

Friendly Messenger

February 2024

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a solemn 40-day period preceding Easter, characterized by fasting, prayer, and repentance as believers prepare for the celebration of Easter Sunday . The word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lencten,” which means “springtime” or “spring” . During this time, Christians often engage in practices such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as a way to deepen their connection with God and to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross . Fasting during Lent typically involves abstaining from certain foods or luxuries as a form of self-discipline and solidarity with the sufferings of Christ . The Lenten season serves as a period of spiritual purification, allowing believers to renew their faith and draw closer to the core tenets of Christianity .

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 40 DAYS?

The number 40 has a significant meaning in Christianity and is found 24 times throughout the Bible . It is often associated with periods of trial, testing, and preparation. For example, Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry . Similarly, the flood in the story of Noah lasted for 40 days and 40 nights . In the Old Testament, Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments . The number 40 is also associated with Lent, which is a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and repentance leading up to Easter Sunday . The significance of 40 days in Christianity is often linked to the idea of spiritual purification and renewal

HOW DO CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE EASTER?

Easter is one of the most important Christian holidays, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead after his crucifixion and burial . The day is typically marked by special church services, music, candlelight, flowers, and the ringing of church bells . It is a day of joy and celebration to commemorate that Jesus Christ is risen, according to Christian belief².

The Easter season begins with Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter . In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, while Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and the Easter season . Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Easter .

The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday, there is a commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Jesus’ death by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday .

Easter traditions vary across the Christian world and include flowering the cross, the wearing of Easter bonnets by women, clipping the church, and the decoration and the communal breaking of Easter eggs (a symbol of the empty tomb) .

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 February on the 7th at Ebenezer Methodist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship



Seniors

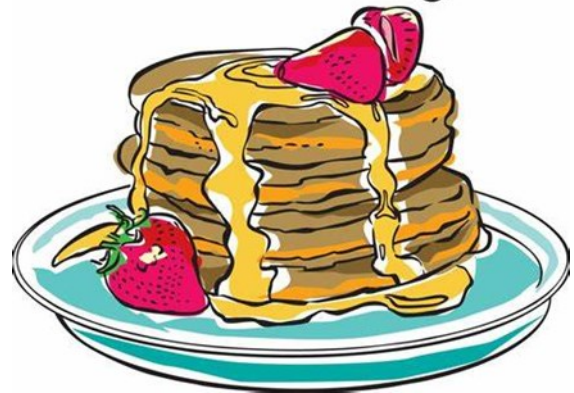
Youth will be assisting Trinity Ridge residents to their Worship Service Feb 28th at 3 PM and then go to dinner together and review plans for the year

Youth Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - Come out on Feb 13th for pancakes served by the Sardis Youth, pass the syrup please! Donations will be accepted.

Youth Snow Tubing Trip will be on Saturday, Feb 24. The youth and their families will be going to Hawksnest for 1 hr 45 min of tubing (\$50) and a meal afterwards. Tickets will need to be purchased in advance (by Feb 10th). Please contact April Fulbright or Jennifer Whitener to sign up.

Youth Planning Meeting - Thursday, Feb 8th at 6 PM

Shrove Tuesday



SARDIS YOUTH



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.)

**NovusWay
Ministries**



Camp Sunday



Kids need camp. Camp builds self-esteem, independence, leadership, friendship skills, social comfort, positive values, and decision making skills! Most importantly, **CAMP GROWS FAITH!** Encourage your church to provide scholarships to help families who may not otherwise be able to send their kids to camp. A NovusWay representative would be happy to bring the joy, energy, and accessibility of camp to your congregation on February 25th! We can provide all the materials you need, including summer camp brochures and scholarship information, to inform parents and grandparents about the benefits of sending their child to camp.

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
December 10, 2023

Members present: Susan, Jane, Dwayne, Terry, April, Kristin, Ken, Ray, Gene, Roger. New Council Members Joe, Rick, Jon

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order with 14 members present.

Terry and Jill provided refreshments to celebrate our new council members and say farewell to members going off council. Roger had devotions.

The November minutes and Financial Reports were discussed. Ken motioned to approve the minutes, Dwayne seconded, and the motion carried. Ray motioned to approve the financial report given by Dwayne, Kristin seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Mary Louise was absent, and Terry handed out her report.

Pastor's report for Congregation Council November 12 – December 10 Presided at worship and Holy Communion Presided at baptism for Lee Whitener Prepared Children's sermons Made 14 trips to Sardis Made 7 home visits and 1 care facility visit Wrote newsletter articles and interviewed for Spotlight Taught Confirmation Class on December 7 – only one student attended Participated in Zoom prayer group Participated in thanksgiving Community Service at Wesley Chapel Participated in funeral service for Marvin Baker Attended Evangelism Christmas dinner Attended Fred T Foard senior lunch at Sardis – had devotions and played carols Attended hand bell and choir rehearsals Donated blood at Sardis FYI: I'm doing a Christmas home communion blitz in the next two weeks. If anyone knows how to reach Margaret Ham, please let me know. I still have not visited her. I will be away from Sardis January 14 – January 26. I am going on a cruise with 9 of my neighbors. Cruises are my favorite trips and I haven't been on one since 2014. Wayne Giese, who is a Synod authorized minister (SAM) will do pulpit supply on the 14 and 21. He cannot preside at communion so these will be non-communion Sundays. I will have a local pastor on call for emergencies. I will let Terry and Jane know who that will be. As this year comes to a close, I treasure the time spent with everyone here. Merry Christmas!

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business

Terry read a letter received from St. Stevens Lutheran needing help with their food box. The council decided to just continue with our box and keeping it stocked.

NC Synod ask for Fund Raising to finish some projects and the council did not respond.

Terry asked for committee reports and none were offered.

Election of the 2024 Executive Committee was held.

Kristin nominated Terry to remain as Council Chair, Dwayne seconded, and the motion carried.

Kristin nominated Jane to remain as Council Secretary, Gene seconded, and the motion carried.

Terry handed out the Council assignments for 2024. The council then voted to keep the monthly meetings on the second Sunday at 5:00. Terry thanked Gene, April, Susan and Mike for serving on the council these past three years.

Our next meeting will be January 14, 2024

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Moretz, Council Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30—6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live Annual Meeting and luncheon immediately after Worship Service. 5:00 WELCA	5 7:00 Prayer Group	6	7 12:00 FTF Seniors at Ebenezer	8 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 Church Council	12	13 6:00 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, sponsored by OUR YOUTH	14 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service w/Holy Communion and FB Live Valentines Day	15 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	19 President's Day 7:00 Prayer Group	20	21 1:00 Card Making Class 5:00 Articles due for March NL	22 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23	24 Youth Snow Tubing at Hawknest
25 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge youth will assist 6:30 LMM		27	28	29 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal		

BIRTHDAYS

February

2/1 Evie Jo Carroll
 2/6 Margaret Propst
 2/9 Bill Whitener
 2/10 Ethan Carroll
 2/15 Amy S. Kilpatrick
 Mike Whitener
 2/16 Buster Bledsoe
 Hope Gladden
 2/21 Sylvia King
 Ashley Yow
 2/23 Alan Fulbright
 2/25 Carolyn Hoyle
 2/27 Jeff Wilson

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

Nena Babb

USHERS

Women of ELCA

COMMUNION PREPARATION

CLEAN-UP

Marilyn T.

Sandra R.

Anniversaries:

Bill/Mae Whitener 2- 3

Dwayne & Barbara Whitener 2-11

<i>VOLUNTEER Feb.</i>	4th	11th	18th	25th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Dwayne & Barbara W.	Nena Babb	Ken & Margaret P.	Women of ELCA
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Hayden/Cash	Rick/Shuford	Paisley/Austin	Tryston/Bruce
COMM. ASSISTANT	Marilyn T.	Mike M.	Tim W.	Ray W.
GREETERS	Marilyn/Jill	Kristin/Roger	Marshall/Evelyn	Felicia/Wanda
LAY READER	Jane M.	Dawn C.	Austin P.	Marilyn T.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Heather C.	No Children's Church	Nena B.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Bruce S.	Zachary S.	Roger T.	Rick J.
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston Kristin, Nena	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne, Tryston Sherrie, Mike
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Mike/Sherrie MD Kristin/Roger	Pre-K Jennifer EL Jane MD Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MD Nena/Marilyn	Pre-K Nena EL Donna MD April
BACKPACK PROGRAM	8th Joe & Phyllis	15th Roger, Marilyn, Jane	22nd Gene & Donna	29th Tim & Barbara
MEAL DEL.	10th Kay	17th No Meal	24th Sylvia	2nd No Meal
Blessings Box	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	LMM	A Christmas Carol

Come join Cash Fulbright and friends at Union for 5k run or walk. You can also go online and make a donation if you are unable to run or walk. The proceeds will be used for playground renovations and purchase equipment for the archery club that will start this fall. <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Vale/Unions5k>

UNION ELEMENTARY 5K RUN & WALK



UNSTOPPABLE

13 APRIL 2024

ENTRY \$25

Race begins at 9:00 am. Participants will receive a t-shirt if they register by March 27th. Prizes are awarded to top male & female finishers and the top 3 in each age group. A medal will be given to all participants 12 years & younger. All Running Clubs are invited to attend. Parking will be across the street at the public park across from Union Elementary.
4875 Reepsville Road, Vale NC 28168

WWW.RACINGTOES.COM
[HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/NC/VALE/UNIONS5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Vale/Unions5k)

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

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com

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

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