

Alamance Lutheran Church

June 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

"All religions united with government are more or less inimical to liberty. All separated from government are compatible with liberty." Henry Clay, speech US House of Representatives, March 24, 1818

A Word from Pastor Rooney

Holy Conversations

As I write this article, it is now 14 weeks since I came to serve as the Interim Pastor here at Alamance Lutheran. Over these weeks we have come to know each other a little better, learned and laughed together, and sought to make the transition from your previous faithful pastor to a new way of doing things. But I am still the interim, filling in until you call a new pastor and so we must be conscious about laying the groundwork for the call process which will soon be underway.

And a part of that process will take place on Sunday afternoon, 2 June, when the Council will engage in a roughly three-hour session entitled "Holy Conversations." This is a resource from our Synod which allows congregations to step back from their day-to-day issues and instead pause to see how the Holy Spirit might be calling our congregation into a new way of living. The conversation is **holy** because this is a process to seek God's will and His way rather than what I or anyone else might think is the way forward. And it is a **conversation** precisely because we need to share with each other our hopes

and dreams for the future but also to listen to others if their hopes and dreams are different.

In this “holy conversation” we will examine the possibilities that are laid before us in the form of various models – are we a parish that needs a full-time pastor, or can we work with a part time minister instead; would we consider joining with another parish to share a full-time pastor; could we share resources with a larger parish; and so on. Ten models in all are listed, each one of them having both pros and cons. There is no right or wrong answer as to which model will best suit us at Alamance...that is part of the conversation. But we will look at all the options, noting some as possible, others are interesting, and others that we reject because they don't work for us. We want to end the day with a model that would be best for us moving into God's future.

It is our hope at the end of this session to have a broad understanding of where God might be leading us and then to use that understanding to develop some **core values** for our congregation. In turn, those core values would be used by the Call Committee as the basis for preparing the **Ministry Site Profile (MSP)** which every congregation needs to complete prior to receiving the names of pastors for interview. **And please note that this is NOT a process that will be left to the Council or the Call Committee alone.** Rather the congregation as a whole will be part of the process as the Council and Call Committee seek input from various committees and individuals across the broad spectrum of our congregation.

So, you can see that the process is moving along, and I believe that we are in a good position to have a new pastor on board by sometime early next year. Meanwhile please keep our leadership in prayer especially as we engage in this holy conversation.

May God bless our congregation in this interim period.

What Must I Believe?

The study of 35 questions that get to the heart of our faith and traditions continues at 9:00 am Sunday morning for the next several weeks. 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! Beginning June 2nd, we will be meeting in the Parlor (behind the Chapel).

From the Council: As Pastor Rooney noted in his message, Council will be meeting to begin the "Holy Conversations" on June 2nd. We will spend the afternoon starting these conversations. We will also deal with any urgent issues if there are any at that meeting.

Stephanie Braxton started as our new Administrative Support person on May 7th. She is working 3 days a week Tuesday through Thursday. Stephanie works directly for the Pastor. To avoid any confusion the only other people providing direction to Stephanie are the Council Vice President (Ted) and the Council Secretary (Marty). If there is something you feel Stephanie can help with, work through the Pastor, Ted, or Marty.

We welcomed Sherry Ford to the Council. We will be holding a Congregational Meeting following the service on June 9th at 11:15 to formally elect Sherry to Council and share several new initiatives. Please plan to attend.

Hospitality Team: The Hospitality Team is hosting a blood drive on June 7th from 12:30-5:30. Please sign up to donate using the Red Cross website or app. Thanks to the Hospitality Team for supporting the "Because of You" potluck on May 19th.

From the Worship and Music Team: The Team continues to focus on ensuring that the altar is properly outfitted each week and that we have communion supplies for the coming weeks.

Worship services will be held in the Chapel throughout June, July, and August.

We hope you have enjoyed the liturgy, music, and prayers provided by Matt and Pastor Rooney.

Raise Your Spirits: We are holding planning meetings for our “Raise Your Spirits” Fall Festival. The date for the event is October 26th. Cindy Milling and Clare Holtz will be applying for Thrivent grants to help with event costs. The Girl Scout Troop wants to be involved and will be handling crafts. The next meeting is June 15th at 9:00 am. Urgent issues include entertainment, advertising, and signage.

From Evangelism/Social Ministry: At the June 9th congregational meeting, we will be kicking off the creation of a new **Congregational Pictorial Directory**. As we prepare to enter the call process to identify and select a new pastor, there are many things that must be done to ensure we clearly communicate who we are and what we are looking for in a shepherd to lead us in this next chapter in the life of our congregation. There are also things we need to do to make sure the new pastor has a smooth transition. One of those things is having an up-to-date Congregational Pictorial Directory. Our last directory was done in 2021 and does not accurately reflect all our current members. Rather than doing something formal that is out-of-date almost as soon as it is published, we are going to create a “living directory” – one that can be updated quickly as new members join or others leave. To make this document as accurate as possible, **WE NEED YOUR HELP. In the coming weeks, you will be getting a letter requesting a photo and asking you to ensure the information we have about you is accurate. PLEASE respond as quickly as possible to this request.** Questions – reach out to Marty Adams.

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. Our Girl Scout troop is also contributing to the box and consider it one of their projects.

We continue to donate food to the **Dream Center**. We will be collecting rice in June, canned tuna in July. Thanks to all of you who are donating food for both the Blessing Box and for the Dream Center. The “**Because of You**” potluck luncheon on May 19th was great. Thanks to all who provided food and attended. Thanks also to the Hospitality Team for their help with the event. Lisa Edwards and her husband Michael gave a great presentation too. The Dream Center is providing a great ministry to the community.

We continue to help Allied Churches with food preparation on the first Wednesday of the month. Don and Donna Eash in June, Pastor Bob Hawkins and Pastor John Weinbach in July. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and will maintain a schedule.

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet at El Burrito Loco (3263 South Church Street) on June 13th at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know that you will be attending **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, JUNE 9th** Thank you, Katie!

We are continuing to seek donations to purchase materials for sewing kit for **Lutheran World Relief** in June. **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.

Meals on Wheels: Members of Alamance Lutheran Church have been volunteers for Meals on Wheels for over 20 years. Meals on Wheels is in desperate need of additional drivers. A typical route is 1-1/2 hours long. Alamance Lutheran delivers every fourth week of the month. The schedule is flexible. If you are interested in supporting this ministry where you meet some of the nicest seniors in the community, please contact Jackie Cole.

Stewardship Team: A new initiative will be introduced at the June 9th congregational meeting. Make sure you come to hear about the **Above and Beyond** campaign which offers members and friends of Alamance Lutheran Church the opportunity to provide special gifts for the mission of Christ through a Wish List that identifies needed items and funds to enhance ministry and operations which are beyond the regular budget. A lot more information will be provided at the June 9th meeting.

Property Team: Our new copier has been installed and is churning out documents for you! Funds left over from our AV upgrades were used to reduce the cost of the new copier. We have also purchased new phones and an answering system for the office and will be investigating improvements to our phone system.

Thanks to Elizabeth Powell and Terry Adams (he's back with his paint brush!), our facilities are looking better than they have in many years. Walkways have been pressure washed. Playground equipment painted.

Youth/Christian Education Team: New members have joined the team. Elizabeth Powell is the new chairperson. Rebecca Maness, Lynn Tucker, and Donna Eash have also joined the team. Casey Dill from the Girl Scout troop is also participating.

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. Having youth more involved in the Church Service, starting a women's Bible study, and many other ideas. **A bingo family night is being planned for July 11th at 6:30 pm. Save the date and come. This is an intergenerational event.**

We will also be providing a pancake breakfast for the Girl Scouts on June 22nd. (Rescheduled from May)

“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: Kathy Ritchey will be hosting a **Bridal Shower** for her daughter Janet at 1:00pm on June 1st. All are invited! Please bring a treat to share. If you are interested in providing a gift, Janet is registered on Amazon.

Plaid Day was held on May 25th. We understand it was smaller than last year although the Village went out of its way to provide some great entertainment. Thanks to Nick Farmerie, Village of Alamance Town Administrator.

Schedule for June:

- June 1st: Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am; Property Team - 10:00 am; Janet Ritchey Bridal Shower - 1:00 pm.
- June 2nd: Church Council and “Holy Conversations” - 1:30 pm.
- June 5th: Food Preparation at Allied Churches (Don and Donna Eash) - 9:00 am; ALANON - 10:00 am.
- June 7th: Red Cross Blood Drive - 12:30 - 5:30 pm. Sign Up On-Line!
- June 9th: Congregational Meeting Following Church - 11:15 am!; Let Katie Whitehead know if you will be attending the lunch bunch on June 13.
- June 12th: ALANON - 10:00 am.
- June 13th: Lunch Bunch at Burrito Loco Restaurant (3263 South Church Street) - 11:30 am.
- June 15th: Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival planning meeting - 9:00 am.
- June 16th: **Father’s Day**
- June 19th: **Juneteenth**; ALANON - 10:00 am.
- June 20th: Evangelism/Social Ministry meeting - 4:30 pm.
- June 22nd: Girl Scout Troop Breakfast - 8:30 am
- June 26th: ALANON - 10:00 am.

- June 30th: Noisy Offering Sunday

Serving in June:

	Altar Set-up	Communion Set-up	Worship Assistant/ Reader	Greeters	Ushers
June 2	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Pastor John Weinbach	Kerry Sullivan Donna Eash	Hugh Smith Roy Whitehead
June 9	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	John Ritchey Ted Milling
June 16	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Ted Milling	Sharon Isley Wanda Patterson	Terry Adams Pastor Bob Hawkins
June 23	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Pastor John Weinbach Sandy Kirkpatrick	Jerry Combs Hugh Smith
June 30	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Jerry and Sally Combs	Pastor John Weinbach John Ritchey

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.

2024 Congregational Committees

Note: Pastor Rooney is a member of all committees.

STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Kirk Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Jerry Combs Melanie Thomas	As needed

YOUTH/CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Elizabeth Powell	Elizabeth Powell	Rhoda Weinbach Ted Milling Lynn Tucker Rebecca Maness Donna Eash Casey Dill (Girl Scouts)	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
John Ritchey	John Ritchey	Roy Whitehead Ted Milling	Before Council Meeting

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Marty Adams	Marty Adams	Ted Milling Roy Whitehead John Weinbach Sherry Ford	2 nd Saturday @ 10:00 a.m.

CHURCH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
John Ritchey	John Ritchey	Ted Milling Terry Adams Tony Lewis Joel Maness Hugh Smith Elizabeth Powell	1 st Saturday @10:00 a.m.

EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Bob Hawkins	Marty Adams	Kirk Tucker Lynn Tucker Sharon Ward Donna Eash	2nd Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Clare Holtz	Katie Whitehead	Kathy Ritchey Diane Gural Sandy Kirkpatrick Matt Swaim Rebecca Maness Sherry Ford Craven Ford	

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Ted Milling	Ted Milling	Wanda Patterson	

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

CHAIR	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Kirk Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Jerry Combs Melanie Thomas	As Needed

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

CHAIRS	COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
Cindy Milling Kathy Ritchey	Ted Milling	Donna Eash Sandy Kirkpatrick Sharon Ward Kerry Sullivan Lynn Tucker Kim Graham Lisa Lewis Rebecca Maness	

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (Elected Positions)

CHAIR	MEMBERS	MEETING DATE/TIME
John Ritchey	Ted Milling Roy Whitehead Tommy Stokes Jerry Combs	Same as Finance