

# Alamance Lutheran Church

## July 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*

*"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past."* **Patrick Henry**, speech, Virginia Convention, March 13, 1775.

### **A Word from Pastor Rooney: The Power of Prayer**

"As our congregation at Alamance Lutheran prepares to move into the next stages of our transition, some have asked me "what can we do?" Well, with the visit from Pastor Overcash, Assistant to the Bishop, on Sunday 30 June to formally start the process; with the pending formation of the Call Committee and the lengthy process of completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP); and with the subsequent process of receiving names from the Bishop's office and conducting interviews, we still face a lengthy period of time before all of this comes to fruition under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. True, the congregation will be involved in some parts of the overall process, particularly as the Call Committee seeks input from the congregation about information for the MSP. But by and large, the next steps will be done by the Call Committee and the Congregation Council.

So, the question remains, what can I, as a member who is not on Council or the Call Committee, do? Well, the answer is very simple – pray! You may have noticed that each Sunday in the prayers of intercession, we pray for our congregation in this time of transition. Soon we will add a prayer specifically for the Call Committee once it is formed. The Call Committee may not be able to tell us some details of their work, since there has to be confidentiality kept, especially during the interview process. But we can all pray for them, for the Holy Spirit to guide and enlighten them, for grace and strength during what can often be a long and sometimes draining process.

And make no mistake about it – prayer is a powerful thing! I am a great lover of the poetry of Alfred Lord Tennyson who in his poem Morte d' Arthur (The Death of Arthur)

pens what I consider some of the most profound thoughts about prayer ever written. King Arthur is dying, and he speaks these words to Sir Bedivere the last of all the knights of the Round Table. “Pray for me. For more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore let your voice rise night and day; for what is man better than a sheep or goat that nourish a blind life within the brain if, knowing God, they raise not their hands in prayer both for themselves and those who call them friend. For thus the whole world is bound with golden chain about the feet of God.” Powerful words indeed.

I hope I can take it as a given that prayer is a part of your daily life, including praying for those we know who are in need. Now I urge you to pray also for our congregation, our Call Committee soon to be formed, and our Council as they seek to support the work of our congregation. Pray that the Spirit will guide and enlighten all of us. Pray that God’s grace and mercy will be showered upon us. Pray that the Spirit will move the heart of a pastor so that they would be open to come and serve this community of faith here at Alamance.

Pray unceasingly...for Tennyson is right, “more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.””

**What Must I Believe?** The study of thirty-five questions that get to the heart of our faith and traditions continues at 9:00 am Sunday mornings in the Parlor. What we must believe for a) salvation; b) to be a Christian; c) to be a Lutheran. It is a stimulating ongoing conversation and a lot of fun. Come and join us! It’s not too late!

**From Ted Milling, Council Vice President:** “After prayerful consideration, I am stepping away from the Vice President position. First of all, no single individual should be in this position as long as I have. Secondly, there are several physical and family issues leading to this decision. The issues are not life threatening but are impacting my ability to function as the loving and supportive leader this congregation deserves and to return those very qualities with which this congregation has blessed me and my family.

Kirk Tucker has agreed to take the Vice President position, and with his wealth of experience including going through a previous call process, I appreciate his willingness to serve in this role. The Council has elected him as new Vice President.

I am still serving on Council which to me means I still serve God, the Trinity; Alamance Lutheran Church; and each and every one of you, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Yours in Christ, Ted Milling

**Meetings with the Bishop’s Staff:** After Sunday’s service where she preached, Reverend Cassie Overcash shared information about the Call Process with the Congregation. There are a number of steps that need to be followed. The next step is for the Council to select members of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Team and Call Committee (CC). We believe the CC and the MSP team to be one in the same. Pastor Overcash then answered a number of questions about the process from the Congregation.

We were separated into three groups and answered four questions:

- 1) Presently, our most important ministries are...?
- 2) In the next few years, we hope too....?
- 3) Our next Pastor should be someone who...?
- 4) It is important that the Bishop/Staff know...?

We had 10 minutes to provide input and then shared the results. Inputs from the teams were consistent between the team. A good thing!

Following the meeting with the Congregation, and in the meeting with the Council, the Council decided to hold a special meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> to select the one Council member to serve on the CC and identify members of the Congregation to serve on the Committee. Meanwhile, the Finance Team will begin to prepare a compensation package for the new Pastor. When the MSP and compensation package are completed and approved by the Council, it will be forwarded to the Synod office. Pastor Rooney is counseling us to take our time completing the MSP to ensure we present ALC in a positive and accurate light. We will be competing with other congregations for the new Pastor. The MSP/Call Committee will begin by using the inputs provided by the Congregation early in the day.

The MSP is not a confidential document, and the MSP/CC will be seeking input from a variety of sources to complete it. It is not a document that needs Congregational approval, but it will be reviewed and approved by the Council. Following the completion of the MSP, the CC will receive training, including mock interviews, facilitated by the Synod Staff. Following that, the CC will begin to receive names of potential candidates.

**STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THIS**

**PROCESS** until the CC 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. There are a number of other steps; what is provided here is an overview of the process.

We know a number of Congregation members have expressed an interest in serving on the MSP/CC. It is important for the committee to represent a broad cross section of the Congregation. Per our constitution, it will be made up of six members. The Council appreciates the interest from members and hopes to create a committee that best represents the Congregation and is willing to do the necessary work to complete the MSP, training, and interviewing potential candidates prior to recommending a primary candidate to the Council. We also anticipate the CC will serve as the Mutual Ministry Team supporting the new pastor in the first year of their ministry.

**Creating the MSP and the call process is something we all need to pray about and let the Holy Spirit guide us.**

**From the Council:** On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Council met with Pastor Rooney to engage in a process called “Holy Conversations” which is an attempt to discern what possibilities and alternatives we have for the future, hopefully a vital and sustainable future for Alamance Lutheran Church. Three option categories were explored: making significant change to our current situation, choosing a partnership engaging in a shared ministry with another congregation, and exploring closing and restarting a new congregation in a new venue.

We believe we can continue as a viable, stand-alone ministry. We do have concerns about being able to financially support a full time Pastor if one would be available. Pastor Rooney shared with us that the demand for full time pastors is exceeding the supply. Seminaries are consolidating and closing. Only thirty-five seminary students will be graduating this year in the United States. The conversations were enlightening.

Thank you for attending the Congregational Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Sherry Ford was elected to serve on Council. Sherry has also recently accepted leadership of the Stewardship Team. Vice President Ted provided a brief update of the Call Process. Marty Adams shared we are creating an updated “living membership directory” and kicked off the Above and Beyond Campaign (see details of both below).

The Council will next meet on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Per Ted's message above, he is stepping down as Vice President of Council and Kirk Tucker is stepping into the role. The Council appreciates the service Ted has provided to the Congregation as Vice President these 3+ years. Ted and Kirk will work together for the next couple of months to have a smooth transition.

Pastor Rooney was pleased to report that new members will be received, and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism performed, on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be worshiping in the Sanctuary on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A reception for the new members will be held following the service.

**Hospitality Team:** The Hospitality Team hosted another successful blood drive on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The next blood drive will be on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Hospitality also supported the breakfast honoring the Girl Scouts and families of Troop 13012 on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be hosting a reception for new members and families on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship and Music Team:** The Team continues to focus on ensuring we have communion supplies for the coming weeks. Altar and communion set up are the primary responsibilities of the team. The team is in the process of inventorying the paraments in their storage room.

**We will be worshiping in the Sanctuary on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Other services through August will be in the Chapel.**

We hope you have enjoyed the liturgy, music, and prayers provided by Matt and Pastor Rooney. Stephanie is calling homebound members to set up July visitations by Pastor Rooney.

**Raise Your Spirits:** Planning continues for our "Raise Your Spirits" Fall Festival. We hope for it to be the best Fall Festival yet! The date for the event is October 26<sup>th</sup>. Cindy and Claire are applying for Thrivent grants to help with event costs. Sharon is busy lining up vendors. The Girl Scout Troop will be handling crafts. Our next meeting is July 13 at 9:00. Come join us!

**Evangelism/Social Ministry:** Congregational Directory - help us ensure that we have a directory with all members represented. This will be such a help to a new

pastor! The deadline for submitting your updated information sheet and picture is **July 1**. You can give the updated copy to Marty Adams or scan your pen and ink changes and e-mail it to the church (alamancelutheran@gmail.com). You can send your picture electronically to the church (alamancelutheran@gmail.com), give a picture to Marty and she will scan it for you, or ask Marty to take a picture for you (this is risky – she is not the best photographer). You can provide pictures of each individual or a group photo of all members in one shot.

Thanks to everyone who has been donating food for the Blessing Box. It is continuing to see good use. Pastor Bob Hawkins will be keeping an eye on the box the next few months.

We continue to donate food to the **Dream Center**. We will be collecting canned tuna in July. Beans in August. 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. Pastors Bob Hawkins and John Weinbach in July. Marty and Terry Adams in August. Kirk and Lynn Tucker in September. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and will maintain a schedule.

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet at Sal's Italian Restaurant and Pizza (402 Huffman Mill Road) on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Katie will be in Maine, so there is no need to contact her. Sal's is doing a fundraiser for Christmas Cheer all summer called Summer Fest 24. For every item ordered off of their Summer Fest menu, they will donate a dollar to Christmas Cheer.

We are continuing to seek donations to purchase materials for sewing kits for **Lutheran World Relief**. Sewing kits make it possible to train and support at risk young women to develop their skills and have access to employment. We hope to complete and pack the kits in August with a Sloppy Joe dinner.

Sharon Ward is making updated flyers and posters. Lynn Tucker is sending letters from Alamance Lutheran Church to new residents of Twin Lakes Community.

We sponsored a breakfast for Girl Scout Troop 13012 on June 22<sup>nd</sup> prior to their "Bridging Ceremony" where awards were given to the girls, and girls advanced to higher levels of scouting. We served almost thirty scouts and families. Thanks to Donna, Don, Cindy, Ted,

Lynn, and Kirk cooked and served. Pastor Bob gave the invocation. A positive experience for all.

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. 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 July 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

**Stewardship Team:** Sherry Ford will be leading the Stewardship Team going forward.

The Above and Beyond Campaign is underway and we have already received donations to purchase several of the items from the catalogue. Check out the bulletin board in the Gathering Room to see what has been purchased. This is an on-going fundraiser with no deadline. Remember, you don't have to do the shopping. Just fill out the form identifying what you are donating toward and put the form and your check (made out to Alamance Lutheran Church) in the offering plate - we'll do the rest.

Mid-year financial statements are on the way to you. Thank you for your ongoing financial support to our ministry.

**Yard Sale:** Sherry Ford and Elizabeth Powell will be hosting a Church and Community Yard Sale on July 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. In addition to items no longer needed at the Church, we are looking for donated items such as home décor, kitchen ware, tools, children's clothes, furniture, bed, bath, and kitchen linens. Bring items to the fellowship hall starting July 15<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If assistance is needed for loading, unloading, and accessing the Church, contact Sherry Ford.

Thanks for your support! Proceeds from the sale will be used to continue making improvements in the church. Thanks to Sherry and Elizabeth for wanting to do this.

**Property Team:** Lots of improvements around the facilities thanks to many, and more are coming. The church is looking a lot better and shows how much we care about our facilities.

Intrusive trees will be removed from near the parsonage. Rooms and playground equipment continue to be painted. Beginning July 1, the carpeting in the hallway and stairs to the social hall will be removed thanks to a very generous donation.

Excess and unneeded furniture will be sold in the yard sale. Excess, obsolete, and damaged books are being removed from the library too.

John Ritchey met with engineers on ramps and lifts. Lower cost options for improving accessibility may be possible.

We will be creating a prioritized list for improvement projects round our facilities, large and small.

Next Meeting July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**Youth/Christian Education Team:** Appealing to youth is critical for our future. Youth don't come to Church by themselves. We need to appeal to families with children. With the new team members, many ideas are being explored. Things are Happening! Having youth more involved in the church service, starting a new Bible study, and many other ideas are being explored. We are starting to see children and youth in church again.

**A Bingo intergenerational family night will be held July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Prizes for winners will be provided. There will be ice cream! Save the date and come.**

**“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:** Not much this month other than there is a lot going on which is a good thing. Please support the Bingo Night and Yard Sale! I will strive to do my best to serve the Congregation as Council Vice President. I served as Council President during the call process in our previous congregation and I understand the process. In the meantime, it is important for us to be positive, keep up the good work serving the



community, being welcoming, and caring for each other. **PRAY! DO NOT BE AFRAID!  
GOD IS WITH US AND THE SPIRIT WILL GUIDE US.**

## Schedule for July:

- July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Food Preparation at Allied Churches - 9:00 am (Pastor Bob and Pastor John); ALANON - 10:00 am
- July 4<sup>th</sup>: Independence Day!!!
- July 6<sup>th</sup>: Men's breakfast and Bible study - 8:30 am; Property Team Meeting - 10:00 am
- July 7<sup>th</sup>: Council Meeting to select names for the MSP/CC - 1:30 pm
- July 10<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am
- July 11<sup>th</sup>: Lunch Bunch at Sal's (402 Hoffman Mill Rd.) - 11:30 am; Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting - 4:30 pm; Bingo Night 6:30 pm
- July 13<sup>th</sup>: Fall Festival Planning Meeting – 9:00 am; Stewardship Meeting - 10:00 am
- July 14<sup>th</sup>: New Member Reception – 11:15 am
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>: Drop off Yard Sale items - Fellowship Hall
- July 17<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am
- July 21<sup>st</sup>: Church Council - 1:30 pm
- July 25<sup>th</sup>: ALANON -10:00 am
- July 27<sup>th</sup>: Yard Sale - 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- July 28<sup>th</sup>: Noisy Offering Sunday
- July 31<sup>st</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am

## Serving in July:

	<b>Altar Set-up</b>	<b>Communion Set-up</b>	<b>Worship Assistant/ Reader</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>July 7 Chapel</b>	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Jerry and Sally Combs	Pastor John Weinbach Roy Whitehead
<b>July 14 Sanctuary</b>	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Marty and Terry Adams	Donna Eash Sharon Isley	Hugh Smith Jerry Combs
<b>July 21 Chapel</b>	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Kathy Ritchey	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Pastor Bob Hawkins Pastor John Weinbach
<b>July 28 Chapel</b>	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Wanda Patterson	Roy Whitehead Jery Combs

*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.*