

Friendly Messenger

October 2023

From our Pastor

Since July, we have been actively preparing our ministry profile which will describe who we are as a congregation and where we feel we are headed. It's intensive work and is never easy. Many thanks to all who served and provided input to that document. Being Church is never easy because each one of us sees our mission in different ways. The important thing to remember is our mission is JESUS. It is Jesus who calls us; Jesus who teaches and leads us; Jesus who forgives and restores us.

When trust or respect is broken, it can be hard to regroup. This is a hard time for many in our congregation. "Who will our next pastor be?" "Will our next pastor understand us and like us?" "Will the next pastor be a 'him' or a 'her'?"

You and I don't have the answer to these questions but we do know that the Holy Spirit already knows who our next pastor will be and it will be a task of the call committee to pray, listen and discern who God is calling us to choose.

The answer may come quickly – or not. We can't limit ourselves to a certain number of people before calling someone. It might be the first, the third or the fifth. We don't know.⁴

What is certain is that when the person called by the Holy Spirit presents themselves, it will be evident to our call committee and then be recommended to the congregation council and then, hopefully, our faith community will meet this special candidate and concur.

It's hard work and yet it is holy ground as we proceed step by step

Let's keep in mind that we all want what is best for us as God's church. In these times of turmoil and crazy things happening all around us, we pray that the love of Jesus permeates our minds and hearts. We pray that all voices may be heard in ways that are not hurtful. We pray that our personal hopes and dreams for Sardis are also indicative to the ones who, together, make the body of Christ in this place.

We can do it – together. And, as Martin Luther would say, "This is most certainly true!"

Reformation Sunday is coming up on October 29. We are blessed people of God, led by the Holy Spirit. We continue to reform and be reformed as God's church in ways of welcoming all God's people and to accomplish God's missional work with our hearts, hands and minds.

Blessings
Pastor Mary Louise



If you have been around Sardis for any of the last 70 + years, you must know Marilyn Kay Propst Teague. She is a dynamo now so I'm not sure I can imagine her as a teen-ager. Marilyn is funny, serious, responsible and always ready to have a good time with family and friends.

Marilyn grew up less than a mile from our church and continues to live close to the family homestead. You may have noticed her maiden name is "Propst" as in Propst Crossroads. Her parents were Bertha and Ralph Propst.

Marilyn was baptized, confirmed, married and will be most likely be buried here when the time comes.

She and her husband, Roger, met in high school. They have been married 57 years.

They were both playing sports in high school. Marilyn liked playing basketball and softball.

She and Roger have two children: Kristin, who is active at Sardis along with pursuing a medical career and seriously fighting a cancer that doesn't want to let go. I believe Kristin was blessed with the tenacity and focus from her mom.

Chad, their son, has two children: Matthew and Steven. Matthew is in the Army, hoping to be a combat medic. Steven has applied to medical school and hopes to be accepted soon.

Marilyn says as far as a favorite food is concerned, she likes everything! She does draw the line at eating Brussel Sprouts, however.

Marilyn has traveled to many places in the US and abroad. She likes to read, do puzzles, go on trips with her friends, work in the yard and she even has an app on her phone so she can color!

Marilyn has served in many ways at Sardis over the years. She has led the Altar Guild for thirty-five years, taking that on after the death of her mom. She sang in the choir for decades and continues to play handbells. She is optimistic for the coming years at Sardis and hopes for continued growth.

Now here is one thing you might not know about Marilyn:

As a junior in high school, she was named "Princess of the Catawba County Home Demonstration Club." She appeared on the Betty Feezor show on Channel 3 and was presented a bouquet of flowers, a bag of corn meal, a bag of self-rising flour and a cookbook. Congratulations, Marilyn!

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 October on the 4th at Blackburn Baptist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Seniors

Save the Date!

Fall is around the corner, so mark your calendar for the Golden Age Celebration! If you're lucky enough to be 65 or older, you are invited to lunch after church on October 22. Invitations are forthcoming!



Congratulations to Keri Weaver for her promotion to First Sergeant in the Army National Guard.

Love,
Memaw (Betty Jo Weaver)

She is currently in Raleigh. She is selling her house at the beach and hoping to move back this way with family.



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.)

October/November Coat Drive for the Local People who are Unhoused

It is that time of the year when the cooler weather starts creeping in. There are many individuals in our county who do not have adequate coats to withstand the cold months. The Social Ministry Committee will again sponsor a coat drive during the months of October and November. As you are cleaning out your closets and getting ready for winter, remember those who are less fortunate.

Gently used and clean coats, sweaters, and hoodies can be brought to church and placed in the narthex each Sunday during October and November and the Social Ministry Committee will take them to the Soup Kitchens in Hickory and Newton.

Cold weather gear can be donated for all ages and sizes. Any coats not needed at the Soup Kitchens will be taken to the shelter at The Salvation Army.

Final Fifth Sunday Offering for 2023

Mark your calendars. The final Fifth Sunday Offering for 2023 is in October. As in 2022, the Sardis Congregation has stepped up and donated money for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring any spare change (or folding money) on October 29th to place in the metal collection pot in the narthex. After October 29th, the Social Ministry Committee will get a final tally to send to Lutheran World Relief to purchase farm animals, medical care and/or clean water for those most in need. Thanks to all members who make this international ministry possible.

God's Work, Out Hands

The Social Ministry Committee sends a big "WAY TO GO" and THANK YOU to all the members of the congregation who helped pack 240 meals for the people who are unhoused in Catawba County. 120 lunches and bottles of water were taken to The Hickory Soup Kitchen and another 120 lunches and bottles of water were taken to Corner Table in Newton. The project was truly a group effort.

Personal Care Kits to be Delivered

The Social Ministry Committee will be packing up the donated items for the Personal Care Packets at the end of October to deliver to Zion Lutheran Church. From there a truck will take them to the Fall Gathering to combine with the donations from Lutheran Churches across North and South Carolina to be shipped to disaster areas across the world. If you had planned to contribute last spring and time got away from you, it is not too late.

Youth in the News!!!!

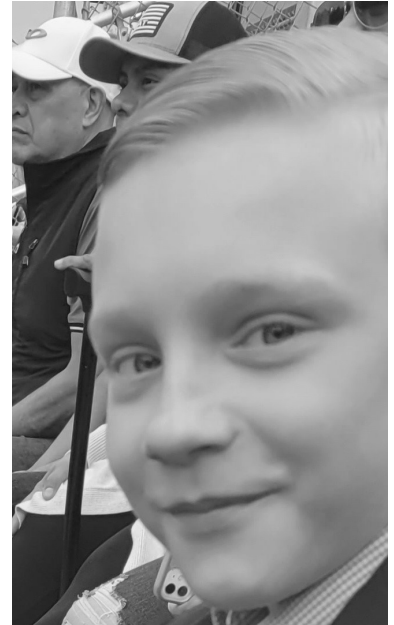
A recent graduate of 6th grade is Graysen Whitener. Graysen is the son of Jamie Shiffman and grandson of Dwayne and Barbara E. Whitener. Betty Sue Whitener is proud to be his great grandmother.

Graysen is leaving Snow Creek Elementary behind and moving on to Arndt Middle School this fall. A special highlight of sixth grade was making the A-B honor roll. Although he will miss recess in sixth grade, he's excited to be in middle school and is looking forward to participating in sports. He has been playing soccer since a little tyke of 3! He started young and has been playing for nine years.

Graysen is a big fan of pasta dishes. He likes the color blue and enjoys playing video games alongside sports activities. Soccer and lacrosse are his favorites. Science is his best subject in school, and he enjoys reading war books. He has one pet, a Labradoodle. She is a big dog and is very sweet and loves everyone. (I imagine she has a big appetite!)

In seventh grade, Graysen will begin confirmation classes. Sardis is working with area churches to determine if combining groups is a possibility. The "Goodness of God" by CeCe Winans is his favorite spiritual song.

Sardis wishes you a great seventh grade year, Graysen!



Women of the ELCA News

Sardis Women of the ELCA will meet Sunday, October 1 at 5 pm. Please join us while we discuss and plan upcoming events, ponder on God's word, and enjoy fellowship with other Sardis women. And, there may be snacks!

Sardis hosted the fall gathering of the Catawba Conference of the NC Women of the ELCA Saturday, September 16. Seven churches sent representatives and sixteen ladies were present. Beth Eden, Holy Trinity, St. Andrews, St. Paul Startown, St. Marks, Sardis, and Zion ELCA were participants. Everyone enjoyed the delicious breakfast and fellowshiping with others. The program, WOW-Women of the WORD, was presented by Nena Babb, Donna Biggerstaff, and Jen Whitener. The Regular Offering of \$107 was collected for Children's Advocacy Center of NC. This will be added to the monies collected at all the other conferences' fall gatherings. \$22.23 was given for the Pennies collection, which supports Church World Services this year, and over \$130 in cleaning supplies were donated for Safe Harbor. A Service of Remembrance was held to remember and honor those women of faith who have joined the church triumphant in the last year. Sardis recognized Margaret Whitener and Carolyn McGinnis.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Fall is upon us and it is time to begin planning for the Annual Trunk or Treat celebration for Halloween at Sardis. This year Halloween is on Tuesday, October 31. The time for Trunk or Treat is 5:30-7:00pm. The Evangelism Committee will be providing hot dogs. If you are able to, we need volunteers for trunks. If you would like to help but are not able to be there, we will be taking candy donations. Come and join us for all the festivities. If weather permits, we will be outside.

**Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
August 20, 2023**

Members present: Mary Louise, Kristin, Susan, Jane, Dwayne, Terry, Ken, Mike, April, Nena, Ray, Gene

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00, Susan had devotion.

The minutes from the July meeting were discussed.

No Corrections needed:

Dwayne made a motion to approve the minutes, April seconded, and the motion carried.

Dwayne presented the treasurer's report from July. The Building Fund balance, \$7,637.22; Cemetery Fund balance, \$516.72; and General Fund balance \$9,979.84. Activity Statement was provided. Benevolence is paid through March of this year. Dwayne and the Finance Committee will be meeting in September to finalize the 2024 Budget. Dwayne is asking all committee chairs to poll their committees for any items needing purchased in 2024. After discussion was completed, Ken made a motion to accept the financial report, Kristin seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Mary Louise gave her report: July 10 – August 20, 2023

Presided at worship and Holy Communion

Prepared Children's sermons

Made 16 trips to Sardis

Made 13 home visits

Made 2 hospital visits

Made 3 care facility visits

Attended Rostered Ministers Gathering

Participated in Zoom prayer group

Attended funeral for Margaret Miller

Attended funeral for Catherine Pitts

Attended Fred T Foard Seniors lunch

Attended Congregation Council meeting

Attended Worship and Music committee meeting

Attended choir rehearsal

Wrote newsletter articles

For your action:

NC Synod Fall Convo is October 16-18 at Lutheridge. The cost is \$200.

I would like to be there if Sardis can pay for it.

Conversation about upcoming Confirmation program.

A lot of discussion was had on our three confirmation students and what process will be used for their training. Mary Louise will be getting in touch with past churches that have assisted with confirmation.

Blessings;
Pastor Mary Louise

Old Business:

Kristin gave an update on the Ministry Site Profile Committee: Jill Bledsoe, Donna Biggerstaff, Dawn Covington are the non-council members. Council members are Mike Midgett, Susan Jones, Nena Babb, Ray Whitener, and Jane Moretz. The report is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way finished. The committee is meeting on August 23rd to review and hopefully finish the report. The Call Committee needs to appoint their Chair for this report. Terry thanked Kristin for her detailed report and thanked the council for their participation in the Congregational luncheon.

Nena reported that Homecoming will be September 10th. A cover dish luncheon and fellowship will be enjoyed on the front lawn, weather permitting, inside if raining. Ken is to have tables set up for food and additional tables and chairs for anyone needing sitting assistance. The congregation is asked to bring lawn chairs. Ray is contacting Robbie Bennett, with Bennett's Funeral Home, to provide some tents.

Terry's reported the Sheriff's Department on security training was Thad Scronce. Mike will be in touch with him.

Ken reported that we now have 60 feet of additional parking in the field behind the church. Rick will be keeping this area mowed.


New Business:

Terry reported on the storm damage from August 7, 2023. The large tree that fell in the front yard was removed by Chester Tree Service. Rick had additional limbs to haul away from the remaining trees. Terry also had the tree company look at our other trees in the yard so see if they were healthy. The tree that fell was very rotten in the middle. Also, one of the air conditioners in the fellowship hall had a door blow off and some water ran into the kitchen. Did not notice any ceiling damage at this time and Wm. C. Reynolds company was called to inspect all three units and reattach the door.

Next Council Meeting is September 10th at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted
Jane Moretz, Council Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir 5:00 WELCA	2 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	3	4 12:00 FTF Seniors at Blackburn Baptist	5 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 1/2 day Elem. School	7
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir 5:00 Church Council	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir	16 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	17	18 1:00 Card Making Class	19 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 Teacher workday	21
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Golden Age Banquet 3:00 Trinity Ridge	23	24	25 5:00 Articles due for November NL	26 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY! 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir 6:30 LMM	30	31 5:30—7:00 Trunk or Treat 				

****NOTE****

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

October

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

10/24 Elaine Evington

10/25 Bryan Hood

10/26 Kathy Weaver

10/31 Joe Wyant

COUNCIL CONTACT

Jane Moretz

ASSISTING MINISTER

Nena Babb

USHERS

Roger T., Mike H., Benny F., Marilyn T.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Marilyn Teague

CLEAN-UP

Sandra Roseman

Anniversaries:

Steven & Ashley Yow 10-2

Teresa & David Starkey 10-3

Ben & April Fulbright 10-11

New address:

Alfred Whitener Room #303B

Carolina Rehab of Burke

3647 Miller Bridge Road

Connelly Springs NC 28612

<i>VOLUNTEER Oct.</i>	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Kay W.	Evan L.	Gene & Donna B.	Jane M.	Tim & Barbara W.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Marshall/Keaton	Rick/Bruce	Hayden/Austin	Marilyn/Ray	Cayden/Marilyn
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Austin P.	Rick J.	Marilyn T.	Ray W.	Jane M.
GREETERS	Darrell/Diane	Ken/Sharon	Bruce/Annette	Donna/Shuford	Kay/Marshall
LAY READER	Jon G.	Al K.	Keaton F.	Joe B.	Marshall W.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Nena B.	No Children's Church	Jennifer W.	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	Ralph S.	Darrell J.	Zachary S.	Bruce S.	Roger T.
OFFERING COUN- TERS	Dwayne Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne Tryston, Kristin, Nena
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER/HELPER	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Sherrie/Mike MD April	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Donna/Jane MD Nena/Marilyn	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Phyllis/Jill MD Kristin/Roger	Pre-K Nena B. EL Donna/Jane MD Rick J.	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Sherrie/Mike MD Jon
BACKPACK PROGRAM	5th Roger, Marilyn,	12th Gene, Donna	19th Tim, Barbara	26th Dwayne,	2nd Joe, Phyllis
MEAL DELIVERY	7th April F.	14th no meal	21st Rita L.	28th no meal	Nov 4th Dawn C.
Blessings Box	Church Council	LMM	Pilgrims Progress	Disciples of Christ	Church Council

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