

# Friendly Messenger

August 2024

Sardis goes to the ELCA National Youth Gathering 2024.

The theme of this year's National Youth Gathering was "Created To Be." This would be the first ELCA National Youth Gathering since 2017 due to the pandemic in 2020. The gathering was pushed back to 2021 but again, the realities of Covid forced another cancellation. The plans were for the gathering to be in Minneapolis Minnesota. But, after the two failed attempts a new plan, director, and location brought us back to New Orleans. We had a Gathering of 16,000 youth not only from across the country but from other countries as well. We had youth participants from the Bahamas, the Caribbean, Asia, and Canada in attendance.

It was a Holy experience of worship, fellowship, service, and learning for all who attended. Our group from Sardis was composed of all first-time attendees. And we learned a lot, grew together, and bonded with new friends from Old St. Paul Lutheran in Conover and the many other Lutheran congregations we would meet, worship with, and serve alongside in our mission work opportunities the gathering provided in and to the city and people of New Orleans.

On our "accompaniment day" (faithful Christ centered service) we joined with several other church groups and worked with the Second Harvest Food bank preparing meal boxes for those experiencing food insecurity. We put our hand to good work in Christ's command to feed the hungry. We were able to build, pack, and package 1,300 meal boxes for those in need. It was truly inspiring to watch our youth rise to the challenge and step out of their comfort zones to do this Holy work.

We gathered every evening back at the Smoothie Dome for mass worship and hear inspiring speakers. This was a time for our youth to see and experience the we were created to be Authentic, Brave, Free, Disruptive, Disciples in and through the Love of Christ Jesus for the sake of the world. During the week we also gathered with our Synod and churches throughout our region with worship and fellowship. It was a region wide worship service that included music from NC and assisting ministers from across our fellow Region 9 Synods.

On Friday we had our "interactive Learning day which consisted of group activities, interactive programs that taught us about many different ministries and aspects of the greater ELCA church. There was a fun zone with games, bouncy houses, GaGa ball pits, carnival games and much more. There were booths for Lutheran colleges and the seminaries handing out information and merchandise. There was even an "Old Lutheran" store where you could buy Lutheran themed merchandise. The convention center was full of the celebration of all things Lutheran.

On our last day we gathered for worship one last time where we recapped the amazing week of being the youth of the ELCA and “Created to Be.” The sermon came from our presiding bishop Elizabeth Eaton and we installed the next gathering director and celebrated the blessed, faithful, hard work of Deacon, Tammy Jones West who was this year’s Gathering Director. And then together 16,000 plus in attendance participated in the sacrament of Holy Communion. It was chill-bump inducing to hear and experience our Lutheran worship and liturgy with sixteen thousand young voices praising God, reciting the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer with one voice. It was truly Holy.

In closing I want to take a moment to thank this beautiful church for supporting our youth to be able to participate and have this experience! They and I are already looking forward to the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota with excitement and Joy. Thank you all again. Because, without your generosity, love, and support our youth could not have been able to have this faith-full experience.

Gratefully Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Oscar Shepherd



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 August on the 7th at Trinity Lutheran Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



## School Supplies

The Sardis Social Committee will be collecting school supplies/backpacks for Banoak and Blackburn during July and the first of August. We know there are families in our communities who cannot afford the necessary items. Schools will need stocked supply closets to furnish needy students supplies like crayons, paper, and scissors. Below is a list of needed supplies. \* Composition Notebook-100 sheets (marble design) \* Colored pencils-12 pack \* # 2 yellow pencils \* Crayola Washable Markers 8 pack \* Large glue sticks \* Pack of pencils topper erasers or large pink block erasers \* Loose leaf notebook paper (wide ruled 100 sheets) \* Primary Notebooks (wide ruled) \* Pencil Boxes \* Fiskars Scissors \* Inexpensive earphones \* Book Bags (Back packs) The following items are also welcome for classroom use. \* Band aids \* Facial tissues \* Ziploc bags \* Copy paper (white) \* Liquid soap \* Hand Sanitizer Please bring any items you can donate to the church from July 2nd until August 20th and place in the church narthex. Pastor Oscar will bless the donated supplies as well as the Book Bags during the August 20th service. The items will be shared between the two schools.



## 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.)**

## HOMECOMING 2024 SPEAKER

We welcome back the Reverend Denise Henry to speak at our Homecoming Service on Sunday, September 8th.

Rev. Denise was raised in SC and has been in NC since 1986 when she and her former husband, Rev. James White, was called to ministry at Sardis until 1990. She attended Columbia College for her bachelor's degree and received her Master's in Counselor Education from Lenoir Rhyne University and an Advanced Certificate in School Counseling from UNC-Greensboro. She served as a school counselor for 23 years, retiring in 2018.

Through the encouragement of the NC Women of the ELCA, as she served on the Board, she discerned the call to ordained ministry. She entered Luther Seminary in 2016 and graduated in 2021 with her Master's in Divinity. During her internship year at Mt Olive, Hickory, she discerned her calling to chaplaincy and applied to Atrium Health Wake Forest's chaplain residency program. She served as a Chaplain resident, graduating in 2022. During that time, she served as a part time interim at Christ Lutheran in Jonesville.

Rev. Denise serves as Chaplain for Lutheran Services Carolinas - Forsyth Campuses, specifically Trinity Elms Senior Care Community in Clemmons and Trinity Glen Senior Care Community in Winston-Salem. She has been there since January 2023 and was ordained on February 11, 2023.

Rev. Denise is married to Sam Bickley. They were married in May 2021. Together, they have four adult children: Joshua White, Katie Dunn, Justin and Jonathan Bickley; twin grandchildren: Scout and Gunnar (children of Katie), and one aging dog, Lilly. Sam and Rev. Denise live in Winston-Salem.

Please join us in giving a warm Sardis welcome to Pastor Denise and her family!

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**AFTER OUR HOMECOMING DINNER THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE WILL BE PACKING 240 LUNCH BAGS FOR THE HICKORY AND NEWTON SOUP KITCHENS AND CORNER TABLES. COME BACK INTO THE CHURCH TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT...GET A FREE T-SHIRT!**



Council Minutes  
Sardis Lutheran Church  
June 9, 2024 – following Worship Service

Members present: Dwayne, Jane, Joe, Jon, Ken, Kristin, Nena, Ray, Roger, Terry, Pastor Oscar

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order with 12 members present. Pastor Oscar arrived as the meeting was ending. There were no devotions since we had just left worship.

The May minutes were discussed. Ken motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Jon seconded, and the motion carried. Dwayne had no comments of the financial report. Jon motioned to accept as presented, Nena seconded, and the motion carried.

## Pastor's Report.

I would like to start off by saying thank you to the council and to the congregation for all the love and support that I and my family have experienced over the past couple weeks as we have been settling in. I have been overwhelmed by the excitement, connection, support, and love that you have already shown to us, for one another, being church together, and your dedication to the Gospel. Thank you ALL so very much.

I have truly enjoyed getting to know you through the many calls Texts, E-mails, and visits I have had these past few weeks. I have been able to connect (with great joy) with our Fred T Ford senior group. And I now have a communion kit and look forward to bringing the sacrament with me on visits.

I have also been blessed to jump into some committee meetings and look forward with great enthusiasm the ways in which we plan and live out our faithful resonance to the Gospel through loving service and ministry together.

With the gracious support of the people of Old St. Paul, Pastor Andrew Miller, and your amazing dedication to our youth, we have all the plans and major details of our National Youth Gathering trip ironed out. Our two church's one group had a chance to meet and connect and talk about our joint trip. It was a time of joy and fellowship and connection. I am truly excited about this opportunity for our youth and churches to share this experience and ministry together.

Thank you all for your faithful service and dedication to Christ and being the Church.

With deep joy and gratitude,  
Pastor Oscar Shepherd

## Old Business

The Sanctuary lighting is still on.

Electrical outlet for Pastor Oscar's car will be located at the Bell Tower. Wiring is to run under sidewalk.

Xperience Concert has been cancelled at Sardis and will be held at Zion Lutheran June 29<sup>th</sup>.

## New Business

Nena advised that Greg Smyre would grade out for the walking track and she is checking with Garry Richard about hauling gravel. The committee was asked about the overall plan they were to submit. No action was taken on this item. Waiting for plan to be submitted.

Meeting ended with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted

Jane Moretz, Secretary



## Sardis News



## PENNIES PROJECT

”Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a non-profit dedicated to building beds for children in need, celebrates a major milestone: their 200,000th bed delivered.” From the website Home - [Sleep in Heavenly Peace \(shpbeds.org\)](http://shpbeds.org)



Each year the NC Women of the ELCA sponsor a project to help someone in need. You may remember the year we collected money for a water well to be constructed through ELCA Good Gifts. We raised a considerable amount with the help of the youth and their coin-collecting water bottles! This year the project is called “Sleep in Heavenly Peace”. Start saving your pennies so that we can make a difference in a child’s life. STAY TUNED to the newsletter for more information concerning the collection dates.

**What will you do with your one wild and precious life?**

A collection of ideas presented at the NC WELCA Annual Gathering by the keynote speaker Dr. Jacqueline Bussie gathered by Nena Babb.

**Think of a goal that gives you goose bumps.**

**Bear witness to wonder.** pay Attention and be Astonished and Amazed! Marry your life to amazement.

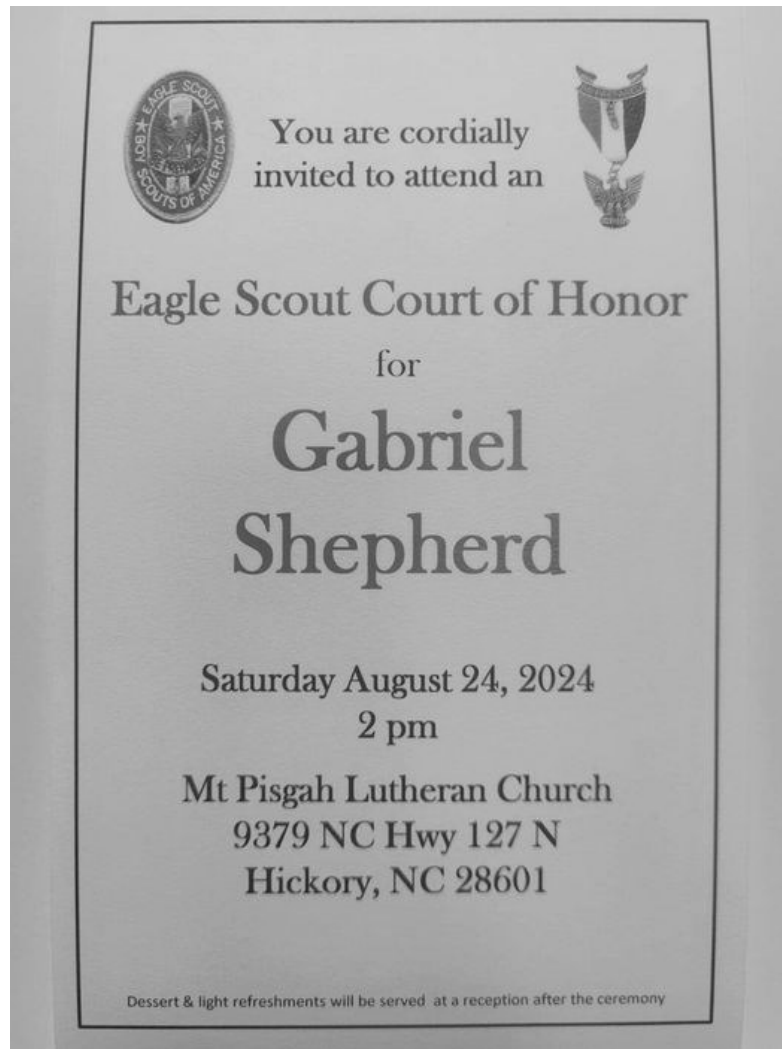
**Compost your pain.** “Suffering denied is suffering unhealed.” Don’t bury or deny your pain. Talking about it makes your life flower and as it ages it turns to fertilizer (helping others grow and grieve.)

**Open nature’s mail.** There are over 400,000 species of flowering plants—God adores variety. 100 trillion neural connections go on in the human brain. Nature’s messages are from God.

**Wear the right name tag.** Maybe someone called you a name and it’s stuck with you, and it’s not favorable. Shred the wrong name and wear a sacred name. Examples: only child => Sister in Christ; unloved => welcomed

**Sit down at the well and drink deeply.** Jesus stops and rests at the well and drinks. Rest is not a reward, but a God-given right. We live in a “grind” culture, overworked, burned out. Our worth comes from God.

**Suggestions from group:** Laugh every day; play like a child; be a good listener; tell your stories; rescue an animal; encourage others; phone a friend; remember names of people you meet; give a compliment to someone; take an adventure!



## MARK YOUR CALENDERS...MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual Fulbright Reunion will be held at Sardis, September 15, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall.

Look for more information in your weekly bulletins closer to the date.



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## FTF FOOTBALL TEAM

Again this year Sardis has agreed to feed the FTF Football Team prior to their game on October 4th. We will need preparers at 11:00 and servers at 2:15. This is an annual meal we prepare and feed to our local high school. Come out and help...lots of FUN!!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Pastors Sabbath	3
4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA	5 7:00 Prayer Group	6	7 12:00 FTF Seniors at Trinity	8	9 Pastors Sabbath	10
11 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live After Worship service Youth Pool Party at Midgett's 7:00 Church Council	12	13	14	15	16 Pastors Sabbath	17
18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	19 7:00 Prayer Group	20	21	22	23 Pastors Sabbath	24 2:00 Gabriel Shepherd's Eagle Scout Court of Honor
25 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:30 LMM	26 Catawba County Schools start	27	28	29	30 Pastors Sabbath	31

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

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

### **Need a Piano:**

Ray Whitener knows of a family that is cleaning out a home and has a piano they will give away for **free**. Please contact Ray at 828-446-5597 if interested ASAP.

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



## BIRTHDAYS AUGUST

8/3 Elaina Yousef

8/4 Terry Bledsoe

8/7 Cash Lee Fulbright

8/8 Dylan Covington

8/10 Seth Revetta

8/11 Debbie Wise

8/12 Keri Weaver

8/13 Lindsey Farnsworth

8/16 Joyce Speagle

8/18 Benny Fulbright

8/20 Darrell Jarrett

8/23 Neal Wyant

8/24 Edna Fulbright

Sherrie Midgett

Zach Stuart

Cayden A. Hood

8/27 Ian Shepherd

8/29 Karen Sigman

8/29 Olivia Shepherd

8/31 Alfred Whitener

### COUNCIL CONTACT

Dwayne Whitener

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Jennifer Whitener

### USHERS

Rick J., Bruce S., Marilyn T., Zachary S.

### **COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP**

Jane Moretz Wanda Stallings

**Offering Counters:** Dwayne/Tryston

### **Anniversaries:**

**Rick & Rita Lutz 8-9**

**Kenneth & Margaret Propst 8-19**

### **New address for directory:**

**Rev. Matthew and Olivia Shepherd**

**79 4th Ave N**

**Taylorsville NC 28681**

**Gabriel and Ian**

<i><b>VOLUNTEER August</b></i>	<b>4th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Robin S.	Elaine E.	Steven & Ashley Y.	Mike & Sherrie M.
<b>ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER</b>	Marshall/Cash	Paisley/Shuford	Grayson/Bruce	Hayden/Grayson
<b>COMM. ASSISTANT</b>	Nena B.	Tim W.	Bruce S.	Dawn C.
<b>GREETERS</b>	Nena/Darrell	Al & Sylvia	Kristin/Roger	Evelyn/Annette
<b>LAY READER</b>	Nena B.	Tim W.	Al K.	Dawn C.
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Nena B.	No Children's Church	Jennifer W.	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>	Roger T.	Darrell J.	Ralph S.	Rick J.
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER</b>	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Kristin	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MH April	Pre-K Nena EL Jane MH Dawn
<b>MEAL DEL.</b>	10th Rita L.	17th no meal	24th Susan J.	31st no meal
<b>Blessings Box</b>	LMM	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council

## 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.**

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**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: Pastor Oscar (C) 828-228-3078 [pastor@sardislutheran.com](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.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)