

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.

2025 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES and 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd
Organist/Director of Music: Nena Babb
Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff
Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz

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nhbabb@gmail.com
biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com
secretary@sardislutheran.com

www.sardislutheran.com

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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
MaryLouise Sitton (Interim)	2023-2024
Matthew Oscar Shepherd	2024-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 2025

Pastor	Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd
Director of Music (Interim)	Nena Babb
Secretary/Treasurer	Jane Moretz

OFFICERS FOR 2025

Vice President, Congregation Council	Joe Biggerstaff
Secretary, Congregation Council	Mike Midgett
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	Marilyn Teague

CONGREGATION CHURCH COUNCIL

<u>Term 2023-2025</u>	<u>Term 2024-2026</u>	<u>Term 2025-2027</u>
Terry Bledsoe	Joe Biggerstaff	Mike Midgett
Jane Moretz	Jon Gladden	Darrell Jarrett
Dwayne Whitener	Rick Johnson	Gene Biggerstaff
Ken Propst	Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener

2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nena Babb	Roger Lutz
Sherrie Midgett	Robin Stuart
Kristin Teague	Ray Whitener

2025 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sherrie Midgett	(2023-2025)
Jennifer Whitener	(2023-2025)
Donna Biggerstaff	(2024-2026)
Phyllis Biggerstaff	(2025-2027)
Dawn Covington	(2025-2027)

CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2025
MONTHLY DEVOTIONS, CONTACT & COMMITTEE
CONTACT, ASSISTING MINISTER

COUNCIL MEMBER	DEVOTIONS, MONTHLY CONTACT	COMMITTEE	ASSISTING MINISTER
Tim Whitener	January	Evangelism	Tim Whitener
Jane Moretz	February	Altar	Jennifer Whitener
Jon Gladden	March	Christian Education Adult	Jon Gladden
Rick Johnson	April	Energy Saving/	Rick Johnson
Gene Biggerstaff	May	Historical	Gene Biggerstaff
Terry Bledsoe	June	Technology	Kristin Teague
Joe Biggerstaff	July	Technology	Ray Whitener
Dwayne Whitener	August	Finance/Endowment	Nena Babb
Mike Midgett	September	Christian Ed. Youth/ Angels for Christ	Mike Midgett
Darrell Jarrett	October	Social Ministry	Ben Whitener
Zachary Stuart	November	Worship & Music/ Scholarship	Zachary Stuart
Ken Propst	December	Cemetery/Property	Ray Whitener

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

2025 Budget: Passed

2025—2026 Church Council: Zachary Stuart 2025-2027 Mike Midgett, Darrell Jarrett, Gene Biggerstaff, Tim Whitener

2025 Nominating Committee: Nena Babb, Roger Lutz, Sherrie Midgett, Robin Stuart, Kristin Teague, Ray Whitener

2025-2027 Scholarship Committee: Phyllis Biggerstaff, Dawn Covington

Worship Dates to include in 2025 Sardis Calendar

1/12 = Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

2/23 = WELCA Sunday

3/2 = Transfiguration Sunday

3/5 = Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

3/9 – 4/6 = Sunday evening Lenten services

4/13 = Palm/Passion Sunday

4/17 = Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.

4/18 = Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.

4/20 = Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m.

6/8 = Pentecost

6/15 = Holy Trinity Sunday

9/14 = Homecoming

10/26 = Reformation Sunday

11/2 = All Saints Sunday

11/9 = Men's Sunday

11/23 = Christ the King Sunday

11/26 = Thanksgiving Eve Soup & Sandwich/Service (**at Plateau Community**)
Sardis provide drinks

11/30; 12/7; 12/14; 12/21 = 4 Sundays of Advent

12/24 = Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. (Prelude at 10:15)

12/28 = Lessons and Carols Sunday

SPECIAL SERVICES HELPERS

Date '25	Torch Bearer's	Bible Bearer
Easter Sunday 4/20	Marilyn T. / Marshall W.	Rick Johnson
Christmas Eve 12/24	Marilyn T. / Shuford W.	Rick Johnson

ALTAR FLOWERS 2025

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

VOLUNTEERS

	Acolyte	Crucifer	Communion Assistant	Greeters
	2-Mar Marshall Whitener	Shuford Whitener	Jennifer Whitener	Darrell Jarrett
	9-Mar Gabriel Shepherd	Bruce Sigman	Roger Teague	Dianne Nail
	16-Mar Tryston Sylvester	Ian Shepherd	Marshall Whitener	Felicia Hollar
	23-Mar Ian Shepherd	Nena Babb	Zachary Stuart	Sylvia King
	30-Mar Shuford Whitener	Joe Biggerstaff	Bruce Sigman	Annette Richard
	6-Apr Keaton Farnsworth	Cash Fulbright	Jon Gladden	Nena Babb
	13-Apr Ray Whitener	Marshall Whitener	Gene Biggerstaff	Rita Lutz
4/17 Maundy Thursday				
4/18 Good Friday	Zachary Stuart			
4/20/2025 Easter Sun-	Rick Johnson	Ray Whitener	Sandra Roseman	Dianne Nail
	27-Apr Graysen Whitener	Keaton Farnsworth	Nena Babb	Felicia Hollar
	4-May Marshall Whitener	Graysen Whitener	Ben Whitener	Sylvia King
	11-May Gabriel Shepherd	Shuford Whitener	Tim Whitener	Annette Richard
	18-May Tryston Sylvester	Ian Shepherd	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	25-May Ian Shepherd	Bruce Sigman	Dawn Covington	Rita Lutz
	1-Jun Rick Johnson	Nena Babb	Kristin Teague	Kristin Teague
	8-Jun Shuford Whitener	Joe Biggerstaff	Kathy Weaver	Darrell Jarrett
	15-Jun Ray Whitener	Cash Fulbright	Jennifer Whitener	Dianne Nail
	22-Jun Paisley Hood	Marshall Whitener	Roger Teague	Felicia Hollar
	29-Jun Keaton Farnsworth	Rick Johnson	Marshall Whitener	Sylvia King
	6-Jul Graysen Whitener	Ray Whitener	Zachary Stuart	Annette Richard
	13-Jul Marshall Whitener	Cayden Hood	Jon Gladden	Nena Babb
	20-Jul Gabriel Shepherd	Keaton Farnsworth	Bruce Sigman	Rita Lutz
	27-Jul Tryston Sylvester	Graysen Whitener	Gene Biggerstaff	Kristin Teague
	3-Aug Ian Shepherd	Shuford Whitener	Mike Midgett	Darrell Jarrett
	10-Aug Rick Johnson	Bruce Sigman	Marilyn Teague	Dianne Nail
	17-Aug Shuford Whitener	Ian Shepherd	Nena Babb	Felicia Hollar
	24-Aug Ray Whitener	Nena Babb	Sandra Roseman	Sylvia King
	31-Aug Paisley Hood	Joe Biggerstaff	Ben Whitener	Annette Richard
	7-Sep Keaton Farnsworth	Cash Fulbright	Tim Whitener	Nena Babb
	14-Sep Graysen Whitener	Marshall Whitener	Dawn Covington	Rita Lutz
	21-Sep Marshall Whitener	Rick Johnson	Kathy Weaver	Kristin Teague
	28-Sep Gabriel Shepherd	Ray Whitener	Kristin Teague	Darrell Jarrett
	5-Oct Tryston Sylvester	Cayden Hood	Rick Johnson	Dianne Nail
	12-Oct Ian Shepherd	Keaton Farnsworth	Jennifer Whitener	Felicia Hollar
	19-Oct Rick Johnson	Shuford Whitener	Roger Teague	Sylvia King
	26-Oct Shuford Whitener	Graysen Whitener	Zachary Stuart	Annette Richard
	2-Nov Paisley Hood	Bruce Sigman	Marshall Whitener	Nena Babb
11/9/2025 Men's Sun-	Ray Whitener	Ian Shepherd	Jon Gladden	Rita Lutz
	16-Nov Keaton Farnsworth	Nena Babb	Bruce Sigman	Kristin Teague
	23-Nov Graysen Whitener	Joe Biggerstaff	Gene Biggerstaff	Darrell Jarrett
	30-Nov Marshall Whitener	Cash Fulbright	Mike Midgett	Dianne Nail
	7-Dec Gabriel Shepherd	Marshall Whitener	Marilyn Teague	Felicia Hollar
	14-Dec Tryston Sylvester	Rick Johnson	Sandra Roseman	Sylvia King
	21-Dec Ian Shepherd	Marshall Whitener	Nena Babb	Annette Richard
12/24 Christmas Eve	Shuford Whitener	Ray Whitener	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	28-Dec Rick Johnson	Keaton Farnsworth	Tim Whitener	Rita Lutz
	4-Jan Ray Whitener	Graysen Whitener	Rick Johnson	Kristin Teague
	11-Jan Paisley Hood	Shuford Whitener	Dawn Covington	Darrell Jarrett
	18-Jan Keaton Farnsworth	Bruce Sigman	Kristin Teague	Dianne Nail
	25-Jan Graysen Whitener	Ian Shepherd	Kathy Weaver	Felicia Hollar
	1-Feb Marshall Whitener	Nena Babb	Jennifer Whitener	Sylvia King
	8-Feb Gabriel Shepherd	Joe Biggerstaff	Roger Teague	Annette Richard
	15-Feb Tryston Sylvester	Cash Fulbright	Marshall Whitener	Nena Babb
	22-Feb Ian Shepherd	Cayden Hood	Zachary Stuart	Rita Lutz

VOLUNTEERS

	Lay Readers	Security	Front Yard Sign
	2-Mar Jennifer Whitener	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener
	9-Mar Dawn Covington	Zachary Stuart	Nena Babb
	16-Mar Jon Gladden	Bruce Sigman	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	23-Mar Kathy Weaver	Ben Whitener	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	30-Mar Marilyn Teague	Rick Johnson	Tim Whitener
	6-Apr Gene Biggerstaff	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	13-Apr Zachary Stuart	Zachary Stuart	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
4/17 Maundy Thursday	Jane Moretz	Ralph Stallings	
4/18 Good Friday		Bruce Sigman	
4/20/2025 Easter Sunrise	Joe Biggerstaff	Ben Whitener	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	27-Apr Tim Whitener	Rick Johnson	Tim Whitener
	4-May Paisley Hood	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	11-May Ray Whitener	Ralph Stallings	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	18-May Jill Bledsoe	Zachary Stuart	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	25-May Kristin Teague	Bruce Sigman	Tim Whitener
	1-Jun Marshall Whitener	Darrell Jarrett	Nena Babb
	8-Jun Jennifer Whitener	Ben Whitener	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	15-Jun Dawn Covington	Rick Johnson	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	22-Jun Jon Gladden	Roger Teague	Tim Whitener
	29-Jun Kathy Weaver	Ralph Stallings	Nena Babb
	6-Jul Marilyn Teague	Zachary Stuart	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	13-Jul Gene Biggerstaff	Bruce Sigman	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	20-Jul Zachary Stuart	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	27-Jul Jane Moretz	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	3-Aug Nena Babb	Rick Johnson	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	10-Aug Joe Biggerstaff	Roger Teague	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	17-Aug Tim Whitener	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener
	24-Aug Paisley Hood	Zachary Stuart	Nena Babb
	31-Aug Ray Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	7-Sep Jill Bledsoe	Darrell Jarrett	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	14-Sep Kristin Teague	Ben Whitener	Tim Whitener
	21-Sep Marshall Whitener	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	28-Sep Jennifer Whitener	Rick Johnson	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	5-Oct Dawn Covington	Ralph Stallings	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	12-Oct Jon Gladden	Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener
	19-Oct Kathy Weaver	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb
	26-Oct Marilyn Teague	Darrell Jarrett	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	2-Nov Gene Biggerstaff	Ben Whitener	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
11/9/2025 Men's Sunday	Zachary Stuart	Rick Johnson	Tim Whitener
	16-Nov Jane Moretz	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	23-Nov Nena Babb	Ralph Stallings	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	30-Nov Joe Biggerstaff	Zachary Stuart	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	7-Dec Tim Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Tim Whitener
	14-Dec Paisley Hood	Darrell Jarrett	Nena Babb
	21-Dec Ray Whitener	Ben Whitener	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
12/24 Christmas Eve	Jill Bledsoe	Rick Johnson	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	28-Dec Kristin Teague	Roger Teague	Tim Whitener
	4-Jan Marshall Whitener	Ralph Stallings	Nena Babb
	11-Jan Jennifer Whitener	Zachary Stuart	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	18-Jan Dawn Covington	Bruce Sigman	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	25-Jan Jon Gladden	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	1-Feb Kathy Weaver	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	8-Feb Marilyn Teague	Rick Johnson	Gabriel & Ian Shepherd
	15-Feb Gene Biggerstaff	Roger Teague	Robin & Cynthia Stuart
	22-Feb Zachary Stuart	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener

VOLUNTEERS

MONTH	COMMUNION PREPARATION	COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	USHERS
MARCH	Sharon Sigman	Kristin Teague	Darrell Jarrett Dianne Nail
APRIL	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Roger Lutz Marilyn Teague
MAY	Donna Biggerstaff	Sharon Sigman	Marshall Whitener Dawn Covington
JUNE	Marilyn Teague	Donna Biggerstaff	Bruce Sigman Robin Stuart
JULY	Sharon Sigman	Sherrie Midgett	Al King Kathy Weaver
AUGUST	Jane Moretz	Wanda Stallings	Roger Teague Nena Babb
SEPTEMBER	Donna Biggerstaff	Sherrie Midgett	Bryan Hood Dianne Nail
OCTOBER	Marilyn Teague	Sandra Roseman	Randy Speagle Cash Fulbright
NOVEMBER	Sharon Sigman	Kristin Teague	Ben Whitener Mike Hollar
DECEMBER	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Rick Johnson Marilyn Teague
JANUARY '26	Donna Biggerstaff	Sherrie Midgett	Darrell Jarrett Dianne Nail
FEBRUARY	Marilyn Teague	Sandra Roseman	WELCA

BANOAK BACKPACK PROGRAM 2024 - 2025

We currently bag and deliver to the school each week for 28 families

BACKPACK DELIVERY

9/12/2024	Dwayne & Barbara	1/2/2025	Christmas
9/19/2024	Gene & Donna	1/9/2025	Gene & Donna
9/26/2024	Joe & Phyllis	1/16/2025	Joe & Phyllis
10/3/2024	Roger, Marilyn & Jane	1/23/2025	Roger, Marilyn & Jane
10/10/2024	Dwayne & Barbara	1/30/2025	Tim & Barbara
10/17/2024	Gene & Donna	2/6/2025	Dwayne & Barbara
10/24/2024	Joe & Phyllis	Take on the 12th	Gene & Donna
10/31/2024	Roger, Marilyn & Jane	2/20/2025	Joe & Phyllis
11/7/2024	Dwayne & Barbara	2/27/2025	Roger, Marilyn & Jane
11/14/2024	Gene & Donna	3/6/2025	Tim & Barbara
11/21/2024	Thanksgiving	3/13/2025	Dwayne & Barbara
11/28/2024	Joe & Phyllis	3/20/2025	Gene & Donna
12/5/2024	Roger, Marilyn & Jane	3/27/2025	Joe & Phyllis
12/12/2024	Tim & Barbara	4/3/2025	Roger, Marilyn & Jane
12/19/2024	Dwayne & Barbara	4/10/2025	Tim & Barbara
12/26/2024	Christmas	4/17/2025	Dwayne & Barbara
		4/24/2025	Easter
		5/1/2025	Gene & Donna
		5/8/2025	Joe & Phyllis
		5/15/2025	Roger, Marilyn & Jane



Meal Delivery 2025

March-25	No Meal	September-25	Sylvia King
March-25	Donna Biggerstaff	September-25	No Meal
March-25	No Meal	September-25	April Fulbright
March-25	Dawn Covington	September-25	No Meal
March-25	No Meal	October-25	Rita Lutz
April-25	Kay Whitener	October-25	No Meal
April-25	No Meal	October-25	Susan Jones
April-25	Sylvia King	October-25	No Meal
April-25	No Meal	November-25	Phyllis Biggerstaff
May-25	April Fulbright	November-25	No Meal
May-25	No Meal	November-25	Nena Babb
May-25	Rita Lutz	November-25	No Meal
May-25	No Meal	November-25	Carolyn Hoyle
May-25	Susan Jones	December-25	No Meal
June-25	No Meal	December-25	Donna Biggerstaff
June-25	Phyllis Biggerstaff	December-25	No Meal
June-25	No Meal	December-25	Dawn Covington
June-25	Nena Babb	January-26	No Meal
July-25	No Meal	January-26	Kay Whitener
July-25	Carolyn Hoyle	January-26	No Meal
July-25	No Meal	January-26	Sylvia King
July-25	Donna Biggerstaff	January-26	No Meal
August-25	No Meal	February-26	April Fulbright
August-25	Dawn Covington	February-26	No Meal
August-25	No Meal	February-26	Rita Lutz
August-25	Kay Whitener	February-26	No Meal
August-25	No Meal	Deliver to Catherine H., Alfred W., Evan L., Faye H.	

Bereaved Families Food List - 2025

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

2025 FRED T FOARD SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE

JANUARY 8TH WESLEY CHAPEL

JULY 2ND SARDIS

FEBRUARY 5TH EBENEZER

AUGUST 6TH GRACE

MARCH 5TH LAUREL HILL

SEPTEMBER 3RD LAUREL HILL

APRIL 2ND PLATEAU

OCTOBER 1ST BLACKBURN BAPTIST

MAY 7TH BLACKBURN BAPTIST

NOVEMBER 5TH PLATEAU

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 19th
APRIL	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26th
MAY	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd
JUNE	WEDNESDAY, MAY 21st
JULY	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th
AUGUST	WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd
SEPTEMBER	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27th
OCTOBER	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th
NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26th
JANUARY 2026	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd
FEBRUARY	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21st

COMMITTEE REPORTS



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Adult Christian Education

Jon Gladden- Chair
Gene Biggerstaff

Altar

Marilyn Teague Chair
Sandra Roseman
Sherrie Midgett
Donna Biggerstaff
Jane Moretz
Sharon Sigman
Kristin Teague
Wanda Stallings

Youth

Ben Whitener
Sherrie Midgett
Mike Midgett
April Fulbright
Donna Biggerstaff

Cemetery

Greg Fulbright - Chair
Tim Whitener
Darrell Jarrett
Ralph Stallings
Ken Propst

Children's Christian Education

April Fulbright—Chair
Jennifer Whitener
Zachary Stuart
Donna Biggerstaff
Kristin Teague
Susan Jones
Heather Carroll
Sherrie Midgett
Mike Midgett

Constitution Update Commit-

Dwayne Whitener
Jennifer Whitener
Jane Moretz

Endowment

Al King - Chair
Ken Propst
Rick Johnson
Dwayne Whitener
Terry Bledsoe

Evangelism

Ray Whitener - Chair
Mike Midgett
Sherrie Midgett
Jon Gladden
Sheila Ramsey
Donna Biggerstaff

Finance

Dwayne Whitener - Chair
Nena Babb
Jane Moretz
Kristin Teague
Gene Biggerstaff

Historical

Ken Propst—Chair
Terry Bledsoe
Jill Bledsoe

Worship & Music

Becky Gladden
Nena Babb
Tim Whitener

Property

Mike Midgett- Chair
Rick Johnson- Co-Chair
Tim Whitener
Bruce Sigman
Darrell Jarrett
Ralph Stallings
Ken Propst
Ray Whitener
Jennifer Whitener
Zachary Stuart

Security Team

Bruce Sigman
Rick Johnson
Ralph Stallings
Zachary Stuart
Darrell Jarrett
Roger Teague
Ben Whitener
Bruce Sigman

Social Ministry

Phyllis Biggerstaff
Rita Lutz
Donna Biggerstaff

Stewardship

Technology

Zach Stuart
Samuel Biggerstaff
Ben Whitener
Jane Moretz
Terry Bledsoe
Joe Biggerstaff
Ian Shepherd

Future Planning

Nena Babb - Chair
Tim Whitener
Rick Johnson
Sheila Ramsey

PASTORS REPORT

Beloved Sardis,

It has been such a full year of life and ministry here at Sardis Lutheran Church!

The year began with in an ongoing season of discernment as you continued your Pastoral search with the gracious pastoral care and love of your interim Pastor Mary Louise. I want to express my gratitude to the Call Committee and Council for their faithful work and dedication throughout this process. Your commitment to prayerfully seeking God's guidance led to the call of a new Pastor, and I am humbled and grateful beyond words to be your Pastor.

This year, our youth had the incredible opportunity to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. It was a time of faith-building, fellowship, and deepening their relationship with Christ and one another. Additionally, they actively participated in our Noisy Offering, engaging in ministry that teaches the joy of giving and love of our neighbors.

We joined in ministry with Assure Ministries, extending God's love to our neighbors in need throughout the year. When Hurricane Helen struck, we rallied together to support our Western North Carolina neighbors, providing aid and looking for ongoing ways to assist those still affected by the storm's devastation.

I also want to say thank you, to all the active and faithful committees of our congregation for their dedication to the work of the Gospel of Christ Jesus! It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve and work with you!

As a part of a larger community of faith, we came together in worship and service through our Thanksgiving service and the Fred T. Foard seniors' luncheons. We also lived out our calling through "God's Work, Our Hands," packing food bags for those facing food insecurity. Our support for local law enforcement through stuffed animals for children was another impactful way we shared Christ's love to the vulnerable.

This year, we celebrated and supported our beloved Frank as he began a new chapter in his retirement. Frank's nearly decade-long devotion and ministry of music as our organist has been a gift to us all, but even more than that, he has been a cherished friend and blessed part of our church family. We give thanks for his faithful service and pray God's love and blessings over this next season of his life.

We celebrated the life's and the fulfillment of three members baptismal promise in the sure in certain hope of the resurrection to new life in Christ Jesus. Our beloved: Scottie, Fern, and Joe. We continue to pray, with and for, their families and friends. That the Holy Spirit wrap them in Christ's love, peace, and comfort.

We also celebrated First Communion, and kicked off Confirmation, nurturing the faith of our young people. We provided a Parent's Night Out, giving families an opportunity for rest and renewal. Our youth enjoyed times of fellowship with bowling, hiking, and served others by raking leaves, and shared the joy of Christ through an amazing Christmas play. None of this would be possible without the dedicated leaders, volunteers, and supporters who nurture and guide our young people in faith—thank you!

Yes, It has been quite a full year but, it has been truly a joy, and gift to be your Pastor. Walking with you in faith, ministry, and service has been an honor and humbling beyond words. I look forward with excitement to all that God has in store for us in the coming year. We are truly blessed to be a blessing and the body of Christ here at Sardis Lutheran!

God loves you and so do I!

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,
Pastor Oscar Shepherd

Parish Register Report for 2024

Received by Infant Baptism: 0

Received by Adult Baptism: 0

Received by Letter of Transfer/Affirmation of Faith: 1
Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd

Received by Confirmation: 0

Total Members Received: 1

Removed by Death: 3

Scottie Sue Propst Wyant Death: January 3, 2024 Funeral: January 5, 2024

Ferne Mazelle Fulbright Baker Death: September 8, 2024

Funeral: September 13, 2024

Joe Rudisill Death: December 18, 2024 Funeral: December 23, 2024

Removed by Transfer: 0

Total Members Removed: 3

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Oscar

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Spreading the Christian Gospel by public witnessing or preaching is what defines Evangelism. Other ways Evangelism is promoted is by engaging our church and our community thru deeds of kindness and opportunities to worship and fellowship with one another. The people of Sardis are very good at doing both of these. Thank you Sardis congregation for participating in all of our activities this year.

Thank you to all of the Evangelism Team for participating and planning the events that were carried out in 2024. **Committee members** for this past year were **Jon Gladden, Donna Biggerstaff, Mike & Sherrie Midgett, Pastor Mary Louise Sitton (after she came to be our interim pastor), and Pastor Oscar Shepherd.**

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 **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, Patsy Johnson, and myself.** Two new additions to our Shepherding Group are **Phyllis Biggerstaff, and Elaine Evington.** Retiring from our group are long-time shepherds **Ken and Margaret Propst.** Thank you **Ken and Margaret** for your faithful service.

Events the Evangelism Committee participated in this year:

- 1) Provided a Shepherd's Appreciation Meal for Sardis Shepherds and Spouses
- 2) Hosted a "Dinner and a Movie Night" Those attending watched the movie "God's Country Song" and enjoyed a meal provided by our Lutheran Men
- 3) Participated in a hike to Baker's Mountain with our Sardis youth and congregation and provided hot dogs, hamburgers, desert, and drinks.
- 4) Held an outdoor concert on the front lawn by the group **Willowcreek.** Thank you to Joe and Allen Biggerstaff and the other band members for providing our entertainment. A free-will offering was taken up and \$627.00 was raised and given to Ashure Ministries (formally known as ECCCM). Thank you to all who attended and contributed.

Evangelism cont.

45) Provided a table at our annual “Trunk or Treat” party. Hot dogs, trimmings, candy and water were given out to all who attended. Thank you to Thrivent for providing us with money to purchase our supplies for this event. Over 200 people attended on a wonderful night. Food that was left over was donated to the Newton Food Kitchen

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

CEMETARY REPORT

There were 3 burials in 2024;
 Scottie Sue Propst Wyant, Ellen Brittain, Ferne Fulbright Baker,
 Joe Rudisill.

Respectfully Submitted,
 The Cemetery Committee

2024 Social Ministry Committee Annual Report

As always, the members of the Social Ministry Committee are grateful to the Church Council and the generous members of the Sardis Congregation for their impressive support in all its projects.

The Social Ministry Committee began its year with an international effort as it assisted Sardis Youth in spending the \$1000.00 that was collected in 2023 on the five Noisy Offering Fifth Sundays. Members of the Youth worked with the Lutheran World Relief Catalog to select various animals, school supplies, and other support items that the Lutheran World Relief then sent to the countries that had the most need.

The Committee then turned locally to sponsor Personal Care Kits. Congregational donations were small in February. However, in September, after Helene hit Western North Carolina, WELCA assumed the cause and combining with the earlier donations, close to one hundred Personal Care Kits were boxed and taken to Zion for delivery to the mountains.

In the summer, the committee sponsored the HUGS project at Sardis. New and gently used stuffed animals were collected and given to the local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to distribute to children who were experiencing some type of crisis situations.

For the third year, the committee lead the congregation in participating in the “God’s Work, Our Hands” program. After the Homecoming meal, members of the congregation packed 240 lunches for the unhoused. The bag lunches were sent to the Corner Table in Newton and The Soup Kitchen in Hickory.

In July and August, the Social Ministry Committee joined with the Evangelical Committee to collect new bookbags and school supplies for Blackburn and Banoak Elementaries. Over \$800.00 worth of backpacks and supplies were donated.

Finally, a coat and sock drive was held for the unhoused in October and November. The Congregation donated over one pairs of new socks and several wintry weather outer wear garments (coats, sweaters, and hoodies.)

In connection with this drive, Sardis’s DOT LUTZ donated over 150 knit caps for the unhoused.

On going collections of drink can tabs, Box Tops for Education (for Crossnore Orphanage) and toiletries (Safe Harbor) continued to benefit many groups.

Sardis Men's Report 2024

We are chartered through the North Carolina Men in Mission located in Salisbury. We meet on the last Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm. Come and be a part of our men's group. We study from the Master Builders Men's Bible. Our goal is to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ through bible study. We have business sessions, followed by fellowship. Our meetings are about an hour long, and any age is welcome. In March, we attended the 101st men's gathering at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hickory. We had several good speakers on various topics from home mission foundation to Lutheran disaster services, camp agape, and Lutheran services of the Carolinas. In this gathering, we remembered and honored our leaders that went to their church triumphant life in the last two years-Bob Wright, Hal Derrick, and Reverend Dr. Carl Fisher. Their strong leadership helped make the men's ministry what it is today. Throughout the year we are active in helping at Sardis in various ways. We honored Al King as an honorary life member of the North Carolina Men in Mission. Al has been in the group for decades and is an inspiration for us all. He served our country and he was involved in Lutheran builders and set up several community projects for our members. He has served as a local and an international volunteer for the American Red Cross. We also recognized Frank Griffin, our music director and organist. Frank blessed us with many years of beautiful music. This year our men and the congregation contributed \$750 to the Home Mission Foundation. We also contributed \$10,000 to the North Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission scholarship fund through Sardis Endowment Fund. Thanks to all for these important contributions. Throughout the year we helped and contributed to many events at Sardis. Then men helped with the dinner and movie night, contributed to Home Mission Foundation, to the ELCA youth gathering, and the hurricane disaster relief when hurricane Helene came through. Thanks to our group and the congregation for all we have accomplished as a church family. Again, any age is welcome to our group. Come and strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ.

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.

This year 12 decorative pew candles were purchased and given to the church by a generous donor. Three banners and a welcome sign were purchased in memory of Carolyn McGinnis with memorial monies. The altar committee is picking up in 2025 where they left off in 2024 by finding ways to always enhance the beauty of our church services.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Teague, Chairperson

Property Committee Report 2024

The Property Committee has been busy this year. We started with trimming of the trees and bushes. We also pulled old mulch out and applied fresh mulch in the spring.

Thanks to our youth group for helping to clean up the grounds in the fall.

We had decided not to use a extra lawn care service this year. We just have the lawn maintenance and Property Committee taken care of the grounds.

Thanks to our lawn maintenance for doing a great job.

We added wiring to the bell tower for our new Pastor to charge his electric car.

We have still been considering on what we are going to do with the land out back. As of now we have about 50 feet of extra parking as needed.

There is also been lots of small repairs done at Sardis each week.

Submitted,
Bruce Sigman, Chair

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 2024

Sometimes success is defined by what you don't see or what you don't notice until it is not there. That's the real theme of this year's report. So let's take a closer look at what happens behind the scenes.

The Technology Team has provided sound support for every service conducted in the sanctuary during 2024 and sound support for many events throughout the church.

The Technology Team has controlled and provided special lighting for every service conducted in the sanctuary during 2024. Besides the normal lighting, special effects were used during the Good Friday Service, Easter Service, Thanksgiving Service, Blue Christmas, and the Christmas Eve Service.

In 2023, it was determined that more than 25% of the lightbulbs in the sanctuary decided to replace all of the bulbs with more efficient LED lighting. Due to the age of the lights, several technical issues were encountered but those were resolved in 2024. All lights except the big spots are now LED and the illumination is approximately twice the level before replacement.

The Technology Team has programmed the heating system to a more efficient operating schedule and monitors the system 24/7/365.

The Technology Team secured and setup the One Call notification system this year. This replaced the old system that was discontinued by the company. One-Call proved itself to be very valuable during Hurricane Helene when the congregation was kept informed about church activities and several death notices in the same period.

Every service in the sanctuary was broadcast on Facebook Live. This allows members to participate in the service when they cannot be there. Our shut-ins are loyal followers of our online services and a number of viewers come from non-members in our community.

Our online services include a webpage that is constantly updated, a Facebook page that is constantly updated, weekly email notifications, online bulletins, and a monthly newsletter.

Our current project is installing Ring doorbells and cameras so that Jane can see who is entering the building while she is there. Cameras will be installed at the front of the building, on the end door and at the kitchen door.

Submitted,

Terry Bledsoe

Terry Bledsoe terrybledsoe@charter.net Jane Moretz jmoretz@charter.net

Ben Whitener-Chair bgwhiten@gmail.com Zachary Stuart zach99zman@gmail.com

Joe Biggerstaff biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com

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Instagram: sardislutheranchurch



*“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.”*

We certainly appreciate the assistance ALL ladies in our congregation give for the projects that are planned. We hope that we can continue to find ways to serve our church and community. Following is a list of projects completed in 2024:

Collected food for ECCCM and our Blessings Box in conjunction with the Lenten Season.

Planned and presented Bold Women’s Sunday on April 7.

Nena Babb and Sylvia King attended the Spring Gathering of the Catawba Conference.

Assisted the Worship & Music Committee in planning and hosting a farewell celebration for Interim Pastor Mary Louise Sitton.

Recognized High School and College Graduates with wooden cross and prayer shawl.

Sponsored a delegate to the Annual Gathering of the NC Women of the ELCA at LRU June 21-23, where Nena was elected Treasurer for a 2-year term. She joins Robin Stuart, currently serving as Vice-President.

Planned and served a Continental Breakfast for the Men on Father’s Day,

Planned and served a meal for the Foard Football Team before the October 4th game.

Nena, Sylvia, and Robin attended the Fall Gathering of the Catawba Conference.

Honored the Sardis Seniors at a Sunday lunch on October 20, with serving assistance from the Sardis Youth and leaders.

Organized the ordering and placement of poinsettias in the church for Christmas.

Collected from the Sardis family for the NC WELCA Pennies Project “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” for bunk beds for children.

Decorated our Christmas Tree with Chrismons.

Collected items from the congregation for children in the Western NC area and delivered to BeLoved Asheville for Christmas distribution.

Planned and served refreshments after the Christmas Play.

Ordered and served sandwich trays and fixings to our bereaved families.

Provided meals to shut-ins 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 alternating months, beginning in February, at 5 pm is our usual meeting time. We would love to have you!

Respectfully submitted,
Nena Babb, President

Youth Christian Education 2024 Report

The youth planning committee had a planning meeting in January 2024 and created an extensive list of ideas, which really helped ensure that the youth had fun and service events throughout the year. The Youth Sunday School offered Pre K, Elementary and Middle/High School classes this year as well offering Children Church twice monthly during Worship.

The youth and young a heart ventured to Hawksnest in Feb for snow tubing, the youth had fun slipping and sliding as well as the adults. For service in February, the youth sponsored the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Then on Feb 25th Sardis hosted Camp Sunday where staff from Lutheridge lead youth Sunday School and provided Temple Talk about importance of camp before worship.

Easter Egg Hunt was lots of fun in March, finding eggs, dying eggs and playing games as well as learning to play Gaga Ball at our new Gaga Pit.

During April, the youth assisted residents at Trinity Ridge to Chapel and then headed to Riverbend Creamery for ice cream.

Youth Hike at Baker's Mountain in May was a trek, that seemed like it was up hill both ways, but the kids had a blast exploring and navigating the trails and then enjoyed cook out at the church afterwards.

Camp Firelight Community VBS was hosted by Plateau United Methodist Church in June. It continues to be a blessing to have our neighbor churches join us in this ministry and the youth have some much fun with all the combined efforts and friends.

During July, Cash Fulbright attended Lutheroad Day Camp at St Paul Lutheran in Newton. This camp is a great way for youth to learn about God and adventure into camp before transitioning to a week of camp at Lutheridge.

National Youth Gathering was in New Orleans in July, Pastor Oscar, Jennifer Whitener, and Gabriel Shepherd attended from Sardis with other local churches

Youth Canoe Trip down the South Fork River was in July and was quite an adventure. The youth had a great time despite getting stuck on rocks and difficulty navigating around down trees. Afterward, they enjoyed at cookout at The Farm.

In August, the Midgett's hosted a pizza and pool party at their home. The youth swam and ate, then swam and ate some more. The older youth learned to play pool as well.

The youth had a fun time kicking off the school year with Rally Sunday with breakfast snack and a few competitive rounds of Gaga Ball with Pastor Oscar as referee.

Cont. Youth Christian Education 2024 Report

For October service project, the youth assisted as servers for the Golden Age Banquet. They were attentive to helping care plates of food, prepare and serve drinks and refills. It's great to see the youth providing and assisting our seniors.

During September, Parents had "Date Night" which allowed the youth to hang out at the church with dinner, Gaga pit games and a movie, while their parents had a kid free evening.

Trunk or Treat was lots of fun this year with the Youth hosting "Best Trunk Trophy". The trunks were impressive this year and really seemed to enjoy the friendly competition. The Best Trunk Trophy was awarded to The Shephard Family with their camp themed trunk.

This fall, the youth worked on raking our seniors leaves, however the weather, delay in leaves falling and complex scheduled lead to multiple dates where small groups went and tackled a yard or two over two months or so.

The youth did a great job with the annual Christmas Play and a special thanks to Heather Carroll for her leadership with this event. "The Best Gift Ever" was a great reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and the treat bags and refreshments afterwards really makes you feel prepared for Christmas.

Blessings, April Fulbright



Worship and Music Report for 2024

We began the 2024 year with Pastor Mary Louise Sitton and Frank Griffin, music director, planning and leading our worship experiences. These experiences continued to bring healing and wholeness to all who attended.

We planned and carried through with special services for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. On Pentecost Sunday we wished God speed to our beloved interim pastor Mary Louise. The following week, on Holy Trinity Sunday, we welcomed our new pastor Oscar Shepherd and his family.

Following a busy summer our Homecoming celebration was held on September 8. We welcomed back to Sardis Pastor Denise Henry. We all enjoyed her message, the covered dish lunch, and our annual God's Work our Hands activity.

Sardis participated in the Thanksgiving Eve community worship which was hosted this year by Ebenezer Methodist church. We ended our year with our traditional 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service and Lessons and Carols on December 29th.

We were so incredibly fortunate to be blessed with the music and leadership, for almost 10 years, of our music director Frank Griffin. Frank retired on December 29th and was honored with a gift from the congregation and a reception following the worship service.

We are also very fortunate and grateful to have Nena Babb in our congregation who, once again, agreed to step in as our interim organist/music director. We ask for everyone's help and prayers as we begin our search for a new organist/music director.

Blessings,
Becky Gladden and Nena Babb, co-chairs

Land Use Committee

When the congregation gathered in the fall of 2023 to form a study used by the synod to help determine our goals and interests, mention of utilizing the land was mentioned in every group. I felt that this was important to the congregation, so I asked the Council to approve a Land Use Committee.

The goal of the committee is to construct a site plan for the land. Once the layout is decided, costs will be determined for the various areas planned. As money becomes available, those plans can be fulfilled.

The committee met on April 21, 2024. Terry Bledsoe, Council President, Rick Johnson, Mike Midgett, Ben Whitener, Jennifer Whitener, Tim Whitener, and Nena Babb discussed ways the land could be used and concerns involving development.

Nena provided an estimate of the area, acreage and perimeter, from the Catawba County GIS map.

Concerns noted were the septic tank placement when needed to be replaced, upkeep of unplanned areas, and upkeep of the activity areas. As of now, a crop is planted to keep the land useful and contained.

Benefits included a place for youth to enjoy games and fellowship, a place for exercise for anyone, a place for adult fellowship, a place to worship, and an outreach to the community.

Areas to consider included a gaga pit (already purchased but not installed on 4/21/2024, but which has since been constructed), outdoor structure, walking track, fire pit, volleyball and/or softball area, exercise area for adults, meditation labyrinth, benches, shade trees and plants.

The committee discussed forming a walking track for the approximate perimeter. Rick Johnson informed us that Greg Smyre had equipment to form the walkway, and the possibility of seeking help from Garry Richard concerning gravel/stone. We walked around the back to determine an approximate path.

Information was reported back to Council. It was mentioned that a site plan for the area should be developed before constructing the walking track.

Unfortunately, other church and life activities became a priority, and I did not schedule another meeting. I hope to remedy that situation in 2025. However, I would like someone else to step up and co-chair the committee since recently taking on interim organist duties.

Respectfully submitted,
2024 Chair Nena Babb

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- ✧ Put note on Jane's desk
- ✧ Send email to secretary@sardislutheran.com
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