

# Friendly Messenger

FEBRUARY 2025

Beloved Sardis Family,

As the seasons change and the cold of winter settles in, we are reminded of the beauty, and challenges, that come with cold days. The warmth of summer has long faded, and the days grow shorter, but we do not lose heart. For while the world around us may grow cold and more divided, we cling ever more tightly to the unfailing love of God in Christ Jesus, which burns brightly within us.

Just as a crackling fire in a fire place (or heat pump) brings warmth to our homes, the Holy Spirit burns within us a passion for God that no winter cold can chill. Let us tend that fire everyday through prayer, through worship, and through acts of loving-kindness and generosity. This is a season where we not only seek warmth but also become warmth for others. Whether through a simple smile, a warm meal, or a word of encouragement, may our lives reflect the love of Christ Jesus, bringing comfort and hope to a world in much need.

As we gather in the warmth of our love and fellowship, let us also turn our hearts to our sisters and brothers in Western North Carolina, who continue to rebuild their communities and lives after the devastation of Hurricane Helene. The cold is especially harsh for those who have lost homes and livelihoods. Let us pray fervently for them, asking God to supply their needs, strengthen their spirits, and surround them with His love. And as the Lord leads, may we be His hands and feet in offering help and support in whatever ways we can.

May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn brightly in each of you, keeping us warm in His love and setting our hearts ablaze for His glory. Stay encouraged, stay gentle, and let us walk together in His loving warmth this season of winter. And never forget...

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 February on the 2nd Wednesday the 5th at Ebenezer Methodist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



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## **THE FRIENDLY MESSENGER**

Effective with the January NL, copies will only be placed in the mailboxes of those without an email address and anyone that requested on the Time and Talent sheets. Those boxes are marked with a yellow name tag. This is a recommendation of the Finance Committee and approval of the Church Council in order to save on copier cost.

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Dear Sardis Family,

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards and gifts you gave as I began my retirement journey as your musician. Your expressions of love and hope were and are very touching. I will treasure the moments we've shared with a grateful heart in the times ahead. I highly recommend Sardis to anyone looking for a loving congregation to join and serve.

I want to especially thank the members of the chancel choir, handbell choir, and other occasional musicians who enriched worship with the gift of your talents during my time with you. Also, thank you to the children and parents who made the children's choir possible. Sardis is rich in talent. Remember talent is a gift from God to be regifted.

May God continue to work in and through the good people of Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Much love,

Frank

Dear Chancel & Handbell Choirs (Ringers & Singers),

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift and card. I truly enjoyed our Christmas celebrations together this Christmas. Your love and support through our journey together have been a tremendous blessing in my life. It has truly been a blessing to serve with you these years!

Frank

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## **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.)**

## Our Youth in February

Youth Lock-in and Parents Night Out- Friday Feb 21st. The youth will meet at the church for dinner, games, movies and activities and then spend the night (if age appropriate). We need volunteers to help with meal, games/activities, stay the night with the youth and provide snacks. Please let Zach Stuart or Pastor know how you can assist. Parents, please let us know if your youth will be attending and if they plan to spend the night.

Youth Sunday School Teachers Needed- Please consider donating an hour of your time once a month to share your love for God with our youth. Material is provided and you can shadow another teacher or team teach if you prefer. We have elementary class and middle/high school class. Please let April Fulbright know if you'd be willing assist.

Save the date!- The youth will be hosting Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday March 4th.

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## Update on Noisy Offering from the Social Ministry Committee

Thanks to the continued support of the impressive Sardis Congregation, \$650.00 was sent to Western North Carolina to help with the rebuilding of that part of our state.

Good News for 2024 – there are four Fifth Sundays in 2025 and the Social Ministry Committee will again be collecting your loose change (and paper money, of course) on NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY.

Mark your calendars for MARCH, JUNE, AUGUST, AND NOVEMBER. Your loose change can and does affect the lives of many people. The money collected will be dispersed by Sardis Youth in December 2025.



*The Noisy  
Offering*

## BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>R</sup>

February is the month that the Women of the Evangelical Church of America (WELCA) celebrate BOLD WOMEN. In the past Sardis's WELCA has celebrated bold women of the Bible like Esther, Miriam, and Lydia. Other years we have celebrated women who have been vital in the development of the Lutheran beliefs like Katherina von Bora, Elizabeth Cruciger and Marie Dentiere. Still other years we have celebrated the many bold matriarchal women of the congregation, too numerous to mention.

This year we will be celebrating bold women who have influence in our community by hosting the Executive Director of Ashure Ministries (formerly ECCCM), Kristal Manning as our morning speaker on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. She has led the organization for over three years. The non-profit provides, food support, financial assistance, energy assistance and other crisis assistance programs to the Catawba County Community. The Mission of Ashure is to have a community where "every person has what they need to be nourished and to thrive."

She will address how support for Ashure is indeed doing God's work.

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### **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 collect food on Sunday, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. 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!



## Church Council Meeting Notes 12/1/2024

Members Present: Terry Bledsoe, Ken Propst, Kristin Teague, Nena Babb, Roger Lutz, Ray Whitener, Pastor Oscar, Rick Johnson, Joe Biggerstaff, Jon Gladden, Tim Whitener, Gene Biggerstaff, Zach Stuart, Mike Midgett

Pastor Oscar had devotions instead of Ken Propst.

Light refreshments served by Jill Bledsoe.

Minutes: Ken made motion to accept minutes from last meeting after Asheville's papers was changed (Beloved the Love in Asheville), Joe seconded, all agreed, no opposed.

Pastor Oscar discussed leaf raking and hospital visitations.

Fred T. Foard Seniors meeting this coming Wednesday.

Thanksgiving service was awesome with 21 members from Sardis attending.

All confirmands are engaged and doing well per Pastor Oscar.

Rick made motion to have our February – 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Meeting catered. Sunday, Ken seconded. Jane is to contact Norman's.

Nomination for 2025 Executive Committee; Ken Propst motioned Joe Biggerstaff for Council Chair, Jon seconded, Mike Midgett motioned the nominations be closed, motion carried.

Joe Biggerstaff motioned for Mike Midgett for secretary for 2025– Rick seconded, motion carried.

Continue with electronic notes being sent prior to meeting – come with discussion only, not go line by line reading the minutes

New business – leaks in roof in lobby area needs patching and fixing

Last Sunday in February, trying to find bold woman to speak at church

People wanting to have a printed copy of the NL must mark on the Time and Talent Sheet.

Blood donors – only one signed up today – discussed doing walk-ins in the future

Joe moved to adjourn meeting as no further discussion items needed to be addressed this date

Meeting ended with council standing, holding hands, and saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted

Kristin Teague for Jane Moretz, Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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.						1
2 <b>Bring Food for Blessings Box</b> <b>9:00 Confirmation Class</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live Annual Meeting right after Worship Service, meal catered, donations accepted.	3 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	4	5 12:00 FTF Seniors meet at Ebenezer Methodist Church	6 NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 Pastors Sabbath	8
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live NO Council Meeting	10	11	12	13 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 Pastors Sabbath 	15
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 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  Lock-in and Parents night out. Time TBD	22
23 <b>Bold Women's Sunday</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:30 LMM	24	25  <b>**NOTE**</b> <i>If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know.</i> <i>Thank you.</i>	26	27 6:00 Worship and Music Comm. meeting 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal  Handbell rehearsal starts March 6th at 6:00.	28 Pastors Sabbath	



## BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

### COUNCIL CONTACT

### ASSISTING MINISTER

2/1 Evie Jo Carroll

Jane Moretz

Jennifer Whitener

2/6 Margaret Propst

### USHERS

2/9 Bill Whitener

Women of ELCA

2/10 Ethan Carroll

2/15 Amy S. Kilpatrick

### COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

Mike Whitener

2/16 Buster Bledsoe

Marilyn Teague

Sandra Roseman

Hope Gladden

2/21 Sylvia King

**Offering Counters:** Dwayne/Tryston

Ashley Yow

### **Anniversaries:**

2/23 Alan Fulbright

**Bill/Mae Whitener 2- 3**

2/25 Carolyn Hoyle

**Dwayne & Barbara Whitener 2-11**

2/27 Jeff Wilson

<i><b>VOLUNTEER February</b></i>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>23rd</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Dwayne & Barbara W.	Nena B.	Ken & Margaret P.	WELCA
<b>ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER</b>	Marshall/Ian	Paisley/Bruce	Graysen/Ray	Gabriel/Graysen
<b>COMM. ASSISTANT</b>	Ray W.	Marilyn T.	Roger T.	Jennifer W.
<b>GREETERS</b>	Dianne/Darrell	Al & Sylvia	Roger/Kristin	Evelyn/Annette
<b>LAY READER</b>	Dawn C.	Joe B.	Jane M.	Jon G.
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Heather C.	No Children's Church	Susan J.	No Children's Church
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	Terry,Ben,Joe,Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe,Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe,Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe,Samuel
<b>SECURITY</b>	Bruce S.	Zachary S.	Roger T.	Rick J.
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER</b>	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie & Mike MH Dawn	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis MH Nena	Pre-K Nena EL Donna MH April
<b>FRONT YARD SIGN</b>	Tim W.	Nena B.	Gabriel & Ian	Robin & Cynthia
<b>BACKPACK DELIVERY</b>	6th Dwayne & Barbara	12th Gene & Donna	20th Joe & Phyllis	27th Roger, Marilyn, Jane
<b>MEAL DEL.</b>	8th Phyllis B.	15th No Meal	22nd Nena B.	1st No Meal
<b>BLESSINGS BOX</b>	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](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.com)

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

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

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