

Friendly Messenger

May 2025

He Is Risen

Poet: Ellwood Haines Stokes

He is risen! Christ the holy,
He the Christ who once was slain; He
the earth-born, lone and lowly,
Bursts the tomb and lives again.
Grace divine to men abounded.
Grave, sin, hell, are all confounded.

He is risen! Men despising,
Truths of God revealed in time;
Risen! to His foes surprising,
To His friends a joy sublime;
Risen? yes, alive forever,
Christ, of endless life the giver.

Risen! risen! every nation
Join the universal joy;
Let the song fill all creation.
Men and angels' tongues employ,
Sadden'd hell and gladdened heaven.
Death is conquered, Christ is risen!

Risen! risen! joy forever,
Christ is victor, death in chains.
Grave shall gain dominion never,
Jesus lives, Messiah reigns!
Thrill the earth with the glad story.
We shall reign with Him in glory!

He
IS
risen
Alleluia!

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The seniors will meet in May on the 7th at Blackburn Baptist Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Evangelism Committee

Dinner and a Movie Night...

Saturday, May 17th, 2025

Dinner @ 5:30pm, Movie @6:30pm

When David Smallbone's music company collapses, he moves his family from Australia to the United States to search for a brighter future. Struggling to make ends meet, the couple soon realize the talents of their children, who go on to become two of the most successful acts in contemporary Christian music.



A mother's faith stands against all odds and inspires her husband and children to hold onto theirs. Based on a remarkable true story.

Information for NL's and Bulletins

Committee meetings or events by the congregation should be communicated to Jane directly. This needs to be done in time for newsletters (Wednesday before the last Sunday in the month), or the bulletin (by Wednesday evening each week.)

FTF JROTC

“On behalf of the Fred T Foard JROTC Cadets and instructors, we would like to thank everyone for their support, and all the donations for the JROTC Ruck March. All donations were greatly appreciated and really helped with funding for our military ball. Thank you.” Hayden Johnson

DAUGHTERS OF GOD CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 10 at 5:00 in Sardis Fellowship Hall we will gather to celebrate all wonderful ladies prior to Mother’s Day. Regardless of age, all ladies should come and bring your family, your neighbors or other women who have had a significant role in your life. This will be a multi-task event – (that is what women do!).

- ⇒ Create a craft for the Trinity Ridge Home (Craft designed and led by our own **Craft Queen Susan Jones**)
- ⇒ Bring a memento from your mother (or another meaningful lady who is no longer with us) and share with the group why the item reminds you of her.
- ⇒ Enjoy a delicious dinner of salads (sign up in narthex if you can bring one) and ice cream sundaes created and served by the Sardis Men in Mission.
- ⇒ Donate toiletry items for the clients at Trinity.

Indeed, it will be a fun time of fellowship, celebration and sharing of God’s love.

Please sign up on the Sunday Bulletin insert if you can attend so the tables can be prepared.

Thanks

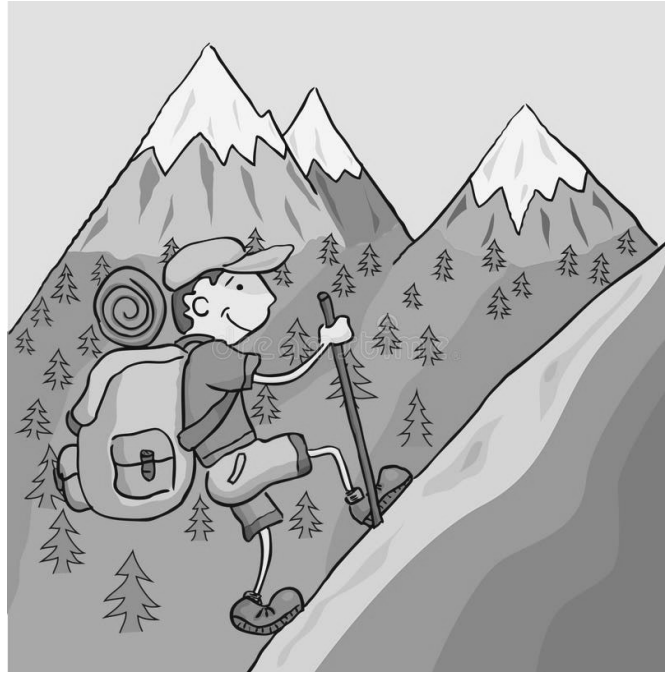
From the Social Ministry Committee. . .

Hugs and Kisses!!! During May, the Social Ministry Committee will again be collecting new and gently used stuffed animals/toys to share with the local police and first responders. Please bring any items you have and place them in the box in the narthex any Sunday in May. We will collect them and donate them to local law enforcement and first responders so the members can share them with children who are undergoing crisis in their lives. Sometimes something to hold on to helps make the trouble not so scary.

Thanks for all you do to continue our church’s outreach into the community.

Mountain Creek Park Hike and Picnic May 4th

The youth will meet at 2 pm at the Mountain Creek Park (6554 Little Mountain Rd. Sherrills Ford, NC) near Nature Center parking lot for a trail hike. Afterwards, we will have picnic/cookout at the picnic shelter from 4-6 PM and enjoy the adventure playground. All ages welcome! For food planning purposes, please let April Fulbright know if you plan to attend.



Graduation time is upon us and we would love to know who in your family is graduating from any age institution. We will compile the list of names to have in an article in the June NL and a bulletin in May. Please check your bulletin for a form to fill out and return it to Jane prior to May 20th. Additional forms are in the Narthex cabinet. We don't want to overlook anyone. You can also email secretary@sardislutheran.com or call the church office, 704-462-2081.



Rachel's Day

“... Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.” (Jeremiah 31:15–17)

In 1994, one woman urged her congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church on the west side of Chicago, to support children facing violence. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden— Rachel's Garden. It became a place where folks—mostly mothers—could come to mourn children killed by gun violence in the past year. They also planted a white cross and flowers in remembrance of these young ones. Two years later, the Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization brought a memorial to the Third Triennial Convention (1996) of Women of the ELCA to broaden awareness of the violence children face and actions to address it. The convention passed the memorial, resolving “That ELCA women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel's Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15–17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.”

From the CBS Sunday Morning News show archives this past Sunday: “On April 20, 1999, two heavily armed students enter Columbine High School in Lillteton, Colorado and kill 13 people before killing themselves. Since Columbine there have been more than 428 school shootings in the United States, exposing some 400,000 students to gun violence.” There were nine mass shootings in 2012. There were 60 mass shootings in the first 90 days of 2025.



Sunday, May 4, the Sardis WELCA ask you to wear blue in support of Rachel's Day. Find ways to help stop gun violence, from writing your congressmen to helping support organizations that are actively trying to curb the violence that harms the innocent children.

MAY HIGHLIGHTS OF WOMEN OF FAITH

MAY 4 - Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

May 8 - Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

May 21 - Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

May 31 - Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Thrivent Action Team

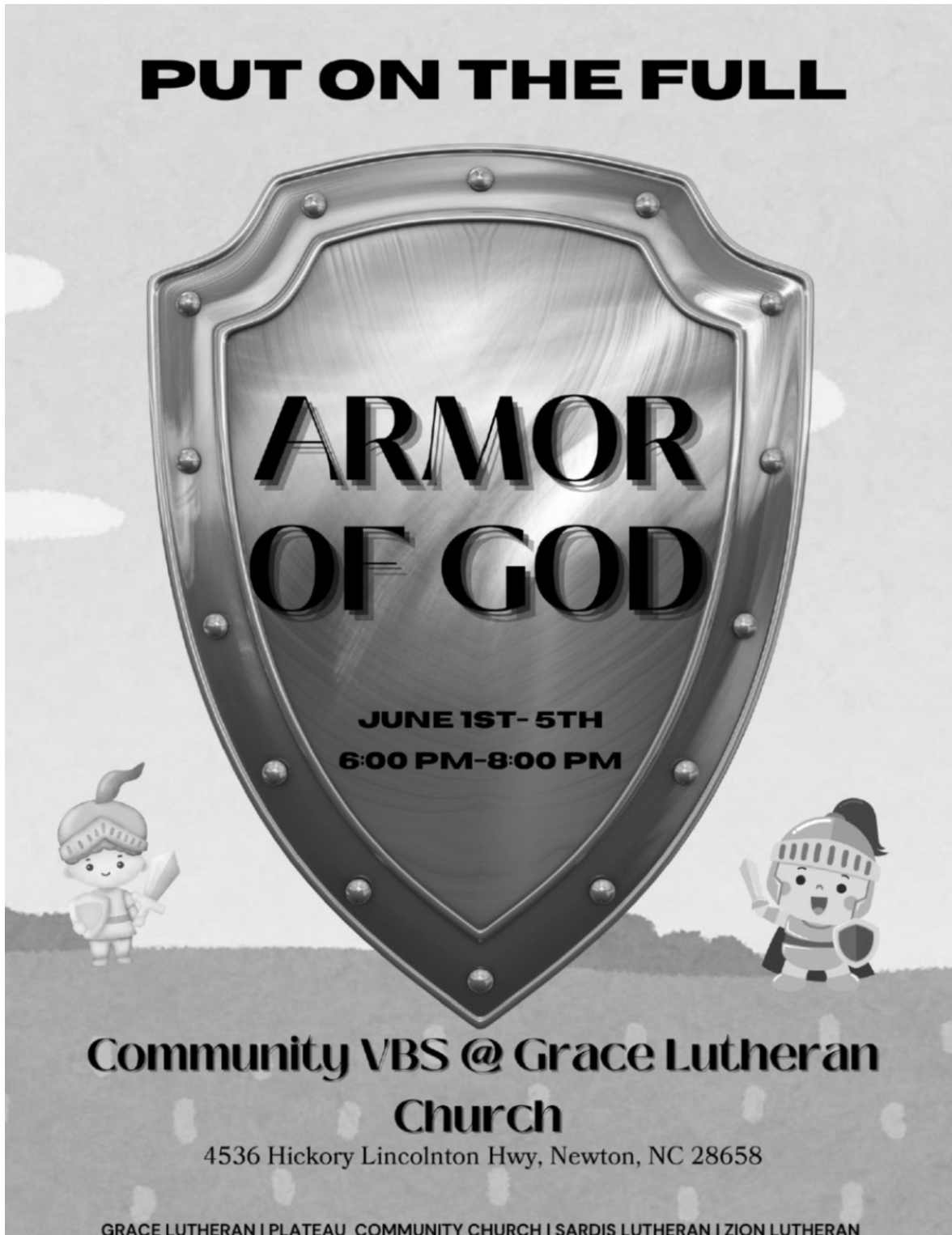
During Lent we were approved for funds from Thrivent to purchase food for our Blessing Box and to share with Ashure Ministries. We received a card for shopping to purchase food along with the donations from our Sardis members. We were able to purchase about 250 lbs. for our Blessing Box here at Sardis and Ashure was able to purchase 806 lbs.

Thank you for supporting this ministry at Sardis as the Blessing Box is well used. If you forgot to share some food during Lent, please share some anytime. It is appreciated.



COUNCIL MINUTES

The Church Council did not meet in March.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>Inclement Weather decisions will be announced on our Phone Tree by Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. Please make sure your phone information is up to date with the Secretary. In the event of a Tornado during service please exit Sanctuary and proceed to the hallways, (1) back of Sanctuary to the left and (1) is the Fellowship Hall to the right of the Narthex. Remain in hallways, not in rooms.</p>				<p>1 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Wear Blue for "Rachel's Day" 6 Bring Food for Blessings Box 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 2:00 Mountain Creek Park Hike and cook-out</p>	<p>5 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 12:00 FTF Seniors at Blackburn Baptist Church</p>	<p>8 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>10 5:00 Daughter's of God Banquet</p>
<p>11 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6:00 Youth Planning Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>17 <i>Evangelism Event</i> 5:30 Dinner and a Movie</p>
<p>18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>19 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 5:00 Articles due for June NL</p>	<p>22 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge, Youth Assisting 6:30 LMM</p>	<p>26 MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>31</p>
<p align="center">**NOTE** <i>If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know.</i></p>						

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

5/5 Andrew Ruggles, Jr.

5/7 Lincoln Farnsworth

5/8 Gabriel Shepherd

5/10 Mae Whitener

Kallista McGinnis

5/11 Annette Richard

5/20 Brenna Wilson

5/21 Ben Whitener

5/24 Randy Speagle

Logan Yow

Avery Yow

5/28 Lee Whitener

5/29 Renee' Ramsey

Clay Smyre

5/31 Carrie Yousef

Gene Biggerstaff

Rick J.; 4th, 18th;

Gene B: 11th 25th

USHERS

Marshall W., Dawn C.

COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

Donna B. Sharon S.

Offering Counter: Dwayne W.

Anniversaries:

Rick and Patsy Johnson 5- 12

Osama & Carrie Yousef 5-17

Andy and Anita Ruggles 5- 19

Terry & Jill Bledsoe 5-27

<i>VOLUNTEER May</i>	4th	11th	18th	25th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Andy & Anita R.	Roger & Marilyn T.	Greg & Kerby S.	Ralph & Wanda Stallings
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Cash/Graysen	Gabriel/Shuford	Tryston/Ian	Ian/Hayden
COMM. ASSISTANT	Ben W.	Tim W.	Hayden J.	Dawn C.
GREETERS	Al & Sylvia K.	Annette R./Evelyn F.	Paisley H./Shuford W.	Rita L./Jill B.
LAY READER	Hayden J.	Ray W.	Jill B.	Kristin T.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church	Heather C.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Roger T.	Ralph S.	Zachary S.	Ben W.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH April	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Nena	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis MH Rick	Pre-K Nena EL Sherrie/Mike MH Dawn
FRONT YARD SIGN	Nena B.	Gabriel/Ian S.	Robin/Cynthia S.	Tim W.
BACKPACK DELIVERY	8th Joe & Phyllis	15th Roger, Marilyn, Jane	21st Tim & Barbara	—————
MEAL DEL.	3rd April F.	10th No Meal	17th Rita L.	24th No Meal 31st Susan J.
BLESSINGS BOX	Church Council	LMM	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ

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.

REMEMBER: you can find this NL, the weekly calendar and Sunday Sermons on the website: <https://sardislutheran.com/> mark it as a favorite and check it out often.

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6103 W NC 10 HWY
HICKORY NC 28602



SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd (C) [828-228-3078](tel:828-228-3078) pastor@sardislutheran.com

Organist/Director of Music: Nena Babb, (C) 828-238-5700 nhbabb@gmail.com

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff (C) 828-323-5809 biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 secretary@sardislutheran.com