

Friendly Messenger

December 2019



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

A new liturgical year is upon us. The season of Advent begins on the first Sunday of the month. It is a season of expectant waiting and anticipation. We focus on the longing, the yearning, and the hope that is being held for the coming of the King, the Savior.

I would like to share a story, a legend, I came across. It is shared by Pastor Valerie Winslow. It is a legend about the holy night our Lord was born. According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the children of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger decided to accompany the Holy Family on their journey. Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, and each felt sure his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task. There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come. Yet none of the other animals felt the spider would be helpful. After all, she was only an insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. However, the spider persistently pleaded to be included, until at last the other animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

Unfortunately, as the journey unfolded, all of the other supposedly brave animals either were frightened off or else were distracted. They ended up returning home or embarking on a more appealing adventure of their own. With Herod's troops on the march, and with the Holy Family growing more and more tired, Joseph and Mary had little choice but to try and hide. Finding a small and inconspicuous cave, they huddled inside, seeking shelter and rest, with the donkey and the spider their only remaining companions. Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. The only immediate problem was the chill in the air. Seeking to be of help in some small way, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the baby warm.

The spider had just finished her weaving when suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain their doom was upon them. Yet the soldiers passed by the cave. One soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening. Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees ... to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider wove ... and to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

In our lectionary progression, the Gospel writer Matthew will exhort us to engage in the building of God's kingdom. We anticipate Christ's birth and his return. As we wait, we are gifted with the responsibility to assist in bringing about transformation in the world. As we wait, let us seek opportunities to make a difference by offering a vision of the church that seeks justice and equality, acts to eliminate hunger and thirst, and cares for the earth, the widow, and the orphan. Let us remember, like the spider, that every act and every role can make a world of difference.

Blessings

Pastor Adrienne

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
October 20, 2019

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Sherrie had devotions and prayer.

Terry read minutes from the August Council Meeting. Motion was made by Jane to accept the minutes as presented, Ken seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne; The Building Fund balance is \$6,282.54, General Fund balance for September is \$11,152.64 and the Cemetery Fund is \$1,072.69; Joe motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Sherrie seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report for August, September and upcoming events;

Visits = 45 (September and October)

Continuing Education = 35 hours

Recap: Confirmation planning meeting, Tuesday, August 13, Worship & Music Meeting, August 14, Choir resumed August 14, Wild Women Day at Sardis, Saturday, August 17, Sunday School planning meeting, Monday, August 19, Back to School Event, Saturday, August 24, Vacation, August 25-September 2, Rev. Robert Allen supplied., Fred T. Foard Seniors, Wednesday, September 4, Review of CWA to Catawba Conference (LIGHTS), Thursday, September 5, Homecoming September 8th, Confirmation at Mt. Olive, September 8, Confirmation reflection and planning, Monday, September 9, Fred T. Foard Football Team, Friday, September 13, God's Work Our Hands, Memorial Service for Mattie Stuart, Saturday, September 14, Prayer Service, Wednesday, September 18, Worship planning with Frank, Thursday, September 19, Camp Sunday, September 29th, Fred T. Foard Seniors Lunch, Wednesday, October 2, Worship & Music, Wednesday, October 2, Golden Age Banquet, Saturday, October 5, Baptismal Recognition, Sunday, October 6, Blessing of the Animals (12), Sunday, October 6, Fall Convocation and Boundary Training, October 7-10, Medicare Member Appreciation Meeting, October 10, Vacation, October 10-13, Rev. Bill Batterman supplied., Confirmation meeting, Monday, October 14, Land Use Committee, Monday, October 14, VBS 2020, Tuesday, October 15, 6pm, Prayer Service, October 16, 6:30 pm

Upcoming: Reformation Sunday, October 27, Dedicating new doors!, Trunk or Treat, Thursday, October 31, All Saints Day, Sunday, November 3, Baptismal Recognition, Men's Ministry Sunday, November 10, Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 10, Hosting Confirmation, Sunday, November 10, Council, Sunday, November 10, Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 19, Prayer Service, Wednesday, November 20, Trinity Ridge, Sunday, November 24, Confirmation Service Project, November 24, Thanksgiving Eve Service, November 27, Shepherd's Dinner at Court Street, Monday, December 9, Cat Square Parade, Saturday, December 14, Confirmation, December 8, Caroling, December 8, Council, December 8, Advent Prayer Service, Wednesday, December 11

Pastor Adrienne stated it is wonderful to be back after a refreshing time at Lutheridge for Fall Convocation and some vacation. Fall Convocation is a opportunity for refreshment, fellowship, and education. This year, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women of Color and learned from three speakers about their experience and call within the ELCA. There are very few rostered leaders of color in the ELCA, but their voices are very important ones for us to hear. It was a good opportunity to hear about the challenges and perspective their experience brings to the church.

Pastor Adrienne stated as I have been walking in and out of the building these past couple of months, I would like to say what a beautiful enhancement our new doors are to our worship space! I have felt so proud of the ways we have been

experimental, ministry. I hope to support everyone in their pursuit of God's unique call for them! We have so many wonderful ways that we live into our mission as God's people. I encourage us to identify those ministries and callings that give us energy and life.

Pastor Adrienne stated we have very strong leaders invested in the faith formation of our children and youth. I would like to invite us to support them by signing up for assisting in class, asking how to help, and getting involved in Christian education. We are the place, the faith family, who have the opportunity to teach our children about God's love and I hope we can grow in our call to do that. It is to these teachings that we cling throughout our lives. I hope we can share this gift. This year our confirmation cluster is meeting regularly to reflect and plan for each session to improve the quality of our program.

Pastor Adrienne stated last month, I was considering inviting someone to assist me with Home Communion visitation. I am happy to announce that Gene Biggerstaff has agreed to help. After some review, he will accompany me on a few visits before embarking on his own. We will commission him, as we did Mattie, as a communion minister. I am grateful for the ministry he will provide.

Old Business

- Ken gave an update from the Property Committee. The Property Committee has had no luck finding someone to repave the small section in the back. The job is too small. They will continue to search. They will be stripping and mopping the floors in November. The carpet has been cleaned along with several pews. Cleaning of the rest of the pews cushions is recommended. Becky made a motion to have the pew cushions cleaned. Jane seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

- Dwayne stated that the Congregational meeting would be November 3 for nominations from the floor and distribution of the Spending Plan. November 17th will be vote on the budget, Council and Nominating Committee.
- Becky stated that 2020 has been designated to celebrate women pastors. Sardis has been a leader in the area and Music and Worship would like to recommend that during the year we honor Pastor Anna Merritt, Pastor Mary Louise Sitton, and our own Pastor Adrienne Martin. Further details will be coming.
- Tim gave a report from the Land Use Committee. The committee would like to solicit congregational input by handing out a survey the first Sunday on November and collecting it on the third Sunday.
- Dwayne went over the Spending Plan for 2020. During the discussion, Ken made a motion to add \$3000 to the budget for a travel allowance for the church organist. Rick seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- After further discussion, Tim made a motion that we accept a Spending Plan with a net budget of \$162,664 requiring contributions of \$3,128.15 per week. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer
Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary



The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meets on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in December on the 4th at Wesley Chapel Methodist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

Hymn Choir

The Sardis Hymn Choir will sing the second Sunday in December, the hymn will be On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand. We welcome you to join us in the choir room to prepare for worship at 10:15am.

SARDIS SISTERS

Friday, December 6, at 8:00 – 9:30 pm, interested ladies (and gentlemen) will attend the Hickory Choral Society's Christmas Concert. The concert is at Corinth Reformed Church, 150 16th Avenue, NW, Hickory, NC. At the concert, there is a section reserved for open seating for the public at no cost. It is recommended that people wanting those seats arrive early. Those wanting to carpool please meet at the church at 6:45. Otherwise meet in the open seating area around 7:15.

EVANGELISM

Sardis Shepherds and Spouses and family members and Evangelism Members and Families

This year's **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held at Court St. Grille *in Mt. View* on **Monday December 9th at 6:00 PM**. We have always had our party in Lincolnton, but because of the large crowds that are always there, Carrie offered to let us have our party at the Mt. View location. This will be a private party for us only and I think that we will enjoy it much better there. Drinks and desert will be provided for you. Please let us know if you will be attending so I can get a number to Carrie on how many people to expect.

Thank you

Ray Whitener

2019 Catsquare Christmas Parade Saturday Dec. 14th, 2019

Do you like parades? Do you want to ride in a parade? The Evangelism Committee is asking for volunteers to ride in the Catsquare Christmas Parade. This is something that we do every other year. Last year we had plans to participate but the weather didn't cooperate with us. Hopefully, this year's weather will be perfect. The parade begins at 1:00 pm. We will be lining up at 12:00. Come join us as we wind slowly thru the parade route and see the 1000's of people who are on both sides of the road. We will be throwing out candy as long as it last. If you can't ride in the parade but could contribute candy, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let someone on the committee know if you will be able to participate.

Wild women weekend at Lutheridge 2020 WEEKEND CHANGE- March 20-22 weekend is already full, so Wild Women of Sardis are planning to go March 13-15 weekend. Register now! You can make payments for registration fee. If you had already registered for other weekend and want to switch, call Lutheridge to inquire.

December

ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

12/1 Hannah Yoder
Tyler Grove
12/3 *Betty Clay
12/6 David Ruggles
12/9 Tracy Richard
Samuel Clayton Biggerstaff
12/12 Betty Jo Weaver
Gene Biggerstaff
12/16 Phyllis Hood
12/20 Heather J. Carroll
12/21 Ronnie Crawley
12/22 Garry Wood
12/26 Matthew Townsend
12/27 Steven Yow
12/29 Dawn Covington
*Frank Weaver
Barbara E. Whitener
12/30 Nathan Rudisill
12/31 Betty Sue Whitener

Dec 1 Jane Moretz Roger Teague Margaret Whitener
Dec 8 Tryston Sylvester Bruce Sigman Roger Teague
Dec 15 Ray Whitener Samuel Biggerstaff Ray Whitener
Dec 22 Kathy Weaver Ray Whitener Dawn Covington
Dec 24 Cynthia Stuart Jane Moretz Gene Biggerstaff
Torch Bearer's Marilyn Teague, Bible Bearer Roger Teague
Kathy Weaver
Dec 29 Marilyn Teague Kathy Weaver No Communion

USHERS

Dwayne Whitener, Mike Midgett, Rick Johnson, Zach Stuart

ALTAR FLOWERS SECURITY

Dec 1st Mike & Felicia Hollar Darrell Jarrett
Dec 8th Susan & Amy Jones Ben Whitener
Dec 15th Greg Fulbright Bruce Sigman
Dec. 22nd LMM Nelson Speagle
Dec 29th Wayne & Elaine Jarrett Kimmie Speagle

LAY READERS & GREETERS

Dec 1st Hope Gladden Rita Lutz, Annette Richard
Dec 8th Sylvia King Ben Fulbright, Nena Babb
Dec 15th Al King Sherrie Midgett, Barbara E. Whitener
Dec. 22nd Jon Gladden Al King, Betty Sue Whitener
Dec. 24th Jane Moretz Ben Fulbright, Joe Wyant
Dec 29th Leevada Wood Felicia Hollar, Jill Bledsoe

COMMUNION PREPARATION AND CLEAN-UP

Jane Moretz Marilyn Teague

COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

Tim Whitener Tim Whitener 1st, 15th, 24th, 29th
Jennifer Whitener 8th, 22nd.

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY

Dec 7th No Meal Delivery
Dec 14th Sylvia King
Dec 21st No Meal Delivery
Dec. 28th April Fulbright

OFFERING COUNTERS

Dec 1st Dwayne Whitener, Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson
Dec 8th Dwayne Whitener, Al & Sylvia King
Dec 15th Dwayne Whitener, Sherrie & Mike Midgett
Dec 22nd Dwayne Whitener, Susan Jones, Nena Babb,
Sandra Roseman
Dec 29th Dwayne Whitener, Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson
Delivery Week BACKPACK PROGRAM Pickup Warehouse
Dec. 6th Dawn Covington/Carolyn Truitt Joe Biggerstaff
Dec 13th Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff
Dec 20th Rick & Rita Lutz

December

Baptisms

12/2 Susan W. Jones 1955
12/8 Derrick Johnson 1985
12/11 Casey Kiser 1994
12/13 David Gladden 1964
12/16 Joe Wyant 1933
12/20 Evan Lail 1959
12/23 Austin Babb 1984
12/27 M. Elaine Propst 1964
12/28 Phyllis D. Hood (1947)


*Acknowledge our shut-ins by sending a card.

Anniversaries:

Bobbie & Katie Fulbright
12-11
Evan & Pat Lail 12-13
Tim & Barbara Whitener
12-18
Donald & Evelyn Fulbright
12-21

December 2019 Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

1 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion, Baptismal Recognition 5:30 WELCA, at Nena's home	2	3	4 12:00 FTF Seniors Wesley Chapel 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Chancel Choir	5	6 Sardis Sisters Hickory Choral Society Christmas Concert	7
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion Hymn Choir 2:00 Confirmation Beth Eden 5:30 Christmas Caroling 6:00 Blue Christmas Service Trinity Lutheran, Vale 7:00 Church Council	9 6:00 Annual Evangelism Christmas Party Court St. Grille Mt. View	10	11 10:00 Nellie B's 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Advent Prayer Service 7:00 Chancel Choir	12	13	14 9:00 Hanging of the Greens 2:00 Cat Square Christmas Parade
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion	16	17	18 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Chancel Choir	19	20	21
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Holy Communion 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:00 Children's Christmas Story Refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall	23 5:00 Articles due for January NL	24 10:15 Music Prelude 10:30 Candlelight Service & Holy Communion	25 	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Lessons and Carols Service 12:00 Prayer Group	30	31				

****NOTE****

If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Also, check your Family Bible and advise your baptismal date. Thank you.



You Are Invited to Join Us

Blue Christmas

A Service of Healing & Hope
for those whom the season is difficult

Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Trinity Church Road
Vale, North Carolina 28168
Sunday, December 8, 2019
Six O'clock in the Evening

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6103 W NC 10 HWY
HICKORY NC 28602