

# Friendly Messenger

March 2021

## Some Lenten Encouragement

Greetings in this Lenten Season! How is this season of prayer, fasting, and discipline going for you so far? As any Lutheran, I have a feeling you might not be feeling like Jeff in this cartoon here!

Lent is a time when we take something out or add something into our daily habit to grow new life. What can be difficult about Lent is we are preparing for the grief that we witness in Jesus' life and death, a death he died on our behalf.

Lent can start out heavy and sometimes become more difficult as season progresses. However, if we make it, enough time has passed by the time Holy Week arrives, that new habit has created space for Christ to grow.

Lent can feel awfully long, (it is 40 days not including Sundays!) and sometimes we need a little bit of encouragement.

Our cartoon friend, Jeff, may be somewhat confused about the Season of Lent, but in humor there is often truth. What would it look like if we really "gave it up," or rather, "went all out," for Lent? Despite it being a somber time in the Church Year, what if we were enthusiastic about its observance? That might be hard when the discipline we have undertaken makes the days feel like they pass more slowly.

When I have goals in which my work seems pointless, I look at this sign that I have at home: It says, "Do it for your future self."

This sign helps me because it reminds me that the efforts I am making are not in vain. It encourages me in the process when I would like the result now! It reminds me that I will reap the return on my investment soon enough.

It may help us to think that we are doing it for our future selves if we also remember what God has done, is doing, and will do for our present selves. As Lutherans, we believe in "justification by faith" in which all of our faith and trust are put into Jesus Christ as the one who saves us. This is ALL God's doing. This is GRACE. This is the work of God's saving act through Jesus Christ's death on the cross. By his death, we are reconciled to God. In his resurrection, we are brought into life eternal.

Something we do not talk about as often is something called "sanctification." This is the process of ongoing justification in which we grow in the image of Christ. Lent is a time in which forgiveness, peace, and love grow in us. Lent can be a time for us to examine and prepare ourselves for the resurrection to come. We can set aside this time to:

- gain clarity.
- be intentional.
- be mindful.
- value simplicity
- gain renewal



**Jeff gives it up for Lent.**

Cont. Pastor letter

This time is a gift to focus on how the image of Christ might grow in us so that when the Resurrection of our Lord comes, the gift of new life takes hold of us on a new level. When we look in the mirror, perhaps we may see renewal and a lighter spirit. The real measure of growth will be seen to the extent that Christ is reflected to others.

Our Holy Week Services will be held the last week of this month. Here is the schedule for our services.

Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday Service, Drive-in at 10:30 am

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday, Facebook Live, 7 pm

Friday, April 2: Good Friday Service, Facebook Live, 7 pm

Sunday, April 4: The Resurrection of Our Lord, Drive-in, Sunrise Service at 6:30 am

More information will be provided.

May you be blessed by encouragement in your Lenten journey!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Adrienne

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### **2021 Easter "Egged" Hunt**

Angels in Christ are working on a fun and exciting socially distance alternative to our Easter Egg Hunt at the church. While we won't all gather at the church to find eggs, the egg hunt will still happen this year with a twist! Limited details for now to keep from spoiling the surprise! For now, our youth should mark their calendars for Sat March 27th and get their baskets ready! Parents, please contact April Fulbright or Jennifer Whitener for more information or if you are interested in helping with this event

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### **Evangelism News and Notes**

The new listing for Sardis Shepherds and their sheep needs to be updated for the new year. I will be revising this list and removing any names that need to be removed because of deaths. If you are a shepherd and would like for me to remove a name, I will be happy to do so. No one will be able to see the name that has been removed. I certainly hope that everyone will choose to continue as shepherds. Unfortunately, we could not depend on our mailboxes at the church to deliver cards to our sheep as we have done in previous years. If any of you need help with postage cost, please get in touch with me. Your help is invaluable because as a Shepherd, you may have information about a member that the Pastor may not know about.

We also have some names that need to be added to the list of sheep. The Shepherds could use one more person. With the new additions to our church and recent new members from previous years, we have 8 people that need a shepherd. If you could volunteer for this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Again; thank you to all our Sardis Shepherds for contributing to the work of God at Sardis and our community. You do a fabulous job. If you are not a Sardis Shepherd and would consider being one, please get in touch with myself or any of the present shepherds. We will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Ray Whitener  
Evangelism committee Chair

## “WELCA Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need

WELCA is holding a Food Drive again this year for our neighbors in need. All donations will go to ECCCM. It may look a bit different this year than in the past. The drive will run in conjunction with the Lenten Season. After speaking with a person at ECCCM these are the items they need most...

Cereal (individual and boxed)

Canned Soups

Canned Meats

Canned Pastas

Canned Fruits

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Rice

Beans (dried and canned)

Pasta (boxed)

You may also bring your old pill bottles during these times. The pill bottles will go to Hickory Christian Ministry for their Pharmacy. We have drop off times for you to bring your donations to the church. You will be able to just drive up and ladies will come to your vehicle to collect your donations. The drop off dates are stated below.

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:00-6:00pm

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 12:00-2:00

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> drive in service

Thanks to all of you who brought food on February 14<sup>th</sup> during the drive thru.

Please consider purchasing some of these items as you grocery shop during this Lenten Season as we at Sardis show we care for our neighbors in need.

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## OFFICE COMPUTER

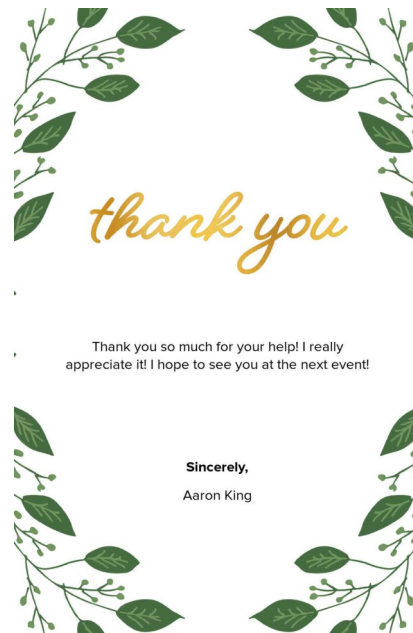
A new computer has been purchased for the office by an anonymous doner. This was a much needed asset as the older computer was running slowly and just causing so many issues. Thank you so much for your love of Sardis. The computer is protected with several login passwords. If you need to use the computer contact Jane for instructions.

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You've received a special **thank you note** from Aaron King for being part of the **Sharing Food With Others Project**!

Hi **Sardis Lutheran**,

**thrivent**®



Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
January 10, 2021

Members Present

Bruce, Kathy, Terry, Jon, Bryan, Gene, Susan, April, Tim  
Pastor Adrienne, Ben, Mike, Carolyn

No Members Absent

Bruce called the meeting to order via Zoom. Carolyn had devotions.

Minutes from the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were read with no changes from the Council. Motion was made by Jon to accept the minutes; April seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bruce presented the Treasurer's report. The General Fund balance was \$10,521 as of December 31. The Building Fund balance was \$7,082; the Cemetery Fund was \$1,437. Bryan made a motion to accept the report, Jon seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:

I hope you had A Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for my Christmas bonus – it was an amazing surprise and generous gift! I am so delighted and so grateful!

Our Advent Season was a little different this year, but it was still full of activity and ministry. It was a blessed season of hope and expectation, perhaps even striking the original dynamic than other years. We held out first-ever Drive-thru Live Nativity on December 20<sup>th</sup> and collected 580 cans of food to donate to ECCCM! It was so well-planned and well-attended. It really gifted the community with a reminder that our Lord lives!

Our Advent Bible Study group met on Zoom for four Tuesday evenings in December. We discussed the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" in perspective of the Advent Season and the gift of life we have in Christ. It was a rich study of life, scripture, and media. I learned some important lessons about facilitating a Zoom Bible Study and will structure a little differently to contain the time limit.

For worship planning for Sundays and special services, Frank and I focused on visual elements that would enhance the online worship experience. Terry also created some wonderful effects for our services. It's a new world, and we are exploring how we can bring an additional layer to our live-streamed services. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, we live-streamed our Blue Christmas service, which we renamed an Advent Service of Hope and Expectation.

Frank and I are continuing to plan for services. For the Season of Lent coming up, we are working with Worship and Music to figure out what will work best in terms of time. With the rise of COVID-19 numbers since Christmas, Frank would like to make sure he minimizes risk for himself and his mother. He is not able to stay over in a hotel like he usually does so that adds an additional layer to consider.

I am very excited to share a study opportunity for the Season of Lent. Our synod just approved the curriculum Six Weeks on Money. It was created in partnership with the ELCA. I learned of the curriculum in a Lifeline meeting where the developer, Tim Schuster, met with us and gave a presentation. It looks excellent! In addition, our conference received a grant so that it comes at no cost to participants. The study will start the week of Ash Wednesday and continue through Lent. It provides a refreshing perspective to the ways we think about money.

On another note, our conference learned that since the chaplain's departure at Trinity Village, they have been showing the same worship DVD over and over. Our conference is going to start giving the new DVDs from our conference churches, so they have something different to play for the residents. I have agreed to supply DVDs from Sardis. I also checked with Trinity Ridge and will provide them with new worship services as well. They play these on screens in the neighborhoods. Pastor Judy Drysdale will be filling in part-time at Trinity Ridge.

## Summary

Lifeline Meeting, Tuesday, December 8th  
 It's a Wonderful Life Zoom Advent Bible Study, December 15 at 7pm  
 Advent Service of Hope and Expectation, Thursday, December 17 at 7pm (Facebook Live)  
 Special pick-up of Holy Communion and candle, Sunday December 20  
 Live Nativity, Children's Program, Sunday, December 20th, 6-8pm  
 It's a Wonderful Life Zoom Advent Bible Study, December 22 at 7pm  
 Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 9pm with prelude at 8:45pm  
 Lessons & Carols, Sunday, December 27, live streamed  
 Vacation (December 28-January 4)  
 Supply Preacher, Sunday, January 3  
 LIGHTS meeting, Thursday, January 7

## Upcoming

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 7  
 Lifeline meeting, Thursday February 11  
 Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, February 17  
 Lenten bible Study, Six Weeks of Money

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Pastor Adrienne Martin

Mike brought up a question about the building fund balance the same as general fund, Bruce will verify with Dwayne. Corrected amount listed in council minutes.

## Old Business:

Steeple Repair – Insurance engineer said we could fix roof without removing steeple, that the steeple support is secure but the fiberglass steeple could move during strong winds (fiberglass portion of steeple has separated from metal of the church) May have to replace fiberglass or possible steeple. Amount insurance will cover depends on damage to the steeple and how it was damaged. Terry is keeping in contact with the insurance company. Additional water damage to organ side of wall inside the church was noticed when taking down the Chrismon tree.

Property Committee – New Narthex doors are showing signs of weathering, may just need cleaning and maintenance to restore. Terry will check on best process.

Tim brought up the Educational building doors may also need some maintenance or replacing. This has been brought up before in council and as of today no decision has been made.

## New Business:

Church Sign Quote – Tim presented a quote from Sign Solutions for replacing the yard sign letters, \$2,350 would include the letters and the installation/attaching to the sign. Although the Property Committee approved checking into the purchase, Dwayne – of the Finance Committee – advised to hold off purchase until the steeple funding is reconciled.

Bruce presented a request for additional help with the services. Up to now the services have been covered by a few individuals who have graciously volunteered but would like some time off. Please let the Pastor know if you are interested in being assisting minister.

## Cont. Council Minutes

Congregational meeting: Scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>, discussion followed on the best way to present the annual reports. It was decided to have a virtual meeting right after the church service that Sunday, with Bruce presenting the reports highlighting specific items in each report. Jon made a motion to accept the decision, Terry seconded, and the motion carried.

Fire Ants: Terry reported a fire ant mound was found under the fire escape and suggested to pass info to the property committee to investigate extermination costs.

Council Retreat: The prospect of a council retreat was brought up, discussed and it was decided to postpone until further notice.

Terry made a motion to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Kathy Weaver, Council Secretary

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL!

All the letters for our front yard sign have been purchased and installed. Here is a list of who purchased letters.



3 Letters	Purchased By	In Memory	In Honor
8	Memorials (Weaver Family)	Ray Weaver	
2	Memorials (Jane Moretz)	Bo Moretz	
10	Lutheran Men in Mission		
3	Ken & Margaret Propst		
1	Ken & Margaret Propst	Jack Whitener	
3	Roger & Marilyn Teague	Ralph and Bertha Propst	
10	Jon & Becky Gladden		
2	Greg & Kerby Smyre	Our twin babies	
2	Bruce & Sharon Sigman		Logan & Avery Yow
1	Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff		
2	Gene & Donna Biggerstaff		
10	Al & Sylvia King		
2	Ralph & Wanda Stallings		
3	Kristin Teague	Bertha Propst	Roger & Marilyn Teague
2	Tim & Barbara Whitener		Bill & Mae Whitener
1	Susan Jones		
1	Terry & Jill Bledsoe		
2	Rick & Patsy Johnson		

## KIDNEY DONOR NEEDED



Are you one who has thought, or know someone who has thought about donating a kidney, to make a life a lot better?

For the ones at Sardis or reading this newsletter, I am Ricky Lutz. In May of 2005, I was diagnosed with renal cell oncocyoma tumors. In May of 2005 I had my first operation. The plan was to save as much of the right kidney as possible. I got out of the operation with half of a kidney. In August of 2005, the doctor decided my partial kidney was functioning and they removed all of the left kidney. Since then I had half of one kidney. I also had several procedures to freeze and remove small tumors as they appeared.

Around six years ago a tumor showed up in a bad location. It could not be frozen or removed because it would damage the drainage tube that goes to the bladder. I was turned over to an oncologist who tried a kidney cancer drug. This chemo drug had never been tried on these kinds of tumors. I was the first. The tumor stopped growing and in the past two years it has appeared to be dead. However, my creatinine level was constantly running in the mid 3's, the past 6 months it is running in the mid to upper 4's. The kidney is no longer doing a satisfactory job. Dialysis is in the future.

On February 18, I went and had a transplant interview. We discussed several options and the different requirements. My best option is to get a kidney from a living donor. If a living donor is found, I might could get one in a year. With a cadaver donor it would be 5 to 7 years.

This is very hard to ask, but I need a living donor. If anyone knows of someone or is someone who is willing to donate a kidney our prayers would be answered. I have type O blood and it will match with almost all of the other types. It will be several months before I will know if I am a candidate. If you would like to keep any questions that you may have in private you can call the Duke Transplant Center at 1-919-613-7777. You can talk to me by calling 828-217-0834. Thank you and God Bless.

Ricky Lutz

## Lenten Series

### The Heart of God and the Greatest Commandments

For our Lenten series this year, we will be exploring the commandments Jesus said were the greatest: to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength; and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus says, “There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12: 30-31)

In our services, we will have the opportunity to open our hearts and minds to the heart of God. In God’s heart, there are all those who hunger and thirst for justice. In this series, we will host a speaker to preach about the greatest commandments as it relates to loving ourselves and loving others. We are called in the waters of Holy Baptism to “strive for justice and and peace in all the earth.” We are called to love and serve as Christ.

As St. Paul writes in Romans 12: “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God--what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” I invite us to open ourselves to the holy transformation of our minds as we learn about the world in which we live, not to be conformed, but to be faithful. I pray and expect us to be renewed, challenged, and indeed, transformed this Lenten Season.

Please tune in to Facebook on Sunday evenings in Lent at 7 pm. Here are our topics for the first two weeks.

Sunday, February 21: “Loving Yourself” The Rev. Todd Byrd, a Christian counselor and Methodist preacher, providing a Christian perspective about what it means to love yourself.

Sunday, February 28: “Loving Others: A Healing Hand in a Time of Crisis” Carolyn Thompson, Faith Community Nurse at FaithHealth Catawba, will speak to us about how the pandemic has revealed disparities in healthcare and how we can respond as engaged and faithful disciples

Sunday, March 7: “Loving Our Neighbor: When I Was Poor...”The Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood  
Offering: Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry, 31 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Hickory NC 28602

Sunday March 14: “Loving Our Neighbor: The Earth Groans” The Rev. Bill Garrard  
Offering: TBD

Sunday March 21: “Loving Our Neighbor: Exodus Homes” The Rev. Reggie Longcrier  
Offering: Exodus Homes, PO Box 3311, Hickory NC 218603

*WITH OUR LENTEN SERVICES BEING LIVE STREAMED, YOU ARE WELCOME TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING TO ONE OR MORE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. PLEASE MAIL OR BRING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE MARKED FOR THE ORGANIZATION. YOU CAN ALSO MAIL DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION USING THEIR ADDRESS PROVIDED ABOVE.*



# Types of Food

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

BREAD  
 PORK  
 CASSEROLE  
 STEAK  
 CEREAL  
 HOTDOGS  
 ONION  
 RADISH  
 SPAGHETTI  
 BURGERS  
 HOT DOG  
 MACARONI  
 SALAD  
 FRUIT  
 HAM  
 VEGETABLES  
 ROLLS  
 LETTUCE  
 BUTTER  
 TUNA  
 TV DINNER  
 NOODLES  
 GRAVY

The Faith of Fifty Years



**ECCCM**

Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc

To bring together the resources of the Christian community to serve the people in need of crisis assistance, support, and education, in response to God's call.

ECCCM  
245 East N St.  
Newton, NC 28658  
(828) 465-1702  
[www.ecccm.org](http://www.ecccm.org)

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED



ECCCM is looking for anyone interested in helping in the Charlie Bunn Memorial Food Pantry. We have several key volunteer positions that we would like to find people interested in filling:

**Door Worker** – volunteers who directly take the food to our clients.

**Grocery Driver** – volunteers who drive to our local grocery stores to pick up food donations.

**Truck Driver** – volunteers who drive our box truck for pick-ups and warehouse runs.

(All drivers will have to pass a background check and possible road test.)

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact:

Allen Sherrill  
Director of Food Pantry Operations  
(828) 465-1702, ext. 116  
[a.sherrill@ecccm.org](mailto:a.sherrill@ecccm.org)

ECCCM Food Pantry Operating Hours:  
Monday – Thursday  
8 AM – 5 PM

# Calling All Volunteers



**We are looking for a team to work together to  
receive and process incoming donations or with  
customers in the store.**

**Your Help provides clothing and  
housewares to our community**

**Call Christina, Manager, 828-465-1702 ext. 123**





## March 2021

### Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 Lenten Study	3 4-6pm WELCA food drop off for ECCCM	4	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6
7 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live 7:00 Lenten Service FB Live	8	9 7:30 Lenten Study	10	11	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 12-2pm WELCA food drop off for ECCCM
14 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live 7:00 Lenten Service FB Live	15 7:00 Church Council ZOOM	16 7:30 Lenten Study	17	18	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20
21 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live 7:00 Lenten Service FB Live	22	23 7:30 Lenten Study	24	25	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 Easter "Egged" Hunt
28 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 Drive-in Worship Service and FB Live WELCA food drop off for ECCCM	29	30 7:30 Lenten Study	31	April 1 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service FB Live Stream	2 7:00 Good Friday Service FB Live Stream	3

#### \*\*NOTE\*\*

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

#### SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Pastor: The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 [pastor@sardislutheran.net](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.net)

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

Council Chair: Bruce Sigman (C) 828-310-5851 [bruce.camping@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.camping@gmail.com)

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

**March**

3/2 Sheila Ramsey  
Barbara J. Whitener

3/4 Richard Covington  
Mike Midgett

3/5 David Fulbright

3/6 Lucas Richard  
Kendra M. Starkey

3/11 Laythe Yousef

3/13 Robin Stuart

3/16 Patsy Johnson  
Joe D. Biggerstaff  
William Farnsworth III

3/17 Mike Hollar

3/19 Ralph Ramsey

3/20 Sandra Roseman

3/24 Nate Johnson  
Shuford Whitener

3/27 Shannon Hollar  
Teresa E. Starkey

3/30 Ron Crawley  
Wesley Weaver

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

**Mar. 7** Buster Bledsoe

**Mar. 14** Bruce & Sharon Sigman

**Mar. 21** Richard & Dawn Covington

**Mar. 28** Dwight & Hope Gladden

**COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER**

Bruce Sigman

**Mar. 7** Ben Whitener

**Mar. 14** Gene Biggerstaff

**Mar. 21** Tim Whitener

**Mar. 28** Rick Johnson

**SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY/IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO  
AT THIS TIME.**

**Mar. 6** Carolyn Hoyle

**Mar. 13** No Meal Delivery

**Mar. 20** Donna Biggerstaff

**Mar. 27** No Meal Delivery

**Anniversaries:**

**Wayne & Elaine Jarrett 3-3**

**Garry & Annette Richard 3-8**

**William & Lindsey Farnsworth  
3-26**

**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.**

## 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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### Methods for Giving

Gifts may be made online by clicking on the green “Give” button on our NEW website [www.sardislutheran.com](http://www.sardislutheran.com) or our Facebook page.

or

Gifts may be mailed to:  
Sardis Lutheran Church  
6103 W. NC 10 Hwy.  
Hickory, NC 28602

or

You may bring your gifts by the church during office hours. Place your gift in the basket out front and ring the bell to alert the office of your gift.

*God bless you and keep you in his care.*

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6103 W NC 10 HWY  
HICKORY NC 28602

