



Friendship Focus

April 2025

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. John 15:12-13, 16a

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

The Lenten journey to the cross of Jesus is nearing its end. But will our intentional Lenten rhythms of repentance, self-discipline, fasting, sacrificial giving, devotion, supplemental worship, prayer and growing in our relationship with God also end?

It's amazing how quickly this season passes. And I'm afraid the spiritual practices and disciplines that I often take on during this time also seem to dwindle rather quickly. Kind of like well-intentioned new year resolutions, Lenten disciplines start off strong but fade over time, especially as we move into the Easter season and the late spring and summer.

We will soon find ourselves in the midst of holy week and the great three days - the most dramatic and transformative events in all of history! It is what transpires throughout these events that changed our lives. So, if the gospel is so transformative for us, shouldn't we vow to always be so disciplined in continuing whatever spiritual practices or disciplines we have adopted during these 40 days?

In what's known as his farewell discourse, Jesus takes time just prior to his betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion to give his disciples (and us) some final words of encouragement, promise and goodbye. He tends to focus on love, unity and the promise to send the Holy Spirit, but Jesus' words of affirmation and challenge from this passage speak to me:

I chose you!
I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last!

Friends, the good news of the gospel for us as we make the turn from Lent into the celebration of the resurrection is that God chooses us. God chose us as he sent his son, Jesus to lay down his life for us, his friends. Through the life death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God chooses us, again and again. God chose to save us from our sin. God chose to give us the promise of everlasting life. And God chose you and me to go out into the world to share this good news, to bear fruit that will last.

Perhaps we can carry out this work of discipleship faithfully if we make our Lenten practices and spiritual disciplines that have been a part of these past 40 days, regular practices we exercise. Perhaps the good news of Easter will be so transformative for us this year, that it convicts us to further grow in our relationship with God, with each other and with the world; being the very hands and feet of God, shining the light of Christ and working for justice and peace.

I pray for that kind of Easter revival for God's church!

In Christ,
PJ

April News

Secret Sisters meet Sat, April 5th at 9 am.

WELCA - meets Sunday, April 6th, 4 pm in the chapel.
All are welcome!

March Madness Can Food Drive - we are collecting now through April 6th with all donations being divided & distributed to all food pantries in the county. Place your non perishable food into the box of your favorite college basketball team. Boxes are located at the handprints.

Mid-Week Lent Worship - The theme for these services is "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" based on the well-known Lenten hymn. We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. Together in worship we will explore what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

The schedule for Community Lenten Worship will be:

Wed, April 2 - noon at Reformation, lunch to follow
6pm at St. Luke, supper to follow

Wed, April 9 - noon at Reformation, lunch to follow
6pm at Friendship, supper to follow

Community Easter EGGstravaganza! April 12th, 1pm.



There will be lots of fun activities for your children to do including a bounce house, balloon artist and a visit from the Easter Bunny. And, of course, the egg hunt! We would love for you to invite friends, family and neighbors to come and join us for this afternoon of fun!



Holy Week

April 13th - Palm Sunday - 8am & 10:30 worship

April 17th - Maundy Thursday service - 7 pm - (Nave)

April 18th - Good Friday service - 12noon - (FLC)

-Good Friday service - 7 pm - (Nave)

April 20th - Easter Sunday:

Sunrise service @ the cemetery cross - 6:30am

Breakfast in FLC- 7:30am

Sunday School - 9:15am

Worship in the Nave - 10:30

Good Friday, April 18th @ 7pm in the Nave the Friendship choir will present the Tenebrae Cantata, composed by Steven Mowery. Tenebrae means darkness. The choral pieces for this cantata will take us through the darkness of Jesus' arrest and trial, his journey to the cross and his ultimate sacrifice for us all on Calvary. It is sure to be a moving Good Friday worship experience as we remember Jesus' love for us on the cross.

(WOW) Bible study meets the third Tuesday of each month. We are studying the book of Esther. All women are welcome. We will meet this month on **Tues, April 15th** at **6pm**. For more information, please see Brittany Greathouse.

Newsletter Deadline- Send items for the **May** issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Tues, April 22nd**. Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com.

Rooted will be hosting its 2nd annual cake auction to raise money for Lutheroad. The auction will start **Thursday, April 10** and cakes will be picked up **Saturday, April 12**. If you are willing to make or donate a cake, please let Nikki or Payton know.

Red Cross Blood Drive - Sun, April 13th, 12:30-5pm.



**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.

April Birthdays

Roger Miller	4/01	Martha Fox	4/14
Lori Dial	4/03	Chris Bowman	4/16
Megan Nicholas	4/03	Lindy Swift	4/17
Danny Parks	4/04	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
Elizabeth Bowman	4/14		



Friendship Lutheran Church Council
February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting in Person

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

President Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order.

Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve the agenda. Motion carries.

Angie Mooney shared a devotion.

Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Hannah Bostian to approve January 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Tamara Stafford to approve. Motion carries.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – No report.

Care – Tamara Stafford – 104 meals were provided at 6 locations for the EMS Appreciation meal; trash pick up date is February 22 at 9 am. Additional vests and grabbers are needed. Tamara will check with Taylor about this. Collection of pill bottles continues; a buggy has been placed at the entrance to each worship space for food donations to the Christian Crisis Center. Buggies will be blessed at the children's time of the service. Current need is peanut butter, crackers and cereal.

Learn – Nikki Icard – White boards are in and Doug is getting them hung. It would be easier to keep eyes on the kids if the Rooted group had t-shirts all in the same color for field trips.

Worship – Chris Jolly – The team met January 30. Teresa Birchfield will serve as chairperson. The 10:30 choir would welcome new members. The seminary donated 130 ELW hymnals to us. A new worship leader book was given by Pastor Craig and Susan Sigmon. Handbells, choral student program, and the concert by Thomas Keesecker are items being discussed or planned for. A new mac or pc is needed for the 8 am service.

Share – Chris Bowman – No new report. The team will be meeting February 16.

Finance – Michelle Miller – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Angie Mooney – Team members are Starr Lynn Smith, Cathy Carroll, and Michelle Bowman.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – The Preschool team will meet on February 12. A memorial for Eisele Herman, tuition, and registration are on the agenda.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – The team tasked to select paint colors have decided on colors for the fellowship hall reno. The council will meet with the ladies on Sunday, February 16 at 9:30 to finalize.

Technology – Wade Cline – Internet has been upgraded and is working properly. Camera work will begin next.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared that the Rooted, Youth, and Men in Mission all enjoyed working at the Christian Crisis Center, collecting food, stocking shelves, and doing some maintenance at the center. The Youth will partner with WELCA on “Project Linus” on February 16. Pastor Josh would like to have the whole church involved in a mission trip. There are needs still in Western North Carolina in various ways. He shared that St John, Reformation, Friendship and maybe St Luke would be partnering this year for Lent services. He will talk to the other churches about meals. The Events Team will be sponsoring Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4. He will be taking 5 youth to the LYO Retreat in Greensboro, February 28 through March 2.

Motion by Doug Ramsey; seconded by Chris Jolly to send \$1,000.00 (from line 01-5559 Contingencies) to the seminary for the “New Life Scholarship Fund” as a gift for the ELW hymnals and 4 book carts they gave Friendship. Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS:

► Friendship can have 2 voting members and 1 youth (under 30-year-old or in high school) attend the Synod Assembly. The first registration is due March 15 for early bird discount. Please let Pastor Josh know if you or someone you know would like to be a delegate.

NEW BUSINESS:

► Idea for the tennis court area was brought to council attention. More information is needed.

► 75th Campaign for Lutheridge which was voted on by Council (September 24, 2024) will be getting underway soon. Council was reminded that this is a 3-year commitment.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, March 11, 2024, at 6 pm. Chris Jolly will share a devotion.

Meeting February 16, 2025 with the team tasked to select paint colors.

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

Council voted in favor of the following colors: wall/walkway: Accessibly Beige; stage and trim: Virtual Taupe; bathroom: Moth Wing.

An update from Pastor Josh that he and Payton Boyles are working on the 75th Birthday Celebration for Lutheridge Campaign and will start the appeal in March.

Meeting March 2, 2025

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

Motion by Tamara Stafford; seconded by Michelle Miller to commit for up to 48 people to participate in the April 4-6 weekend/retreat opportunity at Lutheridge. Friendship will cover the cost of the trip. Motion carries.

Ministry Team Spotlight!

The Share Team's mission is to share the impact stories of our ministry with others. They serve to promote the ministries of Friendship to church members, guests, and the broader community. They concentrate on two key areas: evangelism and marketing, along with discipleship integration. The Share Team utilizes various advertising methods, including slides for the church sign, social media, the radio station, and newspapers, to keep the community informed about church events and worship opportunities. They also plan how our church can be involved at community events such as parades and festivals to invite others to Friendship and spread the love of Christ. Currently, this team is focused on enhancing the welcome areas in both worship spaces, providing visitor bags for guests, and creating promotional items like Friendship Lutheran shirts. A partner ministry of the Share Team is the Event Team which is responsible for organizing and establishing guidelines for non-fundraising events at the church. Members of the team assist in planning and recruiting volunteers for various church events. Each member selects an event or events they are passionate about to coordinate. Additionally, the Event Team plans to create printed layouts of the Family Life Center and organize teams to prepare the center for these events.

Both the Share Team and Event Team are actively looking for new members. If you feel called to join either team, please contact Kasi Sigmon (828) 514 - 3479 or Amy Palmer (828) 514 - 3477

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>FEBRUARY, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$36,661.08	\$64,645.22
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,000.00	\$2,294.97
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$2,149.00	\$5,113.00
PRESCHOOL	\$340.00	\$725.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$550.00	\$550.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$600.00	\$925.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$425.00	\$600.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$195.00	\$390.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$2,331.00	\$2,616.00
YOUTH	\$231.00	\$597.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$816.00	
\$1,346.50		
COLUMBARIUM	\$390.00	\$690.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$55.00	\$100.00

SPENDING

	<u>FEBRUARY, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$43,722.78	\$75,351.53



An Evening with Thomas Keesecker

on **Thursday, May 1st at 6pm** in the Family Life Center! Finger foods at 6pm and program at 6:30. He will be presenting for us a concert of his latest pieces entitled "Easter Hope." If you are willing to help by providing food for this event, please be on the lookout for a sign up sheet soon or see a member of the Worship and Music Team.

Important Upcoming Events this Summer!

Lutheroad Summer Daycamp for elementary children is **July 7th-11th. Registration is open!** Space is limited.

Vacation Bible School for all ages is **July 27th-30th.**

****Volunteers are needed for both of these events. If interested, please see Payton Boyles or Nikki Icard.**

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...

Jerry Wallace (W. Pearson-3/3)	Tommy & Renee Rogers (D. Ramsey)
Izaiah Littlejohn (S. Goble-3/3)	Ginny Elder (J. Elder-3/17)
Pastor David Mielke (P. Josh-3/4)	Bill Wilson (C. Jolly-3/17)
John Phillips (J. Adair-3/5)	Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-3/17)
Lori Seagle (P. Setzer-3/6)	Martha Johnson (G. Kerley-3/17)
Sheng & Bobby Brown (P. Setzer-3/6)	Linda Myers (S. Icenhour-3/17)
Andy Carpenter (T. Setzer-3/10)	Carol Mitchell (L. Harrington-3/19)
Larry Nichols (P. Josh-3/10)	Carol Crouch (S. Bumgarner-3/19)
Dana Hollar (L. Hefner-3/10)	Mickey Sloop (R. Dial-3/20)
Phyllis Ann Fox (J. Gant-3/10)	Olivia Fox (A. Mooney-3/24)
Bob Russell (P. Josh-3/10)	Chris Bowman (P. Josh-3/24)
Robin Graziano (C. Sigmon-3/12)	Nicole D. McNamara (J. Gant-3/24)
Jerry & Vickie Bowman (P. Josh-3/12)	Wanda Bentley (D. Smith-3/24)
Terra Butler (D. Ramsey-3/17)	Jimmy Hayes (P. Josh-3/26)

Family & friends of:

Tate Blanton	
Sam Livingston	(P. Shealy-3/4)
Rev. James Millsaps	(D. Bowman-3/6)
Renee Moretz	(H. Bostian-3/10)
Makala Rangler	(H. Bostian-3/10)
Matt Robinson	(C. Jolly-3/19)
Dale Collins	(S. Bumgarner-3/20)
Toni Oakes	(D. Swift-3/24)
Marshall Fullbright	(C. Bowman-3/24)
Jackie Campbell	(C. Carroll-3/25)
Bobby Carrigan	(D. Smith-3/25)
Marcella Icenhour	(P. Josh-3/26)

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

Fate Hefner, Steve Icenhour, Emo Bebbler,
Joyce Deal, Roy & Reba Bolick.

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)
Guy Kerley - 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

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

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.