



Friendship Focus

May 2025

So light the fire (light the fire) in my soul (in my weary soul);
fan the flames (fan the flames), make me whole (make my spirit
whole); Lord, you know (Lord, you know) where I've been (where
I've been), so light the fire, in my heart again.

Light the Fire, Lutheridge Camp Songbook

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

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! What sweet, gospel - good news, this is
for you and me and all God's people. In this Easter season (which con-
tinues until the festival of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter) we celebrate
this good news and remember the promises it brings for us children of
God!

I want to invite you to think about when or where this news for you first
became a true reality. Sure, you may have heard the Easter message
proclaimed before as a child and growing up in the church, but when
was it first made real for you?

For some, the Easter proclamation may have become real during their
confirmation studies; for others this good news may have not become
real for them until they saw the joy on the faces of their own children,
as they heard it for the first time. Perhaps the good news of Easter be-
came real for you as you first experienced the stark difference between
the horror of Good Friday and the glory of Easter Sunday.

But I suspect for many, the news of Easter becomes real through the
experiential learning, outdoor play, fellowship and friendship that hap-
pens at church camp. Camp has a way of making space for children,
youth and adults to unpack and sit with the scriptures in such a way that
provokes deep theological thought and wonderings in a way that is fun
and faith building.

At camp, we have permission to have fun with our faith all the while
being challenged to grow deeper. Camp has a special way of helping us
live out our calling to be Easter people.

I remember one summer at Lutheridge the counselors presented a skit during evening campfire and vespers. The skit helped campers to experience the bible story in a different way, as they could see it lived out. It was the story of the Good Samaritan. The counselors portrayed the thought, action or emotion of each character, things we experience in our daily life (fear, pain, hurt, indifference, neglect, empathy, care), all the while inviting campers to be a part of the story. The good news of the gospel was opened up for me through that skit in a way only camp can do as campers (of all ages) are invited up the mountain (remember Jesus going up the mountain again and again to pray to God the Father?) to a place apart, disconnected from the world, but fully connected to God and growing in faith – all to experience the good news of the gospel in an exciting way.

Just a few weeks ago, 44 from Friendship experienced this place apart on the mountain, as we went to Lutheridge for a weekend retreat to serve those in need. It was a wonderful time of worship, service, friendship and faith-building. We experienced the power of the gospel proclamation through camp ministry.

Lutheridge is celebrating 75 years of ministry this year! Thanks be to God! Now, camp leadership is looking forward to how God is calling them to be the camp ministry for the future of God's church, and we're invited to be apart of it. Lutheridge has begun its 75th Birthday Capital Campaign, *Light a Candle, Pass the Faith*. Throughout the month of May, you're going to have the opportunity to hear more about camp ministry and what God is planning for the future. And you'll be asked to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to financially support this vital ministry of the church.

After watching the skit that summer at Lutheridge, we were invited to gather around the campfire where we sang the camp song, *Light the Fire*. My heart still sings out the chorus that I referenced from that song from time to time, reminding me to ask God to ignite the fire of the Spirit in me to recognize God's work in my life and pass the faith on. Happy Easter!

God Bless You,
+PJ

May News



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." Help is needed to provide food for this event, sign up sheets are available at both services.

Secret Sisters meet **Saturday, May 3rd at 9 am**.

FUMC (First United Methodist Church) in Taylorsville is hosting a raffle to fund Mobile Cafe. Tickets are \$100 a ticket. First place is \$2000, Second place is \$750, Third place is \$250 and Fourth place is \$100. 2 BBQ Chicken plates given with winning tickets. **Raffle drawn at Apple Blossom Festival on Saturday, May 3rd**. For more information and/or to purchase a ticket please speak with Brittany Greathouse.

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

Fellowship potluck supper is **Monday, May 5th @ 6pm**. All are welcome to join us!

WOW is changing up for **May**. WOW will meet **Thurs, May 8th at 6pm** at Debbie Jolly's house and **Thurs, May 29th at 6pm** at Angie Mooney's house. We will finish up our Esther study.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th.

We will have a special reception in between services for all our special ladies. Bring your mother & motherly figures with you to worship & celebrate with us!

Church Council meets Tuesday, May 20th @ 6pm.

Newsletter Deadline- Send items for the **June** issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Tues, May 20th**. Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com.



Church Office - will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day.

Friendship Preschool - You are invited to attend the end of year program and graduation on **Friday May 30th, 11:30am in the FLC**. Thanks for supporting our Preschool ministry in this way.

Lutheroad registration is now OPEN! Registration packets are available at both services. This day camp is open to all children kindergarten—5th grade. Space is limited; **register today!**

Your Prayers Are Requested! The NC Synod will meet for their biennial assembly May 29-31. In addition to other important acts of business the assembly will move upon, the assembly will also be tasked with electing a bishop and a vice president for the synod. Please keep work of the assembly, voting delegates as well as the representatives from Friendship, Doug Ramsey, Charlie and Molly Sipe and Pastor Josh in your prayers, that God will guide and direct the assembly's important work for the sake of the church!

Vacation Bible School will be held **July 27th-30th**.

There will be classes for all ages. The Theme this year is “Magnified”. Save the date for a great week of learning & fellowship. Volunteers are needed for this event. If interested, please see Payton Boyles or Nikki Icard.

Thank you for the love and kindness you have shown to our family during the loss of Marcella. We are so grateful for the cards, calls, texts, visits, food & especially the prayers. Thank you for the delicious meal that you provided for us after the funeral. We are truly blessed to have such a caring and loving church family!

God Bless You!
The Marcella Icenhour family

May Birthdays

Kristen Hayes	5/01	Guy Kerley	5/13
Keith Tucker	5/01	Nathan Cannon	5/14
Cheryl Ingavo	5/03	Stan Feimster	5/16
Steve Shealy	5/04	Michelle Bowman	5/17
Patsy Shealy	5/08	Alyse Chapman	5/18
Gabriel Shepherd	5/08	Walker Gant	5/21
Terry Hefner	5/10	Doris Keever	5/22
Kasi Sigmon	5/10	Jenna Buff	5/26
Jearlean Mitchell	5/11	Ray Fox	5/28



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

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

Vice President Chris Jolly called the meeting to order.

Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Tamara Stafford to approve the agenda with the addition of new business item c: Love offering for retiring Bishop Tim Smith. Motion carries.

Chris Jolly shared a devotion.

Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Wade Cline to approve February 11, 2025 regular meeting minutes, special called meetings on February 16, 2025 and March 2, 2025. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Angie Mooney; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve. Motion carries.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – Guidelines for the rental of the fellowship hall; bus guidelines, counting donations for fundraisers are being reviewed. Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Tamara Stafford to allow no additional rentals of the fellowship hall at this time for members and non-members, until guidelines are updated and approved by Council. Motion carries.

Care – Tamara Stafford – 15 volunteers showed up to pick up trash along Friendship Church Rd; The team is gathering ideas for “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday; Plans are starting up for Homecoming, and the Alzheimer’s Walk when we partner with Trinity Ridge. Buggies will be blessed at the children’s time of the service on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Learn – Nikki Icard – VBS (July 27-30) theme kit has been ordered; Lutheroad (July 7-11) registration will be opening soon. VBS will include other churches again this year. Plans are being worked out for the workload.

Worship – Chris Jolly – The team will meet on March 24. Plans are underway for the concert in May. The 1833 band needs a new computer. Details to come on that.

Share – Chris Bowman – No new report. Waiting until after painting is complete to move forward.

Finance – Michelle Miller – A replacement for Guy Kerley, Financial Secretary is in training and will be brought to council at a later date.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Angie Mooney – March 15 is deadline to pick up application packets and they must be returned by April 15.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – The Preschool recommends (second not required) a pink bench to be dedicated to the memory of Eisele Herman, with an engraved plaque and placed at the playground. Motion carries. The Preschool recommends (second not required) the following tuition rates for the 2025-2026 school year: \$60 registration fee, multiple children \$30; \$140 month for Preschool-3-year-olds; \$180 month for Pre-K-4-year-olds. Cap is 20 for preschool class and 25 for Pre-K class. Motion carries.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – Trees need to be trimmed at the parish house and old bathrooms need a coat of paint. Priority right now is fellowship hall updates.

Technology – Wade Cline – Internet is good at this time. 3 cameras are up, but it is a slow process. A new phone system will be needed in the near future.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – Guidelines for cemetery plots were discussed.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared ideas for gatherings after meeting with other clergy; Lenten services and meals, and noon services at Reformation each week. He and Molly Sipe took the youth to the NC Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering. A health care ministry would be good to offer at Friendship. Chris Bowman will check on CPR classes. We are blessed to have a couple people in our congregation that teach these classes. April 12 will be the easter egg hunt. Council was asked to please send a list of your team members to Pastor Josh as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

► Motion by Pastor Josh; seconded by Chris Bowman to approve Synod delegates, Charlie and Molly Sipe and Doug Ramsey to attend the Synod Assembly this year. Motion carries.

► Motion by Tamara Stafford; seconded by Hannah Bostian to select the Spanish Oak stain for the cross and paint trim the color of the trim in the fellowship hall. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

► Chosen People Presentation will be held at Antioch Baptist on April 23, 2025. We will support this with advertising.

► Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Wade Cline to approve \$5,000 to contract with Bolick Painting to paint the parish office foyer, front office space, conference room and hallway. Motion carries.

► Diane Hollars Sunday School class will organize the Easter breakfast.

► Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Eric Frye to approve \$500 as a gift to Bishop Tim Smith for his retirement. Funds will come from budget line item 01-5559 Contingencies. Motion carries.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 6 pm. Nikki Icard will share a devotion.

Ministry Team Spotlight!

Building and Grounds (BAG Team)

The BAG team's general responsibility is to make sure our property is taken care of and maintenance is done. Our facility is large and has a lot of "equipment" that goes out over time and has to be fixed. The facility is just like an enormous house and there is always something needing attention. We have just finished overseeing the painting of the fellowship hall and it looks beautiful.

Thanks to our design team for helping with colors. We have prioritized things that need to be done and our next item on that list is flooring for the FLC. The current carpet has been in the building since it was built in 2004. As you can imagine, prices have gone up over time and we working with funds available or waiting on funds to come in.

We look after the outside of the facility as well. Sometimes it seems like when we have reached the point to replace something, something else breaks down and takes precedence. Our team is grateful for the facility we have and want to keep it in good shape.

We have been so blessed to have the facility that we have and be debt free for such a facility. Many groups use our facilities and so we are all called to help take care of it. The work of this team is important to the life of the church as we discern the best ways God calls us to steward our buildings and property for mission and ministry.

If you see a need please feel free to reach out to a BAG team member, Guy Kerley, Mason Frye or Eric Frye with concerns.

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>MARCH, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$37,805.21	\$102,450.43
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,765.00	\$4,059.97
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$2,140.00	\$7,253.00
PRESCHOOL	\$870.00	\$1,595.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$0.00	\$550.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$325.00	\$1,250.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$1,025.00	\$1,625.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$155.00	\$545.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$280.00	\$2,896.00
YOUTH	\$146.00	\$743.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$724.50	\$2,071.00
COLUMBARIUM	\$615.00	\$1,305.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$68.00	\$168.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$230.00	\$230.00

SPENDING

	<u>MARCH, 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$45,667.25	\$119,093.81



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...

Corey Cline (B. Cline-3/31)	Raeleigh Clement (D. Ramsey-4/13)
Autumn Goins (B. Cline-3/31)	Olivia Fox (A. Mooney-4/13)
Lucan Deyo (S. Rogers-3/31)	Nicole Davis McNamara (J. Gant-4/13)
Dana Hollar (L. Hefner-4/1)	Jimmy Hayes (P. Josh-4/13)
Phyllis Ann Fox (J. Gant-4/1)	Guy Chapman (P. Josh-4/14)
Robin Graziano (C. Sigmon-4/1)	Diana McComas (D. Ramsey-4/17)
Jerry Bowman (P. Josh-4/1)	Ginny Elder (J. Elder-4/22)
Scott & Lori Seagle (P. Setzer-4/9)	Larry Nichols (P. Josh-4/23)
Bobby & Sheng Brown (P. Setzer-4/9)	Stan Feimster (P. Josh-4/23)
Bill Wilson (C. Jolly-4/9)	Zak Truett (T. Annas-4/28)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-4/9)	Laura Sipe (W. Cline-4/28)
Martha Johnson (G. Kerley-4/9)	Wrenley Clark (C. Bowman-4/28)
Linda Myers (S. Icenhour-4/9)	Phil Payne (M. Payne-4/28)
Pat Bowman (A. Bowman-4/10)	Jay Dean Mitchell (K. Ramsey-4/28)

Family & friends of:

Pastor David Mielke	(P. Josh-4/1)
Lori Russell	(B. Greathouse-4/9)
Katherine Allen	(M. Ann Icenhour-4/9)
Juanita Stikeleather	(P. Josh-4/9)
Sam Caldwell	(D. Deal-4/13)
Carol Reid	(N. Icard-4/29)
Emo Bebbber	(P. Josh-4/30)

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)
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

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