



# Friendship Focus

## December 2022

### News for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

*And [the angel, Gabriel] came to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Luke 1: 28-30*

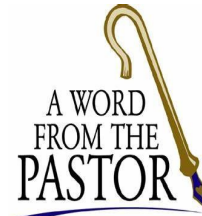
Grace to you and peace in the name of the awaited newborn king, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

We Wait. Advent is the time of year when we wait for the anticipated arrival of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. We wait for his coming into this world and we wait for the true message of hope and peace that he brings to us. Most of all, we wait in long and expected hope of the salvation that can only be found through his life, death and resurrection.

We wait for the babe in a manger but we also wait with sureness and certainty Christ will come again. Just as he promised, Jesus went on from this world to prepare a place for us, and just as he promised he will come again for us so that we may all be united in the kingdom of God as one. Advent is about this kind of waiting, too: waiting for Christ to come again.

Waiting can be exciting at times, as we live our lives full of anticipation. We continue on our faith walk as disciples of Christ during this time focused on what God is calling us to do to make himself known in the world. Waiting, then, can be about spending precious time with family and friends, decorating, caroling and glorifying God through worship and service during this holiday season.

But, sometimes waiting is not easy. The seasons of Advent and Christmas can bring about sadness as we remember past times spent with loved ones who are no longer with us. It's also easy for us to lose the focus and meaning of the holiday season with all of the attention on shopping, gift giving and the secularized meanings of Christmas.



No matter where we find ourselves in this season of waiting, we cling to the words from Luke with the annunciation of Jesus' birth. In the first chapter, the birth narrative begins as the angel Gabriel visits the virgin, Mary. The text tells us of Mary's confusion and anxiety over the presence of the angel with her and in his words, "Greeting, favored one." How could a lowly virgin have found favor with God? The angel continues to assure Mary saying, "the Lord is with you."

This advent and Christmas season let us never forget that we too have found favor with God and that God is with us. We are his chosen people; his people who are called to do great things. And, he is with us every step of the way as we do these things and as we wait for him this season. The Lord is with us! Even as we get caught up in the busy-ness of the season or as we remember great times with loved ones in the past, the Lord is with us and he has favored us. Let us wait with anticipation and hope as Jesus comes!

I wish you and your family a blessed Advent and Christmas. I pray that you may see the presence of Christ with you as you spend time with your families, your friends and with you church family. I pray that as we wait together for the coming of Christ, may we not lose sight of the miracle that happened so long ago in a manger in Bethlehem, and that we may not lose sight of the miracle that is still happening today as we answer the call to be Christ's disciples, carrying out his work in the world so that all my know of his love. God bless you in this season of waiting.

In Christ,  
Pastor Josh

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**CREW** would like to thank everyone that donated to the blessing bag project. We were able to pack 175 bags that were delivered with the Thanksgiving meals. Thank you all for your continued support!

**The CARE Team** delivered 444 lbs. of food to the Christian Crisis Center on Monday, November 28th. **Thanks** to the generous giving of our congregation.

## December News

**A Story For His Glory Ministries** invites you to join us for our first annual **"Widows Luncheon"** on **Feb. 11, 2023**, at **First Baptist Church, Taylorsville**, with guest speaker Susan Heck. You are welcome to bring a guest. Since lunch is provided, **we will need you to RSVP by Dec. 1st** to either of the following: [AStoryForHisGlory@gmail.com](mailto:AStoryForHisGlory@gmail.com) or our facebook event page, or call or text Lisa James @ (828) 244-0219.

**Secret Sisters** will be having a night celebrating the season **Friday, Dec. 2nd at 6 pm**. We will be doing a sock exchange, food & fellowship. **All women are invited to attend**. Bring a finger food to share and come join us. If you have any questions, please see Daphne Payne.

**WELCA** meets **Sunday, Dec. 4th, 5 pm in the chapel**.

**Poinsettias** - if you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate the altar for Christmas, forms will be available at both services: (For FLC services-on table at both entrances & 10:30 service-on the Narthex shelf) Forms can be placed in the offering plate. The cost is \$7.50 & checks should be made out to Country Road Greenhouse. Contact Dana Frye for questions or details. **Deadline is Dec. 4th**.

**Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser for Preschool - Sat, December 10th, 9 - 11 am.**

Bring your children to join the fun! They will have breakfast with Santa, hot chocolate, a craft to take home, face painting & a picture with Santa! Donations only please. Proceeds go to updating our playground area. This fundraiser is open to the community! Invite your friends & neighbors!



**The Angel Tree** has **40 foster children** in Alexander County this year. The tags have the child's clothes size and special items they have asked for. You do not have to buy all of the items. The gifts must be back to the church by **Sunday, Dec. 11th**. Contact Lisa James at 632-2451 with any questions.



**A Christmas to Believe In!** Join us for our annual Christmas play on **Sunday, Dec. 11th, at 6 pm**. We hope that you will join us for a night full of laughs & fun. If you have any questions, please contact Taylor Payne @ 704 437-9786.

**Membership at Friendship** - We are grateful for those whom God has led to worship with us and be a part of the church family here. If you are interested in learning more about membership at Friendship Lutheran Church, please reach out to Pastor Josh. A new members conversation will take place **Dec.11th @ 9:15am in the sanctuary**. We will welcome new members into the life and ministry of Friendship during worship on **Dec. 18th**.

**Newsletter Deadline**- Send items for the **January** issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Tuesday, Dec. 20th**. Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to [friendhipsecretary4@gmail.com](mailto:friendhipsecretary4@gmail.com).



**Christmas Eve Services** - Our family service will be **Sat, Dec. 24th, at 5 pm outside with the nativity**. At **9 pm**, we will have our **traditional candle light service in the Nave**. Please make plans to attend.

**Christmas Day** - **Sunday, December 25th**, we will have **one service at 10 am**. Come to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Nave.

**New Year's Eve Service** - We will have **one service only at 10 am in the FLC**.

## 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

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

Roger “Bo” Arrington	(L. Hefner-10/27)
Lee Oxendine	(J. Watts-10/31)
Wendy Watts	(L. Hefner-10/31)
Pantha Watts	(J. Watts-11/1)
Corey Cline	(H. Bostian-11/3)
Brandon Decker	(M. Miller-11/7)
Adam Kijesky	(L. Sweet-11/7)
Chris Russell	(D. Payne-11/7)
Larry Price	(J. Watts-11/8)
Pete Sherrill	(J. Watts-11/8)
Ralph Miller	(J. Watts-11/8)
Gary Richey	(P. Josh-11/9)
Darlene Handy	(S. Rogers-11/14)
Linda Bowman	(S. Rogers-11/14)
Amy Deal	(J. Gant-11/14)
Phyllis Ann Fox	(J. Gant-11/14)
Katelyn McKinney	(W. Cline-11/14)
Torie Rhoney	(R. Buff-11/14)
Alan & Judy Hefner	(R. Bolick-11/14)
Diane Fox	(L. Hefner-11/14)
Dana Hollar	(L. Hefner-11/21)
Kathy Barr	(D. Bowman-11/21)
Cindy Meadows	(G. Tucker-11/21)
Michael & Sherri Sloop	(P. Josh-11/28)
Paulette Pearson	(K. Wike-11/28)
Arlie Meil	(K. Wike-11/28)
Earl Bostian	(W. Cline-11/28)
George Smith	(J. Smith-11/29)

### **Family & friends of:**

Ruby Thompson	(P. Shealy-10/31)
Linda Mundy	(P. Stikeleather-11/2)
Jimmie Fox	(P. Stikeleather-11/7)
Evelyn M. Hammer	(J. Watts-11/8)
OC Barnes	(B. Icenhour-11/21)

Friendship Lutheran Church Council  
October 18, 2022, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: John Bostian, Marty Buff, Wade Cline, Eric Frye, Tyler Hall, Mary Ann Icenhour, Pat Payne, Gary Richey, Stee Shealy, Monica Stafford, Jimmy Watts, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Dana Frye.  
Absent: Sandra Icenhour

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order, and Tyler Hall shared a devotion.

Motion by Marty Buff; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 13, 2022. Motion carries.

Treasurer's report for the month was distributed.

**TEAM REPORTS:**

*Administration* – Sandra Icenhour – No report.

*Care* – Wade Cline – 50 units were received at the blood drive. Planning to serve 500 at Trunk-R-Treat with help from Reformation and St Luke.

*Learn* – John Bostian – The team continues to work on a flyer that can be picked up as you enter worship each Sunday that will help visitors know we offer other than worship service. This will detail what is being discussed in each class as well as where classes are located. Also, to include activities going on during the week for different age groups.

*Worship* -Monica Stafford - Upcoming events include Pastor Josh's installation - October 23; All Saints Sunday – Nov. 6; Veterans Sunday with a video and refreshments – Nov. 13; Thanksgiving service – Nov. 23 at 7 pm with canned food offering; Christmas Eve services at 5 pm and 9 pm. Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be one service Sundays and no Sunday School. Pastor Josh will be on vacation on January 1. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday rotation is being discussed. Communion at the rail at 10:30 will resume by bringing your individual wine/wafer set with you as you come up. Pastor Josh will implement a "Noisy Offering" for the kids to begin in November.

*Share* – Jimmy Watts – Information for Trunk-r-Treat has been sent to the Taylorsville Time and the radio station.

*Finance* – Steve Shealy – Offerings are up slightly.

*Rusha Austin Scholarship* – Marty Buff – No report.

*Preschool* – Pat Payne – Preschool makes a motion (no second is required) to have a “Breakfast with Santa” fundraiser on December 10 from 9 am til 11 am. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance for pictures along with crafts. Pancakes and bacon will be served. Funds raised will go toward playground needs. Motion carries. Pastor Josh is having chapel time with the preschool on Mondays.

*Building & Grounds (BAG)* – Eric Frye – Quote to clean the vents in the church was \$10,500.00. The Team decided to use other options to clean the vents in the kitchen and hold off on other areas since plans for carpet and the new sign are underway right now.

*Technology* – Tyler Hall – Earpieces were donated to the choir by Big Sky. Permits for the sign will be filed this week. A possible date for installation is November 14. The bell and cover have been taken down and taken to Tommy Setzer for powder coating.

*Cemetery* – Gary Richey – The next workday will be October 22. The discussion was about spraying Roundup for weeds and options to control weeds and protect tombstones and bases.

*Special Projects* – Jimmy Watts – No report

#### **PASTORS REPORT:**

Pastor Josh shared his monthly report. He is looking forward to starting the noisy offering with the kids and having coffee with visitors. Watch for more details on new events. Pastor Josh is working on ideas for a live nativity for the Christmas Eve service.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

In addition to the names given for council nominations, the congregation has given names as well. At this time the following names have agreed to serve if elected: Michelle Miller, Amy Palmer, Donna Icard, Robert Farrens, Dara Swift, Taylor Payne, Mason Frye, Guy Chapman, Payton Boyles, Brittany Greathouse and John Adair. The deadline to nominate is October 23.

Motion by Marty Buff; seconded by John Bostian to accept the \$15,280.13 bid from Renew Upholstery Services, LLC for recovering the pews in the nave, pending sample approval. Motion carries.

Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Tyler Hall to accept \$19,786.35 bid from H&A Carpet for carpet installation pending sample approval. Motion carries.

*\*Minutes continued on the next page.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Steve Shealy presented the 2023 Spending Plan. Motion from the Finance Team to approve the 2023 Spending Plan (no second is required). Motion carries.

On behalf of WELCA, Steve Shealy asked for service projects around the church. With numerous jobs needing to be taken care of a motion by Mary Ann Icenhour; seconded by Jimmy Watts to approve the disposal of items that are no longer in working condition when cleaning up around the church. Motion carries.

Motion by Steve Shealy; seconded by Eric Frye to approve the Secret Sisters to use the fellowship hall on Saturday, November 5 to feed to Apple City Street Rodders group. Motion carries.

Motion by Mary Buff; seconded by Jimmy Watts to feed the ACHS Football team on October 28. John and Hannah Bostian will handle the details. Motion carries. Pastor Josh would like to be involved with this.

Jimmy Watts will follow up with getting the swing sets that were purchased in the past, set up on the playground.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Jimmy Watts is scheduled to share a devotion.

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Electronic Votes on October 20, 2022

Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Tyler Hall to have church property rezoned to gain approval for the digital sign. Motion carries.

Motion by Pastor Josh; seconded by Eric Frye to direct the offerings from the installation service on October 23, 2022 to the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary's New Life Fund. Gifts from this fund go to support and provide resources and scholarships to future pastors and leaders in the church. The offering will be sent directly to the seminary and will be directed for this purpose. Motion carries.



**Meeting  
Minutes**



**Congratulations** to those elected to serve on our Congregational Council for a two year term starting in December: Guy Chapman, Mason Frye, Payton Boyles, Robert Farrens, John Adair, Taylor Payne. 2023 Council members will be installed Dec. 11th at both services. Council meeting on Tues, Dec. 13th will need old & new members to be present.

**The Church Council** has contracted with Laws Stained Glass Studios, Inc. to replace the 9 remaining windows in the Nave at a cost of \$500.00 per panel, for a total of \$4,500.00. If you would be interested in contributing to this upgrade, please designate your special offering to “stained glass for Nave”.

**December Birthdays**

Harvey Bentley	12/01	Monica Stafford	12/11
Tony Cothren	12/02	Wade Cline	12/13
Ruth Deal-Lackey	12/02	Abigail Serrill	12/17
Zoey Moose	12/03	Brenda Bowman	12/18
Barry Swift	12/04	Kim Ramsey	12/18
Katelyn Hammer	12/04	Sandra Icenhour	12/22
Michael Sloope	12/06	Lynleigh Wike	12/23
Dara Swift	12/06	Logan Gant	12/26
Stedman Smith	12/09	Leon Bowman	12/28
Kyle Wike	12/10	Debbie Hefner	12/28
Lynn Jolly	12/11	Pat Payne	12/30
Thomas Setzer, Jr.	12/11		



# Our Sharing

## OFFERINGS

	<u>OCTOBER, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$26,637.88	\$230,329.25
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,530.00	\$13,155.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$28,855.00	\$65,924.00
PRESCHOOL	\$170.00	\$3,349.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$445.00	\$3,820.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$590.00	\$4,186.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$75.00	\$890.00
FOOD PANTRIES	\$0.00	\$225.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$100.00	\$4,285.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$1,450.00	\$14,408.00
YOUTH MINISTRIES	\$20.00	\$1,037.00
SECRET SISTER COOKBOOK	\$0.00	\$1,004.00
MOBILE CAFÉ	\$0.00	\$480.00

## SPENDING

	<u>OCTOBER, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$22,896.89	\$222,342.46

### HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

Fate & Ruth Hefner - Home  
 Carrel Icenhour - Catawba Valley Assisted Living@  
 Rock Barn  
 Mitchell Price - Brandywine @ Alexandria  
 Earl Bostian - Home

**If you know of someone that should be  
 added to or taken off this list,  
 please call the church office.**



# Church Council and Staff

<u>Council</u>	<u>(Term ending)</u>
Mary Ann Icenhour - President	('22)
Wade Cline - VP & CARE	('22)
Jane Gant - Treasurer	('22)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec	('22)
Guy Kerley - Financial Sec	('22)
John Bostian - LEARN	('23)
Marty Buff - RA Scholarship	('23)
Tyler Hall - Tech	('23)
Gary Richey - Cemetery	('23)
Steve Shealy - Finance	('23)
Monica Stafford - Worship	('23)
Eric Frye - Building	('22)
Sandra Icenhour - Admin	('22)
Pat Payne - Preschool	('22)
Jimmy Watts - SHARE	('22)
<b><u>New elected Members:</u></b>	
Guy Chapman	('24)
Mason Frye	('24)
Payton Boyles	('24)
Robert Farrens	('24)
John Adair	('24)
Taylor Payne	('24)

## Staff

Denny Teague	Sexton
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Silsa Moore	Organ/Piano
Hope Wike	Preschool Director
Josh Tucker	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.