

# Alamance Lutheran Church

## May 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*

*"Honest winter, snow-clad and with the frosted beard, I can welcome not uncordially; but that long deferment of the calendar's promise, that weeping gloom of March and April, that bitter blast outraging the honour of May - how often it has robbed me of heart and hope." George Cissing "Spring" The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft (1903)*

## A Word from Pastor Rooney

### DISCERNMENT IN A TIME OF TRANSITION

A time of transition in any part of our lives can produce emotions of uncertainty and anxiety and often push us into feeling that we have to work harder to find solutions; to get things back into shape; to re-establish good order and regularity so that, when the transition is over, we can say "we did that" "we fixed the problem and all is now right again with the world."

But transitions in the life of a community of faith such as ours at Alamance are far different from those situations in the world where we think we are in charge, and we alone can fix whatever the issue is which confronts us. For in a community of faith such as ours, we are not the ones in charge and therefore we cannot fix the issues which currently challenge us. Rather, we hold that it is God who governs and directs all things and that we are simply to understand His will and His way for us, especially in a period of transition such as we are currently experiencing.

Now don't get me wrong – we ARE to use the gifts which God has given us to provide for and strengthen our community of faith at Alamance. There is a great deal to be done during this transition and many have already stepped up and pitched in to help. In the coming weeks and months, we will need still more help from all members of our community as we seek to complete a **Ministry Site Profile** and form a Call Committee.

But what is essential for all of us over the coming months is a process of discernment. And what exactly is discernment? It is that process of determining God's will for us and seeking to follow in His way. For the vision of the future for Alamance Lutheran and the calling of new pastoral leadership is not something we ourselves can fix or solve. Rather God already has a plan for us, and we are called to discern or understand what that plan is as we move into His future.

And this understanding of discernment means first and foremost that we listen first rather than act; that we take time to pray first and not just jump in to do; that we enter into mutual conversation first, to see how the Spirit might be moving among us.

And next month the Council will continue part of this discernment process with a time of **Holy Conversation**, which is a proposal from our Synod designed to draw us deeper into the process of where God might be leading us. Our leadership will take some time for prayer, reflection, and mutual conversation so that we might discern how God is indeed leading us into His future. Meanwhile we would ask all others in the community to pray for God's guidance and for this ongoing process of discernment both for this time of transition and for the future of Alamance Lutheran.

*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.

~Pastor Rooney

## What Must I Believe?

The study of 35 questions that get to the heart of our faith and traditions continues at 9:00 am Sunday morning for the next several weeks. What we must believe for a) salvation; b) to be a Christian; c) to be a Lutheran. It is a stimulating ongoing conversation and a lot of fun. Come and join us! It's not too late!

**From the Council:** The Council met on April 26th. Although we have a negative financial balance YTD, we were in the black for March. Thank you for continuing to support Alamance Lutheran Church.

**Parish Administrator:** We have hired Stephanie Braxton as our Parish Administrator. She will be starting the week of May 6th and will be working 3 days a week (Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00-2:00 and Thursday 9:00-3:00). As she becomes more familiar with our inner workings, she'll take on many of the administrative duties Matt and others have done over the past couple of years. Stephanie will be working directly for the Pastor. To avoid any confusion, the only other people providing direction to Stephanie are the Council Vice President (Ted Milling) and the Council Secretary (Marty Adams). If there is something you feel Stephanie can help with, work through the Pastor, Ted, or Marty. We have updated the Parish Administrator Job Description and created a Memo of Understanding that outlines Stephanie's job expectations. She will be attending church on May 5<sup>th</sup> so you can meet her.

Here is a short bio for Stephanie: Stephanie lives in Burlington with her husband Chuck and their German Shepherd, Tango. Their son, Macray, is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University and their daughter, Madeline, lives and works in Durham, NC. They are lifelong members of Macedonia Lutheran Church. Most recently, Stephanie served as the Executive Director for the non-profit organization Alamance Citizens for Education. She is a graduate of Williams High School and Elon University. Stephanie currently sits on the Community Benevolence Committee at Macedonia, is the President of the Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Friends (LEAF) Board of Directors and sits on the Women's Resource Center of Alamance County Board of Directors. WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE, STEPHANIE!!!

**Council Business:** Thank you for your support at the recent Congregational Meeting. Ted Milling, Roy Whitehead, Jerry Combs and Tommy Stokes were elected to the Endowment Committee. Elizabeth Powell was elected to serve on Council. Annual Reports were approved. While improving access to and within our facilities continues to be a priority, based on feedback we have received from members with mobility issues, we will continue

to explore ways to make improvements. The ramp design we have previously shared with you is being reconsidered.

**Out With the Outdated:** We appreciate the support for the Work Day. More needs to be done, but our grounds and facilities are looking better and better. Thanks to all who helped. As a follow-up, there is a need to shred a lot of old documents. A shed-a-thon is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th from 9 am to noon** at Beth Schmidt Park in Elon (2150 Elon Park Drive). Would you be able to take a bag or two of documents (up to 70#/person)? Let Marty Adams know and she will arrange with you to get the bags.

**Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival:** We are moving forward with the 2024 Fall Festival. An initial meeting was held; Ted and Cindy Milling will be taking the lead, and a number of members are supporting the effort. The Fall Festival will be the last Saturday of October. The next organizing meeting is May 18 at 9:00. Please join us – more hands make less work.

**The Call Process:** The Council will begin the “Holy Conversation” study with Pastor Rooney in early June. This will be one of the preliminary steps as we move toward starting a formal call process. We realize many of you are interested in the overall call process. We pledge to keep the Congregation as informed as possible. When the Call Committee is formed, much of their work is confidential until we extend a call to a prospective candidate.

**Church Ministry Teams:** At the end of this document, you will find a list of the church ministry teams and current members. It is never too late to join a team! If you are interested, just talk to the team Chair or Council Liaison. They can fill you in on exactly what the team does, when it meets, and how you can help. Where is God leading you to serve?

**Hospitality Team:** The Hospitality Team is hosting the Mother’s Day Tea on Saturday May 4th starting at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to attend. Please bring a small snack to share.

**From the Worship and Music Team:** The Team is focusing on ensuring we have communion supplies for the coming weeks. Altar and communion set up are the primary responsibilities of the team. Because of the Festival Days in May, we decided we will worship in the Sanctuary every Sunday in May. We have also decided we will meet in the Chapel every Sunday, June through August. We hope you have enjoyed the liturgy, music, and prayers provided by Matt and Pastor Rooney.

## From Evangelism/Social Ministry

**Congregational Pictorial Directory:** As we prepare to enter the call process to identify and select a new pastor, there are many things that must be done to ensure we clearly communicate who we are and what we are looking for in a shepherd to lead us in this next chapter in the life of our congregation. There are also things we need to do to make sure the new pastor has a smooth transition. One of those things is having an up-to-date Congregational Pictorial Directory. Our last directory was done in 2021 and does not accurately reflect all our current members. Rather than doing something formal that is out-of-date almost as soon as it is published, we are going to create a “living directory” – one that can be updated quickly as new members join or others leave. To make this document as accurate as possible, **WE NEED YOUR HELP. In the coming weeks, you will be getting a letter requesting a photo and asking you to ensure the information we have about you is accurate. PLEASE respond as quickly as possible to this request.** Questions – reach out to Marty Adams.

**Blessing Box:** 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.

**Dream Center:** We are continuing to donate food to the Dream Center. We will be collecting **pasta** in May, rice in June. Thanks to all of you who are donating food for both the Blessing Box and for the Dream Center.

**Because of You.... Potluck:** Our next “Because of You” potluck luncheon is planned for **May 19<sup>th</sup>** immediately after church. Lisa Edwards from the Dream Center will be our guest informing us about their ministries. We will need some help with set-up on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Allied Churches:** We are also helping Allied Churches with food preparation on the first Wednesday of the month. Kirk and Lynn Tucker in May. Don and Donna Eash in June, Pastors Bob Hawkins and John Weinbach in July. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and will maintain a schedule.

**Lunch Bunch:** The Lunch Bunch will meet in the Fireplace Room at the Terrace in the Boland Center at Twin Lakes (3815 Wade Coble Drive) on **May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30**. Katie Whitehead is hosting the event. Two kinds of soups and an extensive salad bar will be offered that includes proteins, all for \$12.00. Beverages and tip included. Let Katie know that you will be attending **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>th</sup>**. Katie is also willing to be the contact person for future Lunch Bunch gatherings. Thank you, Katie!

**Lutheran World Relief Fundraiser:** We will be holding a fundraising drive for Lutheran World Relief to purchase materials for sewing kits. Sewing kits make it possible to train and support at risk young women to develop their skills and have access to employment. The fundraising will start in June. We hope to complete and pack the kits in August with a Sloppy Joe dinner. Details to follow.

**Meals on Wheels:** Members of Alamance Lutheran Church have been volunteers for Meals on Wheels for over 20 years. Meals on Wheels is in desperate need of additional drivers. A typical route is 1-1/2 hours long. Alamance Lutheran delivers every 4th week of the month. The schedule is flexible. If you are interested in supporting this ministry where you meet some of the nicest seniors in the community please contact Jackie Cole.

**Stewardship Team:** The Stewardship Team has a new initiative they will be introducing to the congregation next month. Details to follow.

**Property Team:** We are in the process of getting a new copier. Funds left over from our AV upgrades will be used to reduce the cost of the new copier. We are also buying new phones for the office and will be investigating improvements to our phone system.

To ensure that we are being good stewards of our resources, the property team will be creating a list of improvements needed throughout the building. Working with the Council, the list will be prioritized.

**Youth/Christian Education Team:** Engaging families with children and youth is an important part of the future of Alamance Lutheran Church.

We have purchased youth bulletins that follow the lectionary for Sunday services. This is a starting point to make our services friendlier for young people.

The Girl Scout Troop is enjoying our facilities and plan to hold two lock-ins in May. We will also be providing a pancake breakfast for the Girl Scouts the 25th of May.

The youth room adjacent to our Fellowship Hall has been reorganized into an attractive space.

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:** Kathy Ritchey will be hosting a Bridal Shower for her daughter Janet at 1:00 pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>. All are invited! Please bring a treat to share. If you are interested in providing a gift, Janet is registered on Amazon. Kathy would appreciate an RSVP by May 18<sup>th</sup>. More details will be provided soon.

Plaid Day is almost here. The Plaid Day Festival is May 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00 am. Volunteers are needed. Hoping for at least 6 or 8. They are looking for help with traffic control, selling drinks, and handing out water. Nick Farmerie from the Village of Alamance is the primary contact along with Ted Milling.

## Schedule for May:

- May 1<sup>st</sup>: Food Prep at Allied Churches - 9:00-11:00 am; ALANON - 10:00 am
- May 4<sup>th</sup>: Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am; Property Committee Meeting – 10:00 am; Mother’s Day Tea - 1:00 pm; “Hope for the Journey” Conference - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Lamb’s Chapel (3539 Alamance Road). Learn how to serve all children, especially those who have experienced trauma.
- May 5<sup>th</sup>: Cinco de Mayo (It’s a bigger deal in the US than it is in Mexico.); Let Katie Whitehead know if you will be attending the May 9<sup>th</sup> Lunch Bunch.
- May 8<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am
- May 9<sup>th</sup>: Lunch Bunch in the Fireplace Room at the Boland Center at Twin Lakes - 11:30 am; Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting - 4:30 pm.
- May 11<sup>th</sup>: Stewardship Meeting – 10:00 am.
- May 12<sup>th</sup>: Mother’s Day
- May 15<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am.
- May 18<sup>th</sup>: Fall Festival Planning Meeting - 9:00 am; Shred-a-Thon at Beth Schmidt Park 9:00 am to noon; Let Kathy know if you will attend the June 1 Bridal Shower.
- May 19<sup>th</sup>: Because of You... potluck lunch with Lisa Edwards from the Dream Center – 11:00 am.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am
- May 25<sup>th</sup>: Pancake Breakfast for the Girl Scouts – 9:00 am; Plaid Day Festival - 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
- May 27<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day - Remember the fallen.
- May 29<sup>th</sup>: ALANON – 10:00 am.
- May 30<sup>th</sup>: June 1<sup>st</sup>: Synod Gathering

- June 1<sup>st</sup>: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am; Bridal Shower for Janet Ritchey - 1:00pm

## Serving in May

	Altar Set-up	Communion Set-up	Worship Assistant/ Reader	Greeters	Ushers
<b>May 5</b>	Diane Gural	Marty Adams	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Pastor John Weinbach Roy Whitehead
<b>May 12</b>	Diane Gural	Marty Adams	Kathy Ritchey	Sharon Isley Wanda Patterson	John Ritchey Ted Milling
<b>May 19 (Pentecost)</b>	Diane Gural	Marty Adams	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Jerry and Sally Combs	Terry Adams Pastor Bob Hawkins
<b>May 26 (Holy Trinity)</b>	Diane Gural	Marty Adams	Terry and Marty Adams	Pastor John Weinbach Sandy Kirkpatrick	Jerry Combs 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.*



**ALAMANCE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2024 CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES\***

**STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Kirk Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Jerry Combs Melanie Thomas	As needed

**YOUTH/CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Ted Milling	Ted Milling	Rhoda Weinbach	

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
John Ritchey	John Ritchey	Roy Whitehead Ted Milling	Before Council Meeting

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Marty Adams	Marty Adams	Ted Milling Roy Whitehead John Weinbach	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 10:00 a.m.

**CHURCH PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
John Ritchey	John Ritchey	Ted Milling Terry Adams Tony Lewis Joel Maness Hugh Smith Elizabeth Powell	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday @10:00 a.m.

**EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Bob Hawkins	Marty Adams	Kirk Tucker Lynn Tucker Sharon Ward Donna Eash	2nd Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Pastor Rooney is a member of all teams.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Clare Holtz	Katie Whitehead	Kathy Ritchey Diane Gural Sandy Kirkpatrick Matt Swaim Rebecca Maness Sherry Ford Craven Ford	

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Ted Milling	Ted Milling	Wanda Patterson	

**MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Kirk Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Jerry Combs Melanie Thomas	As Needed

**HOSPITALITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

CHAIRs	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Cindy Milling Kathy Ritchey	Ted Milling	Donna Eash Sandy Kirkpatrick Sharon Ward Kerry Sullivan Lynn Tucker Kim Graham Lisa Lewis Rebecca Maness	

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (Elected Positions)**

CHAIR	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
John Ritchey	Ted Milling Roy Whitehead Tommy Stokes Jerry Combs	Same as Finance

Pastor Rooney is a member of all teams.