

Alamance Lutheran Church

September 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*



“Did universal charity prevail, earth would be a heaven, and hell a fable.” **Charles Caleb Colton**, *Lacon* (1825) 1.160

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 students who have returned to school. We **continue to pray for peace**, especially in the **Middle East and Iran**.

Final Words from Pastor Mark (For Now!)

Dear Members and friends of Alamance Lutheran Church:

It has been a joy to serve with you as your Interim Pastor this Summer while Pastor Aaron has been at Chaplain training. It was a busy Summer at ALC and thank you for letting me be a part of that. From Movie nights to Luncheons as well as covered dish meals, it was a joy to see the life and vitality at ALC. Your outreach and care for your neighbors through the food pantry and blessing bags is terrific. All of these things made for a very quick Summer. The best part of it all was getting to know many of you and sharing the worship experience with you on Sundays.

I am ending my time as your Interim Pastor, and I am confident that I am not saying "Good-bye" for good. I am willing to be a regular (as my retirement calendar allows) supply pastor when Pastor Aaron has Duty Weekends. Please know that even

when I am not here with you, I will be keeping all of you at Alamance Lutheran Church in my prayers. Keep up the good ministry and spirit Christ has planted here.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Mark Coulter

Words from Pastor Aaron

Dear Beloved People of Alamance Lutheran Church:

I want to thank you all for supporting each other and sustaining the ministry of Alamance while I was away. While I play an important role in the church's life, it is truly all of our efforts to seek God first that we can find the kingdom of God present here and now within this congregation. I am so excited to be back with you all and to hear about your summer as I am sure you want to hear about mine.

One of the lessons or questions that would be asked of us during the summer training was: How do you stay grounded in your faith? Or even how can we as chaplains not only keep our faith but affirm others in some of the most austere environments?

The challenges to military ministry are unique and complex, but the question asked of us at the school remains true even here in our congregation. How is it that you stay grounded in your faith? We all experience difficulties and what might be difficult for you may not be for others, but it challenges us all the same. So, what is it that we do in those hard times to seek out God?

I turn to prayer as a form of comfort in my difficult times, particularly the Lord's Prayer. For you it could be anything that brings about the peace of God into your life. Each of us could probably find a new way to seek out God, but most importantly scripture reminds us that it is Christ who secures us and grounds us in faith. It is who we lean on no matter what we go through or what difficulties we might face. All of our answers may be different to this question, but we know that the answer will point us to God who holds us and keeps us in eternal life.

Pastoral Challenge for the Month: Find either one or two practices or things that keep you grounded in faith and incorporate them into your daily life.

In peace - Pastor Aaron

Council

Council met on August 23rd. This was Pastor Mark's last meeting with Council as Interim Pastor. He was complementary in his remarks and looks forward to serving ALC as a more permanent Supply Pastor role in the future.

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, 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 are asking for the Congregation to provide on-going leadership on Council.

John, Kirk, and Pastor Aaron will begin a process 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.

The next Council meeting will be on September 20th at 1:30.

Finance Team

Contributions exceeded expenditures in July - \$18,412.48 contributions vs \$16,461.54 expenses! Year to date contributions are \$116,549.41 vs expenses of \$126,417.11 leaving a year-to-date deficit of \$9,867.70. 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.

As we begin preparing the budget for the coming year, we ask all Teams and Team Leaders to submit their projected ministry expenses by the end of September.

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 farewell reception for Pastor Mark and will be providing a welcome back reception for Pastor Aaron the first Sunday in September.

The Team is taking a “time out” for the balance of September because of Cindy’s scheduled knee surgery and Kathy’s upcoming vacation.

Any unscheduled event will be covered by other Team members as necessary.

Thanks for all the hard work.

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.

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

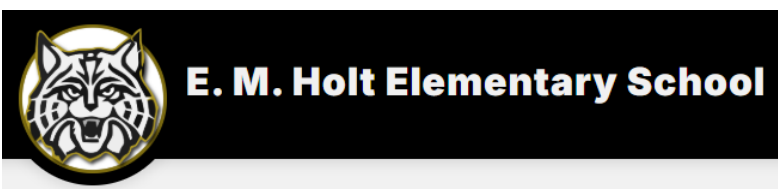
Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

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 have prepared over 200 **Blessing Bags**. We will be asking members of the Congregation, our wider Church Community, the Village, and friends, to take empty bags with recipes and fill them during August. Each bag provides four meals. Three different meal bags are available, each with a unique recipe. **Filled bags need to be returned no later than September 6th**. We will deliver the filled bags on September 13th - **“Gods Work our Hands” Sunday**. Thanks in advance for supporting this mission with our Girl Scout Troop.

The Team is continuing to explore providing a “cooling station” at the Church for hot weather advisories. We started too late for this year. A number of members indicated they are willing to support the effort. The Western North Carolina United Methodist Church has a comprehensive plan we are exploring and there are many issues that need to be addressed before we move forward.

We plan to continue our support for **Christmas Cheer** again this year. Marty Adams has volunteered to lead this effort again this year. 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 provided donuts and juice for the EM Holt staff when on August 17th.

Evangelism: More magnets are available for purchase. We may have a few tee shirts left over if you would like a shirt.

We will be preparing **Welcome Bags** for first time visitors.

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. Many thanks to Sherry for taking a leadership role in our Evangelism efforts.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Occasions Restaurant (286 East Front Street, Burlington, NC) on September 10th. Let Katie Whitehead know if you can attend. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on September 10th 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 is being procured for the Parsonage too. A major furnace room clean-up has begun as well.

The team is exploring entering into a service agreement with all the 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 is Stewardship month. Short **Temple Talks** will be held each Sunday. A **Stewardship Booklet** has been developed to highlight Ministry Team activities.

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. A Memorial Bench was dedicated on August 30th.

The Team will be meeting September 27th at 11:00 following worship.

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.

Youth Fellowship will begin on September 13th at 7:00 pm and will meet every other week.

The Team will be meeting September 3rd at 4:30 to plan for the future.

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.

An Ice Cream Social and Memory Share was held on August 29th to kick off the planning. Thanks to all who brought their ideas, photos, and stories.

Girl Scouts

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

WELCA

The Chrismon project on August 22nd was a success, and another event is being planned.

WELCA will be meeting on September 28th at 4:30.

Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

As many of you know, I have been dealing with some health issues in the last several months, the latest, an infection that goes back to my gall bladder surgery earlier this year. This is all new for me! In spite of my previous size, I have been blessed with good health most of my life. I had never spent a night in a hospital until last September. Now I am thinking I should have my name on a hospital room after spending another 5 days in a room. We are blessed, though, to have the medical resources we have available to us. I am in the right place and at the right time. Part of that place is being part of the faith community of Alamance Lutheran Church.

3rd – Daniel Slaughter, Elizabeth Lockley

8th – Jay Milling

9th – Roy Whitehead

12th – Ellie Beard

16th - Carli Patterson

18th – Lela Rhodes

21st – Martha Sink

27th – Susan Shoffner



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.

Serving in September

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
Sep 6	Kathy Youngblood	Kirk Tucker	Elizabeth Lockley	Jerry Combs Jazmin Biscocho	Don Eash Terry Adams	Ted Milling Derrick Dill
Sep 13	Holly Mills	Ted Milling	Holly Mills	Katie Beard Ina Dill	Jerry Combs Kirk Tucker	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith
Sep 20	Marty Adams	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kathy Ritchey	Lynn Tucker Kora Dill	Ina Dill Roy Whitehead	Kirk Tucker John Ritchey
Sep 27	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Holly Mills	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Don Eash Donna Eash	Hugh Smith Aaliyah Dill	Elizabeth Powell John Ritchey 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.