

Friendly Messenger

September 2025

Beloved Sardis,

One of the most treasured and practiced traditions in the life of the church is Homecoming. It is more than just a date on the calendar every year or a shared meal around tables. Homecoming is a sacred reminder of who and who's we are, where we've been, and the God who has carried us all along the way.

When we gather for Homecoming, we celebrate the generations who built this church with prayer, faith, and love. We give thanks for those who planted seeds of ministry long before us, whose dedication allows us to worship, serve, and grow in our discipleship (students of Christ) today. Homecoming is also about reconnecting—seeing familiar faces, remembering shared stories, and welcoming new friends into the family of faith.

Most of all, Homecoming points us to the heart of the Gospel: we are always being welcomed home to God. Just as Jesus embraced and drew near to the needy, sick, poor, and his followers, so too are we embraced drawn near to by our Heavenly Father, no matter where life has taken us. Homecoming is a living reminder of Grace, that God's table is wide, God's love is deep, and there is always a place for you.

As we celebrate this year, may our hearts be filled with gratitude for the past, joy for the present, and hope for the future. Let us come together not only to look back, but also to look forward to all that God is still doing in and through us here at Sardis.

Come home. Come celebrate. Come give thanks to the One who makes us family. Thanks be to God!

God loves you and so do I!
Pastor Oscar Shepherd

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 September on the 3rd at Laurel Hill. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Foard Football Meal

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 5th. This is our date to prepare and serve the meal for the Foard Football Team. We would love to have you come and help. We can use assistance setting up and cooking, which usually begins around 11. Also, we need help serving. The team usually arrives around 2:45 so be there by 2:30 to help serve. We will also be asking for donations of cookies, brownies, and other bar type desserts. Please be on the lookout for bulletin announcements and signup sheets in the middle of August. See Dawn Covington if you have any questions.

"FULBRIGHT FAMILY"

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Sunday, September 21st 2025 for our Annual Reunion held in Sardis Fellowship Hall at 1:00pm. Looking forward to seeing the family there.

Cousin Kelly mentioned about possibly changing locations next year. Maybe a park or something. Come with some ideas. See you then.

Robin Stuart

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.)

Ok guys, here is your chance to join your fellow church friends in a beard growing adventure!

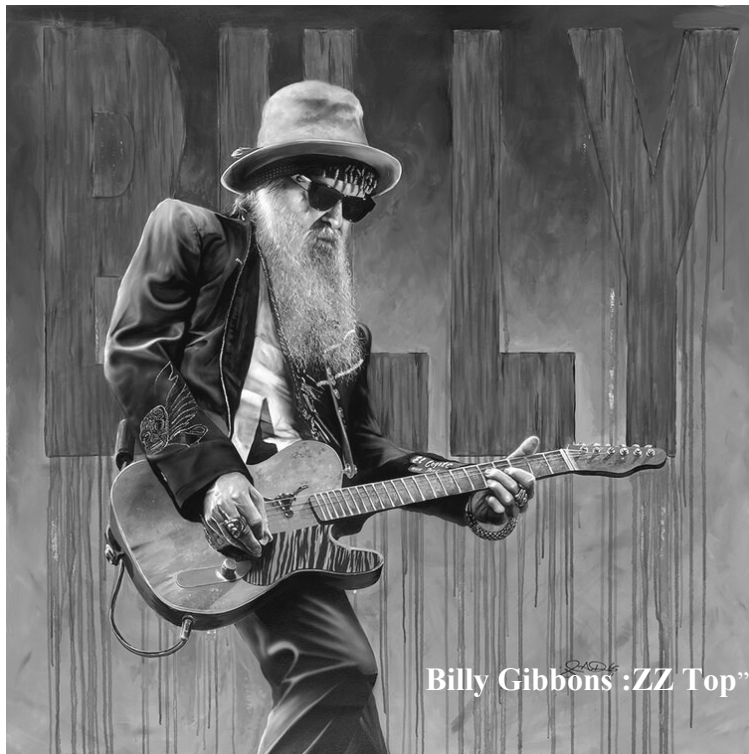
Starting September 1st and ending the evening of our Children's Christmas Play.

You must make a contribution to any of our organizations at Sardis to participate. Put your monies in a Love

Envelope with your name, amount and Organization. Then put in the offering plate.



Your appearance in the play as a Wiseman, Shepherd, or even Moses will thrill our kids and entire congregation. Current beard wearers must trim their beards to stubble.



Billy Gibbons :ZZ Top"

Council Minutes Sardis Lutheran Church

The Council did not meet in July But had an item voted on via text and phone calls.

- The Financial Statements

The vote carried.

Middle/High School Youth. SAVE THE DATE- Dec 5th-6th Regional NC Synod Lock In at Holy Trinity in

Oct 4th 10 am to 3 pm Youth Quake, St John Salisbury. Grades 3-5.

Parents Please let April or Pastor know if your youth would like to attend to get registered.

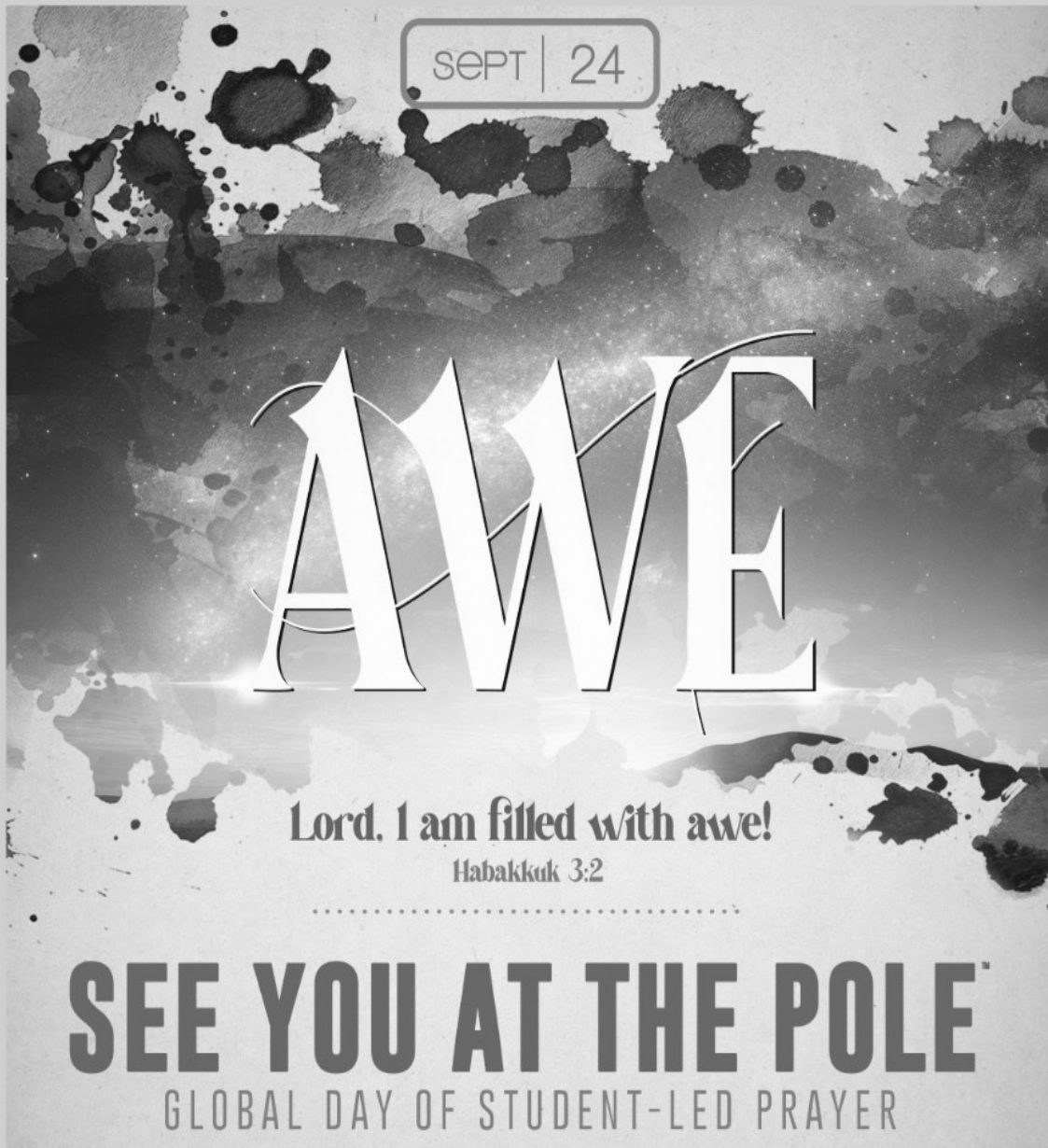
[Youthquake - North Carolina Synod](#)



Next Youth meeting Sept 3rd at 6 pm

Mark your calendar- Youth Christmas Program Sunday Dec 21 at 6 pm

Children church- If you would be interested in helping with Children's church, please let Jennifer or April know. Its held 1st and 3rd Sunday during part of worship and lesson/material will be provided. Consider donating your time and talent to our young ones!



Union Elementary School Flag Pole 9/24 @ 7:15 AM

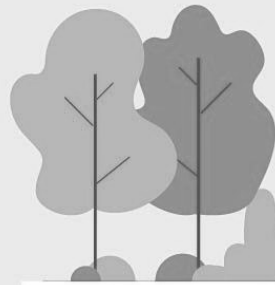
The community is invited to Union Elementary School PTO See You At the Pole Sept 24th @ 7:15 AM at flag pole in parking lot. Please park in lot across road and walk over as school drop off will start right after. Cash Fulbright is a 5th grader at Union.

From the Social Ministry Committee...

Many thanks to the congregation members who donated school supplies for the 2025-2026 school year. The supplies were divided and delivered to Banoak and Blackburn on Monday, August 25th. Personnel at both schools were grateful to Sardis for its continual support. The combined individual donations, plus supplies purchased with Thrivent grants from Rita and Ray and a \$200.00 donation from the Sardis Lutheran Men in Mission included many pencils, bookbags, markers, crayons, notebooks, gluesticks, bottles of hand sanitizers, folders, and packs of notebook paper for each school to distribute to children needing supplies. Sharing what we have continues to be a way of life at Sardis.

Upcoming Event – God’s Work, Our Hands

On Homecoming Sunday, we will again be packing bag lunches for the unhoused at the Hickory Soup kitchen and the Newton Corner Table. The goal is 240 lunches. Please plan to stay after worship, fellowship, and a delicious meal to help pack the bags for delivery. This annual event is another way Sardis seeks to do God’s work in the community.



Everyday Life

Word Search

C R U L E R V T O C R O T I N A V E E I G P D W B N O R S B M
 I T A B L E A V L Q T H A G E D O R A T D L T L D B G O P O G
 N D R E S S R T Y E F C W A C O T T Y O E A T O W E L O O O A
 S O E R H C O M B U M A A M S G Y D C W R N K W I N D F O K S
 E P H O N E P L A T E R L F E C V E U N U T L O C K E N N F T
 C P M U S I C F Q N T E L U R I U E B C L N D P E N B I S R R
 T A C L O U D C O F F E E S T O R M K E Y S U R Z V E R H U E
 X R W Y P I Z O E R I D T R A I N P K L V A W A C G A Y O I E
 C K E W F T O W E L Y V T R E E Q A A Q I N Y M I T C S E T T
 L C O A I O D I A D X T S G C O K S Q E I D T A P E H T S B I
 O M X Q S D V O E E W U O L F I U T I O M D S O Y F R A W U E
 C D C N H I R H C U A M C O Q A A E A Y A L H C X B C R U S R
 K C T A M I D M M U T T K V E I R F A O G T I E A M O O R E A
 P L A N E Z C O A Y C G S E S K I R T Y S U R A F U O M Y A S
 H C J O N B C V P R H J Q B I K E C R O U T T N G R A S S P E
 G A R D E N B I C I I N O T Y H Y W S E T U P A P E R G Y P R
 B A G N Z N T E W I N D O W K N I F E D O O R E A L U X R L O
 B R E A D T E T B V A U E C T O L C H A I R I H S H E L F E E
 S C S P H O T O G A R A G E R A D I O I F E C S F L O W E R U
 N A C T O A S T P A I N T V I L L A G E A N O L P E T M U N C
 A T G B T P U R S E T O O T H S T B F R A M E I P A N T S S O
 C G L A S S Y D E S F O R K O H R I V I D E O D W H E E L N L
 K T I C K E T F E U R I V E R E A R B O A T P E N C I L E O O
 M O O N S W I N G N E F I T N L I D S O A P B R U S H G W W R
 S C A R F O U H O U S E I N B L N C I T Y W A T E R J U I C E

APPLE	SNACK	WHEEL	TOOTH	SNOW	KNIFE	PLATE	SOCKS
COFFEE	BRUSH	GLOVE	SCARF	GARAGE	PHONE	CLOCK	WALLET
SHELF	SPOON	ERASER	BOOK	OCEAN	PASTE	SOAP	JUICE
PANTS	TOAST	BIKE	CAR	STORM	WATCH	BAG	PLANT
PEN	COMB	ROUT	VILLAGE	GARDEN	TAPE	GLASS	SHIRT
PAINT	SKIRT	MAP	KEY	SAND	BUS	RADIO	PAPER
CHAIR	PENCIL	CITY	RIVER	FLOWER	STREET	SHOES	MOVIE
BREAD	DRESS	TOWN	RAIN	SHELL	TREE	PURSE	TRAIN
TOWEL	RULER	FORK	LOCK	WIND	TOWEL	WATER	HOUSE
TABLE	COLOR	FRUIT	BEACH	PET	CAT	MUSIC	GRASS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY Office Closed 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	2	3 12:00 FTF Seniors meet at Laurel Hill 6:00 Youth Meeting	4 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 Pastor's Sab- bath Feed FTF Football Team 11:00 Cooks 2:15 Servers	6
7 Bring Food for Blessings Box 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 6:00 Altar Committee meet to prepare the altar for Homecoming.	8	9	10	11 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 Pastor's Sab- bath	13 9:00 Council members meet to set up the fellowship hall for Homecoming
14 HOMECOMING SUNDAY 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Pot Luck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall Pack bags, God's Work for soup kitchens 7:00 Church Council	15 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	16	17 1:00 Susan's Card Class, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards.	18 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 Pastor's Sab- bath	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	22	23	24 5:00 articles due for October NL	25 Elem. No School 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 No Scholl All Pastor's Sab- bath	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:30 LMM	29	30	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.			

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

9/2 Dorothea Wyant
Amy Jones

Mike Midgett

9/3 Faye Hoke

USHERS

9/6 Ken Propst

Bryan H. and Dianne N.

9/8 Tim Whitener

9/11 Nena Babb

COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

9/17 Amanda Revetta

Lexie Wood

Donna B.

9/22 Jennifer M. Whitener

Sherril M.

Anniversaries:

David & Mildred Fulbright 9-27

Ralph & Wanda Stallings 9-28

Offering Counter: Dwayne W.

<i>VOLUNTEER September</i>	7th	14th	21st	28th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Betty W.	Ethan & Heather C.	Darrell J.	Bill & Mae W.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Hayden /Cash	Graysen/Marshall	Marshall/Rick J.	Gabriel/Ray
COMM. ASSISTANT	Ben W.	Dawn C.	Kathy W.	Kristin T.
GREETERS	Marshall/Shuford	Rita/Jill	Kristin/Kathy	Darrell/Roger
LAY READER	Jill B.	Kristin T.	Marshall W.	Jennifer W.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Susan J.	No Children's Church	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Darrell J.	Ben W.	Roger T.	Rick J.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Hayden/Gabriel MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Nena	Pre-K Jennifer EL April MH Dawn	Pre-K Nena EL Sherrie/Mike MH Kristin
BANOAK BACKPACK	4th Dwayne & Barbara	11th Gene & Donna	18th Joe & Phyllis	24th Roger, Marilyn, Jane
FRONT YARD SIGN	Robin & Cynthia	Tim W.	Nena B.	Gabriel/Ian
MEAL DEL.	13th No Meal	20th April F.	27th No Meal	10/4 Rita L.
BLESSINGS BOX	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	LMM

[Sardis Lutheran Church](#); [Sardis Lutheran Church | Facebook](#) ; <https://instagram.com/sardislutheranchurch...>

If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Thank you.

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