

Friendly Messenger

September 2020

I have a sign on my wall that says:

**“Life takes you to unexpected places
Love brings you home”**

I got this sign when I moved into my place here four years ago. I was relieved to be back in North Carolina. It felt good to be home. And this is a great sentiment after you have been out all day, or gone for many years, or returning for a visit or a reunion. But what about this year? Many of us have had *A LOT* of time at home lately and maybe we are ready for life to take us to unexpected places.

And life *IS* taking us to unexpected places. Our lives have been regulated and changed by COVID19. We never expected this to happen! Did we ever expect to be here? What does this mean for us on Homecoming Sunday on September 13?

We are both home, and we are in an unexpected place. What does that mean for Homecoming this year? I think about Exodus 14: 19-31, our first lesson for Homecoming Sunday. The Israelites have just escaped their enslavement in Egypt and were being led to a new land. They are early in their journey and the Egyptians are pursuing them every step along the way. However, God is leading the Israelites and protecting them in what seem like insurmountable circumstances. For example,

- The LORD put a pillar of cloud to protect the Israelite camp while they slept.
- When they were blocked by a great sea, the LORD moved the waters and made it dry land.
- When the Egyptians pursued them, the LORD clogged their chariot wheels.
- When the Egyptians saw the LORD was fighting for the Israelites, the Egyptians tried to turn around, but then the waters crashed and consumed them.

When the Israelites saw the great work of the LORD, they feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and his servant Moses.

The LORD was leading them to their new home. It didn't feel comfortable. It didn't feel safe. It wasn't what they expected. They walked through lots of unfamiliar territory. They didn't get there quickly. It took time. Imagine how many times they had to adapt! Imagine how they got through each day, having no idea when this long journey might end. They had ups and downs. Sometimes they needed encouragement; sometimes they provided encouragement to each other. It was hard. However, the LORD was leading them. Sometimes we are required to think about things differently and do things differently when the LORD is leading us. They did make it to the promised land.

Imagine the rejoicing, relief, and celebration when the Israelites reached the promised land. They had their own land and were no longer captive to Egyptian oppressors who used them for labor! They could live out their lives as the LORD's people, free and loved! From slavery to freedom, **LOVE took them to unexpected places!**

This biblical story may speak to how some of us are feeling. We can understand being in an unexpected situation. COVID19 is nothing like the passage the Israelites took, however, living in a pandemic has presented great challenges. So many lives have been lost. So many medical professionals have sacrificed so much. People have lost loved ones. People have lost their health. Economic disparities and injustice have been made clear. Many of us are tired of staying home and putting things on hold. This is a hard time.

I know there are times when each of us has been compelled by love to do something beyond ourselves, beyond our comfort levels, beyond our imagination. There are ways we have shown that Christ is our home in the way that we see and share Christ with others. That love grounds our interactions, spurs generosity, prompts our service. Love takes us where we don't expect to go!

Homecoming is something to celebrate! It may not feel the same. We won't get to have our picnic lunch, but it will be special! Our home is in Christ. No matter where we are, no matter how close or far we are to home, we have a home in our Lord Jesus Christ, and in Holy Baptism, Christ makes a home in us. We may be taken to uncomfortable places, new spaces, and different circumstances, but we can always come back to the promise of our Holy Baptism. We are claimed by God in the waters of baptism and brought into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Our home is forever made with Christ.

So maybe there is some truth beyond the wisdom of my wall sign. Love can also take us to unexpected places. I'm looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 12 for the Sigmon Stringers Concert and Sunday, September 13 at 8:30 AM for our Drive-in Homecoming Service!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adrienne



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Sardis Continues Social Ministry Outreach During COVID 19

The SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE on Sunday, August 16 was a great success! Thanks to all who donated items. You made a difference in the lives of the community's children and teachers. Many pencils, crayons, composition books, glue sticks, packs of notebook and copy paper, as well as bottles of hand sanitizer were collected. The school supplies were delivered to Banoak and Blackburn Elementary Schools on Monday, August 17. Both principals were very appreciative of all the donations. Since students cannot share glue sticks, crayons, pencils, etc. for fear of spreading the virus, the items will contribute to the safety of the students. *Once again, members of the Sardis congregation are ministering to the community.*

The next ministry focus of the Social Committee will be collecting and packaging PERSONAL CARE KITS during the September Drive in Service. As with the school supplies, just place the items in a bag in front of your car and the Social Committee will gather after the service. As in the past, these kits will be distributed to the homeless to help maintain their health. In 2020 Cleanliness may not be next to godliness, but it may help prevent the spread of germs and it certainly helps a person feel more human. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germs fighting and the chance to regain dignity from uncertainty.

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20 in. x 40 in. to 52 in x 27 in)
- Two bath-size bars of soap, any brand, in original wrapping.
- One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging.
- One sturdy comb (no picks) or fine-toothed combs.
- One metal nail clippers, remove packaging.

All items must be new and in good condition.

Note: For those of you who do not have the opportunity to shop for the kits, members of the Social Committee will purchase them for you at \$7.00 per kit. The Social Committee will also be collecting these items in October.

The Social Ministry Committee will also be collecting COATS FOR THE HOMELESS during September, October, and November. Please bring the coats to church and put them on the table beside the food basket if we have in person service or in front of your cars if we continue the monthly drive in service. The coats must be in good condition. They should be for men, women, and children. In addition, the coats should be of all sizes. Thank you!

Finally, ECCCM needs your EGG CARTONS! Since many churches are not meeting in person, donations are way down. The staff of the ECCCM cannot distribute the eggs donated unless they have clean cartons to repackage the eggs. On occasion, the personnel were not able to repackage the eggs in a timely manner due to a shortage of donated egg cartons. Please either bring by the church or place in front of your car.

Thanks to all the congregation members who, in spite of not meeting in person, continue to work directly and indirectly with the many needs of our community during this difficult time. Whether it be Saturday Shut in Meals, online services and Sunday School, various collections or direct support to individuals, each recipient feels the caring and love of our church members. What a blessing to give!

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
July 12, 2020

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

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

Minutes from the May 12 Council Meeting, the called May 26 Council Meeting, and the called June 26 Council Meeting was distributed earlier to members to read and be ready to submit changes. No changes were made. Motion was made by Ken to accept the minutes as presented, Jon 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 \$19,285.60 as of June 30, 2020; the Building Fund balance was \$3,435.63; the Cemetery Fund was \$1,437.69. Bruce made a motion to accept the Financial Report as read, Rick seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:

Grace and Peace to you! I hope you all are able to stay in and stay well in this time of pandemic. It is an unusual and difficult time in our country and world and I pray for God to lead us in acting faithfully. I believe that loving our neighbor faithfully means wearing our masks!

I am grateful for how we have thoughtfully and carefully worked together to continue being church during this time. We have made a lot of decisions that haven't been easy, but have so far have done our part to stymie the spread of the virus. I am grateful for everyone's leadership and commitment to our mission and ministry. Despite these restrictive circumstances, we have continued to have weekly worship and continue to engage in ministry to each other and the community. Our giving has been outstanding and I am so appreciative of the generosity of the congregation.

Since our last council meeting, I have continued to respond to pastoral needs and requests as best I can. During this time of social restriction, I reach out through phone calls and respond to requests to socially distanced appointments at the church. Even though our rhythms have been interrupted and our schedules changed, life goes on. Surgeries, illness, celebrations, challenges, and deaths continue to happen. Additional challenges and opportunities come with the stress and uncertainty of the time.

Our plans for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women have changed. Our original plans included Pastors Anna Merritt and Mary Louise and I to each have services crafted to this celebration. However, due to the pandemic and travel dangers and restrictions both Pastors Anna and Mary Louise feel that they need to hold off on coming as numbers have spiked in North Carolina and Catawba County. They were scheduled to come in September, however, we will postpone those plans and I will preach for Homecoming. We will however keep our plans to celebrate Women's Ordination on August 16th. Frank, Becky, and I will be working on this service and I am looking forward to it!

Here is a summary of our ministry since we last met:

- Podcast on Women in Ministry, St. John's Salisbury, Thursday, May 14
- Red Cross Blood Drive, Wednesday, May 20
- Visitation and funeral for Grace Hoyle, Friday May 29
- Confirmation of Samuel Biggerstaff, Sunday, May 31
- Prayer Vigil in Downtown Hickory, Friday June 5
- First Drive-in Worship Service, Sunday, June 7
- Catawba Conference Service for the Emmanuel 9 at St. Andrews, Tuesday, June 9
- Vacation Bible School, Sunday, June 15-17 (40 children served!)
- Children's Time Recording starting June 24 and continuing weekly
- Drive-in worship service, Sunday, July 5th
- Social Ministry Food Drive, Sunday, July 5th
- Continuing Education: Webinar on Faith-Based Advocacy, Thursday, July 9, 2020
- Lifeline Video
- Continuing Education and Racial Justice Network

Upcoming

- Celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, Sunday, August 16 with Holy Communion
- Vacation last week of August/early September

Old Business

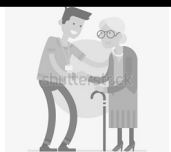
- Ken reported that the office air conditioning had been fixed by Jeff Wilson at no cost to the church.
- Joe reported that the no touch soap and sanitizer dispensers were installed at the church. Since these were not to be installed until August, Joe his going to check if we will be charged for July.
- Ken stated that he would like to thank the people that had been helping with the parking and the setting up of the drive in services.

New Business

- Jon presented a motion from the Evangelism Committee to reschedule the Sigman Stringers to September 12th and have an outdoor drive in concert. Tim second the motion. Motion carried.
- Pastor Adrienne thanked the congregation for continuing to give during this time.
- Pastor Adrienne also stated that she has had several organizations call requesting financial support, including Safe Harbor and LaVie Christian Academy. Jane attended a Safe Harbor Zoom meeting and learned that have created new ways of giving for individuals that benefit organizations. Individuals may make donations to Safe Harbor and in return for these donations, Safe Harbor will credit the organization (in our case Sardis) for the donation. In return, Safe
- Harbor would send out a gift card quarterly to their Resource Center that would be given to us to hand out to folks needing financial assistance. If members make donations, they would need to indicate that to Safe Harbor so that Sardis would get credit for it. We would also need a contact person for Safe Harbor to inform when donations are made. We will include more details about this in the newsletter. Joe is going to check with Dwayne to see if we have the finances to make a donation at this time.
- Follow-up to above item: Joe checked with Dwayne about helping the organizations out. Dwayne recommended giving Safe Harbor \$500. Via email discussion, Kathy made a motion to give Safe Harbor \$500. Sherrie seconded the motion. Motion carried with 10 affirmative votes via text and email.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary



The Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens Will not meet in September.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee at Sardis is pleased to announce that on Homecoming Weekend Saturday September 12th, at 6:00pm on the front lawn; *The Sigmon Stringers* will be in concert. This event was scheduled to take place in July, but because of covid-19 we had to cancel. This will be a drive-up concert and we hope that you will be in attendance. The event is free. There will be a free-will offering taken up to benefit Catawba County Meals On Wheels.

The Sigmon Stringers are a three-generation bluegrass band from Newton, NC that has been performing since the early 70's. The band was begun by Clinton Sigmon and his two sons, Randy and Mark along with Ray Barger.

The band has performed at Merlefest, the Rex Theatre in Galax, Blue Ridge Music Center on the Parkway, WKBC's Hometown Opry in North Wilkesboro, Hart's Square Festival (Hickory), Galax Leaf and String Festival, the Concerts on the Lawn Series in Boone, Bele Chere in Asheville, Red, White and Bluegrass Festival and the NC State Fair to name a few.

The kids along with Mark, Randy, Clinton Sigmon and Ray Barger are fun to watch and make great listening. The kids fast flying fingers will amaze and delight any age audience.

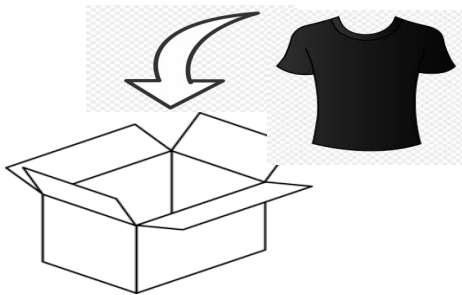


We have partnered with Safe Harbor's ReSource Warehouse! When you donate your gently used items such as clothing, household goods, home décor, tools, etc. to ReSource Warehouse, be sure and tell them to you attend this church. This allows us to earn gift cards to their thrift store to distribute to people in need! Have a large donation? Schedule a pickup at www.resourcewarehouse.org 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.

YOUR
"EXTRA"
CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE!



IT'S SIMPLE.



DONATE YOUR GENTLY-USED CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO SAFE HARBOR'S RE-SOURCE WAREHOUSE.



OUR CHURCH GETS CREDIT FOR YOUR DONATION THROUGH THE CORNERS OF YOUR FIELD PROGRAM.



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



A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

Instituted by Jesus Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke, and also St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

We are told in the words "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins." By these words the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking produce such great effects?

The eating and drinking do not in themselves produce them, but the words "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins." These words, when accompanied by the bodily eating and drinking, are the chief thing in the sacrament, and he who believes these words has what they say and declare: the forgiveness of sins.

Who, then, receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are a good external discipline, but he is truly worthy and well prepared who believes these words: "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins." On the other hand, he who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.

Dear Friends,
 Thank you so much for your recent donation to Safe Harbor — you are a blessing! Women's lives continue to be transformed here, and you truly are playing a part to make that possible! They are being freed from their addiction, obtaining permanent housing & sustainable employment. The sweetest part is they are being reunited with their children! These are just some of the many things you help make possible when you partner with Safe Harbor!

So again, Thank You!

Blessings & Health
 Jackie



**Yoder Family in North Carolina
 Descendants of Conrad Yoder**



**Annual Reunion Announcement: Sunday, October 25, 2020
 St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Maiden, NC**

Due to precautionary restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Conrad Yoder family reunion is **postponed from our traditional date of the second Sunday in August**. Pending improved conditions, we will tentatively plan to gather on **Sunday, October 25, 2020**. Prior to our business meeting, we will enjoy a covered-dish lunch at **1:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, the former parish of Rev. Robert Anderson Yoder (pastor 1898-1900; 1901-1905).

Address for St. Martin's Lutheran Church:

214 West Main St.
 Maiden, NC 28650

You will receive an update as the date approaches. We hope to see you in October!

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Howard Yoder
 President, Yoder Family in North Carolina
yoder234@hotmail.com (Cell: 828-485-7155)

September Birthdays

ALTAR FLOWERS

9/2	Dorothea Wyant Amy Jones	Sept 6	Betty Whitener
9/3	Faye Hoke	Sept 13	Ethan & Heather Carroll
9/6	Ken Propst	Sept 20	Darrell Jarrett
9/8	Tim Whitener	Sept 27	Bill & Mae Whitener
9/11	Nena Babb		
9/17	Amanda Revetta Lexie Wood		
9/22	Jennifer M. Whitener		

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Jon Gladden	6th	Jon Gladden
	13th	Gene Biggerstaff
	20th	Tim Whitener
	27th	Ray Whitener

Anniversaries:

Ray & Margaret Whitener 9-11
David & Mildred Fulbright 9-27
Ralph & Wanda Stallings 9-28

Baptismal Birthdays

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

1	Keri Weaver 1991	Sept 5	Dawn Covington
7	Logan Yow 2014 Avery Yow 2014	Sept 12	No Meal Delivery
13	Becky Roof Gladden 1959	Sept 19	Sylvia King
14	Edna Mae Fulbright 1941 (St. Peters)	Sept 26	No Meal Delivery
15'	Sherrie W. Midgett 1963 Neal Wyant 1968		
16	Ray Whitener 1956		
19	Garry Richard 1948		
21	Benjamin Glenn Fulbright 1941 (Mt. Hebron)		
21	Sally Jane P. Moretz 1950		
26	R. Chad Teague 1971		
27	Dorothea Wyant 1959 Tim Whitener 1959 Amy J. Sturgill 1987		
29	Nena Hood Babb 1957 Gregory Fulbright 1957 Monte Speagle 1957 Rick Lutz 1957 Mike Lutz 1957 Roger Lutz 1957		
30	Roger Dale Teague (Corinth Bapt. Church)		
???	Ken Propst 1951		

September 2020 Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 FB Worship Live	7	8	9	10	11	12 6:00 Sigmon Stringers
13 8:30 Homecoming Drive In Worship Service FB Live 7:00 Council Meeting via ZOOM	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 FB Worship Live	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 FB Worship Live	28	29	30			
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.						

****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

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff, biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com

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

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.

Methods for Giving

Gifts may be made online by clicking on the green “Give” button on our NEW website 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**

