

# Friendship

## Lutheran Church of



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Time to bid adieu, adios, see-ya, and a heartfelt bye-bye to another year, and what a year 2020 was! Be honest, when we woke up on January 1, 2020 none of us would have anticipated what lay ahead, and yet, our God has once again proven Himself to be loving, patient, and faithful. 2020 was a year unlike any other – at least in modern memory. It is easy to understand the frustration and even the despair that many have experienced, considering the events of the past year. I must admit that I also had my fair share of frustrations in 2020. There were so many things that I had wanted to accomplish. I had been vigilant in working and planning the year out carefully and we had begun laying the groundwork for moving the church forward with the plans we made in December 2019.

Fast forward to where we are today and it makes me laugh as I remember the old saying that, “We make our plans and God laughs”. When I look back at the newsletter article I wrote for January 2020, I see that I made no mention of expectations for the coming year. Instead I simply explained the history behind the church year and how that works to keep us grounded in the basics of the Christian faith throughout the calendar year. As a result, I find myself reflecting not so much on the negative aspects of life in 2020. Actually, I find myself thankful for many things that “the year that was” made clear.

- The light has not gone out! As John writes in the gospel: ***“In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*** (John 1:4-5)
- God is for us! ***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*** (Jeremiah 29:11)

As we look forward to 2021, I am going to abstain from revealing the “official plan” for 2021. This is for two reasons: 1) We do not know what lies ahead or the things that we will be able to control. 2) We are still exploring the options open to us in the still fluid atmosphere of the pandemic and the when/how to transition to even better things than before. So, we’re not looking to going back to normal; instead, we pray for a renewal of the passion that founded Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy originally.

Understand that no matter what challenges come our way in 2021, we will continue to ***focus on reaching others with the good news of Jesus Christ.*** Together, let’s continue to pray that the Lord would continue to guide our steps and further strengthen our resolve to accomplish His will – not ours. Better yet, let us all pray that our will and the Lord’s will be united in, with, and on purpose. 2020 presented us with both challenges and rewards. As your Pastor, it has been an honor and a joy to serve you! Thank you once again for your sacrifices, faithfulness, and love that will propel us into the new-year with hearts filled with the Joy of the Lord!

Grace, Peace and Mercy,  
Pastor

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# Elders Corner

Please read Psalm 95:1-7 and Psalm 100:

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.” (Psalm 100:1-2)

Psalm 100 is short, well organized, and links worship with gladness and joy in singing. It established the pattern for worship. We worship God for what He has done and for who He is. There are two exhortations to praise in the Psalm. The first being to worship. “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.” (Psalm 100:2-3) The second exhortation is to prioritize thanks and praise. “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100:4-5)

When you are at a loss for motivation or reasons to praise God with joy, remember Psalm 100. Praise Him with joy for what He has done and for who He is. He is faithful and loving as evidenced by Him making you His child.

So, go to God with prayer; He loves the way you pray. “Pray continually.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Continually, constantly, unceasing, never stopping, over and over again. In your car, in the shower, in the quiet of the morning, in the still of the night, in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Eyes wide open, eyes tightly shut, head in your hands, on your knees, in your heart. It doesn't matter how you pray. And His answer? His answer is .. incomprehensible peace, unfailing love, undeserved mercy, unearned grace, unmerited salvation. God loves the way you pray.

# PTO (Pass This On)

Obedience – how does that word sound?

It may ring hollow these days.

Of course, children in every generation have had to learn obedience to their parents and others. For many of us this learning was filled with unpleasant, perhaps even painful aspects.

Today's society sets an extraordinarily high value on self-expression, though. And in this setting, *obedience* might sound oppressive. People say, "I gotta be me!" Obedience to someone else – anyone else – can seem to get in the way.

Yet the stubborn fact of God's authority persists. For God is not just anyone. He is God. We are not.

Remarkably, then, the One human being Who was and is also God – Jesus of Nazareth, Whose birth we celebrate at Christmas – obeyed. He is the eternal Son of the eternal Father. In a Bible passage to be read at our church service this week, Jesus sat in the temple in Jerusalem at age 12, listening to the teachers there and asking them questions. His mother Mary had been looking all over for Him. Jesus told her, literally, that it was necessary for Him to be in the things of His Father – that is, in His Father's house, about His Father's business (Luke 2:46, 49).

This business would take Him all the way to the cross. In prophecy, the Messiah had said to God: "I have come to do your will." Now, "by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:9-10). He obeyed for us, in our place.

The 12-year-old Jesus went back to Nazareth and was submissive to Mary and Joseph. Here, too, He was obeying for us, because our obedience fails.

As our Savior, He was also setting an example. Our obedience to the Lord and His representatives is our witness to the Light in the darkness of this world.

# Mission News

I want to take this time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your faithful support of Pascal and Mary over the past the 11 years. Pascal and Mary Agbenhevi serve in the Ivory Coast as native missionaries with “Reaching the Unreached”. Pascal’s vision is to see Jesus Christ as the savior of many and himself as the tool in God’s hands preparing leaders for the next generation. The goal is to reach the unreached people at all costs. Pascal and Mary are committed to training, outreach, and church planting. Even during the pandemic, when churches were not meeting, Pascal walked through the streets with a microphone proclaiming God’s Word. Presently men and women are being trained in the bible as disciples. Many house churches are being supplied with bible teachers in the surrounding villages as far away as 50 miles.

So, I want to thank you for your faithful to donations to this ministry. Our annual commitment of \$3,600 has been raised. In January we will be able to send an additional offering of over \$1,300. This extra is very much appreciated as donations from Pascal’s own church has diminished markedly due to the pandemic. May God richly bless you for your generosity and caring hearts for Christ’s Church in the Ivory Coast. We also are tools in God’s hands to do His work. Please keep them in your prayers.



# Worship Schedule January-March 2021

Date	Worship Time	Elder	Opener	Upstairs Greeter/Usher	Downstairs Greeter/Usher
Jan. 3	9:00	Zuehls	Johnson	Drews	Johnson
Jan. 10	9:00	Rodzen	Oostdyk	Hellmer	Bauman/ Weatherford
Jan. 17	9:00	Zuehls	Ashwill	Stoller	Piper
Jan. 24	9:00	Rodzen	Hellmer	Morgan	Johnson
Jan. 31	9:00	Zuehls	Hagen	Hutchison	Bauman/ Weatherford
Feb. 7	9:00	Rodzen	Johnson	Drews	Piper
Feb. 14	9:00	Zuehls	Oostdyk	Hellmer	Johnson
Feb. 17	7 pm	Rodzen	Ashwill	Stoller	Bauman/ Weatherford
Feb. 21	9:00	Zuehls	Hellmer	Morgan	Piper
Feb. 24	7 pm	Rodzen	Hagen	Hutchison	Johnson
Feb. 28	9:00	Zuehls	Johnson	Drews	Bauman/ Weatherford
Mar. 3	7 pm	Rodzen	Oostdyk	Hellmer	Piper
Mar. 7	9:00	Zuehls	Ashwill	Stoller	Johnson
Mar. 10	7 pm	Rodzen	Hellmer	Morgan	Bauman/ Weatherford
Mar. 14	9:00	Zuehls	Hagen	Hutchison	Piper
Mar. 17	7:00 pm	Rodzen	Johnson	Drews	Johnson
Mar. 21	9:00	Zuehls	Oostdyk	Hellmer	Bauman/ Weatherford
Mar. 24	7 pm	Rodzen	Ashwill	Stoller	Piper
Mar. 28	9:00	Zuehls	Helmer	Morgan	Johnson
Apr. 1	7 pm	Rodzen	Hagen	Hutchison	Bauman/ Weatherford
Apr. 2	7 pm	Zuehls	Johnson	Drews	Piper

# 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!

## JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Genesis 1-3	<b>2</b> Genesis 4-7
<b>3</b> Genesis 8:1-11:9	<b>4</b> Genesis 11:10-14:13	<b>5</b> Genesis 14:14-18:8	<b>6</b> Genesis 18:9-21:21	<b>7</b> Genesis 21:22-24:27	<b>8</b> Genesis 24:28-26:35	<b>9</b> Genesis 27-29
<b>10</b> Genesis 30:1-31:42	<b>11</b> Genesis 31:43-34:31	<b>12</b> Genesis 35:1-37:24	<b>13</b> Genesis 37:25-40:8	<b>14</b> Genesis 40:9-42:28	<b>15</b> Genesis 42:29-45:15	<b>16</b> Genesis 45:16-48:7
<b>17</b> Genesis 48:8-50:26; Ex. 1	<b>18</b> Exodus 2:1-5:9	<b>19</b> Exodus 5:10-8:15	<b>20</b> Exodus 8:16-11:10	<b>21</b> Exodus 12:1-14:20	<b>22</b> Exodus 14:21-17:16	<b>23</b> Exodus 18:1-21:21
<b>24</b> Exodus 21:22-25:9	<b>25</b> Exodus 25:10-27:21	<b>26</b> Exodus 28-29	<b>27</b> Exodus 30-32	<b>28</b> Exodus 33:1-35:29	<b>29</b> Exodus 35:30-37:2	<b>30</b> Exodus 38:1-40:16
<b>31</b> Exodus 40:17-38; Lev. 1-4						

# In Our Prayers

## *The Power of Prayer*



- ♥ Bill Dunne (Ryan Drake's grandfather) who is battling various health issues; and the Drake's family friend Denise Rodriguez's father who is battling cancer
- ♥ 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



## January Birthdays

- 1 Ronda Erickson
- 3 Davy Blaine
- 9 Cindy Ashwill
- 9 Ed Stoller
- 10 Jeff Oehmke
- 14 R. Duane Barton
- 14 Lynn Kilber
- 14 Peg Peterson
- 16 Pam Chandler
- 17 Juliana Mehlan
- 19 Ryan Drake
- 22 Brent Ladage
- 26 Scott Johnson
- 27 Connie Ferguson
- 28 Rory Eveland

## January Anniversaries

12 Tom & LaMae Ryan



## January Baptism Birthdays

Sharon Beth, Amber Courtright, Ronda Erickson, Erica Johnson, Daniel Luhrsen, Joetta Morgan, Ryan Oostdyk, Matthew Ortel, Aliannah Taylor, Cheyenne Taylor, Jacquie Voeks, Kristina Wright



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9am Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9am Worship	11	12 Council 6pm	13	14	15	16
17 9am Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9am Worship	25	26	27	28 Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm	29	30
31 9am Worship						

Until further notice, communion will again be by appointment only.  
Please call the office.





**The woodpecker might have to go.**

**Friendship Lutheran  
Church of *joy***

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**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.