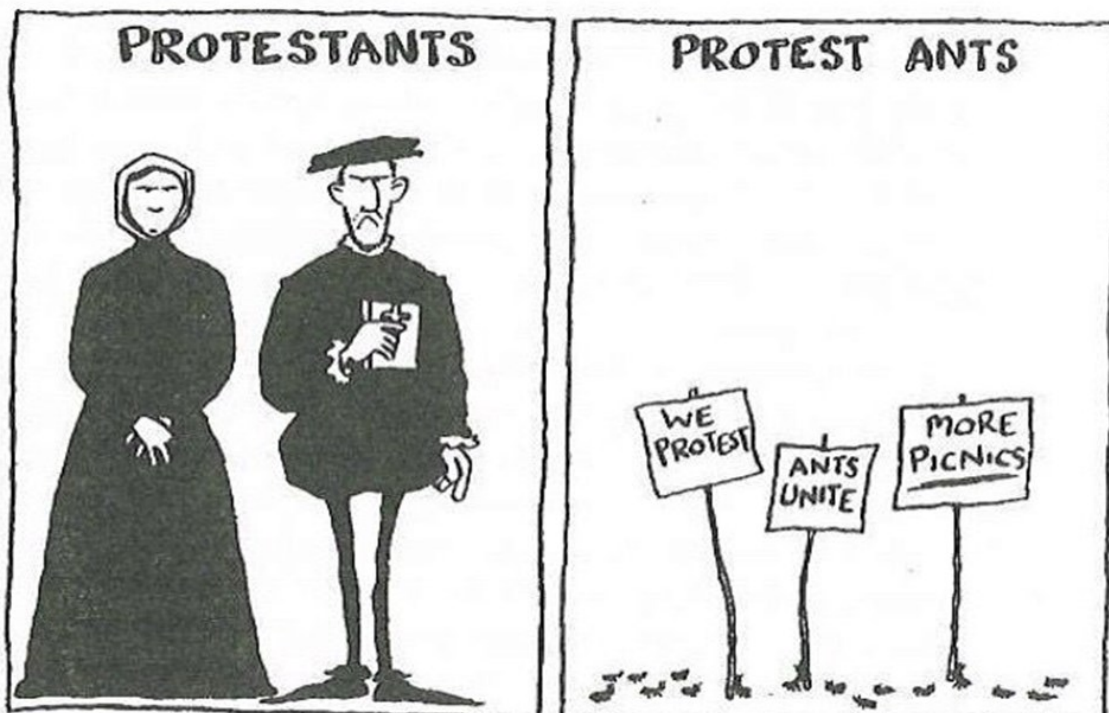


Friendly Messenger

October 2021



Cartoon taken from *Reader's Digest*, "Laughter Totally Is the Best Medicine." New York, NY/Montreal, 2019.

This is the month when we remember our deep roots in the reform tradition. We celebrate God's saving grace in Jesus Christ, the activity and call of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the baptized, and remember the bold acclamations of Martin Luther and other reformers. Maybe we can look to one of these images for additional information. Well, maybe not. Thank goodness times (and fashion) have changed, right?!

The term Protestant is largely mainstream. Most people know that the folks who sought to reform or leave the Catholic Church were included in this group. While the Protestants at the time may have dressed more like the cartoon characters on the left, the Protestants were a lively bunch led by the Holy Spirit! Perhaps a more fitting picture of the

Protestants were really more like the protesting ants on the right! Certainly, discontent was one of many motivations that spurred on the Reformation, but so was zeal and a desire to change religion for the better.

Speaking of reformers, one of Martin Luther's sayings has been on my mind the past month. It was: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree today." Its meaning always has kind of eluded me, but recently it has become clearer.

Cont. Pastor article;

And as one pastor answered when asked if it is indeed the end of the world: “Maybe, but I don’t think so.” This is something we cannot know. In scripture, Jesus addresses those who ask about the end of time. In Matthew 24, he says the end will come, “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.” (New Living Translation) I keep in mind that the early church was also always thinking that the end of time was near.

What if the early church had just said, “Well, Jesus is gone and the end is coming, let’s just wait.”? And surely, some did just that. There were missed opportunities for growth and boldness and creation. However, some dug in to make the world better even with the end in sight. They worked, and they dreamed, and they prayed. And through them, God did amazing things. Their work was not in vain. We are the inheritors of those who cared about the future, even in the face of the end.

That is why I am so glad that in the midst of this hard time and uncertainty, we are still dreaming and we are still working. That is a faithful and hopeful place to be. That is who we are called to be. That is what I think Martin Luther is saying about planting a tree even if he knew the end was tomorrow. Even if everything falls to pieces tomorrow, today still has meaning. There is still life and hope for today. I think we will find that those little saplings turn into mighty oaks.

I am thankful for you and proud of you. I am thankful for your faithfulness, generosity, and resilience. We are lively. We have purpose. We have a mission. We do not have to wear black uniforms with grimaces on our faces or advocate for more picnics with the ants, but we have a baptismal call in our lives to bring God’s hope to a world that is deeply suffering right now. And as we suffer also through this time, let us remember that we have each other, and we have a God whose love and grace know no bounds. God’s kingdom is always emerging. Let us keep planting! We will be so happy for those apples!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adrienne

Blessing of the Animals Service

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was a Catholic friar who lived in the 12th century. He considered all creatures his brothers and sisters and promoted peace between humans and animals. In observance of this feast day, we will hold an outdoor service in the front lawn where you may bring your pets to receive a blessing. Cats, dogs, birds, fish, ferrets, and all pets are welcome! Our service will be held on Sunday, October 3rd at 2:30 pm. Hope to see you and Fido there!



Nominating Committee

The 2021 Nominating Committee will meet on Sunday, October 3rd immediately following the Worship Service. This meeting will discuss nominations for 2022 Church, Council. Nominating Committee and Scholarship Committee. Members on the committee are Jane Moretz, Dwayne Whitener, Joe Biggerstaff, Marilyn Teague, Rick Johnson, Sherrie Midgett.



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 October on the 6th at Laurel Hill Methodist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REMINDER

Prior to COVID 19 the Evangelism Committee decided to display a framed collage in the Narthex of all committee chairs. This project needs to be finished ASAP. Terry has built a special frame for this. Jane needs a picture of each committee chair, either your single portrait from the directory in wallet size or a 4x6 photo. These need to be in color. Any questions please see Donna Biggerstaff or Jane.

EVANGELISM NOTES

It is with sadness that we have to say goodbye to a valuable member of our church and the Evangelism Team. Linda Bandy Wilson has decided to transfer her membership to Old St.Pauls Lutheran at Startown (where her husband Terry is a member). We wish them both good luck at his church. She will be a wonderful member at Old St.Pauls. With her departure, this brings a need for another shepherd. If you would interested in volunteering your time, please let me or the Pastor know and we will be glad to answer any questions you might have. You may also contact the secretary at the church office. I will take the people on Linda's list until the vacancy is filled for a new shepherd.

Thank you

Ray Whitener

Evangelism Chairperson



PRAYER SERVICES

We will start holding weekly opportunities for prayer time. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Hoyle or Pastor Adrienne. We will decide a meeting time together!

Sardis will be hosting an outdoor movie night on Friday, October 29th at 7:00. Please plan to join us for a G-rated movie, popcorn, and candy. Peanut-free candy donations can be dropped off in the narthex. Thank you for your help!



October 2021 Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/ Holy Communion and FB Live Stream Nominating Committee meet after Worship Service 2:30 Blessing of the Ani- mals 4:00 First Communion Class 5:00 WELCA	4	5	6 12:00 FTF Seniors Laurel Hill Methodist	7	8	9
10 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/ Holy Communion and FB Live Stream 4:00 First Communion Class 7:00 Church Council	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/ Holy Communion and FB Live Stream 4:00 First Communion Class	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/ Holy Communion and FB Live Stream 4:00 First Communion Class	25 Sardis volunteer ECCCM	26	27 5:00 Deadline for November NL	28	29 7:00 Outdoor movie night	30
31 REFORMATION 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/ Holy Communion and FB Live Stream 6:30 LMM						

****NOTE****

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

COUNCIL CONTACT ASSISTING MINISTER

Ben Whitener

Gene Biggerstaff

USHERS

Bruce Sigman, Tommy Hoyle, Dawn Covington, Jill Bledsoe

October

10/6 Joe Rudisill

10/7 Lauren Speagle

10/13 Jill Bledsoe

Evelyn Fulbright

Alisa Truitt

Dwayne Whitener

10/21 Donna Biggerstaff

10/22 Ben Fulbright

10/23 Donald Fulbright

10/25 Bryan Hood

10/26 Kathy Weaver

10/31 Joe Wyant

**SATURDAY MEAL
DELIVERY****For—Catherine Houser,
Garry, Leevada and Lexi Wood**

Oct 2 April Fulbright

Oct 9 No Meal Delivery

Oct 16 Nena Babb

Oct. 23 No Meal Delivery

Oct 30 Dawn Covington

Anniversaries:**Steven & Ashley Yow 10-2****Teresa & David Starkey 10-3****Ben & April Fulbright 10-11**

VOLUNTEER OCTOBER	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	31ST
ALTAR FLOWERS	Kay Whitener	Evan & Pat Lail	Gene & Donna Biggerstaff	Jane Moretz	Tim & Barbara Whitener
SECURITY	Wayne Jarrett	Nelson Speagle	Rick Lutz	Rick Johnson	Zach Stuart

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.

SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS**Pastor:** The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 pastor@sardislutheran.com**Organist/Director of Music:** Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com**Council Chair:** Bruce Sigman (C) 828-310-5851 bruce.camping@gmail.com**Secretary/Treasurer:** Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 secretary@sardislutheran.com

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.

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

