

Friendly Messenger

November 2024

Beloved Sardis Saints,

As we enter the peak of this election season, it is crucial to remind ourselves of our central calling that transcends all earthly debates, opinions, and political stances: the call to love our neighbor. And love them as ourselves. This commandment, which Jesus Himself gave and emphasized, becomes even more important during times of division and discord. The way we engage with others—especially those with whom we may disagree—reflects not only our faith but also our commitment to the Kingdom of God.

In his writings on the Two Kingdoms, Martin Luther taught that God rules in two distinct ways: through the “kingdom of the world” and the “kingdom of grace.” In the kingdom of the world, God works through governments and social structures to maintain order and justice. It is through this kingdom that we see laws, policies, and the political processes that can often feel overwhelming, especially in an election year. But it is important to remember that as followers of Christ, we are also citizens of another, higher kingdom—the kingdom of grace. The kingdom of Heaven.

In this kingdom, we are not governed by law, division, or political allegiances, but by love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness. It is a kingdom that reflects the very heart of Christ, who calls us to live as ambassadors of His love to all people, regardless of their background, beliefs, or political positions. God’s grace extends to all, and as God’s people, we are called to embody this grace in our relationships with one another.

During this election season, let us stand firm in our calling to be citizens of God’s loving kingdom. While we may participate in the kingdom of the world, let us do so in a way that reflects the values of Christ’s kingdom of mercy, peace, and love. Let us remember that no matter what happens at the polls, God’s love in Christ remains constant, and His kingdom endures forever.

I know it can feel discouraging and difficult. But remember the radical love that has named and claimed you. Remember who and whose you are and that 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 group will meet in November on the 6th at Plateau Methodist Church. We do not bring a covered dish this month. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Congratulations to our First Communion Recipients!

On October 27th, Shuford Whitener and Cash Fulbright received their first communion on Reformation Sunday. They participated in a three week session to learn about this sacrament and its meaning. This is an important milestone to celebrate in the journey of faith! Congratulations to Shuford and Cash!

START SAVING YOUR PENNIES...NOW



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

**NC Women of the ELCA
PENNIES PROJECT
COLLECTION SUNDAY—
DECEMBER 1**

"Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a non-profit dedicated to building beds for children in need, celebrates a major milestone: their 200,000th bed delivered." From the website Home - Sleep in Heavenly Peace (shpbeds.org) Each year the NC Women of the ELCA sponsor a project to help someone in need. This year the project is called "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". Start saving your pennies so that we can make a difference in a child's life. Collection Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent, December 1. Jesus had no choice but to sleep in a lowly manger. With our help, children will no longer need to sleep on the floor or with several siblings sharing a bed. THANK YOU!!

HELPING CHILDREN SLEEP BETTER

***We are setting up Text Messaging for our Phone Tree Service.
To receive Text Messages from the church, send the word
"Alert" to 22300.***

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.)

Thanksgiving Eve Service

This Year Ebenezer Methodist Church will host the shared Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27th. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 6PM followed with the Service at 7PM. Sardis Lutheran Church, Plateau Community Church and Wesley Chapel Methodist Church will also be participating. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex for bringing a dessert.

Notes from the Social Ministry Committee

Hats, Coats, Socks, and Gloves for our Locally Unhoused Population

Please remember to donate new or gently used coats and sweaters, hats, gloves for the homeless in our county during November. There are many state and regional needs as the weather gets colder, but this collection is for the local members of our community who are currently without a home. The items will be taken to the Newton and Hickory Soup Kitchens to be given to those in need. The coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves can be for male, female, boy or girl.

There is also a great need for socks for the unhoused. These can be in any size. The Soup Kitchens serve children, as well as adults.

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.

ALTAR COMMITTEE



*Altar
Flowers*

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.

Sardis Women of the ELCA

Mark your Calendar for these Upcoming Events:

Poinsettia Orders – Please fill out your form and turn into Sylvia King or Nena Babb **by November 3 at the latest**. We need to reserve them at Fred T. Foard early so that is the reason for the early order.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at Ebenezer UMC this year on Wednesday, **November 27**. We are responsible for bringing a **dessert** to share. The meal is at 6pm and the service is at 7pm.

On the first Sunday of Advent, **December 1**, we will **collect money** to be sent to the NC Women of the ELCA to support the current Pennies Project. Those funds will go to **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, a nonprofit that builds bunkbeds for children who are without a place to sleep. We appreciate all donations.

An **Angel Tree** will be placed in the narthex at the end of November. We will be collecting games, toys, and books for children of Western North Carolina. More information in the newsletter.



Decorating of the Chrismon tree will be on Saturday, **December 14**. Check the bulletin for the time. We need **YOUNG** people to climb the ladder and hang the Chrismons. This is always a fun time as we prepare for the coming celebration of Christ's birth.

The children of Sardis will present their **Christmas program on December 15th**. Refreshments will be provided afterwards. Please sign up to **bring cookies or other items**. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the narthex table.

Our **December meeting** will be Sunday **December 1 at 5pm**. Please join us as we talk about God's plan for us and our plans for future activities at Sardis, the community, and the world.



Books and Toys for Children of Western North Carolina

Even though we have not celebrated Thanksgiving, please think ahead and purchase items to make some children have a special Christmas.

mentioned. It's safe to say the attendees (including most close second. As what is at the top of your



Council Minutes
Sardis Lutheran Church
September 2024

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

Terry called the meeting to order at 7 PM with 10 members and the Pastor present. Jon had devotions. The August minutes were discussed and a motion by Joe was to accept the minutes as presented, Kristin seconded, and the motion carried.

Dwayne presented the financial report and brought up information about the Scholarship Fund. \$10,000.00 each was given to Home Missions Foundation and Lenoir-Rhyne University LTSS Scholarship Fund. Jon motioned to accept as presented, Joe seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report.

I give thanks to God for the many healthy and active ministries of Sardis. This past month we kicked off the school year by blessing local schools with much needed supplies and a blessing of the students and their backpacks.

I continue to be blessed with the opportunity to visit and bring and share the sacrament of Holy Communion with our shut in's. We have had several members this past month I visited and walked with and through hospital care. They share their gratitude for the prayers, calls, and support.

I am greatly appreciative for all who have and continue to reach out to me to share information and cares in our church and community. Thank you for your amazing and open communication!

We have had some ant issues in the offices. Fulbright Pest control came out and sprayed but they persist in Jane's office.

Thank you to the Shepherd's group for their ministering to our congregation. The cards and check ins are a beautiful expression of being and living the Maundy Thursday commandment to love one another as Christ loves us.

I had lunch this month with one of the Assistants to the Bishop of the NC Synod, Phil Tonnesen. Our synod wanted to make contact and check in on how things were going here at Sardis and to share their gratitude and thanksgiving to our church for the long faithfulness of our Mission Support. They shared the gratitude of the various organizations and ministries for which our Mission Support goes to support. Synod means church together. And we give thanks to God for the opportunity to be a blessing in and to the world, in being a part of the NC Synod and Greater church expression in the ELCA for the sake of the world.

I also really enjoyed joining the Lutheran men Bible study and fellowship. I highly recommend it. It was a beautiful time of study and fellowship.

I would like to say a special thank you on behalf of the youth, to Sherrie and Mike Midgett for opening up their pool and hosting a swim and pizza party. We had a great time and look forward to more activities and opportunities for fellowship together in the future like these.

I would also like to express my gratitude on behalf of me and my family for all the support and love that we have experienced not only since coming here, but also recently in supporting and showing up for Gabriel at his Boy Scout Eagle court of honor banquet. Thank you.

We are truly blessed to be a blessing here at Sardis!

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.



New Business

- *Church Council received a thank you note from Susan Jones for use of the Fellowship Hall for her crafts and fellowship.
- *The Scholarship Committee submitted Constitutional changes to be made. Synod/Church By-laws and Constitution was combined in 2018. Dwayne volunteered to write up the proposed changes and report to the council for approval and then to the congregation for acceptance or decline. Dwayne has asked the council for any suggestions.
- *The Scholarship Committee requested we give the Home Missions Foundation and Le-noir-Rhyne University LTSS Scholarship Fund, \$10,000.00 each for 2024. Ray motioned to accept their request, Dwayne seconded, and the motion carried.
- *Terry received a Letter of Transfer from St. James Lutheran, honoring Pastor Oscar's request to transfer his membership to Sardis. Dwayne motion to accept the transfer, Kristin seconded, and the motion carried.
- *Terry reported that the Nominating Committee has met and is working on getting candidates for the 2025 Church Council, Nominating Committee and Scholarship Committee.
- *Church Council received a letter from William Farnsworth asking to step down from Council. He has one more to serve and Ray motioned that we elect 5 members for the 2025 Church Council. The top 4 in voting would serve 3 years and the 5th would serve 1 year to finish out William's term. Rick seconded and the motion carried.
- *The Worship and Music committee asked about confirmation classes and suggested parents sign a commitment letter. Confirmation classes will start up after Reformation, meeting the first Sunday in the month during SS time.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 21, at 7PM.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Jane Moretz, Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor's Sabbath	2
3 Bring food for Blessings Box 9:30 Sunday School And Confirmation Class 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 at Plateau...yearly picnic meal	7 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9
10 Men In Mission Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 7:00 Church Council	11 8:30 Youth Rake Leaves Lunch after Office closed 	12	13	14 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	18 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	19	20 5:00 Articles due for December NL	21 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity, Youth assisting 6:30 LMM	25	26	27 6:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service at Ebenezer. Sardis is responsible for desserts NO SCHOOL	28 NO Handbell or Chancel Choir Rehearsals  Office Closed NO SCHOOL	29 Pastor's Sabbath NO SCHOOL	30

****NOTE****

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

BIRTHDAYS

November

11/16 Evan Lail
 11/19 Rhiannon Farnsworth
 11/20 Andy Ruggles
 11/21 Rebecca J. Ritz
 Ray Whitener
 11/22 Tryston Sylvester
 11/24 Osama Yousef
 11/27 Tommy Hoyle
 11/28 Megan Roseman
 Roger Teague

COUNCIL CONTACT

Jane Moretz

ASSISTING MINISTER

Nena Babb

USHERS

LMM

COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

Sharon Sigman Kristin Teague

Offering Counters: Dwayne/Tryston

Anniversaries
Bennie & Edna Fulbright 11-18
Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff 11-23

New Address:

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

<i>VOLUNTEER November</i>	3rd	10th	17th	24th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Tim & Barbara W.	Rick & Rita L.	Ray W.	Joe R.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Ray/Cash	Tryston/Greyson	Rick/Bruce	Marshall/Shuford
COMM. ASSISTANT	Bruce S.	Jon G.	Dawn C.	Ray W.
GREETERS	Bruce & Sharon	Bennie & Edna	Ken/Dianne	Kay/Rita
LAY READER	Tim W.	Al K.	Dawn C.	Joe B.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Nena B.	No Children's Church	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Rick J.	Ralph S.	Darrell J.	Bruce S.
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MH Nena	Pre-K Jennifer EL Donna MH April	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MH Rick	Pre-K Nena EL Jane MH Dawn
BACKPACK DELIVERY	7th Dwayne & Barbara	14th Gene & Donna	21st Joe & Phyllis	26th Dwayne
MEAL DEL.	9th No Meal	16th Kay W.	23rd No Meal	30th Sylvia K.
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. Oscar (C) 828-228-3078 pastor@sardislutheran.com

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com

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

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