

Friendly Messenger

FEBRUARY 2019

A Baptismal Challenge

I have a challenge for you this month!

I would like for you to find out your baptismal birthday, that is, the day you were baptized. It is the day you were born into the Body of Christ!

My baptismal birthday is July 25, 1982. I was two weeks old and do not remember very much about the event or experience. I do not remember my family gathering or having water sprinkled over my head. I do not remember the long white baptismal gown I wore. However, that day changed the rest of my life—that I was marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Growing up, my Grandma would always remind of my baptismal birthday each year. I never really understood why it was important. We didn't have a celebration with cake or presents so it didn't seem like a significant day, but my Grandma was persistent in acknowledging it. She bought me a large coin medallion with a baptismal shell and the date. As I didn't care so much for it at the time, she displayed my medallion on her dresser along with the rest of my family's.

Looking back, I appreciate that she made a point to acknowledge my baptismal birthday, to let me know that it had meaning. As our birthdays are about the day we were brought into the world, our baptismal birthdays are about the day we were delivered from the world so that we might have true life, abundant life. The life of this world pales in comparison.

Our baptismal birthday marks the day we started living as children of God, joined to Christ in the waters of baptism. It is a journey. This journey starts on the day of our baptism and is completed on the day of our death. Baptism has consequences for our lives beyond this one, but it is more for HERE AND NOW!

I would like to suggest that our baptismal birthdays are more significant than our biological birthdays. In Holy Baptism, God claims our lives, gives us a vocation as disciples, and gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We become chosen. We may blow out our birthday candles on our birthday cakes, but for our baptismal birthdays, the light of Christ will never go out. In fact, what a gift if the light grows brighter!

Birthdays are a time to reflect on how we have grown and developed over the year. So are our baptismal birthdays. How have we grown as children of God? Have we grown closer to God? How have we lived out our faith that year? How have we heeded our call as disciples of Christ?

This month, I ask you to find out your baptismal birthday. Ask your family, look in family documents, or check out the parish register. When you find it, let me know! Later in the year, we will start recognizing and celebrating baptismal birthdays by month. Be sure to know yours! I pray we discover the fullness of this gift and promise.

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

Sardis Lutheran Church
Approved Council Minutes

Members Present
Dwayne, Jane, Ken, Sherrie, Rick, Joe, Becky, Nelson, Ben, Carolyn, Terry, Bruce, Tim, Pastor Adrienne

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7pm. Pastor Adrienne had prayer to open the meeting. Terry read minutes from the December Council Meeting. Two corrections were made. One to change the month to November for the Pastors Report and two to reflect a stranger entered the building in Ken's report. Motion was made by Rick to accept the minutes as presented, Ken seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne [REDACTED]; Jane motioned to accept the Treasure's Report, Becky seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report for December and upcoming events for January and February; 20 visits, Delivered Christmas gifts to family in Conover: Christmas Eve Service: Vacation December 25th through January 1st; Worship planning with Frank; Women of the ELCA; Vacation Bible School Planning (they will be submitting a grant for special funding); Memorial Service for Brenda Speagle. Upcoming : Ladies Night Out; Big Tent Gathering in Indianapolis: First Call Theological Educational Retreat at Camp Agape: Grant writing workshop in Mooresville: Women's Sunday Feb 17th.

Pastor Adrienne stated that Brian and Phyllis Hood along with Katherine, Caden, Paisley, and Malia would like to become members. Ken motioned we accept them, Sherry seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

- * Jane reported on the Pictorial Directory. It has gone to press for a proof copy. The proof will be back the 1st of February. We should receive in about three weeks after the final proof.
- * Dwayne reported that the septic tank line would be replaced as soon as weather permitting.
- * Dwayne reminder the Council to lock doors at all times meetings are being held at church. Please remind members to do the same.

New Business

- Dwayne stated that the 2019 Committee Reports will be reviewed at the next meeting or at the Council Retreat. The goal of the reports is to look out 3 to 5 years and plan for that timeframe. The Council Retreat will be March 16th at the church starting at 9:00. The March Council meeting will follow the retreat activities.
- * Dwayne asked if the Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve offering had been designated for a specific purpose. They had not. Ken made a motion that 1/2 be placed in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and 1/2 in the Church Discretionary Fund. Jane seconded, motion carried.
- * Dwayne stated that the Annual Congregational Meeting will be February 3, 2019 after worship. We will be providing a lunch. Council decided to have Normans to cater the event. Terry is to arrange for the meal. Council is to help serve the meal.
- * Dwayne distributed updated Council assignment and information sheets for 2019
- * Ken stated that the Property Committee agreed with the Council that the Narthex doors need to be replaced. The Council has a quote for steel doors for \$11,020 but the Council wanted to look a more attractive options. Terry is to look at options and pricing for the doors.
- * Ken stated that the Welcome Committee has asked to place "Enter to Worship", "Exit to Serve" signs at the end of the driveway. They have also asked to reserve to parking spaces for visitors. Funding is already in the budget, the Welcome Committee is to handle this with the Property Committee.

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- Ken stated that the Property Committee had decided to contract with Scottie Cook to fertilize, reseed and spray the lawn of a regular basis. Funding already approved. No action needed.
- * Ken stated that the shrubbery on the lower side of the cemetery needed to be cut back. Dwayne stated there was money available to hire someone. Property Committee to handle.
- * Ken reported that Rick Lutz was working on replacing the lights in the fellowship hall with LED lights. Anyone wanting the old lights are free to take them.
- * Carolyn stated that there was not a handicap space at the front of the church for a wheelchair. This was referred back to the Property Committee.
- * Becky gave out a calendar for special worship dates for 2019. It is included at the end of the minutes.
- Jane stated the Tech Committee checked on the license to stream the Sunday Service live via FB and also put on the Website. Also music options for funerals, weddings etc. To add streaming to our current license would add 1/2 to the current cost for a total for about \$300. Jane made a motion to expand the license to cover streaming. Rick seconded , motion carried.

February Council Meeting will be on the 10th after the Congregational Meeting.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

A Letter to Sardis Congregation

I am writing this letter to the congregation at Sardis to let you know how much I have enjoyed and appreciated the time I have spent as your Church Secretary/Treasurer.

In January, I was approached and had the opportunity for a full time job for a company located in Hickory and I accepted. I started my new job on January 14th and have since continued the job here at Sardis. With my new job I will no longer be able to continue as your Secretary/Treasurer. If you would be interested in this position please let Dwayne Whitener know.

With God's Blessings,
Sheila Ramsey

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING—FEBRUARY 3RD

After worship on Sunday, February 3rd the youth will be standing outside the sanctuary collecting money in Soup Pots to donate to the Hickory Soup Kitchen. Please give to this worthy cause.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have our Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 3rd after Worship. It will be catered by Norman's. Lunch will be chicken, ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, slaw and rolls. The congregation is asked to provide desserts. Plan to come fellowship and see what Sardis as a congregation did in 2018.

BOLD WOMENS SUNDAY

Sunday, February 17th

Make plans to come to this Service to see what our WELCA have planned

Evangelism Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 19th at 7pm

BIRTHDAYS

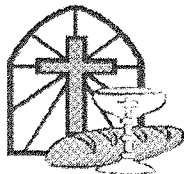
2/1	Evie Jo Carroll
2/6	Margaret Propst
2/7	Ray Fulbright
2/8	Grace Hoyle
2/9	Bill Whitener
2/10	Ethan Carroll
2/15	Amy S. Kilpatrick
	Mike Whitener
2/16	Buster Bledsoe
	Hope Gladden
	Jamie H. Powell
2/21	Sylvia King
	Ashley Yow
2/23	Kathryn Bledsoe
2/25	Carolyn Hoyle
2/26	Gerald Nail
2/27	Jeff Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Mae Whitener
2-3
Dwayne & Barbara Whitener
2-11

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

Thank you



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Feb. 3 rd	Hayden Johnson	Marilyn Teague	Marilyn Teague
Feb. 10 th	Tryston Sylvester	Bruce Sigman	Jon Gladden
Feb. 17 th	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Becky Gladden
Feb. 24 th	Ray Whitener	Jane Moretz	Al King

USHERS

Women of ELCA (Alternating weekly)

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 3 rd	Dwayne & Barbara Whitener
February 10 th	Nena Babb
February 27 th	Ken & Margaret Propst
February 24 th	Women of ELCA

LAY READERS & GREETERS

Feb. 3 rd	Jon Gladden	Al King, Margaret Whitener
Feb. 10 th	Hope Gladden	Annette Richard, Ben Fulbright
Feb. 17 th	Sylvia King	Betty Sue Whitener, Evelyn Fulbright
Feb. 24 th	Al King	Felicia Hollar, Kay Whitener

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP AND PREPARATION

Sandra Roseman, Barbara J Whitener

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Jane Moretz

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY

Feb. 2 nd	No Meal Delivery	Feb. 9 th	Jill Bledsoe
Feb. 16 th	No Meal Delivery	Feb. 23 rd	Dawn Covington

OFFERING COUNTERS

Feb. 3 rd	Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson, Dwayne Whitener
Feb. 10 th	Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King
Feb. 17 th	Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener
Feb. 24 th	Susan Jones, Nena Babb, Sandra Roseman

FEBRUARY SECURITY

Feb. 3 rd	Darrell Jarrett	Feb. 10 th	Ralph Stallings
Feb. 17 th	Ken Propst	Feb. 24 th	Zach Stuart

Delivery Week

February 8 th	Dawn Covington, Carolyn Truitt
February 15 th	Gene & Donna Biggerstaff
February 22 nd	Rick & Rita Lutz
March 1 st	Dwayne & Barbara Whitener

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Monthly Food Pickup

Warehouse
Barbara Whitener



Seniors

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meets on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet February 6th at Grace Lutheran. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

CALLING ALL LADIES— Sardis Sisters Night Out

Women of Sardis have enjoyed three "*Ladies Night Out*" adventures. Dinner at the Blue Moon, painted and decorated Christmas door signs, and Dinner & Bingo at Kick Back Jack's.

Our next adventure for Ladies Night Out is on Tuesday, February 12th. "*Bowling at Pin Station*" in Newton. The group will arrive around 6:00 and bowl/cheer/laugh until they are ready to return home. The cost of the night is **\$2** for shoes and **\$3.25 per game (or games)**. All Sardis women, friends and community members are invited. The bowling skill level of the group is all over the scale. At least one of the group currently bowls on a league. Several of the Sardis women have not bowled in a while, but plan on dusting off their bowling balls and hoping for at least one strike. Many more women have bowled none or only a few games and hope to avoid too many gutter balls. Some more women are not going to bowl but will be the cheering section. There is a snack bar where you can purchase sandwiches and sodas, if interested. Regardless of your preference, a good time will be had by all.

This is the fourth Ladies Night Out. There have been 20+ attendees at the other outings. This is a good chance for fellowship and to support each other in our daily lives. Hope to see you there.

WELCA NEWS

There are two opportunities for you to strengthen your faith and have a great time meeting neighbors and new friends in the coming weeks. First, a ONE DAY RETREAT will be held at St. Andrews ELCA in Hickory on February 16, from 9 to 2:30 pm. The program is "Love as God Loves" and is open to all women high school age and older. The cost is \$10 and includes snack, lunch, and the program materials. Register by Feb. 4th 2019. Nena Babb will be attending, so give your registration form (on narthex table) to her and save on your postage! Second, the SPRING RETREAT will be held as usual at Kure Beach Retreat Center March 8-10. Speak with Robin, Cynthia, Kathy, Miriam, or Nena for the scoop on this Fun event! Cost is \$110 for the two nights, 4 meals event, entitled "I AM SHE". Discover your boldest bold!

Brochures are on the narthex table.

February Food Drive

The members of Sardis continue to reach out to the community to help those in need. In addition to the *Banoak Backpack Program* and the *Bag Lunches for the Homeless*, the Women of Sardis will again be sponsoring a canned food drive for the Eastern Catawba County Cooperative Christian Ministry (ECCCM) during the month of February. Please remember those less fortunate as you are doing your grocery shopping during January and February. Placing an extra can(s) of food in your cart may seem a small sacrifice, but to needy families and individuals it's not a small matter. Many individuals and families depend on their twice monthly pickups at ECCCM to help put food on their table. The staff and volunteers at ECCCM attempt to help each client meet the nutrition needs based on interviews and documentation.

The schedule for our collection is:

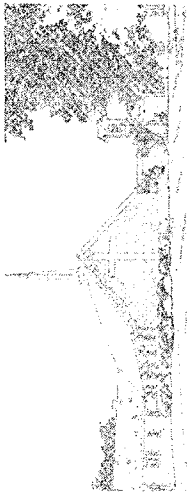
Sunday, February 3rd – FRUIT

Sunday, February 10th – VEGETABLES

Sunday, February 17th – MEAT

Sunday, February 24th – PASTA.

Thanks to all who share their blessings by reaching out to those in need.



FEBRUARY 2019

Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School @ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Congregational Meeting with lunch after worship	Bible Study @ 10	Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7	Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7		Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School @ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Confirmation @ 3:00	PASTOR MARTIN at FIRST CALL RETREAT	NO Bible Study PASTOR MARTIN at FIRST CALL RETREAT	Nellie B's @ 10 Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7		Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School @ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 T		NO Bible Study Pastor Martin at Conference Evangelism Committee Meeting @ 7pm	Prayer Service 6:30 Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7	INFORMATION FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER DUE IN OFFICE	Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	
24	25	26	27	28		
Sunday School @ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Prayer Group @ 11:45 Trinity Ridge @ 3:50	Sardis Day to Volunteer at ECCCM	Bible Study @ 10	Nellie B's @ 10 Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7			