

Friendly Messenger

October 2025

Beloved Sardis,

As we step into the season of fall, I am always struck anew, by the beauty of God's creation all around us. The air grows cool, the days shorter, and the trees begin to glow with radiant colors—fiery reds, golden yellows, and deep oranges that light up our world. Fall is a season of transition, and in that transition we are reminded of God's steady hand of love guiding all creation through change.

This October, the brilliance of fall mirrors the radiance we see in our own church life. As the leaves turn, we are also blessed to witness the lives of our confirmation students taking on a new season of their faith. On Reformation Sunday, these young disciples will confirm the promises of their Baptism and take ownership of their lives of faith. Just as the trees stand tall in their autumn glory, so too our confirmands shine with the beauty of God's Spirit at work in each and every one of them.

Reformation itself is a reminder that faith is alive, always reforming, always growing, always being renewed by God's grace. In our confirmands we see that living faith. Their "yes" to God's promises echoes the changing colors outside our windows—a SIGN of life, growth, and transformation and God's promises in Christ.

As a Church family, let us be committed to continue to surround them with love, encouragement, and prayer. Let us also take this season to reflect on our own journeys of faith. How God is calling you to step into change with courage? How is Christ inviting you to live more fully into the beauty and radiance of your baptismal promises?

This fall, may we all be reminded that change is not something to fear, but something to celebrate. For in every change, God is making a way and all things new.

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 October on the 1st at Grace Lutheran. 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.)

Youth Updates

- ◇ Children church- If you would be interested in helping with Children's church, please let Jennifer or April know. Its held 1st and 3rd Sunday during part of the worship service, lesson/material will be provided. Consider donating your time and talent to our young ones!
- ◇ Oct 4th 10 am to 3 pm Youth Quake, St John Salisbury. Grades 3-5. Parents Please let April or Pastor know if your youth would like to attend to get registered. [Youthquake - North Carolina Synod](#)



- ◇ Middle/High School Youth. SAVE THE DATE- Dec 5th-6th Regional NC Synod Lock In at Holy Trinity in Hickory.
- ◇ Mark your calendar- Youth Christmas Program Sunday Dec 21 at 6 pm



The Zion children's ministry team would like to invite the children and youth of your congregations to attend our annual Trunk or Treat event! This will be held on Saturday, October 18th, at 5 PM in the Zion front parking lot! Please feel free to share this flyer with your congregations and spread the word! Hope to see some of you there!

Blessings

Caroline Windham



Notes from the Social Ministry Committee

During September, members of the Sardis congregation continued to support the Social Ministry Committee as the Committee strives to share the many blessings.

#1 A big Thank You from the Catawba County Sherriff's department to the members of Sardis for their contributions to the HUGS AND KISSES stuff

Animals' program. The deputies give out the stuffed animals to children who are experiencing trauma or a crisis of some kind. Sergeant Rosenbaum from the Department came by Sardis and collected the donations. (see picture). He stressed how much the deputies appreciated having these "comfort items" when they need them.

#2 Thanks to all who helped pack 240 lunches for the unhoused in our area. 120 lunches were taken to the Hickory Soup Kitchen and 120 were taken to the Newton Corner Table. Staff from both locations were very appreciative and expressed their gratitude. Since the kitchens do not serve meals over the weekend, both organizations hand out the bags on Fridays so the unhoused will have a meal over the weekend. Again, members used their "hands to do God's work."

Upcoming Opportunities

Although the temperature does not feel like it, wintry weather will be here soon. During October and November, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting wintry weather wear to share with the unhoused. This year there is an emphasis on socks, gloves, and hats. As you are out and about, please remember to pick up socks, gloves, and hats to donate. Of course, gently used hats, gloves, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, and other outerwear will be appreciated also. The items collected will be delivered to the Soup Kitchen and the Corner Table the Friday before Thanksgiving. The organizations share the articles with the people who eat there – no charge.

Dot Lutz has set a goal to make one hundred knit caps by Thanksgiving. Wow! If you have extra yarn, she will put it to beneficial use.

SUSAN JONES CRAFT CLASS



Please join up for an exciting craft on October 22nd at **12:00**. The cost is \$7.00 and all materials are included.

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

Evangelism News

I have received word that one of our long-standing Shepherds at Sardis, Kay Whitener has decided to retire. It was with great sadness that I accepted her resignation (from a personal standpoint, as she has been a great inspiration to me as my shepherd.) This is an opportunity for someone else to step forward and join our valuable members who are already serving as Sardis Shepherds. Please encourage anyone you know that may have shown interest in being a Shepherd before or someone you know that you think would be a great future Sardis Shepherd. If you have any questions about what a Sardis Shepherd's responsibilities are, please feel free to contact me or any of our Shepherds.

Ray Whitener
Evangelism Chairperson

Council Minutes
Sardis Lutheran Church
August 10, 2025

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

*No meetings were held for June or July due to no items or actions needing discussion. The council minutes from the May meeting and the financial reports for June and July were previously approved by council vote on-line.

Joe called the meeting to order at 7pm with 9 council members and the Pastor present. Jon provided devotions which focused on not building up treasures on earth and being prepared for the Lord's return by treasuring others instead of things.

The financial reports ending July 31st were reviewed. Two months of benevolence were paid in July with plans to pay two more months in August. This still leaves us two months behind on paying the 2025 benevolence. Some funds from the Building Fund are still being used to pay monthly bills as needed. With no further discussion, Jon 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 July which highlighted:

Has had a very busy summer with visitations of hospitalized and home-bound members also providing communion and support as needed.

Took a trip to Germany and explored the history of the Lutheran faith. He is working on a presentation/overview of the trip to be presented to the congregation at a later date.

Stated that supply pastor Glen Deal was very appreciative of Sardis and donated his supply pastor pay and mileage earnings to the Sardis Youth Fund.

Stated the he and April Fulbright will be attending planning sessions for an area youth "Lock-in" to be held at Holy Trinity.

Posted office hours which will be each Wednesday from 11am until 3pm but he is also "on-call" as needed during daytime hours.

Old Business:

Fire Pit/Eagle Scout project update: (Josh Alling)

The project is still awaiting approval from the Eagle Scout board.

New Business:

Committee funding requests:

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

Homecoming plans:

Homecoming will be held on Sunday, September 14th. Pastor Oscar will be the speaker with a pot-luck lunch following the service. Jane will post this information in the bulletin.

Church council members and volunteers are needed on Saturday, September, 13th at 9:00am to help set up the fellowship hall for the Homecoming meal.

Beard growing contest (Wise men/Shepherds/Moses):

All men of Sardis are encouraged to participate in a beard growing contest/fundraiser from 9/1 through 11/30. The winner will be determined by congregational vote and will take part in the children's Christmas play.

Property committee items/updates:

Cintas provides hand soap and hand sanitizer (with dispensers) to the church at a cost of \$189.00 per month. The church council discussed the need for this service and Ken made a motion to end this service which was seconded by Zachary. The council voted unanimously to end this service at the end of August. Mike and Jane will contact Cintas to stop this service.

Working on repairs to the Bell Tower (Mike M. to get quotes for repairs)

Fire escape needs to be sanded and repainted. (The plan is to complete this later this fall once the weather is cooler)

Refinishing the doors to the Narthex (Mike M will discuss this project with Terry Bledsoe)

The September Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, September 14th at 7pm.

With no other items to discuss, Darrell 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
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.			1 12:00 Seniors at Grace	2 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4 10—3 Youth-Quake, Salisbury, NC
5 Bring Food for Blessings Box 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA	6 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	7	8 6:00 Youth Meeting	9 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	13	14	15	16 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17 Pastor's Sabbath NO School	18 5:00 Trunk or Treat at Zion's parking lot
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	20 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	21	22 12:00 Susan's Craft Class 5:00 Articles due for November NL	23 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:30 LMM	27	28	29	30 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 Pastor's Sabbath 5:30—7:00 Trunk or Treat	

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

10/7 Lauren Speagle

Darrell Jarrett

Ben Whitener

10/13 Jill Bledsoe

Evelyn Fulbright

Alisa Truitt

Dwayne Whitener

10/21 Donna Biggerstaff

COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

10/22 Ben Fulbright

10/23 Donald Fulbright

Marilyn T.

10/24 Elaine Evington

Sandra R.

10/25 Bryan Hood

10/26 Kathy Weaver

Offering Counter: Dwayne W.

Anniversaries:

Steven & Ashley Yow 10-2

Teresa & David Starkey 10-3

Ben & April Fulbright 10-11

<i>VOLUNTEER October</i>	5th	12th	19th	26th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Kay W.	Evan L.	Gene & Donna B.	Jane M.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Tryston/Cayden	Ian/Keaton	Rick J./Shuford	Shuford/Graysen
COMM. ASSISTANT	Rick J.	Jennifer W.	Roger T.	Zachary S.
GREETERS	Dianne/Wanda	Felicia/Bruce	Al/Sylvia	Annette/Evelyn
LAY READER	Dawn C.	Jon G.	Kathy W.	Marilyn T.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer W.	NO Children's Church	Susan Jones	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Ralph S.	Zachary S.	Bruce S.	Darrell J.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Hayden/Gabriel MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Sawn	Pre-K Jennifer EL April MH Nena	Pre-K Nena EL Sherrie/Mike MH Kristin
BANOAK BACKPACK	9th Marilyn, Roger, Jane	16th Gene & Donna	23rd Joe & Phyllis	30th Marilyn, Roger, Jane
FRONT YARD SIGN	Robin/Cynthia	Tim W,	Nena B.	Ian/Gabriel
MEAL DEL.	11th No Meal	18th Susan Jones	25th No Meal	11/1 Phyllis B.
BLESSINGS BOX	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	LMM

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