

# Alamance Lutheran Church

April 2026

## 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*

"If we cannot be decent, let us endeavor to be graceful. If we can't be moral, at least we can

avoid being vulgar." **Don Mitchell**, *The New York Idea*(1907), 2.

## Prayers

We are happy to report that Ted is doing well after his surgeries. His journey is not over yet; he is well along his way. We need to pray for Clarine Holtz as she continues to undergo chemotherapy and a number of other health issues. With continued increases in prices of food and fuel, and lower government support, there are many in our community who are facing financial challenges. We need to pray for them and for our governments at all levels to remember their responsibilities to care for the poor and less fortunate.

## Words from Pastor Aaron

Dear Beloved People of Alamance Lutheran Church,

I want to start by thanking all of you for supporting my military ministry goals. As most of you heard at the end of the annual meeting, I will be taking a leave of absence starting May 10th and will be gone until September 1st to complete Chaplain Officer Basic Leader Course at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, SC. This is a one-time mandatory training that I need to complete to become a full Chaplain for the North Carolina National Guard.

I will be learning the skills of ministry during combat operations, moral and ethical advisement for commanders, and how to engage with soldiers of all faith backgrounds. It will be a lot of

physical and mental work as I prepare to take on the full responsibilities of a chaplain. I hope to write a small summary of my activities each month and send it back to the congregation to hear about what I am doing. I also ask for your prayers and strength to complete the training while also being far away from my family.

While this training is part of my duties to serve in the armed forces, it is also a ministry of this church. You are sending me forth from Alamance as a representative of the ELCA and this congregation to minister to military members. It is part of our churchwide mission to engage with people beyond the walls of our church, and this is part of that duty to support the larger call to minister to the world. When I preach, teach, and share communion with soldiers, it is your hands and hearts that are also extended far beyond Alamance. I know it can be difficult to see me gone for such long periods of time or even so consistently monthly, but I and the soldiers appreciate your commitment and willingness to share my time and talents.

In peace,  
Pastor Aaron

## Council

The Council met on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Council elected Greg Beard to fill the Council vacancy created with Elizabeth Powell's resignation. Greg, has recently joined the Property Team and will serve as Property Liaison to the Council.

The next Council meeting will be on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to fit schedules.

## Finance Team

Income in February was \$18,717, expenses \$20,394. Year to date through February we have \$26,518 income, \$41,103 expense, a \$14,584 deficit. We will provide an update for endowment funds next month.

John is working with Pastor Aaron to finalize financial arrangements during Pastor Aaron's training, and with Pastor Coulter, who will serve as our interim while Pastor Aaron is away.

## Hospitality Team

We are well blessed with our Hospitality Team. The last Lenten midweek meal was on March 25<sup>th</sup> and the Hospitality team did a great job with all the midweek Lenten meals.

A reception and luncheon for Pastor Mark Coulter, our interim pastor while Pastor Aaron is in training will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. More details will be in the weekly bulletins.

The next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 6:00. See Donna Eash if you would like to help coordinate these efforts. Sign up on-line to schedule your donation.

Pastor Aaron has asked the team to provide some “Standard Operating Procedures” for events. The “SOP’s” will be kept in the kitchen to provide guidance for volunteers.

## Staff Support

The Executive Committee, Marty, John, Pastor Aaron, Kirk, and Roy met with Pastor Mark Coulter, who has agreed to be our Interim Pastor while Pastor Aaron is away on vacation and training to become a military chaplain. Pastor Mark will serve for 20 hours/week, similar to Pastor Rooney. He plans to be in the office every week on Thursday mornings. Pastor Mark has served as a Pastor in parish ministries and as a campus minister at UNC. He recently retired. This will be his first interim assignment. We are privileged and excited to have Pastor Mark lead our faith community while Pastor Aaron is away.

## Worship and Music Team

If you weren't in Church on Palm Sunday you missed the debut of the Youth Hand Bells. Thanks to Ruthie Thompson, it was great.

Guest pastors provided variety for our midweek services during Lent and were well received. Many of us took advantage of the opportunity to hear messages from other Pastors in our district.

Holy week is here! We will be holding Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services. A sunrise contemplation, Easter breakfast, Easter egg hunt, and Easter Service with special music is planned for Easter morning. Easter is the biggest celebration of the year. We hope you will come and join us. Easter is not just one Sunday; the season extends for the next 4 Sundays in April. Every Sunday during the Easter season is a festival Sunday and the Christ Candle is lit throughout the season.

We hope you enjoyed the acoustic service in March. We will be holding them more often. These more relaxed services will use more modern music and readings. A “high” church liturgical service will also be provided once or twice a year.

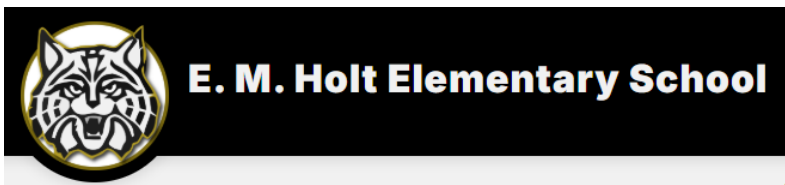
Most of us are set in our ways; change in music and worship styles are hard for us to accept. We can't please everyone all the time. We need to welcome variety and accept that we not all agree on music and worship styles. We do hope to cover many, if not all of the bases.

The team will also be creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for each service role.

**Open Chapel** continues Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 in the Chapel.

## Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thank you for donating food to the **Blessing Box**. We hope to see increased donations for **The Blessing Box**, which continues to see heavy use, especially now. Feeding people is an important part of who we are. There is a move afoot to create a **Pet Blessing Box**. More details will be provided when we get them.



The Principal of EM Holt is asking us to provide a breakfast for the staff in May. Lynn is working out the details. More to follow.

**Evangelism:** We continue to look for members who have a heart for Evangelism. Evangelism is not just outreach to the community; it is in-reach to our Community of Faith. As part of this, we are exploring ways we can build bridges and connections between all of us. We believe we can do more to keep informed about each other as life events occur. There are many kind hearts in the Congregation. We want to provide transportation, meals, and visitations for members in need. If you want to be part of this effort, please talk to Sherry Ford.

Sherry and others will be visiting with home-bounds on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Who are we and what do we want to be? We are doing many good things; are there a few things we want to do and be that differentiate us from other faith communities? What is our niche? These are all questions we are grappling with – come join us to share your thoughts.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Skids in Elon (134 West Haggard Avenue, Elon) on April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you are attending. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> (A week later than normal) at 4:30.

## Property Team

The lift is functioning. It is not the same as an elevator, so it does take getting used to. It is a great addition to our facilities and is being used regularly. John will clarify some of the operating procedures. The team continues to explore new concepts for providing a lift/ramp from the Sanctuary to the office/classroom level. Current plan is to provide a lift/ramp in the hall behind the organ. The Council considers this next phase of our accessibility efforts to be a priority for the coming year.

We are planning to repair and repaint the Sanctuary after Easter. Joel is coordinating this effort. Terry has been doing some prep work along the baseboards. We have not settled on the exact color. It will probably be a neutral earth tone in order to emphasize the changing colors of the paraments.

Improvements and grading around the Scout Hut are underway. The locks at the Social Hall entrance have been changed. The key pad lock was moved to the entrance near the Parsonage. See John Ritchey if you need a key card or fob for the Social Hall entrance or a code for the entrance near the Parsonage.

The Property Team under Elizabeth Powell's leadership made great improvements to our facilities. Elizabeth has decided to step away from the leadership of the Team at present.

## Stewardship Team

Stewardship is about our discipleship and our way of life. Let's ask ourselves, "How adequately does the giving of my time, talents, and finances reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?"

As we move into the New Year and we look forward to our ministries in 2026, we pray that our Stewardship Ministry will help each of us to grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of our time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to us.

The Memorial Committee has met recently and has made a recommendation to Council for a bench. Some details need to be worked out before proceeding.

## Youth/Christian Education Team

Three different Sunday School Classes for children and youth continue. Teachers and assistants have been assigned for the new year.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 13-17 from 5 to 7:30 with dinner provided. A world hunger themed curriculum has been obtained from the Synod.

Pastor Aaron is leading an adult Bible study on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00. The first class is studying "UnClobber" by Colby Martin exploring how scripture has been used against the LGBTQ+ communities in the past continues. Recordings of previous classes are available. It's not too late to join the class and Pastor Aaron has copies of the book if you need one.

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are currently using Bible Project videos. Each class stands on its own; come and join us.

Women's Bible study continues Tuesday mornings. Men's breakfast and Bible Study continue on the first Saturdays although **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is cancelled for April 4th. An Easter Breakfast is scheduled for Easter Sunday at 8:00 am.** We are always looking for more men to come and join the Men's Breakfast.

## Cemetery Team

We are working on updating our cemetery policies. A number of updates and changes to our policies and practices are needed. We want to ensure plots are available for members who want them in the future and do not plan on selling plots to nonmembers. Fifty plots are currently available. We also need to clarify our policies and practices for our Memorial Garden. The sense is that spreading or burying cremains in the Memorial Garden would not be limited to current members.

We also need to clarify how the cemetery funds and expenses are accounted for. Are they general expenses? Or should we have a special budget line item for the cemetery?

## WELCA

A tea for Lutheran women will be held at Macedonia Lutheran Church (421 West Front Street, Burlington) at 2:00pm on Saturday, April 18th. Register in person or in advance to Debbie Riggs ([driggs1959@yahoo.com](mailto:driggs1959@yahoo.com)). The cost is \$5 (cash or check).

**Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker** The Secular World acts as if Christmas were our most important celebration. Easter is the **most important celebration for Christians** as it celebrates Christ's coming to us, overcoming death and rising from the tomb. Come and join us for this special day of celebration!

More important than ever; whether you agree or disagree with the actions of our President in Iran, let us all pray for **PEACE!** Let us pray for peacekeepers and their families, especially for those who find themselves in harm's way. I believe Christ's messages on peace are very clear. Let us also pray for the less fortunate with limited resources who are dealing with increased prices caused by this war.

## April Birthdays

8<sup>th</sup> – Kerry Sullivan  
11<sup>th</sup> – Asher Dill  
13<sup>th</sup> - Rob Holland  
17<sup>th</sup> – Hugh Smith  
24<sup>th</sup> – Donna Eash  
28<sup>th</sup> – Greg Beard



## Schedule

**Questions about when things are happening?** Check the church calendar on our website: [alamancelutheran.org](http://alamancelutheran.org) and the weekly bulletin. 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."

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 and it is not already on the calendar, please contact Lenise at: [ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org](mailto:ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org) to add it to the calendar. Thanks for all you do Lenise!

## Serving in April

	<b>Communion Setup</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>April 2 Maundy Thursday</b>	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Kathy Ritchey	Elizabeth Lockley	Kerry Sullivan Sidney Dill	Don Eash Elizabeth Powell
<b>April 3 Good Friday</b>	N/A	Holly Mills	N/A	Don and Donna Eash	N/A
<b>April 5 Easter</b>	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Derrick Dill	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Don and Donna Eash	Ted Milling Roy Whitehead
<b>April 12</b>	Holly Mills	Holly Mills	Holly Mills	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Aaliyah Dill Kirk Tucker
<b>April 19</b>	Marty Adams	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Terry Adams Jerry Combs
<b>April 26</b>	Marty Adams	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Sidney Dill Sandy Kirkpatrick	Ina Dill Don Eash

*Please let Kirk know of any Church-related announcements to be included in future news notes. News notes for each month will be sent to members and friends of Alamance Lutheran Church in the last week of the preceding month.*