

Alamance Lutheran Church

September 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*

"All things are literally better, lovelier, and more beloved for the imperfections which have been divinely appointed, that the law of human life may be effort, and the law of human judgement, mercy." **John Ruskin**, *The Stones of Venice* (1851-53) v. 2, 6.25

Words from Pastor Aaron

Fall has always been one of my favorite seasons. Each season has its own reason to love it, but there is something about autumn that pulls me back to my roots. I think of childhood trips to the Covered Bridge Festival in Indiana, cool rainy days spent studying in Purdue's libraries, and of course, the roar of football season; Boiler Up! The excitement as the leaves would change and the beautiful colors of creations would come alive. These little moments stir a sense of nostalgia, a feeling of being at home in memories that have been etched into my heart.

It makes me wonder about Jesus and what gave him that same kind of familiarity and comfort. Maybe it was the smell of fresh wood in the carpenter's shop, or the sight of the temple during his pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Maybe it was the evenings shared with his disciples around the table, telling stories and laughing

together. Just like us, Jesus was shaped by those ordinary, repeated moments of life that became extraordinary in memory.

Our lives so often feel rushed, time slipping through our fingers. Yet these memories remind us to slow down, to notice the simple blessings that God places in front of us each day. Just as Jesus found joy and meaning in the ordinary, we too are invited to find God's presence in the rhythm of our daily lives.

Pastoral Challenge for the Month: Share a beloved memory with a friend or family member and talk about how God shows up in that moment.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

In addition to electing Reverend Yehiel Curry as Presiding Bishop and NC Synod's own Reverend CeeCe Mills as ELCA Secretary, voting members from the 65 synods of this church - including the 13 voting members of the NC Synod - acted on various items of business, including social statements, memorials, and bylaw amendments. Items of note are listed below:

- **Consideration of Recommendation 1 of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church:** ...importance of accountability in addressing racism and affirming the work of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Advisory Team.
- **Stand of Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine:** ...advocating for human rights and a just peace.
- **Amending bylaws to increase the percentage of youth and young adult voting members of Churchwide Assembly Church Council,** and churchwide committees and councils from 10 to 20%.
- **Faith and Civic Life seeking the well-being of all social statement:** amending the social statement by a wide majority (762-16).
- **Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust Social Statement** had all amendments adopted.

You can find more information on all of these at <https://nclutheran.org/2025-elca-churchwide-assembly-actions/>.

Council

The Council/Call Committee retreat will be held on September 13th. Rev CeeCe Mills will assist us with the retreat. We will spend time getting to know each other better and plan actions for the next 2-3 years that will help us operationalize our mission.

A Reformation Night program will be held on October 26th. It will include a chili cooking contest and “trunk or treat.” More details to come.

Pastor Aaron is recommending we take the “Live Nativity” on the road and participate in the Burlington Christmas Parade on November 22nd to increase ALC’s exposure in the community.

We want to form a team to start planning for ALC’s 100th anniversary in just a few short years (2029!). This is a big deal, and we expect that the Synod will want to be involved. If you are interested in participating on this team, please talk to Pastor Aaron.

Finance Team

As we have previously reported, because of a significant general fund contribution in July, we are currently on the plus side for income vs expenses year to date. This swing to the positive can only continue with your generous contributions to the church’s general fund.

Tom Lynch, a retired Financial Controller and CPA who is a Twin Lakes resident, has generously volunteered to conduct a long-delayed audit of our financial practices. He has started the audit process and is working with Lenise and the financial team. We anticipate that Tom will provide a number of recommendations for us to improve our financial practices.

It is budget time! Ministry teams need to compile and submit budget requests. We hope to provide preliminary budget information in September.

Hospitality Team

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held on August 8th. The canteen provided by the Hospitality Team is considered to one of the best in the area.

The team has organized supplies in the kitchen and hosted a tour of the kitchen for team members at their meeting in August.

The team hosted the reception following Pastor Aaron's installation.

Whenever activities are planned at the Church, the Hospitality Team is involved supporting the activities. There are a lot of things being planned for the fall including Blood Drives in October and December, Reformation Sunday in late October, a new member reception in early November, and the mid-week Advent services in early December.

Worship and Music Team

The Choir is back! We are thankful for new members joining the choir. We are also thankful new member Holly Mills and soon to be new member Kathy Youngblood are now helping with Communion set-up. Marty Adams is providing training.

ALC is so blessed to have Matt Swaim as our Director of Music. He is so talented! Let him know how much you appreciate his sharing his musical gifts with us.

Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thanks to all of you who are donating food for the **Blessing Box** and the **Dream Center**. Food insecurity continues to be a big issue in Alamance County. Please support these ministries as much as you can. **The Blessing Box** continues to see heavy use. Several members have received Thrivent grants to provide food for the **Blessing Box**. For the **Dream Center**, we will be collecting **Tuna** in September and **Dry Beans** in October.

The breakfast supporting the teachers and staff at our neighbor E.M. Holt Elementary School was a success. Thanks to the volunteers who donated food and money and served. We had an abundance of food and some funds left over which will be used for future efforts at E.M. Holt.

We are reaching out to Lutheran Disaster Relief Carolinas for them to provide a workshop on preparing for unexpected events. We are hoping to hold the workshop along with a sloppy joe supper on October 8th. Recent storms have shown us that we need to be prepared as a congregation and as individuals. We are also thinking about how we can use our facilities as a cooling or heating space for individuals in need.

Thanks to Sherry Ford, we have magnets with the Luther Rose for our cars. Magnets are \$10.00. See Sherry to get yours. Funds raised by the sale of the magnets will be used for Youth programs.



Sharon Ward has asked the team to consider sponsoring activities that would appeal to lonely elderly people in our community, for example games or crafts. If you've got thoughts about how to implement this, please share them with Sharon.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Carver's (3352 South Church Street) on September 11th at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you are attending. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on September 11th at 4:30.

Property Team

We now believe we have the necessary plans for the lift and are updating the quote based on the latest drawings. As soon as the drawings are finalized, we will present them to the congregation for approval.

The new “Pray Ground” is up and running at the back of the Sanctuary. Thanks to all who helped put that in place.

We have received donations to install a new sign in front of the church. The new sign will be compatible with our facility. No church funds will be expended for the new sign.

The Youth/Christian Ed Team has taken an inventory of the medical equipment we have available for lending. They will be working with Terry Adams to figure out a way to hang some of the items on the wall to make it easier to access. If you have a need for any medical equipment (walkers, rollers, etc.), please check with the office first to see if we have something that can be lent to you.

Parking spaces near the Fellowship Hall door have been designated for visitors.

A property use policy is currently being developed.

We are blessed to have an active, involved Property Team. Thanks to all of you who keep our facilities looking nice and running smoothly.

The Property Team will meet on September 6th at 10:00.

Stewardship Team

Sherry Ford has asked for ideas on how to designate and use memorial/honor fund donations. We appreciate people wanting to remember or honor friends and members of ALC with gifts to the church. We want to ensure the gifts are things we need. Stewardship will use this input to generate a list of potential memorial projects, which will be updated at the beginning of each year.

The Stewardship Team is working on best ways to encourage our Faith Community to support our missions. They're looking at different ideas to help share the importance of giving and being part of the work we're doing together. Time and Talent forms are available for the coming year. Let us know how you would like to share your gifts with us this coming year. See Sherry if you would like a form.

Youth/Christian Education Team

A lot continues to be happening with this busy group!

Sunday School will kick off September 7th with a confirmation class, a class for middle school age children, and one for younger students. We are looking for more teachers. If you are interested, Pastor Aaron will provide the curriculum and training. Pastor Aaron is also providing “Safe Haven” training for Sunday School teachers and Youth leaders. Two sessions have been held and more are planned.

Thanks to Rebecca Maness, Lynn Tucker, and Donna Eash for cleaning up and organizing the educational and craft supplies.

The Bingo Night was a big success and well attended.

Ladies Bible study continues on Tuesday mornings. Men’s breakfast and Bible Study continues on the first Saturdays. Adult and children’s Bible studies/classes are held each Sunday morning.

Cemetery Team

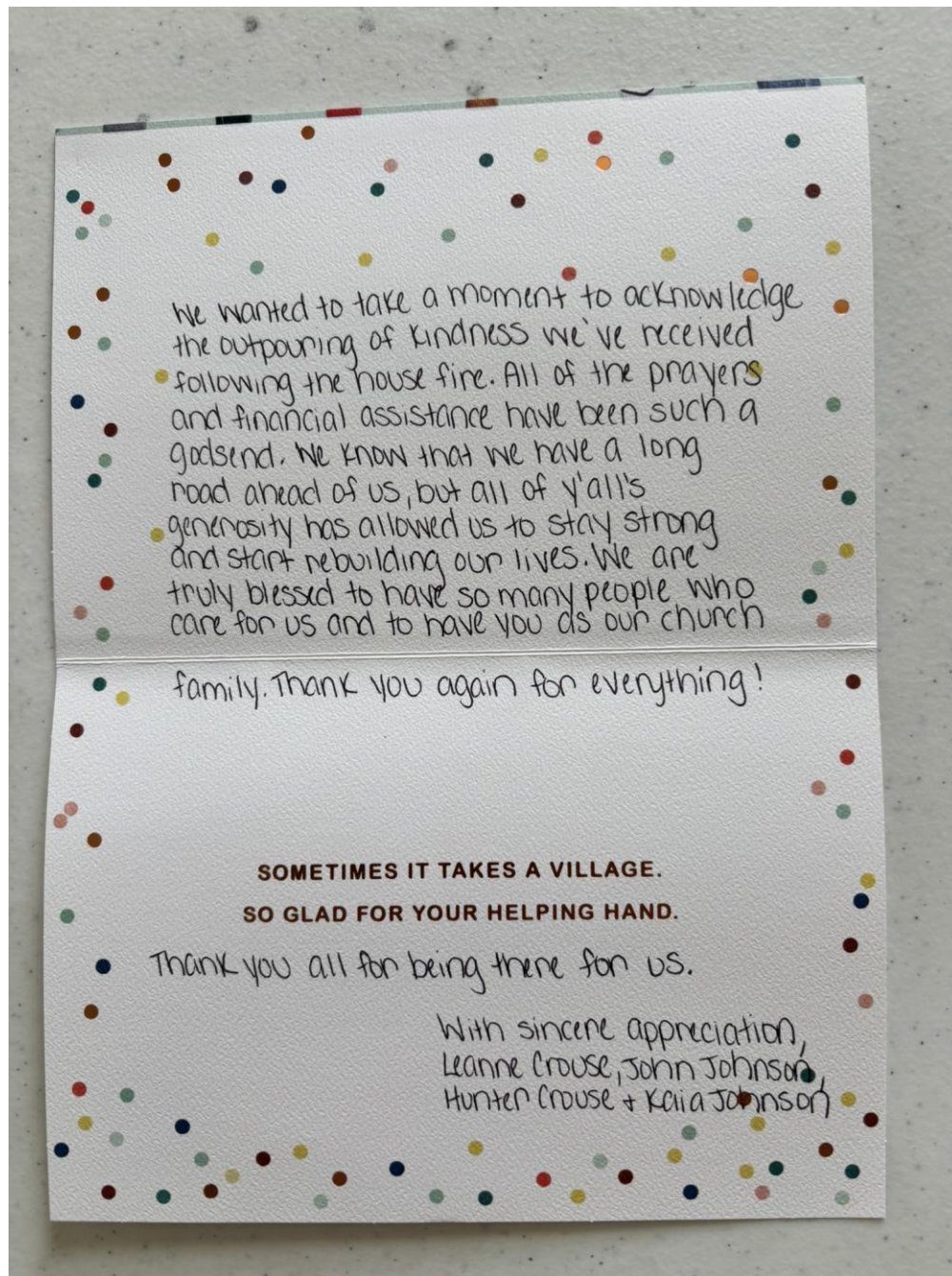
We are working on updating our cemetery policies. The Cemetery Team is beginning the work after many years of inattention. A number of changes to our policies and practices are needed. We want to ensure plots are available for members who want them in the future and do not plan on selling plots to nonmembers. Fifty plots are currently available.

WELCA

What is WELCA? It’s an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. According to the WELCA website “Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 4,500 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. “

Casey Dill will be hosting a meeting following Church Service on September 13th for women who are interested in revitalizing a WELCA chapter in our area. Let Casey know if you are interested. ALC will be hosting a WELCA event in October.

Thanks from the Crouse Family



Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

It's great that more people are involved in our ministries. There are many ideas circulating around our Faith Community. We need to **FOCUS!** What are the important things for us to be doing and doing **WELL** this coming couple of years? I am hoping one of the outputs from our Council Retreat this month will be a calendar of important events for us to **FOCUS** on.

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 Lenise at:

ParishAdmin@alamancelutheran.org to add it to the calendar. Thanks for all you do, Lenise!

September Birthdays

3rd – Daniel Slaughter

8th – Jay Milling

9th – Roy Whitehead

12th – Ellie Beard

16th - Carli Patterson

18th – Lela Rhodes

21st – Martha Sink

27th – Susan Shoffner



Serving in September

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers
September 7	Holly Mills Marty Adams	Holly Mills	Marty Adams	Don and Donna Eash	Jerry Combs Elizabeth Powell
September 14	Kathy Youngblood Marty Adams	Sidney Dill	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Katie Beard Sharon Isley	Don Eash Roy Whitehead
September 21	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Ted Milling Lisa Cates
September 28	Marty Adams	Kathy Ritchey	Marty Adams	Lisa Cates Kerry Sullivan	Terry Adams 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 the last week of the preceding month.