

# Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church



## **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.**

## **2026 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES and 2025 ANNUAL REPORTS**

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd  
Organist/Director of Music: Kenan Chronister  
Council Chair: Gene Biggerstaff  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz

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[www.sardislutheran.com](http://www.sardislutheran.com)

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### PASTORS SERVING AT SARDIS

Alfred J. Fox	1867-1872
Marcus Lafayette Little	1872-1882
John Anderson Rudisill	1882-1890
Jefferson Polycarp Miller	1891-1894
William Pinckney Cline	1894-1896
Robert Anderson Yoder	1896-1899
Jacob Calvin Wessinger, Sr.	1899-1902
William Pinckney Cline (supply)	1903
Robert Henry Cline (supply)	1904
William Pinckney Cline (supply)	1905
James Francis Deal, Sr.	1906-1907
Martin Luther Pence	1908-1914
Frederick Martin Speagle (supply)	1915
David Leander Miller	1916-1918
Joseph Alonzo Yount	1919
John Jacob Bickley	1920-1921
Bernice Justus Wessinger	1922-1926
Luther Lindsay Lohr	1927-1930
Curtis Kerr Wise, Sr. (supply)	1931
Walter Augustus Sigman, Sr.	1931-1937
Walter James Roof	1938-1950
Wade Davis Yount	1950-1953
John Luther Morgan, Sr.	1954-1957
Charlie Lemuel Hoyle	1958-1961
Lawrence Edwin Yount	1961-1962
Iverson McKoy Brendle, Jr.	1963-1974
Dr. Theodore Theusen (supply)	1974-1975
Homer Edgar Fry	1975-1985
Dr. Jacob Larry Yoder (supply)	1985-1986
James Blair White	1986-1990
John Henry Sigmon, Jr. (supply)	1990-1991
Harvey Ludwick Blume	1991-1998
Lester Oda Roof, Jr. (supply)	1998-1999
Robert Francis Howard	1999-2007
Dennis Hacker (supply)	2007-2008
Anna Harrell Merritt	2008-2014
Dr. Charles Pierson Shaw (interim)	2014-2016
Adrienne Elizabeth Martin	2016-2023
MaryLouise Sitton (Interim)	2023-2024
Matthew Oscar Shepherd	2024-Present

### MUSICIANS SERVING AT SARDIS

Clara Wiggs	Willie Hood	Scottie Sue Wyant	Max Yount
Connie Hoyle	Hope Gladden	Carolyn Truitt	Jerry Whitener
Betty Smith	Lisa Guthrie Caudle	David Periconi	Melanie Hood Altman
Trudy Frye Reece	Karen Nester	Miriam Weaver Punch	Gale Speagle Rudisill
Jim Gossler	Vickie Matthews	Ray Whitener	Mary Louise Sitton
Nena Hood Babb	Sam Duggins	Joe Robinson	Loraine Scronce Lawing
Josh Herman	Mary Scott Workman Davis		Frank Griffin
			Kenan Chronister

## **SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **STAFF FOR 2026**

Pastor	Rev. Matthew Oscar Shepherd
Director of Music	Kenan Chronister
Secretary/Treasurer	Jane Moretz

### **OFFICERS FOR 2026**

Vice President, Congregation Council	Gene Biggerstaff
Secretary, Congregation Council	Mike Midgett
Financial Secretary	Jane Moretz, Dwayne Whitener
Sunday School Superintendent	Zachary Stuart
Women of the WELCA, President	Nena Babb
Lutheran Men in Mission, President	Rick Johnson
Memorial Fund Secretary	Jane Moretz
Parish Register	Marilyn Teague

### **CONGREGATION CHURCH COUNCIL**

<u>Term 2024-2026</u>	<u>Term 2025-2027</u>	<u>Term 2026-2028</u>
Joe Biggerstaff	Mike Midgett	Kristin Teague
Jon Gladden	Darrell Jarrett	Amy Jones
Rick Johnson	Gene Biggerstaff	Robin Stuart
Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener	Jennifer Whitener

### **2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Terry Bledsoe	Jane Moretz
Dwayne Whitener	Nena Babb
Sherrie Midgett	Dawn Covington

### **2026 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Donna Biggerstaff	(2024-2026)
Phyllis Biggerstaff	(2025-2027)
Dawn Covington	(2025-2027)
Marilyn Teague	(2026-2028)
Susan Jones	(2026-2028)

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2026**  
**MONTHLY DEVOTIONS, CONTACT & COMMITTEE**  
**CONTACT, ASSISTING MINISTER**

COUNCIL MEMBER	DEVOTIONS, MONTHLY CONTACT	COMMITTEE	ASSISTING MINISTER
Tim Whitener	January	Evangelism, Cemetery	Tim Whitener
Gene Biggerstaff	February	Historical	Gene Biggerstaff
Jon Gladden	March	Christian Education Adult	Jon Gladden
Rick Johnson	April	Energy Saving/ Security	Rick Johnson
Amy Jones	May	Christian Education Youth	Ray Whitener
Robin Stuart	June	Constitution	Nena Babb
Joe Biggerstaff	July	Technology	Ben Whitener
Kristin Teague	August	Altar	Kristin Teague
Mike Midgett	September	Property/Finance/ Endowment	Mike Midgett
Darrell Jarrett	October	Social Ministry	Hayden Johnson
Zachary Stuart	November	Worship & Music/ Scholarship	Zachary Stuart
Jennifer Whitener	December	Land Use/Cemetery	Jennifer Whitener

## **Worship Dates to include in 2026 Sardis Calendar**

1/11 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

2/8 WELCA Sunday

2/15 Transfiguration Sunday

2/18 Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

2/22 - 3/22 Sunday evening Lenten services at 7:00 p.m.

3/29 Palm/Passion Sunday

4/2 Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.

4/3 Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.

4/5 Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m.

5/24 Pentecost

5/31 Holy Trinity Sunday

9/13 Homecoming

10/4 Blessing of the Animals

10/25 Reformation Sunday

11/1 All Saints Sunday

11/8 Men's Sunday

11/22 Christ the King Sunday

11/25 Thanksgiving Eve Soup & Sandwich/Service at Sardis-we provide soup

11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 4 Sundays of Advent

TBD Christmas Caroling

12/16 Blue Christmas Service

12/24 Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. (Prelude at 10:15)

12/27 Lessons and Carols Sunday

# SPECIAL SERVICES HELPERS

Date '26	Torch Bearer's	Bible Bearer
Easter Sunday 4/5	Marilyn T. / Marshall W.	Rick Johnson
Christmas Eve 12/24	Marilyn T. / Shuford W.	Rick Johnson

## ALTAR FLOWERS 2026

<a href="#">1/4</a>	CATHERINE HOUSER	5-Jul	DOROTHEA WYANT
1/11	KATHY WEAVER	12-Jul	DAVID & MILDRED FULBRIGHT
1/18	BEN AND APRIL FULBRIGHT	19-Jul	BENNY & EDNA FULBRIGHT, KAY WHITENER
1/25	CAROLYN HOYLE	26-Jul	RANDY & JOYCE SPEAGLE
2/1	DWAYNE & BARBARA WHITENER	2-Aug	ROBIN STUART
2/8	NENA BABB	9-Aug	ELAINE EVINGTON
2/15	MARGARET PROPST	8/16	RICK & PATSY JOHNSON/BETTY JO WEAVER
2/22	WOMEN OF ELCA (SYLVIA KING)	23-	MIKE & SHERRIE MIDGETT
1-Mar	RALPH (PETE) & SHEILA RAMSEY	30-	OSAMA & CARRIE YOUSEF
8-Mar	BUSTER BLEDSOE	6-Sep	BETTY WHITENER
15-	BRUCE & SHARON SIGMAN	13-Sep	ETHAN & HEATHER CARROLL
22-	RICHARD & DAWN COVINGTON	20-Sep	DARRELL JARRETT
29-	HOPE GLADDEN	27-Sep	MAE WHITENER
5-Apr	JOE AND PHYLLIS BIGGERSTAFF	4-Oct	ANDY & ANITA RUGGLES
12-Apr	DAVID AND REBECCA RITZ	11-Oct	EVAN LAIL
19-Apr	KRISTIN TEAGUE	18-Oct	GENE AND DONNA BIGGERSTAFF
26-Apr	BEN & JENNIFER WHITENER	25-Oct	JANE MORETZ
3-May	ZACHARY & BAILEY STUART	1-Nov	TIM & BARBARA WHITENER
10-	ROGER & MARILYN TEAGUE	8-Nov	RICK & RITA LUTZ
17-	GREG & KERBY SMYRE	15-	RAY WHITENER
24-	RALPH & WANDA STALLINGS	22-	SANDRA ROSEMAN
31-	AL & SYLVIA KING	29-	MIKE & FELICIA HOLLAR
7-Jun	DWAYNE & BARBARA WHITENER	6-Dec	SUSAN JONES
14-Jun	LEEVADA WOOD	13-	AMY JONES
21-Jun	RICK & PATSY JOHNSON	20-	LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION (JON GLADDEN)
28-Jun	TERRY & JILL BLEDSOE	27-	WAYNE & ELAINE JARRETT

## VOLUNTEERS

	Acolyte	Crucifer	Communion Assis-	Greeters		
4/2 Maundy Thursday	1-Mar Gabriel Shepherd	Joe Biggerstaff	Sandra Roseman	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener	
	8-Mar Rick Johnson	Gabriel Shepherd	Dawn Covington	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett	
	15-Mar Ray Whitener	Donna Biggerstaff	Tim Whitener	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague	
	22-Mar Tryston Sylvester	Ian Shepherd	Nena Babb	Annette Richard	Marilyn Teague	
	29-Mar Shuford Whitener	Ray Whitener	Mike Midgett	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague	
	4/3 Good Friday	Marshall Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz	
	4/5 Easter Sunrise	Marshall Whitener	Marshall Whitener	Marshall Whitener	Marshall Whitener	
	12-Apr Paisley Hood	Graysen Whitener	Ray Whitener	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague	
	19-Apr Ian Shepherd	Rick Johnson	Zachary Stuart	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague	
	26-Apr Graysen Whitener	Cayden Hood	Jon Gladden	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague	
	3-May Gabriel Shepherd	Marshall Whitener	Marilyn Teague	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz	
	5/1 Pentecost	10-May Ray Whitener	Shuford Whitener	Kristin Teague	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener
17-May Rick Johnson		Tryston Sylvester	Roger Teague	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett	
24-May Tryston Sylvester		Joe Biggerstaff	Hayden Johnson	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague	
31-May Shuford Whitener		Gabriel Shepherd	Rick Johnson	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague	
7-Jun Hayden Johnson		Donna Biggerstaff	Sandra Roseman	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague	
14-Jun Zachary Stuart		Ian Shepherd	Dawn Covington	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz	
6/1 Trinity		21-Jun Marshall Whitener	Ray Whitener	Tim Whitener	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener
		28-Jun Paisley Hood	Hayden Johnson	Nena Babb	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett
		5-Jul Ian Shepherd	Graysen Whitener	Mike Midgett	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
		12-Jul Graysen Whitener	Rick Johnson	Bruce Sigman	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague
		19-Jul Gabriel Shepherd	Cayden Hood	Ben Whitener	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague
		26-Jul Ray Whitener	Marshall Whitener	Gene Biggerstaff	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz
	7/1 Summer	2-Aug Hayden Johnson	Shuford Whitener	Ray Whitener	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener
		9-Aug Tryston Sylvester	Tryston Sylvester	Zachary Stuart	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett
		16-Aug Shuford Whitener	Joe Biggerstaff	Jon Gladden	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
		23-Aug Rick Johnson	Gabriel Shepherd	Marilyn Teague	Annette Richard	Marilyn Teague
		30-Aug Zachary Stuart	Donna Biggerstaff	Roger Teague	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague
		6-Sep Marshall Whitener	Ian Shepherd	Kristin Teague	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz
8/1 Fall		13-Sep Paisley Hood	Ray Whitener	Hayden Johnson	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener
		20-Sep Ian Shepherd	Hayden Johnson	Rick Johnson	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett
		27-Sep Graysen Whitener	Graysen Whitener	Sandra Roseman	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
		4-Oct Gabriel Shepherd	Rick Johnson	Dawn Covington	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague
		11-Oct Ray Whitener	Cayden Hood	Tim Whitener	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague
		18-Oct Hayden Johnson	Marshall Whitener	Nena Babb	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz
	9/1 Thanksgiving	25-Oct Tryston Sylvester	Shuford Whitener	Mike Midgett	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener
		1-Nov Shuford Whitener	Tryston Sylvester	Bruce Sigman	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett
		11/8 Men's Sunday	Joe Biggerstaff	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
		15-Nov Zachary Stuart	Gabriel Shepherd	Gene Biggerstaff	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague
		22-Nov Marshall Whitener	Donna Biggerstaff	Ray Whitener	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague
		29-Nov Paisley Hood	Ian Shepherd	Zachary Stuart	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz
10/1 Christmas		6-Dec Ian Shepherd	Ray Whitener	Jon Gladden	Dianne Nail	Shuford Whitener
		13-Dec Graysen Whitener	Rick Johnson	Marilyn Teague	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett
		20-Dec Gabriel Shepherd	Graysen Whitener	Kristin Teague	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
		27-Dec Hayden Johnson	Hayden Johnson	Roger Teague	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague
		3-Jan Tryston Sylvester	Marshall Whitener	Rick Johnson	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague
		11/1 New Year	10-Jan Shuford Whitener	Shuford Whitener	Sandra Roseman	Dianne Nail
	17-Jan Rick Johnson		Tryston Sylvester	Dawn Covington	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett
	24-Jan Zachary Stuart		Joe Biggerstaff	Tim Whitener	Nena Babb	Marilyn Teague
	31-Jan Marshall Whitener		Gabriel Shepherd	Nena Babb	Annette Richard	Kristin Teague
	7-Feb Paisley Hood		Donna Biggerstaff	Mike Midgett	Kay Whitener	Roger Teague
	14-Feb Ray Whitener		Ian Shepherd	Bruce Sigman	Bruce Sigman	Rita Litz
	12/24 Christmas Eve		21-Feb Graysen Whitener	Ray Whitener	Ben Whitener	Dianne Nail
28-Feb Gabriel Shepherd			Rick Johnson	Gene Biggerstaff	Edna Fulbright	Darrell Jarrett

# VOLUNTEERS

	Lay Readers	Security	Front Yard Sign
	1-Mar Dawn Covington	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener
	8-Mar Tim Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb
	15-Mar Hayden Johnson	Ben Whitener	Tim Whitener
	22-Mar Gabriel Shepherd	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	29-Mar Gene Biggerstaff	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
4/2 Maundy Thursday Group		Zachary Stuart	Nena Babb
4/3 Good Friday Group		Roger Teague	Tim Whitener
4/5 Easter Sunrise Ray Whitener		Ralph Stallings	Nena Babb
	12-Apr Zachary Stuart	Bruce Sigman	Tim Whitener
	19-Apr Jon Gladden	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	26-Apr Jane Moretz	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	3-May Marilyn Teague	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	10-May Kristin Teague	Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener
	17-May Nena Babb	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	24-May Paisley Hood	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener
	31-May Marshall Whitener	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb
	7-Jun Jennifer Whitener	Ben Whitener	Tim Whitener
	14-Jun Joe Biggerstaff	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	21-Jun Dawn Covington	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	28-Jun Tim Whitener	Zachary Stuart	Nena Babb
	5-Jul Hayden Johnson	Roger Teague	Tim Whitener
	12-Jul Gabriel Shepherd	Ralph Stallings	Nena Babb
	19-Jul Gene Biggerstaff	Bruce Sigman	Tim Whitener
	26-Jul Jennifer Whitener	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	2-Aug Joe Biggerstaff	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	9-Aug Ray Whitener	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	16-Aug Zachary Stuart	Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener
	23-Aug Jon Gladden	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	30-Aug Jane Moretz	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener
	6-Sep Marilyn Teague	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb
	13-Sep Kristin Teague	Ben Whitener	Tim Whitener
	20-Sep Nena Babb	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	27-Sep Paisley Hood	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	4-Oct Marshall Whitener	Zachary Stuart	Nena Babb
	11-Oct Dawn Covington	Roger Teague	Tim Whitener
	18-Oct Tim Whitener	Ralph Stallings	Nena Babb
	25-Oct Hayden Johnson	Bruce Sigman	Tim Whitener
	1-Nov Gabriel Shepherd	Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
11/8 Men's Sunday Gene Biggerstaff		Ben Whitener	Tim Whitener
	15-Nov Jennifer Whitener	Darrell Jarrett	Nena Babb
	22-Nov Joe Biggerstaff	Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener
	29-Nov Ray Whitener	Roger Teague	Nena Babb
	6-Dec Zachary Stuart	Ralph Stallings	Tim Whitener
	13-Dec Jon Gladden	Bruce Sigman	Nena Babb
	20-Dec Jane Moretz	Ben Whitener	Tim Whitener
12/24 Christmas Eve Marilyn Teague		Rick Johnson	Nena Babb
	27-Dec Kristin Teague	Darrell Jarrett	Tim Whitener
	3-Jan Nena Babb	Zachary Stuart	Nena Babb
	10-Jan Paisley Hood	Roger Teague	Tim Whitener
	17-Jan Marshall Whitener	Ralph Stallings	Nena Babb
	24-Jan Dawn Covington	Bruce Sigman	Tim Whitener
	31-Jan Tim Whitener	Ben Whitener	Nena Babb
	7-Feb Hayden Johnson	Rick Johnson	Tim Whitener
	14-Feb Gabriel Shepherd	Darrell Jarrett	Nena Babb
	21-Feb Gene Biggerstaff	Zachary Stuart	Tim Whitener
	28-Feb Jennifer Whitener	Roger Teague	Nena Babb

## VOLUNTEERS

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>COMMUNION PREPARATION</b>	<b>COMMUNION CLEAN-UP</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	Sharon Sigman	Kristin Teague	Zachary Stuart Hayden Johnson
<b>APRIL</b>	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Rick Johnson Marilyn Teague
<b>MAY</b>	Donna Biggerstaff	Sharon Sigman	Roger Teague Shuford Whitener
<b>JUNE</b>	Marilyn Teague	Donna Biggerstaff	Darrell Jarrett Bruce Sigman
<b>JULY</b>	Sharon Sigman	Sherrie Midgett	Ben Whitener Ian Shepherd
<b>AUGUST</b>	Jane Moretz	Wanda Stallings	Sylvia King Zachary Stuart
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Donna Biggerstaff	Sherrie Midgett	Dawn Covington Hayden Johnson
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Marilyn Teague	Sandra Roseman	Shuford Whitener Marilyn Teague
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Sharon Sigman	Kristin Teague	Rick Johnson Darrell Jarrett
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Jane Moretz	Marilyn Teague	Roger Teague Ian Shepherd
<b>JANUARY '26</b>	Donna Biggerstaff	Sherrie Midgett	Ben Whitener Bruce Sigman
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Marilyn Teague	Sandra Roseman	Dawn Covington Sylvia King

# BANOAK BACKPACK PROGRAM 2026 - 2027

We currently bag and deliver to the school each week for 33 families

## Balance of 2026

3/5/2026 Mildred Fulbright

3/11/2025 Gene & Donna

3/19/2026 Joe & Phyllis

3/26/2026 Roger, Marilyn

4/2/2026 Tim & Barbara

4/9/2026

Easter

4/16/2026 Mike & Sherrie

4/23/2026 Mildred Fulbright

4/30/2026 Dwayne & Barbara

5/7/2026 Gene & Donna

5/14/2026 Joe & Phyllis

5/21/2026 Roger, Marilyn



## Meal Delivery 2026

March 7	Susan J	August 22	Sylvia K	<u>FEB 2027</u>
March 14	No Meal	August 29	No Meal	6th Donna B.
March 21	Phyllis B	Sept. 5	April F	13th No Meal
March 28	No Meal	Sept. 12	No Meal	20th Dawn C.
April 4	Nena B	Sept. 19	Susan J	27th No Meal
April 11	No Meal	Sept. 26	No Meal	
April 18	Donna B	Oct. 3	Phyllis B	
April 25	No Meal	Oct. 10	No Meal	
May 2	Dawn C	Oct. 17	Nena B	
May 9	No Meal	Oct. 24	No Meal	
May 16	Sylvia K	Oct. 31	Donna B	
May 23	No Meal	Nov. 7	No Meal	
May 30	April F	Nov. 14	Dawn C	
June 6	No Meal	Nov. 21	No Meal	
June 13	Susan J	Nov. 28	Sylvia K	
June 20	No Meal	Dec. 5	No Meal	
June 27	Phyllis B	Dec. 12	April F	
July 4	No Meal	Dec. 19	No Meal	
July 11	Nena B	Dec. 26	Susan J	
July 18	No Meal	Jan. 2	No Meal	
July 25	Donna B	Jan. 9	Phyllis B	
August 1	No Meal	Jan. 16	No Meal	
August 8	Dawn C	Jan. 23	Nena B	
August 15	No Meal	Jan. 30	No Meal	

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### 2026 FTF Seniors Meeting Dates

JANUARY 7 <sup>TH</sup>	Hebron of Vale	JULY 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wesley Chapel
FEBRUARY 4 <sup>TH</sup>	Laurel Hill	AUGUST 5 <sup>th</sup>	Laurel Hill
MARCH 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ebenezer	SEPTEMBER 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ebenezer
APRIL 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sardis	OCTOBER 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sardis
MAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	Plateau	NOVEMBER 4 <sup>th</sup>	Plateau
JUNE 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Grace	DECEMBER 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Grace

**Bereaved Families Food List – 2026**

**Sardis Church's gift is to provide a meal for the family if the deceased is a member of Sardis.**

**Sandwich trays and condiments, Chips, Desserts, and Drinks will be provided for the family to take home or to eat in the Fellowship Hall after the funeral.**

**Group 1**

**Nena Babb, Co-Chair**

**Donna Biggerstaff, Co-Chair**

Jill Bledsoe  
Becky Gladden  
Leevada Wood  
Phyllis Biggerstaff  
Mildred Fulbright  
Sherrie Midgett  
Phyllis Hood  
Evelyn Fulbright  
Carolyn Hoyle

Kelly Speagle  
Marie Speagle  
Sharon Sigman  
Debbie Wise  
Carrie Yousef  
Susan Jones  
Kathy Weaver  
Felicia Hollar  
Sylvia King

**Group 2**

**Dawn Covington, Co-Chair**

**Annette Richard Co-Chair**

Patsy Johnson  
Sandra Roseman  
Sheila Ramsey  
April Fulbright  
Dianne Nail  
Rita Lutz  
Marilyn & Kristin Teague  
Heather Carroll  
Kay Whitener

Robin Stuart  
Joyce Speagle  
Jennifer Whitener  
Betty Sue Whitener  
Wanda Stallings  
Elaine Evington  
Barbara J. Whitener  
Jane Moretz  
Kerby Smyre

**Monetary Contributions can be made at any time to the Bereavement Fund.**

**Those funds cover the cost of the sandwich trays and condiments.  
Mark your offering envelope accordingly.**

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DEADLINE DATES

Your monthly Friendly Messenger is a vital part of the ministry and communication of the congregation here at Sardis. If committees do not get information into the office many things that we do will go unnoticed. Listed below are the dates that you need to get your information into the office. This is so you can have the information to put on your calendars before upcoming events.

<b><u>MONTH OF NEWSLETTER</u></b>	<b><u>DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION</u></b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25th</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22nd</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 22nd</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26th</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th</b>
<b>JANUARY 2027</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27th</b>



## FINANCIAL REPORTS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS



## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b><u>Adult Christian Education</u></b>		<b><u>Endowment</u></b>		<b><u>Security Team</u></b>
Jon Gladden- Chair		Mike Midgett - Chair		Bruce Sigman
Gene Biggerstaff		April Fulbright		Rick Johnson
Rita Lutz		Rick Johnson		Ralph Stallings
		Dwayne Whitener		Zachary Stuart
<b><u>Altar</u></b>		Terry Bledsoe		Darrell Jarrett
Marilyn Teague Chair				Roger Teague
Sandra Roseman		<b><u>Evangelism</u></b>		Ben Whitener
Sherrie Midgett		Ray Whitener - Chair		
Donna Biggerstaff		Mike Midgett		<b><u>Social Ministry</u></b>
Jane Moretz		Sherrie Midgett		Phyllis Biggerstaff
Sharon Sigman		Jon Gladden		Rita Lutz
Kristin Teague		Sheila Ramsey		Donna Biggerstaff
Wanda Stallings		Donna Biggerstaff		
		Rita Lutz		<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>
<b><u>Cemetery</u></b>				
Greg Fulbright		<b><u>Finance</u></b>		<b><u>Technology</u></b>
Tim Whitener - Chair		Dwayne Whitener -		Zach Stuart
Darrell Jarrett		Jane Moretz		Samuel Biggerstaff
Ralph Stallings		Kristin Teague		Ben Whitener-Chair
		Gene Biggerstaff		Jane Moretz
<b><u>Children's Christian Education</u></b>				Terry Bledsoe
April Fulbright—Chair		<b><u>Historical</u></b>		Joe Biggerstaff
Jennifer Whitener		Nena Babb—Chair		Ian Shepherd
Zachary Stuart		Robin Stuart		Hayden Johnson
Donna Biggerstaff		Sheila Ramsey		
Kristin Teague		Gene Biggerstaff		<b><u>Land Use</u></b>
Susan Jones				Nena Babb - Chair
Ben Whitener		<b><u>Worship &amp; Music</u></b>		Tim Whitener
Sherrie Midgett		Nena Babb Chair		Rick Johnson
Mike Midgett		Kenan Chronister		Sheila Ramsey
Hayden Johnson		Tim Whitener		Ben Whitener
		Marilyn Teague		
<b><u>Constitution Update</u></b>		<b><u>Kathy Weaver</u></b>		
Dwayne Whitener				
Gene Biggerstaff		<b><u>Property</u></b>		
Jane Moretz		Mike Midgett- Chair		
Robin Stuart		Rick Johnson- Co-Chair		
		Tim Whitener		
		Bruce Sigman		
		Darrell Jarrett		
		Ralph Stallings		
		Ray Whitener		
		Zachary Stuart		

## **PASTORS REPORT**

Beloved Sardis,

What an amazing year—full of life, service, and loving ministry! As we look back with gratitude, it is clear that God has been at work among us in powerful and faithful ways.

This year we have joyfully nurtured our youth through Vacation Bible School, confirmation, community projects, lock-ins, Lutheroads Day Camps, and a mission trip to Western North Carolina. These moments of learning, service, and fellowship have helped shape faith, deepen relationships, and plant seeds that will continue to grow.

We have also remained deeply committed to supporting our local community through worship, Trunk-or-Treat, music ministries, and feeding ministries. Our congregation has faithfully supported the needs of our local schools, Assure Ministries, WELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and even extended our care to our local seminary and mission funds. These acts of generosity reflect Christ's love lived out beyond our walls.

Week after week, we continue to delight in gathering for worship as the Body of Christ—lifting praise to God, our Lord and Redeemer. We look forward with excitement to warmer weather, when we will dedicate and fully enjoy our new outdoor worship space as a place for worship, fellowship, and community.

This year, we have also honored and celebrated the resurrection life of beloved members of our church family. Though it is always hard to say good-bye for now, we cling to the hope of the resurrection and the promise of Jesus Christ—that death is not the end.

We are truly blessed to love, grow, and abide in the love of Christ here at Sardis.

May this new year continue to open doors for growth in faith, loving service, and ministry to the world, as we seek to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Know that I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you. Never forget—God loves you, and so do I.

Full of grace and gratitude,

Pastor Oscar Shepherd

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## **Parish Register Report for 2025**

**Received by Infant Baptism: 0**

**Received by Adult Baptism: 0**

**Received by Letter of Transfer/Affirmation of Faith: 2**

Gabriel Shepherd, Ian Shepherd

**Received by Confirmation:** Paisley Alexandria Hood, Cayden Alexander Hood, Ian Shealy Shepherd, Graysen Cole Whitener, Marshall Roland Whitener

**Total Members Received: 6**

**Removed by Death: 2**

Joe Herman Wyant Death February 18, 2025    Funeral February 22, 2025

George Austin Propst    Death July 16, 2025    Funeral July 23, 2025

**Removed by Transfer: 1**      **May 29 Frank Griffin, Trinity Lutheran Greenville SC. Meredith Gladden, Holy Trinity, Hickory NC. July, Mike Lutz, King of Glory Lutheran Church, N. Myrtle Beach SC, they do not send letter of transfer July.**

**Total Members Removed: 5**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marilyn Teague

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025**

Webster's dictionary defines Evangelism as "The spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness." It also means to promote spiritual awareness with each other in the church and the community thru deeds of kindness. The church family at Sardis does a very good job of doing exactly all of those things. Thank you to all of the Evangelism Team for participating and planning the events that were carried out in 2025. Committee members for this past year were Jon Gladden, Donna Biggerstaff, Mike & Sherrie Midgett, Shelia Ramsey, Pastor Oscar Shepherd, and myself.

Thank you once again to all of our shepherds who send out cards and make phone calls to all of our church members. The Shepherding Group for 2025 includes **Jon & Becky Gladden, Dawn Covington, Carolyn Hoyle, Al King, Hope Gladden, Shelia Ramsey, Donna Biggerstaff, Phyllis Biggerstaff, Elaine Evington, Rita Lutz, Nena Babb, Kathy Weaver, Jane Moretz, Kay Whitener, Felicia Hollar, Marilyn Teague, Susan Jones, Patsy Johnson, and myself. Sadly; Kay Whitener will be retiring as a Sardis Shepherd at the end of this year. Thank you Kay for your service. She has been a Shepherd since this part of the Evangelism team began and her service to all of us will be greatly missed. Taking her place as a new Sardis Shepherd will be Barbara J. Whitener.**

### Events the Evangelism Committee participated in this year:

- 1) Provided a Shepherd's Appreciation Meal for Sardis Shepherds and family members
- 2) Dinner and a Movie Night. Those attending watched the movie "Unsung hero". Thank you to the Lutheran Men in Mission for providing food
- 3) Held an outdoor concert and community cookout on the front lawn featuring "The Sigmon Stringers". The weather was fantastic and so was the crowd. 85 people attended and over \$1000.00 was raised to benefit Western North Carolina Relief due to hurricane Helene. Thank you to the Men's group for assisting and to all who brought food, drinks, and desserts.
- 4) Had a food booth with hotdogs and water and gave out candy for Trunk or Treat. Food that was left over was donated to the Soup Kitchen in Newton.

5) Assisted the Social Ministry Committee with backpack and School Supplies.  
Thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing money to help purchase supplies.

I always like to end my report with this summation. A committee is only as good as the people it serves and this committee continues to do great things for Sardis and the community because of the people here. Thank you for making it a great and successful year again. No matter how great or how small your contribution was, please know that it was greatly appreciated. If you have an idea of something you think would be beneficial to the church or community; please feel free to share it with any committee member, myself, or the Pastor.

*Peace and Blessings      Ray Whitenet      Evangelism Committee*  
*Chairman*

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## **CEMETARY REPORT**

There were 2 burials in 2025;  
Joe Herman Wyant, George Austin Propst.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Cemetery Committee

## **Social Ministry's 2025 Annual Report**

The continual generosity of the Sardis' Congregation combined with \$750.00 in Thrivent Grants enabled the committee to sponsor the following outreach projects.

- ✧ Personal Care Kits –Hygiene items for kits that the Lutheran World Relief distributes in times of disasters.
- ✧ Hugs and Kisses – new and gently used stuffed animals donated to the Catawba County Sherriff's Department to distribute to children who are in emergency situations.
- ✧ Box tops for Education – sent to Crossnore Children's Home.
- ✧ Fifth Sunday Offerings – sent to Western North Carolina for Disaster Relief.
- ✧ 240 Bag Lunches – 120 to The Soup Kitchen in Hickory and 120 to The Corner Table in Newton to share with the unhoused during weekends when the centers are closed.
- ✧ School Supplies – book bags, pencils, crayons, earphones, paper, notebooks, glue, pencil boxes, markers, tissues, hand sanitizer, band aids, etc. donated to Banoak and Blackburn elementary for children who cannot afford the basics.
- ✧ Cold Weather Wear – gloves, hats (70 knit caps made by Dot Lutz with yarn donated by Evan Lail) socks, sweaters, coats, hoodies, and pants donated to the local soup kitchens to give (not sell) to the unhoused.
- ✧ Toiletries – given to Safe Harbor to share with the residents of their treatment program.

Thanks to all who supported these efforts to help meet the growing needs of our community.

## **Sardis Men's Report 2025**

Thank you for all your support throughout 2025. We have had our ups and downs throughout the year. We lost two of our faithful men-Ken Propst and Bill Whitener. These two men have been a huge part of our group through their faithful commitment and ongoing dedication to Sardis and the men's group and an inspiration to us all.

Our meetings are typically the last Sunday of the month at 6:30. We invite all ages to come for fellowship, bible study, and to strengthen your relationship with our Lord. Our group is willing and ready to help with any project at Sardis. Some areas we were involved in this year include the dinner and movie night, Daughters of God banquet, cookout for the concert, Sardis backpack program, treat bags for the Christmas program, and building a ramp for Rick and Rita Lutz. Please come out and join us. Thank you to all the men and to our congregation which makes our group what it is. God richly bless and guide you in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Johnson

## **Altar Committee**

Each year I list the many activities we as an Altar Committee do within the church to enhance its beauty and prepare for Sunday services and special services. This year was no exception. We are blessed at Sardis to have a wonderful, caring, and talented committee.

Listed below are just some of our work within the church:

- Prepared the 2025 flower chart
- 56 communion services prepared
- Cleaned communion vessels after each service
- Cleaned brass and chancel cloths
- Kept fluid in altar candles
- Distributed altar flowers each Sunday
- Sent out weekly altar flower reminders
- Changed altar paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar
- Turned on and off the banner light each Sunday
- Set up and took down the Advent wreath
- Decorated the church at Christmas
- Ordered and placed flower saddles on the Louie Baker graves
- Burnt palms for Ash Wednesday service
- Stripped the altar on Maundy Thursday
- Ordered communion supplies and candles
- Assisted with funerals, weddings, and special services
- Trained children as acolyte and crucifer barriers
- Changed florist to Lanez

We perform many timeless duties on a weekly basis. If anyone wants to belong to a busy and productive committee you are certainly welcome. To all the committee members, thank you for your hard work within our church. You are very much appreciated.

The altar committee is picking up in 2026 where they left off in 2025 by finding ways to always enhance the beauty of our church services. We are in the process of replacing the Altar brass and communion trays.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Teague, Chairperson

## **Property Committee Report (2025)**

The Property Committee is committed to maintaining the facilities and grounds for Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as assisting with any projects and tasks as needed for church members or members of the local Sardis community.

2025 was a productive and busy year with multiple projects completed. Some of the projects and tasks undertaken during the year were:

- ⇒ Spring and Fall workdays. The committee members took an active role in leaf raking, installing mulch, cleaning gutters, trimming shrubs and trees both around the church building and at the columbarium.
- ⇒ Other items that the committee completed which often go unnoticed were removing spider webs from the sanctuary, repairing the Sunday school bells, covering graffiti on the back of the building, etc.
- ⇒ Repairs were made to the roof over the Narthex to prevent any possible leaks.
- ⇒ The wooden exterior doors leading into the Narthex were refinished as they were showing obvious signs of weathering. This required cleaning, sanding and applying multiple layers of finish leaving the doors in excellent shape.
- ⇒ The members built an entrance/exit ramp at the home of Rick and Rita Lutz to help with mobility in and out of the home.

In February, the Catawba County Fire Marshal conducted a safety inspection of the church facilities resulting in several actions identified for correction and improvement. These included:

- ⇒ Emergency lighting – batteries were replaced to ensure they operate correctly during a power outage.
- ⇒ Fire extinguisher inspections – A process has been implemented to ensure that all fire extinguishers are inspected monthly and records for this are maintained.
- ⇒ Electrical panel clearance (mop room) – A space was identified and marked per code so that no items will be stored possibly blocking access to the panels.
- ⇒ Multiple extension cords were removed from the choir room, the organ area in the sanctuary and the sound room to prevent possible fire dangers.

The contract with Cintas for items needed during the Covid-19 pandemic (soap and hand sanitizer dispensers) was cancelled resulting in an annual savings of approximately \$2300.

All are encouraged to communicate ideas and/or concerns to any member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Midgett, Property Committee Chairperson

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 2025**

Sometimes success is defined by what you don't see or what you don't notice until it is not there. That's the real theme of this year's report. So let's take a closer look at what happens behind the scenes.

The Technology Team has provided sound support for every service conducted in the sanctuary during 2025 and sound support for many events throughout the church.

The Technology Team has controlled and provided special lighting for every service conducted in the sanctuary during 2025. Besides the normal lighting, special effects were used during the Good Friday Service, Easter Service, Thanksgiving Service, and the Christmas Eve Service.

The Technology Team has programmed the heating system to a more efficient operating schedule and monitors the system 24/7/365. It has made sure all events are held in a comfortable environment.

The Technology Team has maintained the OneCall notification system. OneCall has proved itself to be very valuable in keeping the congregation informed about church activities and several death notices over the course of the year.

Every service in the sanctuary was broadcast on Facebook Live. This allows members to participate in the service when they cannot be there. Our shutins are loyal followers of our online services and a number of viewers come from nonmembers in our community.

Our online services include a webpage that is constantly updated, a Facebook page that is constantly updated, weekly email notifications, online bulletins, and a monthly newsletter.

One project completed this year was installing Ring doorbells and cameras so that Jane can see who is entering the building while she is there. Doorbell cameras were installed at the front of the building, on the end door and at the kitchen door.

Submitted,  
Terry Bledsoe



*“As a community of women  
created in the image of God,  
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,  
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our  
gifts,  
support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action,  
and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”*

Claiming the purpose statement at each meeting. we try to live by this declaration and show it in our actions and in the projects that we try to complete for our church and community. Every woman at Sardis is a member of the Sardis Women of the ELCA, and we certainly appreciate the assistance ALL ladies in our congregation give for the projects that are planned. THANK YOU for helping continue to serve our church and community. Here are the activities from 2025:

**Planned** and presented Bold Women’s Sunday in February with Ashure Ministries Executive Director Kristal Manning as Speaker.

**Collected** food for ECCCM and our Blessings Box in conjunction with the Lenten Season. Nena, Sylvia, and Robin attended the Catawba Conference Spring Gathering at Mt. Olive Lutheran.

**Hosted** the Daughters of God Banquet where women brought salads and the Lutheran Men served sundaes for dessert. Susan Jones led everyone to create a decoration for Trinity Ridge residents.

**Planned** and served a Continental Breakfast for the Men on Father’s Day, Sylvia served as delegate to the Annual Gathering of the NC Women of the ELCA at LRU June 20-22. Robin was elected to another 2-year term as Vice-President for the NC Board, while Nena continues her 2-year term as Treasurer.

**Planned** and served a meal for the Foard Football Team before their September 5 game.

**Hosted** the Catawba Conference of the NC Women of the ELCA for their fall gathering with Rev. Judy Drysdale leading the Bible Study.

**Honored** the Sardis Seniors at a Sunday luncheon with assistance from the youth as servers and waiters.

**Celebrated** the confirmands with a reception on Reformation Sunday, October 26.

**Sponsored** a canned food Christmas tree drive to supplement our Blessing Box.

**Decorated** our Christmas Tree with Chrismons with congregational help.

**Offered** poinsettias for sale to decorate the church and raise money (\$148) for the Youth’s Christmas Project.

**Planned** and served refreshments after the Christmas Play.

**Continued** serving sandwich trays and fixings to our bereaved families.

**Provided** meals to shut-ins with the first and third Saturday Meal Delivery.

Again, we appreciate the support we get from all members of our Congregation. We couldn’t accomplish our projects without you. Come join us at a business and planning meeting on the first Sunday of alternating months, beginning in January. We would love to have you!

Respectfully submitted, Nena Babb, President

## **Youth Christian Education 2025 Report**

The youth planning committee had a planning meeting in January 2025 and created an extensive list of ideas, which really helped ensure that the youth had fun and service events throughout the year. The Youth Sunday School offered Pre K, Elementary and Middle/High School classes this year as well offering Children Church twice monthly during Worship.

We ventured to Pin Station after church for lunch and bowling in Jan, it was a busy day at the bowling alley, but everyone had a great time showing off their bowling skills, including some of the Sardis adults who are on bowling leagues. For service in February, the youth sponsored the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Easter Egg Hunt was lots of fun in March, finding eggs, dying eggs, playing games and fun snack treats.

Youth Hike at Mountain Creek Park, playground fun and Cookout in May. The hike was only a "paved trail" that day since the hiking trails were closed due to rainy conditions earlier in the week, but we still managed to make a loop and then have fun at the playground and enjoy hotdogs off the grill.

Several of our youth were able to attend Mission Trip this summer to help with Hurricane Helene Relief in WNC and return to Sardis and talk about the experience and how this service impacted their lives.

Armor of God Community VBS was hosted by Grace Lutheran in June. It continues to be a blessing to have our neighbor churches join us in this ministry and the youth have some much fun with all the combined efforts and friends.

During July, Cash Fulbright, Shuford Whitener and Marshall Whitener attended Lutheroad Day Camp at St Paul Lutheran in Newton. Ian Shepherd and Gabriel Shepherd attended a week at Lutheridge. Gabriel attended TECH.

In August, the Midgett's hosted a pizza and pool party at their home. It was a lot of fun! We celebrated Sherrie, Zach and Kaden birthday that day as well!

For October service project, the youth assisted as servers for the Golden Age Banquet. They were attentive to helping carry plates of food, prepare and serve drinks and refills. It's great to see the youth providing and assisting our seniors.

Trunk or Treat was lots of fun this year with the Youth hosting "Best Trunk Trophy" along with lots of candy and hotdogs! The Best Trunk Trophy was awarded to The Fulbright Family with their military zombie themed trunk.

This fall, the youth joined together to help rake our seniors leaves and learned new skills, such as using industrial size backpack leaf blower. The snacks and thank you cards from our Seniors mean so much to the youth.

The youth sponsored five children through Angel Tree Program at Union Elementary. The youth received financial donations from various church members and WELCA from poinsettia sale that was used during group shopping trip at Walmart where each youth got to shop for specific wish list gift and clothes for the child. This helped the youth appreciate their own gifts, realize how to budget and spend money for wants and needs and focus on others before self.

The youth did a great job with the annual Christmas Program "Symbols of Christmas" including special music from Marshall Whitener, Ian Shepherd and Gabriel Shepherd. The treat bags and refreshments afterwards made the evening complete.

Sardis Youth had two lock-in this year (February and November) at the church. These Friday nights were filled with fun games -basketball with Pastor Oscar as the hoop, gaga ball, hide-n-seek, snacks, treats, movies and spending time together. The youth also make tie blankets to share with those impacted by Hurricane Helene and the homeless during the lock-in. Several of Sardis youth also attended the first Regional NC Synod Lock In at Trinity Lutheran in December- where they played games, went bowling and had fellowship with the Lutheran youth of the Hickory region.

Blessings,

April



Making blankets  
for Disaster  
Relief

Swimming at the  
Midgetts

Angel Tree Shopping



## **Worship and Music Committee Report for 2025**

The year began with the absence of Frank Griffin, our dedicated music director who retired at the end of 2024. We were grateful that he extended his retirement until December. Nena Babb served as interim organist/music director. She and Pastor Oscar Shepherd planned and led our worship experiences which hopefully brought a closeness to God for all.

We planned and carried through with special services for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Bold Women's Sunday was planned by the Women of the ELCA and featured guest speaker Kristal Manning, Executive Director of Ashure Ministries.

Nena also directed the chancel choir and the handbell choir until the summer months. The congregation was asked to suggest favorite hymns for the summer anthems, and many volunteered favorites that were used. Everyone seemed to enjoy learning about the hymns through short articles in the newsletters.

Homecoming Sunday was celebrated on September 14, and Pastor Oscar was our featured speaker. There were quite a few visitors who "came home" to visit family and friends. Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck meal, and many helped with the annual God's Work, Our Hands packing of lunch bags for the unhoused.

In mid-October we interviewed Kenan Chronister for the music director position. After he met with and played for the Worship & Music Committee, we recommended to Council that Kenan be hired. He began his 90-day probationary period on November 2, 2025. We look forward to Kenan's musical leadership.

On Reformation Sunday, October 26, five youth confirmed the promises of their baptism and spoke during the sermon time. We participated with neighboring churches in our annual Thanksgiving Eve supper and service. It was held at Plateau Community Church. Sardis will host the meal and service on November 26, 2026.

A Blue Christmas service was held this year, and our year ended with our traditional Christmas Eve service at 10:30 pm and Lessons and Carols on December 28th. Thank you to Olivia, Gabriel, and Ian Shepherd and Marshall Whitener for their musical additions to the Children's Program and to the Christmas Eve Service.

We are especially thankful to the handbell choir and chancel choir members for the commitment each makes to bring beautiful music to our worship services and pleased that Mildred Fulbright has joined our choir. We encourage all members to continue joyfully singing and praising God no matter where you sit in the church.

Blessings, Becky Gladden and Nena Babb, Co-Chairs

## **Land Use Committee Report 2025**

In 2025, the Land Use Committee began the planning process and initiated several projects for the property behind the church. A preliminary site layout was developed that includes space for future additions such as a walking track, outdoor worship area, meditation space, arbor/pavilion, community garden, and a replacement septic system.

During this process, the committee was approached about supporting an Eagle Scout project that aligned with one of our planned initiatives. Working in partnership with Troop 275, the outdoor worship space has now been completed. This new space is located near the Gaga ball pit, within the area already maintained by the Property Committee.

If you have ideas for the property or would like to sponsor a project, we'd love to hear from you.

Thanks, Ben Whitener, Committee Chair



**Order: First, Spouse, Last, Children, Street, State, Zip**  
**His Email, her email, home phone, his cell, her cell**

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Please report any corrections to:

- ✧ Put note on Jane's desk
- ✧ Send email to secretary@sardislutheran.com
- ✧ Phone 704-462-2081 / leave message

## **NOTES**