

# Friendly Messenger

October 2024

Dear Beloved Sardis Saints,

As we move through October, we are reminded that we are truly "Blessed to be a Blessing." This month brings many opportunities to share God's love and grace within our church and community.

We rejoice with our young members preparing for "First Communion," this special milestone in their faith journey. Let's pray for them as they experience Christ's love in this new way.

Later this month, we celebrate "Reformation Sunday," reflecting on our heritage and the call to proclaim the gospel with boldness. It's a chance to reform and renew our mission to share God's grace in and to the world.

Our "Blessing Box" continues to serve as a powerful outreach, meeting the needs of those in our community. Each item we place in the box is a tangible expression of Christ's love poured out.

There are so many opportunities to return thanks and to get involved with at Sardis and I would like to encourage you to try something new: "Choir, Handbells, Meals on Wheels, Lutheran Men, WELCA, or join in a committee's ministry." There are so many ways we can be "blessed to be a blessing."

I also want to highlight and give thanks to God for our devoted "Prayer Group," which meets twice a month to pray over our church, community, and world. Through their faithful prayers, we see God's hand at work. You are welcome to join, or submit prayer requests.

In all these ways and more, we get to, live out our calling to love and bless others. Let's continue to embrace these opportunities with joy, gratitude, and thanksgiving, knowing that as "we bless others, we too are blessed."

God Loves You and so do I,  
Pr. Oscar Shepherd

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in October on the 2nd at Blackburn Baptist Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



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## **Foard Football Meal**

Friday, October 4th. Sardis will 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. 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 September. See Dawn Covington if you have any questions.

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## **FIRST COMMUNION**

Pastor Oscar will be having First Communion Classes October 13th and 20th during the Sunday School time. If you have a child interested in this instruction please let Pastor Oscar know. The First Communion will be given October 27th.



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Confirmation Classes will begin on November 3<sup>rd</sup> during Sunday School time and will continue on the first Sunday of the month.

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## **WELCA**

Save the date! Sunday October 20th will be the date for celebrating seniors in our congregation with a lunch after the church service. Everyone 75 years and older are invited to this special lunch. Make plans to join us!

## **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.)**

## Youthquake 2024: East & West

Youthquake is a gathering for 3rd-5th grade youth from across the NC Synod for fellowship, learning, service, and worship. The cost is \$20/person and includes lunch and a T-shirt! The West Gathering at Mt. Pisgah, Hickory, on Saturday, October 19 will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Registration info is below. Type or copy and paste it into your browser. Please submit your registration form to April. The registration will come from the Youth budget.

Thanks,  
April

Type this link in your browser for  
Registration form.



<https://www.jotform.com/form/241825587212155>

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## ALTAR COMMITTEE

Do you want a Sunday starting in 2025 to place flowers on the Altar? The third Sunday in August has become available. If you would prefer another date we will see if that can be changed with the current holder of that week. Contact Marilyn Teague.



*Altar  
Flowers*

❖ . . *from The Social Ministry Committee*  
❖  
*Upcoming Outreach Opportunities*

The Social Ministry will again be collecting winter coats, sweaters, hats, and socks for the homeless during October and November. As you are getting your family ready for the wintry weather, please consider donating any gently used or new outerwear for the homeless. Besides outwear, the Head of the Hickory Soup Kitchen told Rita there is a need for socks of all sizes. The Soup Kitchen and the Corner Table distribute coats and socks of all sizes (adult and children) to the people attending their meals at no cost.

***Hats off and Thanks for the outreaches in August and September***

In August and September, members of the Sardis Congregation made positive differences through two outreaches in our community.

**School Supplies-August**

First, in August school supplies were donated to Blackburn and Banoak Elementary to help those families who cannot afford the tools their children need to succeed in school. Everything from pencil, to markers, to crayons, to earphones, to paper to bookbags were delivered. In addition, hand soap, hand sanitizer, Kleenex and band aids were donated for typical use in the classroom.

**Homeless Lunches-September**

Secondly, in September, after Homecoming, members helped pack 240 bag lunches for the homeless. The Hickory Soup Kitchen and The Corner Table in Newton each received 120 lunches. Both outreaches are closed on the weekend, so the bag lunches are distributed to the homeless so they can have food over the weekend.

Thanks for continuing to share your blessings and help those less fortunate in our area.

***Ongoing Outreach***

As a reminder, The Social Ministry has on going collections of

- ◆ Aluminum Can Tabs and Box Tops for Education for The Crossnore Orphanage.
- ◆ Personal Hygiene Items for Safe Harbor
- ◆ New or gently used stuffed animals for local law enforcement officers to distribute to children who are in traumatic situations.

Bins to place these items are in the back of the church sanctuary.



## Matthew Teague goes to Korea

Please keep Matt Teague, grandson of Roger and Marilyn, in your prayers for safety as he leaves Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for a nine-month tour of duty in South Korea. He is a Combat Medic in the US Army.

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## EVANGELISM/YOUTH

Fall is upon us and it is time to begin planning for the Annual Trunk or Treat celebration for Halloween at Sardis. This year Halloween is on Thursday, October 31. The time for Trunk or Treat is 6:00—7:30pm, a trophy will be given to the best trunk... The Evangelism Committee will be providing hot dogs. If you are able to, we need volunteers for trunks. We will be taking candy donations the whole month of October. A container will be available in the Narthex. Come and join us for all the festivities. If weather permits, we will be outside.



**SARDIS YOUTH- You are invited to Halloween fun at the Farm on Sat Oct 12.  
See Heather Carroll for details.**



### **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build-A-Bed Project**

On Saturday, Sept 14 I attended the Lowes sponsored Build-a-bed project in Mooresville. Pre-registration was done online at the [shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org) website. A week prior to the event I received an email detailing what to do. Since you may be sanding or operating a drill or saw, PPE was provided – gloves, eye protection, and ear plugs. Doughnuts and coffee were provided along with a T-shirt once we registered.

After a brief explanation of the day's events, we were told to find a station to work. I chose the sanding tables-about 12 tables with 3 sanders on each. Basically, we were to sand down the edges on boards that were either for the head or footboard, or slats for the mattress to rest on. It was only a few minutes until the boards arrived. Maybe some had been precut to give us a supply to work on, but drills and saws were going at full speed. A DJ provided loud pop music that I feel was intended to keep us working at a break-neck speed! Those earplugs would have been handy had I noticed them when I signed in.



Occasionally a board would have a staple in it, or stamped writing that had to be sanded off, but most of the day was monotonous sanding. My hand-sander actually lasted about 90 minutes before needing a new charged battery. People were everywhere, taking our sanded boards and bringing more. We broke for sandwiches and chips provided by a sponsor. There were 5-6 sponsors there, Carhartt being the main sponsor. Prizes were raffled off during the day. Most of the people there volunteering seemed to be Lowes employees.

Back to sanding after a short break. During the day the DJ announced the number of beds that were finished. I was expecting to see an actual bed, but we only put headboards and footboards together. The side rails are brought to the child's home and connected there. A mattress and sheet and comforter set are also provided.

I'm not sure if Lowes supplied the lumber, but money is needed to provide the mattresses, sheets, pillows, and comforter. I feel certain that the money raised through the Pennies Project thru NC WELCA will be used to purchase those items.

After 150 beds were completed, all the noise ended! While we were working, others gathered the needed parts for the headboards and footboards, nailed them together, branded the SHP logo on them, and then dipped them into a vat of varnish (?) from which they quickly dried. They were stacked into huge orderly sections. The side rails were also prepared and dipped. Amazing that 150 beds were completed in about 5 hours!!

A last raffle to give away all the door prizes. I actually won! I chose a Carhartt blanket as it seemed the most useable. Austin thinks it supposed to be for your hunting dog! So, I guess Marley won this time. The TRUE WINNERS are the young children who will have their OWN bed to sleep in. Praise the Lord that someone decided that "no kids sleep on the floor in our town!"



Council Minutes  
Sardis Lutheran Church  
August 2024

Members present: Dwayne, Jane, Joe, Jon, Kristin, Nena, Ray, Terry, Pastor Oscar

Terry called the meeting to order at 7 PM with 8 members and the Pastor present. Dwayne had devotions. The July minutes were discussed and a motion by Dwayne was to accept the minutes as presented, Jon seconded, and the motion carried.

Dwayne presented the financial report. Joe motioned to accept as presented, Nena seconded, and the motion carried.

## **Pastor's Report.**

This past month has been one of full and fruitful ministry and growing relationships in our church and community. The two home communion kits have been put to good use. I have enjoyed phone check-ins, and home check-ins and getting to connect with more of our shut ins and expanding my community connections.

We had an amazing and faith filled experience with our trip to the national Youth Gathering. We all learned a lot on this trip, and it was truly amazing to see our youth participate with 16,000 youth in our greater church, in faith, service, and worship. Thank you for your faithful support to make it happen.

I am excited and energized for the coming months and getting into the “normal” rhythm of the life of our church. Or, a colleague said this past week, “I am ready for the busy schedule of fall and to leave the chaotic busy of summer behind.” This is surely true. There is something comforting in the familiar patterns and routines. As Lutherans we know this well.

After attending several committee meetings I am encouraged and excited about planning and working with them for the future worship, youth, and general ministries of our church. We are truly blessed here at Sardis with many beautiful blessings to give thanks and praise to God for!

I look forward to working with our parents of our youth to get the ball rolling on first communion and confirmation back on. I continue to praise God for the way the congregation continues to communicate and connect, invite, and share life and information with me! This makes being your Pastor such a joy and pleasure.

As I said, there are so many reasons to be excited about and thankful to God in and for the future and life of our church here at Sardis. May the Spirit of God and the Love of Christ continue to move and grow in us here at Sardis Lutheran.

Faithfully Yours's  
Pr. Oscar Shepherd



Old Business

Terry reported that the bulb replacing in the sanctuary is still on the list of to do's.

The electrical outlet has been installed at the bell tower for charging Pastor's car.

All the thermostats in the Fellowship Hall have been replaced with wi-fi thermostats so they can be remotely controlled on Terry and Ben's phones.

A dehumidifier has been purchased for the church office to assist in eliminating so much dampness. The copier paper, especially, was a concern as it was curling and jamming up the copier.

Terry requested that the December 8 Council meeting be moved to December 1. No one expressed any concerns so the meeting will be held on December 1 at 7:00.

New Business

Worship and Music has invited Rev Denisse Henry to be our guest pastor for the day.

Ray motioned to have the meal inside due to the heat and easier on our elder members, Jon seconded, and the motion carried

Jane motioned to have a pot-luck meal instead of it being catered, Kristin seconded, and the motion carried. Each family should provide their own drinks which will be served from the kitchen opening. Dwayne will oversee setting up.

Terry is scheduling a meeting with the Nominating Committee. Please agree to run for the Church Council, Scholarship Committee or Nominating Committee when asked to serve.

Nena discussed the Pennies Project sponsored by WELCA. It was decided that the first Sunday in December (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent) be set aside for this special offering.

The Scholarship Committee is to meet August 21<sup>st</sup>.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Respectfully submitted

Jane Moretz, Secretary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12:00 FTF Seniors at Blackburn Baptist Church	3 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 Pastor's Sabbath  Feed FTF Football Team see Bulletin for times and positions	5
6 <b>Bring Food for Blessings Box</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA	7 7:00 Prayer Group	8	9	10 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12 4:00 Youth Spooky Season at "THE FARM"
13 9:30 Sunday School <b>First Communion Class</b> 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7: Church Council	14	15	16	17 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 Pastor's Sabbath  Teacher work-day	19 10—3 Youthquake Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church
20 9:30 Sunday School <b>First Communion Class</b> 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Celebrating Senior Luncheon, 75 and older.	21 7:00 Prayer Group	22	23 5:00 Articles due for November NL	24 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
27 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live <b>First Communion Class honored</b> 3:00 Trinity Ridge Youth Assisting 6:30 LMM	28	29	30 1:00 Christmas Card Class	31 <b>Halloween Trunk or Treat</b>  NO Handbell or Choir Rehearsals		

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

*If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know.  
Thank you.*

## BIRTHDAYS

### October

10/6 Joe Rudisill  
10/7 Lauren Speagle  
10/13 Jill Bledsoe  
Evelyn Fulbright  
Alisa Truitt  
Dwayne Whitener  
10/21 Donna Biggerstaff  
10/22 Ben Fulbright  
10/23 Donald Fulbright  
10/24 Elaine Evington  
10/25 Bryan Hood  
10/26 Kathy Weaver  
10/31 Joe Wyant

### COUNCIL CONTACT

Roger Lutz

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Zachary Stuart

### USHERS

Darrell J., Dianne N., Ben W., Benny F.

### **COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP**

Marilyn Teague Sandra Roseman

**Offering Counters:** Dwayne/Tryston

**Anniversaries:**  
**Steven & Ashley Yow 10-2**  
**Teresa & David Starkey 10-3**  
**Ben & April Fulbright 10-11**

### **New Address:**

Abernethy Laurels  
Joe Wyant RM 1034 Unity Court  
102 Leonard Ave  
Newton NC 28658

<i><b>VOLUNTEER October</b></i>	<b>6th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Kay W.	Evan L.	Gene & Donna B.	Jane M.
<b>ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER</b>	Marshall/Rick	Paisley/Nena	Graysen/Austin	Marilyn/Shuford
<b>COMM. ASSISTANT</b>	Ben W.	Sandra R.	Nena B.	Tim W.
<b>GREETERS</b>	Nena/Darrell	All & Sylvia	Kristin/Roger	Evelyn/Annette
<b>LAY READER</b>	Paisley H.	Jennifer W.	Keaton F.	Nena B.
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church	Heather C.	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>	Darrell J.	Bruce S.	Ralph S.	Roger T.
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER</b>	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MH Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH Nena	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH April	Pre-K EL Jane MH Nena
<b>BACKPACK DELIVERY</b>	10th Dwayne & Barbara	17th Gene & Donna	24th Joe & Phyllis	31st Roger, Marilyn, Jane
<b>MEAL DEL.</b>	12th No Meal	19th Dawn	26th No Meal	11/2 Donna
<b>BLESSINGS BOX</b>	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

Interim Pastor: Pastor Oscar (C) 828-228-3078 [pastor@sardislutheran.com](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.com)

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, [tfgriffin59@gmail.com](mailto:tfgriffin59@gmail.com)

Council Chair: Terry Bledsoe (C) 828-455-4103 [terrybledsoe@charter.net](mailto:terrybledsoe@charter.net)

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