

Friendly Messenger

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

This year, the Resurrection of our Lord fell on April Fool’s Day. April Fool’s Day is a day of pranks, disguises, and hoaxes. Its origins are unknown although it is linked to several possible traditions in 18th century Britain, middle ages in France, and even ancient Rome.

On Sunday, April 1st, we were let in on the great cosmic joke that Jesus’ tomb was empty, and that Death had lost. Jesus had undergone betrayal, torture, and death on the cross, surely, Death thought, the Son of God is dead. Haha, God’s love can be contained.

Then, early on the third day, some women went to the tomb.
And.....

BOOM! THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

Now emptiness is not something most people see as “a good” in our culture. However, in this case, on this day, emptiness gave us everything. The empty tomb was a complete game changer. The rug was pulled from under Death and to the delight of the company of heaven and earth, Death fell!

It was the ultimate cosmic joke. It IS the ultimate cosmic joke. A comedian I recently listened to said that a good joke pays dividends beyond its telling. Usually this means that long after the prank happens or the joke is told, it continues to reap its joyful benefits (unless it was at your expense!).

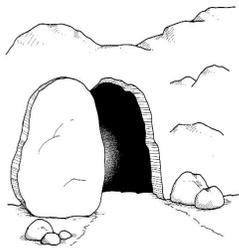
Fortunately, the cosmic joke of the empty tomb is a joke FOR our expense, not AT our expense. God gave God’s only Son to cover the expense of our sin so that we are free from sin and death. Furthermore, there was absolutely nothing Death could do. God’s love cannot be contained!

That is not to say that we do not live in a world without sickness, sin, and death. We do. It does not mean we will not suffer. We will. It DOES mean, however, that sickness, sin, death, and suffering are not hopeless; they are not permanent; they are not a barrier between us and God. Jesus the Christ, the Beginning and End, the Light and Life, the Grace-filled Word of God mediates for us so we may glory in the presence of our Holy and Almighty God.

This month, let us revel in this Good News!

Pastor Adrienne

Easter Blessings,



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

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



150th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH MUGS

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR MUG YET!!

We still have a few

The 150th Anniversary Committee invite you to purchase a Sardis Lutheran Church Mug that is pictured above. One side has the church name and the other serving Christ since 1867.

Each are \$5. Make checks payable to Sardis ELCA. You can pick up your mug or mugs and place the money in the box labeled on the shelf in the narthex.



Seniors

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet on **April 4th** at Plateau. All are welcome to come join our group for the fun, food, and fellowship.

CARE PACKAGES from Sardis to Kristin, Marilyn & Roger Teague

We are collecting items to send in weekly care packages to Kristin, Marilyn, and Roger Teague while they are in Cleveland for the next several weeks. Some suggestions include cheese peanut butter crackers, instant grits and oatmeal packets, gift cards, fruit (oranges, apples), little notes or

Journeys of Paul Cruise”

Journeys of Paul Cruise” - Join Pastors Bill & Mary Miller-Zurell next Sept 26 – Oct 7, 2018 on a “Journeys of Paul Cruise” aboard Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas. Sail roundtrip from Rome, Italy and stop in Sicily, Mykonos, Ephesus, Santorini, Athens & Corinth, Pompeii, and Ancient Rome. We are adding a Vatican City Post Tour! Ten (10) of us have already registered. Fares include round-trip from Charlotte. For more information, contact Pr. Bill at pitbillm@gmail.com or call at 828-294-9911. Brochures available. We had a ball touring Israel and Egypt in 2016 and are looking forward to enjoying seeing the lands where the Apostle Paul walked as well!

Sardis Lutheran Church

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

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 1pm. Jane had devotions. Minutes for the January Council meeting were read. Motion was made by Ralph to accept the minutes for January, with the correction that monies from the Scholarship Fund cannot be used for the Youth Conference and to that amend the monies will come from the General Fund, seconded by Sherrie, and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne; Rick

motioned to accept the Treasures Report, Ken seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her report.

- Discussion was had on the Planting Hope conference attended by Joe, Mike, Sherrie, Kathy and the Pastor
 - * The theme is that we all have a distinct mission from God for this time and place and may be open to the work of the Holy Spirit. In practice, it is a coaching process that invites us to discern questions such as "what is going on in our congregation now as opposed to five years ago?"
- Pastor is putting a bulletin board at the front of the church for members to post their thoughts on **"Who we are. Where God is. Love abounds. Grow where it is. Share where it leads."**

Old Business

- Went through each committee's work sheets and discussed what each committee needs from the council for 2018 and the committee's plans.
 - * **Altar Committee** – just whatever support they can get for projects that might come up
 - * **Scholarship Committee** – Review applications and follow guidelines
 - * **Evangelism Committee** – Reception should be held to welcome new members; wants to have a bulletin board to post Outreach information etc.
 - * **Music and Worship Committee** – Provide training and encourage more people to participate in worship service, i.e. acolyte, crucifer, ushers.
 - * **Property Committee** – Change windows in back of church; workdays in spring and fall, need everyone's help; pave cemetery road; install motion lights; add locks to doors; trim shrubs
 - * **Energy and Safety Committee** – get members to join this committee
- Cemetery update; D.H. Workman, Civil War Veteran, a marker is being made for his grave by a family member.
 - * Received monies for 2 plots
 - * Jenkins FH exhumed the body of Starr Rudisill and placed into a new grave site. The charge was \$1835.50
- Task Force Committee will meet concerning how to go forward with security plans

New Business

- ◇ Planting Hope, the discussion was continued from the Pastor's report; the charge to participate in this program will be \$500.00 per congregation, but as part of the synodical Holy Experiment the cost will be \$250.00. A Planting Hope "taster" event was held early 2018. Council decided to table this discussion until next meeting.
- ◇ The Evangelism Committee request a Bingo night for donations to go to the Youth Conference
- ◇ A Church Directory is in need of an update. A sheet has been placed in the Narthex for each member to update their information. Please include all phone numbers and emails you can be reached at.
- ◇ A community wide BBQ is being planned for May 19th from 11 – 4, with proceeds going to Youth Conference
- ◇ Going forward, council minutes will not be posted in the Newsletter until approved by the council.
- ◇ Property Committee will continue having the church sprayed for bugs quarterly. The septic tank was pumped at a cost of \$1500.00. all lines are in good shape at this point.

Next council meeting to be held on March 11, 2018.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

FUNDRAISING for 2018 YOUTH GATHERING

**"Need any work done around the house? Have windows that need to be washed?
A fence that needs to be mended? Donations that need to be dropped off?"**

Our youth would love to help you! Please contact Robin at 828-514-6058 or Jennifer at 828-228-8067 if you have any odd jobs our youth can complete for you in an effort to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering."



ASSISTANT MINISTER TRAINING / REFRESHER

Would you be interested in helping with our weekly Worship Service by serving as Assistant Minister? If so you are invited to attend this training refresher class led by Pastor Martin . Come join us

Sunday, April 15th

From the Evangelism Committee
Evangelism Meeting Thursday, April 5th at 7:00 pm

Family Night Bingo

Saturday, April 21st at 7:00pm

This will be a fundraiser for the Youth and advisors. Popcorn, drinks, and ice-cream will be served. The event at the church will be sponsored by The Evangelism Committee. Invite your friends to come and have a fun-filled night.

NOTE FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

PLEASE contact a member of the cemetery committee before setting a tombstone. This is to help in the future to eliminate the problems of graves being improperly marked or mismarked . Your help in this is

News from the ANGELS for CHRIST

The ANGELS for Christ had a busy month in March. The youth and adults going to Houston for the National Youth Gathering did a spaghetti lunch after worship on March 18th. The spaghetti luncheon was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to all who came out and supported these individuals. Thank you to Barbara Whitener for working with her contacts to get some of the items donated for us. Thank you to Ray and Margaret Whitener for sharing some of what was left from the Shepherd's dinner the night before.

Donations collected from the luncheon were \$ 830.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. Due to the rainy and cold weather we held all the activities inside. Activities included hunting Easter Eggs multiple times, coloring and using stickers on a wooden cross, Making pom pom animals, coloring Easter eggs. They enjoyed a snack and all children in attendance took home an Easter Basket full of goodies. Thank you to Donna Biggerstaff for baking and bringing the cupcakes and some of the stuff for the Easter Baskets. Thank you to Teresa Starkey and Kendra Starkey for helping with crafts and getting things bought for the Egg Hunt.

BIRTHDAYS

4/1 April Fulbright
 4/5 Marvin Kiser
 4/7 Rick Johnson
 James Ruggles
 4/8 Isaac Hollar
 Jane Moretz
 Hayden Johnson
 4/9 Cooper Carroll
 4/11 Jon Gladden
 Jeff Gladden
 Felicia Hollar
 4/12 Alma Fulbright
 Carolyn McGinnis
 4/20 Elaine Jarrett
 4/23 Greg Fulbright
 4/25 Marilyn Teague
 4/28 Tammy Richardson
 4/30 Chris Johnson
 Cynthia Purcelle

ANNIVERSARIES

Jon & Becky Gladden
 4-12
 Randy & Joyce Speagle
 4-13
 Marilyn & Roger Teague
 4-17
 Jeff & Rebecca Wilson
 4-17
 Richard & Dawn Covington
 4-21
 Ethan & Heather Carroll

****NOTE****

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

4-1 Wanda & Ralph Stallings
 4-8 Margaret Whitener
 4-15 Nena Babb
 4-22 Robin & Cynthia
 4-29 Need Volunteers

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT

April 1st Tryston Sylvester Jon Gladden Rev. Bill Miller-Zurrell
April 8th Kathy Weaver Roger Teague Tim Whitener
April 15th Samuel Biggerstaff Bruce Sigman Dawn Covington
April 22nd Kathy Weaver Roger Teague Ray Whitener
April 29th Ray Whitener Marilyn Teague Carolyn Truitt

USHERS

Wesley Weaver, Ralph Stallings, Ethan Carroll, Tommy Hoyle

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 1st Dwight & Hope Gladden
April 8th Betty Clay
April 15th David & Rebecca Ritz
April 22nd Carolyn Truitt
April 29th Ben & Jennifer Whitener

LAY READERS & GREETERS

April 1st Jennifer Whitener Carrie Yousef, Joe Wyant
April 8th Ray Whitener Nena Babb, Linda Bandy
April 15th Hope Gladden Barbara E Whitener, Tryston Sylvester
April 22nd Dwayne Whitener Nena Babb, Linda Bandy
April 29th Nena Babb Jill Bledsoe, Evelyn Fulbright

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP AND PREPARATION

Wanda Stallings, Jane Moretz

COUNCIL CONTACT

Joe Biggerstaff

ASSISTING MINISTER APRIL

Ray Whitener

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY

April 7th Margaret Propst **April 14th** *No Meal Delivery*
April 21st Dawn Covington **April 28th** *No Meal Delivery*

OFFERING COUNTERS

April 1st Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson, Dwayne Whitener
April 8th Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King
April 15th Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener
April 22nd Susan Jones, Sandra Roseman, Nena Babb
April 29th Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

April 1st Patsy Johnson, Heather Carroll
April 8th Robin Stuart, Cynthia Purcelle

FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

PERSONAL CARE KITS

We are once again joining Lutheran World Relief Baskets of promise appeal. We will be collecting items for our **Personal Care Kits** that give people around the world the necessities to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

We will be collecting the following items for these kits

2- bars bath-size (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
light or medium-weight bath towels (approx. 52" X 27") *dark color recommended*
Adult size toothbrushes in its own wrapping
sturdy combs, remove packaging
metal nail clippers, remove packaging

All items should be new and in good condition. We will assemble the individual kits once

COAT DRIVE COLLECTION

The Social Ministry Committee is continuing to collect coats for the Coat Drive for the homeless. Everyone should have a warm coat this winter. The coats must be in good condition. They can be for men, women and children. Please bring the coats to church and put them on the table beside the food basket. In addition, the coats should be of all sizes. We will continue collecting these until the middle of this month

Security / Safety for the Church

During the Church Council retreat on February 17th Sergeant Paige from the Sheriff's Dept. came and spoke to the Council members about security and safety of the church. We started or implemented a plan of action on Sunday, February 18th for security and safety purposes. There was a sign up sheet

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**

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

Sunday	April 1st	Ben Whitener
Sunday	April 8th	Nelson Speagle
Sunday	April 15th	Kimmie Speagle
Sunday	April 22nd	Terry Bledsoe
Sunday	April 29th	Rick Lutz

If you have questions or concerns please let Dwayne know.

Thank you

A NOTE FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Over the last month or so we have had several issues in our kitchen & bathrooms. These have been due to paper towels and other items other than toilet tissue being flushed down the commodes. PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH THESE items down the commodes. Use the trash cans located in the bathrooms for items other than toilet tissue.

Thank you

WELCA NEWS & EVENTS

The Women of the ELCA will meet at 6 pm on Sunday, April 8.
Come with ideas concerning the Daughters of God Banquet.

The Catawba Conference 2018 Spring Gathering for the Women of the ELCA will be held on Saturday, April 28 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. The Bible study "Soul Sisters" is taken from the ELCA program ***Listen, God is Calling***. Registration begins at 9 am

Breakfast refreshments served until the program begins at 9:30 and ending after lunch.
Cost for lunch is \$8 and the deadline for registration is Friday, April 20.

See Nena Babb or Sylvia King for more details about registration.

Register by sending checks to Frances Hallman at 2133 144th Ave Dr NE Hickory,
NC 28601. Cell: 828-638-1680. Sardis WELCA will probably collect and send one check.
See Sylvia King or Nena Babb if interested. No childcare is available.

Offerings to be collected are:

Regular offering, will go to **Immigration and Refugee resettlement** through **Lutheran Services Carolinas**. Make checks payable to NC Women of the ELCA and reference "LSC-Refugee" on memo line. The 2018 **Pennies offering** is designated to **Sacred Pathways Inc** in Pembroke, NC, a crisis ministry with services focused on the hungry, addicted, dislocated, and people dealing with all kinds of emergency situations. Checks payable to NC Women of the ELCA, referencing PENNIES. **In-kind Gifts** are for the **First Step Shelter for Battered Women -The Family Guidance Center**. Make those checks to Mt. Olive Lutheran Women of the ELCA, referencing "Shelter". See the list of items on the bulletin board in the fellowship hallway. Lastly,

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

The Lutheran Men have purchased some extra Bibles that they use at their meetings. These will be available if you would like to purchase. For more information and cost see Rick Johnson or a member

Propst Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department Annual BBQ Saturday, May 5th 11:00am—Until

This year the Fire Department will be pre-selling Whole Butts for \$25

These must be purchased by Friday, April 27th.

Contact 828-308-3967 for your order

The price for BBQ Plate is \$8

Includes:

BBQ, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Fries, & Bun

Dine in: Drink & Dessert

Place an order for a whole butt by April 27th
