

# Friendly Messenger

April 2024

(My apologies if you are reading this and it is still Holy Week. Easter is just a few days away and I want to celebrate the Good News with you! In the meantime, I pray you have a blessed Holy Week.)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

No matter how this is proclaimed, it is the most wonderful news EVER! Jesus who was truly dead and buried is ALIVE! The bonds of sin, death and the devil have been broken forever. You and I who have been baptized into Christ will also be raised like Christ.

The season of Spring is one of beauty and hope. The daylight hours give us longer times to be outside. The warmer temperatures lure us to God's creation. The beauty of the flowers and shrubs capture our imagination. The promise of delicious fresh vegetables and fruits make us anxious to plant our gardens. For a moment, as we celebrate Easter, the world is fresh and new.

That is also true in our faith community of Sardis. Recently, many people have given their time and energy to transform our yard from wintertime blah to preparing it with cleaning out and mulching our beds so the spring and summer flowers will blossom.

Others have been straightening and cleaning out the rooms of our educational space.

Even others are, this weekend, transforming our chancel from our Lenten season purple and a wooden cross into a glorious worship space to celebrate Christ's eternal life with candles, flowers and white paraments. And what will be more beautiful than our Lenten cross covered with Mother Nature's most stunning colorful flowers!

We are blessed people of God in Christ Jesus and it is most evident in how we praise our risen Lord and Savior as we look to the cross – to the grave – and most certainly, to the glorious resurrection into eternal light and life! Happy Easter to each one of you precious people!

Blessings,  
Pastor Mary Louise





Rebecca (Becky) Jo Roof Gladden was born in Sanford, NC because that happened to be where her parents, Pastor Lester and Doris Roof were residing. Pastor Roof served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church so Becky was baptized there. From there, her family moved to Conover as Pastor Roof was called to Faith Lutheran. She was confirmed at Faith.

Becky attended Lenoir-Rhyne, became an elementary teacher, and over the years obtained a master's degree in education and a master's degree in library science.

She taught for thirty years in the Catawba county school system. Becky is a proud mom to three daughters and four grandchildren.

Becky transferred her membership to Sardis while she and Jon were dating. After they married, she was automatically signed up as a Youth leader since Jon had been active in that roll along with Carolyn Truitt. Over the years, Becky has been active in Youth leadership, teaching Sunday school, VBS and accompanying the Sardis Youth to their first time attendance at the National Youth Gathering which was in New Orleans.

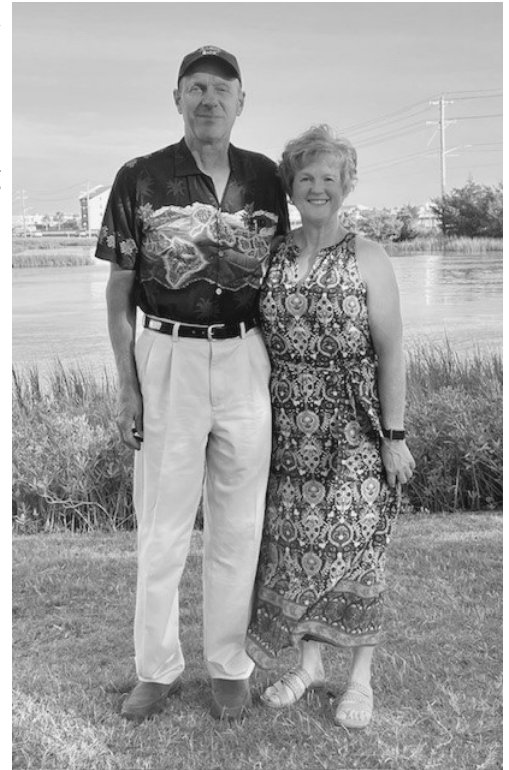
She also has served on our Worship and Music committee, as chair most of the time. Becky has served on a call committee and also on council, being the chair at one point. Much of this bio you might have already known. It is evident to all of us that Becky is a faithful, strong and organized woman of faith!

This second part includes Jon (after all, you rarely see Becky and Jon apart unless they are passing each other in the hallway as Becky is leaving from handbell rehearsal and Jon is arriving for chancel choir.)

Becky was teaching at Banoak school which also happened to be where Hope Gladden (Jon's mother) was teaching. When the yearbook came out in the spring, Hope showed Becky's picture to Jon and Jon immediately asked Becky for a date. Their first date was in May. In July, Carolyn and Jon invited Becky to go with the Youth group to the beach. Becky went on the trip and while Becky and Jon were there, they decided they would get married. They bought a house in November (Jon and his brother lived there until the marriage), Becky received her engagement ring after being at Sardis for the Christmas program, and they were married in April at St. Paul's Lutheran in Salisbury. In April, 2024, they will have been married 38 years.

The first time Jon brought Becky to worship at Sardis, while they were dating, he picked her up in Conover but they had a flat tire on the interstate. Jon fixed the tire and they managed to arrive at Sardis during the singing of the first hymn! When they married, David Periconi, the choir director, asked Becky to sing in the choir. She agreed to sing but only if she could sit on the back row beside her husband, Jon.

Jon worked hard on his family's dairy farm. Becky taught school which is an arduous task. Together, they raised three beautiful daughters and worked together to meet the needs of each other. Becky recalls the times when she was driving to Sardis for Sunday school and had Jon's Bible propped on the steering wheel trying to prepare to teach his Sunday School class because he couldn't leave the farm in time to teach.





The first house they bought and lived in until 2000 was built in 1900. Becky was home and saw a man coming up the drive way. She went out to greet him and he said that he used to come to church in the house. His sister was the organist and she died on the organ bench – literally. Originally the house was a church and then a community building. Jon's grandmother won a spelling bee there.

How is this for a love story when deep roots and faithful witnesses to God's love!



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

March 21, 2024

*Thank You*

Sardis Lutheran Church  
6103 Nc Highway 10 W  
Hickory, NC 28602-9733

Dear Sardis Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

*"[Jesus said,] 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' [The lawyer] said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"*  
(Luke 10:36-37)

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. Through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you equip God's people — around the world and around the corner — with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

With gratitude,

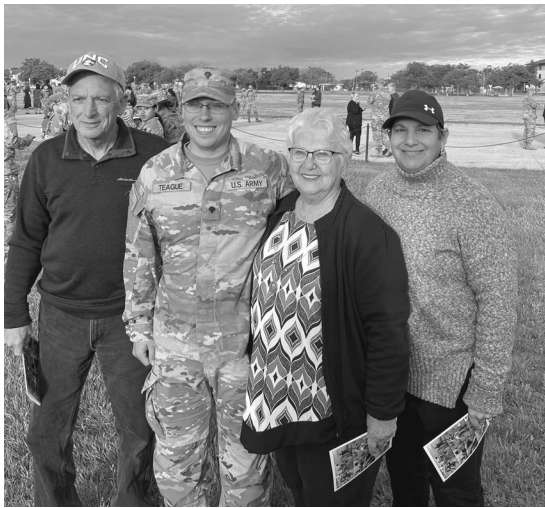
*Rachel Wind*

Rachel Wind  
Executive for Development

*P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your official receipt.*



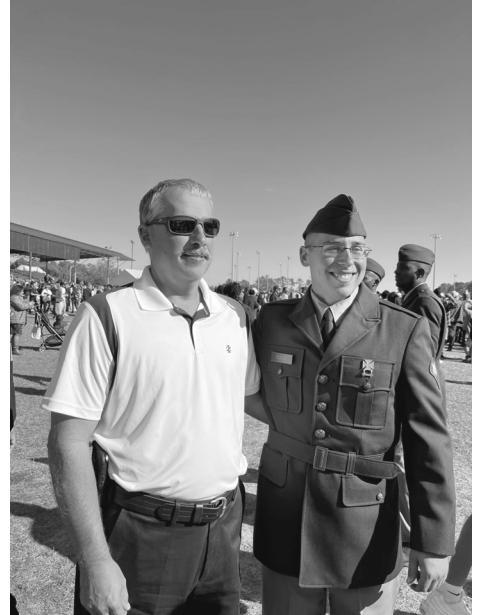
The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in April on the 3rd at Plateau Methodist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Matthew Teague, grandson of Roger and Marilyn Teague, graduated March 19, 2024 from Base San Antonio, Fort Sam, Houston, Texas, ALT training. He is now a Combat Medic Specialist. Matt finished 1st in his class of 300 company award recipients. He was the Distinguished Honor Graduate and also made the Dean's List. He passed every training, test, and task put before

him. Matt won multiple awards as well. He is now an American Soldier Medic Specialist and will report on April 1

to Fort Lewis-McCord in Washington state for the next 3 years. He will be the Combat Medic Specialist for the Army Military Police.



## Prayers for Pastor Mary Louise

Pastor Mary Louise is scheduled to have retinal pucker surgery on April 4 at Graystone in Hickory. This is outpatient surgery and, if all goes smoothly, she will be in worship on April 7 to preside at Holy Communion. It will take a few months to heal so you may see her with the left lens of her glasses covered. She had the same surgery on her right eye eight years ago and should recover well.



## Social Ministry Committee's update on Safe Harbor

Thanks to the caring and generosity of the Sardis congregation, the support of Safe Harbor is ongoing in a variety of ways: financial, donations to the thrift shop, shopping at the Resource Warehouse and donating hygiene items for the residents.

In turn, Safe Harbor's Board and Management strive to help churches support local community members' needs by giving gift cards from the Resource Warehouse to the churches to distribute to those in need. The cards can be used to buy clothing and/or furniture.

Pastor Mary Louise recently found out these gift cards expire after a calendar year. Community Members who contact the church for help need food, rent, gas, or other items Safe Harbor does not have. Therefore, several cards had expired. If you know of someone who need clothing (for all ages) and/or furniture, please see Pastor Mary Louise or Jane Moretz. They can give you the gift cards to share with those in need.

The Social Ministry Committee is continuing to collect hygiene items in 2024. There is a donation bin at the back of the sanctuary for these items. These items are needed for both components of the Safe Harbor program. As you are able, please remember to pick up shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, lotion, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes or other toiletry items and place in the bin. Members of the Social Ministry Committee deliver the items as the bin fills.

Below is a brief review of the outreach that Safe Harbor provides at their buildings.

!) Safe Harbor is a Residential Drug Treatment for Women. Daily drug counseling and successful drug free living classes are held. As clients are able, there is a step-down component where residents get a job and save money to buy a car, move out of the house into a rent subsidized apartment, and finally into an apartment on their own.

2) All unhoused women can come to the house daily from 8-4 for a shower, use of a washer and dryer and lunch. Combined with this component is an afternoon class on topics such as getting a job, managing money and resources in the community.

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## 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.)**



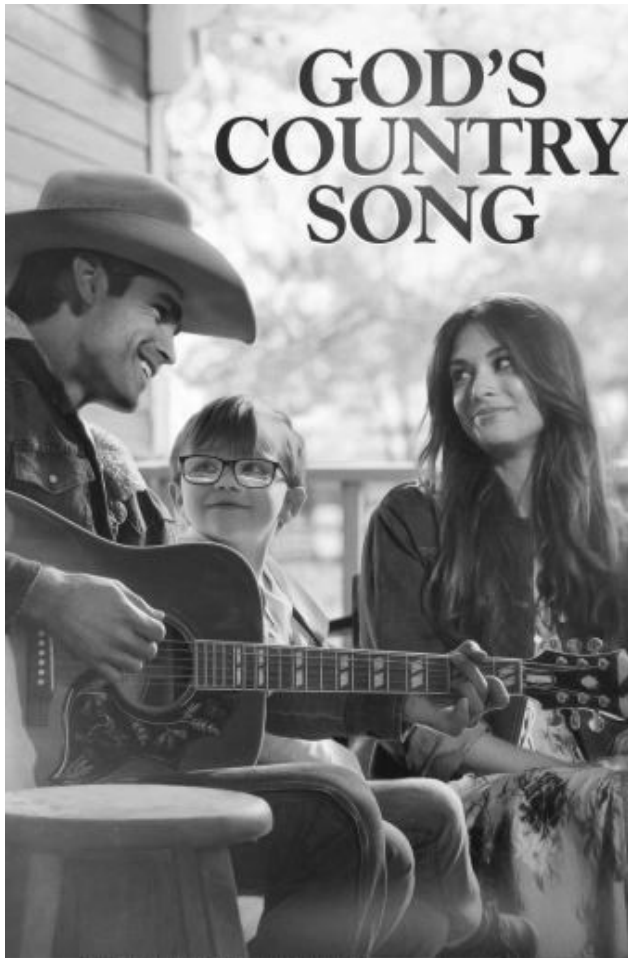
## DINNER AND A MOVIE NIGHT

The next event for the Evangelism committee will be our annual Dinner and a Movie Night on Saturday April 20th. Hotdogs, drinks, and desserts will be served at 5:30 pm. The movie will begin at 6:30pm.

This year's movie is "God's Country Song"

### What's the Story?

In GOD'S COUNTRY SONG, Noah Bryan (Justin Gaston) dreams of becoming a country music star with the help and mentorship of his manager, Larry Walker (Christopher Michael). While Noah's music career begins to take off in small venues, he learns he's a father to four-year-old JJ after the child's mother's passing. Noah faces a tough choice: his music or fatherhood. Along the way, he meets Leeann (Justene Alpert), who cares for JJ, and their connection grows. Feeling his music dreams are fading, Noah decides to meet JJ, embarking on a journey of personal growth. He turns to his parents, Sara (Mariel Hemingway) and Jeremiah (John Laughlin) for help, and returns to rural life, but tensions rise with his father. Their past pain and Noah's struggle to reconcile his dreams and regrets with fatherhood form the heart of the story, showing the importance of family and second chances.





Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
February, 2024

Council did not meet on February 11 due to Lenten Services. However an email vote was taken by Terry to accept the January minutes and Financial Reports. It was a unanimous vote to accept.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor's Congregation Council Report Jan. 15 – Feb. 8, 2024

Presided at Holy Communion and Worship

Prepared children's sermons

Taught confirmation class

Made 5 home visits

Participated in choir

Attended annual meeting and lunch

Attended FT Foard lunch

Agreed to participate in Lenten services with area Lutheran churches

Attended funeral for Kristee Huffman (Jill Bledsoe's sister)

Thank you, Sardis: Enjoyed vacation days in January

Purchased new tires for my car with the generous Christmas gift



| Sun   | Mon  | Tue | Wed   | Thur  | Fri                     | Sat                                      |
|---|--|-----|---|---|-------------------------|--|
|   | <b>1 Easter Monday</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><br><b>April Fool's Day</b><br><br>1st—5th<br>NO SCHOOL<br>7:00 Prayer Group | 2   | 3.<br>12:00 FTF Seniors at Plateau                              | 4<br>NO Confirmation<br>NO Handbell or Chancel Choir Rehearsal                        | 5                       | 6<br>9:00 Clean up day                   |
| <b>7 Bold Women's Sunday</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live                              | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11<br>4:30—6 Confirmation<br>6:00 Handbells Rehearsal<br>7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 12                      | 13                                       |
| 14<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live<br>3:00 Church Council at Joe Biggerstaff's            | 15<br>6:00 VBS Meeting at Plateau<br>7:00 Prayer Group   | 16  | 17  | 18<br>6:00 Handbells Rehearsal<br>7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal                        | 19<br>1/2 Day of School | 20<br>5:30 Evangelism Dinner and a Movie |
| <b>21</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live   | <b>22 Earth Day</b>  | 23  | <b>24 Admin. Assistants Day</b><br>5:00 Articles due for May NL | 25<br>6:00 Handbells Rehearsal<br>7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal                        | 26                      | 27                                       |
| 28<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live<br>3:00 Trinity Ridge, Youth participating<br>6:30 LMM | 29   | 30  |   |   |                         |  |



## BIRTHDAYS April

### COUNCIL CONTACT

### ASSISTING MINISTER

4/1 April Fulbright

Rick Johnson

Ben Whitener

4/7 Rick Johnson

4/8 Isaac Hollar

### USHERS

Jane Moretz

Bruce S., Randy S., Dawn C., Zach S.

Hayden Johnson

4/9 Cooper Carroll

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

### CLEAN-UP

4/11 Jon Gladden

Jane Moretz

Marilyn Teague

Felicia Hollar

4/12 Alma Fulbright

4/13 Micah Duncan

### **Anniversaries:**

4/17 Paislee Richardson

**Jon & Becky Gladden 4-12**

4/20 Elaine Jarrett

**Randy & Joyce Speagle 4-13**

4/23 Greg Fulbright

**Marilyn & Roger Teague 4-17**

4/25 Marilyn Teague

**Jeff & Rebecca Wilson 4-17**

4/30 Chris Johnson

**Richard & Dawn Covington 4-21**

Cynthia Stuart

**Ethan & Heather Carroll 4-30**

| <b><i>VOLUNTEER April</i></b>   | <b>7th</b>                                   | <b>14th</b>                                   | <b>21st</b>                                  | <b>28th</b>                        |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>            | Joe & Phyllis B.                             | David & Rebecca R.                            | Kristin T.                                   | Ben & Jennifer W.                  |
| <b>ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER</b>        | Paisley/Nena                                 | Greyson/Hayden                                | Marshall/Austin                              | Ray/Shuford                        |
| <b>COMM. ASSISTANT</b>          | Sandra R.                                    | Ray W.  | Roger T.                                     | Jennifer W.                        |
| <b>GREETERS</b>                 | Edna/Sylvia                                  | Kristin/Roger                                 | Evelyn/Annette                               | Sharon/Bruce                       |
| <b>LAY READER</b>               | Marilyn T.                                   | Ray W.  | Marshall W.                                  | Jennifer W.                        |
| <b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>        | Jennifer W.                                  | No Children's Church                          | Heather C.                                   | No Children's Church               |
| <b>TECHNOLOGY</b>               | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel                      | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel                       | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel                      | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel            |
| <b>SECURITY</b>                 | Rick J.                                      | Ralph S.                                      | Darrell J.                                   | Bruce S.                           |
| <b>OFFERING COUNTERS</b>        | Dwayne, Tryston<br>Susan, Patsy              | Dwayne Tryston,<br>Kristin/Nena               | Dwayne, Tryston<br>Sylvia/Sandra             | Dwayne, Tryston<br>Sherrie, Mike   |
| <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br/>LEADER</b> | Pre-K Jennifer<br>EL Mike/Sherrie<br>MD Rick | Pre-K Jennifer<br>EL Jane<br>MD Kristin/Roger | Pre-K Jennifer<br>EL Phyllis/Jill<br>MD Dawn | Pre-K Nena<br>EL Donna<br>MD April |
| <b>BACKPACK<br/>PROGRAM</b>     | 11th Tim & Barbara                           | 18th Roger, Marilyn,<br>Jane                  | 25th Gene & Donna                            | 2nd Tim & Barbara                  |
| <b>MEAL DEL.</b>                | 13th No Meal                                 | 20th Carolyn H.                               | 27th No Meal                                 | 4th Phyllis B.                     |
| <b>Blessings Box</b>            | Church Council                               | LMM   | A Christmas Carol                            | Disciples of Christ                |



Mark your calendar for May 19th  
 Baker's Mountain Hike and Cookout  
 Youth and Evangelism Committee inviting everyone to join. More details to come.



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Community Vacation Bible School  
 June 9-13  
 Dinner 530, VBS 6-8  
 Plateau Community Church

Mark your calendar! Please let April Fulbright know if you would like to join the fun. Registration information will be shared later.  
 Next planning meeting  
 March 11th 6 pm @Plateau







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**John Helton 828-217-4282**

**Larry McMullen 828-320-2842**

**Find us on the web at:**

**[www.foothillsstanddown.com](http://www.foothillsstanddown.com)**



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## 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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Mary Louise Sitton 423-367-6173 [mlsitton50@hotmail.com](mailto:mlsitton50@hotmail.com)

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, [tfgriffin59@gmail.com](mailto:tfgriffin59@gmail.com)

Council Chair: Terry Bledsoe (C) 828-455-4103 [terrybledsoe@charter.net](mailto:terrybledsoe@charter.net)

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