

Alamance Lutheran Church

May 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*

“Whatever may be the general endeavor of a community to render its members equal and alike, the personal pride of individuals will always seek to rise above the line, and form

somewhere an inequality to their own advantage.” **ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE** , *Democracy in America* (1835-39), 2.3.13

Prayers

We need to pray for the poor and underprivileged. 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 those in need and for our governments at all levels to remember their responsibilities to care for the poor and less fortunate. We also need to pray for peace, especially in the Middle East and Iran.

Words from Pastor Aaron

Dear Beloved People of Alamance Lutheran Church:

As I prepare to leave for training, I have been deep in thought about what it means to be in support of the catholic church, and no I don't mean the Catholic church. If you have ever been confused why we say we believe in the catholic church in the Apostles' Creed, the small c catholic church simply means the worldwide or global mission. So, in essence every week we are committing ourselves to supporting the larger mission of the church to confess Jesus everywhere we go. Your support of me as a chaplain is just one of the examples of this being lived out.

It can be easy for us to get so focused on our own church, or even in our own lives that we can forget the broader call to support the catholic church. For our church we are blessed to have the North Carolina Synod and the National Synod as both offer us many opportunities to support the broader church. We have things like Lutheran Disaster Relief, Global Refuge, and mission development funds. All of these are just a fraction of the ministries that we use to support people all around the world. If you feel yourself being pulled by the Holy Spirit to explore what our church supports, I suggest you look on the ELCA's website to see where you can also participate in this global mission. Thank you again for supporting myself, the church, and the soldiers who need care.

In peace,

Pastor Aaron

Council

The Council convened on April 19 and formally welcomed Greg Beard to its membership. Greg has recently joined the Property Team and will serve as Property Liaison to the Council.

Pastor Aaron was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a written report to Council. He has maintained a full schedule as he prepares for his chaplaincy training while continuing to minister to our faith community, offering increasing levels of pastoral care as members grow to know him and trust him with their life situations. Pastor Aaron understands that expectations around pastoral care vary widely. He is committed to supporting our community and is asking us to share what we need from him so he can respond with clarity and care.

Kirk shared with the Council that Matt Swain has submitted his resignation for personal reasons. Pastor Aaron and Kirk believe we made his decision a hard one. We thanked him for his talent and skill serving Alamance Lutheran Church over the last 10+ years and wish him well as he shares his skills and talents with his home church in Liberty. Matt has agreed to provide support for Pastor Mark with music selections while Pastor Aaron is away. Matt's last Sundays will be on May 17th. Lenise is looking for supply musicians to partially fill the void created by Matt's leaving. We have several leads. Longer term, we are looking for a Director of Music to cover all our musical needs - no question a significant challenge.

With Synod support, Pastor Aaron was able to find Pastor Mark Coulter who will be serving as our interim pastor while Pastor Aaron is away. Pastor Mark will serve 20 hours a week and plans to be in the office on Thursdays. The executive team, Marty, John, Kirk, and Roy are impressed with Pastor Mark and look forward to his time with us. Hopefully, many of you had the opportunity to meet Pastor Mark at the covered dish reception on the 26th. Pastor Mark's first Sunday will be on May 10th.

Did you know we had almost 100 folks attending our Easter service? Things have been changing a lot in the last 5 years following COVID!

The next Council meeting will be on May 31st at 1:30.

Girl Scouts

Casey Dill joined the Council meeting to share some Girl Scout plans. To achieve a Girl Scout Bronze Award, juniors must complete a number of actions, including a community service project. Several girls in troop 13102 have submitted a project to build a "Pet Blessing Box" that will provide a place for food and other items to be donated to support our four-legged family members. The Pet Blessing Box will be compatible with our Blessing Box and located adjacent to it. The new ministry will be a joint effort between the Girl Scouts and Alamance Lutheran Church.

The Girl Scouts are also developing plans for a Scout Hut outdoor Learning Center. They have been asked to work with the Property Team to develop a proposal that will meet their needs and the needs and desires of ALC. Casey was asked to come back to Council after the plans have been developed further.

We are blessed to have an active Girl Scout Troop sharing our facilities.

Finance Team

Income in March was \$12,158, expenses \$19,289. Year to date through March we have \$38,676 income, \$60,360 expense - **a \$21,683 deficit**. The deficit is higher this year than last because of higher heating costs and furnace issues in the Sanctuary, as well as missed income when services were cancelled earlier this year.

Thanks to strong financial market performance, our endowment funds are in good shape. The Gilmore fund has \$950,273 in total assets with \$162,292 available for spending on suitable projects. The Black and General fund has \$207,353 in total holdings with \$189,354 unrestricted funds.

John has completed financial details with Pastor Aaron and Pastor Mark while Pastor Aaron is away. Net impact is slightly positive.

Hospitality Team

The team supported the Red Cross Blood drive on April 11th. Many thanks to Donna Eash who has been the Blood Drive coordinator for the last several years. Donna has done a great job. Thank her for her efforts when you see her next. We are also pleased to announce that Chris

Turner has stepped up to be our new Blood Drive Coordinator. Thank you, Chris, for being willing to lead this important community effort. Chris is a long-time resident of the Village, she recently joined ALC and sings in the choir. Chris will be moving to Twin Lakes in the near future.

The Hospitality Team organized the covered dish reception for Pastor Mark on the 26th and will be organizing a reception on May 3rd following the baptism of Rio Edwards.

Kathy Ritchey is organizing the annual Mother's Day Tea on May 9th starting at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend - bring a sweet or savory treat to share.

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.

We are blessed to have a dedicated Hospitality Team.

Worship and Music Team

Another great Easter Sunday starting with a sunrise devotion, a breakfast, an Easter egg hunt, and a great service. Thanks to the many volunteers who made it all happen.

Clearly, finding guest organists until we find the next Director of Music will be a challenge. We pray that God is with us as we face this challenge. Matt shared in his exit interview with Pastor Aaron and Kirk how things become a lot more complicated when we moved to one service during COVID. Matt was the accompanist for the early service, which was attended by many kindred spirits who enjoyed the service and music. They made a choice to attend. With the combined service, there is a diverse group of participants, all of whom have opinions about the liturgy and music selections. 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. At our core we are a Liturgical Lutheran Church and we cannot lose sight of that.

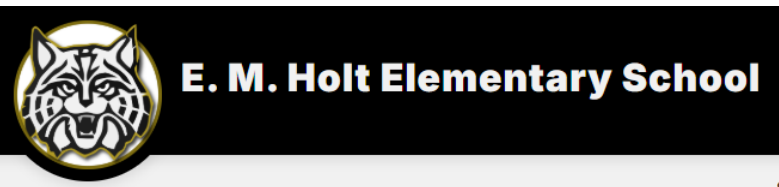
A Hand bell Clinic is scheduled all day on May 22nd. Please talk to Ruthie Thompson if you are interested. This is the time to consider being involved with the Hand bell Choirs.

Open Chapel will continue Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 in the Chapel even when Pastor Aaron is away.

It's still Easter! We will be in the Easter Season until May 24th - Pentecost Sunday with red vestments and paraments.

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. 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. The donation basket will be placed in front of the altar, where both the offerings and the ministry will receive a blessing.



We will be providing donuts, coffee, and juice for the faculty and staff of E.M. Holt Elementary School on May 7th during Teacher Appreciation Week. Excess funds from the previous E.M. Holt brunch, Noisy

Offering funds (thanks to the Christian Education Team), and Evangelism/Social Ministry budgeted funds will cover the costs. The Girl Scouts are providing a sign for the table too. Truly a team effort.

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.

Sherry and others visited with home-bounds on April 4th.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at the Village Grill (2325 South Church Street) on May 14th, at 11:30. Let Pastor Bob Hawkins know if you are attending. All are welcome- come and join us!

The team will be meeting on May 14th at 4:30 (our normal meeting day).

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 the coming year.

Color samples are available in the Sanctuary for you to provide input on the color you would like for the Sanctuary repair and repainting effort. **We need your vote on the color by May 3rd.**

We have received a great price from a contractor for the work, but they have a small window in which to do the job before other commitments require their attention. Please make sure you vote!

Stewardship Team

Sherry has resigned as Stewardship Team Chair and will continue as Council liaison. Ted Milling has volunteered to be chair of the Team. The Memorial Committee has met recently and has made a recommendation to Council for a bench. How memorial donations are recognized and located continues to be a topic of discussion. Some details need to be worked out before proceeding.

Thanks to Sherry for her efforts as Chair of the Team and for establishing a new Memorial policy. Please support Ted in his efforts as the new Team chair. Stewardship is an important ongoing effort for our faith community. It has been several years since we have had a formal Stewardship campaign and hopefully we will have a campaign before the end of this year.

The next Stewardship Team meeting will be on May 3rd at 11:00 am in the parlor.

Youth/Christian Education Team

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

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 15th to the 17th from 5 to 7:30 with dinner provided. A world hunger themed curriculum has been obtained from the Synod. It is intergenerational with our youth helping to lead the Bible Study, Games, and Songs. Please come and support our youth!

A Sock Puppets baseball game is scheduled for July 14th starting at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$21 each. See Rebecca if you would like tickets that include all you can eat pizza and hotdogs, nonalcoholic beverages, and game tickets in a shaded area near the dugout.

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are currently using an Augsburg study of the Book of Romans.

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.

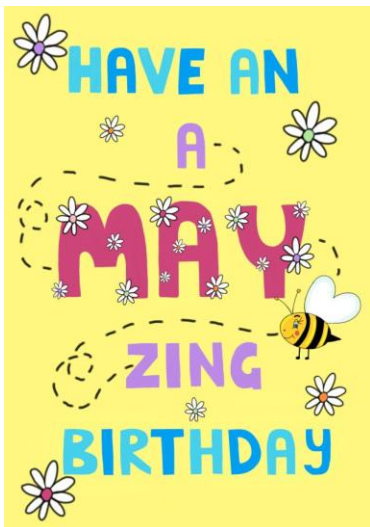
The next Team meeting is May 7th at 4:00pm.

WELCA

The next WELCA meeting will be on May 25th starting at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

At the last session of the “Unclobber” book study, Pastor Aaron asked “where do we go from here?” Most all of us struggle with interacting with people who are different than us, especially when race, gender, and religion are involved. For most of us my age, gender has become much more complex than any of us ever imagined. A starting point for all of us is to remember we are “all children of God.” God did not exclude any of us from his creation no matter what our race or gender may be. The beginning of any interaction begins with starting to build some mutual trust between us. Easier when we are more alike than when we are different. We need to remember trust is different than agreement. We can still trust each other even though we may disagree on any number of topics.



4th – Jaime Combs, Barry Crouse, Ted Milling

16th – Lania Milling

21st – Katie Beard

24th – Peggy Heffernan

25th – Ina Dill, Joanna Spangler

28th – Elizabeth Slaughter

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 Lenise at: ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org to add it to the calendar. Thanks for all you do Lenise!

Serving in May

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
May 3	Lynn Tucker	Kathy Ritchey	Kathy Ritchey	Katie Beard Jerry Combs	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith	John Ritchey Derrick Dill
May 10	Holly Mills	Kirk Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Ina Dill Jazmin Biscocho	Aaliyah Dill Ted Milling	Hugh Smith Elizabeth Powell
May 17	Kathy Youngblood	Sidney Dill	Holly Mills	Joel Maness Kora Dill	Ina Dill Roy Whitehead	Ted Milling Kirk Tucker
May 24	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Elizabeth Lockley	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Elizabeth Powell Kerry Sullivan	Don Eash Terry Adams	John Ritchey Elizabeth Powell
May 31	Marty Adams	Craven Ford	Elizabeth Lockley	Don and Donna Eash	Terry Adams Jerry Combs	Hugh Smith Kirk Tucker
June 7	Lynn Tucker					Ted Milling 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.