

Alamance Lutheran Church

September 2024 News Notes



Our Mission: "Alamance Evangelical Lutheran Church empowered by the Holy Spirit, worships and praises our Lord, loves and serves others, as Jesus Christ taught, and shares the Good News of God's gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ." Adopted

11-23-1997

"Never give out where there is hope; but only not beyond reason, for that shows more desire than judgement." William Penn, Some Fruits of Solitude (1693), 1.235.

From Pastor Rooney:

THE REAL PRESENCE IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

As many of you know, our Sunday School class recently began a study of liturgy so that we can understand a little better what we do on Sunday mornings and why we do it. But that prompted a question from one of our members about what we understand happens in the sacrament of Holy Communion and especially what we mean by "real presence." Hence this brief article on the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

So, let's begin with Luther who writes "Now what is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: It is the true body and blood of the Lord Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ's Word to eat and drink." Luther's Large Catechism 5.8

One of the distinguishing marks of a Lutheran is the belief that when we share in the Holy Communion, we eat and drink the real body and blood of Jesus Christ Our Lord. This theological tenant is at the heart of our very participation in the Eucharist; for what is the Eucharist other than to follow the command of Christ to "eat my flesh and drink my blood." In the Catechism quoted above, Luther teaches us clearly that the true body and blood of Jesus are "in, with and under" the elements of bread and wine that are used for the holy supper. As Lutherans we do not subscribe to the idea that the bread and wine are changed in their very essence and are therefore no longer bread and wine but body and blood – a Roman Catholic teaching more commonly known as Transubstantiation. Rather we hold that Christ's body and blood are in the bread, with the bread and under the

appearance of the bread. But nevertheless, this is really and truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Hence, we speak the words at distribution “The Body of Christ, given for you.” And “The Blood of Christ shed for you.” And this presence is an objective reality - that is, it is what it is apart from our belief or understanding because it is God’s Word that makes it so. God says this is body and blood and it is so! Again, in the Large Catechism, Luther goes on to say, “It is the Word I say that makes this a sacrament and distinguishes it from ordinary bread and wine, so that it is called and truly is Christ’s body and blood. For it is said that when the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament.” LC 5.10.

So, if these elements that we eat and drink at the Eucharist are, by the power of God’s Word, the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, then it makes logical sense that we treat such elements with the deepest reverence and respect. Hence in some Lutheran congregations, you will find a tabernacle installed behind the altar as the means by which the Sacrament could be reserved for use by the pastor or the Eucharistic ministers as they commune the homebound and sick. For the body and blood of Christ remain so even after the service (which Luther called the mass) is ended. God does not withdraw His Word and Promise once we have left the church buildings. The elements contained in wafer and wine, remain the true body and blood and the sanctuary lamp, which burns in many church buildings, was originally for the purpose of signifying this true presence of Christ in the elements left over from communion on Sunday.

And when such elements are left over and not having a tabernacle, what are we to do? Well, we have the practice of returning those elements to the earth from which they came. It is not the best practice, but it is the best we can do with full respect for the true body and blood of our Savior. More importantly, I pray that this short explanation of real presence will strengthen our faith and help us to see clearly that what we say, that this is the Body and Blood of Christ, is seen in what we do – treat the elements with all due respect for they are Christ Himself!

If you have any questions about this matter, our belief or our practices, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Pastor Rooney

What Do We Do? And Why Do We Do It?

Pastor Rooney is leading a study on our liturgy. The class is entitled “**What Do We Do? And Why Do We Do It?**” In this study, we will break down our worship service, discuss the history and reason behind some parts of it but, above all, why each part is important.

This will not be a long class, probably no more than 4-5 weeks so, if you would like to join us, we meet in the Parlor behind the Chapel each Sunday at 9:00 am. Come and join us!

Call Process

The MSP/Call Committee is making great progress on the Ministry Site Profile and hope to be able to present it to Council later in September. Thanks to everyone who participated in our “Values, Purpose, Vision, and Mission” meetings. We had great interactions agreed on our values and vision. Our agreed upon **“Values”** are: **Integrity; Acceptance; Love; Service; and Religious Belief.** With some help from AI, and with our “Values” as input, our new **Vision Statement** is: **“To be a beacon of Christian Faith, love, and compassion where all are welcomed with open hearts.”** What do you think? We also made a great start on a new simplified Mission Statement which we will share soon. These statements are necessary inputs for the MSP.

Following completion of the MSP and after approval by Council and submission to the Synod, the Call Committee will receive training, including mock interviews, facilitated by the Synod Staff. Following that, the Call Committee will begin to receive names of potential candidates. **STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY MUST BE MAINTAINED** until the Call Committee submits the name of a primary candidate to the Council for their approval. After Council approval, the primary candidate will meet with the Congregation for their approval and approval of a mutually agreed upon financial package.

Creating the MSP and the call process is something we all need to pray about and let the Holy Spirit guide us. We are cautiously optimistic that we may have a new Pastor early next year.

From the Council

The Council met on August 25th for a brief meeting. While we are still not covering our expenses with our offerings, we are significantly better off this year than last year. We are currently \$14K in the red year to date. Pastor Rooney is pleased to announce we will have more new members and a baptism later this year.

We continue to be blessed! Lenise Meeks will be joining us September 3rd. Stephanie has agreed to work with Lenise that first week so she can hit the ground running. In the near term Lenise will focus on administrative tasks; bulletins and scheduling. Lenise lives in Mebane and has a wealth of experience that will help her support our needs, including book keeping and financial reporting. Pastor Rooney, Marty, and Kirk were impressed with our interview with Lenise. Lenise is excited about supporting us at ALC. Credit goes to Prime Personnel Resources for connecting us with Lenise. Hopefully she will be able to come to one of our services soon so you can meet her.

Thanks to Stephanie for the time she spent with us. God speed and best wishes for the success of her new business which will be located in downtown Burlington.

Kirk and Roy met with Kay to let her know we will be looking for an Administrator that can also serve us as a Bookkeeper. Kay and Lenise will work together through the end of 2024 at a minimum.

We will be changing the combination on the door in the fellowship hall to improve building security. We have lost track of who has current combinations.

Finance Team

We prepared a proposed financial package for prospective Pastors. We believe we are flexible about whether a prospective Pastor would use the parsonage or receive a housing allowance. We believe will be financially able to support a full time Pastor with more than 10 years of experience. We shall see who the Spirit sends in our direction.

It's not too early to start preparing budget request for 2025. We hope to have all requests in by mid-September.

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team hosted a successful blood drive on August 9th. The team also supported the Social Ministry Lutheran World Relief sewing kit packing and Sloppy Joe supper on August 28th.

Next Meeting September 28th at 10:00am.

From the Worship and Music Team

The meeting in August was rained out. There are some rumors about expanded music options in our services. The team is continuing to ensure we have sufficient communion and service supplies. We will continue to worship in the Chapel during the month of September. We will also experience some changes in our liturgy as we celebrate several “feast” days in September.

Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival

We are moving from the “fantasy” phase into the “reality phase” as the event is less than two months away on October 26th. We hope for it to be the best Fall Festival yet! Ted is doing a great job with the planning. The planning group will be meeting twice in September and weekly in October until the event.

Next meeting September 14th at 10:00am.

From Evangelism/Social Ministry:

Thanks to everyone who has been donating food for the **Blessing Box**. It is continuing to see good use. Pastor Bob Hawkins is keeping an eye on the box and making sure it is stocked.

We continue to donate food to the **Dream Center**. We will be collecting Pasta in September. Rice in October. Thanks to all of you who are donating food for both the Blessing Box and for the Dream Center.

We continue to help **Allied Churches** with food preparation on the first Wednesday of the month. Kirk and Lynn Tucker in September. Craven and Sherry Ford in October. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and will maintain a schedule.

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet at Prego’s Trattoria (422 Huffman Mill Road) on September 12th. We got rained out in August. Please reach out to Katie Whitehead by September 8th to let her know you are coming.

We received over \$970 for the **Lutheran World Relief Sewing Kits**. We assembled the kits on August 28th. Thanks to everyone who donated for the kits and came to help assemble

them on the 28th. Special thanks to Lynn for everything she did for this event, not the least in providing the Sloppy Joe dinner.

The new **Church Directory** should be published in September. We will provide hard copies of the new directory for members. We hope to have an on-line directory which will be current. We need to ensure we can create a “members only” section on our website to assuage any security concerns about personal data.

Lynn is continuing to send letters from Alamance Lutheran Church to new residents of **Twin Lakes Community** inviting them to experience our community.

In the spirit of building community, Sherry will be placing a couple of picnic tables under the tree in the lot south of the Church inspired by her reading of **“The Turquoise Table.”** Ask her about it and what she has in mind. She is waiting for cooler weather.

We are also thinking of ways to improve our connections to each other, showing that we care for each other, prayer partners and/or a shepherding program are possibilities.

Next meeting is September 12th at 4:30.

Stewardship Team

The **“Above and Beyond”** campaign is continuing. Thanks to those of you who have already donated toward the campaign. You may have noticed the new directional signs inside the building. Soon, there will be new signs outside the building. In addition, several kitchen and office items have been bought. While it is important to support various project based fundraising efforts, and we appreciate all your generosity, we still need to support the on-going operations of the Church.

We hope to be able to provide a **Financial Planning Seminar** by the end of the year. Remembering ALC in our estate plans is an important way to secure the future of ALC.

The Team is also looking at **ways we can get to know each other**. This may be in the form of News-Notes blurbs. Finding out more about our spiritual gifts? What moves us? We are all members of a faith community. The more we get to know, respect, and even “like” each other, the better and more vibrant our faith community will be. We also need to continue to be a welcoming community.

Next Meeting – September 14th at 11:00am

Property Team

Lots of improvements around the facilities thanks to many, and more are coming. The place is looking a lot better and shows we care about our facilities.

The meeting on August 11th after church provided some great direction on how to improve accessibility to our facility. The Council approved the John Ritchey's proposal to focus first on providing automatic door openers for the women's and men's restrooms at the "office" level and to plan to provide a vertical lift that would provide access from the ground floor to the classroom levels. Both projects currently appear to be possible with existing Gilmore Fund spending limits. Thank you, John, for all your effort to improve access to our facilities.

We are planning on fencing the front of the playground area and providing signage to tell users the playground is available to all; they use it at their own risk. We have concerns to minimize ALC's liability when our facilities are being used, especially the playground and the ball field. We are happy to share these facilities with our neighbors.

There is a lot of energy about more improvements. We need to continue ensuring that we are spending money on the important and necessary things.

Next Meeting September 7th 10:00am.

Youth/Christian Education Team

We now have **clipboards** with items for youth to use while in services. We are seeing and experiencing children and youth in our services. We have recruited a couple of nursery attendants and need more.

Ladies Morning Outs are starting on September 10th at 10:30am in the social room. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided. **Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause While Deepening Friendships** for men, women, and young people will start on Thursdays at 7:00pm starting on September 12th. A light supper/snack will be provided along with childcare. Each night will be a standalone program so people can join at any time. We hope to offer these programs on a weekly basis. We will establish the schedule based on participation and interest. **Things are Happening!**

Next Meeting September 21st at 10:00am

“Be the Light” Campaign

Please support this important ministry of Lutheran Services Carolina. If you have any questions about “Be the Light,” please reach out to Kirk Tucker.

Some Other Words from Kirk Tucker

No question there is a lot of good things happening. I am especially pleased in the progress the MSP/Call Committee is making. Think our agreed upon “Values” are things to be proud of. While we were creating them the question arose about were they for us or for ALC? In my mind they are for each of us and for ALC. The “Vision” statement is great and we think you will like the “Mission” statement too. We had a good time working on these important statements defining who we are, what is important to us, and what are we going to do. Let’s put those values to work now! Act with integrity, be accepting, loving, forgiving not only to others; for ourselves too, provide service by sharing our blessings, and reinforce our religious beliefs. Best of all let us all be “Beacons of our Christian Faith, love, and compassion....”

PRAY! DO NOT BE AFRAID! GOD IS WITH US AND THE SPIRIT IS GUIDING US.

Schedule for September

- September 2nd: Labor Day. Remember all those who work.
- September 4th: Food preparation at Allied Churches (Kirk and Lynn) 9:00am. ALANON 10:00am.
- September 7th: Men’s breakfast and Bible Study 8:30am. Property Team at 10:00am.
- September 10th: Ladies Mornings Out 10:00am. (First one; ongoing schedule will be determined by interest)
- September 11th: ALANON 10:00am.
- September 12th: Church lunch at Prego’s Trattoria 11:30 (422 Huffman Mill Road) Let Katie Whitehead know you are coming by September 8th. Evangelism/Social Ministry Team meeting at 4:30pm. Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause While Deepening Friendship 7:00pm. (First one; ongoing schedule will be determined by interest)
- September 14th: Fall Festival Planning at 10:00am. Stewardship 11:00am.

- September 18th: ALANON 10:00am.
- September 21st: Christian Education/Youth at 11:00am.
- September 22nd: Church Council 1:30pm.
- September 25th: ALANON – 10 am.
- September 27th-September 29th: Small, Scrappy, Vital Congregations
- September 28th: Hospitality Team 10:00am.

Serving in September:

	Altar Set-up	Communion Set-up	Worship Assistant/Reader	Greeters	Ushers
Sept 1	Rebecca Maness	Lynn Tucker	Kathy Ritchey	Jerry and Sally Combs	Pastor John Weinbach Roy Whitehead
Sept 8	Rebecca Maness	Lynn Tucker	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Wanda Patterson Kerry Sullivan	Hugh Smith Jerry Combs
Sept 15	Rebecca Maness	Lynn Tucker	Marty and Terry Adams	Donna Eash Sherry Ford	Pastor Bob Hawkins Ted Milling
Sept 22	Rebecca Maness	Lynn Tucker	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Sandy Kirkpatrick Sharon Isley	Terry Adams Pastor John Weinbach
Sept 29	Rebecca Maness	Lynn Tucker	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Roy Whitehead Hugh Smith

Please let Kirk Tucker 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.