



FRIENDSHIP
LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAYLORSVILLE, NC

Friendship Focus

April 2026

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Mark 16:2-6a

Grace to you and peace from our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.

At the time I am writing this article we are nearing the end of Lent and preparing to journey through the solemnity of Holy Week. This is a week that begins with the celebration of Palm Sunday on March 29th and ends in the pain and grief of the cross of Calvary with Jesus' lifeless body being placed in the tomb. Then, at the end of the season of Lent and Holy Week, on that beautiful Easter morn, we will hear these words from the gospel that Jesus has been raised from the dead; that his victory over sin, death and the devil is the means to our salvation and that because of his death and resurrection, we are promised everlasting life! Thanks be to God for this eternal promise that is proclaimed on Easter; a promise that we need to hear after the Lenten season of confession, repentance, fasting and sacrifice; a promise that is forever for you and for me!

But the culmination that is the Resurrection of our Lord is not complete without *all* the events that lead up to it. The gravity that Holy Week brings is something that we Christians should not exempt from our Lenten Spiritual journey and yet it can be quite tempting to skip to the end of the story. I want to challenge and encourage you to fully experience the completeness of the gospel and of what Holy Week has to offer in the building up of the Body of Christ and of our faith.

On Maundy “commandment” Thursday we experience the life Jesus calls us, his disciples, to embody as servants of God. Found within the setting of the Last Supper, Jesus shares with his closest friends an intimate meal and he gives them the greatest commandment to love one another. He then serves them by washing their feet. During Maundy Thursday worship (7pm) we see how Jesus, with the cross looming over him, continues to love and to serve and we are called to do the same.

Good Friday offers us the opportunity to hear again the agony our Lord went through as he suffered death for our sake. On this day we experience Jesus offering himself fully out of great love for the world as he says, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” On Good Friday we hear of the passion of our Lord while praying at the Stations of the Cross (noon) and during a traditional Tenebrae worship (7pm).

These holy days are important to our faith. It is important that we experience these parts of the gospel once again, even as tough and as painful as they may be. Throughout this holy time, we are able to see the love that God has for us and we see a clearer picture of who God is and what he calls us to do. Experiencing the events of Holy Week once again makes the empty tomb, and the victory over death all the more sweet! It is then, after we’ve experienced the fullness of Jesus’ last days, his pain and suffering, his willing spirit and his love for us all that we can proclaim with great faith and certainty: “Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!”

Let us, as God’s faithful people, enter into Holy Week and the season of Easter ready to experience and see for ourselves God’s great love for us!

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

April News

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday service - 7 pm - (Sanctuary)

April 3rd - Good Friday service - 12noon - (FLC)

Stations of the Cross Prayer Service

-Good Friday service - 7 pm - (Sanctuary)

Tenebrae Service

April 5th - **Easter Sunday:**

Sunrise service @ the cemetery cross - 6:30am

Breakfast in FLC- 7:30am

Worship in the Sanctuary - 10:30am

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

Church Office will be closed Friday, April 3rd & Monday, April 6th.

Fellowship Potluck Supper is Monday, April 6th @ 6pm.
All are welcome to join us for great food & fellowship.

Rusha Austin Scholarship Packets - completed packets are to be turned in **no later than April 15th.**

Red Cross Blood Drive - Sunday, April 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.

Gods Work Our Hands will be held **Saturday, April 25th, 9am.** This is a day of service where we come together as a team to carry out God's work, spreading His love and abundant glory throughout our community. We have identified projects, and we would LOVE your help! Please consider giving of your time and effort:

1. Adopt a Highway Trash pick up: Volunteers work together to collect litter along Friendship Church Road, as an out reach of the Department of Transportation. This is a two mile stretch between Highway 16 and Church Road. All supplies will be provided!
2. Christian Crisis Center "in house": Volunteers will work inside the building to sort donated/canned goods and help pack them for families to pick up when in need.
3. Christian Crisis Center "curb appeal": Volunteers will work to beautify the outside area of the Center, making it more appealing to patrons who visit. More details will be shared soon!
4. Shut-in member of congregation #1: Details to be shared soon!
5. Shut-in member of congregation #2: Details to be shared soon!

Sign up sheets will be available at both services. Please consider in which you would like to participate and add your name. Each project will take many hands to complete. This is always a fun, rewarding day spent with church family. If you have questions, please see a member of the CARE Team.



The CARE Team and youth will begin collecting items for Faith Assisted Living, and we invite you to help! Faith Assisted Living is home to 27 residents, men and women, varying in age from young adult to elderly, all abilities included. Residents have enjoyed visits from our Friendship family in the past (bingo games, caroling, etc.) and are looking forward to kicking off warmer weather with us when we host a cookout and gameday in April. As we prepare this event, we have identified many items they need. Some are necessities such as toiletries and hygiene products and some are recreational. Please consider contributing something to this group of individuals. There will be a collection tote in the handprints area labeled "Faith." **We will be collecting item through April 25th, with items being delivered on Sunday April 26th.**

Items needed/desired:

Disposable razors, hand soaps, shower gels, hand sanitizers, laundry detergent, kleenex, scented deodorizing room spray, bleach, art supplies such as construction paper, beads, ribbons, paints, wooden crafts, seasonal crafts, glue sticks and finger paints.



Roger Miller	4/01	Elizabeth Bowman	4/14
Lori Dial	4/03	Martha Fox	4/14
Megan Nicholas	4/03	Chris Bowman	4/16
Danny Parks	4/04	Lindy Swift	4/17
Madelyn Farthing	4/05	Liza Robinette	4/18
Mason Frye	4/07	Tabitha Hall	4/19
Beckham Gant	4/07	Jeff James	4/24
Rachel Miller	4/07	Johnny Smith	4/24
Macyn King	4/08	Sue Bumgarner	4/25
Hannah Bostian	4/09	Wanda Bentley	4/26
Molly Sipe	4/09	Joe Deal	4/26
Reba Bolick	4/10	Chase Bostian	4/28
Zane Greathouse	4/10	Steven Deal	4/28
Alta Sells	4/11	Bryanna Dula	4/29
Samantha Bowers	4/13	Larry Palmer	4/29
Tamara Stafford	4/13	Brian Chapman	4/30

Friendship Lutheran Church Council
February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: Hannah Bostian, Jenna Buff, Eric Frye, Tyler Hall, Mary Ann Icenhour, Michelle Miller, Kasi Sigmon, Todd Smith, Monica Stafford, Tamara Stafford, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Dana Frye. Absent: Brian Chapman, Barry Swift.

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order.

Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve the agenda. Motion carries.

Todd Smith shared a devotion.

Motion by Tamara Stafford; seconded by Michelle Miller to approve minutes from January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting and the electronic vote on January 26, 2026. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Hannah Bostian; seconded by Todd Smith to approve. Motion carries.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – Motion from the Team (no second required) to approve the Building Use Policy. Motion carries. Motion from the Team (no second required) to approve the Good Samaritan Policy. Motion carries.

Care – Tamara Stafford – Trash pick-up will be Saturday, February 28 at 9 am. God’s Work, Our Hands has been moved to April 25 for service projects. The Team is looking to do an activity with our youth at Faith Assisted Living and ideas for a cookout or meal are being planned. Also, a collection of items that they normally run short on is in the planning stages.

Learn – Jenna Buff – The Team is planning a time for new members to meet and plan activities. The Sunday School curriculum is working well.

Worship – Todd Smith – Team members have been established, and a meeting is being planned.

Share – Kasi Sigmon – The Share and Events Team reported about 55-60 attended the Shrove Tuesday pancake meal; Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 1-3 pm. Men in Mission have been asked to organize the Mother’s Day Celebration; Daphne Payne has been asked to handle the Father’s Day Celebration. Kasi shared pictures of the new church logo. Watch for an email that has the logo and a council vote will be taken soon.

Finance – Michelle Miller – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Brian Chapman – March 15, 2026, is the deadline for packets to be picked up.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – No report.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – No report.

Technology – Tyler Hall – The TV and mount for the nursery has been finalized. Camera installation continues.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his report. He is trying to get caught up since his surgery. He is looking at ideas for a group of volunteers to help with home visitation; ACHS has gotten back on schedule every Monday with 25 Juniors and Seniors for the Strong Student Leaders program; Chosen People Ministry presentation will be at 6 pm on March 22. Friendship will be asked to bring heavy finger foods for all to enjoy. Council will supply the drinks. Set up will be after the 8 am service. There are 4 kids set for camp this summer; Pastor Josh will be taking vacation after Easter.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ▶ Columbarium - Eric Frye will contact St John Lutheran in Conover to obtain information about their columbarium.
- ▶ Helping Hands – See Administration report.
- ▶ Pastor Care & visitation – See Pastor Josh 's report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ▶ Michelle Miller will organize the meal on March 11 when Friendship hosts the Lenten service. Council will provide the food, serving and cleaning up.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6 pm. Monica Stafford will share a devotion.

ELECTRONIC VOTE ON FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Motion from the Share Team (no second required) to adopt the new church logo and its variations. The Share Team is seeking council's approval so that they can move forward with the development of the new website, brochures and the digital church sign can be updated. All three variations of this logos will be used, but the color scheme, fonts, and image with stained glass, cross, and mountains will remain the same. Motion carries.



**Meeting
Minutes**

Registration Open!

A limited number of spaces remain for our Lutheroad Summer Day Camp at Friendship. Please submit registration forms along with the registration fee ASAP to secure your child's spot! And, invite friends and neighbors to join in for an incredible week of fun! See Payton Boyles for registration information.



Have you considered how big and vast our God is? As the body of Christ, we are connected to so many different ministries, agencies and institutions that serve to shine the light of Christ in the world, share

the good news of the gospel and help those in need. Together, we are the church, serving God and neighbor through the works of these ministries for the sake of the gospel!

Each month, we will feature a partnering ministry in our synod and throughout the church. Let's take time to learn more about these ministries and support the work we're called to do in partnership together. This month we feature:

Lutheran Services of the Carolinas

is a faith-based health and human services organization providing comprehensive care for seniors, children and families in North and South Carolina. Key services include foster care and adoption, senior living/assisted living, rehabilitation, mental health services, refugee resettlement and disaster relief. The ministry serves to connect clients facing isolation and revitalizes hope in their lives, bringing God's Spirit into their challenges, transforming faithful love into a living promise of support, community, and renewed purpose. For more information please vis-



Our Sharing

OFFERINGS FEBRUARY, 2026

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$33,777.01	\$65,474.06
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,325.00	\$3,182.85
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$1,025.00	\$2,422.75
PRESCHOOL	\$220.00	\$420.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$50.00	\$50.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$375.00	\$695.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$907.85	\$1,757.85
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$100.00	\$225.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$4,110.00	\$4,310.00
YOUTH	\$5,559.00	\$6,059.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$580.50	\$1,822.00
COLUMBARIUM	\$440.00	\$945.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$0.00	\$51.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$50.00
LUTHEROAD	\$0.00	\$125.00
LUTHERIDGE CAMPAIGN	\$100.00	\$200.00

SPENDING

	<u>FEBRUARY, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$30,975.84	\$78,110.58



New Church Logo! We are blessed with a new church logo and branding package that incorporates the stained glass of the church building and the rolling hills of our community! These and others are being implemented in our communications and branding at Friendship!



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...

Bradley Dunlap (T. Birchfield-3/3)	Teressa Wallace (W. Pearson-3/16)
Ray Warren (D. Ramsey-3/9)	Glenda Hammett (W. Pearson-3/16)
Chris Hefner (D. Payne-3/9)	Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-3/16)
Will Harrington (L. Hefner-3/9)	Nicole D. McNamara (J. Gant-3/16)
Benny Mitchell (J. Watts-3/9)	David Pearson (W. Pearson-3/16)
Crystal Icenhour (M. Icenhour-3/9)	Dick Brands (J. Gant-3/16)
Noah Manning (S. Icenhour-3/9)	Denise Sells (L. Hefner-3/16)
Jimmy Hayes (M. Stafford-3/9)	Tony Elliott (T. Stafford-3/18)
Jay Dean Mitchell (D. Ramsey-3/9)	Ginger Annas (B. Icenhour-3/23)
Ricky Rector (J. Smith-3/9)	Connor Pruitt (K. Swift-3/23)
Tony Cothren (P. Josh-3/9)	Steve Sharpe (P. Stikeleather-3/23)
Theresa Setzer (R. Bowman-3/9)	Leon Bowman (B. Bowman-3/24)
Guy Chapman (P. Josh-3/11)	Lisa London (P. Setzer-3/24)
Diane Mohler (N. Icard-3/14)	Katherine Quick (W. Pearson-3/26)
Lynn Huynh (N. Icard-3/14)	Michael Windsor (P. Josh-3/26)

Family & friends of:

Bill Johnson	(S. Icenhour-3/2)
Serene Felts	(T. Birchfield-3/3)
Vicki Reid	(J. Adair-3/5)
Angie Bolick	(B. Cline-3/9)
Phil Lackey	(P. Josh-3/9)
David Howlett	(G. Kerley-3/11)
Kim Fox	(P. Shealy-3/17)
Diane Downs	(C. Jolly-3/23)

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

Steve Icenhour, Joyce Deal, Dallard Lail,
Reba Bolick, Bob Russell.

Church Council and Staff

<u>Council</u>	<u>(Term ending)</u>
<u>Officers</u>	
Mary Ann Icenhour - President	('27)
Todd Smith - VP	('27)
Jane Gant - Treasurer (non voting)	('26)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec (non voting)	('26)
Charlie Sipe - Financial Sec (non voting)	('26)
Brian Chapman - RA Scholarship	('27)
Tyler Hall - Tech	('27)
Barry Swift - Cemetery	('26)
Michelle Miller - Finance	('26)
Todd Smith - Worship	('27)
Hannah Bostian - Administration	('26)
Eric Frye - Bldg. & Grounds	('26)
Kasi Sigmon-- Share	('27)
Monica Stafford--Preschool	('26)
Tamara Stafford--CARE	('26)
Jenna Buff - Learn	('27)

Staff

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

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.