



Friendship Focus March 2020

News for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

“I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love.”

One of the greatest joys of my short time with you has been listening to stories. Stories of the history of Friendship Lutheran dating back to the old building when men and women entered through different doors of the church building, which was warmed by a wood burning stove. Stories of the ways you are connected to one another. Stories of how traditions, like the friendship community meal, got started as a fish fry. Stories of an old 15 passenger van that got kids to camp and adults to concerts. Stories of loved ones who have since passed on. In turn you have heard more of my story, in opening introductions and sermon stories. We learn so much and build such trust by listening to one another's stories.

As part of learning the congregation's story, I've also read a summary of the listening posts that happened last summer. We can certainly learn from conversations with people for whom the church is important. In that spirit, Doug Ramsey, council chair, has organized a council retreat to look at the summary of the listening posts. Later in March, the council will go to Lutheridge for an overnight retreat with Pastor Gary Haddock, who is from the Center for Congregational Health and who facilitated the listening posts. As a tool to look forward, the council will glean what is important to the congregation and how we can live together in healthy ways.

Our Lenten journey continues throughout this entire month, by gathering on Sunday evenings to hear Pastor Mary tell a story and hear stories from the bible to which we can connect our stories. Our Lenten pilgrimage will soon reach the Holiest of Weeks when we will enter into the story of Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and a last supper with his disciples and the pain of Good Friday. It's a formative story for our faith as it reveals God's nature and might on a cross and in an empty tomb. I look forward to more listening and sharing of stories. And I look forward hearing how God's story in scripture can speak to each of our stories as well as the continuing story of Friendship Lutheran Church.

Pastor Tim



March News



Congratulations to Ethan, Kelsey & Maverick Windsor on the birth of their son & brother, Edwin Tate on February 24th.

Please Welcome May Elliott-who joins our church family through affirmation of baptism. She has been worshipping with us for some time, but we are glad to make her “official”!

WELCA meets Sunday, March 1st, 5 pm in the FLC.

Mary Icenhour & Linda Triplett will present the program, “More to the story”. The group will discuss plans for the Alexander-Iredell WELCA Spring Gathering, which Friendship will be hosting on March 21, 2020. All women are invited to attend!

WELCA-The **Alexander-Iredell WELCA Spring Gathering** will be held at Friendship on **Saturday, March 21st**. The program, **“MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN, USE YOUR VOICE”** begins at **9 am**. **Registration begins at 8:30 am**. See Patsy Shealy for registration. **Meals are \$8**. Our In-Kind offerings of canned & non-perishable items will go to the Wittenburg Back-pack program. Items for back packs include: fruit cups, pudding cups, peanut butter, pop tarts, cereal, boxes of raisins, crackers, cans of Vienna sausage & microwavable items. All women are invited to attend.

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

The season of Lent prepares us for the celebration of Easter. The old, old story of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection is our story, and we love to tell it in new, new ways..

Lenten Evening Services Join us on **Sunday evenings** at **6:30 pm** in the nave - **March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29** for Lenten Worship geared to all ages. Pastor Tim will lead songs, Pastor Mary will tell a story, and the Holy Spirit will speak to the hearts of God's people.

Friendship Fellowship Supper is **Monday, March 2nd** at **6 pm**. Come enjoy good food & great fellowship! Everyone is welcome to join us!

CARE Team will meet **Tuesday, March 10th @ 6 pm**.

New Members Please encourage anyone interested in joining (or rejoining) Friendship to speak with one of the pastors, or call the church office and leave your contact information. A pastor will call to set up a time to talk. Pastors Mary and Tim are excited to get to know you and officially welcome you to Friendship.

School Supplies We are collecting the following needed school supply items at the hand prints area: standard staples, rolls of clear tape for dispensers, Clorox wipes, large paper clips, tooth brushes & tooth paste. Thanks!

(SWAG)-Friendship Family - Get ready to paint on Main with Lori. **Sunday, March 15th**. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Robinette, Jenna Buff, or Hannah Bostian.

Rusha Austin Scholarship Packets are available for pick up at the church office through **March 15th**. Completed packets must be turned into the church office by **Monday, April 15th**.

Newsletter Deadline-Send items for the **April** issue of **Friendship's Focus Newsletter by Thurs, March 19th.** Call the office @ (828) 632-4482 or email your items to friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com.

Combined 5th Sunday Worship will be **March 29th.** We will have our **combined worship at 10:30 in the Nave and a meal for fellowship after service.** Everyone is welcome to join us!

Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, April 4th 10 am-12.** **Everyone is welcome!** Invite friends & neighbors to come with you!

Holy Week leads us step by step through the **Passion Story:**

Palm Sunday Worship on **April 5th** at **8 am** and **10:30 am.** We join the crowds proclaiming Jesus as our Messiah.

Preschool Easter Program will be **Tuesday, April 7th** at **7 pm.** Everyone is invited to come!

Maundy Thursday Worship on **April 9th** at **7 pm.** We share the feast of love with our Lord.

Good Friday Worship on **April 10th** at **7 pm.** We will hear God's story in song through the gift of the Choir's cantata.

Easter Sunrise Worship is **April 12th** at **6:30am** and

Easter Festival Worship at **10:30 am** with a breakfast in between services. Come to greet the Risen Lord!

Thank You

Words cannot express how much we appreciate the meal provided for our staff. We consider it an honor to serve such great citizens in our community. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Sheriff-Chris Bowman & Staff of Alex. County &
Fire Dept. & Emergency services staff.



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our Benefit Breakfast for Tammy Moore Yancey. We are very appreciative of all the people who volunteered their time to make it a success! God bless all of you!

Caring for One Another

HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

Alice Icenhour—Home
Vickie Church—Home
Lou Ann Frye—Shepherd's House-Trinity Village
Fate & Ruth Hefner—Home
Jeri Killian—Home

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



Prayer Concerns



**We continue to pray for these friends and family of Friendship.
If you have someone you'd like the saints here to pray for, or
who can come off the list, please call the church office.**

**We believe in the resurrection and the communion
of the saints, but the pain of death is still real.**

Marty Reavis	(J. Killian-1/30)
Billy Joe Mathews	(B. Greathouse-1/30)
Evelyn Hammer	(D. Hollar-2/6)
Mary Filiatreau	(J. Adair-2/12)
Wanda Bentley	(E. Bostain-2/17)
Doug Birchfield	(T. Birchfield-2/17)
Nicole McNamara	(J. Feimster-2/19)
Maria Feimster	(J. Feimster-2/19)
Peggy Jolly	(W. Cline-2/24)
David Cranford	(W. Pearson-2/25)
Virginia Bowman	(W. Pearson-2/25)

In Celebration of:

The birth of Edwin Tate to Ethan, Kelsey & Maverick Windsor.

**Please keep the families & friends of these saints
in your prayers.**

Family & friends of:

J.L. Hammer.



Friendship Lutheran Church Council

January 21, 2020

Members present Teresa Birchfield, Hannah Bostian, Steven Deal, Robert Farrens, Leah Hayes, Diane Hollar, Jason Icard, Jeff James, Guy Kerley, Amy Palmer, Monty Payne, Doug Ramsey, Dennis Rhyne, Starr Lynn Smith, Pastor Mary Caniff-Kuhn and Pastor Tim Caniff-Kuhn, Dana Frye, and visitor Andrew Robitschek.

President Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order and shared a devotion.

Andrew Robitschek shared about a struggling Native-American Lutheran congregation in the Cherokee area. Danielle DeNise will be contacted for ideas on help they may need.

Motion by Dennis Rhyne; seconded by Diane Hollar to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting, and the Special Called Council meeting on January 12, 2020 for the main purpose of purchasing a church bus. Motion carries.

Treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed.

TEAM REPORTS:

Finance – Dennis Rhyne – No report.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Guy Kerley/Jason Icard/Steven Deal – The tree by the dumpster is dead. It will be cut down and disposed of.

Worship & Music – Monty Payne/Teresa Birchfield – Ash Wednesday will have a noon service and night service. Discussion was held about when regular Lenten services seemed to work best for the congregation.

Sharing & Stewardship – Diane Hollar/Robert Farrens/Starr Lynn Smith – Diane has met with Pastor Tim about volunteer and visitation.

Learning & Christian Education – Hannah Bostian/Leah Hayes – Sunday school materials have been ordered. Todd Smith continues to teach confirmation.

Caring & Outreach – Amy Palmer/Hannah Bostian – Emergency Services Meal is planned for 250 people and will be coming up on January 26, 2020. The meal will be catered, and the congregation will be asked to supply desserts. The congregation is also encouraged to stay and enjoy time with the Emergency Services personnel. The 8 am service on that day will be held in the Nave due to set up for the meal. Plans are being made for Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. Motion from the committee (no second required) to host a fundraiser breakfast on February 22 from 7-10 am for Tammy Moore Yancy for medical expenses. Motion carries. Wittenburg Elementary School needs clear tape rolls, staples, Clorox wipes, large paper clips, toothbrushes and paste.

Administration – Jeff James – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Audit Committee – The group has met with Guy Kerley to go over guidelines and will be starting their process in January.

Ideas for the lettering for the new bus was discussed. Jason will gather options and designs. Jeff James and the Administration Team will work on guidelines for the use of and driver training of the van.

All new members must be brought before Council and approved in the official minutes. And recorded in the Parish Register book.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Retreat will be planned for late March.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7pm.

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>JANUARY, 2020</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$24,186.00	\$24,186.00
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,360.00	\$1,360.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$7,760.00	\$7,760.00
PRESCHOOL	\$310.00	\$310.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$135.00	\$135.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$480.00	\$480.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$339.00	\$339.00
YOUTH MISSIONS	\$40.00	\$40.00
CHOIR FUND	\$50.00	\$50.00
NUTRITION PROGRAM	\$100.00	\$100.00

SPENDING

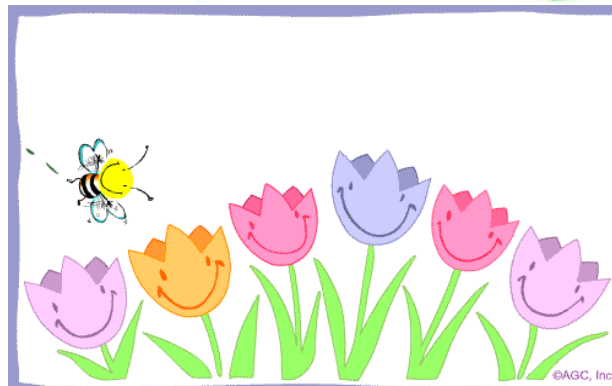
	<u>JANUARY, 2020</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$31,641.30	\$31,641.30



March Birthdays

Robert Farrens	03/01	Oscar Shepherd	03/10
Cecil Sigmon	03/02	Julia Rhyne	03/14
Gail Huffman	03/04	Stephen Isenhour	03/15
Audrey Arrington	03/05	Jason Icard	03/19
Don Robinette	03/06	Barbara Hollo	03/20
Vickie Church	03/07	Mia Snipes	03/20
Pam Bowman	03/08	Martha Stafford	03/20
Phil Mooney	03/09	Roy Bolick	03/21
Daphne Payne	03/09	Gary Richey	03/24
Sam Bowman	03/10		

happy birthday!



Church Council and Staff

Council & Officers

Doug Ramsey, President
Jeff James, Vice-President
Jane Gant, Treasurer
Dana Frye, Recording Secretary
Guy Kerley, Financial Secretary
Steven Deal
Teresa Birchfield
Amy Palmer
Monty Payne
Robert Farrens
Hannah Bostian
Diane Hollar
Jason Icard
Dennis Rhyne
Starr Lynn Smith
Leah Hayes

Staff

Denny Teague	Sexton
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Silsa Moore	Organ and Piano
Patrick Watkins	Choir Director
Lori Branch	Preschool Dir
Tim & Mary	Interim Pastors
Canniff-Kuhn	

FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED