



Friendship Focus

September 2025

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
Luke 10: 1-2

Grace to you and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

In my Lutheran Study Bible this section of Luke’s gospel is entitled, “The Mission of the Seventy.” This section of scripture comes at a time in the gospel narrative when so many are clinging to Jesus’ words; so many want to follow their rabbi, Jesus. Jesus’ words, the message he has shared, his miraculous healings and feedings and his modeling of God’s love all have drawn the Jewish people to him. They believe Jesus is the promised Messiah and so they want to learn from him; they want to follow him.

Seeing how God has blessed their time together, Jesus sent his followers out into the world on a mission to share the good news they had heard and experienced. He sent them in pairs to every town because he knew that there was much mission work to be done. People from all over had not heard the good news that a Savior had come and that their God was Lord of grace and love and forgiveness. God is Lord of redemption; and he had sent his only Son Jesus to save his people.

Recently in a sermon we’ve heard God’s word asking us what it means for us to be “Friendship Lutheran Church.” What does it mean to be a good and faithful friend? How is God calling us

to live into our identity? We discovered how friendship in the Lord is deeper, more intentional, than simply being friendly. Anyone can be friendly. But to be faithful in our friendship calls us to a more meaningful, sacrificial way of discipleship living that involves worship, fellowship and service all together as a friendship community – always welcoming new friends to come and experience the friendship God creates in the community of Christ.

These verses from Luke's gospel exemplify our mission work here and now to be faithful friends to our God, our church family and to the world. The pages of this monthly newsletter are filled with opportunities and events we feel called to participate in and lead in this friendship response to what we believe is God's mission for us here and now. As you read the pages of this newsletter and consider all the wonderful work God is doing in and through us, take time to discern your place in it. For God is calling us to grow in our identity as Friendship.

It is evident that the Spirit is alive in this place, working through us to do God's important work with our very hands. I am convinced that Jesus has called us to mission, too. He is calling us and he is sending us out just like he did his first disciples. He is sending us out to be good friends, modeling his love to all people so that all may come to know Jesus as Lord! I pray that with each and every mission project or ministry we participate in and lead, we remember the mission that God has called us to through Jesus Christ, to be his disciples and to share the very good news that Jesus is Lord and his love for us never fails! Go forth this month knowing you have been called by God to be his very hands and feet as you minister to his people and serve him in mission!

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

September News



Congratulations to Charlie & Molly Sipe on the birth of their daughter, **Hayden Loretta** born on July 4, 2025.

Congratulations to Trent & Megan Nicholas on the birth of their daughter, **Lydia Grace** born on July 31, 2025.

Congratulations to Landon & Bryanna Dula on the birth of their son, **Brock Matthew** born on August 15, 2025.



We welcome into the body of Christ, **Perrie Rose Gant** through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on **Sunday, August 10, 2025**. Perrie is the daughter of Cam & Haley Gant and baby sister to Beckham. Godparents are Logan & Lexus Gant.

We welcome into the body of Christ, **Nova Addison McBride** through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on **Sunday, August 24, 2025**. Nova is the daughter of Chris & Jennifer McBride.

Fellowship potluck supper is **Monday, September 1st @ 6pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us for good food & fellowship!

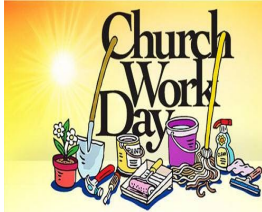
Pastor Josh will be on a medical leave beginning **Sept. 2nd** as he recovers from surgery. Thank you for your prayers and concerns for him during this time. Because he will not be able to respond to calls and texts for some time, please call the church office or council president, Doug Ramsey if you have a pastoral need while he is away.

Secret Sisters meet **Saturday, September 6th at 9 am.**

WELCA meets Sunday, September 7th @ 4 pm. All ladies are welcome!

Women of the Word (WOW) Bible study meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month. We will study the book of Song of Songs (Solomon), on Right Now Media entitled Perfect Love. All women are welcome. The next session will be **Thurs, September 11th, 6pm** at Mary Price's home. For information & a study guide, see Brittany Greathouse.

It's Your **Ch_rch** & **u** are needed!



Church Clean Up Day - **Saturday, Sept 20th 9am.** Many hands make light work! Come and help us care for our church building and grounds and to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with!

Save the Date!

Homecoming at Friendship

Sunday, September 28th

Come and invite a friend as we celebrate
192 years of God's ministry here!

- **9AM** Sunday School
- **10AM** Worship (Nave)
- **11:30** Potluck Lunch (FLC)

***Guest Preacher:** NC Bishop Emily Hartner

**Rooted children's ministry and Youth
group ministry are back!**

Rooted (preschool-5th grades) will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 4:30-5:30. All children are welcome and invite a friend to come with you! Primary contacts: Payton Boyles & Nikki Icard.

Youth (middle and high school) will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 4:30-6pm. **Confirmation classes (6th-8th grades)** will be held the 2nd Sunday during SS & 2nd Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm beginning in October. All youth are welcome and invite a friend to come with you! Primary contacts: Charlie and Molly Sipe.

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!

September Birthdays
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Joyce Deal	9/2	Polly Watts	9/20
Patricia Bowman	9/4	Linda Triplett	9/22
David Pearson	9/5	Matthew Jolly	9/23
Starr Lynn Smith	9/6	Jenna Ramsey	9/23
Haley Gant	9/7	Jeri Haynes	9/24
Courtney Bebbber	9/8	Cameron Gant	9/25
Joe Elder	9/10	Crystal Icenhour	9/25
Connie Kerley	9/11	Noah Bebbber	9/26
Charlie Sipe	9/12	Jerry Bowman	9/26
Jimmy Mitchell	9/14	Colten Bowman	9/27
Robert Gant	9/15	Roger Harrington	9/27
Ethan Bebbber	9/16	Chris Jolly	9/27
Roger Cline	9/16	Debbie Cook	9/28
Angie Mooney	9/16	Lucy Deal	9/29
Jerry Hefner	9/19		



Friendship Lutheran Church Council

June 30, 2025, Regular Meeting in Person

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

President Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order.

Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Tamara Stafford to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business: a) Homecoming Pastor; b) Columbarium. Motion carries.

Michelle Miller shared a devotion.

Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Angie Mooney to approve minutes from May 20, 2025 regular meeting, June 2, 2025 special informational meeting; and electronic vote on June 16, 2025. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Nikki Icard; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve. Motion carries.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – No report.

Care – Tamara Stafford – 11 volunteers showed up for 2 hours and collected 11 bags of trash along Friendship Church Road. Next pick up day is scheduled for August 16; Alzheimer's breakfast and cake auction will be August 9 from 7 until 10 am; Blood drive coming up on July 6.

Learn – Nikki Icard – Lutheroad (July 7-11), Staff will be arriving July 6; Council will have supper with the staff on Tuesday, July 8 at 5:30 pm. VBS planning is ongoing with St Luke and Reformation. Volunteers are still needed. Sunday School Rally Day will be August 17 with breakfast at 9 and one worship service at 10.

Worship – Chris Jolly – Pastor Josh reported the laptop that was donated is up and working.

Share – Chris Bowman – TV for entrance space in the fellowship hall has been installed and is running signage each week. The team is waiting on a couple more items for the welcome bags and then they will be put together and ready.

Finance – Michelle Miller – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Angie Mooney – No report.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – No report.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – An estimate from Keever's Key and Repair Service, Inc. has been received to have all locks at the church and the church offices, re-keyed and a key pad installed for the fellowship hall. This keypad will better serve the opening and locking back when the fellowship hall is rented. Recommendation from the BAG team to approve this contract (no second is required). Motion carries. The team is preparing to get quotes for carpet/flooring in the fellowship hall and looking at chair issues. Brick chips around church are in need of attention as well and will be added to the attention list.

Technology – Wade Cline – New phone system is up and running. Couple microphones are starting to have issues and will need to be replaced in the near future. Budget needs for 2026 are being planned.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his report. Motion by Doug Ramsey; seconded by Hannah Bostian to approve the baptism of Perrie Gant on August 10. Motion carries. With Rally Day and one service on August 17, the fifth Sunday (August 31) will be a regular 2 service Sunday. Time and talent sheets will add a sub group for Events for those people who would like to sign up to help with set up/tear down table and chairs for special events.

OLD BUSINESS:

► At this time, Friendship has committed to over \$38,000 for the Lutheridge Campaign.

► Council will provide a meal for the Lutheroad staff on July 8 at 5:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

► Homecoming Pastor (September 28). Pastor Josh will check with a couple suggestions and see who is available. Ideas also for an ice cream social that afternoon.

► Ideas were shared about a columbarium.

► Pastor Josh shared about the excitement of the 8 confirmands and 3 kids who attended Lutheridge camp. It was a fun and transformational week for all the kids. The van is in need of repairs for the air conditioner and also an additional van would be a great idea.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be moved to Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6 pm. Tamara Stafford will share a devotion.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – JULY 30, 2025

The sole purpose of the meeting was to approve the recommendation from the Preschool Board (no second required) to hire Mrs. Lori S. Overcash as the director of Friendship Preschool contingent upon council approval, a completed employment application, criminal background check and drug screen. Motion carries.



**Meeting
Minutes**

Ministry Team Spotlight!

Administration Team

Our Administration Team plays a vital behind-the-scenes role in keeping the church organized and running smoothly. We support the pastor and ministry leaders by reviewing and maintaining policies and procedures, ensuring everything aligns with our mission and values. With a heart for service and stewardship, we're here to help create a strong foundation for ministry to thrive.

Most recently, we have updated our Building Use Policy, our Handling and Counting of Donations from Fundraisers and Special Events Policy and our Use of Church Bus Policy. Once policies are reviewed and amended, they go before the congregation council for review and approval at which time they become effective policy of Friendship. For a complete and up to date version of all of our church policies, constitution and bylaws, please contact the church office.

If you're interested in joining the team, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Hannah Bostian or Pastor Josh.

Save the date! This year, the Events Team is hosting a **Fall Festival, Sunday, October 26th from 3-5pm at Friendship!** As part of the festival there will be games, carnival snacks, music and lots more fun for the whole family! Please put this date on your calendar - you won't want to miss it!

***Note:** The fall festival will take place of Trunk or Treat this year because Halloween is on a Friday and it's senior night football game at ACHS.

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>JULY, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$35,516.18	\$249,690.35
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,535.00	\$9,814.97
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$3,010.00	\$14,523.00
PRESCHOOL	\$300.00	\$2,810.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$100.00	\$825.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$340.00	\$3,070.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$905.00	\$4,570.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$75.00	\$945.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$2,490.00	\$13,079.00
YOUTH	\$280.00	\$1,450.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$945.00	\$5,189.00
COLUMBARIUM	\$580.00	\$3,540.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$69.00	\$410.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$125.00	\$455.00
LUTHEROAD	\$1,205.00	\$6,138.00

SPENDING

	<u>JULY, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$34,249.37	\$246,793.24

The Finance team is working on the 2026 spending plan. Ministry teams and leaders, please gather any budgeted requests and communicate them to the finance team to be considered as the plan is formulated.



CRUISE IN BBQ Benefit

Saturday, October 4th,
4:30-7 pm, rain or shine.

Save the date!

More details/information
coming soon!

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...

Ginny Elder (J. Elder-7/28)	Carolyn Hines (W. Cline-8/12)
Jimmy Hayes (M. Stafford-7/28)	Vicki Hollar (W. Pearson-8/13)
Cathy Fox (M. Sweat-7/28)	Teressa Wallace (W. Pearson-8/13)
Jay Dean Mitchell (D. Ramsey-7/28)	Ricky Rector (L. James-8/19)
Julie Jones (S. Tucker-7/30)	Kris Knowlton (K. Knowlton-8/19)
Nicole Davis McNamara (J. Gant-8/4)	David Cooke (N. Icard-8/19)
Bill Wilson (C. Jolly-8/4)	Gene Elliot (K. Loudermelk-8/19)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-8/4)	Matt Haney (P. Josh-8/20)
Martha Johnson (G. Kerley-8/4)	Heather & Brandon Sigmon (S. Tucker)
Linda Myers (S. Icenhour-8/4)	Sherry & Keith Strickland (S. Tucker)
Scott & Lori Seagle (P. Setzer-8/11)	Candace Teague (S. Tucker-8/20)
Bobby & Sheng Brown (P. Setzer-8/11)	Rick Jones (W. Cline-8/21)
Robin Graziano (C. Sigmon-8/11)	Stacey Hanes (J. McBride-8/21)
Raleigh Pearson (W. Pearson-8/11)	Donald Lee Bowman (S. Bumgarner-8/27)

Family & friends of:

Rebecca DuBose	(D. Frye-7/30)
Glenn Mull	(S. Goble-7/31)
Bria Sigmon	(K. Tucker-8/1)
Bob Hymer	(W. Cline-8/2)
Jarrett Clay	(D. Smith-8/19)
Heidi Jonas	(S. Tucker-8/20)
Jesse Fierro	(P. Shealy-8/21)
Rick Fox	(W. Cline-8/25)

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.