

# Friendly Messenger

## Welcome! A Holy Part of Love

Again and again in scripture, we read about love. We read about God's love for us and the world. The late Reverend Billy Graham is quoted as having said that the Holy Bible is God's love letter to us, not just telling us but showing us what God has done to demonstrate that love.

We also come to understand that our response to that love is to show that love to others. Love the stranger, the alien, the neighbor, the enemy, anyone in need, the least of these, believers, non-believers, our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. In sum, we are called to love one another. Whenever God speaks of showing our love for Him, it is always coupled with showing love to people.

God, in the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, demonstrated the ultimate act of love. This act of love crossed all boundaries: space vs. time, human vs. divine, brother vs. sister, Jew vs. Greek, slave vs. free, law vs. spirit. Jesus showed God's love for everybody. As it was then, it is now. It is not easy to show love to everyone, especially in a divisive political climate. Despite all circumstances, God's love extends acceptance. God's love extends welcome.

Perhaps especially in such climates, Jesus calls us by name to follow him. As the embodiment of God's love, Jesus welcomed all people in God's family through himself. Welcome is an important expression of love. Welcome tells us that we are loved; that we are accepted. The act of welcome is an act of discipleship.

I used to always love the welcoming reunion I received when I would come home from college. I would walk in and see my parents with big smiles and open arms. They would laugh and squeeze me tightly, telling me how glad they were that I was home for a visit. And when I would visit my home congregation, I was greeted with similar welcome.

Welcome is a wonderful part of reunion. Welcome is perhaps even more important when we are entering something new. For example, entering a new land, joining a new group, or walking into a new building. If we are shut out, ignored, or mistreated it is likely we will leave and never return. However, if we receive a message that we are welcome and valued, that is a completely different experience, a much better one!

As a church, welcome is part of our mission and discipleship. You will see an article later in the newsletter about the Evangelism sub-committee that is thinking about how we can welcome people into our building and God's mission here at Sardis.

It is a holy endeavor and I hope you will share any ideas you may have with a committee member.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Adrienne*

**Church Office 704-462-2081**  
**Pastor, The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin**  
**(C) 469-243-5237    Pastor@sardislutheran.net**

**Council President, Dwayne Whitener (828) 441-2113, President@sardislutheran.net**  
**Director of Music, Frank Griffin, Musician@sardislutheran.net**  
**Secretary/Treasurer, Sheila Ramsey Secretary@sardislutheran.net**

### **REQUEST from the CEMETERY & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Recently we have had several items to come up regarding the property and area of our cemetery. If you are placing flowers or other items on graves please do not place these in the area the graves are located, instead place as close to the headstone as possible. If there are no vases located at the headstone or plaque area please place your flowers or other items (*which must be approved before placement*) as close to the headstone as possible. (Either at the side or middle) Your help in this is greatly appreciated and helps us with the upkeep of our cemetery and grounds.

### **SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE PERSON RESPONSIBILITIES**

If you have signed up to serve on the Safety Committee, listed below is the responsibilities for each week.

- \* **Lock the Narthex doors during the processional Hymn**
- \* **Lock the doors at the end of the Educational building next**
- \* **Remain in the Narthex for late arrivals**
- \* **Some point during the service patrol the parking lot**
- \* **During the last Hymn unlock the doors**

Listed below is the schedule for **JULY** for those who volunteered.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Kimie Speagle
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Terry Bledsoe
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Rick Lutz
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Ken Propst
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Zach Stuart

If you have questions or concerns please let Dwayne know.



The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group meeting for July is on the 11th at Grace. All are welcome to come join our group for the fun, food, and fellowship.

### **Enhancing Sardis's Community Outreach**

The Evangelism Committee has an on-going conversation about ways to let everyone know of the good things happening at Sardis. Invitation is a very important means of outreach. Word of mouth and life testimony speak to others about our church. In addition, the Evangelism Committee has appointed a sub-committee to work on tangible ways to minister to the community and enhance visitor welcome. The sub-committee is beginning its work by looking at simple things such as reserved parking spots for visitors, signs clearly designating entry ways, and car magnets with a message about Sardis.

The committee is also studying long term projects – things such as adding a prayer area next to the playground so that people can have a prayerful moment as they watch their children, creating a display in the lobby that details the various leaders of the church, their responsibilities, and their contact information. The sub-committee also has an idea to create a visitor brochure with the more detailed information about the ministries at Sardis for Pastor Adrienne (or anyone) to use to acquaint prospective members with the many activities and opportunities to serve at Sardis. We are also considering a “visitor gift bag” with items that have the church’s contact information such as a pen, cup or other token.

The sub-committee invites input from everyone as they create a plan to present to the Evangelism Committee and then to the Council for approval. Are there things you have seen at other churches, things you think are outstanding about Sardis that needs to be shared, or great ideas that you think would enhance this effort?

The sub-committee members are Pastor Adrienne, Meredith Gladden, Ralph Stallings, Jill Bledsoe and Donna Biggerstaff. Be sure to share your thoughts with one of them or members of the Evangelism

### Sardis Lutheran Church

Members Present	Members Absent
Dwayne, Jane, Ben, Ken, Sherrie, Joe, Nelson, Ralph, Becky, Rick, David, Kathy, Pastor Adrienne	

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7pm. Joe had devotions. Minutes for the March Council meeting were read. Motion was made by Ralph to accept the minutes for March seconded by Joe, and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne; Ken motioned to accept the Treasures Report, Rick seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her report;

Made 30 visits

Evangelism Committee would like a sign of welcome in the Narthex, possibly

Thesis advisor suggested that she take a class prior to her research

She was the Career Sponsor for Zach on April 25<sup>th</sup>

She will be attending a 37 hour Continuing Education at the Catholic Conference Center the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Synod assembly is June 1-2 in Raleigh, Kathy has volunteered to go and we need one more volunteer.

#### Old Business

Constitution By-laws will be updated after the Synod Assembly in June.

Planting Hope; Dwayne and the pastor to discuss what time frame is involved, if we decide to participate in this we need a leader that will make this successful.

Dwayne is still preparing information to have another Task Force Discretionary Meeting.

Sheila is working on an address directory update.

Property Committee; Rick Lutz is needing suggestions on replacing the front doors; Ralph is getting quotes for cemetery paving.

The youth has spent \$3400.00 out of \$4300 raised to date. This was mostly in registration and travel fees.

The upcoming BBQ should finish what is needed

#### New Business

Ken motioned to split the offerings received during the Lenten services with ECCCM and the Corner Table, Nelson seconded and amended to add the Task Force Discretionary to the split, motion carried.

Nena will be playing when Frank is out with his surgery.

Quotes to date to replace Narthex doors is \$11,000.00

A note on proper placement of flowers and flags in our cemetery is being published in the bulletin and newsletter.

Cookesville Grill is having a Spirit Night on May 1<sup>st</sup>. 20% of proceeds will come back to Sardis if you mention Sardis to your waiter.

May Council Meeting is on Mother's Day so it was decided that we meet on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, July 29th**

On Sunday, July 29th during the Sunday School hour the group that attended the Youth Gathering in Houston will be doing a presentation of their trip. This has also been designated as Youth Sunday and during the Worship Service at 10:30am the Youth will be leading our Service. Make plans to come and see what God is accomplishing through the youth at Sardis and see the amazing things the ELCA has brought to them through the National Gathering.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

- 7/2 Kristin Teague
- 7/3 Frank Griffin
- 7/6 Alex Midgett
- 7/10 Allison W. Short
- 7/12 Pastor Martin
- 7/16 Becky Gladden
- 7/19 Dorothy Lutz
- 7/21 Rick Lutz  
Zayde Yousef
- 7/23 Carol Mayer
- 7/25 Rebecca Crawley
- 7/26 Wanda Stallings
- 7/29 Diane Cushing  
Brittany F. Johnson  
Susan Jones
- 7/31 Al King  
Monte Speagle

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Ben & Jennifer  
Whitener  
7-30**

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

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



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

- July 1<sup>st</sup>** Marilyn Teague Jane Moretz **No Communion**
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Jane Moretz Nate Johnson Ray Whitener
- July 15<sup>th</sup>** Tryston Sylvester Kathy Weaver Roger Teague
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Rylan Johnson Roger Teague Marilyn Teague
- July 29<sup>th</sup>** Marilyn Teague Bruce Sigman Jane Moretz

**USHERS**

Joe Wyant, Buster Bledsoe, Dwight Galdden, Al King

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- July 1<sup>st</sup>** Terry & Jill Bledsoe
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Dorothea Wyant
- July 15<sup>th</sup>** David & Mildred Fulbright
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Benny & Edna Fulbright / Linda Bandy
- July 29<sup>th</sup>** Randy & Joyce Speagle

**LAY READERS & GREETERS**

- July 1<sup>st</sup>** Marilyn Teague Leevada Wood, Lexi Wood
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Carolyn Truitt Jennifer Whitener, Kay Whitener
- July 15<sup>th</sup>** Kathy Weaver Carrie Yousef, Joe Wyant
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Jennifer Whitener Nena Babb, Linda Bandy
- July 29<sup>th</sup>** Ray Whitener Barbara E Whitener, Tryston Sylvester

**COMMUNION CLEAN-UP AND PREPARATION**

Marilyn Teague, Barbara J Whitener

**COUNCIL CONTACT**

Ralph Stallings

**ASSISTING MINISTER JULY**

Ralph Stallings

**SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY**

- July 7th** *No Meal Delivery*      **July 14th** Mattie Stuart
- July 21st** *No Meal Delivery*      **July 28th** Margaret Whitener

**OFFERING COUNTERS**

- July 1<sup>st</sup>** Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson, Dwayne Whitener
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King
- July 15<sup>th</sup>** Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Susan Jones, Sandra Roseman, Nena Babb
- July 29<sup>th</sup>** Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

- July 1<sup>st</sup>** April Fulbright
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Ben Whitener, Jennifer Whitener

### Are you 50 or Older?

Congratulations! You are invited to a “50Forward” Living Well retreat Oct. 19-21, 2018, at Lutheridge Conference Center near Asheville, NC. A group of four or more will give us a low discount rate of \$200/person for this weekend of inspiring speakers, valuable workshops and delightful community – gathered around the topic of LIVING MORE with LESS.

Details: 50forwardlife.com. I’m going. Join me!

Pr. Bill Miller-Zurell – (828) 294-9911 – [pitbillm@gmail.com](mailto:pitbillm@gmail.com)



### THANK YOU from ( Mary Vale Pals ) Cash & Mom April

Cash Fulbright and his mom walked really fast for the Krispy Kreme 5K this year in memory of Sister Mary Norman. Cash, James & Allie pictured are big pals at Mary Vale and raised money for Carcinoid Cancer Awareness and had fun.

2017—Wee Walker Team  
James, Cash, and Allie  
Cash sandwich!

### LUTHERIDGE & LUTHEROCK CAMPS

Lutheridge ( Asheville, NC) & Lutherock (Boone, NC) Camps offer safe, fun, faith filled experiences for children and youth, grades 1-12, including “First Camp” experiences, music emphasis, horseback riding and outdoor adventure activities of rock climbing, backpacking, and rafting. All programs are centered on community life with a wonderful college age well trained role model to facilitate Christian community life, share their faith, build cohesive cabin groups, provide safe boundaries and allow children and youth to have fun outdoors.

Lutheridge also offers 2 weeks of FAMILY CAMP, 2 GRANDPARENTS’ CAMP (half week program) and 2 FAMILY ADVENTURE PROGRAMS: Family Float (1/2 week program includes tubing and canoeing) and Family Climb ( 1/2 week program includes Indoor Climbing Wall, Challenge Tower and Zip Line. Generous scholarships are available. To learn more about programs & register pick up a brochure off table.

### FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

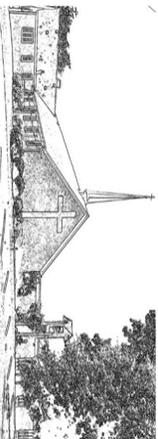
#### GIFTS OF LOVE

The Social Ministry Committee sends a note to the congregation regarding **THE CORNER TABLE SOUP KITCHEN**. We are asking for your support to provide handout bags for the less fortunate. To aid us in this project, please make your check to **SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH** and write soup kitchen in the memo. Place the check in offering plate.

#### THANK YOU

The Social Ministry committee wishes to thank you for donations to complete the PERSONAL CARE KITS. Also, thank you for collecting tabs from aluminum cans and gathering boxtops for education. In addition, thank you for being such faithful and diligent volunteers at the **ECCCM Ministry**.

# MAY



# JULY 2018

## Sardis Lutheran Church

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	Sunday School@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Pastor Martin Vacation	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Pastor Martin Vacation Sunday School@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	Sunday School @9:30 Worship @ 10:30	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	Sunday School@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Trinity Ridge @3:50	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	YOUTH SUNDAY Youth Trip Events @ 9:30 Youth Sunday @ 10:30 Prayer Group @ 11:45	30	31				