

# Friendship

Lutheran Church of



November 2020

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **The Context of This Election (No Matter How You Voted)**

This has been a disappointing year in many ways. We have all had to deal with the COVID pandemic and the disruptions it has had on our daily lives. In many ways, we have had to adapt in order to maintain some sort of “normalcy”. Now, we get to add a national election to the mess which has been *Anno Domini* 2020. The amount of disappointment, anger, fear, confusion, frustration, and venom spewing is profound and increasing. So, how are we “Christ Followers” supposed to process it all? The answer is really simple - remember the basics of our faith: The peace and comfort that we find in God’s Word. I say that because for the believer, **God’s Word is the ultimate lens through which we see and process everything** - the good, the bad, and the ugly. And right about now, it’s getting pretty ugly.

Let me be clear: I have my opinions and here in the next few days, I along with many of you, will be counted among **“we the people”**, who will have exercised our right/responsibility as Americans in voting for who will be our president for the next four years and when the results are tallied there will be great celebrations and there will also be a great deal of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Who will be doing what has yet to be determined, but with both sides claiming that America and all of humanity will be doomed should they lose, guarantees that there will be widespread panic - no matter who “wins”. As a pastor, I know that just throwing together a few Bible verses and adding some worn out clichés to a newsletter is not going to take away all concern, frustration, or disappointment when things don’t swing your way. Ok, I know that this article has been less than uplifting to this point, but that’s kind of the point. We have to go through

and suffer the effects of living in a sin-filled, imperfect world (run by sin-filled, imperfect people) where concern, frustration and disappointment are (and will continue to be) real and persistent symptoms of this earthly life’s disease.

**But, let’s not focus on the symptoms; instead, let us turn to God’s Word, which is the cure that renders the symptoms powerless and brings peace and comfort to distressed hearts and minds.**

What if we *truly believed* that God was sovereign? What if we *trusted* that He really is in control? What if we *banked on* the fact that He hasn’t been surprised by any of this and He is still moving in our country? **Reminder that God is Sovereign! Isaiah 40 begins with the words “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”** These words were given as a balm for the people who were not so happy with their leadership and ends with the reason for the comfort they would receive, **“<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”**

## *From the Pastor's Desk, cont'd.*

God is sovereign. He is good. He is in control. He is not surprised. He will be here long after this – and every other – election.

### **A Reminder to Pray for Our Leaders. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)**

***“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way”.*** This one is harder, especially if the leader is someone we didn't vote for, don't agree with, and really don't like. But, here's a few questions:

- Is God's grace big enough for Donald Trump, Joe Biden?
- Do you deserve forgiveness and salvation more than they do?
- Has Jesus given up on (insert politician here)?

More than ever, those of us who claim the name of Jesus need to pray that the Father draws them closer, fills them with His Spirit, and transforms them into the leaders we wish they were.

### **A Reminder to Honor Our Leaders. (Romans 13)**

This is even harder than the last one. In the first verse of Romans 13, Paul writes...

***Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”***

Without an unwavering trust in the sovereignty of God and a willingness to pray for all our leaders, this one is nearly impossible. But we are not called to what is easy - We are called to what is right - and the two rarely go hand-in-hand.

### **A Reminder that It Is OUR Job to Love Our Neighbors. (Matthew 22)**

A thought came to me last week, literally while I was preaching on Matthew 22: 34-36. ***[Jesus] answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”***

The command to love God/Others is not impacted in any way by who is the resident of the White House and please notice that there are no qualifiers on which neighbors based on the signs they choose to litter their yard with. (Yard signs have always bugged me - just sayin'.)

### **And most of all, A Reminder to Not Be Anxious. (Philippians 4:6-7)**

***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”***

This one seems obvious, but too often we leave out verse 5, ***“Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand”***. That is tragic because the last four words of verse five provide the *foundation* for verses six and seven! *The. Lord. Is. Near.* Four words that change everything. Let the Lord's "near-ness" cure your anxiety. God hasn't left us alone. He is right here. He is still with us. He is still for us. He is still...near.

The Lord be with you, now and forever!  
Pastor

# Mission News

Imagine, it is November already. In the midst of the corona virus, time still seems to fly by. I want to extend a big thank you to those who took part in Mission Sunday on October 18. It was a special treat to have all those beautiful handmade items from Anne Compton, Allison's sister. We thank Anne for her quality items that will now grace our homes or gift boxes. We thank you Anne for your heart for missions as shown by your generous donations.

At this time Pascal should be back in the Ivory Coast after the funeral for his mother in Togo. Please continue to pray for Pascal as he and his family carry out the great commission to take the gospel to those who have not heard. Please hold his congregation in your prayers that God will meet their needs and grow their faith and love for Him.

We thank you for your wonderful support. May God continue to conform all of us into the image of Jesus Christ. How amazing our God is!! We offer what we have and Jesus makes it to be enough. We offer our need and weakness and Jesus brings us his strengths and provisions. Only Jesus brings satisfaction and security to our lives. He alone restores our souls. Pray our brothers and sisters in the Ivory Coast will know Him in this way also. The total raised for our October offering was \$324.00.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have another Mission Sunday. Our own Beth Annin has offered to donate cards and other holiday decorations she makes for the support of Pascal and Mary. They are beautiful and most useful for the holidays. Thank you Beth!!

We recently received the following report from Pascal and Mary:

Hello dear Mission directors, Rev Pastors and sponsors —

It is a big privilege for us to give you our monthly report and let you know how the work is moving on the field.

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

With the coming of Covid19, there is fear of going to church with all the restrictions of our government. God is so good, we have changed the strategy by doing home cell groups every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday we do house to house visitation and pray with the families .

Every morning from 5 to 7, I go with my Megaphone to preach on the Street. I also go to the Radio station but as that demands more money, I have stopped going. On 18 to 19 August, we organized an outreach program with respect of distances as ordered. We have gathered 320 people. By God's grace we are on it.

## **THE TESTIMONIES**

With God visitations, real healings and wonders are taking place. In Baoulé community through our prayers with the chief, they have today a new school building and electricity. God has given success to our members that are students in the class of my son Winni. Out of 76 students, only 13 people succeeded and Winni was among them. We praise God. During my Radio program, people heard the word of God and called for testimony.

## **THE CHALLENGES**

The pandemic of coronavirus has destroyed many activities of our men and women of the churches. Discouragement is taking place:

The fear of being contaminated by Covid19 in the church.

The down falling of the church offering.

## **OUR DEMANDS**

Good health for the missionaries, our mission directors, sponsors, the middle men, and our churches. There will be presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire on this 31 October 2020. Please, we need your prayers for peace and God's will.

Financial breakthrough for Radio preaching.

Be praying for our journey to Togo and Back.

My mother is dead. She is in the mortuary in Togo. They have asked me to come with my wife because she has a part to play. That will cost me \$1.050 for our airplay IN & OUT and the cost of the funeral.

# Mission News, continued

In case the borders are opened before the 10 October 2020, we will go by land, taking the bus. Please pray for us for divine protection and financial supplying. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING

We are very grateful for whatever you are doing to help keep the work going, though the situations presently are very hard everywhere, but you are doing your best by God grace. May God bless you all.

May Rev. Pastor Ahmed & Rev Sampson, overseers of our work, and our sponsors be blessed. Our thanksgiving to God for the churches that are praying for us. We wished you a happy month of OCTOBER 2020...

Thank you.

May God richly blessed and keep you. Amen.

Yours missionaries,

Pascal & Mary, Reaching the Unreached Zone Côte d'Ivoire.

## Worship Schedule November—December 2020

Date	Worship Time	Elder	Opener	A/V	Upstairs Greeter/ Usher	Downstairs Greeter/ Usher
Nov. 1	9:00 am	Zuehls	Hagen	Arends	Morgan	Johnson
Nov. 8	9:00 am	Rodzen	Johnson	Armstrong	Hutchison	Bauman/Weatherford
Nov. 15	9:00 am	Zuehls	Oostdyk	Rodzen	Ryherd	Piper
Nov. 22	9:00 am	Rodzen	Ashwill	Arends	Drews	Feugen
Nov. 25	7:00 pm	Zuehls	Hellmer	Armstrong	Hellmer	Johnson
Nov. 29	9:00 am	Rodzen	Hagen	Rodzen	Stoller	Bauman/Weatherford
Dec. 2	7:00 pm	Zuehls	Johnson	Arends	Morgan	Piper
Dec. 6	9:00 am	Rodzen	Oostdyk	Armstrong	Hutchison	Feugen
Dec. 9	7:00 pm	Zuehls	Ashwill	Rodzen	Ryherd	Johnson
Dec. 13	9:00 am	Rodzen	Hellmer	Arends	Drews	Bauman/Weatherford
Dec. 16	7:00 pm	Zuehls	Hagen	Armstrong	Hellmer	Piper
Dec. 20	9:00 am	Rodzen	Johnson	Rodzen	Stoller	Feugen
Dec. 24	7:00 pm	Zuehls	Oostdyk	Arends	Hutchison	Johnson
Dec. 25	9:00 am	Rodzen	Ashwill	Armstrong	Ryherd	Bauman/Weatherford
Dec. 27	9:00 am	Zuehls	Hellmer	Rodzen	Drews	Piper
Dec. 31	5:00 pm	Rodzen	Hagen	Arends	Hellmer	Feugen

If you cannot serve on your scheduled day, please find a substitute and notify the church office.

# Elders Corner

Have you ever had to adjust to a New Normal? Parents adjust to a new normal when their children leave home to establish life on their own. Employees adjust to a new normal when they transition to retirement. Any new or unfamiliar situation -- a new job, a new city, a new relationship -- requires adjusting to a new normal. It can be difficult.

The Bible starts in Genesis. It tells about God's creation in Chapters one and two. Chapter three tells of the sin and downfall of man in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were put out of the garden and now have to work hard for their living. Cain killed his brother Abel, and God sent Cain out of the area to a life of roaming in Chapter four.

Seth was born to Adam and Eve when Adam was 130 years old. Eight generations later, Noah was born in the year 1056 after God made Adam. "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence" (Genesis 6:9-11). God told Noah to build an ark because a great flood will cover the earth. The flood came when Noah was 600 years old. 382 days after Noah and entered the ark, the ground was dry and God called Noah, his wife and the animals out of the ark. The first thing Noah did after leaving the ark, was to build an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. God was pleased with Noah. He made the covenant with Noah saying: "I establish by covenant with you: never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth" (Genesis 9:11). The sign of this covenant is the rainbow that occurs in the heavens during a rain event.

Noah and his family found themselves lone survivors in the greatest act of destruction the world has ever seen. As Noah faced his New Normal, God proved He is faithful. God faithfully remembered Noah and assured him of His unfailing love. He established a covenant with Noah promising to never again destroy the earth by flood. Noah believed God. Believers can experience genuine hope because of God's unchanging faithfulness. God-given faith trusts His character, will, and word. How will you trust God to faithfully care for you in this week?

## LWML Requests Donations

Friendship's LWML has donated backpacks filled with clothing items and toiletries the last several years to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Those backpacks (nearly 800 last year) were given out (usually within a two-hour period on one day) in mid-December to both men and women at the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. For the safety of their guests and their volunteers, Daily Bread Soup Kitchen has modified this program for 2020. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen will purchase knapsacks and hand them out at the front door just like they hand out lunches. This will also take place in December. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is asking for donated items to fill the knapsacks. Below is a list of items they need:

Hats, gloves, socks, scarves, toiletries--including toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, hand lotion, Chapstick and hand sanitizer. If you would like to donate some of these items, please either give them to Marian Rodgers when you are at church, or drop them off at her home in Savoy by November 30th. Marian will deliver the items to Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in early December. Thank you.

# One Month Bible Reading Plan

Most people professing faith in Jesus have never completely read their Bible. Many people start reading the Bible but then become overwhelmed by the number of chapters (1,189) and verses (31,102) there are. What we don't realize is that we can read the Bible in a year by reading fewer than four chapters a day. Every month we will post the "reading schedule" in the Newsletter. This structured approach of reading Scripture brings a fresh approach to each day's reading, while providing a clearer understanding of the Bible's larger message.

## Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

1. Start reading the Bible today — there is no better time than now!
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Feel free to use any time that works consistently for you. If you miss a day, just make it up (don't give up); habits both good and bad are formed easily.
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Luke 12:13-14:11	<b>2</b> Luke 14:12-16:31	<b>3</b> Luke 17:1-19:27	<b>4</b> Luke 19:28-21:9	<b>5</b> Luke 21:10-22:46	<b>6</b> Luke 22:47-24:23	<b>7</b> Luke 24:24-53; John 1:1-2:11
<b>8</b> John 2:12-4:38	<b>9</b> John 4:39-6:51	<b>10</b> John 6:52-8:20	<b>11</b> John 8:21-10:18	<b>12</b> John 10:19-12:11	<b>13</b> John 12:12-14:11	<b>14</b> John 14:12-17:13
<b>15</b> John 17:14-19:42	<b>16</b> John 20:21; Acts 1:1-2:13	<b>17</b> Acts 2:14-4:37	<b>18</b> Acts 5:1-7:29	<b>19</b> Acts 7:30-9:22	<b>20</b> Acts 9:23-11:30	<b>21</b> Acts 12-13
<b>22</b> Acts 14:1-16:10	<b>23</b> Acts 16:11-18:28	<b>24</b> Acts 19-20	<b>25</b> Acts 21:1-23:25	<b>26</b> Acts 23:26-27:8	<b>27</b> Acts 27:9-28:31; Romans 1:1-15	<b>28</b> Romans 1:16-5:11
<b>29</b> Romans 5:12-8:25	<b>30</b> Romans 8:26-11:24					

# In Our Prayers

## *The Power of Prayer*



- ♥ Prayers of comfort for the family of Dr. William Schuh, a former member of our congregation, who died recently
- ♥ Prayers for Garrett Oostdyk and Lona's sister-in-law, Linda
- ♥ Prayers of comfort and healing for Jacquie Voeks' brother, Jerry, and friends, Jim and Angie
- ♥ Prayers for the family of Tracie Paulsrud, whose father is recovering from a recent heart attack
- ♥ Prayers for Roger Francisco's sister, Beverly
- ♥ Church
- ♥ LCMS Synod, Districts, Members and Pastors
- ♥ Church members
- ♥ Those who have yet to believe
- ♥ All who travel
- ♥ Country, state, and local governments
- ♥ All who serve (first responders, military, police, fire, EMTs)

# Celebrations



### November Anniversaries

- 13 David & Tina Clark
- 21 John & Nancy Morris



### November Birthdays

- 1 Tracie Paulsrud
- 4 Nikelle Miller
- 7 Ryan Oostdyk
- 11 Sarah Clapp
- 12 Jean Sexton
- 17 Erin Dillon
- 17 Matthew Ortel
- 19 Kristina Wright
- 20 Marian Rodgers
- 20 Ryan Rodzen
- 23 Jeff Voeks
- 26 Terry Howard
- 27 Gisela Huhn
- 28 Erica Johnson
- 28 Duane Ryherd



### November Baptism Birthdays

- Allison Arends, Tyler Arends, Richard Armstrong, Jean Clapp, Becky Howard, Nikelle Miller, Christopher Morris, Diane Ortel, Michael Ortel, Tracie Paulsrud, Leisa Weatherford

# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>9am Worship*</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mission Sunday <b>9am Worship*</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Elizabeth Circle	<b>10</b> Council 6pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9am Worship*</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9am Worship*</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm Worship	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9am Worship*</b>	<b>30</b> 10:30 am Elizabeth Circle					

\* Bolded signifies communion will be offered at this service.



## A message from Pastor Tim and Bev Nappe . . .

“Thank you for your ongoing support in the past! Your faithfulness has been an inspiration to us. I know there are many in West Africa who are lifting you up in prayer and thanking God for your generosity. Every time I speak with our missionaries, they ask me to convey their appreciation to you.

I have a special request: the address that you have been using is the address for Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church. I am no longer the pastor there. I still live in Milford, but my direct address is: 1109 S Ave., Milford, IA 51351.

The church has been very cooperative in getting the letters to me, but there is a delay. Sending it directly to me will speed up the process.

Thanks again! God bless and stay safe!”

Pastor Tim & Bev

**Friendship Lutheran  
Church of** 

3601 S. Duncan Rd.  
Champaign, IL 61822

217-355-0454

**Pastoral Care**  
Pastor Glen Triplett  
pastorglen@friendshiplutheran.com

**Staff**  
Sally Nourie - Church Secretary  
office@friendshiplutheran.com  
(Office hours 9:00-2:00  
Monday—Thursday)

**Visit us on the internet!**  
[www.friendshiplutheran.com](http://www.friendshiplutheran.com)

OUR MISSION:

To *Joyfully* connect people to Christ and His family.