

August 2025

One of the few things we can count on in life—besides God’s love—is *change*. It’s all around us, woven into the very fabric of creation’s rhythm: the shifting of seasons, the turning of the calendar from year to year, the rising and setting of the sun that marks days and hours. Even when we don’t acknowledge it, change is happening—sometimes gently, sometimes all at once.

We often talk and think about change as something to fear or resist. It can feel uncertain or uncomfortable, and it often pushes us out of what's familiar. But the truth is, change is a part of life from our very first breath. It's grace. We grow from childhood to adolescence, into adulthood, and perhaps into parenthood or other callings. Every chapter of our lives reflects a movement—a stretching, a deepening of grace becoming.

And while change can feel uneasy, it is also *a gift*. It's the soil where growth takes root. Seeds are planted. It is where we learn, where we deepen in faith, where we lean more into God's promises. Change is a sign that we are alive. More than that—it is *grace*. Because through it all, we are being shaped and drawn closer to Christ with the Holy Spirit.

Let us not fear change, but meet it with hope. With promise. Let us look to each new season with open hearts, trusting that even when everything else shifts, God's love and presence remain *unchanging*. Remembering "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*"

So as we move through the days and seasons ahead, fall, a new school year, celebration of life remembered, and new beginnings, may we carry this truth with us: God is in the change. And God is always working in us, through us, and ahead of us—bringing us forward in abundant love. Let's enjoy the new to come, with faith, hope, joy, and love! In our sure and certain hope life eternal together!

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 August on the 6th at Grace. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



School is out for the summer!!!! Time to plan for 2025-2026

The Sardis Social Committee will be collecting school supplies/backpacks for Banoak and Blackburn during July. We know there are families in our communities who cannot afford the necessary items. Schools will need stocked supply closets to furnish needy students' supplies like crayons, paper, and scissors. Below is a list of needed supplies.

* Composition Notebook-100 sheets (marble design) * Colored pencils-12 pack
* # 2 yellow pencils * Crayola Washable Markers 8 pack * Large glue sticks * Pack of pencils topper erasers or large pink block erasers * Loose leaf notebook paper (wide ruled 100 sheets) * Primary Notebooks (wide ruled) * Pencil Boxes * Fiskars Scissors
* Inexpensive earphones * Book Bags (Back packs) The following items are also welcome for classroom use. o Band aids o Facial tissues o Ziploc bags o Copy paper (white)
o Liquid soap o Hand Sanitizer Please bring any items you can donate to the church and place in the church narthex during June and July. . The items will be shared between the two schools.



DID YOU KNOW

How often have we admired our flag and the beautiful flowers that are planted in season. Do we take the time to admire it or thank someone for their behind the scenes work of our church. So much goes on each and every week that we just take for granted. We have working committees that are so active and we know who they are...but we need to give special thanks to Annette Richard for providing, planting, and watering those beautiful flowers. Al King and Tim Whitener take care of our flag and makes sure it is flown at half mass when needed. Any idea who takes our garbage cans to the highway and returns them in the evening. Thank Tim Whitener and Rodney Fulbright. Thank Kay Whitener when you see seasonal flowers in our restrooms. Take time to observe our beautiful manicured lawn, thank you Rick Johnson. Be sure to check out your NL and thank our front yard sign folks...rain or shine, heat or cold that sign gets updated weekly. Our folks that provide meals to our shut ins, their names are in the NL each month, thank them. These are just a few. Think of other workers and honor them with a simple THANK YOU. It will brighten their day.

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.)

Special Food Drive Planned

The Blessings Box outreach needs some love and attention.

A brief history of Sardis's Blessings Box

Council proposed it with the idea "IF YOU HAVE EXTRA, SHARE. IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, TAKE WHAT YOU NEED."

William Farnsworth built it.

At first various congregation members physically put items in the box. (Without some type of schedule, it was 'feast or famine.')

The council asked for volunteer groups to manage placing the food in the box. (LMM, Joh's Sunday School Class, the Disciples of Christ Class, and Council volunteer to take turns) Jane publishes whose week it is each Sunday.

Although these groups are placing the food, everyone needs to contribute when they have extra.

WELCA split the Lenten Food Drive nonperishables between Assure (formerly ECCCM) and the box.

They also established the first Sunday of each month as the time to bring your donations. Of course, food can be donated anytime, but the first Sunday was a target. The extra food is stored in the last room on the right.

With those organizational patterns and a special congregational member's contribution of over two hundred cans, it worked in 2023, 2024 and the first of 2025. The various groups furnished food and got some cans from the storeroom if needed.

However, currently there is extremely limited food in the Blessings Box/ Backpack room. For the next four Sundays we will have a "Fill the Blessings Box Cupboard" Food Drive. On July 20, 27 and August 3, and 10, please bring any nonperishable food you can spare. Place the items in the narthex or in the last room on the right.

Foard Football Meal

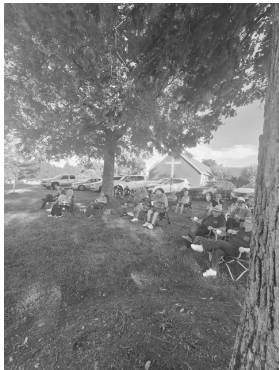
Mark your calendars for Friday, September 5th. This is our date to prepare and serve the meal for the Foard Football Team. We would love to have you come and help. We can use assistance setting up and cooking, which usually begins around 11. Also, we need help serving. The team usually arrives around 2:45 so be there by 2:30 to help serve. 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 in the middle of August. See Dawn Covington if you have any questions.

Council Minutes Sardis Lutheran Church

The Council did not meet in June, But had several items voted on via text and phone calls.

- The Financial Statements
- Agreement to accept Frank Griffin membership transfer to Trinity Lutheran in Greenville, SC

Both were accepted and vote carried.



The Sigmon Stringers





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor's Sab- bath	2
3 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	4 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	5	6 12:00 FTF Seniors meet at Grace	7	8 Pastor's Sab- bath	9
10 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	11	12	13 6:00 Youth Meeting	14	15 Pastor's Sab- bath	16
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	18 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	19	20	21	22 Pastor's Sab- bath	23
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	25	26	27 5:00 Articles due for September NL	28	29 Pastor's Sab- bath	30
31 NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY 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

Dwayne Whitener Kathy W. 3rd, 10th
Jennifer W. 17,24,31

USHERS

Roger and Marilyn T.

COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

Jane Moretz / Wanda Stallings

Offering Counter: Dwayne W.

New Address:
Monte Speagle
Hibriten Mountain Nursing & Rehab
2030 Harper Ave. NW
Lenoir NC 28645

8/3 Elaina Yousef
8/4 Terry Bledsoe
8/7 Cash Lee Fulbright
8/8 Dylan Covington
8/10 Seth Revetta
8/11 Debbie Wise
8/12 Keri Weaver
8/13 Lindsey Farnsworth
8/16 Joyce Speagle
8/18 Benny Fulbright
8/20 Darrell Jarrett
8/23 Neal Wyant

8/24 Edna Fulbright
Sherrie Midgett
Zach Stuart
Cayden A. Hood
8/27 Ian Shepherd
8/29 Karen Sigman
8/29 Olivia Shepherd
8/31 Alfred Whitener

Anniversaries:
Rick & Rita Lutz 8-9
Kenneth & Margaret Propst 8-19

<i>VOLUNTEER August</i>	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
ALTAR FLOWERS	Robin S.	Elaine E.	Rick/Patsy J., Betty Jo. W.	Mike & Sherrie M.	Osama & Carrie Y.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Ian/Shuford	Rick/Bruce	Shuford/Ian	Ray/Hayden	Paisley/Joe
COMM. ASSISTANT	Mike M.	Marilyn T.	Hayden J.	Sandra R.	Ben W.
GREETERS	Darrell/Roger	Dianne/Wanda	Felicia/Bruce	Al/Sylvia	Annette/Evelyn
LAY READER	Marshall W.	Joe B	Tim W.	Hayden J.	Ray W.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church	Heather C.	No Children's Church	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel	Terry,Ben,Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Rick J.	Roger T.	Ralph S.	Zachary S.	Bruce S
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH April	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Dawn	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Nena	Pre-K Nena EL Donna MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Dawn
FRONT YARD SIGN	Gabriel/Ian	Robin/Cynthia	Tim W.	Nena B.	Gabriel/Ian
MEAL DEL.	9th Dawn C.	16th No Meal	23rd Kay W.	30th No Meal	6th Sylvia K.
BLESSINGS BOX	LMM	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