

# Alamance Lutheran Church

## July 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*

“The test, surely, of a creed is not the ability of those who accept it to announce their faith: its test is its ability to change their behavior in

the ordinary round of their daily life. Judged by that test, I know no religion that has a moral claim upon the allegiance of men.” **Harold J. Laski**, in *I Believe* (1939) ed. Clifton Fadiman

## Prayers

We pray for the people of Venezuela, especially those impacted by the devastating earthquakes. We pray for Pastor Aaron as he continues his training to become a Chaplain in the Army National Guard. We pray for those who are suffering from the excessive heat, especially those without access to functional cooling systems. We pray for the farmers who are faced with the ongoing drought. We **continue to pray** for the poor and underprivileged. There are many in our community who are facing financial challenges. 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 **continue to pray for peace**, especially in the **Middle East and Iran**. Last but not least, we pray for our sister Clarine who is facing major surgery this month.

## Words from Pastor Mark

It has been a joy to share in ministry with all of you at Alamance Lutheran Church. I have been impressed with your level of welcome, of outreach, of education, of commitment to music, the care of your property, and support of one another. Life is not easy for churches of Alamance's size, but you are living well and very faithfully. It is not the work of one or two but the entire community of believers that gather in the name of Jesus Christ here at Alamance Lutheran Church.

The Fourth of July and the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding is being celebrated this week. It is a time of fireworks and drone shows. It is a time of neighborhood cookouts and

family gatherings. It is a time to give thanks for the joy of living in this country and the many blessings that come with this.

As we move through this summer and its slower pace, be sure to invite others to come and see what Jesus is doing here at Alamance Lutheran. Summertime is when many individual and family schedules lighten up and they are considering their priorities and what activities they want to be a part of. Be like Nathaniel in scripture and just invite them to “Come and see” what Jesus is doing here. There is a reason why you are still active in your faith. Consider sharing that with a neighbor or friend.

Lastly, I am in town and the office on Thursdays and if you would like to have a conversation with me or wish for me to visit and/or bring Holy Communion, please let me know.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Mark Coulter  
Interim Pastor of Alamance Lutheran Church

## Council

The Council met on June 29th. Pastor Mark submitted a report sharing that he is continuing to enjoy his time with ALC. He was also pleased with the progress being made to find replacements for our Director of Music Ministry and Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper. (God’s hand is in there somewhere!) Pastor Mark will be on a long planned for vacation for July 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Supply coverage has been arranged.

Pastor Mark is impressed with the level of life he sees at ALC with the choirs, handbells, worship band, playground construction, scout hut renovations, Sock Puppets game, movie night, regular Bible studies, and team meetings.

The next Council meeting will be July 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Parlor.

## Staffing Update

Council is pleased to announce that **Elizabeth (Beth) Jordan** has accepted the position of **Director of Music Ministry**, and **Angeles Camacho** has accepted the position of **Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper**. We are grateful and excited to welcome both into the Community of Faith at Alamance.

**Beth Jordan – Director of Music Ministry:** Many of you had the pleasure of hearing Beth’s exceptional musicianship in early June when she served as a substitute organist and pianist. Beth holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music (Vocal Performance), English, and Education from Texas Lutheran University and a Master of Church Music (Choral Conducting) from Concordia University.

She brings extensive experience in organ, piano, handbells, vocal performance, adult and children’s choirs, and the leadership of comprehensive church music programs. Beth currently

serves as a Lower and Middle School Music Teacher at The Burlington School and also teaches private voice and piano. Her most recent church music director position has been at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church.

Beth will officially begin her ministry with us on July 29, with her first Sunday leading worship on August 2.

**Angeles Camacho – Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper:** Angeles comes highly recommended by Lenise, our current Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper, with whom she worked as a seasonal tax preparer at Jackson Hewitt. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently pursuing an Accounting and Finance Certificate (Professional Accounting Specialization) through Central Piedmont Community College. Angeles brings strong bookkeeping experience and is known for her organization, efficiency, and ability to learn quickly.

She will begin her work with us on July 8 and will shadow Lenise until her departure in late July.

Please join us in warmly welcoming **Beth** and **Angeles** to our Alamance family.

## Finance Team

Contributions in May were \$13,354.25; expenses were \$17,489.13. Year to date, through May, we have \$63,324.80 in contributions and \$96,334.64 expense – a **net loss YTD \$33,009.84**. The good news is that contributions were higher and expenses were lower in April than in May, and we have heard that there was a large donation in June that may help put a dent in our deficit.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of this church. As we continue to face a deficit, we want to invite everyone to pray about how God might be calling you to support the church financially. Even small increases, given consistently, make a meaningful difference. Thank you for seeking the Lord with us.

## Hospitality Team

Another successful Red Cross Blood drive was held on June 12<sup>th</sup> with the Hospitality Team providing refreshments. Operating procedures and instructions for the kitchen and equipment are being developed. If you use the kitchen, it is important to leave it cleaner than you find it! Thanks for all the hard work.

## Worship and Music Team

There may be only one hole to fill with guest organists prior to Beth Jordan starting in late July. She will be playing for us the first Sunday in August. The acoustic band, led by Joel and Ruthie, is a great resource, and continues to be well received.

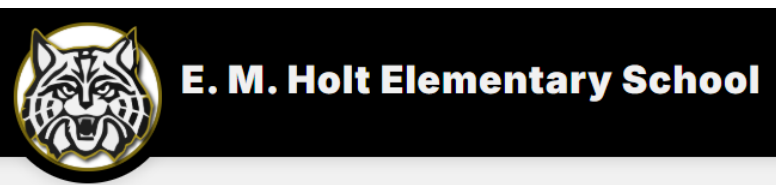
**Open Chapel** continues Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 in the Chapel.

## Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thank you for donating food to the **Blessing Box**. We hope to see increased donations for The Blessing Box, which continues to see heavy use, especially now. Feeding people is an important part of who we are. 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. The donation basket will be placed in front of the altar, where both the offerings and the ministry will receive a blessing.

In conjunction with our Girl Scout Troop, we are planning a "Blessing Bag" event for September 13<sup>th</sup> in support of the ELCA's "God's Work; Our Hands" Day. Our goal is to complete and provide 150 bags. Each bag provides four meals. We will prepare bags in July, and hand them out in August. We are asking for people to take and fill the bags. A more detailed schedule and information will be provided. We may plan to do this more often depending on the support from the Congregation and Community.

The Team is also exploring what would be required to establish a "cooling" station in the Fellowship Hall during heat advisory days. We found, thanks to Casey Dill, that the Western North Carolina United Methodist Church has comprehensive plans. There are many issues that need to be addressed before we move forward. One of the next steps will be to survey the Congregation to ascertain if there is enough support to staff the cooling station on short notice. More to come.



We anticipate providing refreshments for the EM Holt staff when they begin the school year in August.

**Evangelism:** We continue to explore ways we can build bridges and connections between all of us. We believe we can do more to keep informed about each other as life events occur. There are many kind hearts in the Congregation. We want to provide transportation, meals, and visitations for members in need. If you want to be part of this effort, please talk to Sherry Ford.

We are having tee shirts printed with the “ALC Logo” on the back and “Alamance Lutheran Church” on the front. Over 60 shirts have been ordered.

A Bingo Night is being planned for August 12<sup>th</sup>. More to follow.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Mosca’s (3402 South Church Street) on July 9th, at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you can attend. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. at 4:30 (our normal meeting day).

## Property Team

The team is continuing to explore options to finish the accessibility project by providing a lift/ramp from the Sanctuary to the office/classroom level. This is a priority for the coming year.

The Parsonage porch has screening and doors, and the Scout Hut renovations are complete to the Girl Scout’s satisfaction for now. The new playground equipment has been assembled and installed.

A property user agreement and facilities use policy has been developed and is currently being reviewed. Thanks to Marty Adams for taking the initiative to get this off the ground.

Please refrain from giving well-intended items or gifts to the church unless you have received approval from the appropriate Ministry Team or the Church Council. This helps us ensure that all donations support our current needs and can be stewarded wisely. Thank you for your understanding and care for our church.

## Stewardship Team

September is Stewardship month. Temple talks are being planned as the primary method of communication. A Stewardship booklet is being developed to highlight Team activities: **“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

Movie Night was a wonderful success. We had 36 people attend - including 20 youth. Yes, you read that right... twenty youth! It was incredible to see so many kids in fellowship with each other. What a blessing for our church community.

Forty-one people have signed up to attend the Sock puppets game July 14th, which will serve as the kick-off for Vacation Bible School. We're excited to share that 23 children and 17 adults are registered for this intergenerational program, happening July 15–17 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided each evening. It's shaping up to be a wonderful time for all ages to learn and grow together. A world hunger themed curriculum has been obtained from the Synod. It is intergenerational, with our youth helping to lead the Bible Study, games, and songs. Please come and support our youth! VBS volunteers plan to meet on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to set up rooms and crafts.

A Blessing of the Backpacks and Youth kickoff will occur at 7:00 pm on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. August 30<sup>th</sup> is Sunday School kickoff for the coming year.

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are currently using an Augsburg study of the Book of Romans.

Women's Bible study continues Tuesday mornings. Men's breakfast and Bible Study continue the first Saturdays (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in July!). We are always looking for more men to come and join the Men's Breakfast and Bible study.

## 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 interment spot in the Memorial Garden, the responsibilities of the church versus the family, and the cost.

## Girl Scouts

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

The Evangelism/Social Ministry Team provided breakfast for our Girl Scout troop and their families prior to their end-of-year awards ceremony on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) is a gathering for service, study, advocacy, and fellowship. We embrace all kinds of ministries to mobilize women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ. All women are welcome, and any service ideas are appreciated.

## Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

It's important for all of us to be members of various communities. Lynn and I are fortunate to live in a community. Alamance Lutheran Church is our "faith community." Describing Alamance Lutheran Church as a "faith community" is not a trivial thing. There are both benefits and responsibilities in faith community. For me, being able to learn together, have fellowship, sharing our faith journeys (yes, I have doubts sometimes). It's not all taking, it's giving too. It's important for us to nurture and sustain our faith community. That means being willing and able to share our time and talents. For me it's all worth it, and I hope it is for you too.

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Suzanne Seymour
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Cindy Milling
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Sidney Dill
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Charles Ellis
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Kim Graham
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Elliott Spangler
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Ashleigh Crouse
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Leanne Crouse
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Beth Rasnake
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Cates
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Kevin Widderich
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Jonathan Poquette



## Schedule

**Questions about when things are happening?** Check the church calendar on our website: [alamancelutheran.org](http://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 Lenise at: [ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org](mailto:ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org) to add it to the calendar. Thanks for all you do Lenise!

## Serving in July

	<b>Communion Setup</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Counters</b>
<b>July 5</b>	Marty Adams	Derrick Dill	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Katie Beard Jerry Combs	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith	Ted Milling Elizabeth Powell
<b>July 12</b>	Holly Mills	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Jazmin Biscocho Ina Dill	Aaliyah Dill Jerry Combs	Hugh Smith Kirk Tucker
<b>July 19</b>	Lynn Tucker	Holly Mills	Holly Mills	Kora Dill Elizabeth Powell	Terry Adams Ted Milling	John Ritchey Derrick Dill
<b>July 26</b>	Kathy Youngblood	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Don and Donna Eash	Ina Dill Roy Whitehead	Ted Milling Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith

*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.*