

Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church



Our mission:

Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church serves together as disciples of Christ, teaches the word to invite people into a life of knowing Jesus, encourages each other in faith and personal mission through reaching out to the needs of the community and individuals.

2024 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES and 2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

Interim Pastor—Mary Louise Sitton
 Council Vice President - Terry Bledsoe
 Director of Music - Frank Griffin
 Secretary/Treasurer - Jane Moretz

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www.sardislutheran.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page.....	pg. 1
Table of Contents.....	pg. 2
Pastors and Musicians Serving at Sardis.....	pg. 3
Congregation Staff; Officers; Council; Nominating and Scholarship Committees.....	pg. 4
Cong. Council Monthly Contact, Devotions, Comm. Contact, Annual Meeting Results.....	pg. 5
Worship Dates in 2024.....	pg. 6
Special Service Helpers, Altar Flowers.....	pg. 7
Volunteer Schedule.....	pg. 8
• Acolyte	
• Crucifer	
• Communion Assistant	
• Greeters	
Volunteer Schedule.....	pg. 9
• Lay Readers	
• Offering Counters	
• Security	
Volunteer Schedule.....	pg. 10
• Communion Preparation	
• Communion Clean-up	
• Assisting Minister	
• Ushers	
Banoak Backpack Program.....	pg. 11
Meal Delivery.....	pg. 12
Bereaved Families Food List, FTF Seniors Schedule	pg. 13
Newsletter Information Deadline	pg. 14
Financials/Committee Reports	pg. 15
Cemetery Account, Discretionary Account.....	pg. 16
Building Fund Report	pg. 17
Statement of Activity.....	pg. 18-19
Spending Plan.....	pg. 20-21
Miscellaneous Income	pg. 22
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	pg. 23
ELCA Treasures Report, Lutheran Men in Mission Treasures Report	pg. 24
Memorial Fund, Endowment Fund, Baker Scholarship Fund	pg. 25
2024 Committee Members.....	pg. 26
Cemetery Committee Report	pg. 27
Pastor's Report.....	pg. 28
Parish Register Report.....	pg. 29
Evangelism Committee/Music Ministry Report.....	pg. 30-31
Social Ministry Committee Report	pg. 32
Sardis Lutheran Men in Mission Report.....	pg. 33
Altar Committee Report.....	pg. 34
Property Committee Report.....	pg. 35
Technology Committee Report.....	pg. 36
Sardis Women of the ELCA Report.....	pg. 37
Worship and Music Committee Report.....	pg. 38
Youth Christian Education.....	pg. 39
Church Directory.....	pg. 40-45

PASTORS SERVING AT SARDIS

Alfred J. Fox	1867-1872
Marcus Lafayette Little	1872-1882
John Anderson Rudisill	1882-1890
Jefferson Polycarp Miller	1891-1894
William Pinckney Cline	1894-1896
Robert Anderson Yoder	1896-1899
Jacob Calvin Wessinger, Sr.	1899-1902
William Pinckney Cline (supply)	1903
Robert Henry Cline (supply)	1904
William Pinckney Cline(supply)	1905
James Francis Deal, Sr.	1906-1907
Martin Luther Pence	1908-1914
Frederick Martin Speagle (supply)	1915
David Leander Miller	1916-1918
Joseph Alonzo Yount	1919
John Jacob Bickley	1920-1921
Bernice Justus Wessinger	1922-1926
Luther Lindsay Lohr	1927-1930
Curtis Kerr Wise. Sr. (supply)	1931
Walter Augustus Sigman, Sr.	1931-1937
Walter James Roof	1938-1950
Wade Davis Yount	1950-1953
John Luther Morgan, Sr.	1954-1957
Charlie Lemuel Hoyle	1958-1961
Lawrence Edwin Yount	1961-1962
Iverson McKoy Brendle, Jr.	1963-1974
Dr. Theodore Theusen (supply)	1974-1975
Homer Edgar Fry	1975-1985
Dr. Jacob Larry Yoder (supply)	1985-1986
James Blair White	1986-1990
John Henry Sigmon, Jr. (supply)	1990-1991
Harvey Ludwick Blume	1991-1998
Lester Oda Roof, Jr. (supply)	1998-1999
Robert Francis Howard	1999-2007
Dennis Hacker (supply)	2007-2008
Anna Harrell Merritt	2008-2014
Dr. Charles Pierson Shaw (interim)	2014-2016
Adrienne Elizabeth Martin	2016-2023
Mary Louise Sitton (Interim)	2023 - Present

MUSICIANS SERVING AT SARDIS

Clara Wiggs	Willie Hood	Scottie Sue Wyant	Max Yount
Connie Hoyle	Hope Gladden	Carolyn Truitt	Jerry Whitener
Betty Smith	Lisa Guthrie Caudle	David Periconi	Melanie Hood Altman
Trudy Frye Reece	Karen Nester	Miriam Weaver Punch	Gale Speagle Rudisill
Jim Gossler	Vickie Matthews	Ray Whitener	Mary Louise Sitton
Nena Hood Babb	Sam Duggins	Joe Robinson	Loraine Scronce Lawing
Josh Herman	Mary Scott Workman Davis		Frank Griffin

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF FOR 2024

Interim Pastor	Rev. Mary Louise Sitton
Director of Music	Frank Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer	Jane Moretz

OFFICERS FOR 2024

Vice President, Congregation Council	Terry Bledsoe
Secretary, Congregation Council	Jane Moretz
Financial Secretary	Jane Moretz, Dwayne Whitener
Sunday School Superintendent	Zach Stuart
Women of the WELCA, President	Nena Babb
Lutheran Men in Mission, President	Rick Johnson
Memorial Fund Secretary	Jane Moretz
Parish Register	Rev. Mary Louise Sitton

CONGREGATION CHURCH COUNCIL

<u>Term 2022-2024</u>	<u>Term 2023-2025</u>	<u>Term 2024-2026</u>
Nena Babb	Terry Bledsoe	Joe Biggerstaff
Roger Lutz	Jane Moretz	William Farnsworth
Kristin Teague	Dwayne Whitener	Jon Gladden
Ray Whitener	Ken Propst	Rick Johnson

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Gene Biggerstaff	April Fulbright
Susan Jones	Mike Midgett
Phyllis Biggerstaff	Jill Bledsoe

2024 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Heather Carroll	(2022-2024)
Sylvia King	(2022-2024)
Sherrie Midgett	(2023-2025)
Jennifer Whitener	(2023-2025)
Donna Biggerstaff	(2024-2026)

CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2024 MONTHLY DEVOTIONS, CONTACT & COMMITTEE CONTACT

COUNCIL MEMBER	DEVOTIONS, MONTHLY CONTACT	COMMITTEE
Ray Whitener	January	Evangelism
Nena Babb	February	Historical
William Farnsworth	March	Christian Education Youth/ Angels for Christ
Rick Johnson	April	Energy Saving/Security
Kristin Teague	May	Altar
Terry Bledsoe	June	Technology
Joe Biggerstaff	July	Technology
Dwayne Whitener	August	Finance/Endowment
Jon Gladden	September	Christian Education Adult
Roger Lutz	October	Social Ministry
Jane Moretz	November	Worship & Music/Scholarship
Ken Propst	December	Cemetery/Property

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

Results of the Congregational meeting:

2024 Budget: Passed

2024—2026 Church Council: Joe Biggerstaff, William Farnsworth, Jon Gladden, Rick Johnson

2024 Nominating Committee: Gene Biggerstaff, April Fulbright, Susan Jones, Mike Midgett, Phyllis Biggerstaff, Jill Bledsoe

2024-2026 Scholarship Committee: Donna Biggerstaff

Worship Dates to include in 2024 Sardis Calendar

1/7 = Baptism of Our Lord Sunday
 2/11 = Transfiguration Sunday
 2/14 = Ash Wednesday Service 7:00
 2/18 – 3/17 = Sunday evening Lenten services 7:00
 3/24 = Palm/Passion Sunday
 3/28 = Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.
 3/29 = Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.
 3/31 = Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m.
 4/7 = WELCA Sunday
 5/19 = Pentecost/Confirmation
 5/26 = Holy Trinity Sunday
 9/8 = Homecoming
 9/29 = Michael and All Angels Sunday
 10/27 = Reformation Sunday
 11/3 = All Saints Sunday
 11/10 = Men's Sunday
 11/24 = Christ the King Sunday
 11/27 = Thanksgiving Eve Soup & Sandwich/Service (**at Ebenezer Methodist,
 Sardis desserts**)
 12/1; 12/8; 12/15; 12/22 = 4 Sundays of Advent
 12/24 = Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. (Prelude at 10:15)
 12/29 = Lessons and Carols Sunday

SPECIAL SERVICES HELPERS

Date '24	Torch Bearer's	Bible Bearer
Easter Sunday 3/31	Marilyn T. / Kathy W.	Rick Johnson

ALTAR FLOWERS

7-Jan	CATHERINE HOUSER	7-Jul	DOROTHEA WYANT
14-Jan	KATHY WEAVER	14-Jul	DAVID & MILDRED FULBRIGHT
21-Jan	BEN AND APRIL FULBRIGHT	21-Jul	BENNY & EDNA FULBRIGHT
28-Jan	CAROLYN HOYLE	28-Jul	RANDY & JOYCE SPEAGLE
4-Feb	DWAYNE & BARBARA WHITENER	4-Aug	ROBIN STUART
11-Feb	NENA BABB	11-Aug	ELAINE EVINGTON
18-Feb	KEN & MARGARET PROPST	18-Aug	STEVEN & ASHLEY YOW
25-Feb	WOMEN OF ELCA (SYLVIA KING)	25-Aug	MIKE & SHERRIE MIDGETT
3-Mar	RALPH (PETE) & SHEILA RAMSEY	1-Sep	OSAMA & CARRIE YOUSEF
10-Mar	BUSTER BLEDSOE	8-Sep	BETTY WHITENER
17-Mar	BRUCE & SHARON SIGMAN	15-Sep	ETHAN & HEATHER CARROLL
24-Mar	RICHARD & DAWN COVINGTON	22-Sep	DARRELL JARRETT
31-Mar	HOPE GLADDEN	29-Sep	BILL & MAE WHITENER
7-Apr	JOE AND PHYLLIS BIGGERSTAFF	6-Oct	KAY WHITENER
14-Apr	DAVID AND REBECCA RITZ	13-Oct	EVAN LAIL
21-Apr	KRISTIN TEAGUE	20-Oct	GENE AND DONNA BIGGERSTAFF
28-Apr	BEN & JENNIFER WHITENER	27-Oct	JANE MORETZ
5-May	ANDY & ANITA RUGGLES	3-Nov	TIM & BARBARA WHITENER
12-May	ROGER & MARILYN TEAGUE	10-Nov	RICK & RITA LUTZ
19-May	GREG & KERBY SMYRE	17-Nov	RAY WHITENER
26-May	RALPH & WANDA STALLINGS	24-Nov	JOE RUDISILL
2-Jun	AL & SYLVIA KING	1-Dec	MIKE & FELICIA HOLLAR
9-Jun	FERNE BAKER	8-Dec	SUSAN JONES
16-Jun	LEE VADA WOOD	15-Dec	AMY JONES
23-Jun	RICK & PATSY JOHNSON/BETTY JO	22-Dec	LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION (JON
30-Jun	TERRY & JILL BLEDSOE	29-Dec	WAYNE & ELAINE JARRETT

VOLUNTEERS

	Acolyte	Crucifer	Communion Assistant	Greeters
	3-Mar Ray Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Ben Whitener	Evelyn Fulbright
	10-Mar Tryston Sylvester	Greyson Whitener	Sandra Roseman	Sharon Sigman
	17-Mar Keaton Farnsworth	Ray Whitener	Nena Babb	Edna Fulbright
	24-Mar Rick Johnson	Cayden Hood	Tim Whitener	Dianne Nail
3/28 Maundy Thursday	Hayden Johnson	Tryston Sylvester	Bruce Sigman	Kay Whitener
3/29 Good Friday	Zachary Stuart			
3/31 Easter Sunrise	Marshall Whitener	Keaton Farnsworth	Jon Gladden	Nena Babb
4/7 WELCA Sunday	Paisley Hood	Nena Babb	Ray Whitener	Al King
	14-Apr Greyson Whitener	Hayden Johnson	Marilyn Teague	Kristin Teague
	21-Apr Alexis Wood	Austin Propst	Roger Teague	Evelyn Fulbright
	28-Apr Ray Whitener	Shuford Whitener	Jennifer Whitener	Sharon Sigman
	5-May Tryston Sylvester	Cash Fulbright	Ben Whitener	Edna Fulbright
	12-May Keaton Farnsworth	Alexis Wood	Sandra Roseman	Dianne Nail
	19-May Rick Johnson	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb	Kay Whitener
	26-May Hayden Johnson	Greyson Whitener	Tim Whitener	Jill Bledsoe
	2-Jun Marshall Whitener	Ray Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb
	9-Jun Paisley Hood	Cayden Hood	Dawn Covington	Al King
	16-Jun Greyson Whitener	Tryston Sylvester	Jon Gladden	Kristin Teague
	23-Jun Alexis Wood	Keaton Farnsworth	Ray Whitener	Evelyn Fulbright
	30-Jun Ray Whitener	Rick Johnson	Marilyn Teague	Sharon Sigman
	7-Jul Tryston Sylvester	Hayden Johnson	Roger Teague	Edna Fulbright
	14-Jul Rick Johnson	Nena Babb	Jennifer Whitener	Dianne Nail
	21-Jul Keaton Farnsworth	Austin Propst	Ben Whitener	Kay Whitener
	28-Jul Hayden Johnson	Shuford Whitener	Sandra Roseman	Jill Bledsoe
	4-Aug Marshall Whitener	Cash Fulbright	Nena Babb	Nena Babb
	11-Aug Paisley Hood	Alexis Wood	Tim Whitener	Al King
	18-Aug Greyson Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Bruce Sigman	Kristin Teague
	25-Aug Alexis Wood	Greyson Whitener	Dawn Covington	Evelyn Fulbright
	1-Sep Ray Whitener	Cayden Hood	Jon Gladden	Sharon Sigman
	8-Sep Tryston Sylvester	Ray Whitener	Ray Whitener	Edna Fulbright
	15-Sep Keaton Farnsworth	Tryston Sylvester	Marilyn Teague	Dianne Nail
	22-Sep Rick Johnson	Hayden Johnson	Roger Teague	Kay Whitener
	29-Sep Hayden Johnson	Keaton Farnsworth	Jennifer Whitener	Jill Bledsoe
	6-Oct Marshall Whitener	Rick Johnson	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	13-Oct Paisley Hood	Nena Babb	Sandra Roseman	Al King
	20-Oct Greyson Whitener	Austin Propst	Nena Babb	Kristin Teague
	27-Oct Alexis Wood	Shuford Whitener	Tim Whitener	Evelyn Fulbright
	3-Nov Ray Whitener	Cash Fulbright	Bruce Sigman	Sharon Sigman
11/10 Men's Sunday	Tryston Sylvester	Greyson Whitener	Jon Gladden	Edna Fulbright
	17-Nov Rick Johnson	Bruce Sigman	Dawn Covington	Dianne Nail
	24-Nov Keaton Farnsworth	Alexis Wood	Ray Whitener	Kay Whitener
	1-Dec Hayden Johnson	Ray Whitener	Marilyn Teague	Jill Bledsoe
	8-Dec Marshall Whitener	Cayden Hood	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	15-Dec Paisley Hood	Tryston Sylvester	Jennifer Whitener	Al King
	22-Dec Greyson Whitener	Hayden Johnson	Ben Whitener	Kristin Teague
12/24 Christmas Eve	Alexis Wood	Rick Johnson	Sandra Roseman	Evelyn Fulbright
	29-Dec Ray Whitener	Keaton Farnsworth	Nena Babb	Sharon Sigman
	5-Jan Tryston Sylvester	Nena Babb	Tim Whitener	Edna Fulbright
	12-Jan Keaton Farnsworth	Austin Propst	Bruce Sigman	Dianne Nail
	19-Jan Hayden Johnson	Shuford Whitener	Dawn Covington	Kay Whitener
	26-Jan Rick Johnson	Cash Fulbright	Jon Gladden	Jill Bledsoe
	2-Feb Marshall Whitener	Alexis Wood	Ray Whitener	Nena Babb
	9-Feb Paisley Hood	Bruce Sigman	Marilyn Teague	Al King
	16-Feb Greyson Whitener	Ray Whitener	Roger Teague	Kristin Teague
	23-Feb Alexis Wood	Greyson Whitener	Jennifer Whitener	Evelyn Fulbright

VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers	Offering Counters	Security
3-Mar Nena Babb	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Roger Teague
10-Mar Tim Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Zachary Stuart
17-Mar Al King	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Ralph Stallings
24-Mar Dawn Covington	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Darrell Jarrett
3/28 Maundy Thursday Joe Biggerstaff	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Bruce Sigman
3/29 Good Friday	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Rick Johnson
3/31 Easter Sunrise Jon Gladden	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Roger Teague
4/7 WELCA Sunday Marilyn Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Rick Johnson
14-Apr Ray Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Ralph Stallings
21-Apr Kristin Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Darrell Jarrett
28-Apr Jennifer Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Bruce Sigman
5-May Keaton Farnsworth	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Zachary Stuart
12-May Nena Babb	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Roger Teague
19-May Tim Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Darrell Jarrett
26-May Al King	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Ralph Stallings
2-Jun Dawn Covington	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Rick Johnson
9-Jun Joe Biggerstaff	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Bruce Sigman
16-Jun Jane Moretz	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Zachary Stuart
23-Jun Jon Gladden	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Roger Teague
30-Jun Ray Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Darrell Jarrett
7-Jul Marilyn Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Ralph Stallings
14-Jul Kristin Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Rick Johnson
21-Jul Jennifer Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Bruce Sigman
28-Jul Keaton Farnsworth	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Zachary Stuart
4-Aug Nena Babb	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Roger Teague
11-Aug Tim Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Darrell Jarrett
18-Aug Al King	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Ralph Stallings
25-Aug Dawn Covington	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Rick Johnson
1-Sep Joe Biggerstaff	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Bruce Sigman
8-Sep Jane Moretz	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Zachary Stuart
15-Sep Jon Gladden	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Roger Teague
22-Sep Ray Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Rick Johnson
29-Sep Marilyn Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Ralph Stallings
6-Oct Kristin Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Darrell Jarrett
13-Oct Jennifer Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Bruce Sigman
20-Oct Keaton Farnsworth	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Zachary Stuart
27-Oct Nena Babb	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Roger Teague
3-Nov Tim Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Rick Johnson
11/10 Men's Sunday Al King	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Ralph Stallings
17-Nov Dawn Covington	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Darrell Jarrett
24-Nov Joe Biggerstaff	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Bruce Sigman
1-Dec Jane Moretz	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Zachary Stuart
8-Dec Jon Gladden	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Roger Teague
15-Dec Ray Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Rick Johnson
22-Dec Marilyn Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Ralph Stallings
12/24 Christmas Eve Kristin Teague	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Darrell Jarrett
29-Dec Jennifer Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Bruce Sigman
5-Jan Keaton Farnsworth	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Zachary Stuart
12-Jan Nena Babb	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Roger Teague
19-Jan Tim Whitener	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Ralph Stallings
26-Jan Al King	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Darrell Jarrett
2-Feb Dawn Covington	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Bruce Sigman
9-Feb Joe Biggerstaff	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Zachary Stuart
16-Feb Jane Moretz	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Roger Teague
23-Feb Jon Gladden	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Rick Johnson

VOLUNTEERS

MONTH	COMMUNION PREPARATION	COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	ASSISTING MINISTERS	USHERS
MARCH	Sharon Sigman	Kristin Teague	Ray Whitener	Wayne Jarrett Al King Rick Johnson Marilyn Teague
APRIL	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Ben Whitener	Bruce Sigman Randy Speagle Dawn Covington Zach Stuart
MAY	Donna Biggerstaff	Sharon Sigman	Mike Midgett	Austin Propst Darrell Jarrett Nena Babb Mike Hollar
JUNE	Marilyn Teague	Donna Biggerstaff	Nena Babb	Roger Teague Benny Fulbright Dianne Nail Ben Whitener
JULY	Sharon Sigman	Sherrie Midgett	Tim Whitener	Ralph Stallings Jill Bledsoe Wayne Jarrett Al King
AUGUST	Jane Moretz	Wanda Stallings	Jennifer Whitener	Rick Johnson Bruce Sigman Marilyn Teague Zach Stuart
SEPTEMBER	Donna Biggerstaff	Sherrie Midgett	Jon Gladden	Randy Speagle Austin Propst Dawn Covington Mike Hollar
OCTOBER	Marilyn Teague	Sandra Roseman	Ray Whitener	Darrell Jarrett Dianne Nail Ben Whitener Benny Fulbright
NOVEMBER	Sharon Sigman	Kristin Teague	Nena Babb	LMM
DECEMBER	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Ben Whitener	Roger Teague Al King Nena Babb Jill Bledsoe
JANUARY '25	Donna Biggerstaff	Sherrie Midgett	Mike Midgett	Wayne Jarrett Rick Johnson Marilyn Teague Bruce Sigman
FEBRUARY	Marilyn Teague	Sandra Roseman	Tim Whitener	WOMEN ELCA



Meal Delivery 2024
See 2023 Newsletter for February 2024

March 2	No Meal	September 7	Carolyn Hoyle
March 9	April Fulbright	September 14	No Meal
March 16	No Meal	September 21	Phyllis Biggerstaff
March 23	Rita Lutz	September 28	No Meal
March 31	No Meal		
		October 5	Nena Babb
April 6	Susan Jones	October 12	No Meal
April 13	No Meal	October 19	Donna Biggerstaff
April 20	Carolyn Hoyle	October 26	No Meal
April 27	No Meal		
		November 2	Dawn Covington
May 4	Phyllis Biggerstaff	November 9	No Meal
May 11	No Meal	November 16	Kay Whitener
May 18	Nena Babb	November 23	No Meal
May 25	No Meal	November 30	Sylvia King
June 1	Donna Biggerstaff	December 7	No Meal
June 8	No Meal	December 14	April Fulbright
June 15	Dawn Covington	December 21	No Meal
June 22	No Meal	December 28	Rita Lutz
June 29	Kay Whitener		
		January 4, 2025	No Meal
July 6	No Meal	January 11	Susan Jones
July 13	Sylvia King	January 18	No Meal
July 20	No Meal	January 25	Carolyn Hoyle
July 27	April Fulbright		
		February 1	No Meal
August 3	No Meal	February 8	Phyllis Biggerstaff
August 10	Rita Lutz	February 15	No Meal
August 17	No Meal	February 22	Nena Babb
August 24	Susan Jones		
August 31	No Meal		
		Recipients: Catherine Houser, Evan Lail, Alfred Whitener, Joe Wyant	

Bereaved Families Food List - 2024

Sardis Church's gift is to provide a meal for the family if the deceased is a member of Sardis.

Sandwich Trays and condiments will be provided for the family to take home or to eat in the Fellowship Hall after funeral.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Edna Fulbright, Co-chair	Rita Lutz, Co-Chair	Dawn Covington, Co-Chair
Hope Gladden, Co-Chair	Annette Richard, Co-Chair	Kay Whitener, Co-Chair
Nena Babb, Co-Chair	Elaine Jarrett	Betty Jo Weaver
Jill Bledsoe	Susan Jones	Marilyn & Kristin Teague
Becky Gladden	Kathy Weaver	Robin Stuart
Leevada Wood	Donna Biggerstaff	Joyce Speagle
Phyllis Biggerstaff	Felicia Hollar	Jennifer Whitener
Mildred Fulbright	Carolyn Hoyle	Betty Sue Whitener
Sherrie Midgett	Patsy Johnson	Wanda Stallings
Phyllis Hood	Sylvia King	Elaine Evington
Evelyn Fulbright	Dot Lutz	Barbara J. Whitener
Kelly Speagle	Margaret Propst	Jane Moretz
Marie Speagle	Sheila Ramsey	Sandra Roseman
Sharon Sigman	April Fulbright	Teresa Starkey
Debbie Wise	Dianne Nail	Kirby Smyre
Carrie Yousef	Heather Carroll	

2024 FRED T FOARD SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE

JANUARY 3RD WESLEY CHAPEL

JULY 5TH SARDIS

FEBRUARY 7TH EBENEZER

AUGUST 7TH TRINITY

MARCH 6TH SARDIS

SEPTEMBER 4TH LAUREL HILL

APRIL 3RD PLATEAU

OCTOBER 2ND BLACKBURN BAPTIST

MAY 1ST BLACKBURN BAPTIST

NOVEMBER 6TH PLATEAU

JUNE 5TH EBENEZER

DECEMBER 4TH SARDIS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DEADLINE DATES

Your monthly Friendly Messenger is a vital part of the ministry and communication of the congregation here at Sardis. If committees do not get information into the office many things that we do will go unnoticed. Listed below are the dates that you need to get your information into the office. This is so you can have the information to put on your calendars before upcoming events.

<u>MONTH OF NEWSLETTER</u>	<u>DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION</u>
MARCH	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st
APRIL	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th
MAY	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th
JUNE	WEDNESDAY, MAY 22nd
JULY	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26th
AUGUST	WEDNESDAY, JULY 24th
SEPTEMBER	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21st
OCTOBER	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th
NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd
DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20th
JANUARY 2025	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd
FEBRUARY	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22nd

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT

As we begin each new year, we have hopes and dreams along with expectations and always, a good dose of reality. 2023 was no different than other years at Sardis.

We were finally coming out of the isolation of COVID and being renewed by gathering in person. At the same time, our world changed drastically during the pandemic so some things were done differently.

As a congregation, we celebrated joys within our faith community and we cried together as those we loved were called to eternal life in Christ. At the end of April, our beloved Pastor Adrienne Martin resigned her call here and it was with regret that we wished her God Speed. She now is an Associate Pastor at Christ Lutheran in Charlotte and we wish her joy in her new call.

Pastor Mary Louise Sitton became Interim Pastor here on May 1, 2023. It has been a homecoming for her and also a time to meet new folks at Sardis (for the last 24 years, at least).

As your Interim Pastor, I have the privilege to serve with you all in the name of Jesus. Working with Frank and Jane, serving with council members, and interacting with the fabulous volunteers and leaders in the congregation brings joy and satisfaction to me, and I hope to you as well.

Together, we are growing in Grace and doing God's work with our hands and hearts and minds. There is a place for everyone within our faith community; from babies to toddlers, pre-teens and teenagers, young adults and those a bit older.....we pray together and serve together in ways that bring glory to God's name.

2023 was indeed a year of transition and planning for the future. Thanks to all who have helped behind the scenes, doing what you do to keep us all on track. Thank you to those who serve on congregation council, committees, those who sing and ring bells, those who are leading and active in our youth group, men's group, WELCA, Sardis Sisters, and the list goes on and on.....that's a great accomplishment! It takes all of us doing what God calls us to do and we do it well here at Sardis.

Blessings to each of you and thanksgiving abounds for the strides in faith we have achieved because we have a firm foundation laid for us in the hundreds of men, women and children who worshiped here before we arrived.

We give thanks to God that we have been called to this place and in this time to share the salvation story with all who will hear. Keep up the good, faithful work, folks of Sardis!

Respectfully Submitted
Pastor Mary Louise

Parish Register Report for 2023

Received by Infant Baptism: 1 Henderson Lee Whitener

Received by Adult Baptism: 0

Received by Letter of Transfer/Affirmation of Faith: 0

Received by Confirmation: 1 Hayden Johnson

Total Members Received: 0

Removed by Death: 1

Margaret Carpenter Whitener

Death: March 4, 2023 Funeral: March 8, 2023

Removed by Transfer: 0

Total Members Removed: 1

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Mary Louise

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

Webster's dictionary defines Evangelism as "The spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness." It also means to promote spiritual awareness with each other in the church and the community thru deeds of kindness. The church family at Sardis does a very good job of doing exactly all of those things. Thank you to all of the Evangelism Team for participating and planning the events that were carried out in 2023. Committee members for this past year were Jon Gladden, Donna Biggerstaff, Mike & Sherrie Midgett, Pastor Adrienne Martin (before she departed) and Pastor Mary Louise Sitton (after she came to be our interim pastor), and myself.

From a personal standpoint, this has been an extremely difficult year for me. As all of you know, my wife Margaret passed away in March of this past year. She was a very valuable member on this committee. Before every meeting, she would go over with me the ideas that I would be presenting to the committee and would always give me advice on what we could do that would be different or she would come up with a completely new idea to try. She was never afraid of a new challenge. Our committee has some big shoes to fill and with you, the church family helping us; we will continue to make her proud as she looks down on us.

Thank you once again to all of our shepherds who send out cards and make phone calls to all of our church members. The Shepherding Group includes **Ken & Margaret Propst, Jon & Becky Gladden, Dawn Covington, Carolyn Hoyle, Al King, Hope Gladden, Shelia Ramsey, Donna Biggerstaff, Rita Lutz, Nena Babb, Kathy Weaver, Jane Moretz, Kay Whitener, Felicia Hollar, Marilyn Teague, Susan Jones, and myself.** New to the group this year is **Patsy Johnson.** She has taken over the shepherd's list for long time shepherds **Mae & Bill Whitener.** Thank you **Bill & Mae** for serving so faithfully as shepherds.

Events the Evangelism Committee participated in this year:

- 1) Dinner and a Movie Night. Those attending watched the movie "I Still Believe". Thank you to the Lutheran Men in Mission for providing food
- 2) Held an outdoor concert featuring Joe & Allen Biggerstaff and their group "Willowcreek". The weather was fantastatic and so was the crowd. \$490.00 was raised and donated to Safe Harbor Women's Shelter.
- 3) Had a food booth with hotdogs and water and gave out candy for Trunk or Treat. Food that was left over was donated to the Soup Kitchen in Newton.

Evangelism cont.

4) Took a group to Charlotte Motor Speedway to see the Christmas Lights. Thank you to Wayne and Loiselle Hedgepath for providing transportation.

5) Provided tickets for the movie "Journey to Bethlehem". 20 people attended

6) Held a Christmas Party for Evangelism team members and family, and Sardis Shepherds and guest

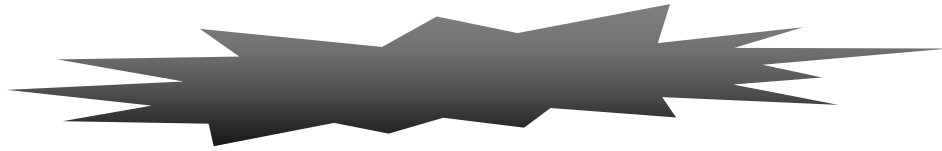
A committee is only as good as the people it serves and this committee continues to do great things for Sardis and the community because of the people here.

Thank you for making it a great and successful year again. No matter how great or how small your contribution was, please know that it was greatly appreciated. If you have an idea of something you think would be beneficial to the church or community; please feel free to share it with any committee member, myself, or the Pastor.

Peace and Blessings

Ray Whitener

Evangelism Committee Chairman



2023 Music Ministry

Thank you to all those who are instruments of praise at Sardis. Though our numbers may be small, we are big in generosity of time and willingness. At Sardis, we are blessed to offer opportunities for everyone from children to adults, ringers to singers, and occasionally, *budding percussionists*.

In 2023, the Chancel Choir filled each Sunday with beautiful music and congregational support. Children and Handbells added special accents to the year. During the summer months, we enjoyed singing many of the congregation's favorite hymns, along with background stories of those hymns.

While the music ministry may sound full, there is always **room for YOU**. **Chancel Choir is especially in NEED of WOMEN (soprano and alto)**. With smaller numbers, it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue with 4-part harmony. *Come, find your place!*

Frank

Social Ministry Committee Annual Report 2023

Thanks to Sardis' congregation donations, Thrivent Grants, and "God's Work, Our Hands," the Social Ministry Committee was able to do outreach in our community and also through Lutheran World Relief – internationally.

Locally

Prepared 240 bag lunches for the unhoused in Hickory and Newton on "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

Collected book bags and school supplies for Banoak and Blackburn

Collected over seventy-five coats for the unhoused and delivered them to the Soup Kitchen.

Collected hygiene items for Safe Harbor

Collected soda can tabs and Box Tops for Education for Crossnore Children's home.

Internationally

Prepared 28 Personal Care Kits and delivered to Zion Lutheran so Lutheran World Relief could pick them up and ship them to appropriate places.

Collected \$1000.00 on NOISY FIFTH SUNDAY OFFRINGS for Lutheran World Relief to purchase "good gifts" such as farm animals or other needed items for families/villages across the globe. (The youth will decide the specific animals and or services -such as clean water projects, mosquito netting, etc.)

For 2024 the committee hopes to increase its activities, but more manpower is needed. Please consider joining the Social Ministry Committee. Our meetings are brief, usually after church, and more hands will enable the committee to meet more needs in our congregation and community



Sardis Lutheran Men in Mission Report-2023

North Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission celebrated their 100 year anniversary through the year 2023. A gathering at Grace Lutheran Church in Salisbury in March was the highlight of this 100 year accomplishment. There were many speakers and a lot of information was shared. One key subject was the Home Mission Foundation Loan and Gift Fund. These funds are used for scholarships, grace fund, and loan and gift fund. The purpose of these funds is paying off seminary debts for the seminarians and scholarships for candidates that are seeking education in different areas in ministry and to provide two percent loans for churches that are expanding or building church facilities. It was a day filled with how men in mission can spread the gospel and get men involved in building their relationship with Christ. Our mission is to support men in their spiritual growth and in their social and intellectual development as they strive to deepen their commitment to Christ and their families and provide strength and support as they grow in the life of the church and its evangelical mission. So the question is how can we get more participation of men in our congregation in men's ministry. We meet at 6:30 on the last Sunday of each month. Come and be a part of our group.

The men helped with the pancake meal on Shrove Tuesday. We also sponsored two blood drives. We provided dinner for the dinner and movie night and helped fund the Daughters of Christ banquet. The men lead the service on Men's Sunday in November and we helped assemble the treat bags for the Christmas program. We would like to thank Alfred Whitener for his donation towards the treat bags and Nelson Speagle for providing the apples. We purchased an adjustable basketball goal for our youth which is at the back of the church. We contributed to the Home Mission Foundation of the North Carolina Men in Mission. We are chartered through the North Carolina Men in Mission. Thanks to all the men for all you do throughout the year-serving Christ through Sardis Lutheran Evangelical Church. Thanks to the congregation for all your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Johnson

Altar Committee

Each year I list the many activities we as an Altar Committee do within the church to enhance its beauty and prepare for Sunday services and special services. This year was no exception. We are blessed at Sardis to have a wonderful, caring, and talented committee.

Listed below are just some of our work within the church:

- Prepared the 2024 flower chart
- 56 communion services prepared
- Cleaned communion vessels after each service
- Cleaned brass and chancel cloths
- Kept fluid in altar candles
- Distributed altar flowers each Sunday
- Sent out weekly altar flower reminders
- Changed altar paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar
- Turned on and off the banner light each Sunday
- Set up and took down the Advent wreath
- Decorated the church at Christmas
- Ordered and placed flower saddles on the Louie Baker graves
- Burnt palms for Ash Wednesday service
- Stripped the altar on Maundy Thursday
- Ordered communion supplies and candles
- Assisted with funerals, weddings, and special services
- Trained children as acolyte and crucifer barriers

We perform many timeless duties on a weekly basis. If anyone wants to belong to a busy and productive committee you are certainly welcome. To all the committee members, thank you for your hard work within our church. You are very much appreciated.

The altar committee is picking up in 2024 where they left off in 2023 by finding ways to always enhance the beauty of our church services. This year a beautiful white funeral pall and cremation pall was purchased and given to the church by a generous donor. With the donated funds that was left over, we are hoping to buy new altar vases which will only enhance the beauty of our sanctuary even more.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Teague, Chairperson

Property Committee Report 2023

Sardis is often complimented for how well its facilities are maintained. And since we are in a search for a new pastor, that is a plus moving forward.

The property committee had a busy and productive year. It began with a meeting with our cleaning contractor. We were disappointed in the way the church was being cleaned each week and this was expressed to their management. That resulted in a new cleaning crew being assigned to Sardis. The results have been a clean, healthy building for our members.

Spring found our committee conducting the annual cleanup day for the grounds. Shrubbery and landscaping was spruced up and the beds refreshed with fresh mulch.

The weather was a little unstable this year leaving Sardis without power on two occasions and taking down a tree in the front yard. The property committee made sure that the three phase power was restored and that any equipment that was not functioning was restored to working condition. The committee contracted with a local tree service to get the tree removed and the lawn restored.

At the request of the congregation, another fifty feet of grass was added on the property at the back of the church. This area will give our youth extra space to play and provide overflow parking for events at church.

The above is in addition to the many small repairs and continuing maintenance that occurs every week here at Sardis.



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 2023

Technology Committee Report for 2023

Thankfully 2023 saw a return to a more normal year for technology. During the year we provided sound, video and lighting for every service plus special services. This included every service being streamed on Facebook to our members and a growing number of online visitors.

Communication with our congregation continues to improve as the monthly newsletter, the Sunday bulletin, and weekly announcements are all delivered electronically. Our Facebook page and our web page provide year round, up to date information.

The weather did provide some challenges. On two occasions storms damaged some of our technology and other systems at our church. These were rapidly repaired and services proceeded normally on Sunday.

Our heating and air conditioning system was updated with a new wireless thermostat that allowed our committee to manage the system remotely. We also changed the way the system was programmed to allow the system to operate at more consistent temperatures throughout the week. This has resulted in a more comfortable environment and a more efficient system.

Submitted,

Terry Bledsoe

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“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”



This is the purpose statement that we begin with at each meeting. We try to live by this statement and show it in our actions and in the projects that we try to complete for our church and community. Every woman at Sardis is a member of the Sardis Women of the ELCA.

We certainly appreciate the assistance ALL ladies in our congregation give for the projects that are planned. We are back in full swing from the pandemic and hope that we can continue to find ways to serve our church and community. Following is a list of projects completed in 2023:

- Planned and presented Bold Women's Sunday in February.
- Collected food for ECCCM and our Blessings Box in conjunction with the Lenten Season.
- Assisted the Worship & Music Committee in planning and hosting a farewell celebration for Pastor Adrienne Martin.
- Planned and hosted, along with the LMIM, the Daughters of God Banquet (first since 2019) with special honors to Margaret Whitener's past leadership
- Planned and served a Continental Breakfast for the Men on Father's Day,
- Planned and served a meal for the Foard Football Team before a game.
- Hosted the Catawba Conference of the NC Women of the ELCA for their fall gathering.
- Honored the Sardis Seniors at a Sunday luncheon with assistance from the Youth and the Ben Whitener family.
- Decorated our Christmas Tree with Chrismons.
- Collected items from the congregation for our Shut-ins and delivered for Christmas.
- Planned and served refreshments after the Christmas Play.
- Continued serving sandwich trays and fixings to our bereaved families.
- Continued with our Saturday Meal Delivery.

Again, we appreciate the support we get from all members of our Congregation. We couldn't accomplish our projects without you. Together we can fulfill our purpose. Come join us at a meeting. The first Sunday of the month at 5 pm is our usual meeting time. We would love to have you!

Respectfully submitted,
Nena Babb, President

Worship and Music Report for 2023

We began the 2023 year with Pastor Adrienne Martin and Frank Griffin, music director, planning and leading our worship experiences. These experiences continued to bring healing and wholeness to all who attended.

Very quickly we found ourselves celebrating Ash Wednesday and into the Lenten Season. Again, we participated in a Sunday Lenten Rotation with several area Lutheran pastors coming in to lead our evening worship. We participated in a Seder Meal in the fellowship hall as our Maundy Thursday worship. We moved back into the sanctuary on Good Friday. Easter Sunday Sunrise service was followed by our traditional breakfast. The Sunday after Easter was our second “Holy Humor Sunday” and was enjoyed by all. The last Sunday of April we bid farewell to Pastor Adrienne as she had announced several weeks earlier her intention to continue her studies as she awaited a new call. A reception for Sardis members and community was held following the worship service.

The first Sunday of May we were delighted to welcome Pastor Mary Louise Sitton as our interim pastor! Pastor Sitton was recently retired and currently living in Blowing Rock. Pastor Mary Louise stated she felt she had come full circle as more than 20 years ago she had served as our music director before heading to the seminary. Pastor Mary Louise hit the ground running with Youth Sunday and Pentecost Confirmation both in May. Hayden Johnson was confirmed and honored with a new member reception.

Following a busy summer our Homecoming celebration was held on September 10. We concluded our “year celebrations” by honoring those confirmed in years ending in “0”. Samuel Biggerstaff gave his reflections of his confirmation years. Following our Homecoming covered dish lunch we again participated in a God’s Work Our Hands activity packing lunches for the local soup kitchen. Confirmation classes and Children’s Choir rehearsals resumed this month as well.

Sardis participated in the Thanksgiving Eve community worship which was hosted this year by Wesley Chapel Methodist church. We ended our year with our traditional 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service and Lessons and Carols on December 31st.

We are so incredibly fortunate to be blessed with the leadership of our interim pastor Mary Louise Sitton and our music director Frank Griffin. Under their very capable guidance Sardis continues to be nourished and to thrive as we move forward into 2024.

Blessings,
Becky Gladden and Nena Babb, co-chairs

Youth Christian Education 2023 Report

During the 5th Sunday in January, the youth Sunday School classes made Valentines for our seniors.

In February, the Youth hosted “Love Sunday”, where the youth and congregation invited friends to church to share God's love. The annual Easter Egg Hunt in April was a fun time playing games, decorating eggs and finding eggs.

The Youth did an amazing job leading Worship service in May for Youth Sunday. Their theme was Jesus is my Hero.

Over the summer, our youth were invited to participate in Lutheroad Day Camp at St Paul's. Cash Fulbright went from Sardis and had a great time playing games, learning about God and those cool camp songs.

A preschool Sunday School class was added in August to ensure all aged had a class for them. Thanks Jennifer Whitener and Nena Babb for volunteering to teach.

A special thanks to our youth Sunday school teachers. It's a blessing to have several new teachers and many who continue to teach. Having a diverse group to adults teaching our youth about God is an amazing way to learn about God as everyone has different experiences and history to share.

Sardis was the host church for VBS 2023. Our theme was Stellar Shine Jesus' Light. Sardis joined Zion, Plateau, Wesley Chapel and Grace, making the week full of volunteers and youth excited about going on a cosmic quest learning how to shine Jesus' light to the world.

Rally Sunday was in September in conjunction with God's work our hands- the youth enjoyed games and a bounce obstacle course during Sunday School and after the service project of packing meals

Samaritan shoebox Program was a great success with the youth packing 50 boxes! The youth appreciate the congregation donating items and enjoyed time to pack and prayer over boxes during packing party. Special thanks to Donna Biggerstaff for providing meal

Youth Christmas program “Twas the night of Jesus Birth”. A special thanks for WELCA providing refreshments and all those involved with treat bags – all these groups working together make our youth program successful and fun!

The youth, along with several adult volunteers assisted congregational members with raking leaves on two different days in the fall. A special thanks for Patsy Johnson/Heather Carroll and April Fulbright for providing meals with these events

During Sunday School on Dec 24, the youth had Christmas breakfast to celebrate Jesus' birthday and worked on painting snowflakes and Santa's as well as working on nativity scene puzzle.

Blessings, April Fulbright

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Please report any corrections to:

- ✧ Put note on Jane's desk
- ✧ Send email to secretary@sardislutheran.com
- ✧ Phone 704-462-2081 / leave message

NOTES