

# Friendly Messenger

October 2020

We are getting into the season of Fall. The summer heat has turned into an autumn breeze. We have had some cold mornings that heat up to warm afternoons. It is cool in the shade on these days. Eventually the leaves will change color and fall off the branches onto the ground. While on a calm walk in the cool air passing under a tree, I was reminded of the story of Jonah from a few weeks ago.

Normally we associate Jonah with the whale; and indeed, that is an important part of his story. Jonah avoided God's call to become a prophet and instead went on a sea voyage.

The storm was great, so great, and the men on the boat decided Jonah was to blame. They threw him over the side into the water. The storm stopped and Jonah was swallowed by "a great fish". After three days, God had the whale spit him out on dry land. He was so grateful that he repented and took up God's mission for him to become a prophet.

There is another image that is important in Jonah's story: the bush that God sent to give Jonah shade. After Jonah is released from the belly of the whale, Jonah goes to Nineveh to tell the people that God would bring calamity on them because of their evil ways. He does not want to go, but he does. The people of Nineveh turn from their ways and God spares them calamity!

This made Jonah angry! He was disappointed! He was waiting and watching for God to bring calamity on the people of Nineveh! He simply points to God's loving nature and says, "I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing." He did not care to deepen his relationship with God by helping the Ninevites grow in their relationship with God. He was bitter.

As Jonah sits in the sun to watch the destruction of the city, God provides a great big bush to grow to give him shade. This pleases Jonah and gives him relief. Then, overnight, the LORD sends a worm to eat up the tree. The sun and the wind beat down on Jonah and he was angry. The LORD asks Jonah how he can be so upset about the bush and not give a care for the people or even his own life. God was pointing to the value of humanity and relationship. Jonah did not even examine his own heart to see how he could have more compassion for a plant than a people.

You can read this story in full in Jonah 3: 10-4:11. What we see is a God of relationship. A God who values humanity, who loves humanity. Even in Jonah's bitterness, God walks him through this lesson on how He loves people and loves relationship. God gives and God takes away, however, God never forsakes us.

Later in the month, we will observe Reformation Sunday. We will have a drive-in service on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. It is a festival day in the Protestant Church, and especially the Lutheran Church. Martin Luther developed a theology around God's grace that changed the way he saw the world and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. He sought to correct the abuses he saw. He wanted the Church to get back to Scripture as the source of truth and the central message of the Gospel. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ. It is through faith, and not works that we are saved.

The Reformation was really an effort to establish right relationship within the Church. Priests were no longer considered to be of a higher spiritual estate than anybody else. Money was not collected to pray people out of purgatory. People were invited to learn Scripture and participate in the worship service. And instead of doing good works to earn their place in heaven, they were freed to turn their attention to each other. They were freed to serve their neighbor.

As Martin Luther said: “God doesn’t need your good works, but your neighbor does.” It was a reformation about how people saw each other.

I believe the Holy Spirit is always reforming us. What has reformation looked like during COVID-19? How has it changed how we see each other?

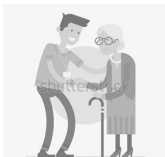
It is hard to say all that reformation looks like through this pandemic, but so far, I think reformation has looked like new mediums for worship, new ways of connecting, new appreciation of each other. In all of this stress, uncertainty, and restrictions, perhaps we have found a renewed need and appreciation of what we once thought was predictable: friends, outings, dinners, communion, safety. It reminds us how important we are to each other.

I think this pandemic has also brought up new questions for us. In this time of COVID-19, how might we share the love of God and share His love of relationship? Where is there a need for justice? Where is there a need for reconciliation? Where is there need for forgiveness? Where is there need for compassion? How can we be in right relationship with people we may not care for or agree with? When we help others deepen their relationship with God, we are also deepening our relationship with God.

I truly believe the Holy Spirit is working in this difficult time. In all the adjustments we make, I am grateful for how so far we have kept each other safe and continued to reach out to each other. Hope to see you on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Adrienne



**The Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** Will not meet in October.

### **From the Evangelism Committee**

A Huge thank you to all who came out to listen to the Sigmon Stringers. It was a damp night with the constant threat of rain at any moment, but the weather held off just long enough for us to hear a wonderful concert of bluegrass and gospel music. 50 people attended. More importantly; \$367.00 was raised for Catawba County Meals On Wheels. Meals on Wheels needs more volunteers to deliver to those whom they serve in the Mt. View and Banoak communities. If you would like to get more information on this, please call (828) 695-5610.

Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
August 9, 2020

| Members Present  | Members Absent |
|--|----------------|
| Joe, Ken, Bryan, Jon, Terry, Sherrie, Tim, Kathy, Ben, Rick,<br>Carolyn, Pastor Adrienne | Bruce          |

Joe called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:06 pm with 11 council members in attendance. Tim had devotions.

Minutes from the July 12 Council Meeting were read. Pastor Adrienne requested the following change be made to the minutes:

Pastor Adrienne also stated that she has had several organizations call requesting financial support, including Safe Harbor and LaVie Christian Academy. Jane attended a Safe Harbor Zoom meeting and learned that have created new ways of giving for individuals that benefit organizations. Individuals may make donations to Safe Harbor and in return for these donations, Safe Harbor will credit the organization (in our case Sardis) for the donation. In return, Safe Harbor would send out a gift card quarterly to their Resource Center that would be given to us to hand out to folks needing financial assistance. If members make donations, they would need to indicate that to Safe Harbor so that Sardis would get credit for it. We would also need a contact person for Safe Harbor to inform when donations are made. We will include more details about this in the newsletter. Joe is going to check with Dwayne to see if we have the finances to make a donation at this time.

Motion was made by Ken to accept the minutes with the above changes , Bryan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Joe , submitted by Dwayne Whitener, Finance Committee Chair. The General Fund balance was \$9,334.96 as of July 20, 2020; the Building Fund balance was \$4,129.81, the Cemetery Fund was \$1,437.69. Bryan made a motion to accept the Financial Report as read, Jon seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report included below:

Good evening! Grace and Peace to you in the name of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Who knew that we would be experiencing this increase in corona virus cases in August? We have been navigating this COVID19 world since March and it doesn't seem to be slowing down. It looks as though it is going to be a long-haul in getting through this pandemic. As it has been, I have started to think about congregational needs and ministry in the long-term.

We have continued online worship and monthly drive-in worship. Jane has been posting our bulletins and Children's Time each week. We updated our website to reflect our new MO during COVID19. I have pointed the attention of our long distance viewers to our website and my email address. We have had some activity in response to that.

I have focused on worship preparation and responding to pastoral needs. There have been surgeries and other concerns. I make phone visits as I can. The coronavirus has affected our congregation both directly and indirectly. One of our families has been directly affected and is quarantining this week. I am happy to report that it has not resulted in hospitalization and recovery is looking good. Let us keep them in prayer! As we continue to deal with the short-term and long-term effects of this pandemic, I am prayerfully considering how I might, and how we might, respond to the boredom, depression, and frustration that many people are experiencing in this time of restriction. I am open to suggestions!

I have also cleaned and organized my office. I have been meaning to clean my desk for the last four years! I have gone through notebooks and other materials in the cabinets for what is relevant and useful. We are making sure to keep anything of historical value. It feels good to get things in order and matching the updated look of our offices! There are some Bible studies and books that I wonder if we would like to keep, if anybody would like to look through them. I have asked Jane to help me sort through them so that we only discard outdated and unneeded materials.

I have also been focusing on continuing education. I am taking an online course taught through the NC Synod called "The Hidden Curriculum of White Supremacy." It is eye-opening and challenging. The class is designed to make us uncomfortable in our white privilege and to help us empathize with the experience of people of color. It adds a new perspective on current events. There are readings, a lecture, and discussion groups each week. The NC Synod would like congregations to engage in these uncomfortable conversations and enlightening learning experiences.

In summary, here is a quick overview of my activities in this last month:

- Leading worship and recording Children's Time
- Started online course "The Hidden Curriculum of White Supremacy"
- Helped with some outreach with someone who needed help with rent.
- A few appointments
- Took pictures at Trinity Lutheran Church of early Sardis pastors. Am pursuing where to find pictures from after 1950.
- Lifeline Meeting
- Cleaning up and updating office

### **Upcoming**

- Drive-in Worship Service celebrating Women's Ordination, August 16th ○ School supply collection
- Blessing of book bags and electronics
- Lifeline Video for congregations
- Sigmon Stringers Concert, Saturday, September 12

- Drive-in Homecoming Service, Sunday, September 13
- Wedding of Dena Propst and partner Crystal Hunt in October
- Reformation, October 31
- Vacation
  - \*August 29-September 5
  - \* End of September

### Old Business

- Ken reported air conditioning had been set by Jeff Wilson to only come on the weekends or as changed by the Pastor.
- It was requested that Terry check with Appwood door about the front door closing properly
- Joe reported that the no touch soap and sanitizer dispensers were installed at the church. Since these were not to be installed until August, Joe his going to check if we will be charged for July.
- Final decision on a fundraiser and format for the Sigmon Stringers will be made in September.

### New Business

- Pastor Adrienne stated that Safe Harbor sent a letter thanking us for our donation.
- Pastor Adrienne asked for some help with historical documents and the History Committee.
- Terry asked how we are going to address the November Church Meeting and the Council and other elections. Joe stated he would research and include on the September agenda.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer  
Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

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### **Halloween Drive-In**

Please plan to join us on Friday, October 30 at 6:30 for a drive-in movie! We will show a family-friendly Halloween movie and pass out treat bags to the children. We will social distance and stay in vehicles. We are excited to give our Sardis children and community a fun and safe event to look forward to! If you would like to donate candy, please bring it to our next drive-in worship service on Sunday, October 4th!



## **Sardis Continues Social Ministry Outreach During COVID 19**

The October ministry focus of the Social Committee will be collecting PERSONAL CARE KITS during the October Drive in Service. A few members of the congregation brought donations to the church and/or contributed money when the September Drive-In was cancelled. However, hopefully more donations will come in during October. As with the school supplies, just place the items in a bag in front of your car and the Social Committee will gather after the service. These kits will be sent to the WELCA once it is set up to receive them. Currently donations are on hold due to storage and shipment issues. These kits are needed, especially since two shipping containers of Lutheran donations were blown up in the Beirut explosion. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germs fighting and the chance to regain dignity from uncertainty.

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

One light-weight bath-size towel (20 in. x 40 in. to 52 in x 27 in)

Two bath-size bars of soap, any brand, in original wrapping.

One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging.

One sturdy comb (no picks) or fine-toothed combs.

One metal nail clippers, remove packaging.

All items must be new and in good condition.

Note: For those of you who do not have the opportunity to shop for the kits, members of the Social Committee will purchase them for you at \$7.00 per kit. The Social Committee will also be collecting these items in October.

The Social Ministry Committee will also be collecting COATS FOR THE HOMELESS during October and November. Please bring the coats to church and put them on the table beside the food basket if we have in person service or in front of your cars if we continue the monthly drive in service. The coats must be in good condition. They should be for men, women, and children. In addition, the coats should be of all sizes. Thank you!

Finally, ECCCM needs your EGG CARTONS! Since many churches are not meeting in person, donations are way down. The staff of the ECCCM cannot distribute the eggs donated unless they have clean cartons to repackage the eggs. On occasion, the personnel were not able to repackage the eggs in a timely manner due to a shortage of donated egg cartons. Please either bring by the church or place in front of your car.

Thanks to all the congregation members who, despite not meeting in person, continue to work directly and indirectly with the many needs of our community during this difficult time. Whether it be Saturday Shut in Meals, online services and Sunday School, various collections or direct support to individuals, each recipient feels the caring and love of our church members. What a blessing to give!

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## From the Worship & Music Committee

Since the pandemic has made it necessary for us to alter and/or cancel events, the Worship & Music committee has sent several recommendations to our church council. Most recently, with the virus numbers continuing to rise in Catawba County, and knowing that indoor services/events are currently “hotspots” for the spread of COVID-19, the Worship & Music committee has recommended that our current live-streamed and drive-in services are the safest and most inclusive for our congregation. The council approved the recommendation. We will continue worshipping in this manner until North Carolina moves to Phase 3 and the NC Bishop feels indoor worship is safe.

Now that we have moved to the fall season with much cooler temperatures, we are changing our **drive-in service time to 10:30 a.m.** With this change all our Sunday morning services (live-streamed and drive-in) will begin at the same time.

We will be having two drive-in worship services during October. The first Sunday of October (October 4) will be a drive-in worship service. Also, the last Sunday in October (October 25) will be a drive-in Reformation service with Holy Communion. Everyone is invited to wear red for Reformation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of October will be live-streamed services. Remember all services will now be held at 10:30 a.m.

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## From the Church Council

As you know, the time for our annual congregational meeting is fast approaching. I want to give you advance information about how we plan to handle the Council nominations’ procedure, budget approval, and Council election.

There will be a drive-in service on **October 25** for Reformation Sunday. At this service, we will hand out the budget proposal and nominations for Council. On the following Sunday, **November 1**, I will be at church for the online service and will call the meeting to order. At that time, I will call for Council nominations from the floor. If you would like to nominate anyone, and you have talked with that person to be sure of his/her willingness to serve, you may put his/her name in the Facebook “comments” on the **November 1** livestream service (*please indicate with comment, “I am nominating \_\_\_\_\_ for Church Council.”*). Since I will not be able to close nominations, any additional nominations should be done during the first fifteen minutes of the **November 1** service. Also, there will be a form in October’s newsletter for nominations. The form can be filled out with the person’s name and returned to the church office before November 1. Again, please check with the person to be sure of his/her willingness to serve.

The Council election will take place at the drive-in service on **November 15**. At that time, ballots will be handed out for the Council election, as well as for the approval of the spending plan for 2021. All drive-in services, including the one on October 4, will begin at 10:30 AM. We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation to see if any changes will need to be made. Also, we will be considering how to address meeting for our drive-in services if the weather decides to be uncooperative.

Please contact me or the church if you have questions.

Sincerely,  
Joe Biggerstaff

## A Section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism

### MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS

#### **In the morning**

. . . when you rise, make the sign of the cross and say, "In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:

"I give you thanks, heavenly Father, through your dear Son Jesus Christ, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I beseech you to keep me this day, too, from all sin and evil, that in all my thoughts, words and deeds I may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your holy angel have charge of me, that the wicked one may have no power over me. Amen."

After singing a hymn (possibly a hymn on the Ten Commandments) or whatever your devotion may suggest, you should go to your work joyfully.

#### **In the evening**

. . . when you retire, make the sign of the cross and say, "In the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:

"I give you thanks, heavenly Father, through your dear Son Jesus Christ, that you have graciously protected me through this day. I beseech you to forgive all my sin and wrong which I have done. Graciously protect me during the coming night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your holy angels have charge of me, that the wicked one may have no power over me. Amen."

Then quickly lie down and sleep in peace.



## October Birthdays

10/2 Bill Miller-Zurell  
 10/6 Joe Rudisill  
 10/7 Lauren Speagle  
 10/13 Jill Bledsoe  
     Evelyn Fulbright  
     Alisa Truitt  
     Dwayne Whitener  
 10/21 Donna Biggerstaff  
 10/22 Ben Fulbright  
 10/23 Donald Fulbright  
 10/25 Bryan Hood  
 10/26 Kathy Weaver  
 10/31 Joe Wyant  
     Chris Young

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Oct. 4** Jack & Kay Whitener  
**Oct. 11** Evan & Pat Lail  
**Oct. 18** Gene & Donna Biggerstaff  
**Oct. 25** Jane Moretz

### COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Sherrie Midgett | Oct. 4th. Ray Whitener   |
|                 | Oct. 11. Rick Johnson    |
|                 | Oct. 18 Tim Whitener     |
|                 | Oct. 25 Gene Biggerstaff |

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

#### Anniversaries:

**Steven & Ashley Yow 10-2**  
**Teresa & David Starkey 10-3**  
**Ben & April Fulbright 10-11**

**Oct. 3** April Fulbright  
**Oct. 10** No Meal Delivery  
**Oct. 17** Nena Babb  
**Oct. 24** No Meal Delivery  
**Oct. 31** Carolyn Truitt

Congratulations to Dena and Crystal Hunt-Propst who were wed on Friday, October 2nd!  
 God's blessings on your marriage!



**October 2020**  
**Sardis Lutheran Church**

| Sun  | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri                                    | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|--|-----|
|  |     |     |     | 1    | 2                                      | 3   |
| 4<br>10:30 Drive-In<br>Worship Service<br><br>Bring Personal Care<br>Kits  | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8    | 9                                      | 10  |
| 11<br>10:30 FB Worship<br>Live<br><br>Church Council Zoom  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16                                     | 17  |
| 18<br>10:30 FB Worship<br>Live   | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23                                     | 24  |
| 25<br>10:30 Drive-In<br>Worship Service and<br>Holy Communion<br><br>Information for<br>Annual Meeting to be<br>handed out | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30<br>6:30 Halloween<br>Drive-In Movie | 31  |

**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.**

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

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

**SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS**

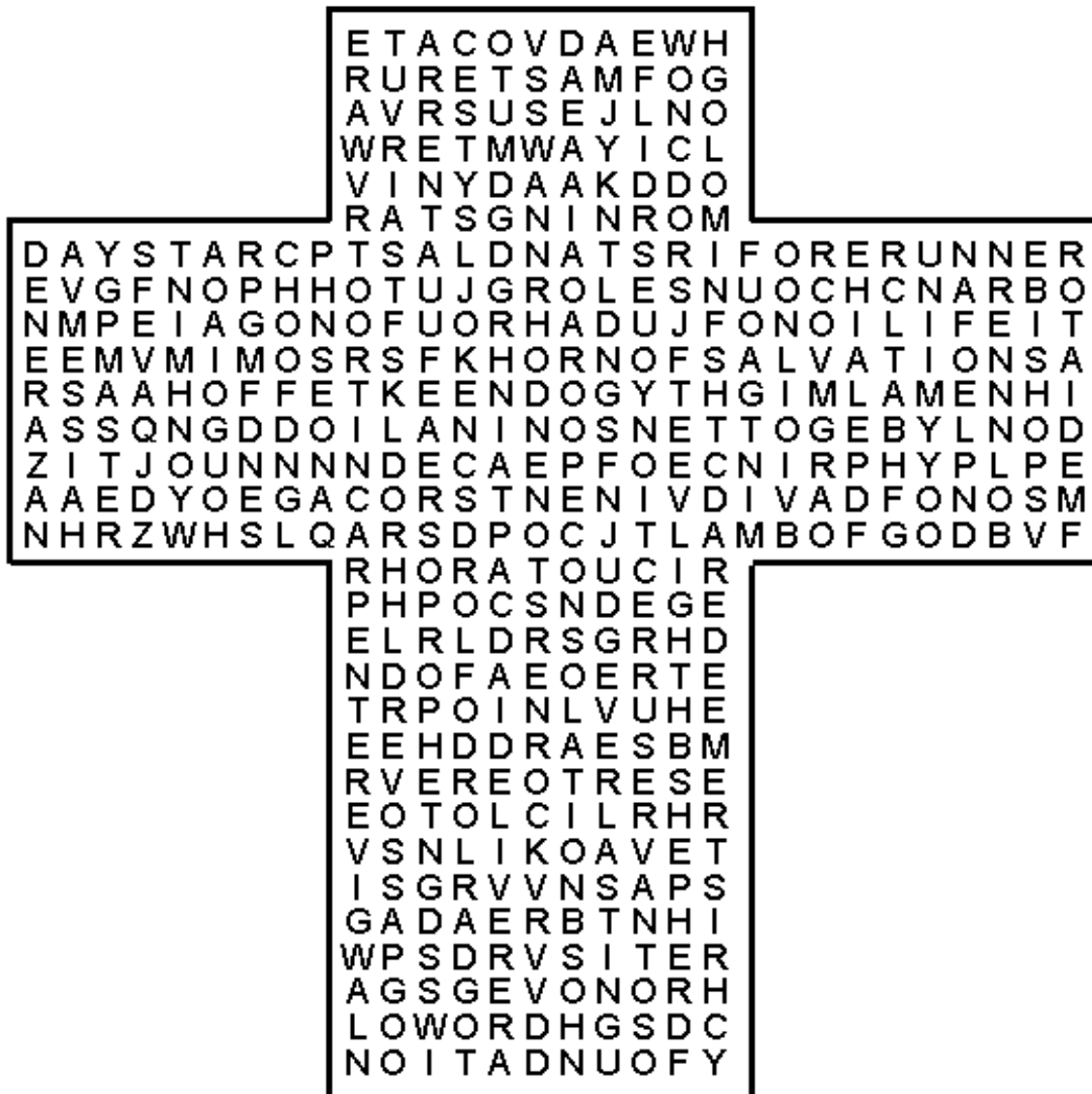
Pastor: The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 [pastor@sardislutheran.net](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.net)

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

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff, [biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com](mailto:biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com)

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

## But Whom Do You Say That I AM?



Advocate  
Almighty  
Alpha and Omega  
Amen  
Apostle  
Beloved Son  
Bishop  
Branch  
Bread  
Captain  
Carpenter  
Chosen  
Christ  
Consolation  
Cornerstone  
Counselor  
Day Star  
Deliverer

Door  
Emmanuel  
Everlasting  
Faithful and True  
First and Last  
Forerunner  
Foundation  
Governor  
Head  
High Priest  
Holy and Just One  
Horn of Salvation  
I AM  
Jesus  
Judge  
King  
King of Kings  
Lamb of God

Lawgiver  
Life  
Light  
Lion of Judah  
Lord  
Lord of Lords  
Master  
Master  
Mediator  
Messiah  
Mighty God  
Morning Star  
Nazarene  
Only Begotten Son  
Passover  
Priest  
Prince of Peace  
Prophet

Redeemer  
Resurrection  
Rock  
Savior  
Servant  
Shepherd  
Son of David  
Son of God  
Son of Man  
Vine  
Way  
Wonderful  
Word

## 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**

