

Alamance Lutheran Church

November 2024 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*

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them." **John F. Kennedy**

Words From Pastor Rooney: HOPE

The word Hope is used a lot these days. It was hope that was expressed by so many of those recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in western NC – hope for power to come on; hope that repairs would get done and schools reopen; and hope for things to just get back to normal. But there are other hopes too – for young people as they graduate from High School and prepare for life at work or college. There is hope for fine weather over the summer months and, at least for me, hope that winter will not be too bad. There is hope as couples marry and children are born. There is hope for peace in our world, for violence to end, for nations and peoples to be able to return home. Hope is indeed that resilience we see so much in our world, and without hope life would only be a series of bad things that happen to us.

But for those of us who follow Jesus the Christ, the word HOPE is imbued with so much more meaning. Hope for the Christian is that optimism about the future because it is based in Jesus Christ. And hope is bound up with being alive; life and hope are, in fact, intertwined. Indeed, in our Scriptures we see how hope and life and faith in God are all intertwined.

And St. Paul knows this only too well and so he puts hope in the middle between "faith" and "love." "So, faith, hope and love abide, these three..." (1Cor. 13:13). They do abide

together, and we cannot separate one from the other. After all, the classic definition of faith is “the assurance of things hoped for...” (Heb. 11:1) And it is not possible to love one’s neighbor without also having hope for him. I pray for my sick friend because I love him and I hope for his recovery. I give money to feed the hungry because I care about them and hope their condition will improve.

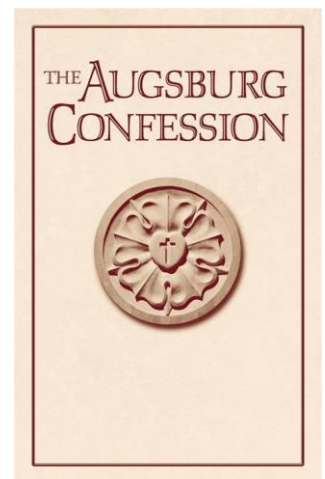
So, faith, hope and love describe a Christian at his or her deepest level. They depend upon each other just as they also depend on the merciful goodness of God, known in Christ Jesus Our Lord. For Christ is our living hope; for the hope of any Christian is not in an idea but in that living person Jesus who rose from the dead. And in that resurrection, we place our ultimate hope for eternal life and the end of any crippling fear about what the future may bring.

So as we continue to go through this process of transition in our parish, as we are uncertain about what the future may bring, as we may find ourselves troubled by the uncertainties in the world around us, let us hold firm to our hope – the hope we have in Christ Jesus, the hope we have in His promises, the hope we cling to even in the face of death itself. And may such hope set our lives as Christians aglow and gives us a zest for living both in this world and the next.

What Do We Profess to Believe?

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 in the parlor for our continuing discussion of the Augsburg Confession. The Augsburg Confession is the primary confession of faith of the Lutheran Church and one of the most important documents of the Protestant Reformation. Join us to get a better understanding of what Lutherans believe.

NOTE: Pastor Rooney will be away on November 17th and there will be a supply pastor but NO Sunday school.



Call Process

On October 11th and 12th, the Call Committee participated in a 1 ½ day training session with two leaders from the Synod to prepare them to conduct discernment conversations. The committee has received names from the Synod and has begun conducting discernment discussions with prospective candidates. The committee has now entered that part of the process where 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. **Please continue to pray about the call process and team to let the Holy Spirit continue to guide us.** We are cautiously optimistic that we may have a new Pastor early next year.

From the Council

The Council met on October 20th. We are pleased to see so much activity happening around the church. New Bible studies have been taking place; painting and refurbishing of the church, parsonage, playground, and grounds continues; the Blessing Box is seeing good use; new members are joining, etc., etc., etc. Thanks to all who make this possible for the glory of God!

As the year comes to an end, it is time to think about new Council nominations. We will need at least two new members; we could add up to four. We will have a Congregation Meeting on December 1st when we will be electing new Council Members and approving our operating budget for 2025. If you are interested in joining the Council, talk to Kirk or one of the other Council Members.

The next Council meeting is November 24th.

Finance Team

Thanks to a generous donation in September, we ended the month almost \$6,000 over our projected budget. This is the first time this year we have exceeded the budget. The improved results also have a lot to do with reduced salary expenses this year without a full time Pastor. We will face more financial challenges in the coming year and with a full time Pastor. This will be an opportunity for good stewardship.

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team hosted a Red Cross blood drive on October 11th. The next blood drive is December 6th.

On November 3rd there will be a covered dish lunch (or for you northerners – a potluck) for the Beard family in honor of their formally joining our Church family and Ellie's baptism.

There will be a second covered dish lunch on November 24th to welcome the Rhodes family. Garrett and Jaxon will also be baptized. We are blessed to have them join the family of God and the community of Alamance Lutheran.

Next Meeting: November 16th at 10:00 am.

From the Worship and Music Team

Calling all acolytes!! Pastor Rooney will be holding acolyte training immediately following the service Sunday, November 10th.

We will hold three Wednesday Advent simple meals at 6:00 pm followed by a Vesper service on December 4th, 11th, and 18th. The theme will be Watching, Waiting, and Wondering. Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 11:00 pm on December 24th again this year and it will be a full service, including communion. Special music has been arranged to enhance the service.

Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival

The Alamance Lutheran Church family, under the leadership of Ted Milling, did it again! Thanks to all who helped plan, set up, support, and clean up for the Festival this year. We had BEAUTIFUL weather (thank you God!) and good attendance. You all did a great job in showing the community of Alamance County what a vibrant and loving church we have. THANK YOU!

From Evangelism/Social Ministry



CHRISTMAS IS COMING! We will be sponsoring one family of three children and two elderly people through Christmas Cheer again this year. Christmas Cheer has been serving Alamance County for over 100 years

ago. They are devoted to seeing that no child or forgotten elderly person in Alamance County wakes up on Christmas morning without a present under their tree. In 2023, they served over 700 families (which included 1610 children) and 225 elderly people. For our part, we will be collecting money until **November 24**. We will use that money to fulfill as many of the wishes of the children in the family as possible, provide support to the adult in the family, and give gift cards to a food store so they can have a Christmas dinner. We will do the same for the two elderly people we sponsor. A description of the people we will be sponsoring is below. Please be generous in your donations – this may be the only gift they receive all year. Your donations can be put in the collection plate, just be sure to **write Christmas Cheer on the envelope**. If you have questions, please contact Marty Adams. Schedule:

- November 3-24: Collect Donations
- December 1-15: Shopping. Shoppers (we need at least six people - let Marty know if you can help)
- December 19: Congregation Wide Wrapping Party (dinner provided!)

We are sponsoring **Mr. Hubert** again this year. He is 80 and lives alone in Burlington with very little family in the area. He has arthritis and is diabetic but gets around pretty well without any devices.

Ms. Cousins is 64 and lives alone in Burlington. Three years ago, she fell and fractured her back resulting in partial paralysis. She ran track in high school.

The **Oliver family** lives in Burlington. The mom (Kaytelynn) is 25 years old and has a 3-year-old daughter (Kylee). Since she was 18, she has also been raising her 10-year-old brother (Mekhi, who is epileptic) and 16-year-old sister (Alyssa). She is going to school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and will graduate in May.

Thanks to all of you who are continuing to donate food for both the **Blessing Box** and the **Dream Center**. The Blessing Box is continuing to be used regularly by the community, and

the Dream Center is always appreciative of our donations. We are collecting **Tuna** in November.

We continue to help **Allied Churches** with food preparation on the first Wednesday of the month. Thanks to Craven and Sherry Ford who served in October. Pastors Weinbach and Hawkins will serve in November. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and maintains a schedule.

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet at Mosca's Italian Restaurant (3402 S. Church Street, Burlington) on November 14th at 11:30. Please reach out to Katie Whitehead by November 10th to let her know you are coming.

Men's Breakfast and Bible study is November 2nd at 8:30. Join us!

If you have not received a copy of the new **Church Directory** reach out to Marty Adams.

We are continuing to send letters from Alamance Lutheran Church to new residents of **Twin Lakes Community** inviting them to experience our faith community. With new residents coming to Twin Lakes with the opening of 48 units in the new Stockton Apartments in October and November we are hoping to see some new faces in Church. (In fact, we already have!)

Next meeting is November 14th at 4:30.

Stewardship Team



November 17th: Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials and Your Legacy. Join other members for a light lunch, 11:45-12:30, in the Fellowship Hall followed by a workshop by Tim Hinton and Emily Ferrell of Thrivent. No matter your wealth or status, you have an estate. And all estates have something in common - you can't take it with you when you die. Having a strategy in place can make things easier for your family after you're gone. Learn the benefits of incorporating essential

estate planning with charitable giving planning for an overall financial strategy. At this workshop, we will:

- * Explore assets - whether they be financial or physical
- * Understand beneficiaries - family or organizations you care about
- * Gain tools to help put your plans into action

* Explore spontaneous, intentional, and strategic/planned giving to amplify those gifts
Please sign up when the sheet is passed around at 10:00 service or text/call Sherry Ford if you plan to attend.

Thoughts From Your Stewardship Team: The Parable of the Talents reminds us to spend our gifts rather than hoard them. Often, when we hear the word ‘stewardship,’ we think of our money. However, stewardship is much more! Each of us is the manager of our gifts. To be good managers of our gifts, we must use our special gifts we have received from God for the good of others. Examples of our gifts are our life experiences, talents and skills, interests, motivations and needs, energy, creativity, and imagination.

What are your passions? What do others tell you that you’re good at doing? Give thought to this...we’ll be exploring the gifts of each member! Because each of us has special gifts to offer, each congregation is unique and takes on a special character. There is nobody else in the world like each of us and there never will be! It’s amazing how God has made only one “You” - so think about your God-given gifts and share these gifts with others. In November, we’ll have the opportunity to thoughtfully consider our gifts when every member will be given a Stewardship form to complete. How will you share your gifts and talents?

The “**Above and Beyond**” campaign is continuing. Thanks to those of you who have already donated toward the campaign. Have you seen the new signs outside? The new printer in the office? The new stockpot and ladles in the



kitchen? The new label maker and shredder? We almost have enough of the new songbooks to be able to use them during the service. All of these items, and more, are because of your donations to the Above and Beyond Campaign. Thank you!

Next Meeting – November 9th at 10 am.

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. Can’t wait to show it off to a potential pastoral candidate.

A couple of things of note in the past month: a new playground fence was installed, and the remaining fence is being painted; there are some new features in the playground; the parsonage yard has been reseeded; and earphones have been purchased to help those with hearing issues to better hear during the service. A new cleaning service started and appears to be doing a good job. If you notice something that should be done, let a member of the property team know.

Youth/Christian Education Team

Ladies Morning Out and **Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause While Deepening Friendships** concluded at the end of October. By all accounts, both Bible Studies were a success. Thanks to all who took the initiative for this important ministry.

The team will be taking on the responsibility to hold our **“Live Nativity”** again this year. This is an opportunity for all ages. An initial planning meeting is scheduled for November 2nd at 8:30 am.

Comedy Show: Come join us on November 9th at 2 pm for an afternoon of comedic entertainment with Deb Gauldin! Sorry guys-ladies only! Invite your friends and family! Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share with the group. Deb is a licensed practical nurse turned comedian and has traveled all over the world sharing her laughter and wit with all types and sizes of groups. She has been featured on NPR, CBS and NBC and came in 3rd place in the Jeanne Robertson Comedy with Class Humor Competition.



Next Meeting November 2nd at 9:30 am.

Cemetery Team

The team has been in touch with the Synod to better understand the policies around ELCA cemeteries. More work needs to be done to understand the implications for us.

“Be the Light” Campaign

Please support this important ministry of Lutheran Services Carolina (LSC). The *Be The Light* campaign represents LSC’s commitment to help overcome some of the challenges preventing some of our North Carolina neighbors from living full and abundant lives.

Be The Light underwrites many of the LSC's programs and is a critical fundraising source that enables them to expand services to meet the unique needs of the people they serve. Be The Light Goals:

- Guide Children and Families
- Expand Services for Adults
- For the Children Endowment

If you have any questions about "Be the Light," please reach out to Kirk Tucker.

Schedule for November

- November 2nd: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – 8:30 am; Live Nativity Planning Meeting – 8:30 am; Christian Ed Meeting – 9:30 am.
- November 3rd: Covered Dish lunch in celebration of baptism and new members – 11:15 am.
- November 3rd: Begin collection donations for Christmas Cheer.
- November 6th: Allied Churches Food Prep – 9:00 am; ALANON - 10:00 am.
- November 9th: Stewardship Meeting – 10:00 am; Comedy Show – 2:00 pm.
- November 10th: Acolyte Training – 11:00 am; Let Katie know if you will attend Lunch Bunch on the 14th.
- November 13th: ALANON - 10:00 am
- November 14th: Lunch Bunch Mosca's Italian Restaurant (3402 S Church Street, Burlington) – 11:30 am; Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting - 4:30 pm.
- November 16th: Hospitality Meeting – 10:00 am
- November 17th: NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!; Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials and Your Legacy Workshop and Lunch – 11:45
- November 20th: ALANON - 10:00 am.
- November 24th: Last day to donate to Christmas Cheer fundraiser; Covered Dish lunch in celebration of baptism and new members – 11:15 am; Church Council Meeting – 1:30 pm.
- November 27th: ALANON - 10:00 am.
- November 28th: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- December 1st: Congregational Meeting – 11:15 am.

Serving in November

	Altar Setup	Communion Setup	Worship Assistant/ Reader	Greeters	Ushers
Nov 3 Sanctuary	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Pastor Bob Hawkins Marty Adams	Donna Eash Sherry Ford	Jerry Combs Hugh Smith
Nov 10 Sanctuary	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Sharon Isley Sandy Kirkpatrick	Pastor Bob Hawkins Ted Milling
Nov 17 Sanctuary	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Jerry and Sally Combs	Sherry Ford Roy Whitehead
Nov 24 Sanctuary	Rebecca Maness	Marty Adams	Pastor John Weinbach	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Pastor John Weinbach Terry Adams

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.