



Friendly Messenger

Beloved Sardis Family,

April 2025

EASTER IS COMING!... But, this year, it feels like it is taking its time. With Easter Sunday falling so late in the calendar, we find ourselves still walking the Lenten road when, in some years, we would already be celebrating the resurrection. It is a strange feeling, isn't it? The days are getting longer, the signs of spring are here, and yet we are still in a season of reflection, repentance, and waiting. Intentionality.

Perhaps, this, is a gift. Lent is not something to be rushed. Or, just something we need to get through to have Easter. It is a sacred time—a time for drawing near to God in Christ, for remembering our dependence on His grace, and for preparing our hearts to fully experience the joy of the Resurrection. This extended season invites us to linger a little bit longer in the practices of prayer, fasting, devotion, and service, allowing them to take deeper root in our faith and life.

So, as we look toward Easter, let us not simply count the days but make the days count. Let us use this time to reflect on the depth of Christ's love, the cost of our redemption, and the call to live as His disciples in the world. And when Easter finally arrives, let us not see it as the end of our journey, but as a beginning. Let us soak up His love like a sponge to poor out.

The habits we cultivate now, the prayers we pray, the ways we seek to serve others—these are not just for “a season,” but for a life in the Kingdom. May we carry them forward beyond Easter morning, ever seeking to grow in faith, love, and service.

I look forward to celebrating the joy of the Resurrection with you soon. But, Until then, may Jesus bless you in these final weeks of Lent, and may we all continue to draw closer to Him—now and always, remembering, God loves you and so do I!

Pr. Oscar Shepherd

Faith

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 April on the 2nd5th at Plateau Community Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



I'd like to say a special thank you to our Church Property Committee for arranging and all the guys that come out to help for the Annual Church Clean-up Day on Tuesday, March 18th. Our yard and the building look great thanks to all the great work you do behind the scenes at Sardis.

Sheila Ramsey

UPDATE from LAND USE COMMITTEE

The Land Use Committee has once again began planning for the land we purchased behind the church several years ago. Members of the Committee this year are Terry Bledsoe, Zach Stuart, Rick Johnson, Mike Midgett, Ben & Jennifer Whitener, Nena Babb, Tim Whitener, Sheila Ramsey, Olivia & Pastor Oscar. We have met 2 times in March and have begun planning for use of the property and will keep the congregation updated as these plans progress. We are looking at several different ways to help in the funding of these short & long term plans. If you have any questions or ideas you can contact a member of the committee or our chair and co chair Ben & Jennifer Whitener.

Sheila Ramsey

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.)

Banoak Students of the Month

February 2025

Our sweet Evie Jo Carroll.
“CONGRATULATIONS”



Lutheran Men in Mission

On March 8th, four of our LMM members attended the 102nd Annual Men's Gathering at Daniel's Lutheran Church in Lincolnton, NC. They were Rick Johnson, Al King, Ray Whitener, and Jon Gladden. The topic of the meeting was "Team Jesus", led by Lavell Hall. Lavell is a retired teacher, coach and a resident of Lincoln County. He talked about his profession and how it was connected to being a team for Jesus.

- Several others spoke on The Disaster Relief Responses for WNC. They specifically mentioned the need for chainsaw users and monetary gifts.
- The Home Missions Foundation is now, instead of building, they are focusing on renovation.

Our LMM team here at Sardis helped with the Shrove Pancake Supper to help our youth. They do so much during the year, not only to help at Sardis but in the community as well.

Become a member by attending our next meeting on April 27th at 6:30.

Ladies of all Ages

Ladies, whether you are 1 or 100 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 10, AT 5:00. Sardis will be hosting the DAUGHTERS OF GOD BANQUET to commemorate Mother's Day. Besides an opportunity to fellowship, this year's event will have unique events. Firstly, each attendee will be creating craft "flower arrangements" designed by Sardis's own craft queen, Susan Jones. Susan will have all the materials on the tables and each guest will create an arrangement to donate to Trinity Ridge for the residents' rooms. You do not want to miss this opportunity to share God's love.

Secondly, dinner will be delicious salads, like fruit, chicken, broccoli/cauliflower, bean, tossed, apple/raisin, corn, and pasta! Please plan to sign up in the Narthex to bring your favorite. YUM. In addition, dessert will be ice cream sundaes furnished, prepared, and served by Sardis' Lutheran Men in Mission! How does that sound?

Thirdly, those attending are invited to bring a memento that reminds them of their mothers. The memento can be an accessory, like a favorite piece of jewelry, a scarf, or favorite anything. The memento can also be a recipe, a pie pan, something that your mother used a lot and always reminds you of her.

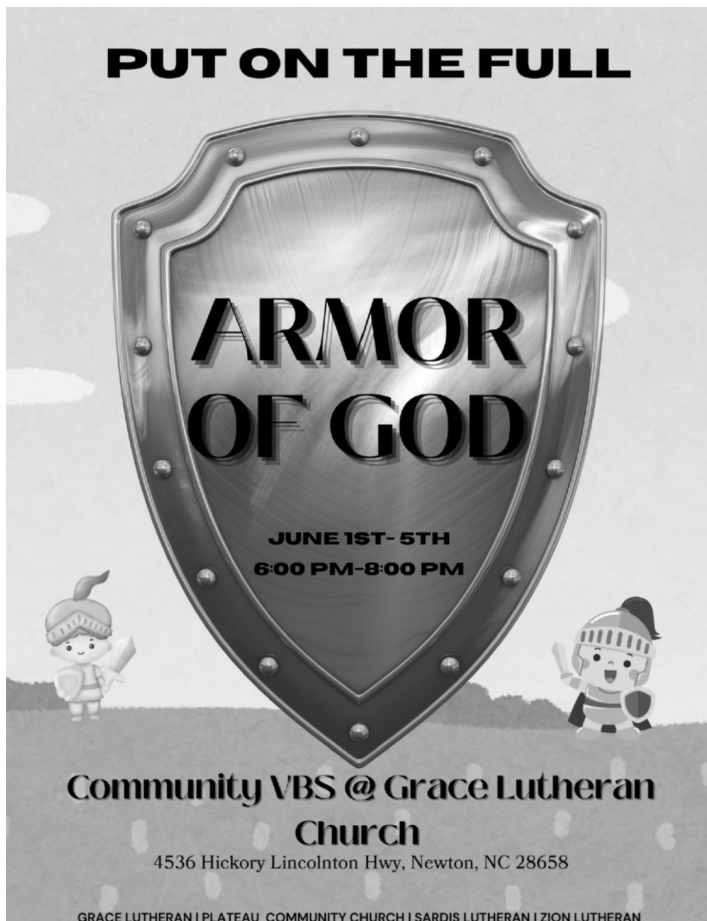
Finally, donations of adult diapers, toiletries, and other items needed in a residential setting will be collected to be donated.




Indeed, it is going to be a packed Daughters of God event with many chances to fellowship, share memories, show appreciation, and share God's grace and love. Hope to see females of all ages at the banquet.



COUNCIL MINUTES

The Church Council did not meet in February.



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.</p>		<p>1</p>  <p>April Fool's day</p>	<p>2 12:00 FTF Seniors at Plateau</p>	<p>3 No Handbells or Chancel Choir rehearsals</p>	<p>4 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Bring Food for Blessings Box 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA</p>	<p>7 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>12 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt</p>
<p>13 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 1:00 Card Class</p>	<p>17 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service w/Holy Communion Stripping of the Altar No Handbells or Chancel Choir rehearsals</p>	<p>18 7:00 Good Friday Service NO School 18-25</p>	<p>19 10:00 Altar Committee meet to prepare Sanctuary for Easter</p>
<p>20 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 Sunrise Service/Holy Communion and FB Live Breakfast after Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.</p> 	<p>21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Earth Day April 22</p>	<p>23 5:00 articles due for May NL</p>	<p>24 No Handbells or Chancel Choir rehearsals</p>	<p>25 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>**NOTE** <i>If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Thank you.</i></p>		

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

4/1 April Fulbright
 4/7 Rick Johnson
 4/8 Isaac Hollar
 Jane Moretz
 Hayden Johnson
 4/9 Cooper Carroll
 4/11 Jon Gladden
 Felicia Hollar
 4/12 Alma Fulbright
 4/14 Micah Duncan
 4/17 Paislee Richardson
 4/20 Elaine Jarrett
 4/23 Greg Fulbright
 4/25 Marilyn Teague
 4/30 Chris Johnson
 Cynthia Stuart

Rick Johnson

Rick; 6th, 20th;
 Gene B.: 13th 27th

USHERS

Roger L, Marilyn T.

**COMMUNION PREPARATION /
 CLEAN – UP**

Jane M.

Marilyn T.

Anniversaries:

Jon & Becky Gladden 4-12
Randy & Joyce Speagle 4-13
Marilyn & Roger Teague 4-17
Jeff & Rebecca Wilson 4-17
Richard & Dawn Covington 4-21
Ethan & Heather Carroll 4-30

Offering Counters: Dwayne/Tryston

<i>VOLUNTEER April</i>	6th	13th	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	20th	27th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Joe & Phyllis B.	David & Rebecca R.			Kristin T.	Ben & Jennifer W.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER Bible Bearer Torch Bearers	Keaton/Cash	Ray/Marshall	Ian/Gabriel	Tenebrae Zachary S.	Hayden/Gabriel Rick J. Marlyn, Ray	Graysen/Keaton
COMM. ASSISTANT	Jon G.	Hayden J.	Roger T.		Sandra R.	Gabriel S.
GREETERS	Graysen/Shuford	Rita/Jill	Jill/Shuford	Marilyn/Roger	Dianne/Wanda	Felicia/Sharon
LAY READER	Gene B.	Zachary S.	Jane M.		Joe B.	Tim W.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Susan J.	No Children's Church			No Children's Church	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Roger T.	Zachary S.	Ben W.	Darrell J	Ben W.	Ralph S.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/ Mike MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Dawn				Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis MH Nena
FRONT YARD SIGN	Nena B.	Gabriel/Ian			Robin/Cynthia	Tim W.
BACKPACK DELIVERY	10th Tim & Barbara	15th Dwayne & Barbara			NO SCHOOL	1st Gene & Donna
MEAL DEL.	5th Kay W.	12th No Meal			19th Sylvia K.	26th No Meal
BLESSINGS BOX	Church Council	LMM			Jon's Class	Dis 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 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