

Friendly Messenger

2023



As a congregation, we've managed to make it through the hot summer; we've survived storm damage to our building and to a tree; we've enjoyed singing on the lawn; Vacation Bible School; Fred T. Foard senior citizens having lunch with us; planned the first steps of our calling a new pastor; and gathering for Sunday School and Worship. It's been a great summer overall, don't you think?

September always seems to be a new start – a new beginning as we celebrate Homecoming (September 10); as we feed the Fred T. Foard football team before their game on September 1 (a great way to serve our community). Sunday school revs up and committees work on their spending plan for the coming year.

This might be the ideal time for each of us to examine ourselves in ways that might identify how we can participate in the life of our congregation. Not talking finances here (although, of course, offerings are graciously accepted to allow us to be the church in our community). Stewardship also includes using our time and the talents we have. Perhaps you could sing in the choir or ring handbells. Perhaps you could bring your children to Sunday school and you can attend one of the two adult classes. Perhaps you can volunteer to deliver meals to our people or help one Sunday afternoon a month at Trinity Ridge. And all of us can pray.....prayer is powerful and certainly a blessing for each one of us.

It's a new season at Sardis. Come learn, worship and work beside your brothers and sisters in Christ. I know you will enjoy being here!

Blessings
Pastor Mary Louise

The spotlight is shining brightly this month on Rick Lutz! Rick is well known in our congregation as a talented and faithful member. He and his wife, Rita, have been married for 39 years. They met at Sardis and, as is said, “they were destined to be together”, although it took Rick a few years to pop the question.



Ricky Dale Lutz is a cradle Lutheran at Sardis. His dad was a member of Ebenezer Methodist and his mother was Lutheran. Fortunately, for all of us, Rick’s dad agreed to attend Sardis and Rick grew up here, participating in many activities over all these years. Rick worked as an electrician. He worked for a long time at Industrial Electric. Then moved to what he thought was greener pastures at Superior Cable for one year. He missed his boss so much at Industrial Electric he returned there to work. After many years, he found a home in the Catawba County School System in maintenance. He loved working at the different schools and meeting all the fabulous children. He always kept an eye out for children he knew from church. Rick was diagnosed with kidney disease. This is a serious situation as Rick now is on dialysis, after having multiple surgeries to remove tumors and tissue from both kidneys. He will have additional scans in December.

Rick has many stories of his life at Sardis, most of them connected with his willingness to fix electrical problems, suggest different ways of doing things, and being on the property committee.

Pastor Anna and Barbara Whitener called Rick one day when they found a mouse captured in a trap they set. “What do we do?” they wanted to know. Rick came to the rescue. Another time, there was a problem with the air conditioner in the education wing. It was decided that Rick Johnson was the skinniest man there so Rick crawled up in the attic, and ended up falling through the ceiling. Fortunately, he was not hurt.

All these years, when Rick was healthy, he was always in the middle of solutions and ideas for the equipment. Often his cohorts have been Ken Propst and Roger Teague. Even though Rick mostly gives advice now, he continues to ride by the church and check the outside lights, which he is suggesting may be changed to LED lights in the future because they will last longer.

In his lifetime, Rick has been an avid hunter, using coon dogs and hounds. There are two deer heads mounted in his living room and he has a shed filled with other ones. He says his favorite sound is “hearing a hound treeing a coon.”

Rick hopes the property behind the church might be developed with a walking track and an activity building that may be used as a center of being together. Rick has good feelings about where Sardis is today and where Sardis is heading. He misses being able to participate like he has done in years past but he certainly keeps up with the people and the activities that make Sardis a special place to be.

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 September on the 6th at Laurel Hill. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Foard Football Meal

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 1st. This is our date to prepare and serve the meal for the Foard Football Team. We would love to have you come and help. We can use help setting up and cooking, which usually begins around 11. Also, we need help serving. These people usually arrive around 2:45. We will also be asking for donations of cookies, brownies, and other bar type desserts. Please be on the lookout for bulletin announcements and signup sheets soon. See Dawn Covington if you have any questions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will meet with Terry this Sunday, August 27th, immediately following Worship Service. They will start the process of nominating Council Members, Nominating Committee and Scholarship Committee for the upcoming November election. Serving on this committee are, Dawn Covington, Rick Johnson, Jon Gladden, Marilyn Teague, Bryan Hood, Kathy Weaver, and Ben Whitener. Please prayerfully accept their asking for your service to serve.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 10, 2023, HONORING THE CONFIRMANTS OF THE YEARS ENDING IN 0. FRONT YARD, WEATHER PERMITTING, COVERED DISH LUNCHEON.

Youth Rally Sunday School

Come bounce back to Sunday school! On Sept 10th from 930-1015 to kickoff back to Sunday school year, there will be an inflatable, games and activities for youth during Sunday School. Please dress accordingly.

After our Homecoming lunch, the youth will be helping with the God's work, out hands service project. Once the service project is completed, the youth will be able to resume play on inflatable and games that afternoon.

This fall there will be three youth classes (prek, elementary, middle/high), so please plan to attend Sunday school.

SARDIS SISTERS

It is not too early to plan a great trip to Valdese. Wednesday December the 20th. Maybe go early enough to eat at Little Italy.

The Carolina Christmas Show is a heartwarming, fun-filled holiday production featuring LIVE music, dance, & comedy! Tickets (\$15-\$28 each) on sale in July. Four shows at the Old Rock School Auditorium, 400 Main Street West in Valdese, NC: Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7 PM, Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 PM, and Friday, Dec. 22 at 2 PM & 7

PM. www.CarolinaChristmasShow.com Please let Susan, Donna or Jane if interested. I will put a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

CAROLINA ONSTAGE PRESENTS THE
CAROLINA CHRISTMAS SHOW


"The talent was outstanding, the music was great, and it was the perfect way to usher in the holiday season."

"We will be forever uplifted with joy. Absolutely amazing and well done."



"We laughed, sang along, and were touched by the big hearts behind the production. Perfect for date night or a great family tradition! "

"...a marvelous gift to western North Carolina"




Share the joy & magic of the Christmas season with your friends & families at the 6th annual *Carolina Christmas Show*, a dazzling family-friendly production with live music, dance, & comedy! This heartwarming Broadway-style show features the finest performers from NC & special guest artists presenting sacred and secular Christmas favorites, including *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, *O Holy Night*, *Jingle Bell Rock*, and *Go Tell it On the Mountain*. Relax, unplug, & experience the *Carolina Christmas Show*, a celebration of the true spirit of Christmas that's sure to become an annual tradition!

NEW VENUE for 2023!

Four performances: Wednesday, December 20 at 7 PM, Thursday, December 21 at 7 PM, and Friday, December 22 at 2 PM and 7PM at the **Old Rock School Auditorium in Valdese, NC** (400 Main Street West).

Tickets on sale July 2023.

THE ALTAR COMMITTEE

Starting this year the second Sunday in December and in 2024 the first Sunday of August will be available. Please see Marilyn Teague or call the church office to reserve these Sunday's if interested.

God's Work – Our Hands
Volunteers Needed

Sunday, September 10th is **HOMECOMING** Sunday at Sardis. This day is also the day the ELCA has declared ***“God's Work – Our Hands Day.”*** On this day, the ELCA is asking all congregations to participate in a service project. The Social Ministry Committee is planning to lead the congregation's participation in a service project by joining the two events. Congregation members of all ages will have the opportunity to be of service by packing lunches for the homeless. The committee is asking volunteers to enjoy the fun, food, and fellowship of HOMECOMING, and then volunteer to help pack 240 lunch bags for the homeless. The items for the bags will be available and need to be assembled, bagged, *an encouraging note added*, and sealed. God's Work – Trivent T-shirts will be provided for the volunteers. This is the second time Sardis has participated in the ELCA wide day of service. Hopefully, it will be a remarkable success and continue an annual service event.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Pastor Mary Louise would like to hear from parents if they would like their children to participate in a FIRST COMMUNION class this fall. Since there are children of all ages communing, any child in the congregation who has expressed an interest in partaking at the Communion table would be welcomed to learn more about it. Depending on the number of children interested, we will determine a time for two sessions, probably during Sunday school time. Anyone desiring to be communed will celebrate their First Communion in worship on Reformation Day, October 29. Please email Pastor Mary Louise at mlsitton50@hotmail.com, leave a note on her desk, or call her at 423 367 6173.



Matthew Teague, son of Chad and Jennifer Teague and Grandson of Roger and Marilyn Teague has enlisted in the United States Army. He was sworn in on August 22, 2023 and will be doing his basic training at Fort Jackson, the U.S. Army's main production center for Basic Combat Training. He will be training for 8 weeks and then transfer to San Antonio, TX for 18 weeks where he will do Medical Combat Training. Let's keep Matthew and the Teague family in our prayers as he pursues a career in serving our country.

Music News

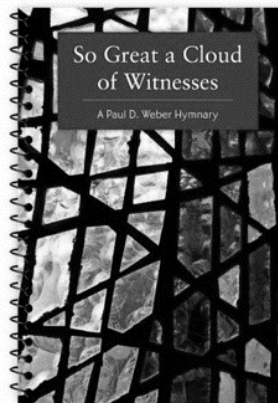
Children's Choir is Back!!

Sunday, September 24th following Worship - All Ages Welcome

This year we want to include any child who would like to sing with us. We will practice on Sundays immediately following worship for about 30 minutes. A small snack will be provided. Parents, please encourage your child to participate in this ministry opportunity. If you have questions, please contact Frank at 803-622-4264.

DR. WEBER & PROF. JOWERS TO LEAD “HYMN SING” AT LR

Prof. Emeritus, the Rev. Dr. Paul Weber and retired Assoc. Prof. Florence Jowers—no strangers to the LR community—will lead a “Hymn Sing” Workshop on Saturday, September 30, 10:00-11:30 am in the Choral Room of the Mauney Music Building. The workshop is designed for students, lay people, parish and area musicians, clergy, and all who love to sing hymns. Dr. Weber will introduce songs from his expansive new hymn collection, *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses*. Participants will enjoy hearing the background of the hymns before singing them and will affirm the importance of community song for faith and life. Dr. Weber's original music beautifully portrays his own texts and those of prominent hymn writers such as Brian Wren, Carl Daw, Gracia Grindal, and Jaroslav Vajda.



So Great a Cloud of Witnesses A Paul D. Weber Hymnary

A new collection of 91 texts and tunes patterned after Luther's understanding of the importance of congregational song for faith and worship.

Visit augsbu.org/PaulWeber to see samples and order!

Weber is a pastor of the North Carolina Synod (ELCA) with twenty years of parish experience. He is also Prof. Emeritus of Church Music at Lenoir-Rhyne University and past conductor of the Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir. Accompanist for the Hymn Sing will be Florence Jowers, a deacon of the Virginia Synod (ELCA) who served as Lenoir-Rhyne University Organist and Conductor of the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus for many years. During the 2022-2023 academic year Dr. Weber and Prof. Jowers were Visiting Professors of Church Music in the School of Theology at The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Married for forty-five years, they have retired to Staunton, VA, and travel often to visit their three children and six grandchildren.

This Hymn Sing is underwritten in part by a grant from the Michael Peeler Fund of the North Carolina Synod (ELCA). Permission for use of the hymn texts may be secured at onelicense.net and graphics will be available at sundaysandseasons.com or from the composer at pauldweber.com. Copies of the collection will be provided for workshop participants and will also be available for purchase.

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
July 9, 2023

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

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

The minutes from the June meeting were discussed.

Corrections needed:

- Add Gene to June meeting as being present
- Correct spelling of Rev Ce Cee name, listed as Rev Cee Cee, needs to be Rev Ce Cee

Ken made a motion to approve the minutes, with the corrections that need to be made, Gene seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dwayne presented the treasurer's report from June. The Building Fund, Cemetery Fund, and General Fund numbers were not discussed because statements were not in prior to Jane's knee surgery. Activity Statement was provided. So far in July we are at a break-even month, possibly \$2000 ahead based on last two Sunday's offerings. We are slightly ahead with funds over expenses YTD. Benevolence money we owed due to not paying taxes prior to change in secretary has been completed. Ray questioned the line item on the Statement of Activity that states "unpaid PR taxes penalties and interest". Dwayne reports in 2018 IRS had no record of one of the church's payments and he had no documentation either so church paid out \$2692.39 to cover this error. Dwayne now has all confirmation numbers of money paid out. Late penalty was approximately \$1300. Over \$30,000 was paid toward benevolence which includes the years taxes were not paid and the penalties. After discussion was completed, Nena made a motion to accept the financial report, Mike seconded, motion carried.

Dwayne mentioned we got \$800.00 back for sales tax from purchases made using the church credit card to buy supplies. Dwayne requested that members use the card to purchase items for church functions so we can be reimbursed the sales tax. Dwayne states if a member turns in a bill for reimbursement, we do not get a refund of the sales tax.

Pastor Mary Louise gave her report: June 12 – July 9, 2023

- Presided at Holy Communion and worship services
- Provided Children's sermons
- Made 8 home visits
- Made 5 hospital visits
- Participated in Zoom prayer group
- Visited Joe Rudisill in West Columbia – delivered 14 cards from Sardis
- Interviewed Wayne Jarrett for newsletter spotlight article
- Provided pastor's article for newsletter
- Attended Father's Day breakfast

- Attended FT Foard seniors luncheon and provided prayers
- Attended funeral for Faye Midgett
- Attended funeral for Rheda Teague
- Not included in today's report, but she made 2 facility visits and 1 home visit today
- Tomorrow she is going to Atrium Cabarrus to visit Donald Fulbright

FYI: I will be attending the Rostered Ministers Gathering July 17-20 as Continuing Education. I will be available by phone or text if needed (423-367-6173).

I used \$268.35 from the Discretionary Fund.

Blessings;
Pastor Mary Louise

Old Business:

- Call Committee selection: Jennifer Whitener, Mike Midgett, Lindsay Farnsworth, Phyllis Biggerstaff, Zach Stuart, Amy Jones – Ken made a motion to accept all 6 members, Susan seconded, motion accepted. Ray wants the committee to know the seriousness of this task. Terry will speak with the members about requirements.
- Congregational Study Committee: Jill Bledsoe, Donna Biggerstaff, Dawn Covington non-council members. Council members that agreed to assist include Mike Midgett, Susan Jones, Nena Babb, Ray Whitener, and Jane Moretz. Pastor Mary Louise mentioned a new software program about demographics which would be free for us but she is uncertain the name of the software. July 23rd is the first part of the study which will require extensive note taking.
- Congregational Meeting: buying slaw from Mt. View BBQ, sign-up sheet for what members are bringing was reviewed and updated. Ben Whitener will prepare the BBQ. Ken bringing lemonade. Nena will check with Barbara Whitener regarding supplies like plates, napkins, etc. Council will be the ones to serve the meal.

New Business:

- Homecoming 2023 is September 10th. Nena will have full report net meeting. Looking to invite back confirmation classes to speak. Meal will be covered dish.
- Power update given by Terry: one leg of power was affected by storms in which Duke Power resolved. This past week, Jane had copier issues and had to call the copier contact who states router was the problem. Terry stated everything worked for 30 minutes. Had to purchase a refurbished router so copier is currently working. Everything seemed fine until this morning, when sound system wouldn't work, 3 air units upstairs not working. Multiple things damaged by storms which will take some time to get all sorted out with routers, ports, wires. So far, \$130 has been paid for repairs made.
- August Evangelism event – Ray inquired about postponing event since all these other meetings require the congregation to participate in and last year's event was not well attended. It was mentioned about combining with fall festival but April reports no

festival is currently planned for this year. Ray then decided to cancel the August event.

- September 1st – feeding Fred T. Foard football team
- September 16th – WELCA conference
- Susan made a request to use the church once a month for her community senior group that she is a part of to make cards. Not sure of date when it would start but Susan wants to invite the members of Sardis to also attend. Card making session is approximately 2 hours in duration. Ray made a motion to allow Susan to use the church for her senior group, Ken seconded, motion accepted.
- Air conditioning is being handled differently than before to keep church at more of a standard temperature which will prevent the units from having to work so hard to cool the church.
- Kristin brought up question about security and what needs to be done if someone approaches the door that you do not know after church has started. Ask person to leave and if something looks suspicious call police, don't let them in. Nena brought up that our security team are volunteers and getting them some training on things to look for may be beneficial. Terry will contact sheriff's department to see about setting up a training for the security team.
- Blessing Box: Council's week to monitor and refill the box
- Caulking in the back where dampness is occurring will need to be done by someone else since Donald is unavailable due to being in the hospital

Next Council Meeting is August 20th at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted

Kristin Teague

covered for Jane Moretz, Council Secretary, due to Jane having surgery and not at meeting

Want to be a Backpack helper.
see Dwayne!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 2:45 Feed FTF FB Team Cooks come at 11:00 Servers come at 2:30.	2
3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:30 WELCA	4 LABOR DAY Office closed 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	5	6 12:00 FTF Seniors meet at Laurel Hill	7 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 9:30 Youth Rally Sunday 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live Homecoming following Worship Service with Lunch on the grounds. Pack bags God's Work-Our Hands. 5:00 Church Council	11	12	13	14 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15	16 8:30 Fall Gathering Catawba Conference NC Women of the ELCA
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	18 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	19	20 5:00 Deadline for October NL articles	21 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22	23 9-4 Fall Festival Wesley Chapel UMC
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:30 LMM	25	26	27	28 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10:00—11:30 Hymn Sing at LR University (see page 6 of this NL for details).

****NOTE****

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

September Birthdays

9/2 Dorothea Wyant

Amy Jones

9/3 Faye Hoke

9/6 Ken Propst

9/8 Tim Whitener

9/11 Nena Babb

9/17 Amanda Revetta

Lexie Wood

9/22 Jennifer M. Whitener

COUNCIL CONTACT

Dwayne Whitener

ASSISTING MINISTER

Gene Biggerstaff

USHERS

Randy S., Austin P., Dawn C., Darrell J.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Biggerstaff

CLEAN-UP

Sherrie Midgett

Anniversaries:

David & Mildred Fulbright 9-27

Ralph & Wanda Stallings 9-28

<i>VOLUNTEER September</i>	3rd	10th	17th	24th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Betty W.	Ethan & Heather C.	Darrell J.	Bill & Mae W.
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER	Cayden/Keaton	Paisley/Rick J.	Tryston/Cayden	Keaton/Hayden
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Nena B.	Sandra R.	Dawn C.	Bruce S.
GREETERS	Felicia/Wanda	Al/Sylvia	Ben/Edna	Rita/Nena
LAY READER	Dawn C.	Austin P.	Marilyn T.	Ray W.
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	Bruce S.	Zachary S.	Roger T.	Rick J.
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne Tryston, Susan, Patsy
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER/HELPER	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Mike M. MD Nena/Marilyn	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Donna/Jane MD April	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Phyllis/Jill MD Kristin/Roger	Pre-K Nena B. EL Donna/Jane MD Rick J.
MEAL DELIVERY	9th Kay W.	16th no meal	23rd Sylvia K.	30th no meal
Blessings Box	Church Council	LMM	Pilgrims Progress	Disciples of Christ



WESLEY CHAPEL UMC

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9 AM UNTIL 4 PM

FUN FOR THE FAMILY!

**FOOD AND DRINK SALES
SMOKED BBQ**

**BURGERS, HOTDOGS, FRENCH FRIES
BISCUIT & GRAVY, SAUSAGE BISCUITS
FUNNEL CAKES, BAKED GOODS
CRAFT VENDORS, POTTERY,
AND MUCH MORE!**

2613 WESLEY CHAPEL RD, NEWTON NC 28658

CALL 828-640-8511 OR 828-320-4000 FOR MORE INFO

Sardis Hosts Catawba Conference Fall Gathering of Women of the ELCA

On Saturday September 16th Sardis Women of the ELCA will host the Fall Gathering of the Catawba Conference. Gatherings are held in the fall and spring to conduct business, elect officers, participate in a Bible study or other program, and engage in fellowship with other women in our local churches.

We will gather at 8:30am for a light continental breakfast. The business portion of the meeting will follow at 9am, and a Bible study on three women heroes of the Bible will be presented. A Service of Remembrance with candles is held at each fall gathering to honor and remember the women of faith who have entered the church triumphant since last fall.

Please join with us as we kick off our new theme of “WOW-Women of the WORD”. Come ready to be **WOWED** by the transforming power of finding ourselves in Scripture! There is no cost to attend.



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