

# Friendly Messenger

2018

## A Cosmic Love

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month we will tell our husband, wife, significant other, family and friends, "Happy Valentine's Day!" It is a day we may exchange presents, cards, balloons, flowers, and sweet sentiments. It is a day we celebrate relationships. It's not a day we think to mark our foreheads with ashes and remember that we "are dust and to dust we shall return." Yet, this year, we will observe Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same day. It may seem contradictory. After all, on Valentine's Day, we proclaim our enduring love for certain people where on Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge our mortality in the face of God's love for all people.

Arrows and ashes? Chocolate and dust? Love and death? Yes! While we may love the people in our lives with great intensity, we may also take comfort that no matter how great that love is, God's love for us is even greater.

Maybe it is a meaningful coincidence that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. On Ash Wednesday, we will begin our Lenten journey of turning back to God, rediscovering God's unconditional and enduring love for us. Our journey will invite us again into the great Paschal mystery of God's love for us in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are called into this mystery. In the face of our own mortality, we may confidently hold on to the assurance that God's love transcends boundaries and extends beyond death.

Love is the primary force  
in the universe.

God is love.

Now around February  
thoughts about love  
get all chocolate-y  
and although delightful,  
definitely limited.

But love is the energy  
that flows up into us  
from Christ the Vine  
and it is absolutely

limitless,  
abundant.

Those of you who have children—  
Have you ever in your life had to say  
to one child

"oh, I'm sorry, sweetheart,  
I've used up all my love for today.  
I'm all out."

Of course not.

Love is absolutely limitless,  
a never-ceasing well  
of living water.

God's love is absolutely boundless  
and God never says  
to anyone

"Oh, I'm sorry,  
I've used up  
all my love for today..."

God's love constantly  
flows up into us  
like energy into a tree  
Changing us  
filling us

**Pastor's article continued from page 1**

While God's love is infinite and limitless, there is no doubt that the human love we show for each other is an expression of God's love too. Christians are known for their love –that is, the way we care for each other, care for the sick, the naked, the outcast, the oppressed, the Christ in everyone.

A question that will be stirring in my heart this Lenten season will be “What's next?” It is a question I invite us to consider as we continue our journey and where the Holy Spirit may be calling us. During Lent, we will reflect on each of these phrases in worship. I encourage you to reflect on them too!

**Who we are  
Where God is  
Love abounds**

**Grow where it is  
Share where it leads**

Lenten blessings,

*Pastor Adrienne*

Cherwien, Susan Palo. *From glory into glory: reflections for worship*. MorningStar Music Publishers: Missouri, United States, 2009.

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHURCH MUGS**

**HAVE YOU GOT YOUR MUG YET!!**

We still have a few

The 150<sup>th</sup> 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 and put 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 **February 7th** at Ebenezer Methodist .

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](mailto: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      Council Minutes

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

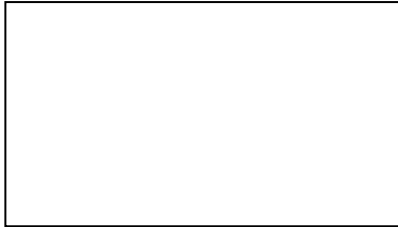
### Old Business

- ◇ 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 1<sup>st</sup> and have Committee worksheet filled out and given to Dwayne prior to the next council meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ◇ 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 17<sup>th</sup> at Sardis.
  - \* Will discuss church safety for the beginning of the retreat followed by the February monthly meeting.
- ◆ The Annual Meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Sardis Lutheran Church Building Fund Report**

<b>Balance forward 2016</b>	<b>3,889.14</b>
<b>Contributions 2017</b>	<b><u>26,760.45</u></b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>30,649.59</b>
 <b>Total of Disbursements 2017</b>	 <b><u>20,871.54</u></b>

**Building Fund balance DECEMBER 31,2017      \$ 9,778.05**

When you give contributions to the church weekly, monthly, etc.  
do you contribute any money for the Church Building Fund?

It is a separate fund from the general fund and it is used for payment of items on the upkeep of the church that are not budgeted for in our yearly budget. We have been blessed to have congregation members to help with some of the extra expenses incurred for our Anniversary Celebration this past year and at other times as needed.

**UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS / PROJECTS**



**Souper Bowl of Caring**

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" was started several years ago on Super Bowl Sunday to help with hunger and has continued each year. The youth will be standing in the Narthex following Worship on Sunday, February 4th taking up donations in soup pots. The money will be given to the Hickory Soup Kitchen.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm**



The youth and adults going to the youth gathering will be cooking sausage and pancakes for the church. The donations collected will help offset the cost of the trip to Houston Texas in June for the National Youth Gathering. Make plans to

**Spaghetti Lunch  
Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
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 the cost to the trip to Houston, Texas. Mark your calendar and plan to stay after worship that day to support

**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."**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

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

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

*Thank you*

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Wanda & Ralph Stallings
- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Margaret Whitener
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Nena Babb
- Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Robin & Cynthia



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Rylan Johnson Nate Johnson Ben Whitener
- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Teague Jane Moretz Joe Wyant
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Samuel Biggerstaff Kathy Weaver Jennifer Whitener
- Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Ray Whitener Bruce Sigman Nena Babb

**USHERS**

Women of ELCA ( Alternating each week)

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- February 4<sup>th</sup> Dwayne & Barbara Whitener
- February 11<sup>th</sup> Nena Babb
- February 18<sup>th</sup> Ken & Margaret Propst
- February 25<sup>th</sup> Women of ELCA

**LAY READERS & GREETERS**

- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Meredith Gladden Patsy Johnson, Al King
- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Al King Rita Lutz, Sherrie Midgett
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Sylvia King Ken Propst, Margaret Propst
- Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Jane Moretz Cynthia Purcelle, Annette Richards

**COMMUNION CLEAN-UP AND PREPARATION**

Marilyn Teague, Barbara J Whitener

**COUNCIL CONTACT**

Jane Moretz

**ASSISTING MINISTER FEBRUARY**

Jane Moretz

**SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY**

- Feb. 3rd *No Meal Delivery* Feb. 10th Mattie Stuart
- Feb. 17th *No Meal Delivery* Feb. 24th Margaret Whitener

**OFFERING COUNTERS**

- February 4<sup>th</sup> Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson
- February 11<sup>th</sup> Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King
- February 18<sup>th</sup> Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener
- February 25<sup>th</sup> Susan Jones, Sandra Roseman, Nena Babb

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

- February 4<sup>th</sup> Patsy Johnson, Heather Carroll



**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY , FEBRUARY 14th**



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm**

The youth and adults going to the youth gathering will be cooking sausage and pancakes for the church and community.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**



**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.* (ESV)

**Luke 22:42**

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

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 starting February 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Schedule	Theme	Pastor
February 18:	God's Will and My Identity (Mary)	Pastor Ralph Kraft (Saint Paul's)
February 25:	God's Will and My Worldview (Paul)	Pastor John Woodard (St. Luke's)
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)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO COME JOIN US**

***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm***

***Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm***

***Sunday Evening Lenten Services on February 18<sup>th</sup> & February 25<sup>th</sup>***

***Sunday Evening Lenten Services March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and March 18<sup>th</sup>***

***Mark Your Calendars !!***  
***February 25, 2018***

***“Bold Women From the Bible”***  
***Will be***  
***Visiting Sardis !***

***Don't Miss this Special Worship Service***  
***Presented by***

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**BOLD WOMEN HUNGER PROJECT**

During February of each year, WELCA celebrates Bold Women's Sunday, which will be February 25<sup>th</sup>. On this Sunday, we are the leaders in all parts of the worship service. Our project for this year will be the collection of canned goods for ECCCM. During each Sunday in February, every person (small, medium or large) who walks through the doors of Sardis is asked to bring at least one can of the food item designated for that Sunday. The dates and foods are listed below

**February 4<sup>th</sup> – Vegetables**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> – Meats**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> - Fruits**

**February 25<sup>th</sup> - Pastas**

**STOP, LOOK AROUND YOU AND THINK!**

How many hungry people in Catawba County could be fed a meal if we meet our goal?

**Thank you**

There are no words to express how much your kindness and generosity has meant to us during my recent surgery. Your prayers, cards, and love offering has touched our hearts. Friends like you are a real treasure. Knowing you've been there to pray for my family and me has made things much easier. It is a comfort to know we can count on our church family through whatever life brings. I still have more surgery in Cleveland, hopefully in March, and then maybe I can return to work and take care of others as God has led me to do. May your thoughtfulness find its way back to you. I will always remember your kindness.

Love in Christ,




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**Church Office 704-462-2081**

**Pastor, The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469- 243-5237    Pastor@sardislutheran.net**

**Council President Elect, Dwayne Whitener (828) 381-8848    President@sardislutheran.net**

**Director of Music, Frank Griffin, Musician@sardislutheran.net**

**Secretary/Treasurer, Sheila Ramsey    Secretary@sardislutheran.net**