

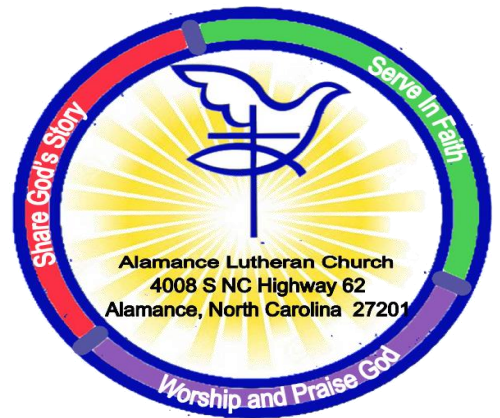
Alamance Lutheran Church

August 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*



“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” **Helen Keller**, *Helen Keller's Journal* (1938)

Prayers

We pray for Pastor Aaron as he continues his training to become a Chaplain in the Army National Guard. We pray for the farmers who are faced with the ongoing drought. We **continue to pray** 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, especially Clarine, who is recovering from surgery. We pray for students who will be returning to school later this month. We **continue to pray for peace**, especially in the **Middle East and Iran**.

Words from Pastor Mark

Dear Members and Friends,

As we enter the dog days of August, I want all of us to be mindful and thankful. The two are really related. I believe that being mindful is about being alert to what is going on in and around our lives. It is about certain intentionality to our actions. This is as opposed to just waking up every morning, week and year

and letting whatever happens to you happen. Mindfulness means looking within oneself and trying to discern what is important and then making plans for the day, week or year to help accomplish those goals. Last night my wife and I realized as we were getting ready to go to sleep that the house felt warmer than usual. Looking at the thermostat, it read four degrees warmer than the set temperature. What I had planned for the day was relegated to a lower status as I highly value air conditioning in NC in late July. The repairmen just left and I am writing in my nice cool home. That is one of the other joys of planning and mindfulness, I know that I have accomplished something today that mattered to me which makes me feel good.

Being thankful also involves being alert to what is going on in our lives and a recognition of how things happen. We don't have to look too far to see things to be thankful for in life. If we think that we are not being thankful enough or have a hard time thinking of more than giving thanks for the weather, your meal, and your family, then practice on being thankful may be needed. The more mindful you are and aware of life around you, I believe that you can't help but see how God and others have helped and blessed you in ways that may not have been obvious on a casual look.

Each Sunday we celebrate Holy Communion in worship. Another word for this is Eucharist, which means thanksgiving. It is a meal of thanksgiving for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. God had given us everything and so we give thanks. As we are being mindful and thankful, let us prayerfully consider how God is active in our lives and let someone else know that you are thankful. It may be just what they need to hear in the heat of Summer. I know that I am thankful for each of you who make up the community of Alamance Lutheran Church.

Council

The Council met on July 26th. Beth Jordan, our new Director of Music Ministry and Angeles Camacho, our new Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper, will be serving us in August. Beth has started a few days earlier in July. Angeles has been working with Lenise the past couple of weeks. Godspeed to Lenise Meeks - she has served us well the past two years. We wish you all the best as you go forward. We were well blessed to have you. Pastor Mark is impressed with the level of life he sees at ALC and is willing to consider being our longer-term supply pastor as his schedule allows. We have reached out to Pastor Aaron to see if he

can provide some insight to his schedule in the coming months so we can lock in Pastor Mark.

The make up of Council will be changing next year. Marty's, Clarine's, John's, and Kirk's terms are scheduled to conclude. John can continue as Treasurer if he desires. Greg Beard will need to be elected to a full term as he was appointed to fill a vacancy. Going forward, Sherry's, Rebecca's, and Jo Ann's terms will expire at the end of 2027. We will be looking for individuals to be good stewards and leaders for our faith community.

The next Council meeting will be August 26th at 1:30 in the Parlor.

Finance Team

Income in June was \$38,614.25; expenses were \$14,318. The good news is that contributions were higher (thanks to a very generous contribution) and expenses were lower than the previous month.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of this church. As we continue to face a deficit, we want to invite everyone to pray about how God might be calling you 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 will be held on August 7th from 1:30 to 6:00pm. Please sign up on line on the Red Cross site. The Hospitality Team will host a covered dish farewell luncheon - hopefully just for now—honoring Pastor Mark's service on August 30th. This will take place following his final Church service as Interim Pastor. A "welcome back" reception for Pastor Aaron will be held after church on September 6th.

The Team is taking a "time out" for the balance of September because of Cindy's scheduled knee surgery and Kathy's upcoming vacation. Any unscheduled event will be covered by other Team members as necessary.

Thanks for all the hard work.

Worship and Music Team

Beth Jordan, our new Director of Music Ministry started July 29th. She will be playing for us August 2nd. She has hit the ground running and we are excited to have her join us. Thanks to Marty and Terry for moving furniture to provide a space for Beth.

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**. 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.

In conjunction with our Girl Scout Troop 13012, we have prepared over 200 Blessing Bags. We will be asking members of the Congregation, our wider Church Community, the Village, and friends, to take empty bags with recipes and fill them during August. Each bag provides four meals. Three different meal bags are available, each with a unique recipe. Filled bags need to be returned no later than September 6th. We will deliver the filled bags on September 13th "Gods Work our Hands" Sunday. Thanks in advance for supporting this mission with our Girl Scout Troop.

The Team is continuing to explore providing a "cooling station" at the Church for hot weather advisories. We started too late for this year but will continue laying the necessary groundwork in the coming months. A number of members indicated they are willing to support the effort. The Western North Carolina United Methodist Church has a comprehensive plan we are exploring and there are many issues that need to be addressed before we move forward.



E. M. Holt Elementary School

We will be providing refreshments for the EM Holt staff when they begin the school year on August 17th.

We will be providing donuts and juice.

Evangelism: We continue to explore 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.

We had tee shirts printed with the “ALC Logo” on the back and “Alamance Lutheran Church” on the front. If you would like a shirt, see Sherry as she has a few left over.

We will be ordering more car magnets in the near future as there is a continuing demand for them.

A Bingo Night is planned for August 12th from 6:00-8:00 More to follow.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at 5 Stars Restaurant (133 Auto Park Drive, Graham, NC) on August 13th, at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you can attend. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on August 13th at 4:30.

Property Team

The team is continuing to explore options to finish the accessibility project by providing a lift/ramp from the Sanctuary to the office/classroom level. This is a priority for this year.

A property user agreement and facilities use policy has been developed and approved by Council. Thanks to Marty for taking the initiative to get this done.

Please refrain from giving well-intended items or gifts to the church unless you have received approval from the appropriate Ministry Team or the Church Council. This helps us ensure that all donations support our current needs and can be stewarded wisely. Thank you for your understanding and care for our church.

Stewardship Team

September is Stewardship month. Temple talks are being planned as the primary method of communication. A Stewardship booklet is being developed to highlight Team activities: **“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.”** Being good stewards means we are caring for and tending to the blessings we’ve received.

A year-long Stewardship campaign is being planned for 2027.

The Stewardship Team is preparing a Memorial Fund brochure to assist members and individuals in how memorial gifts can be given. A Memorial Bench will be dedicated on August 30th.

Youth/Christian Education Team

Movie Night was a wonderful success. Another Movie Night fundraiser for our youth will be held starting at 7:30 August 22nd on the ball field. A Treasure Hunt will be held starting at 6:00.

The Sock Puppets game was also a great success. A lot of tee shirts were proudly worn.

Vacation Bible School was another success. A world hunger themed curriculum was used. Thanks to everyone who made VBS a success, especially Rebecca who led the effort.

A Blessing of the Backpacks and Youth kickoff will occur at 7:00 pm on August 23rd in the Fellowship Hall and on the Ball Field.

Children and youth Sunday School will be starting on August 30th. Hopefully, you have noticed more children and youth attending our services. We need more teachers and assistants to hold additional classes.

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are using an Augsburg study of the Book of Romans for another couple of weeks. Each class stands by itself. 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 men to come and join the Men's Breakfast and Bible study.

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. An Ice Cream Social and Memory Share will be held on August 29th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Girl Scouts

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

WELCA

Please join the WELCA Team in the Fellowship Hall August 22nd starting at 10:00 am to make Chrismons (**Christmas decorations featuring Christian symbols**). Bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided. A registration form will be in an upcoming bulletin for you to sign and place in the collection plate by August 16th. A small fee to cover the cost of materials will be charged which can be paid at the door. Cost will be on the registration form.

Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

I have been thinking a lot about character and integrity again these days. Some of you may know I attended an honor military school a long time ago. An honor court presided over honor offenses. (Lying, Cheating, Stealing, or Tolerating

Those that Do.) Proved offenders were immediately dismissed from the school and never allowed to return. It might not have been a perfect system; it did get our attention! Lesser offenses such as drinking (this was a long time ago) could lead to dismissal, although the offender could return the following school year. I am far from a perfect person and do not claim to never have committed an honor offense. It has stuck with me for over 60 years! That said I am saddened with how our society has changed in my life time, where lying is tolerated, and cheating to win is celebrated. We can do better! We can be better! We can stop tolerating and celebrating those who have lost their character and don't act with integrity.



8th – Sherry Ford
9th – Terry Adams
12th – Edie Craig
23rd – Ruthie Thompson
25th - Rebecca Maness, Linda Jo Smith
29th – Say Sink
30th – Jarrett Waldron, Don Craig

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.

Serving in August

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
Aug 2	Holly Mills	Elizabeth Lockley	Elizabeth Lockley	Sidney Dill Sandy Kirkpatrick	Jerry Combs Kirk Tucker	Hugh Smith Elizabeth Powell
Aug 9	Holly Mills	Kathy Ritchey	Kathy Ritchey	Kirk & Lynn Tucker	Terry Adams Don Eash	John Ritchey Kirk Tucker
Aug 16	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Craven Ford	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Katie & Roy Whitehead	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith	Ted Milling Derrick Dill
Aug 23	Marty Adams	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Joel Maness Peggy Heffernan	Roy Whitehead Aaliyah Dill	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith
Aug 30	Lynn Tucker	Sidney Dill	Kirk Tucker	Kaite Beard Kerry Sullivan	Ted Milling Ina Dill	John Ritchey Kirk Tucker 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.