



Friendship Focus

October 2025

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Ephesians 1:15-19

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As I was reading through Paul's letter to the Ephesians recently, this prayer stood out to me. In it, the apostle is not only giving thanks to God for the faithful people God placed in Ephesus, but also for the ministry the people were leading. Paul prayed that as God's people continue doing God's work in the world, that they may be able to see the power of the Holy Spirit in and through their work. Paul prays for God to give the Ephesians a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they could see what God's grace has provided for them, hope in an "inheritance among the saints."

We would do well if we prayed this same prayer as we approach the ministry we are called to here as Friendship Church. Shouldn't we pray for each other in our worship and service to God and to God's people? Shouldn't we pray that God might be revealed in and through our ministry both to us who serve and to those who are being served? Because it seems to me that there is a temptation to view the work of the church, the ministry God has called God's people to, as "just something else to do"; another task on the to-do list; something else that takes up our time, energy and money. In this light, the ministry of God through us will not be successful because it is not accomplished out of our hope in God's grace and mercy so we allow other things in life, other items on our to-do lists to take precedence over the work God has called us to.

In baptism, God cleanses us from our sin and raises us to a new life in Christ. As baptized children of God, we are forever sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. As our baptism is affirmed, we are then called to faithfully live out our baptism in the world, allowing others to see the presence of Christ in and through us. Martin Luther even said about our baptisms that we should be “walking wet.” And so God’s work is unlike any other work that’s on our list of tasks. We do God’s work because God has first done a work in us. God’s work, our ministry, reveals to us and to others the promise of our inheritance, the gift of grace and salvation from God. The ministry we are called to now at Friendship needs your commitment, your support, your time, energy and treasures. Without you, how will we be able to share God’s love with the world?

As we prepare for the season ahead, know that I am in prayer for you and the ministries you will lead during this busy time of year. I pray that we may walk wet in our baptisms, living out the mission God has in store for us. I pray that we make time for God’s ministry here, that it becomes a priority so that others may see God in and through us. Thank you for your commitment to God and the ministry here. Your work does not go unnoticed; your passion for ministry is celebrated and the gifts of your time, talents and treasures are appreciated. God bless you.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh



October News



CRUISE IN BBQ Benefit

Saturday, October 4th,

4:30-7 pm, rain or shine.

Save the date!

Our benefit this year is for Cathy Fox. Cathy was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer with metastasis to the liver. She tried chemo and had a horrible reaction and ended up in the hospital each time. She had breast cancer in 2019. We did find out after genetic testing she is BRCA2 positive. Cathy has been a longtime waitress at Crossroads Grill. We will serve BBQ, slaw, baked beans, roll and homemade desserts. Live entertainment and an online cake auction are planned as well. For dessert donations, please contact Kathy Wike or Sharon Goble. For any other details, contact Diane Hollar or Daphne Payne. Classic vehicles are also needed for the car show. Please come to support this family and enjoy delicious food, entertainment, and fellowship.

Secret Sisters meet Saturday, October 4th at 9 am.

WELCA meets Sunday, October 5th @ 4 pm. All ladies are welcome!

Fellowship potluck supper is Monday, October 6th @ 6pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for good food & fellowship!

Women of the Word (WOW) Bible study meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month. All women are welcome. The next session will be **Thurs, October 9th, 6pm** at Brittany Greathouse's home. For information & a study guide, see Brittany Greathouse.

Red Cross Blood Drive - Sunday, Oct. 12th, 12:30-5 pm.



**American
Red Cross**

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Friendship Lutheran Taylorsville or contact Sue Bumgarner @ 828 381-7058 or Donna Icard @ 828 310-4890 to schedule an appointment. Call Jewell Elder for serving food or desk work @ 632-3544.

New Member's Class will be held **Sun, October 19th at 9:15am** in the sanctuary. All who are considering church membership at Friendship or who have questions about the life and ministry here are welcome to attend!

Nominees for Church Council: With the annual Congregational Meeting coming up on **November 16 at 9:15am** in the Family Life Center, it is time to start praying about who God may be calling to serve on church council at Friendship. The nominations team recommends these 6 members who have agreed to serve to be on the ballot: **Brian Chapman, Tyler Hall, Katelyn Hammer, Kasi Sigmon, Todd Smith, Garry Thomas.** Additionally, any confirmed, active member of Friendship may nominate another confirmed, active member for inclusion on the ballot. Any member making such nomination must contact the member to be nominated and confirm that the nominee is willing to serve, if elected. All nominees should be submitted in writing to Doug Ramsey by **October 20th.**

Friendship's First Fall Festival is **Sun, October 26th, 3-5 pm. Fun for all ages!** There will be games, a hay ride, cotton candy, popcorn, a balloon artist, mechanical bull & a cake walk. Anyone interested in making a game or just helping volunteer, please contact Amy Palmer (514-3477) or Kittie Black (803-630-2276).

The youth are collecting items to put together shower bags for the homeless through a ministry in Winston-Salem called The Dwelling. Please bring any of the following items in **by October 5th** to help with this project: travel size shampoo, conditioner, lotion and body wash; toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, washcloth, razors (2+ blades); and full size deodorant. Donation boxes are stationed at each service beside the canned for wagons.

October Birthdays

Cooper Deal	10/03	Tammy Bowman	10/12
Trina Chapman	10/04	Larry Nichols	10/13
Tyler Hall	10/04	Ruth Dial	10/15
Samuel Bedzinski	10/06	Hollie Pharr	10/19
Jewell Elder	10/09	Brooks Hammer	10/22
Zachary Latham	10/09	JD Latham	10/27
Debbie Price	10/09	Eric Frye	10/29
Shawn Smith	10/09	Lanny Keever	10/30
Tina Annas	10/10	Guy Chapman	10/31
Douglas Bowman	10/12		



Friendship Lutheran Church Council
August 18, 2025, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: Hannah Bostian, Chris Bowman, Wade Cline, Eric Frye, Chris Jolly, Michelle Miller, Angie Mooney, Doug Ramsey, Monica Stafford, Tamara Stafford, Barry Swift, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Guy Kerley. Absent: Nikki Icard, Dana Frye.

President Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order.

Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Wade Cline to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carries.

Tamara Stafford shared a devotion.

Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve minutes from June 30, 2025 regular meeting, and Special Called meeting on July 30, 2025. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Barry Swift to approve. Motion carries.

Guy Kerley (Property Team) was present to discuss the flooring options/quote from Startown Carpet & Flooring Covering, Inc. After discussing options and quote, the Council would like to get a quote from H&A Carpet of Hickory, Inc. Guy will contact them and information will be brought back to council.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – Recommendation from the team (no second required) to accept the guidelines for collecting, counting and depositing of fundraiser donations. Motion carries.

Care – Tamara Stafford – 47 units of blood were collected at the July 6 Bloodmobile. Not the best option to have a bloodmobile on a holiday weekend. Adopt-A-Highway had 9 volunteers who collected 9 bags of trash. Next collection date is October 15. After the July and August Monday night suppers, 15 meals were delivered to very grateful recipients. Benefit Cruise In is coming up October 4; God's Work, Our Hands will be October 25.

Learn – Nikki Icard – Pastor Josh reported that VBS welcomed 80+ kids each night and reviews are all good. Discussion was shared about church member burn out. Rooted/Youth will start back in September with meetings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Worship – Chris Jolly – The Team had a good meeting with the idea of “time to plant seed” Asking “If money was no option, what would you like to see to better the worship experience?” Nova McBride will be baptized on August 24 at 8 am service. She has not yet been confirmed and will be listed on the child's membership.

Share – Chris Bowman – Fellowship hall welcome table is complete for now; welcome bags are out and in place for pick up. The Events Team will be planning Homecoming on September 28. Items discussed was a set up/tear down group for events; Fall Festival to replace Trunk-R-Treat due to so many other events in the county on Halloween night.

Finance – Michelle Miller – Spending Plan meeting will be planned to prepare the plan for Council to approve in October. The plan is for the Finance Team council liaison to meet with the counters prior to the event to confirm counting procedures.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Angie Mooney – No report.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – Pastor Mary's old laptop was donated to the preschool. Preschool changes on a daily basis but all good changes; enrollment is looking good; communication has been great; the year will begin with 2 staff and open house is scheduled for August 26.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – Keever's will be re-keying the building; painting will be on schedule since VBS is over.

Technology – Wade Cline – 2 iPads have been ordered for use in services; mic updates are needed and must be added to finance soon. Consider ear buds too. Preschool needs a TV and cart. Wade will pick up the tv and Doug will order a cart. The sandbox was removed from the playground area.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his report. Summer months have been hard. Lutheroad was another successful year. VBS was good but bulk of the work fell on Friendship. Still waiting to hear back for a Homecoming pastor. First Sunday of Advent will be a 5th Sunday and thoughts of planning a special event for the combined service. Church clean-up is September 20; Medical leave will be September 2 through 14. Pastor Craig Sigmon will cover.

OLD BUSINESS:

► Information is being collected for a columbarium.

NEW BUSINESS:

► Church clean-up will be September 20 with areas to be addressed as: the nursery, doors/windows cleaned, trim bushes, kitchen deep clean, basement in parish house, and pantry clean out and organization. Announcement will be in the September newsletter and ask for suggestions to be called in to the church office.

► Remind teams to send budget requests to Michelle Miller.

► Motion by Doug Ramsey; seconded by Wade Cline to allow Betty Isenhour to use the fellowship hall on December 20 from 12-8. Motion carries.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned with prayer.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be moved to Monday, September 16, 2025, at 6 pm. Chris Bowman will share a devotion.



**Minutes continued on next page.*

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

The sole purpose of the meeting was to share a second quote on flooring. Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Tamara Stafford to accept the quote from H&A Carpet of Hickory, Inc. for the flooring in the fellowship hall, the ramp, sacristy and the church administrative office. Motion carries. Should have samples to view at the September meeting.

Council persons were reminded to get 2026 budget requests to Michelle Miller by September 9 if possible.

ELECTRONIC VOTE – SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Motion by Eric Frye; seconded by Doug Ramsey, to accept the recipient of this year's Cruise In as Cathy Fox and the counters for the event will be Daphne Payne, Doug Ramsey, Lisa James, Jewell Elder (alternate) and Tamara Stafford (alternate). Motion carries.

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>AUGUST, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$36,776.28	\$286,466.63
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,780.00	\$11,594.97
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$1,080.00	\$15,603.00
PRESCHOOL	\$315.00	\$3,125.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$0.00	\$825.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$625.00	\$3,695.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$775.00	\$5,345.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$100.00	\$1,045.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$400.00	\$13,479.00
YOUTH	\$300.00	\$1,750.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$979.50	\$6,168.50
COLUMBARIUM	\$40,370.00	\$43,910.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$34.00	\$444.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$25.00	\$480.00
LUTHEROAD	\$50.00	\$6,188.00
ALZHEIMERS BENEFIT	\$4,254.75	\$4,254.75
LUTHERIDGE CAMPAIGN	\$265.00	\$4,280.00

SPENDING

	<u>AUGUST, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$23,627.94	\$272,754.64

Ministry Team Spotlight!

Preschool Board

Our Preschool Ministry Team

The Preschool Ministry Team provides a loving, Christ-centered environment where our youngest children can begin to experience the love of God in age-appropriate ways. Through hands-on activities, songs, play and storytellings from the bible, we lay the spiritual foundation for children ages three and four, helping them take their first steps in faith.

Support for Our Director and Assistant

Our team works closely with the Preschool Director and assistant by offering prayerful, practical, and organizational support. This includes listening ears when hearing our director share her curriculum plans, organizing supplies and helping to obtain them when in need, assisting with events, and being a sounding board for new ideas and challenges. We value collaboration and believe that a strong support system enables the director and team to focus on what matters most—ministering and loving the children and families that grace our preschool doors. We are very thankful and blessed to have Mrs. Lori Overcash (Director) and Mrs. Olivia Brookshire (Assistant) to lead Friendship Preschool where they spread God’s love to each and every child.

Our Goals as a Preschool

Some of our key goals as a preschool include: maintaining a safe and welcoming space for children, equipping volunteers with the tools and training they need, and ensuring that every child hears the message that they are loved by God. We foster strong communication between the preschool team and church leadership, and continually look for ways to improve both our spiritual and practical impressions.

The Church and the Preschool: A Vital Relationship

We see the preschool as an extension of the church’s mission to nurture faith at every stage of life. The relationship between the church and the preschool is vital—each supports the other in creating a community where families feel connected, supported, and encouraged in their faith journey. Whether a family is deeply rooted in the church or just beginning to explore faith, the preschool is often their first meaningful point of contact, and we steward that opportunity with great care.

Preschool Board Members are:

Pat Payne, (chair); Lori Overcash, (preschool director); Monica Stafford;
Samantha Bowers; Amy Palmer; Michelle Miller, (treasurer);
and Pastor Josh.

Prayers of the Church

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your
request to God."*

~ Philippians 4:6-7

As God's people we commit to pray for one another, and for all in need.

Please call the church office to add/take someone off this list.

Let us pray for...

Brenda Hallman (M. Sweat-9/1)	Mary Ann Icenhour (P. Josh-9/23)
Becky Cline (P. Josh-9/1)	Ginny Elder (J. Elder-9/23)
Neal Nichols (J. Nichols-9/2)	Jimmy Hayes (M. Stafford-9/23)
Nicole Davis McNamara (J. Gant-9/2)	Cathy Fox (M. Sweat-9/23)
Bill Wilson (C. Jolly-9/2)	Jay Dean Mitchell (K. Ramsey-9/23)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-9/2)	Catherine Starnes (D. Teague-9/24)
Martha Johnson (G. Kerley-9/2)	David Pearson (P. Josh-9/24)
Linda Myers (S. Icenhour-9/2)	Donald Lee Bowman (S. Bumgarner-9/29)
Coren Robertson (D. Payne-9/3)	Emily Smith Hall (P. Shealy-9/29)
Billy Harrington (L. Hefner-9/8)	Candice Miller (C. Bowman-9/29)
Scott & Lori Seagle (P. Setzer-9/8)	Aaron Watts (J. Watts-9/29)
Bobby & Sheng Brown (P. Setzer-9/8)	Leo Mayberry (J. Watts-9/29)
Martha Bentley (K. Wike-9/8)	Stephen Elder (J. Watts-9/29)
Mario Morin (C. Jolly-9/15)	Ralph Robinette (J. Watts-9/29)
Brooklyn Parsons (L. Hayes-9/15)	Community of Southport, NC
Ricky Rector (P. Josh-9/15)	Kelvin Elder (J. Elder-9/29)
Matthew Hamby (W. Cline-9/22)	

Family & friends of:

Kyler Bebbber	(M. Ann Icenhour-9/1)
Sherry Strickland	(S. Tucker-9/2)
Glenda Sipe	(P. Stikeleather-9/2)
Connie Ray	(W. Cline-9/3)
Eleanor Holmes	(B. Greathouse-9/11)
Charlie Kirk	(T. Smith-9/15)
Jenny Eckard	(A. Smith-9/29)

Please be in daily prayer for our Home Bound/Extended Care members:

Fate Hefner, Steve Icenhour,
Joyce Deal, Roy & Reba Bolick, Dallard Lail.

Church Council and Staff

<u>Council</u>	<u>(Term ending)</u>
Officers	
Doug Ramsey - President	(‘25)
Chris Jolly - VP	(‘25)
Jane Gant - Treasurer (non voting)	(‘25)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec (non voting)	(‘25)
Charlie Sipe - Financial Sec (non voting)	(‘25)
Angie Mooney - RA Scholarship	(‘25)
Wade Cline - Tech	(‘25)
Barry Swift - Cemetery	(‘26)
Michelle Miller - Finance	(‘26)
Chris Jolly - Worship	(‘25)
Hannah Bostian - Administration	(‘26)
Eric Frye--Bldg. & Grounds	(‘26)
Chris Bowman-- Share	(‘25)
Monica Stafford--Preschool	(‘26)
Tamara Stafford--CARE	(‘26)
Nikki Icard - Learn	(‘25)

Staff

Josh Tucker	Pastor
Craig Sigmon	Associate Pastor
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Denny Teague	Sexton
Ian Elkins	Choir Director
Silsa Moore	Organ/Piano

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Penny is in the office Mon-Thurs,
9:30-4:30 (Lunch-12:30-1:30)
The office is closed on Friday.

You may reach Pastor Josh
on the his cell phone: **828-461-4688**
or his email: **pastorjoshtucker@gmail.com**

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have a pastoral
concern, or if there is something the pastor needs to know.