

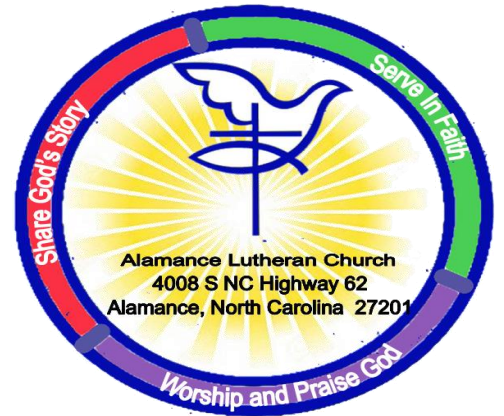
Alamance Lutheran Church

October 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*



“Live not as though there were a thousand years ahead of you. Fate is at your elbow; make yourself good while life and power are still yours.” **Marcus Aurelius, Meditations** (2nd c.), 4.17, tr. Maxwell Staniforth.

Prayers

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. We pray for those in our community who are food insecure. We **continue to pray for peace**, especially in the **Middle East and Iran**.

Words from Pastor Aaron

Dear Beloved People of Alamance Lutheran Church,

The month of October always has me thinking about change. The leaves change colors. The temperature begins to cool... hopefully. Store shelves go through a season in one week. We are always subject to the changes of the world around us. It is the nature of not only the world but also of our church. Sometimes it can be frightening and even dangerous, and I could only imagine what Martin Luther felt as he took on the very church itself.

October always brings about our celebration of the Reformation, but we do not celebrate the splitting of the church. It is instead a recognition that God is always on the move and our understanding of God's grace and love for us continues to deepen, year after year. Many of you have watched as even your church here in Alamance has grown, shrank, regrown and developed over almost 100 years. For some of us it can feel frightening to see so much change all around us, while for others we cannot change fast enough.

What I encourage for you this month is to not be afraid of change, but to be on the lookout for where God is moving us. Change is inevitable, but the reassuring presence of Christ is also a guarantee, given in bread and wine every week. It is assurance that God continues to call us toward reform, yet keeps you sealed in the waters of baptism. We will face change at our church, but the love of God for you is the one thing that will always remain constant.

Pastoral Challenge for the Month: Find God on the move to reform your life and the church around us.

In peace,

Pastor Aaron

Council

Council met on September 20th. It was great to have Pastor Aaron back with us for the Council meeting. Pastor Aaron shared his perspectives about where we have been and what we need to be doing going forward. He will be hosting another Alamance 101 series in October for potential new members and those who are interested in more information about Alamance Lutheran Church. He is also wanting to start a laity led group to assist in providing pastoral care. Talk to Pastor Aaron if you are interested.

A Reformation Day celebration, trunk or treat, and chili cookoff are planned for October 25th. Please sign up if you are participating providing a trunk for trunk or treat and if you are participating in the chili cookoff.

There will be a number of opportunities for members of the Congregation to be elected to leadership positions in a Congregational Meeting in early December to elect new Council Members. Marty, Clarine, John, and Kirk will be leaving Council. Sherry, Rebecca, Cindy, and Jo Ann will continue for another year, and Greg must be voted on by the congregation because he came in to back fill an empty seat mid-year. While the Ministry Teams recommend and deliver much of our ministries, the Council provides direction and coordination of our efforts. We need the Congregation to provide on-going leadership on Ministry Teams and in Council.

John, Kirk, and Pastor Aaron have begun to up-date ALC's Constitution and By-Laws in September. The Congregation and the Synod will need to approve changes to the Constitution and By-laws.

A Congregation Meeting to approve the budget, elect Council and Audit team members is planned for December 13th following our Church service.

The next Council meeting will be on October 25th at 1:30.

Finance Team

Contributions in August were \$11,872 vs \$17,494 in expenses, a net loss of \$5,622. Year to date contributions are \$128,421 vs expenses of \$143,911, leaving a year-to-date deficit of \$15,481. Expenses were higher in August as we had some overlap in paying Pastor Aaron and Pastor Mark. We anticipate the deficit continuing to grow the rest of the year and believe we have funds in the "Tower" fund to balance the budget. Endowment funds remain healthy with retained earnings to cover unexpected expenses in selected areas.

We are looking for some folks to form an **Audit Team**. Auditing our 2026 financials will require approximately one afternoon or evening. We are also looking for **Endowment Team** members. Endowment Team members serve staggered terms and will be elected at the Congregation Meeting to be held on December 13th.

We want to invite everyone to pray about how God might be calling us to support the church financially. Even small increases, given consistently, make a meaningful difference. Thank you for seeking the Lord with us.

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team provided a welcome back reception for Pastor Aaron the first Sunday in September. Special thanks to the Dill girls for creating a wonderful “Welcome Back” banner for Pastor Aaron and for Rebecca, Casey, and Katie B for planning, setting up, and carrying out the reception while Cindy was recovering from knee surgery and Kathy was traveling.

A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for October 9th.

Advent services, including light meals, will be held on Wednesday evenings starting in late November.

Worship and Music Team

Beth Jordan, our new Director of Music Ministry, has hit the ground running. Expect to see and hear more from the Worship and Music Team in the coming months, especially now that Pastor Aaron is back and he and Beth can work together.

It's great to have the Choir back!

Open Chapel continues Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 in the Chapel.

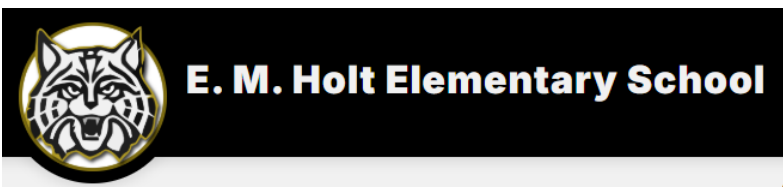
Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

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 prepared over **200 Blessing Bags**. We distributed over 160 Blessing Bags on September 13th. Thanks to everyone who filled bags and distributed them to people in need. Some leftover bags were donated to the Dream Center.

We plan to continue our support for **Christmas Cheer** again this year. Marty Adams has volunteered to lead this effort. We will support a family with children and senior adults in need too. We appreciate your generosity in the past.

We will be asking for contributions in November. Shopping, wrapping, and gift delivery will be in December.



We have been asked to provide food for the “Back Pack” ministry at E M Holt. This ministry has been led by members of Lowes Lutheran

Church for many years and is completely supported through donations. The need is so great that they are having trouble keeping up. They need help and have asked for food donations. Pastor Bob Hawkins has more information.

Evangelism:

More car magnets are available for purchase for \$10.00 each. Proudly display you are a member of Alamance Lutheran Church, a **GROWING** Lutheran faith community in Alamance County. See Sherry if you would like to buy one or another car magnet.

We will be preparing **Welcome Bags** for first time visitors. Still working out what we want to put in them.

We continue to explore ways we can build bridges and connections between all of us. If you want to be part of this effort, please talk to Sherry Ford. Many thanks to Sherry for taking a leadership role in our Evangelism efforts.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Grill Worx Restaurant (1233 W Web Avenue, Burlington, NC) on October 8th. Let Katie Whitehead know if you can attend. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on October 8th. at 4:30.

Property Team

The team believes they are close to being able to provide a proposal for providing a lift/ramp from the Sanctuary to the office/classroom level. A priority for the coming year.

A number of projects have been completed. An HVAC fan has been replaced in the Parsonage. A new oven was purchased for the Parsonage after the old one

went kaput. A major furnace room clean-up has been completed (thanks Terry Adams).

The team is exploring entering into a service agreement covering all 11 HVAC systems (Church and Parsonage) with our primary HVAC supplier. The Council has asked for clarification on what would be included in the agreement, which will cost \$2,400.00 annually.

Stewardship Team

September was Stewardship Month. Thanks to all who gave the **Temple Talks** about their faith commitments. Please seek in your heart how you can support Alamance Lutheran Church by participating, leading, serving, and yes if you are able, providing financial support.

All of us share the responsibility of being good stewards — caring for things that are not ours alone. This includes our communities, our resources, the environment, our relationships, and our time. Stewardship means managing these gifts with intention so that we leave them better than we found them. Stewardship is the practice of managing what we have been entrusted with—wisely, ethically, and with an eye toward the future. Let's be good stewards for Alamance Lutheran Church so our ministries thrive and serve God for the next 100 years.

“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.

Youth/Christian Education Team

The school year has started! Teaching positions have been filled, although with more children and youth coming to, or potentially coming to join us, we could use more.

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are using an Augsburg study of the Book of Isaiah. 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 participants to come and join us.

The Team will be meeting October 22nd at 4:30.

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. While it is important to remember the past, it is also important that we recognize 100 years is made up of 100 individual years, not just those from the past.

Girl Scouts

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

Ina Dill will be leading the Crafting Group (formerly the crochet group) beginning on October 5th at 7:00 for a Girl Scout project targeting foster families. Bring your project and join us in the Parlor for a time of fellowship and productivity. Now is the time to finish that craft project that has been sitting in your closet!



WELCA.

WELCA will be meeting on October 26th at 4:30.

CHURCH TAG SALE!!!

We've had lots of household items generously donated to us by an individual who was moving out of state. So, let's be good stewards and join this effort by giving our own donations - kitchen items, household accessories, furniture, lamps, sporting goods, bed & bath linens, jewelry, operable electronics, toys, holiday decorations, toys & much more! All items should be in good, usable condition. Sale proceeds will benefit our Youth Programming.

SALE DATE: Saturday, November 14

TIME: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

***Please bring all donations to Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 13, 8 AM - Noon. We have just this day to use the Fellowship Hall to prepare for the sale, so please bring donations as early as possible.

****Help is needed on Friday to move items from storage, arrange items on tables as well as a need for volunteers to work during sale. See Sherry Ford to volunteer or get more information.

Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

Here we are in Fall! The year is flying by. The Church year is almost at its end. Advent is coming. Advent is one of my favorite Church seasons. It's the moody music I suppose. At any rate, for those of us that have the privilege of growing older, each day, season, or year seems to go by ever faster. Years ago, I came across an explanation that made sense to me. When we are young, each day is a larger portion of the total days in our memories. As we get older our memory bank of days becomes much larger, and each individual event is a smaller portion of the whole. Made sense to me then; makes sense to me now. Enjoy Fall however short it may be.

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 Angeles at: ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org to add it to the calendar.



2nd – Sharon Ward

8th – Sally Combs

12th – Max Crouse

17th June Hoyle

27th – Larry Thomas

Serving in October

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
Oct 4	Lynn Tucker	Derrick Dill	Elizabeth Lockley	Sidney Dill Katie Whitehead	Ina Dill Don Eash	Hugh Smith Ted Milling
Oct 11	Kathy Youngblood	Lynn Tucker	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kerry Sullivan Roy Whitehead	Ted Milling Kirk Tucker	Elizabeth Powell John Ritchey
Oct 18	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Craven Ford	Kathy Ritchey	Joel Maness Peggy Heffernan	Aaliyah Dill Jerry Combs	Hugh Smith Derrick Dill
Oct 25	Holly Mills	Elizabeth Lockley	Holly Mills	Elizabeth Powell Lynn Tucker	Terry Adams Roy Whitehead	Kirk Tucker Ted Milling

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.