

Friendly Messenger

July 2024

Greetings beloved Sardis Church family,

To say that I am excited and overjoyed for the opportunity to be your Shepherd (pun intended) is an understatement. I just want to start off by saying thank you for the overwhelming support and love and connection you have already shown me in my family.

It is with great joy and anticipation that I look forward to embarking on this journey of faith, love, life, and ministry with you all. As we step into this new chapter together I look forward to growing with you in deep and faithful relationship!

My pastoral style is deeply relational, or in a phrase: “Invitation, without expectation.” Expectations as in, placed without communication. I am very open and delight in sharing connections and story. I look forward to walking with you in faith and through the many intersections and seasons of life.

Faith is a journey, and we are all on this journey together. My prayer is that we will be challenged, encouraged, and transformed by the gifts and grace of the Holy Spirit as we seek to live out our faith openly and authentically with excitement, passion, and love.

Change is a natural part of our lives but it is God through the Holy Spirit that abides in us that permits us to stand, and choose, to meet change with Grace, Hope, and Love. You have already filled me with great hope and love for this new thing God is up to here at Sardis Lutheran. The Grace of Christ is so alive in this expression of the Body Of Christ and I am overjoyed to see and be a part of it!

I will leave you with this reminder as is my practice, that you have already extended and have reminded me of,

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 group will meet in July on the 3rd at Sardis Lutheran Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



VBS News

CAMP Firelight VBS was full of fun activities, crafts, games, songs and learning about trusting in God. There was an average of 30 youth each night with the adult class night with 28, then 14 nights. Total average packed on Sunday -16 the other attendance was 80



Many thanks to all that participated in putting on a great Spaghetti Luncheon on June 23rd. We raised \$786.00. This money will be used for our expenses and meals while at the ELCA Youth Gathering. The dates Pastor Oscar, Jennifer Whitener, Gabriel Shepherd, and Keaton Farnsworth will be gone are July 16th—21st. The theme of the Youth Gathering is “Created To Be,” and will be held in New Orleans, LA.

Also don’t forget to place your order for our great looking T-Shirts. Information in the Narthex.

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.)

As summer begins, it is time to plan for upcoming events sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

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 o 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.

Social Ministry Collections The Social Ministry Committee will continue collecting items for Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief during May. The simple items included in a personal care kit provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. Items need for the kits are:

One light-weight towel (20" x 40" to 52" X 27") dark colors recommended

Two or three bath size bars of soap in original wrapping

One adult size toothbrush in original wrapping

One sturdy comb

One metal nail clipper

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
May 15, 2024

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

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order with 11 members present. Kristin had devotions.

The April minutes were discussed. Jon motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Joe seconded, and the motion carried. Dwayne had no comments of the financial report. Joe motioned to accept as presented, Ray seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Mary Louise did not give a report.

Old Business

The Property Committee is having issues with the new bulbs for the Sanctuary. Rick Lutz is working with an electrician to resolve this.

A computer was added to the sound system at a cost of \$1400.00.

New Business

The National Youth Gathering, in New Orleans was discussed

Attending are Pastor Oscar, Gabriel Shepherd, Jennifer Whitener, and Keaton Farnsworth for a total of \$5,347.

The dates are July 16 – 19

Dwayne said the budget could handle this, but fund raisers are being held to compensate.

Suggestions were to have a Love Offering, car wash, dinners, etc.

Rick motioned to cover the cost of the Gathering, Jon seconded and the motion carried.

April received a letter from Pastor Adrienne about a youth band from her church that will be playing at the Youth Gathering. They have asked to perform here on June 28th or 29th to raise money for their travels. Ken motioned to allow, Nena seconded, and the motion carried.

April will check further into this as there would be a conflict of us hosting if raining.

A new pictorial directory was discussed and decided against as social media has taken over with FB etc.

The car charger for Pastor Oscar and Bruce Sigman is researching for information on what and where to install.

Nena reported that the Site Committee met and discussed a walking track and getting pricing from Gregory Smyre and Garry Richard to get gravel. Suggested a memorial plaque for memorial donations.

The next council meeting will be June 9th after the worship service due to VBS starting that evening.

Meeting ended with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted

Jane Moretz, Secretary

Yoder Family in North Carolina Descendants of Conrad Yoder



**Annual Reunion: Sunday, August 11, 2024
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Maiden, NC**

Honoring the heritage of our ancestors, the family of Conrad Yoder will gather together in Maiden, NC, on the traditional second Sunday in August. We will enjoy a covered-dish lunch at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of **St. Martin's Lutheran Church**, the former parish of Rev. Robert Anderson Yoder (pastor 1898-1900; 1901-1905). Following the meal, we will have a business meeting and planning session for hosting the 2025 National Yoder Reunion in recognition of the 300th birthday of Conrad Yoder—so please come with some ideas to share!

Address for St. Martin's Lutheran Church:

214 West Main St.
Maiden, NC 28650

RSVP: Text, call, or email Rachael Kennedy
Cell: 704-467-2272; rachaelkenedy466@gmail.com

We hope to see you in August!

Rachael Kennedy, President
Yoder Family in North Carolina



to the members of

Sardis

of the North Carolina Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
in grateful appreciation for giving

\$24,327.53

for Mission Support beyond the congregation
for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Bishop, North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America


Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12:00 FTF Sen- iors at Sar- dis...bring drinks	4 Office Closed 	5 Pastor's Sab- bath	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	8 7:00 Prayer Group	9	10	11	12 Pastor's Sab- bath	13
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 2:00 Pastor Oscar Installation. Re- ception following	15	16 Youth Gather- ing, New Orle- ans 16th—21st	17	18	19 Pastor's Sab- bath	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	22 7:00 Prayer Group	23	24 5:00 Deadline for August NL articles	25	26 Pastor's Sab- bath	27 2—4 Al's Birth- day Celebration
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge, Youth to assist 6:30 LMM	29	30	31	<p>**NOTE**</p> <p><i>If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Thank you.</i></p>		

BIRTHDAYS JULY

7/2 Kristin Teague

7/3 Frank Griffin

7/6 Alex Midgett

7/10 Allison W. Short

Catherine D. Hood

7/16 Becky Gladden

7/18 Gary Speagle

7/19 Dorothy Lutz

7/21 Rick Lutz

Zayde Yousef

7/23 Carol Mayer

7/26 Wanda Stallings

Maleah G. Duncan

7/28 Paisley A. Hood

Keaton Farnsworth

7/29 Susan Jones

7/31 Al King

Monte Speagle

COUNCIL CONTACT

Joe Biggerstaff

ASSISTING MINISTER

Tim Whitener

USHERS

Ralph S., Jill B., Wayne J., Al K.

COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

Sharon Sigman Sherrie Midgett

Anniversaries:

Greg & Kerby Smyre 7-23

Ben & Jennifer Whitener 7-30

New address for directory:

Rev. Matthew and Olivia Shepherd

79 4th Ave N

Taylorsville NC 28681

Gabriel and Ian

<i>VOLUNTEER July</i>	7th	14th	21st	28th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Dorothea W.	David & Mildred F.	Benny & Edna F.	Randy & Joyce S.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Tryston/Hayden	Rick/Nena	Keaton/Austin	Hayden/Shuford
COMM. ASSISTANT	Roger T.	Jennifer W.	Ben W.	Sandra R.
GREETERS	Benny and Edna	Dianne/Ken	Kay/Rita	Jill/Donna
LAY READER	Marilyn T.	Marshall W.	Jennifer W.	Keaton Farnsworth
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church	Heather C.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Ralph S.	Rick J.	Bruce S.	Zachary S.
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Kristin	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MH Dawn	Pre-K Nena EL Jane MH April
MEAL DEL.	13th Sylvia	20th No Meal	27th April	3rd No Meal
Blessings Box	LMM	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council



FOURTH OF JULY

Word Search



ADAMS
AMERICA
BARBECUE
COLONIES
CONGRESS
DECLARATION

FAMILY
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FREEDOM
FRIENDS
GAMES

HOLIDAY
HOT DOGS
INDEPENDENCE
JEFFERSON
JULY
LIBERTY

PARADE
PARTY
PATRIOTIC
PICNIC
STATES
SUMMER

Free printable courtesy of WordSearchAddict.com

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: Pastor Oscar (C) 828-228-3078 pastor@sardislutheran.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