

# Alamance Lutheran Church

## April 2024 News Notes



*Our Mission: "Alamance Evangelical Lutheran Church empowered by the Holy Spirit, worships and praises our Lord, loves and serves others, as Jesus Christ taught, and shares the Good News of God's gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

*Adopted 11-23-1997*

*"Though the wisdom or virtue of one man can very rarely make many happy, the folly or vice of one man often makes many miserable."* **Samuel Johnson**, *Rasselas* (1759), 26

### **A Word From Our Pastor**

One of the things you learn in my profession is that you never, ever want to start a call in Lent! Well, as most of you know, I started on Ash Wednesday and since then we have all been moving along at a fairly rapid pace with my settling in, finding my way around, leading the Lenten mid-week services and just the normal process of me getting to know who all of you are as members at Alamance and you're getting used to me and how I do things.

And yes, that has meant a few changes. Being only part time and living more than an hour away from the church, means I do not have the ability to be as present on site as your previous pastor was able to be, living "next door" so to speak, in the parsonage. But I want to urge all members once again not to hesitate to call me if there is a pastoral need. I will obviously be there most Sundays and generally one other day a week. Currently, because of mid-week services during Lent that day has been Wednesday, but it may change later on given other commitments I have. But if there is a pastoral need and I am available, I would be happy to drive over from Raleigh and provide such pastoral care. And I hope that once we get past Holy Week and Easter that I will be able to start making some visits to those in our congregation who may be homebound. If you would like such a visit, please do not hesitate to also be in contact with me.

And speaking of Easter, I mentioned at the Council retreat that, even though Lent was not the greatest season in the Church to start a new ministry, it did mean that we could celebrate Easter together. And that is important in the life of our community of faith because Easter is about the new life promised through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus Our Lord. God did a new thing when He raised Jesus from the dead, and the

same is true for the life of our community at Alamance. It may seem a little like something died when your pastor left but God is already at work among us bringing new life to this beloved community. And I see such new life in the way you have warmly greeted me and welcomed me into this faithful body of believers. I see it with the number of members who have stepped up and taken on leadership of so many areas that were once perhaps left to the pastor. I see it with the energy that members are bringing to various projects from clearing areas outside, painting areas inside and providing the spirit we need to move projects forward. I can feel the new life surging in the congregation and for that we can only say “Thanks be to God.”

For it is God at work among us. It is God at work through His Holy Spirit that inspires us. It is the pure, unmerited gift of grace which God pours upon us through Christ Jesus that continues to strengthen us. God is at work among us for the victory over sin and death is ours. The tomb is destroyed, and the life-giving power of Christ is His resurrection has been poured out upon the world and washes over us here at Alamance.

So even though we have a winding road ahead of us as the congregation goes through a period of discernment in preparation for calling a new pastor; even though the way is not clear and difficulties may arise; and even though a transition such as we are in is often a mixture of both grief for the past and hope for the future, we remain people of the resurrection. We live in hope for the promise given to us in that resurrection. We live in the joy of the resurrection. We live in the absolute assurance that God will indeed bring forth a new thing in this community of faithful believers. For we are now and always a resurrection people and for that we say, thanks be to God.

In Christ

Pastor Rooney

## ***A Note About Some Changes to Our Worship Services***

Over the years of my ministry, both full time and interim, I have come to fully understand and appreciate that each pastor is going to make changes in lots of areas, but most often to the worship services! And you know, I have already done some of that at Alamance in the weeks that I have been with you. The changes have included using only one form of the Lord’s Prayer with the understanding that we will use different forms at different times of the year. We are going to sing a little more of the service during the Easter season because we are Lutherans, and we should sing! We are changing the form of the Prayers, especially the listing of names for those who are in need and for our youth. After discussion with Council, it became clear that we are not keeping up with the list, either

adding or removing some names, so we will have a period of time each week to name those during the prayers who are currently in need. The same will be true for our youth. In the summer, as we celebrate the long season of Pentecost, it is my hope that we will incorporate more modern styles of music. And I hope at some point to begin a series of morning and evening prayer services, perhaps even online. Meanwhile, if you have questions about our liturgies or worship services, please do not hesitate to contact me who is always ready to answer questions. *Pastor Rooney*

## ***What Must I Believe?***

Starting on **Sunday 7 April**, Pastor Rooney will begin teaching a new Sunday Class entitled “What Must I Believe.” This is a series of 35 questions that get to the heart of our faith and our tradition and allows us to explore in greater depths the challenges contained therein. At the end of discussion on each question, we will determine whether I must believe this point for a) salvation; b) to be a Christian; c) to be a Lutheran. It really will be a lot of fun, so do plan to join us at **9:00 am each Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall** for the next few weeks.

***From the Council:*** The Council apologizes for the last minute reschedule of the Congregational Meeting. Financial records for the past year were incomplete and we did not think we should go ahead with the meeting without the complete and Council approved financial records. The rescheduled meeting is planned for April 14th.

The Council met on March 17th. Much of the meeting was spent reviewing Ministry Team reports.

We are pleased that Elizabeth Powell has agreed to serve on Council. Council can make Council appointments prior to Congregational Meetings where regular Council elections are held. Welcome Elizabeth!

Pastor Rooney has recommended the Council spend some time with a NC ELCA booklet: “Holy Conversations.” The booklet talks about the life of a congregation from hiring a full-time pastor to closing. Pastor Rooney believes this is a good process to work through before creating a call committee. It will also give a good framework for the call committee to work from. The Council will spend time on “Holy Conversations” after Easter.

While it appears the “Plaid Festival” planning is in good shape, we do anticipate we will be asked to provide volunteer resources the day of the festival - May 18<sup>th</sup>. More details to come as we know more.

As of the Council meeting, we still had not found someone to take the lead for our “Raise Your Spirits” Fall Festival. We believe many will support the effort; we need someone to lead the planning effort. Without that, we may not hold the festival this fall.

***From the Worship and Music Team:*** Thanks for all the participation in Mid-Week Services. Thanks also to the Hospitality Team and volunteers providing soups for the meals prior to the services. It was great to see and hear Matt Swaim provide music for the midweek services too.

We hope you participated in the Holy Week services and were inspired by our Easter service. It is the most important service in our Church year. Thanks to Wanda Patterson for procuring the palms for Palm Sunday and Sherry Craven for coordinating the purchase of lilies for Easter.

Thanks to Craven Ford, Roy Whitehead, and Don Eash for moving the pianos. Sorry that Craven overextended himself in his desire to help, which has slowed him down a bit.

We believe we have communion supplies covered for the coming weeks.

***Staff Support/Mutual Ministry Team:*** We are moving forward with the effort to find a part-time Parish Administrator. Ted Milling has already seen some interest in the position on a site he posted on. This is encouraging. Marty Adams and Kirk Tucker are finalizing the job posting. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position, let Marty or Kirk know.

***From Evangelism/Social Ministry:*** Thanks to everyone who has been donating food for the Blessing Box. It is continuing to see good use. Pastor Bob Hawkins will be keeping an eye on the box the next few months. Our Girl Scout troop is also contributing to the box and consider it one of their projects.

We are continuing to donate food to the DreamCenter. We will be collecting dry beans in April, pasta in May. Thanks to all of you who are donating food for both the Blessing Box and for the Dream Center.!

We are also helping Allied Churches with food preparation on the first Wednesday of the month. Craven and Sherry Ford in April. Kirk and Lynn Tucker in May. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and will maintain a schedule.

Men's breakfast and Bible study needs to be rescheduled in April to the 20th. The cook did not plan his vacations well.

The Lunch Bunch met in the Social Hall in March for chicken from Lowes Food. Lunch Bunch will meet at La Cocina - 3932 South Church Street - on April 11th at 11:30. BTW, the chicken soup at La Cocina is great.

Marty Adams is continuing to update the church website. Pastor Rooney has agreed to provide a short video after Easter.

We are starting the process of creating a new church directory. Marty Adams will be asking you to provide photographs. We have updated our voting membership list and want to ensure your contact information is correct. Details to come soon.

Our next "Because of You" potluck luncheon is tentatively planned for May 19th. We hope to have a representative from the Dream Center to share with us their extensive ministries.

We will be purchasing "60 Seconds of Hope" radio spots on Hope Radio 104.5. Spots will run three times a day for three months. Pastor Rooney will record the spots.

Sharon Ward is making updated flyers and posters. Lynn Tucker will be sending letters from Alamance Lutheran Church to new residents of Twin Lakes Community inviting them to check us out.

Next meeting is April 18th. A lot is going on in Evangelism/Social Ministry!

**Finance Team:** New members have agreed to serve on our Endowment Committee which reports through the Finance Team. Jerry Combs and Tommy Stokes are joining the committee, pending congregational approval. The Endowment Committee is

responsible for identifying grant opportunities, advising the congregation of the benefits of creating and supporting endowments, and managing the investments in our endowment funds through Wells Fargo or other financial management advisors.

***Property Team:*** Property has developed a list of projects for improvements and repairs around our facilities. Thanks to Elizabeth Powell for making several donations to make improvements in our “cry” room, nursery, and exterior plantings and beds (thanks to Joel Maness and Pastor Bob Hawkins for their hours of labor outside). Thanks to John Ritchey, our sound and video systems continue to be updated and improved. Several new microphones have been located in the Sanctuary and in the Chapel.

***Youth/Christian Education Team:*** Ideas are being shared to make our services more inviting for children and youth when they are attending services. We also recognize we have a tremendous opportunity with the Girl Scout families when they are meeting in our facilities. Engaging families with children and youth is an important part of the future of Alamance Lutheran Church.

Noisy Offerings are currently designated for Lutheran World Relief.

***“Be the Light” Campaign:*** Please support this important ministry of Lutheran Services Carolina. If you have any questions about “Be the Light,” please reach out to Kirk Tucker.

***Some Other Words:*** Save some dates! The Hospitality Team will be hosting the Mother’s Day Tea on May 4th. Kathy Ritchey will be hosting a Bridal Shower for her daughter Janet on June 1st. All are invited! More details for both of these events will be provided later.

### ***Schedule for April:***

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Food Prep at Allied Churches - 9:00 am; ALANON - 10:00 am
- April 5<sup>th</sup>: Red Cross Blood Drive - 12:30 to 5:30 pm. Sign Up online
- April 7<sup>th</sup>: What Must I Believe Bible Study begins – 9:00 am
- April 10<sup>th</sup>: ALANON-10:00am

- April 11<sup>th</sup>: Lunch Bunch at La Cocina (3932 South Church Street) - 11:30am
- April 13<sup>th</sup>: Stewardship Meeting – 10:00 am
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: Rescheduled Congregation Meeting - 9:45 am
- April 15<sup>th</sup>: Hope you have your taxes done!
- April 17<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am
- April 18<sup>th</sup>: Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting - 4:30 pm
- April 20<sup>th</sup>: Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Earth Day and Passover
- April 24<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am
- April 28<sup>th</sup>: Noisy Offering Sunday; Church Council - 1:30pm

## Serving in April

|                 | Altar Set-up | Communion Set-up  | Worship Assistant/ Reader | Greeters                       | Ushers                                |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>April 7</b>  | Diane Gural  | Sandy Kirkpatrick | Marty and Terry Adams     | Ted Milling<br>Wanda Patterson | Roy Whitehead<br>Pastor John Weinbach |
| <b>April 14</b> | Diane Gural  | Marty Adams       | Roy and Katie Whitehead   | Donna Eash<br>Kerry Sullivan   | John Ritchey<br>Ted Milling           |
| <b>April 21</b> | Diane Gural  | Sandy Kirkpatrick | Ted Milling               | Jerry and Sally Combs          | Terry Adams<br>Pastor Bob Hawkins     |
| <b>April 28</b> | Diane Gural  | Sandy Kirkpatrick | Kirk and Lynn Tucker      | Katie and Roy Whitehead        | Jerry Combs<br>Hugh Smith             |

*Please let Kirk Tucker ([kirktucker44@gmail.com](mailto:kirktucker44@gmail.com), 262-853-0373) know of any Church related events or announcements to be included in future news notes. News notes for each month will be sent to members and friends of Alamance Lutheran Church the last week of the preceding month.*