

Alamance Lutheran Church

April 2025 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 world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be only the beginning." **Ivy Baker Priest** "Parade" (February 16, 1958)

Words from Pastor Rooney

A WORD OF HOPE AND A WORD OF THANKS

It never gets any easier – this saying goodbye. Saying goodbye to the parishes I served as a called pastor was hard enough but since then I have had to say goodbye to several congregations that I have had the privilege of serving as interim since my retirement. And now it is time to say goodbye to all of you, my sisters and brothers who are part of the community of faithful believers here at Alamance Lutheran. It never gets any easier!

But please know this – it has been my great joy to serve with you over this past year. A joy because I have watched as the Holy Spirit has moved among us. I have seen new energy seep into every part of our life together. A revitalized sense of

mission and ministry has imbued our life together and there is a renewed energy and purpose among us. Uncertainty and hesitation have been put aside, and I now see a community of faithful believers ready to move forward into God's future, trusting in His will to guide us and sustain us.

And it has been my joy to teach and preach among you and to share God's grace by being able to administer His sacraments. Indeed, one of the truly joyful memories I will take with me are of the baptisms which I officiated while at Alamance. I had not conducted a baptism since I retired from my full-time ministry some 12 years ago, certainly not in my previous six interims. So, it was a special joy to have been part of this sacramental act as we welcomed seven new children of God as part of our community. And, as you know by now, I love to teach, so I have really enjoyed teaching at Sunday school and in our midweek Advent and Lenten services, and I give thanks to God for your openness and willingness to learn about our faith and our Lutheran tradition.

But while there is some sadness as I prepare to leave, I am also filled with a sense of hope for the future of this congregation. It therefore seems appropriate that you will begin your new ministry with Pastor Aaron as Easter is upon us. Yes, there will be the darkness of Holy Week and the passion and the suffering and the death of Our Savior. But Easter waits just beyond the horizon – a season filled with the promise of new life, new hope, new birth. What better time could there be than this impending season to begin a new ministry together, a revitalized ministry, a hope-filled ministry, a joy filled ministry bearing the witness of God's love to Alamance and all the communities around us.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, please know that even as I leave, you will remain in my thoughts and my prayers. Transitions are always difficult. But I am confident that God's Holy Spirit will continue with you to guide, support, and sustain you. I have great hope for your future together with your new pastor and I pray God's blessings upon all of you.

So, as a benediction, these words from Philippians "And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, watch over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Our Lord." (4:7)

Stump the Pastor!

One last Sunday before we say goodbye to our wonderful teacher. We will miss Pastor Rooney's teaching. The last session will provide an opportunity to "Stump the Pastor." See if you are up to it!

John Ritchey and Kirk Tucker will be leading new adult classes in the coming months. Watch for information in the bulletin.

Congregation Meeting

At the Congregation meeting on March 16th two ballots were held, one supporting extending a call to Vicar Aaron Spangler, the other approving the mutually agreed upon financial package for Vicar Spangler for CY 2025. Thanks to all of you who attended and for your unanimous support for extending a call and approving the compensation packages.

On-Boarding Vicar Aaron

It's over! Vicar Aaron Spangler will be starting on April 7th. His first service will be on Wednesday, April 9th. **Many thanks for the hard work of our Call Committee.** Their work is not quite over as the committee will serve as Vicar/Pastor Spangler's Mutual Ministry Team for the first year of his ministry with us.

Vicar Aaron is officially called a vicar until his ordination, which is scheduled April 26th at 12:30 at Good Shepherd in Raleigh, when he will be officially Pastor Aaron. He will receive authorization to serve the Sacraments from Bishop Smith prior to his ordination.

Vicar Aaron and his wife will be moving into the Parsonage during the week of March 31st. More information about how we can help make them welcome will be forthcoming.

Marty Adams is preparing an "on-boarding" process to assist Vicar Aaron's arrival. One important aspect of this is **NAME TAGS!!!** We only have to learn two (and soon three) new names – Pastor Aaron, Joanna, and baby boy Spangler (due in July). But they have to learn a whole lot of new names. We have made a name tag for everyone, **so for at least the first month, we are asking that you wear a name tag at all group settings. They will be passed out and collected at each event.**

Member Spotlight

Wanda Patterson has been a faithful member of Alamance Lutheran Church her entire life! She grew up in the Village of Alamance, just two doors away from the church and has fond memories of playing in the playground and church activities. She has been active in our church for 86 years! Her parents moved across town when she was a teen, however she only lived in east Burlington for couple years, then got married and back to Alamance she came! Her parents built a house on Kirkpatrick Road and 31 years ago, Wanda moved into that home with her mother, and she still lives there- only a mile from church.

Wanda has two sons, Ward and Taylor, who live nearby with their families. She has six grandchildren, ages 18-31. Wanda's career was working as a dental hygienist. She quit her job to take care of her grandchildren.

When asked about her hobbies, Wanda initially said she has no hobbies, but added her interests are working outdoors and mowing her yard. She enjoyed serving as a volunteer at ARMC for many years and continues to volunteer with delivering Meals on Wheels. Wanda loves her church and her church family. When asked what she'd like to see happen in our church, she responded that she wishes more people would come to church.

Wanda continues to serve God by being active in choir, bell choir, serving on Cemetery Committee and enjoys attending dinners and special services. We are thankful for Wanda and her love of God and her lifelong dedication to Alamance Lutheran Church! She is truly a joy and a blessing to others.

Synod Assembly

Cindy Milling and Kirk Tucker have been selected by Council to serve as our voting delegates, along with Pastor Aaron Spangler at the Synod Assembly in Greensboro May 29 through 31st. Important decisions will be made at the Synod Assembly this year including electing a new Bishop for the North Carolina Synod.

Council

The Council met on March 23rd. All Council members were present for our last Council meeting with Pastor Rooney. In addition to sharing information about on-boarding Vicar Aaron, we confirmed ministry team assignments. With Vicar

Aaron's monthly National Guard commitment, we will be investigating scheduling a consistent supply pastor when our pastor is not available.

The ELCA will be meeting in July. They will be updating the Church Constitution. We know ALC's Constitution is out of date and will need to be revised to meet the new ELCA Constitution once it is available. The Council will be looking for help and input from the Congregation on this important task.

We had a conversation about our **Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival**. Thanks to great leadership, we have learned how to organize great festivals. They served a purpose, getting us to work together during COVID and demonstrate a presence in the community. Should we be holding the festival when we are competing with Lambs Chapel and other churches/organizations, or is there a better time to create and hold an event that will be unique to ALC? An event that will differentiate ALC from other Churches in the area. We will be looking for input from you.

It is also not too early to start thinking about the 100th Anniversary of Alamance Lutheran Church. In June 2029, ALC will be 100 years old. We are looking for volunteers to start a "Homecoming" Planning Committee for our 100th anniversary. Sounds like it is a long way away, if we don't start thinking about it now, it will be upon us in a flash. This is a big deal, many organizations don't last 100 years.

We will consult with Vicar Aaron before scheduling the next Council meeting.

Finance Team

We are increasing our camp scholarship fund to \$1500 to provide funds for more scholarships this year. Scholarships will cover 50% of the cost for individuals to attend a camp.

Vicar Aaron has asked the Finance Team to meet with him for a complete review of our finances after Easter.

Hospitality Team

Another Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, April 4th at 1:30. Donna Eash is our Red Cross coordinator. Sign up online.

Midweek Lenten soup suppers will be held on April 2nd and 9th. Vicar Aaron will be leading his first service on the 9th. We will be hosting a farewell potluck (covered dish) luncheon for Pastor Rooney following the service on April 6th.

The men of the church will be hosting an Easter breakfast on the 20th at 8:15.

Save the date: The annual Mother's Day Tea is planned for May 10th.

Worship and Music Team

Holy Week begins soon after Vicar Aaron arrives. We will be meeting with him to make sure everything is in place for this important and holy time. Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 17th at 7:00 pm; Good Friday Service on April 18th at 7:00 pm. An informal reflection at sunrise will be held in the cemetery on Easter morn, and a special festive Easter Service on the 20th at 10:00 am. Choir practices are now being held on Wednesday evenings followed by and the bell choir preparing for Easter.

Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thanks to all of you who are donating food for the **Blessing Box** and the **Dream Center**. We have already used all the donated food from Rock Church for the **Blessing Box** which continues to see heavy use. We will be collecting **Pasta** in April for the Dream Center. **Tuna** in May.

We have discontinued our food prep ministry at **Allied Churches** and will be looking for another ministry to support.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Ciao Pizza and Italian Restaurant (947 Golf House Road, Whitsett, NC) on April 10th at 11:30am. Let Katie Whitehead know if you are attending.

We continue to send letters from Alamance Lutheran Church to new residents of **Twin Lakes Community** inviting them to experience our faith community. We have seen some new faces from Twin Lakes Community thanks in part to the letters we have been sending.

Sherry Ford is taking the lead in a number of **Evangelism** efforts. She is looking for volunteers interested in Evangelism, visiting people in our community, spreading

the good news. Being aware of members who are hospitalized, or dealing with health issues is also important. We need to improve our communication links with each other and our Faith Community.

If you haven't looked at our website (alamancelutheran.org) you need to! There is a lot of information and a great video. This, and the Facebook posts don't just happen. Another one of the many things Marty Adams is contributing to our Faith Community.

Property Team

New door codes are being introduced for the Fellowship Hall door. Current codes will be discontinued in the near future. Special codes have been given to groups that routinely access the building. If you need a code, ask John Ritchey or Marty Adams. Do not share the code with anyone. This is an effort to improve security for access to the building.

Facility improvements and repairs are continuing. A major concern is the condition of the ramp leading to the Sanctuary. Repairs are expected to cost \$12K. John is continuing to develop plans and costs for the lift shaft.

Improvements and repairs have been made to the Parsonage in preparation for Vicar Aaron's arrival. Some more needs to be done. Thanks to Elizabeth, Holly, and Marty for cleaning the parsonage prior to their moving in.

Stewardship Team:

The team has prepared a proposed **Memorial/Honor Fund Policy** for the Council to review. The policy is to better manage how memorials and honor projects and fund contributors are recognized after they are received. It is proposed the Stewardship Team would form a Memorial/Honor Committee. Collaborating with other ALC Ministry Teams, the committee would establish and maintain a prioritized list of potential Memorial/Honor projects.

The **"Above and Beyond"** campaign is continuing. Thanks to those of you who have already donated toward the campaign. If you are looking for an easy, low-cost item to donate, we still need



copies of the new song books. We now have 24 books, which is not quite enough to use on a regular basis. The cost is \$17.05/book.

Youth/Christian Education Team

A three-day Arts Camp - “And God Said Sing, Dance, and Celebrate” – will be held July 29 – 31, 9:00-12:30, with lunch provided. A link will be provided on the ALC website for pre-registration. Sharon Ward will be making a flyer.

An Easter egg hunt open to the community will be held on April 20th at 9:00 am. Attendees will be invited to come to our Easter Service at 10:00 am.

A Community Youth Corn Hole Tournament will be held on Monday, April 21st from 7:00 – 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza and prizes will be provided.

Cemetery Team

The team has been in touch with Synod to better understand the policies around ELCA cemeteries. More work needs to be done to understand the implications for us. The Team is also considering a number of changes to our policies and practices. Such things as charging an annual maintenance fee for every two plots and assessing a fee for replacing crumbling headstones are being considered. We do not have the resources or budget to maintain all the headstones, so without support from the families with loved ones in the cemetery, headstones and vases or other memorial items may be removed. There will be fees associated with new plots requested by members. This fee would be in lieu of annual fees for up to 10 years. The possibility of family members that are not Church members requesting a plot is being considered.

Clearly, policy and practice updates are required. The Council has requested the Cemetery Team prepare a new **Cemetery Policy** for the Council to approve.

Some Words from the Council President

As Pastor Rooney leaves us with his last service on April 6th, I am reflecting on how blessed we have been to have him as our permanent Interim this past year. Not only his presence leading our worship services; he has been a great teacher too. Those of us who have regularly attended his classes have learned a lot and seen a different Pastor Rooney. We all should be thankful for his service to God and to ALC.

Now we need to look ahead for the Vicar Aaron's service as our pastor. This will be an exciting time for him and us. Things will be different as they always are when a new pastor, whether fulltime or interim, comes onboard. Be flexible, I know it gets harder as you get older as I am, be supportive and show Vicar Aaron and Joanna you care about them and are thankful they have been called to become a part of our faith community at Alamance Lutheran Church. **Try to attend Vicar Aaron's ordination service on April 26th at Good Shepherd in Raleigh at 12:30.** Bishop Tim Smith will preside. We can call him Pastor Aaron after his ordination.

Schedule for April

- April 1st: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am. Spangler drop by and say hello 12:00-1:30.
- April 2nd: ALANON - 10:00 am; Wednesday Lenten soup supper and service - 6:00 pm. Choir practice follows at 7:15 pm; Hand bells at 8:15 pm.
- April 3rd: Property Committee Meeting – 12:00 pm.
- April 4th: Red Cross Blood Drive - 1:30-6:00 pm
- April 5th: Men's breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am;
- April 6th: Stump the Pastor Bible Study - 9:00 am; Covered dish farewell to Pastor Rooney - 11:00 am.
- April 8th: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am
- April 9th: ALANON 10:00 am; Lenten soup supper and service (Vicar Aaron presiding) – 6:00 pm; Choir practice following at 7:15 pm; Hand bells at 8:15 pm.
- April 10th: Lunch Bunch at Ciao Pizza and Italian Restaurant (947 Golf House Road W, Whitsett); Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting - 4:30 pm
- April 13th: Adult Bible Study in Parlor - 9:00 am; Vicar Aaron's first Sunday Service – 10:00 am.
- April 15th: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am.
- April 16th: ALANON - 10:00 am; Choir Practice - 7:15 pm; Hand bells - 8:15 pm.
- April 17th: Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm.
- April 18th: Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm.
- April 20th: Informal reflection at sunrise in the cemetery – 7:30 am; Easter Breakfast - 8:15 am; Easter Egg Hunt - 9:00 am; Adult Bible Study in Parlor - 9:00 am; Easter Celebration Service - 10:00 am.
- April 21st: Christian Youth Cornhole Tournament - 6:00 pm.
- April 22nd: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am.

- April 23rd: ALANON - 10:00 am
- April 26th: Vicar Aaron's Ordination - 12:30 pm (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7000 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh)
- April 27: Adult Bible Study in Parlor - 9:00 am; Noisy Offering Sunday.
- April 29th: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am.
- April 30th: ALANON - 10:00 am

Serving in April

	Communion Setup	Reader	Communion Assistant	Greeters	Ushers
April 6	Lynn Tucker	Katie Whitehead	Roy Whitehead	Sidney Dill Sharon Isley	Hugh Smith Jerry Combs
April 13 Palm Sunday	Lynn Tucker	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Katie Beard Jerry Combs	Ted Milling Jaxon Richards
April 17 Maundy Thursday	Marty Adams	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Sherry Ford Elizabeth Powell	Terry Adams Don Eash
April 18 Good Friday	N/A	Sidney Dill	N/A	Don and Donna Eash	Pastor Bob Hawkins Roy Whitehead
April 20 Easter Sunday	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Craven Ford	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith
April 27	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Garrett Rhodes	Kathy Ritchey	Sandy Kirkpatrick Jaxon Richards	Jerry Combs Ted Milling

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.