

Friendly Messenger

2018

Seeing God

I remember the first time I saw a show in 3D. My family and I were at Myrtle Beach and went to a show at the Aquarium. We entered the theater, sat down, and waited for the cue to put on our special 3D glasses. As we waited for the lights to dim and the show to start, I wondered how this experience would be different than a regular 2-D theater experience. I was excited about this new experience and wanted to see whether I would stand up to the challenge of not ducking when a shark or fish came at me from the screen.

Thinking I wouldn't be fooled by the virtual images, I still braced myself. I mean, what if I would be the only one dodging? Eventually, the theater darkened and the movie began. We descended into the water. We started our journey, passing by coral reefs and swimming with whales and fish. Some of them swam among the theater, sometimes among us, sometimes right at us. I became amazed at this new world we were navigating. Suddenly, a fish darted at me and I ducked!

I wasn't embarrassed though. Everyone was seeing the 3D fish in this virtual underwater adventure. What I found was a new way of seeing, a new level of reality, a new level of immersion in the story of life under the sea. The fish, the journey was made real.

As we have gotten accustomed to seeing movies in 2D, I believe it is easy to think about God in 2D. Our thoughts, expectations, even prayers may be limited by blinders instead of a lens that reveals God's presence. However, God is so much more than we can speak or even imagine. And God's love is more present than we know. It's not a virtual love. It's real. It is embodied in Jesus Christ. It is God's love for us that is so real, so deep, so true, that Jesus will journey to the cross for us. Through his sacrificial death we are given life.

Instead of trudging through a 2D faith, what if we went into a different theater, one where we see even more of God among us? One where we put on our 3D glasses and get immersed in a new level of reality where God's activity is not only visible, but completely immersive. So immersive, in fact, it may even surprise us!

This Lenten season, I invite us to be intentional about seeing God in the world. The forty days of Lent are a time to engage in fasting, prayer, and repentance so that we are ready to receive the gift of the risen Christ. These disciplines help us gain awareness of God's presence, activity, and love in our lives.

Each Sunday, I will ask, "Where have you seen God this week?" It is an opportunity to reflect and share where you have seen God, in an activity, a person, an interaction, or circumstance. We will post these sticky notes on our special vision board during worship. This Lent, let us put aside any blinders we may be wearing and put on our 3D glasses for our three-dimensional God!

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 Luther-idge 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.



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 **March 7th** at Grace Lutheran. All are welcome to come join our group for the fun, food, and fellowship.

COAT DRIVE

The Social Ministry Committee is having a 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.

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!

The Congregation held its Annual Meeting on February 4, 2018. The meal was catered by Norman’s Café. Annual reports were handed out which consists of 2018 Assignments, Committee members and reports for 2017.

Sardis Lutheran Church Council Minutes January 14, 2018

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

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7pm. Kathy had devotions. Minutes for the December Council meeting were read. Motion was made by Joe to accept the minutes for December, correcting the date of the Security class to December 21st and spelling correctly Adrienne's name, seconded by Ralph and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne; Outstanding expenses to come out will be the Scholarship Fund in January. Ken motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, David seconded and the motion carried. Pastor Adrienne gave her report.

- ◆ Very thankful for the Scholarship monies
- ◆ Highlighted the Security Class meeting
- ◆ Discussed with several congregations about forming Task Force
- ◆ At the December LIGHTS conference meeting the director introduced a grant that Bishop Smith has won and given to our conference. It is a vitality grant to provide coaching for participating congregations. The cost to participate will be \$500.
- ◆ Reverend Bill Miller-Zurrell asked to move his membership to Sardis. Ralph motioned to accept, Sherrie seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business

- ◇ Constitution By-Laws review will be postponed until May after the Synod meets. After review by a committee the Council will vote on and present to the congregation at the November annual meeting.
- ◇ Committees must meet prior to February 1st and have Committee worksheet filled out and given to Dwayne prior to the next council meeting on February 17th.
- ◇ Task Force will be formed to discuss:
 - * Pastor's Discretionary Fund
 - * Set guidelines on how monies will be handled to help members needing assistance along with Social Ministry
 - * Volunteers for the committee were Pastor Adrienne, Jane, Dwayne, and Sherrie
 - * Nelson suggested to also buy in on a reduced fuel rate.
- ◇ The December Security Class was attended by Pastor Martin, Jane, Kathy and Bruce.
 - * Great ideas and suggestions were given by the Sheriff's Department
 - * Security Committee to set up a meeting time with the department
 - *

New Business

- ◆ Committee Chair reports to Secretary by 1/21/18
- ◆ Youth doing Shrove Pancake Supper and have asked the proceeds go to the youth trip to Texas. Ralph motioned to allow these funds for this purpose, Rick seconded and the motion passed.
- ◆ To assist our youth a motion was made by Ken to match dollar for dollar for all funds raised by the youth up to \$1,000 since that is already budgeted. Then once a final cost is determined then any additional funds will come from the scholarship funds that are available for 2018. Sherrie seconded and the motion passed.
- ◆ The Council retreat will be on February 17th at Sardis.
 - * Will discuss church safety for the beginning of the retreat followed by the February monthly meeting.
- ◆ The Annual Meeting will be February 4th after Worship Service, meal to be catered.
- ◆ Discussions were had concerning the grave in the cemetery that needs to be moved. The committee recommended to leave it there until a road is put in.
 - * Jane to contact the family for permission.
 - * Ken to get cost on exhuming and repositioning the grave.
 - * Ralph to check on paving cost.

Next council meeting to be held on February 17th, 2018.

THANK YOU'S—FROM SARDIS YOUTH



Thank you to the congregation for your continued support. With your help we were able to give the Hickory Soup Kitchen a check for \$ 145 from the money collected on February 4th.

At the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper we had a great crowd from the congregation and our community. We had sausage links and patties, pancakes and a lot of different toppings, juice, milk, and coffee...AND of course lots of good fellowship. Thank you to all who helped, came out, and supported us in this. With your help we collected \$ 730 to help offset our expenses when we go to the

Spaghetti Lunch Sunday, March 18th following worship



The youth and adults who are going to the youth gathering will be serving a spaghetti lunch with salad and dessert following worship on Sunday, March 18th. The donations collected will help offset some of the expenses on the cost of the trip to Houston, Texas. Mark your calendar and plan to stay after worship that day to support our youth as they raise funds to

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."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO COME JOIN US

Sunday Evening Lenten Services March 4th, March 11th, and March 18th

Palm Sunday March 25th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday March 29th at 7pm

Good Friday March 30th at 7pm



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE—Sunday, April 1st

A NOTE FROM YOUR EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

We will be having a Shepherd's Dinner on Saturday, March 17th at 6pm.

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 greatly appreciated. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 Sheila Ramsey
Ronnie Weaver
Barbara J. Whitener
- 3/4 Richard Covington
Mike Midgett
- 3/5 David Fulbright
- 3/6 Lucas Richard
Kendra M. Starkey
- 3/11 Laythe Yousef
- 3/13 Robin Stuart
- 3/16 Patsy Johnson
Glenn Stuart, Jr.
Joe D. Biggerstaff
- 3/17 Mike Hollar
- 3/19 Ralph Ramsey
- 3/20 Sandra Roseman
- 3/22 Carolyn Truitt
- 3/23 Jackson Ellington
- 3/24 Jeremy Cushing
Nate Johnson
Shuford Whitener
- 3/26 Andy Yoder
- 3/27 Shannon Hollar
Sidney Richardson
Celeste R. Caulder
Teresa E. Starke
- 3/30 Ron Crawley

ANNIVERSARIES

- Wayne & Elaine Jarrett
3-3
- Garry & Annette Richard
3-8

****NOTE****

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

Thank you

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- March 4th** Kathy Weaver Marilyn Teague Roger Teague
- March 11th** Jane Moretz Nena Babb Marilyn Teague
- March 18th** Marilyn Teague Roger Teague Jane Moretz
- March 25th** Tryston Sylvester Jane Moretz Al King

USHERS

Mike Midgett, Joe Biggerstaff, Darrell Jarrett, Wayne Jarrett

ALTAR FLOWERS

- March 4th** Ralph & Sheila Ramsey
- March 11th** Buster & Kathryn Bledsoe
- March 18th** Bruce & Sharon Sigman
- March 25th** Richard & Dawn Covington

LAY READERS & GREETERS

- March 4th** Rebecca Ritz Betty Sue Whitener, Bruce Sigman
- March 11th** Marilyn Teague Jennifer Whitener, Kay Whitener
- March 18th** Carolyn Truitt Leevada Wood, Lexi Wood
- March 25th** Kathy Weaver Roger Teague, Marilyn Teague

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP AND PREPARATION

Sandra Roseman, Sharon Sigman

COUNCIL CONTACT

Dwayne Whitener

ASSISTING MINISTER MARCH

Jennifer Whitener

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY

- March 3rd** *No Meal Delivery* **March 10th** Carolyn Hoyle
- March 17th** *No Meal Delivery* **March 24th** Donna Biggerstaff
- March 31st** *No Meal Delivery*

OFFERING COUNTERS

- March 4th** Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson, Dwayne Whitener
- March 11th** Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King
- March 18th** Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener
- March 25th** Susan Jones, Sandra Roseman, Nena Babb

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- March 4th** Ben Whitener, Jennifer Whitener
- March** Carrie

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- March 4th** Wanda & Ralph Stallings
- March 11th** Margaret Whitener
- March 18th** Nena Babb
- March 25th** Robin & Cynthia

11th
Yousef,

Lenten Rotation Series: God's Will Be Done

Mark 14:36

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Luke 22:42

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

In the Garden of Gethsemane, as the forces of darkness closed in on him, Jesus prayed these words to God our Father: "Your will be done." Staying true to God's redeeming mission, Jesus continued on the path toward the cross. This Lenten season, we will reflect on God's will through the biblical characters of Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, Paul, and Lydia. This series will also provide an opportunity to explore how God's will intersects with our lives, particularly in terms of how we understand God's will in terms of our identity, dreams for the future, our worldview, and our response to Christ the Crucified.

On Sunday evenings in Lent, we will explore God's Will Be Done in our rotation which started February 18th. We will host pastors from Messiah, Mt. Zion, St. Luke's, and Saint Paul's Lutheran Churches. We will start with a meal at 6 pm and worship at 7 pm.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
March 4:	God's Will and My Dreams (David)	Pastor Scott Bollinger (Mt. Zion)
March 11:	God's Will and My Response (Lydia)	Pastor Paul Christ (Messiah)

WELCA NEWS & EVENTS

BOLD WOMEN HUNGER PROJECT

During February of each year, WELCA celebrates Bold Women's Sunday, which was on February 25th. On this Sunday, the ladies of Sardis were the leaders in our worship service. This year we were also visited by (8) ladies from the Bible: 4 from the old testament and 4 from the new testament and heard their stories. Another visitor was Katie Luther, Martin Luther's wife. Thanks to these BOLD WOMEN .

The WELCA also do a project each year during this time. This year their project was to collect canned goods for ECCCM. During each Sunday in February, every person (small, medium or large) was asked to bring at least one can of the food a week. Vegetables were collected on February 4th, Meats on February 11th. Fruits on February 18th, and Pastas on February 25th. Thank you to all who helped us with this project.

EASTER LILIES

Sardis WELCA will be taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn our chancel on Easter Sunday. Price per plant is \$10. Orders will be taken until Sunday, March 11th. Order blanks are available in your bulletins & on the table in the narthex. Fill out the order form and give these to Jill Bledsoe or Carolyn Truitt.

FLOWERS FOR CROSS EASTER SUNDAY

What's blooming in your garden? Bring live flowers to put on the cross on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

GOODIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

We will once again be providing goodie bags for our college students. There are (4) students this year. Please bring your items for these students to the church by Saturday, March 31st at 9:30am. We will set up lilies, prepare the cross for live flowers on Easter Sunday, and pack the goodies for the college students that morning.

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. Starting on Sunday, February 18th for security and safety purposes we started or implemented a plan of action. There was a sign up sheet placed in the table on the narthex for anyone who would like to volunteer to help with this. Listed below is the schedule for MARCH/APRIL for those who volunteered.

Sunday	March 4th	Rick Johnson
Sunday	March 11th	Gene Biggerstaff
Sunday	March 18th	Ralph Stallings
Sunday	March 25th	Darrell Jarrett
Sunday	April 1st	Ben Whitener
Sunday	April 8th	Bruce Sigman
Sunday	April 15th	Nelson Speagle
Sunday	April 22nd	Kimmie Speagle
Sunday	April 29th	Terry Bledsoe

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



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 24th
1pm– 3pm

Sponsored by the ANGELS for Christ
All ages welcome. Come and bring a friend.

Holy Week and Easter

Our **Holy Week** observance begins March 25th with our Palm Sunday Service. We begin by gathering outside (weather permitting) to process inside waving our palms.

On **Maundy Thursday**, March 29th, we will worship at **7:00 pm**

We celebrate Holy Communion, remembering the night in which Jesus was betrayed. Come experience a special method of receiving Holy Communion.

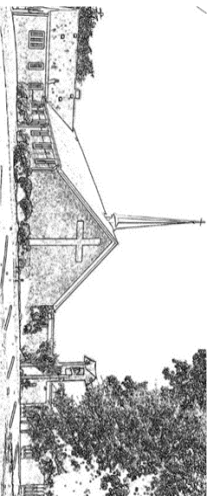
Good Friday, March 30th, Fred T Foard Seniors meet at Noon. Watch your bulletins for details. **7:00 pm**, worship at Sardis as we contemplate our Lord's sacrifice for us on the cross.

Flower Reminder for Easter Sunday

Please bring live flowers to put on the cross on
Easter Sunday Morning

Easter Sunday, April 1st, at **6:30 am**, we will gather for a sunrise service of rejoicing in Christ's victory, including the celebration of Holy Communion.

Breakfast will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



MARCH 2018

Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	2 Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day
						3
4 Sunday School @9:30 Worship @ 10:30 ANGELS meeting @5 MEAL at 6pm with LENT SERVICE at 7pm	5	6 Bible Study @ 10	7 Fred T Foard Seniors at GRACE Hand Bells @6:15 Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00	8	9 Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	10
11 Sunday School@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 MEAL at 6pm with LENT SERVICE at 7pm	12	13 Bible Study @ 10	14 Hand Bells @6:15 Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00	15	16 Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	17 Shepherd's Appreciation Dinner 6pm
18 Sunday School @9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Spaghetti Dinner after Confirmation @ 3pm MEAL at 6pm with LENT SERVICE at 7pm	19	20 Bible Study @ 10	21 Hand Bells @6:15 Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00	22	23 INFORMATION for APRIL Newsletter Due in OFFICE Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	24 ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT 1pm-3pm
25 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School@9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Prayer Group @ 11:45 Trinity Ridge @3:50	26 Volunteer at ECCCM	27 Bible Study @ 10	28 Hand Bells @6:15 Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00	29 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	30 Good Friday Service 7pm	31 9:30am WELCA Meet to arrange the Lilies & pack College Student bags