



FRIENDSHIP
LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAYLORSVILLE, NC

Friendship Focus

August 2026

*Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling
in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your
labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Grace to you and peace from the one who was, who is and who is to come, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

It has often been my experience to witness a lull in ministry throughout the summer months. A dip in attendance and giving; a decline in willing volunteers; a respite from outreach ministry altogether.

This summer has been quite the opposite. The Lord has worked mightily in and through us here at Friendship.

There is a Spirit here that is contagious
An excitement that is unmatched
A fire that is burning brightly for all to see

This is the work of the Lord among and through us! And even though this summer has been busy, and we may be tired, we know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain!

One of the greatest joys of the season was welcoming children and families to Lutheroad Summer Day Camp and Vacation Bible School. Our church was alive with laughter, music, games, crafts, Bible stories, and prayers. Watching young people discover God's love in creative and joyful ways is one of the greatest blessings of congregational life. We are especially grateful for the organizers, counselors, volunteers, parents, and staff who generously shared their time and gifts to make these ministries possible. Thank you for helping create spaces where children know they are loved by God and welcomed into the family of faith.

Our youth also experienced a summer filled with opportunities to serve. The mission trip provided meaningful experiences of compassion, hard work, and relationship-building as our young people became Christ's hands and feet in Charleston. The youth also took time this summer to serve at The Corner Table in Newton which reminded us that mission doesn't only happen far away—it begins right where God has planted us. Whether serving neighbors, assisting with church projects, or lending a helping hand wherever needed, our youth have demonstrated what it means to live out their baptismal calling. They inspire all of us to ask, "How is God calling me to serve?"

This summer has also been a season of caring for the place God has entrusted to us. Hopefully you've taken time to see the exciting progress on the construction of our new columbarium. This sacred addition to our cemetery will provide a peaceful place of remembrance, hope, and resurrection faith for generations to come. It will stand as a beautiful witness to our confidence in Christ's promise: that neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God.

Inside the building, new flooring and fresh paint in our preschool have transformed the classroom into a bright, welcoming space for our youngest learners. These improvements are much more than cosmetic. They communicate to every child and family who enters that they are valued, cared for, and worthy of a safe and beautiful environment in which to learn and grow. As another preschool year will soon begin, we pray God's richest blessings upon the students, teachers, and families who will fill those rooms with curiosity, laughter, and learning.

None of these ministries or improvements happen by accident. They happen because together, as God's church, we continue to respond faithfully to God's call. Every volunteer who prepared a snack, every youth who picked up a shovel, every donor who supported a project, every ministry team member who planned, every prayer offered on behalf of these ministries—all are part of God's ongoing work in this place.

As we look toward the fall, we do so with thankful hearts. Summer has reminded us that the church is far more than a building or a schedule of events. The church is God's people gathered around Word and Sacrament, sent into the world to love, serve, teach, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for being a church that embraces ministry with generous hearts and willing hands. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain! Together we have celebrated, served, built, learned, and grown. May we carry the joy of this summer into the months ahead, trusting that the God who has been faithful in every season will continue to lead us forward. I look forward with great anticipation to all that God has in store for us as we continue to share Christ's love with one another and with our community.

In Christ,
PJ

August News



Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the body of Christ, **Slade Elliott Frye** through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on **Sunday, August 2, 2026**. Slade is the son of Mason & Stasya Frye.

Secret Sisters will **NOT** meet in August.

Fellowship Potluck Supper is **Monday, August 3rd @ 6pm**. All are welcome to join us for great food & fellowship.

Alzheimer's Benefit Cake Auction/Breakfast— Our online cake auction opens **Thursday, August 6th** & closes on **Friday, August 7th**. Bidding will take place on Friendship's facebook page. Pick up is on **Saturday, August 8th, 7-10 am**. If you are willing to bake and/or donate a dessert for the auction, please contact Wendelynne Pearson or Tamara Stafford. Desserts will need to be at the church and ready for winners to pick up on **Saturday, August 8th, between 7-10am**. Photos of the desserts will need to be sent to Wendelynne or Tamara **no later than Wednesday, August 5th at 5pm**. Thank you, in advance, for baking for this event!

***Join us** for a morning of good food, great company & a meaningful cause on **Saturday, August 8th, 7-10 am**.

The CARE Team needs you! If you are willing to bake and/or donate a dessert for the auction, please contact Wendelynne Pearson or Tamara Stafford. Desserts will need to be at the church and ready for winners to pick up on **Saturday, August 8, between 7-10am**. Photos of the desserts will need to be sent to Wendelynne or Tamara **no later than Wednesday, August 5 at 5pm**. Thank you, in advance, for baking for this event! *

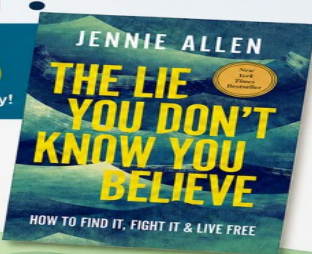
Looking for a new **BIBLE STUDY?** ???

Join Friendship Lutheran's **WOW** (Women of the Word) group for a new 6-session study!

 **2nd session starts Thursday, August 13th at 6p**
at Friendship Lutheran Church

 **Meal, fellowship and Bible study provided!**

 **FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH**
TAYLORSVILLE, NC



 **WANT THE BOOK?**
Click the link to order from Amazon:
<https://a.co/d/OfMEyoIA>

Grow in faith. Build friendships. Be the light.

Youth Sunday - Make plans to be in worship on **Sunday, August 16th** as the youth will lead us at both services. Those youth that went on the mission trip will also share their experience during worship.

Blessing of the Book Bags

Sunday, August 23rd
8:00 & 10:30 Services

We will be blessing the school year!
All students, teachers & school workers are invited to bring their school bags to worship.

Friendship preschool is now accepting applications for enrollment for the **2026-27** school year. Space is limited so encourage your family and friends to submit an application in order to secure a spot for their little one. Thank you for helping us to spread the word so that the children of our community get the best start in their preschool education.





August Birthdays

Tony Elder	8/02	Debbie Cline	8/20
Bob Russell	8/03	Chris McBride	8/20
Jane Gant	8/05	Londie Cothren	8/22
Kacey Payne	8/05	Maci Annas	8/24
Kimberlyn Swift	8/07	Maynard Annas IV	8/24
Shelia Gantt	8/09	Devin Elder	8/24
Daisy Lingerfelt	8/09	Blake Bowman	8/25
Dallard Lail	8/09	Monty Payne	8/27
Barnes Wike	8/11	Ian Shepherd	8/27
Betty Icenhour	8/13	David Cook	8/29
Mark Gantt	8/14	Olivia Shepherd	8/29
Dennis Rhyne	8/18	Briggen Boyles	8/30
Penny Chapman	8/20		



Friendship Lutheran Church Council

June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting in Person

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

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order.

Motion by Jenna Buff; seconded by Tamara Stafford to approve the agenda. Motion carries.

Michelle Miller shared a devotion.

Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Kasi Sigmon to approve minutes from May 19, 2026, Regular Meeting and June 2, 2026, special called meeting. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was not available due to meeting being rescheduled.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – No report.

Care – Tamara Stafford – Shared the next trash pick-up day will be June 27 at 8 am; Motion by the team (no second required) to approve the Alzheimer's Breakfast for August 8, 2026, from 7-10 am, and counters will be Debbie Cline, Wendelynne Pearson and Dana Frye. Motion carries. Blood drive will be July 12.

Learn – Jenna Buff – VBS will meet again at the end of June. Kick off event will be on Sunday, July 26 and there will not be a big send off on the last night. Kasi Sigmon will work with announcement for social media.

Worship – Todd Smith – Review for Ian Elkin has been completed.

Share – Kasi Sigmon – No report.

Finance – Michelle Miller – No report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Brian Chapman – The Rusha Austin Scholarship certificate of deposit has been moved to Taylorsville Savings Bank for a better interest rate.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – The Preschool Team has approved the hiring of Leah Cronan as a second assistant for \$12 per hour for the school year 2026-2027; Pat Payne, and Samantha Bowers have rotated off the board and new board members are Michelle Bowman and Cheryl Serrill. Amy Palmer will be the chairperson, and Michelle Miller will be treasurer.

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

Technology – Tyler Hall – Has a meeting planned for June 11, 2026.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh will send his report out by email.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beth Sheedy: Has agreed to start as our Vicar in August. She will be renting and moving into the parsonage at St Luke on July 13. Men in Mission have been asked to help her get moved in.

NEW BUSINESS:

Preschool updates are coming soon from removing old carpet, adding new flooring, and painting the walls, all before the school year starts. Preschool funds will be taking responsibility for the costs. Preschool is also looking into new equipment for the playground. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned with prayer.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6 pm. Hannah Bostian will share a devotion.



**Meeting
Minutes**



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:

Since 1830, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) has formed leaders for the ELCA. On Lenoir-Rhyne's Hickory campus, LTSS provides a vibrant living laboratory for preparing leaders for public ministry. Our students from engage in deep theological study and communal worship, nurtured by a diverse, ecumenical, Christ-centered community for theological education and formation.



To teach, form and cultivate leaders for public ministry in a context that is Christ-centered, faithfully Lutheran and ecumenically committed.

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

Master of Divinity	Accelerated Master of Divinity
Master of Arts in Christian Ministry	Spiritual Direction Certification
Master of Theological Studies	Public Safety Chaplaincy Certification

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Why This Matters for Our Synod

As a graduate college of Lenoir-Rhyne University, LTSS students and faculty enjoy the vibrant resources of the university campus and community while maintaining the intimate, prayerful environment essential for pastoral formation. Your future pastors and deacons are being shaped right here in our own backyard through:

- Ecumenical Engagement: Learning alongside diverse faith traditions
- Community Life: Daily chapel and rich community formation that build lifelong bonds
- Academic Excellence: Rigorous Lutheran ecumenical, and interdisciplinary education

Financial Stewardship

OFFERINGS

	<u>JUNE, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$33,618.28	\$217,801.98
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,210.00	\$8,873.85
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$1,492.45	\$12,335.20
PRESCHOOL	\$105.00	\$910.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$0.00	\$50.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$350.00	\$3,140.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$1,630.70	\$5,863.50
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$205.00	\$805.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$2,340.00	\$9,685.00
YOUTH	\$7,670.00	\$16,262.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$442.00	\$4,905.50
COLUMBARIUM	\$0.00	\$1,950.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$35.00	\$208.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$95.00
LUTHEROAD	\$1,050.00	\$5,215.00
LUTHERIDGE CAMPAIGN	\$135.00	\$945.00
CONFIRMATION GIFTS	\$0.00	\$315.00
LENT 2026/BRIDGING TOGETHER	\$0.00	\$483.00
TOTAL	\$50,283.43	\$289,843.03

SPENDING

	<u>JUNE, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$19,683.20	\$200,970.92



Save the Date

Homecoming
Sunday is
September 27th as
 we celebrate **193**
years of Friendship!

Sunday School will be at 9am; worship at 10am
 in the sanctuary and a potluck lunch to follow.

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...

John Norman (R. Black-6/29)	Duane Barnes (L. Hayes-7/13)
Lynette Gant (R. Gant-6/29)	Steve Sharpe (P. Stikeleather-7/13)
Dana Hollar (A. Sells-6/29)	Scott Seagle (P. Setzer-7/13)
Donna Rhyne (D. Rhyne-6/29)	Tony Sloope (S. Birchfield-7/14)
Jimmy Hayes (M. Stafford-6/29)	Sam Bowman (P. Josh-7/14)
Jay Dean Mitchell (D. Ramsey-6/29)	Roger Harrington (P. Josh-7/16)
Tony Cothren (P. Josh-6/29)	Mark Gantt (P. Josh-7/20)
Joe Elder (P. Josh-6/30)	Rick Jones (J. Gant-7/20)
Jimmy Mitchell (P. Josh-6/30)	Christie Sarver (A. Palmer-7/20)
Ruby Sloope (S. Birchfield-7/1)	Ray Fox (P. Josh-7/22)
Dale Smith (C. Jolly-7/1)	Lauryn Dennie (J. Watts-7/23)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-7/6)	Tom Gott (E. Icard-7/27)
Nicole Davis McNamara (J. Gant-7/6)	Herman Price (P. Payne-7/27)
Randy Bowman (P. Josh-7/7)	Lynn Huynh (D. Icard-7/27)
Pat Bowman (P. Josh-7/7)	James Handy (S. Rogers-7/27)
Logan Elder (J. Buff-7/13)	Dale Allen (M. Elder-7/29)
Maynard Annas (P. Shealy-7/13)	Tara Smith (P. Josh-7/30)
Max Douglas (MA. Icenhour-7/13)	

Family & friends of:

Paul Cline	(L. Jolly-7/24)
Jack Bebbber	(C. Bowman-7/27)
Donna Vance	(T. Annas-7/29)

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

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

Church Council and Staff

Council

(Term ending)

Officers

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
Silsa Moore	Organ/Piano
Lori Overcash	Preschool Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Penny is in the office
Mon-Thurs, 9:30-4:30
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.