

Friendly Messenger

November 2025

Beloved Sardis,

November is the season of gratitude—a time when our hearts are drawn toward thanksgiving for all that God has done and continues to do among us and through us.

I find myself deeply thankful for you—for this community of faith that loves, serves, and uplifts one another. Week after week, we gather to worship, to pray, and to serve with compassion and joy. We are, indeed, a people blessed to be a blessing—to our neighbors, our community, each other, and to the world.

This month, I give special thanks for the radiant faith of our confirmands, who have now taken their place as full members of our congregation. Their witness and commitment to Christ remind us that the Holy Spirit continues to move powerfully through every generation.

We also give thanks for the gift of music in our worship and welcome our new Director of Music and Organist, Kenan Chronister. His talents and spirit and joy already bring beauty and inspiration to our services, helping us lift our hearts and voices in praise.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let's take time each day to notice the blessings that fill our lives—the kindness and care of friends, the warmth of community, the beauty of creation, and above all, the steadfast love of God. Gratitude is more than a feeling; it is a way of life, a verb that when we practice it transforms how we see the world and how we share God's grace with it.

Let us continue to be a thankful people—rooted in grace, generous in love, and ever mindful that all we have and all we are is a gift from God's love through Christ.

God loves you and so do I,
Pastor Oscar Shepherd

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The seniors will meet in November on the 5th at Plateau Community Church. This is our **Annual Picnic** so don't bring a dish, food will be provided. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

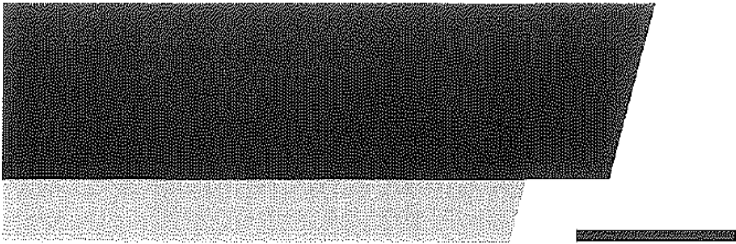


Trunk or Treat- Oct 31 5:30-7:00 PM Everyone is invited to set up a fun and creative trunk to hand out candy and maybe win the "Best Trunk Trophy". If you are unable to set up a trunk, bring candy and come help another trunk hand it out! Hotdogs will be provided. Candy donations can be brought in advance and place in the orange tote in Narthex.



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.)

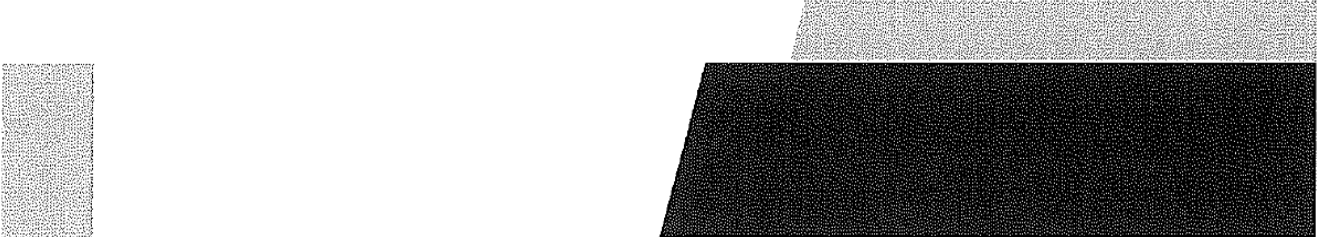


THANK YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Union Elementary Raise Craze Kindness
Fundraiser raised \$6275 & 157 Acts of
Kindness were completed by our Owls

Cash made the:
Top 3 Students for Dollars Earned
Lunch with friend
(fast food delivered to school)



In preparation for the starting of 2026, please make sure the information we have in our church directory is correct. The directory can be found in the back of the 2025 Annual Report...advise Jane of any changes. If you need a copy pick up one in the Narthex in the stand, on the wall, next to Jane's Office.
Thank you

Thanksgiving Eve Service

This Year Plateau Community Church will host the shared Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 26th. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 6PM followed with the Service at 7PM. Sardis Lutheran Church, Plateau Community Church and Wesley Chapel Methodist Church will also be participating. Sardis is responsible for **providing drinks**. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.

YOUTH NEWS

Sardis Youth Lock In - All ages welcomed! - Nov -22 - arrive at 6 PM, dinner will be provided, youth will play games, gaga pit, watch movies and fellowship as well as make more tie blankets

Regional Youth Lock In for Middle and High School Students will be Dec 5-6 at Holy Trinity in Hickory - Awaiting registration information

Potential leaf raking dates— November 11, 22 26, December 6.

Youth Christmas Play will be on Sunday Dec 21 at 6 PM. The youth will be practicing during Sunday School on Dec 7th and 14th, with dress rehearsal on Sat Dec 20th 9 AM-1 PM (lunch provided). The program will include a nativity scene that can accommodate as many of our bearded men that would like to participate, no parts to memorize! Please let Jennifer/April know if you would like to participate and plan to be at dress rehearsal for your costume and position.



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WOMEN of the ELCA NEWS

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP—That seems to be the theme of our last few projects!

The **Fred T. Foard Football team** enjoyed a hearty meal September 5th.

Thanks to all the cooks and servers who made the team feel welcome.

On October 19th we celebrated the **Seniors at Sardis**. It is always an honor to recognize those in our church who have been such an important part of our church in the past. AND, they continue to be an important part NOW! Your faithful attendance and support of many programs proves that you are never too old to serve God!

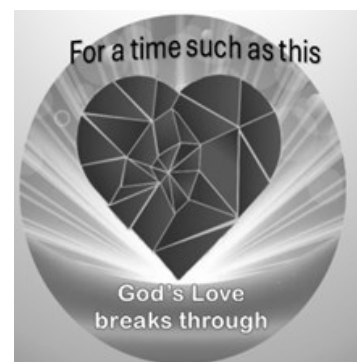
Today we will celebrate our youth who **are confirming their faith** at a reception in their honor. Be sure to stop by for cake and punch and congratulate the confirmands.

Make plans now to come out and help **decorate the Chrismon tree** on Saturday, December 13TH at 9am. We need to unpack the Chrismons and hand off to those who are able to scamper up the ladders. YOUTH—we need you! Some of us are aging out of the ladder climb. We promise a fun time.

On December 21st we will celebrate Christ's birth with the annual **Christmas play and social** afterwards. Plan to make some cookies or other treats to celebrate! A sign-up list will be in the narthex.

It will soon be time to complete your Time and Talent sheet for 2026. Would you please prayerfully consider taking a meal to a few of our members who are unable to cook for themselves? **Saturday Meal Delivery** means that on alternating Saturdays, cook extra and make four (4) plates to share. With 13 volunteers this means you only deliver a meal twice a year. Currently we are serving Catherine Houser, Evan Lail, Alfred Whitener, and Faye Hoke. Thanks to ALL who have volunteered to deliver in the past, and please sign up again!

The new Theme of the NC Women of the ELCA for 2025-2027 is pictured here. Drawing from Esther 4, "for such time as this" we are called to work for justice and peace and remember that God's love will shine through.



NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

We would like to extend a big Sardis welcome to our new organist/choir director, Kenan Chronister! Kenan, an accomplished pianist and organist, earned an Associate of Arts degree in Music Theory and Composition from Gaston College in 2021. Prior to his college work, he was a piano student studying with Suzuki School of the Arts.



Kenana lives in Lincolnton and is excited about his new role as music director at Sardis Lutheran Church. Everyone please introduce yourself and make him feel welcome as he becomes a vital part of our church family.

Welcome Kenan!

Becky Gladden
Chair, Worship and Music Committee

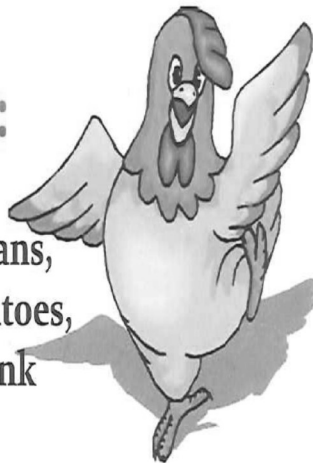
COOKSVILLE VFD AUXILIARY

FUNDRAISER

Chicken Pie Lunch & Raffles

Lunch includes:

Chicken Pie, Green Beans,
Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes,
Rolls, Dessert and Drink



Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025

11:00 am – till sold-out

Location:

6942 old Shelby Road
Vale, NC 28168



COOKSVILLE VFD

Council Minutes
Sardis Lutheran Church
September 14, 2025

Members present: Darrell Jarrett, Dwayne Whitener, Gene Biggerstaff, Jane Moretz, Joe Biggerstaff, Jon Gladden, Ken Propst, Rick Johnson, Zachary Stuart, Tim Whitener, Mike Midgett, Pastor Oscar Shephard

- Joe called the meeting to order at 7pm with 11 council members and the Pastor present.
- Mike provided devotions which focused on listening closely to God's word and to speak out and take action for justice.
- No additions or corrections to the minutes from the August 10th council meeting were brought forward and Dwayne made a motion that the minutes be approved as written. Ken seconded the motion and the council approved unanimously.
- The Financial reports ending August 31st were reviewed. Dwayne noted nothing of concern for the past month. He stated that \$5300.00 from the building fund account has been used year-to-date to help with paying basic costs and there has been an increase in offerings over the past month. Four months of Benevolence have been paid year-to-date with two more months to be paid by the end of September. With no further discussion, Ken made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented and this was seconded by Rick. The motion was approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Oscar provided a detailed ministry overview of his activities in August which highlighted:

- The Confirmands are on track and have been very engaged. Confirmation is planned to take place on Reformation Sunday.
- The costs to attend Lutheridge continue to increase and he has encouraged the youth confirmands to attend TEC instead.
- Visitations are going well. He had a nice visit with Monte Speagle.
- He has seen and up-tick on unplanned visits over the past month.
- The Blessings Box program continues to go well which now include books and bibles.
- He served with his son Gabriel at the latest TEC gathering.
- First communion for the younger youth will begin soon.

Old Business:

• Committee funding requests:

- ◊ All committees needing funding for 2026 need to submit these requests to Dwayne asap. The Finance committee will begin meeting soon to prepare the budget for 2026. The final budget recommendation will be presented to the church council in October and to the congregation in November. Jane and Dwayne will work to finalize these dates.

• Property Committee updates/actions:

- ◊ Doors leading into the Narthex – (Mike and Terry will begin refinishing these soon)
- ◊ Metal stairs in back of the Church – (The property committee will schedule a work session later this year to repaint these once the weather cools down)
- The Beard growing contest (Wise men/Shepherds/Moses) continues until the end of November. All men are encouraged to take part in this contest/fundraiser.

New Business:

- The council discussed taking part in an available program from the Synod called **Church Communications Cohort**. This program is designed to help churches improve internal and external communication as well as fostering connections within your congregation and community. The seven-week program lasts from late September until early November. After discussion, the council decided not to take part in this program.
- **Land Use committee update:**
 - ◊ Fire Pit/Eagle Scout project update (Josh Alling): This project has been approved by the Eagle Scout board.
 - ◊ After discussion concerning the property behind the church, the decision was made to continue to let Tracy farm a portion of the land. Rick will speak to Tracy about this and this matter will again be reviewed next spring.
- A motion was brought forward by Jane with a second from Rick that we return to collecting offerings by “passing the plate”. Collecting offerings in a single offering plate in the Narthex was a temporary measure implemented due to the Covid crisis. After discussion, the motion was approved and this process will begin asap.

The October meeting of the Church Council will be held on Sunday, October 12th at 7pm.

The Council contact with devotions for October will be Darrell Jarrett.

With no other items to discuss, Joe made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, and Ken seconded the motion.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Midgett, Church Council Secretary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Bring Food for Blessings Box 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting opens Budget presented and nominations are open to the floor Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	3 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	4	5 12:00 FTF Seniors at Plateau...Annual Picnic.	6 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 Pastors Sabbath	8
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	10 No School	11 VETERANS DAY	12 6:00 Youth Comm. Meeting	13 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 Pastors Sabbath	15
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Continuation of congregational Meeting and Voting Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	17 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	18	19	20 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 Pastors Sabbath 6:00 Youth Lock In	22
23 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Eve Service at Plateau Sardis provides the drinks No School	27 Office Closed NO Rehearsals  No School	28 Pastors Sabbath No School	29
30 ADVENT NOISY OFFERING 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 6:30 LMM			Inclement Weather decisions will be announced on our Phone Tree by Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. Please make sure your phone information is up to date with the Secretary. In the event of a Tornado during service please exit Sanctuary and proceed to the hallways, (1) back of Sanctuary to the left and (1) is the Fellowship Hall to the right of the Narthex. Remain in hallways, not in rooms.			

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

11/16 Evan Lail
11/19 Rhiannon Farnsworth
11/20 Andy Ruggles
11/21 Rebecca J. Ritz
Ray Whitener
11/22 Tryston Sylvester
11/24 Osama Yousef
11/27 Tommy Hoyle
11/28 Megan Roseman
Roger Teague

Zachary Stuart

USHERS

Ben W., Mike H., Darrell J., Dianne N.

**COMMUNION PREPARATION /
CLEAN – UP**

Sharon S.

Kristin T.

Offering Counter: Dwayne W.

Anniversaries

Bennie & Edna Fulbright 11-18

Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff 11-23

<i>VOLUNTEER November</i>	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Tim & Barbara W.	Rick & Rita L.	Ray W.	Sandra R.	Mike & Felicia H.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Paisley/Bruce	Ray/Ian	Gabriel/Hayden	Graysen/Joe	Marshall/Cash
COMM. ASSISTANT	Marshall W.	Jon G.	Bruce S.	Gene B.	Mike M.
GREETERS	Al/Shuford	Rita/Jill	Kristin/Kathy	Darrell/Roger	Dianne/Wanda
LAY READER	Gene B.	Zachary S.	Gabriel S.	Jane M.	Joe B.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer W.	NO Children's Church	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe	Terry, Ben, Joe	Terry, Ben, Joe	Terry, Ben, Joe	Terry, Ben, Joe
SECURITY	Ben W.	Rick J.	Roger T.	Ralph S.	Bruce S.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Nena	Pre-K Jennifer EL April MH Kristin	Pre-K Nena EL Donna MH Dawn	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Rick
BANOAK BACKPACK	6th Tim & Barbara (pick up food)	13th Mike & Sherrie	20th Mike & Sherrie	25th Gene & Don- na (pick up food)	4th Joe & Phyllis
FRONT YARD SIGN	Robin/Cynthia	Tim W,	Nena B.	Ian/Gabriel	Robin/Cynthia
MEAL DEL.	8th No Meal	15th Nena B.	22nd No Meal	29th Carilyn H.	6th No Meal
BLESSINGS BOX	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	LMM	Jon's Class

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

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd (C) [828-228-3078](tel:828-228-3078) pastor@sardislutheran.com

Organist/Director of Music: Nena Babb, (C) 828-238-5700 nhbabb@gmail.com

Council Chair: Joe Biggerstaff (C) 828-323-5809 biggerstaffjoe@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 secretary@sardislutheran.com