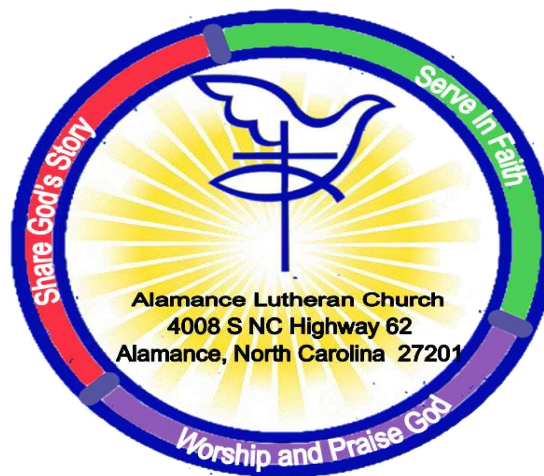


Alamance Lutheran Church

July 2025 News Notes



Our Vision: To be a beacon of Christian faith, love, and compassion where all are welcomed with open hearts.

Our Mission: We are called by God's spirit to:

- *Worship and Praise God*
- *Serve in Faith*
- *Share God's story*

"The unfortunate need people who will be kind to them; the prosperous need people to be kind to." Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics (4th c. BCE), 9.9, tr. J.A.K. Thomson

Words from Pastor Aaron

Dear Beloved People of Alamance Lutheran Church: As I prepare for the birth of my first child, I am reminded of the importance of community, particularly as I become integrated into yours. We cannot thank you enough for the care and commitment to making us feel at home here. From baby showers to restaurant recommendations, this community has been a blessing to be a part of.

I also recognize how vital offering pastoral support is to your community. I have seen it in the ways that you all respond to those in need, to either church members or even community members. You all have a heart of service to help and care for one another.

As your pastor, it is my joy to walk alongside you and continue equipping you to care for one another and this community. As I continue learning your names and stories, I ask for your patience and help. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, please don't hesitate to let me know. The care of many is always greater than the capacity of one, and your attentiveness helps ensure that no one is forgotten. Together, we can continue building a community where Christ's love is felt through every act of care and connection.

With gratitude and peace - Pastor Aaron

N.C. Synod Assembly & ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Go to the [NC Synod Website](#) if you would like to watch the assembly highlights video. The theme of the event was "God is Calling...Can You Hear?"

There is also information about the [ELCA Church Wide Assembly](#) being held at the end of July. This year's theme is "For the Life of the World." Prior to the event, several pre-events are available to all.

- Participate in the online Bible studies that will be held on Wednesdays in July (July 9, 16, 23) at 7 p.m., focusing on the assembly theme "For the Life of the World" through three lenses: climate justice, gender justice, and war and reconciliation.
- Also, you may join (without voice) hearings on memorials, social statements, and budget proposals on five evenings at 7 p.m.

For additional information about and the dates of these events, go to the [ELCA pre-conference website](#).

Council

The Council will be meeting on July 6th. Major topics include improving accessibility with the Lift project and revised policies on the use of the cemetery and memorials and honors.

We rejoice with Pastor Aaron and Joanna as they prepare to welcome Baby Boy Spangler into the world. Let us join in prayer for a safe, smooth delivery and a healthy, joy-filled arrival. Per the terms of Pastor Aaron's agreement with the church, he will take three weeks of paternity leave following the birth. It is our responsibility—and our privilege—to honor that

commitment. By doing so, we give Pastor Aaron the space to bond deeply with his son and support Joanna during these precious early days of parenthood. **If you have any pastoral needs while Pastor Aaron is on paternity leave, please reach out to Lenise in the church office. Pastor Aaron will equip her with the appropriate resources and contacts to ensure support is available during his absence.**

Finance Team

The Finance Team met on June 21st. As of the end of May, year-to-date expenses have exceeded income by \$21,500. While we are hopeful and expect several generous contributions in the coming weeks, we kindly ask each of you to prayerfully reflect on your ongoing support and tithe to the church.

Lenise has been doing a great job with bookkeeping and finance responsibilities. She is planning on taking some courses to enhance her skills too.

The next Finance Team Meeting is planned for July 19th at 9:00.

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team supported the Family Movie night and Red Cross Blood Drive in June. A “Because of You” covered dish will be held on July 13th featuring a speaker from the Red Cross.

A baby shower was also held in June for the impending arrival of Baby Spangler. Elizabeth did the majority of the planning for the event but was supported by many congregation members.

Let us take a moment to recognize and celebrate Cindy, Kathy and all the members of the Hospitality team for their tireless dedication and heartwarming contributions to our church. Whether they’re preparing meals, organizing events, or making sure each gathering runs smoothly, their behind-the-scenes efforts create a welcoming environment for us all. Their servant-hearted leadership reflects the very essence of community. We are deeply grateful for everything they do—both seen and unseen.

The Team will be meeting on July 5th at 10:00.

Worship and Music Team

A new “Paschal” Candle is being ordered since the current candle is not staying lit. Eucharistic communion sets have been received for Lay Ministers to offer homebound members communion.

The Choir and Hand Bells are taking July off. We look forward to seeing them later in the year.

Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thanks to all of you who are donating food for the **Blessing Box** and the **Dream Center**. Food insecurity continues to be a big issue in Alamance County. Please support these ministries as much as you can. **The Blessing Box** continues to see heavy use. If you are a Thrivent member and eligible for a \$250 grant, please consider applying for a grant for food for the Blessing Box. For the **Dream Center**, we will be collecting **Rice** in July; **Pasta** in August.

We are continuing to look for new ways to provide for our communities.

In the wake of the devastating fire that displaced the Crouse family, our church community feels a strong calling to extend love, prayer, and tangible support. A “love offering” will be collected on **Sunday, July 13th** to aid the Crouse family during this difficult time. Let us also surround them in prayer, lifting their spirits and reminding them they are not alone. One simple but powerful gesture is to share a card filled with words of encouragement and spiritual support—a reminder that they are held by both God’s presence and the care of their church family.

Pastor Aaron is reaching out to our homebound members with much more to come. Pastoral care is high on Pastor Aaron’s agenda.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Grillworx (1233 West Webb Ave) on July 10th at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you are attending.

The team will be meeting on July 10th at 4:30.

Property Team

Facility improvements and repairs continue. Brick repair along the outside ramp has been approved by Council and will be completed as soon as the contractor can get to them. We will have plans and quotes for the lift this month and hope to present it to the congregation for approval by the end of the summer. Pastor Aaron has affirmed improving accessibility as important for ALC.

Parking spaces near the Fellowship Hall door will be designated for visitors.

A property use policy is currently being developed.

The Property Team will be meeting on July 5th at 10:00.

Stewardship Team:

The **Memorial/Honor Fund Policy** has been reviewed by Council. Pastor Aaron and Sherry will do some final wordsmithing on the document prior to final Council approval. The policy is to better manage how memorials and honor projects and fund contributors are recognized after they are received. The Council will generate a list of potential memorial projects at the beginning of each year.

The Stewardship Team is thinking about the best ways to encourage our Faith Community to support our missions. They're looking at different ideas to help share the importance of giving and being part of the work we're doing together. More information to come.

The Team will be meeting July 14th at 6:00.

Youth/Christian Education Team

A lot is going on in this area!

A three-day Arts Camp - "And God Said Sing, Dance, and Celebrate" – will be held July 29-31, 9:00-12:30, with lunch provided. A link has been provided on the ALC website for pre-registration. Sharon Ward has made a flyer. **On Thursday, July 31 the community is invited to join the event at 11:00** for a share session followed by light refreshments.

Pastor Aaron is providing “Safe Haven” training for Sunday School teachers and Youth leaders. Two sessions have been held and more are planned. We are looking for more teachers. Teachers need to be trained prior to leading a class.

Confirmation classes are being planned for the Fall. Additional children’s and youth classes are being explored.

The Youth Group is taking the summer off. A Fall Youth Group Kickoff is planned for later in August.

Ladies Bible study continues on Tuesday mornings. Men’s breakfast and Bible Study continues on the first Saturdays. Adult and children’s Bible studies/classes are held each Sunday morning.

The next Team meeting is on July 3rd at 9:00.

Cemetery Team

We are beginning to grasp the nettle of clear Cemetery Policies or better the lack thereof. The Cemetery Team is beginning the work after many years of inattention. A number of changes to our policies and practices are needed. Such things as charging annual maintenance fees for every two plots and assessing a fee for replacing crumbling headstones are being considered. We do not have the resources or budget to maintain all the headstones, so without support from the families with loved ones in the cemetery, headstones and vases or other memorial items may be removed. There may be fees associated with new plots requested by members. We also want to ensure plots are available for members that want them in the future.

Some Words from the Council Vice President Kirk Tucker

The quote this month is about kindness. We need to be kind to each other and to the less fortunate in our communities. Am I my brother’s keeper? For me, the answer is yes! Those of us that have been blessed have an obligation to share our gifts with others. Easier said than done. It seems that many, albeit not all, of those that are blessed want to hold on to their stuff and are less willing than those who are less fortunate and seem to be much more willing to care for each other. It’s a test for all of us and some of us are tested more than others.

Schedule

The Editor has made the decision to no longer attempt to publish a monthly schedule in News Notes. It is out of date as soon as it is published. Lenise is doing a great job listing events in weekly bulletins and maintaining the Church Calendar on our website: alamancelutheran.org. To find the calendar on the website, click on the three bars on the upper right-hand corner of the homepage, then click on “Resources.” The Church Calendar is one of the Resources.” You will have a current schedule of events if you use these resources.

The information printed in the church bulletin is only as accurate as the information on the calendar. If you have an event or meeting scheduled at church at it is not already on the calendar, please contact Lenise at: ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org to add it to the calendar.

Thanks for all you do Lenise!

July Birthdays

1st – Suzanne Seymour
4th – Cindy Milling
6th – Sidney Dill
7th – Charles Ellis
9th – Kim Graham
15th – Ashleigh Crouse
22nd – Leanne Crouse
23rd – Beth Rasnake
24th – Lisa Cates
30th – Kevin Widderich
31st – Jonathan Poquette



Serving in July

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers
July 6	Lynn Tucker	Dale Thompson	Kirk Tucker	Jerry Combs Sandy Kirkpatrick	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith
July 13	Lynn Tucker	Craven Ford	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Wanda Patterson Kerry Sullivan	Jerry Combs Roy Whitehead
July 20	Lynn Tucker	Kathy Ritchey	Kathy Ritchey	Donna Eash Elizabeth Powell	Terry Adams Don Eash
July 27	Lynn Tucker	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Sharon Isley Katie Beard	Ted Milling Hugh Smith

Please let Kirk 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.