units may sit together in the designated area in front of the cars with groups distanced 6 ft. apart with a mask on. However, we are limited to the first 50 people. First come, first serve.** If you are sitting in chairs proceed to rear of the church and park your vehicle.

The playground is closed for this event. Please, for their safety and your fellow concert participants safety, please keep children **corralled.**

We hope you enjoy the concert, and thank you for following these guidelines..... **Jesus said “Love your fellow concert goer as yourself!”**, .....**Or something like that.**

If you would like to learn more about Sardis Lutheran Church, visit us at **Sardis Lutheran Church.com or our Facebook page.**

Blessings!

Ken made a motion to allow lawn chairs for up to 50 people. The people parking cars will monitor the numbers. Rick seconded. Motion carried with a 5 to 4 hand vote.

Becky reported that Phase 2.5 does not change indoor worship service. We will continue with online and one drive in service per month until Phase 3.

Pastor Adrienne said that Austin Propst requested to join Sardis. Austin lives in Winston Salem and has been attending in person when he could and online other Sundays. Ken motioned we accept his request. Bryan seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer  
Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

## **Annual November Congregation Meeting**

**November 1**, at our drive-in service, Council Chair, Joe Biggerstaff, will call the meeting to order. You will be given a nominating ballot to fill in when you enter the parking lot.. The ballot consist of 2021 Church Council, 2021 Nominating Committee, 2021-2023 Scholarship Committee. List your nomination, and when you pick up your communion place your ballot in the designated baskets. Also, you must have asked permission from the persons you are nominating. You will be given some time to fill out your ballot prior to Worship Service. Joe will close the nominations. The meeting will continue on November 15th at a drive-in service.

## **Virtual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Each year, the congregations of Ebenezer, Plateau, Wesley Chapel and Sardis gather for a Thanksgiving Eve Service. This year we will continue the tradition virtually. On Wednesday, November 25th, at 6 pm, you may choose to attend a drive-in service at Ebenezer. The ministers will conduct the service inside the sanctuary and radio broadcast it to the cars in the parking lot. We are exploring the possibility of livestreaming the service on Facebook, but we are still working this out! There will be no meal together this year, but we can still safely lift our prayers to give thanks and praise to God! Please stay tuned for more information!

## **LIVE NATIVITY**

Sardis will be hosting a live nativity on December 20 from 6:00-8:00. We need your help! We will need volunteers to help monitor the children, direct traffic, sing, and participate in the live nativity. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Heather Carroll (828-310-4653) or Pastor Adrienne by November 20. We are looking forward to providing this safe, socially-distanced event for our community!



## **Advent Bible Study: *Our Greatest Gift: A Wonderful Life in Christ***

This Bible study is based on the classic 1946 American Christmas movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. The movie tells the fascinating story about George Bailey, who is having so many problems that he is thinking about ending it all. An angel is then sent from Heaven and helps him by showing him what life would have been like if he had never been born. This story is woven into the story of the first advent of Jesus Christ and the anticipation of the advent to come. It will be a fruitful study to explore the dynamic tension of the Season of Advent.

Due to concerns over safety and wellness in this time of pandemic, this study will take place via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 pm during Advent. Meetings will be held on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. If you would like to participate and/or need additional assistance about Zoom, please contact Pastor Adrienne. If you are interested in participating, you are encouraged to watch the movie ahead of time!

# A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

## GRACE AT TABLE

### Blessing before eating

When the children and the whole household gather at the table, they should reverently fold their hands and say:

"The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand. You satisfy the desire of every living thing."

(It is to be observed that "satisfying the desire of every living thing" means that all creatures receive enough to eat to make them joyful and of good cheer. Greed and anxiety about food prevent such satisfaction.)

Then the Lord's Prayer should be said, and afterwards this prayer:

"Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which of you bountiful goodness you have bestowed upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

### Thanksgiving after eating

After eating, likewise, they should fold their hands reverently and say:

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens when they cry. His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man; but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love."

Then the Lord's Prayer should be said, and afterwards this prayer:

"We give you thanks, Lord God, our Father, for all your benefits, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever. Amen."

### About this testimony

Martin Luther's Small Catechism, 1529, was written to answer the need for a basic exposition of the Christian faith for lay people. It follows the historic form of a catechism, based on explanations of the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, to which Luther has added sections on Baptism, Confession and the Sacrament of the Altar, along with forms for Morning and Evening Prayer and Grace at Table.

Historically, a catechism was a short course in Christianity to prepare converts for Baptism. "Luther's Small Catechism is often seen as the beginning of catechesis in the modern sense," writes UCC church historian John B. Payne. "It had enormous influence on all subsequent catechisms, both Protestant and Catholic." It entered the UCC tradition as a faith testimony through one of our antecedent churches: the German Evangelical Synod of North America. Other historic creeds and confessions are collected in The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ, published by the Pilgrim Press and available from United Church Resources at 1-800-325-7061.

## November Birthdays

11/16 Evan Lail  
 11/18 Emma Jarrett  
 11/20 Pat Lail  
       Andy Ruggles  
 11/21 Rebecca J. Ritz  
       Ray Whitener  
 11/22 Tryston Sylvester  
 11/24 Osama Yousef  
 11/27 Tommy Hoyle  
 11/28 Megan Roseman  
       Roger Teague

**Anniversaries:**  
**Bennie & Edna Fulbright 11-18**  
**Dwight & Hope Gladden 11-28**  
**Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff 11-23**

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Nov. 1**  
**Nov. 8** Rick & Rita Lutz  
**Nov. 15** Ray & Margaret Whitener  
**Nov. 22** Joe Rudisill  
**Nov. 29**

### COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Terry Bledsoe	Nov. 4th	Tim Whitener
	Nov. 8th	Rick Johnson
	Nov. 15th	Jon Gladden
	Nov. 22nd	Ray Whitener
	Nov. 29th	Gene Biggerstaff

### SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY/IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO AT THIS TIME.

**Nov. 7** No Meal Delivery  
**Nov. 14** Rita Lutz  
**Nov. 21** No Meal Delivery  
**Nov. 28** Margaret Whitener

**November 2020**  
**Sardis Lutheran Church**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship Service , Communion FB Live  10:30 Annual Congregational	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 Worship Service FB Live 7:00 Church Council	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 Drive-In Worship Service and Continued Congregational Meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 Worship Service FB Live	23	24	25 6:00 Drive-in Thanksgiving service at Ebenezer, possible Live stream FB. Will advise.	26 THANKSGIVING  Office closed	27	28
29 10:30 Worship Service FB Live	30	<b>REMEMBER: you can find this NL, the weekly calendar and Sunday Sermons on the website: <a href="https://sardislutheran.com/">https://sardislutheran.com/</a> mark it as a favorite and check it out often.</b>				

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

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

### 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, [tfgriffin59@gmail.com](mailto:tfgriffin59@gmail.com)

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

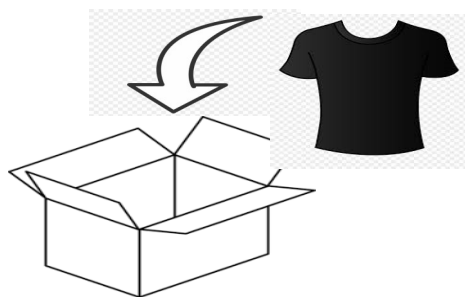


We have partnered with Safe Harbor's ReSource Warehouse! When you donate your gently used items such as clothing, household goods, home décor, tools, etc. to ReSource Warehouse, be sure and tell them to you attend this church. This allows us to earn gift cards to their thrift store to distribute to people in need! Have a large donation? Schedule a pickup at [www.resourcewarehouse.org](http://www.resourcewarehouse.org) Your donations benefit Safe Harbor and give us the ability to help people in need. Donate at Safe Harbor's ReSource Warehouse 331 US Hwy 70 SW Hickory, NC 828-256-2695 M-F 10-4:30, Sat 10-3. We are delighted that Linda Wilson will be the Sardis volunteer.

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CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE!



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SAFE HARBOR'S RESOURCE WAREHOUSE PROVIDES US WITH GIFT CARDS TO GIVE TO PEOPLE IN NEED IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.

## 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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### Methods for Giving

Gifts may be made online by clicking on the green “Give” button on our NEW website [www.sardislutheran.com](http://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**

