

Alamance Lutheran Church

August 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*

"One's belief that one is sincere is not so dangerous as one's conviction that one is right. We all feel we are right, but we felt this same way twenty years ago and today we know we were not always right" Igor **Stravinsky**, Conversations with Igor Stravinsky (1959)

Words from our Pastor

As our August News Notes are being prepared, Pastor Aaron is enjoying his paternal leave following the birth of Elliott. Pastor will be back to preside on August 10th. We will hear from him again in the September edition of News Notes.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The [ELCA Church Wide Assembly](#) “For the Life of the World” is being held from July 28th to August 3rd and information is available on line. On July 30th, the Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We will provide more information on the Assembly in the September News Notes.

Council

The Council met on July 6th. We did not have enough information to approve the lift project at the meeting. We have received the necessary information from the engineering firm now and plan to review and hopefully vote to approve the project on August 10th. After Council approval, we will schedule a Congregation Meeting for Congregational approval of the project.

The Council and the Call Committee will be holding a leadership retreat on September 13th so we all can get to know each other better and plan actions for the next 3 years that will help us operationalize our Mission.

We rejoice with Pastor Aaron and Joanna on the birth of their son Elliott Gayle Spangler.

Finance Team

The Finance Team met on July 26th. Financial records appear to be in order. As of the end of June, expenditure exceeded income by slightly less than \$25,000. Spending is less than budget. We anticipate a significantly reduced deficit in July because of an increase in offering. Sustaining improved offering income continues to be our biggest financial challenge for the long term.

Financial markets continue to be good; our endowment funds are in good shape with sufficient funds to meet planned accessibility improvements.

A resident of Twin Lakes (an experienced CPA and auditor, and not a church member) has volunteered to assist in an audit. We are taking steps to have an audit performed by the end of October.

It is budget time! Ministry teams need to compile and submit budget requests by the end of August.

Lenise continues to do a great job with bookkeeping and finance responsibilities. She recently slogged through the paperwork for ALC to receive a sales tax reimbursement of almost \$400.

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team was busy in July supporting the “Because of You” luncheon, the Barbara Dunn memorial service reception, and the three day “Arts Camp” for children and youth.

Another Red Cross Blood Dive is scheduled for August 8th. Please donate if you can. You can sign up online with the Red Cross.

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.

Worship and Music Team

The team met on July 27th. The Choir is coming back! We should hear from them later in August. Eucharistic communion sets have been received for Lay Ministers to offer homebound members communion.

New members have expressed interest in joining the Team. We anticipate updated training for all worship supporting lay members.

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 **Pasta** in August, canned **Tuna** in September.

Supporting Our Neighbors at E.M. Holt Elementary School:

Over the past several months, the Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee has discerned a shift in our outreach efforts. After helping to prepare monthly meals at Allied Churches, we learned that other volunteers have met their needs in this area. As we prayed and reflected on new opportunities to serve, we felt drawn to support our neighbors at E.M. Holt Elementary.

Following a meeting with the school's principal and social worker, we recognized a meaningful way to contribute - supporting the teachers and staff (while other churches and organizations continue their excellent work with the students). Our first act of encouragement will be providing a continental breakfast for approximately 72 faculty and staff members on **Monday, August 18th - their first day back for the year.**

If you'd like to contribute to the breakfast, please bring your food donations to the church kitchen on Sunday, August 17th. Kindly note that we do not have facilities to heat items - so please stick to cold or room-temperature options only. If baking isn't your style but you'd like to give financially, simply write "EM Holt" on your envelope and we'll use the money to purchase items for the breakfast.

We hope this marks the beginning of a lasting relationship with E.M. Holt Elementary. Let's continue to show up with generosity and care as we explore new ways to support and uplift their team.

Thanks to everyone who provided donations for Leanne Crouse to help offset their loss from the fire that destroyed their home.

We are reaching out to Lutheran Disaster Relief Carolinas for them to provide a workshop on preparing for an unexpected event. Recent storms have shown us that we need to be prepared as a Congregation and as individuals. We also are thinking about how we can use our facilities as a cooling or heating space for individuals in need.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at the Red Bowl Asian Bistro (3140 Walden Lane, in Alamance Crossing) on August 14th at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you are attending. We had a great turnout and meal in July at Grillworx. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on August 14th at 4:30.

Property Team

We believe we have the necessary plans for the lift and are updating the quote based on the latest drawings. Facility improvements and repairs continue. Brick repairs have been completed. The dryer in the parsonage failed in July and it was decided to replace both the washer and dryer in the parsonage. Thanks to everyone who helped make that happen. Not a good time to be without a dryer with a newborn and visitors.

We have received donations to install a new sign in front of the church. The new sign will be compatible with our facility. No Church funds will be expended for the new sign.

If you look at the left rear of the Sanctuary you will soon see our new “Pray Ground” for our youngest members providing space for them to be active within constraints. The Pray Ground will not prevent those with mobility issues from moving around the back of the Sanctuary.

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 August 2nd at 10:00.

Stewardship Team

Council has approved the Memorial/Honor Fund Policy. The policy dictates 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.

Youth/Christian Education Team

A lot is going on in this area!

A three-day Arts Camp - “And God Said Sing, Dance, and Celebrate” – was held July 29-31. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!

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 and youth classes are being explored.

A Bingo Night is scheduled for August 12th at 6:30. Bring a salty or sweet snack to share and come ready for fun!

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.

Cemetery Team

We are grasping the nettle of 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. 50 plots are currently available.

Some Words from the Council Vice President Kirk Tucker

I had the privilege of working with and learning from Peter Senge, an MIT professor for a number of years. Peter studied and wrote about organization learning, systems thinking, and system dynamics among other things. He observed “The truth is not in us...” We all have opinions about what the truth is, it is an opinion, not necessarily the truth. Folks who work in law enforcement observe eyewitness accounts that provide many different versions of what actually happened. As we work together building our Community of Faith, let’s remember

each of us has different perceptions of the truth and learn to respect and value those different perceptions.

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 and Marty are 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!

August Birthdays

8th – Sherry Ford

9th – Terry Adams

11th – Serra Iwaniec

12th – Edie Craig

23rd – Ruthie Thompson

25th - Rebecca Maness, Linda Jo Smith

29th – Say Sink

30th – Jarrett Waldron, Don Craig



Serving in August

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers
August 3	Marty Adams	Craven Ford	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Sherry Ford Greg Beard
August 10	Marty Adams	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Jerry Combs Elizabeth Powell
August 17	Marty Adams	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Chris Turner Elizabeth Powell	Don Eash Roy Whitehead
August 24	Marty Adams	Kathy Ritchey	Kathy Ritchey	Lisa Cates Sandy Kirkpatrick	Terry Adams Hugh Smith
August 31	Marty Adams	Dale Thompson	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Jerry Combs Kerry Sullivan	Lisa Cates Ted Milling

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.