Alamance Lutheran Church
November 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***

"Gratitude is a debt which usually goes on accumulating like blackmail; the more you pay, the more is exacted." **Mark Twain,** *Autobiography* (1924), v.1, ed. A. B. Paine.

Prayers

We **continue to pra**y for the poor and underprivileged. We pray for those in need and for our government at all levels to remember their responsibilities to care for the poor and less fortunate. We pray for those in our community who are facing financial and health challenges. We pray for those in our community who are food insecure. We **continue to pray for peace**, especially in the **Middle East and Iran**.

Words from Pastor Aaron

Dearly Beloved People of Alamance,

I recently started a book called "The Soulwork of Clay." In it the author writes about their journey with ceramics as a spiritual practice. I too am using this book to begin my own study with ceramics, and I invite you to join me but not by buying the book. I plan to write about my own journey with it as a series and invite you to follow along in the News Notes.

We start at the beginning where things are unformed, elements, potential, all of it just waiting to see what it might become.

All clay starts in the same way. It is made up of different elements of the earth: custer feldspar, kaolin, silica, and bentonite are some of the primary ingredients. All of them are a powder substance, dust, and unable to hold any shape or form… until water is added. There is plenty of baptismal imagery here to draw on but you'll have to follow along to hear more about that later.

Once these elements are added together and blended up, they begin to form the substance that we know of as clay. A plastic, meaning it holds its shape, substance that can be turned into any sort of object. But the fun thing about clay is that the recipe is not static. Depending on what temperatures are used to fire the clay, what color the clay might be, how rigid or soft the clay is will all help determine what elements are used to create the clay.

It reminds me of the creation story from Genesis. "…then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, NRSVUE). From the dust we too are born and shaped. One might even call God a master ceramist, picking just the right mix of dust for the project that lies ahead. Each of us connected to and part of creation, a mixture of elements brought together by God to form us as we are.

We are each a unique mixture, made of the same earthly materials yet brought together in different ways. Like clay before water is added, we carry within us the raw potential of creation. We may not yet know what all those elements will become, but they are already part of the work God has begun in us.

Prayer: God, you created me from the dust of the Earth, and from these ordinary elements you bring forth raw potential to become a masterwork of your hands. Help me to recognize the gifts, experiences, and pieces of creation that make me who I am. Amen

Pastoral challenge/reflection: What elements, "dust," do you think God binds together in you?

In Peace,
Pastor Aaron

Council

Council met on October 25th. Our Reformation Day celebration, trunk or treat, and chili cookoff were also held on the 25th. It was a great success with participants from our Faith Community and the community at large participating in both events.

A Congregational Meeting is planned for December 13th following the worship service. The agenda will include review and approval of the 2027 budget, as well as the election of Council and Audit Team members.

Congregation members are encouraged to prayerfully consider serving in leadership roles. Several opportunities are available for those who wish to share their gifts and help guide the ministry of our church. Marty, Clarine, John, and Kirk will be stepping down from the Council while Sherry, Rebecca, Cindy, and Jo Ann will continue serving for another year. Greg, who was appointed during the year to fill a vacant Council seat, will stand for congregational election to complete the regular process.

While Ministry Teams plan and carry out much of the congregation's work and ministry, the Council provides overall leadership, direction, and coordination. The vitality of our congregation depends on members who are willing to serve both on Ministry Teams and on the Council. We invite you to consider how God may be calling you to participate in this important work.

John, Kirk, and Pastor Aaron began to up-date ALC's Constitution and By-Laws in September. Copies of the revised documents were shared with the Council, and the Council will review the revisions on December 8th at 1:30. Congregation members are welcome to attend this meeting. After the Council approves the proposed revisions, they document will be sent to the Synod for their review. Following Synod feedback and approval, the revised documents will be presented to the Congregation and a Congregation Meeting in the Spring.

Pastor Aaron wants to improve pastoral care by creating a rotating call list and seeking feedback and participation from Congregation members.

The next Council meeting will be on November 29th at 1:30.

Finance Team

September contributions totaled **$9,631.60**, while expenses were **$15,972.56**. The Finance Team reviewed all expenses at its October 17 meeting and found everything to be in good order. Year-to-date contributions total **$138,053.11**, and year-to-date expenses total **$159,620.73**, resulting in a **year-to-date deficit of $21,567.62**.

Total Endowment funds are: $1,244,088.58 with $237,905.58 available in the Gilmore fund above the original gift for projects consistent with the fund's directives.

We are looking for some folks to form an **Audit Team.** Auditing our 2026 financials will require approximately one afternoon or evening. We are also looking for **Endowment Team** members. Endowment Team members serve staggered terms and will be elected at the Congregation Meeting to be held on December 13th.

We want to invite everyone to pray about how God might be calling us to support the church financially. Even small increases, given consistently, make a meaningful difference. Thank you for seeking the Lord with us.

Hospitality Team

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held on October 9th. The next Blood Drive is December 4th. The Team is responsible for setting up the Social Hall and staffing the refreshment table during the drive. Please consider helping the team with this important community-wide event.

Advent services, including light meals, will be held on Wednesday evenings starting in early December. Meals and services will be held on: December 2, 9, 16, and 23.

The next Hospitality Team meeting is November 14th from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Gathering Space.

Worship and Music Team

It's great to have the Choir and Bell Choir back! Reformation Sunday was spectacular!

Cathy Ritchey is hosting banner making on Mondays in November from 1:00 to 3:00. Join her if you would like to make some new banners for our worship space.

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** and for the special donation supporting the Back-Pack program for E.M. Holt led by Lowes Lutheran Church. The Blessing Box continues to see heavy use, especially now. Feeding people is an important part of our ministry. Donations to the Blessing Box are appreciated at any time, but don't forget that on the second Sunday we will hold a special dedication for donations to the Blessing Box each month.

We plan to continue our support for **Christmas Cheer** again this year. Marty Adams has volunteered to lead this effort. We will support a family with children and senior adults in need too. We appreciate your generosity in the past. We will be asking for contributions in November. Shopping, wrapping, and gift delivery will be in December. The wrapping party, including a "sloppy Joe" light supper is scheduled for December 15th starting at 5:00. Council supported donating the November "Noisy Offering" funds to our Christmas Cheer fundraising.

Another "Meal in a Bag" (Blessing Bag) event is planned for the Spring in the Easter time frame.

We recognize the need to improve and increase our social media and communication abilities. Pastor Aaron is looking for capable individuals to meet this need.

The next Lunch Bunch will be on November 12th at First Watch (1726 Glidewell Drive, Burlington). Let Katie Whitehead know if you can attend. Come and join us!

Evangelism:
More car magnets are available for purchase for $10.00 each. Proudly display you are a member of Alamance Lutheran Church, a **GROWING** Lutheran faith community in Alamance County. See Sherry if you would like to buy a car magnet.

We continue to work on creating "Welcome Bags" for visitors. Still working out what we want to put in them although we are getting close.

We continue to explore ways we can build bridges and connections between all of us. If you want to be part of this effort, please talk to Sherry. Many thanks to Sherry for taking a leadership role in our Evangelism efforts.

The team will be meeting on November 12th. at 4:30.

Property Team

The team believes they are close to being able to share a proposal for providing a lift/ramp from the Sanctuary to the office/classroom level. This continues to be a priority for our congregation.

A number of repair and improvement projects have been completed this past month. A "workday" is planned for November 7th starting at 10:00 to trim shrubbery around the grounds. Other projects will be included so long as sufficient volunteers are available to complete them.

Stewardship Team

All of us share the responsibility of being good stewards — caring for things that are not ours alone. This includes our communities, our resources, the environment, our relationships, and our time. Stewardship means managing these gifts with intention so that we leave them better than we found them. Stewardship is the practice of managing what we have been entrusted with wisely, ethically, and with an eye toward the future. Let's be good stewards for Alamance Lutheran Church so our ministries thrive and serve God for the next 100 years.

NEWS FLASH!!

Remember the Time and Talent surveys you filled out a year ago to indicate how you wanted to serve our Church in 2026? Well, it's that time again, and surveys for you to let Alamance Lutheran know how you are willing to serve in 2027 will be handed out by Greeters before worship beginning on Sunday, November 1st.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As we plan for 2027, please complete this survey if you wish to continue serving in the same role or capacity as you did in 2026, or if you are interested in serving in a new capacity. If you do not indicate that you wish to continue, we will assume you are choosing to step away from your current role at the end of 2026. Thank you for your time and dedication you have shared with this ministry throughout the past year.

There will be survey forms for both adults and children. Copies will be available on November 8th and November 15th as well as in the Church office. We ask that you bring your completed survey to Church on Sunday, November 22nd to be blessed at the altar. The Stewardship Team will tally the results and work to make sure your volunteer interests are acknowledged by the first Sunday in January 2027. Please give prayerful consideration for how you will serve God's Church here at Alamance for the new year.

"**With a recognition and commitment to God's mission for our church, the Stewardship Team encourages generosity throughout the year within our congregation in the form of God-given time, talents, and resources to benefit both our church and the wider community."**

Youth/Christian Education Team

As we look at the coming year, **Confirmation** is a large topic for discussion. We plan to hold a meeting with parents of middle and high school students to implement a Confirmation refresher and devotional during Lenten suppers for all members. Youth will get credit for their participation in these meetings along with taking notes during Church services.

A **Christmas pageant** will be led by Music Director, Beth Jordan. The pageant will be presented at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service.

Mission Focus: The mission work carried out by youth and parents at the LYO Assembly will be featured as this year's Mission Focus. Additional emphasis will be given to the ongoing Girl Scout award project, which is being supported by members of the congregation and our youth.

School has started! Teaching positions have been filled through the end of December. With the potential for more children and youth coming, we could use more volunteers.

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are using an Augsburg study of Mathew's Gospel. Each class stands by itself. There is no need to study ahead of time.

Women's Bible study continues Tuesday mornings. Men's breakfast and Bible Study continue the first Saturdays. We are always looking for more participants to come and join us.

The Team will be meeting October 22nd at 4:30.

Cemetery Team

Rules and regulations detailing the use and ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and Memorial Garden, which were previously adopted in 2006 and 2013, are being updated into a new policy. Council will review and approve it prior to implementation. The current plot map is being updated and hopefully digitized.

Once Council approves the policy, we will share it with the congregation. The policy will clearly communicate who is eligible and how to request a plot in the cemetery or internment spot in the Memorial Garden, the responsibilities of the church versus the family, and the cost.

Hundred-Year Anniversary Team

Even though the anniversary is a few years away, planning has started. This is a big deal! The Synod will be participating to help ALC to celebrate this important achievement. While it is important to remember the past, it is also important that we recognize 100 years is made up of 100 individual years, not just those from the past.

Girl Scouts

The pet blessing box project is coming along but isn't quite ready for stocking.

WELCA

Another Chrismon Workshop will be held on Saturday, November 12th from 10:00 to 2:00. A small fee for materials is required. Contact Kathy Ritchey if you have questions.

WELCA will be meeting on November 26th. at 4:30.

CHURCH TAG SALE!!!



We've had lots of household items generously donated by an individual who was moving out of state. So, let's be good stewards and join this effort by giving our own donations - kitchen items, household accessories, furniture, lamps, sporting goods, bed & bath linens, jewelry, operable electronics, toys, holiday decorations, toys & much more! All items should be in good, usable condition. Sale proceeds will benefit our Youth Programming.

SALE DATE: Saturday, November 14
TIME: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

***Please bring all donations to Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 13, 8 AM - Noon. We have just this day to use the Fellowship Hall to prepare for the sale, so please bring donations as early as possible.

****Help is needed on Friday to move items from storage, arrange items on tables as well as a need for volunteers to work during sale. See Sherry to volunteer or get more information.

Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

We celebrate Thanksgiving in November. The Pilgrim's celebrated a successful harvest in 1621 along with 90 Wampanoag people joining 50 English colonists

over 3 days. Indigenous peoples in North America held ceremonies expressing gratitude for harvests and other blessings. In 1789, President George Washington proclaimed November 26th a national day of public thanksgiving and prayer. It wasn't until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a Thanksgiving observance for the last Thursday of November. In 1941 Congress fixed the federal holiday on the fourth Thursday in November, the rule still in effect today.

We need to take the time to let the Turkey have its day and giving thanks for all our blessings before the commercialization of the Christmas holidays overwhelm us.

Schedule

Questions about when things are happening? Check the church calendar on our website: 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 Angeles at: ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org to add it to the calendar.



7th – Amy Crawford

9th – Becky Capps, Amy Widderich

11th - Kora Ling Dill

13th – Marty Adams

15th – Rhoda Weinbach

17th – JJ Milling, Kelly Poquette

28th – Hunter Crouse

Serving in November

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
Nov 1	Marty Adams	Ted Milling	Marty Adams	Roy Whitehead Katie Whitehead	Aaliyah Dill Hugh Smith	Kirk Tucker Derrick Dill
Nov 8	Lynn Tucker	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kirk Tucker	Kora Dill Sandy Kirkpatrick	Elizabeth Powell Don Eash	Ted Milling Hugh Smith
Nov 15	Kathy Youngblood	Sidney Dill	Elizabeth Lockley	Katie Beard Jerry Combs	Terry Adams Jerry Combs	John Ritchey Elizabeth Powell
Nov 22	Holly Mills	Holly Mills	Katie Ritchey	Don Eash Donna Eash	Ina Dill Roy Whitehead	Kirk Tucker Ted Milling
Nov 29	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Derrick Dill	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Sidney Dill Katie Whitehead	Kirk Tucker Ted Milling	John Ritchey Hugh Smith Derrick Dill

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 in the last week of the preceding month.