

Friendly Messenger

March 2024

As we continue in our Lenten journey, the month of March is fast approaching and, for some reason, the concept of time is on my mind.

Easter is about the earliest it can be this year: March 31. The date of Easter is based on the cycles of the moon. We began Lent on February 14. This happened in 2018; this year; and in 2029 it will happen again. After that, it will be in the 2100's.

March also brings us the change of time from Eastern Standard Time to Daylight Savings Time: Sunday, March 10, is coming up soon. For me, the least favorite time of the year: I lose an hour of sleep!

March also brings us our Lenten services on Sunday evenings at 7:00. This year they are in the fellowship hall as we gather around the altar there and reflect on pathways to the cross of Jesus.

These services are followed by our Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We celebrate Easter at 6:30 am on March 31 and that service will be a glorious celebration of God's love for us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

All this happens in God's time. Oh, and did I mention, our Call Committee is being led by the Holy Spirit as they continue to pray about who our next pastor will be – a person already chosen by God and the discernment of our Call Committee is vital. Please pray for these folks as they interact with those who have asked to be interviewed.

March will indeed be a great time to be the Church! Won't you take time to participate in our journey towards the cross, the grave and to the glorious resurrection? Now is that time..... God's blessings to you.

Blessings
Pastor Mary Louise



April Richard Fulbright is a fascinating woman! From the time of her birth, continuing to the present day, April embraces life as a wife and mother, a Doctor of Pharmacy and an active part of our Sardis faith community.

April was born on April 1. Her family was going to name her “Priscilla” but the doctor who delivered her suggested she be called “April”. She grew up at Sardis, was baptized and confirmed here. She has wonderful memories of the Youth group beach trips and mountain trips. Back in those days, there was an initiation for Youth group where they all dressed up like the Little Rascals (she was Alfalfa) and played water games. Another vivid memory is of Carolyn Truitt’s homemade pimento cheese which was always a hit on their beach trips.

April married Ben over twenty years ago at the Chapel of the Pines at South Mountain. April and Ben have known each other their whole life. Both sets of parents were good friends so they grew up together. It wasn’t until they were both away at college and would come home for visits that they actually began dating. They have a son, Cash, who is active at Sardis in Youth group, Sunday School and serving as an acolyte and crucifer.

After graduating from Campbell University, she returned to our area. Her years at Campbell (a Baptist institution) allowed her to experience other faith practices and aided in her faith formation to recognize her Lutheran roots were deep.

Vacation Bible School is her favorite activity of the year! She also teaches Sunday school, maintains bulletin boards for Youth activities and is an enthusiastic leader of our Youth group (along with others who also share their time and energy).

In order to accomplish all of these things, she relies on her strong organizational skills. Her least favorite thing is to need to ask for help – and when she does ask, she truly needs the help.

She has sweet memories of Sardis growing up. Nena and Sherrie were the “cool girls” and they are now her best friends. She misses Margaret Whitener (as we all do) because Margaret was working behind the scenes coming up with great ideas and volunteering.

There have been some bumps in her road, especially the time when Cash was at Luther Road Camp and April got a call to come pick him up. As she backed out in her car, she ran over their dog, Arrow, and broke his leg. She had to call Ben to go pick up Cash so she could take care of Arrow. That’s a day that’s hard to forget.

April enjoys anything done outside. She kayaks, snow skis, hikes, and took up running ½ marathons recently. Here is a great description of her first ½ marathon: It had stormed the morning of the race and there was still a light rain when April began. Her goal was to finish the race. After finishing, they left and didn’t stay around for the awards. Later that day, she found out she had gotten first place in her age group and missed getting a bobble head race trophy! Lesson learned: stay for awards – you never know!

April enjoys her time working with the youth of Sardis. She wants to see the children grow in faith by learning and participating in activities that are centered in Jesus.

We love you, April!



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 March on the 6th at Sardis Lutheran. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Seniors

Food Drive for those in Need

Sardis WELCA will be collecting food for our local community and our Catawba County community with our annual food drive. We will begin collecting food on Sunday, February 18th and continue through Sunday, March 24th. This year we will divide the food collected between ECCCM and our Blessings Box here at Sardis. Any and all nonperishable foods are appreciated but some ideas are;

Canned and boxed pasta (including spaghetti noodles, macaroni, etc.)

Pasta Sauce

Peanut Butter

Canned Meats

Cereals

Canned Fruits

Canned Vegetables

Please help as you can. Together we can make a difference!

Changes for the directory in the Annual Report

Leevada Wood **remove home phone #**

Dot Lutz **correct number s/b 704-240-3575**

Roger Lutz **cell # 828-638-5057**

Donald and Evelyn Fulbright **Remove home #, cell numbers are correct**



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.)



YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On January 26th Paisley Hood received a Second Place Medal at a gymnastics competition in Maryland. She was tied for first place but a tie breaker placed her in second place. She received a 4th place medal for floor, 5th place for vault and 8th place for Balance Beam. She also received a trophy for 3rd place all around. She will travel to South Carolina on February 2nd and to Kentucky in February as well. She competes in the Junior B division with over 40 participants. Keep up the good work Paisley, your Sardis Family is very proud of you and your competitive drive.

Evangelism Notes

Are you good at sending out birthday cards to family members and friends? Do you like to keep up with your church family and what is happening to friends and neighbors? The Shepherding Group is in need of two individuals to replace two of our Sardis Shepherds who are retiring. If you are interested, please prayerfully consider and let Ray Whitener know as soon as possible. Thank you to all of the Sardis Shepherds.

ANNUAL SARDIS SHEPHERDS AND SPOUSES APPRECIATION DINNER

Each year the Evangelism Committee holds an appreciation Night to honor the Sardis members who faithfully serve as Shepherds. This year the dinner will be at Sardis on Saturday, March 23rd at 5:00 pm. Shepherds and spouses are invited to attend. We would also like to invite any Shepherds who have retired from being a shepherd. We look forward to seeing you there. Please let Ray Whitener or someone from the Evangelism Committee know if you will not be able to attend.

2023 Fifth Sunday Noisy Offering

Thanks to the ever-faithful giving of the Sardis Congregation, the Social Ministry Committee was able to collect \$1000.00 in 2023 on the five fifth Sundays! This money was designated for Lutheran World Relief. In January, members of Sardis's youth selected the items for purchase. After much debate, the items below were selected.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 community vegetable garden | \$200 |
| 2 sets of seeds and gardening tools | \$100 |
| 1 herd of goats | \$300 |
| 3 water filters | \$ 90 |
| 5 family mosquito nets | \$100 |
| 5 blankets | \$ 50 |
| 16 Bibles | \$160 |

Thanks to all who donated. These items will be life changing for the recipients. *What a wonderful example of the sharing of God's love during this Lenten season.*

Your generosity will make a difference to hundreds of families and children in Catawba and surrounding counties...and YOU are helping to build a future.



CENTRO LATINO

January 10, 2024

The Reverend Mary Louise Sitton
Sardis Lutheran Church
6103 NC HWY 10 West
Hickory, NC 28602

Dear Pastor Sitton,

How can we say thank you enough? Please accept this letter as a personal and formal acknowledgment from the board and staff of Centro Latino for your gift this year.

As required by the Internal Revenue Service, we acknowledge receipt of check #7677 from Sardis Lutheran Church on 6/2/23, in the amount of \$488.30, and that you received neither goods nor services for your donation.

Your generosity is what gives us hope. We promise to be good stewards of your trust. Please check out our website and Facebook pages to see how your gift has helped.

Gratefully,

Ginny Romero Hill
Executive Director

Catawba County Hispanic Ministry (dba Centro Latino) is a charitable organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our tax identification number is 56-2170931. Contributions to Centro Latino are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing at (919) 807-2214

(828) 330-0477 P.O. Box 104, Hickory, NC 28603 www.centrolatinohickory.com

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
January 11, 2024

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

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

The December Minutes and Financial Reports were discussed. Nena corrected the date of the meeting, and that she was not present at the November meeting. Rick motioned to accept the minutes with changes made, Joe Seconded and the motion carried. Dwayne motioned to approve the financial report, Ken seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Mary Louise was absent, and Terry handed out her report.

Pastor's Report for Congregation Council December 11, 2023-January 14, 2024

Made 8 home visits

Made 4 care facility visits

Presided at Holy Communion and worship services

Presided at Christmas Eve Service

Presided at funeral for Scottie Wyant and provided pastoral care to family

Prepared children's sermons

Taught Confirmation class

Participated in choir rehearsals

Attended Evangelism Christmas dinner

Attended Children's Christmas program

Participated in Zoom prayer group

Attended Carolina Christmas show with Sardis Sisters

Led worship at Trinity Ridge on December 31

Interviewed and wrote articles for the newsletter

Attended Fred T. Foard seniors lunch

Attended Worship and music committee meeting

Contacted Pr. Marcus Ollis at Beth-Eden concerning Lenten services

Arranged for Wayne Geise to lead worship and Pr. David Drysdale to be on call for emergency pastoral care while I am away January 14 – 26.

Old Business

- Terry handed out the list for Council members Committees Representative, Devotions each month for the year and volunteer for Assisting Minister.
- Jane requested suggestions as to where 2024 Special Offerings should be designated for. Rick motioned Meals on Wheels, Dwayne seconded, and the motion carried.
- Ray suggested a note be put in the NL to remind Thrivent members to allocate their Thrivent dollars.

Council min. cont.

New Business

- Terry discussed the February meeting be cancelled unless official business needed to be discussed.
- Dwayne motioned that the Annual Meeting will be catered by Normans, Joe seconded, and the motion carried. Jane is to contact and plan this. A donation box will be available for members to donate.
- Terry contacted On Solve and purchased “One Call” our new phone tree software. The cost is \$552.00 per year and at this price will accommodate 150 members.
- Terry reported that the lighting in the sanctuary is taking longer to come up. He has replaced a bulb in one of the fixtures and several more need to be replaced. The Property committee
- motioned to replace these bulbs with LED’s at a cost \$1800.00, Joe seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- The men’s group has purchased a new basketball goal.
- Nena motioned that a site plan be designed for the acreage at the back of the church. Rick seconded and the motion carried.

Next meeting February 11th at 5PM.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Moretz, Council Secretary

February 4, 2024

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held in the fellowship hall immediately following worship service. A meal was served, and donations were taken to help with the cost. Terry called the meeting to order. The 2024 Report of 2023 financials and committee reports was distributed to one per household. Terry went over the content. A motion was made by Dwayne to accept the report, Bruce seconded, and the motion carried. Terry then asked for a motion to close the meeting in which Jon motioned, Joe seconded, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Moretz, Council Secretary

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



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



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA 7:00 Lenten Service | 4 7:00 Prayer Group | 5 7:00 Ordinary Angels Movie, meet at theater at 6:30 | 6 12:00 FTF Seniors at Sardis (bring dish and drinks) | 7 4:30—6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 Church Council 7:00 Lenten Service | 11 6:00 VBS planning meeting at Plateau | 12 | 13 | 14 No School 6:00 Youth Planning Meeting 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 15 No School | 16 |
| 17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Lenten Service  | 18 7:00 Prayer Group | 19 | 20 | 21 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 22 | 23 Easter Egg Extravaganza 5:00 Shepherds dinner at Sardis |
| 24 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 6:30 LMM | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service | 29 No School 7:00 Good Friday Service | 30 |
| 31 EASTER SUNDAY NOISY OFFERING No Sunday School 6:30 Sunrise Service/Holy Communion and FB Live Breakfast following Worship in Fellowship Hall | | | | | | |

BIRTHDAYS

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
3/17 Mike Hollar
3/19 Ralph Ramsey
3/20 Sandra Roseman

COUNCIL CONTACT

William Farnsworth

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ray Whitener

USHERS

Wayne J., Rick J., Al King, Marilyn T.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Sharon Sigman

CLEAN-UP

Kristin Teague

Anniversaries:

Wayne & Elaine Jarrett 3-3

Garry & Annette Richard 3-8

William & Lindsey Farnsworth 3-26

***Maundy Thursday** Acr/Cruc: Hayden/Marshall
Communion Asst.: Bruce S.
Greeters: Kay W./Rita L.
Security: Bruce S.
Lay Reader: Joe B.

***Good Friday** Acr. Zachary S. Cross Bearer Rick J.

| <i>VOLUNTEER March</i> | 3rd | 10th | 17th | 24th | 31st |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ALTAR FLOWERS | Pete & Sheila R. | Buster B. | Bruce & Sharon S. | Richard & Dawn | Hope G. |
| ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER | Hayden/Bruce | Tryston/Greyson | Keaton/Shuford | Rick/Cayden | Marshall/Keaton |
| COMM. ASSISTANT | Ben W. | Sandra R. | Nena B. | Tim W. | Jon G. |
| GREETERS | Evelyn/Annette | Sharon/Bruce | Edna/Bennie | Dianne/Ken | Nena/Darrell |
| LAY READER | Nena B. | Tim W. | Al K. | Dawn C. | Jon G. |
| CHILDREN'S CHURCH | Jennifer W. | No Children's Church | Heather C. | No Children's Church | No Children's Church |
| TECHNOLOGY | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel | Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel |
| SECURITY | Roger T. | Zachary S. | Ralph S. | Darrell J. | Bruce S. |
| OFFERING COUNTERS | Dwayne Tryston, Kristin, Nena | Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra | Dwayne, Tryston Sherrie, Mike | Dwayne, Tryston Susan, Patsy | Dwayne, Tryston Sherrie, Mike |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER | Pre-K Jennifer EL Mike/Sherrie MD Dawn | Pre-K Jennifer EL Jane MD April | Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MD Nena | Pre-K Nena EL Donna MD Rick | NO Sunday School |
| BACKPACK PROGRAM | 7th Dwayne & Barbara | 13th Joe & Phyllis | 21st Roger, Marilyn, Jane | 28th Gene & Donna | |
| MEAL DEL. | 9th April | 16th No Meal | 23rd Rita | 31st No Meal | 6th Susan |
| Blessings Box | Disciples of Christ | Church Council | LMM | A Christmas Carol | Disciples of Christ |

Let's go to the Movies, Not just Sardis Sisters; everyone is welcome.

March 5th 7pm

AMC Theater, Catawba Valley Blvd.

Meet outside theater no later than 6:30pm, we will get a head count so we all can sit together..

Ordinary Angels

Advance Tickets

1 HR 58 MIN | PG

FEB 23, 2024

DRAMA

Based on a remarkable true story, ORDINARY ANGELS centers on Sharon Steves (Hilary Swank), a fierce but struggling hairdresser in small-town Kentucky who discovers a renewed sense of purpose when she meets Ed Schmitt (Alan Ritchson), a widower working hard to make ends meet for his two daughters. With his youngest daughter waiting for a liver transplant, Sharon sets her mind to helping the family and will move mountains to do it. What unfolds is the inspiring tale of faith, everyday miracles, and ordinary angels.

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)

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>

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