

Alamance Lutheran Church

October 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*

"If we are strong, our character will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be of no help." **John F. Kennedy**, undelivered address Dallas, Texas, November 22nd, 1963

Words From Pastor Rooney: ECCLESIA SEMPER REFORMANDA

I know that it is only the beginning of the month, but one of the things I like about October is that we have the opportunity to commemorate that action by Martin Luther when he posted those 95 Theses on October 31st, 1517, which began that process we call the Reformation.

Now notice I did not say "celebrate" the Reformation, because any division within the body of Christ is sad. And we also do not "celebrate" because some might see this as an opportunity to boast that we are right while those Catholics are wrong. Rather for me, if there is a phrase which best sums up all that this Reformation is about; if there is one slogan which epitomizes this movement called the Reformation, it is the one heading this article "Ecclesia semper reformanda" - "the church is always reforming."

For the Church of Jesus Christ is not a static entity, with no life and no movement! Rather it is a living breathing reality for it is the living, breathing body of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Brought into being by the Holy Spirit and nurtured and sustained by that same Spirit down through the centuries, the Church is nevertheless governed and ruled on a daily basis by humans and therefore is always subject to the sinful and petty ways of humankind which lead it away from its central mission of proclaiming the Gospel. Hence the need for this reminder passed down to us from the blessed reformers "ecclesia semper reformanda" the church is always reforming.

And what does that mean for us at Alamance? Well, with our Ministry Site Profile now complete and the process of interviewing candidates who may feel a call to serve here in its initial stages, there will be an opportunity in the coming months to see where God is leading us and that means that we are called to be open to change, open to the renewing work of the Spirit, open to reforming our congregation, our community, our world. Yes! I know! We are Lutherans and change is hard. We love our traditions, our liturgy, our practices and so much more. But, as I said above, neither the Church nor any congregation, is a static entity but rather a living breathing reality which is the Body of Christ. And any living entity is going to be changed over time - changed as a result of the actions of others; changed by what we do; changed by the reality of change itself. And above all, such change calls for us to set aside that famous Lutheran phrase - what I often jokingly refer to as the seven last words of the Church – “We have always done it this way.”

We do not know what this on-going reforming movement will look like in the life of Alamance Lutheran – perhaps that is one of the wonderful gifts God offer us, surprising us with something new and exciting in the Body of Christ which is always reforming. But as we move into October and the seasons around us change once again, let us pray that we are open to the Spirit in all its manifest ways; that we show a willingness to embrace the changes that may lie before us and that we will be a model of a church which is always reforming until Christ shall come again.

What Do We Profess to Believe?

Our adult Sunday School class has now completed its study of liturgy and is moving onto a study of one of the foundations of our faith as Lutherans, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. Pastor Rooney will begin this study on October 13th.

NOTE: Pastor will be away on 6 October and there will be a supply pastor but NO Sunday school.

Hurricane Helene

As you heard in Church and seen on the news, the impact of Hurricane Helene on the western part of North Carolina and eastern Tennessee has been catastrophic. The storm laid waste to many areas of Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Bishop Tim Smith is asking us to pray for all those affected which we did on the 29th. We need to continue to pray for all the people whose lives have been disrupted by and the loved ones of those lost in this terrible storm. Bishop Tim is also asking individuals and Congregations to provide financial support to the NC Synod’s Disaster Fund, Lutheran Disaster Resources (LDR) Carolinas, and/or Lutheran Disaster Response. We will be collecting your donations over the next few weeks and forwarding them to the Synod where they can do the most

good. Please make your check out to Alamance Lutheran Church and note on the memo line on your check and on envelopes that the donation is for LDR. We know that family members in our congregation have been impacted by the storm and many are anxious to help in many ways. Right now, **money** is the best way we can help.

Call Process

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP)/Call Committee completed and presented the MSP to the Council which approved it with slight modifications at the September 22nd Council meeting. Several members of the Committee were able to meet with the Council and all were congratulated for the good work they had done. The MSP has been submitted to the Synod and approved. It has now been posted on their website of available openings. If any member of the Congregation would like to have a copy of the MSP, reach out to Marty and she will provide you with a copy. The MSP is available to any member of the Congregation who would like to have one. Just ask!

Before we begin interviewing potential pastoral candidates, the next step in the process is to train the committee, including conducting mock interviews, with the assistance of the Synod Staff. Training is anticipated to be complete by mid-October. Following the training, the Call Committee will begin to receive names of potential candidates. **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.

We all need to 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 September 22nd for a long and fruitful meeting. We talked about the financial package we are proposing for the new Pastor. It is similar to the package we would be offering to Pastor Ron if he had continued with us and meets the Synod financial guidelines. We will be adding Family Leave and Sabbatical polices to our financial package for our new Pastor. The financial package will be part of the negotiations with the new Pastor based on their specific needs. For example, age and family size has a significant impact on medical insurance expenses. We are also offering the new Pastor

the use of the Parsonage on a permanent or temporary basis while he/she gets settled into our area. If the new Pastor chooses not to use the Parsonage, we will provide a housing allowance.

Lenise Meeks has been working well as our new Parish Administrator. We will be working with her in the near future to take on more of the bookkeeping responsibilities. We anticipate Kay working with Lenise through the end of the year. We are also looking at how we can consolidate procurement activities under Lenise in the near future. While we want to limit the number of individuals that give Lenise work assignments, if you would like an announcement to be placed in the weekly bulletin, feel free to send her an email to the church mailbox asking for an announcement to be added.

While not discussed at the meeting, it is time to be thinking 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 October 20th. Ted Milling will preside as Kirk will be away.

Finance Team

Financially, we are in decent shape for this time of the year. We are currently slightly over \$8,000 in the hole through the end of August. The improved results have a lot to do with reduced salary expenses this year without a full time Pastor. We will face more financial challenges with the coming year and with a full time Pastor. This will be an opportunity for good stewardship.

Some clarification of restricted endowment funds: The Gilmore Fund has \$740,000 which cannot be touched. Accrued earnings give us \$200,000 which can be used for facility improvements. We hope to make significant accessibility improvements, including a lift from the Parish Hall to the Office/Sunday School room level with these funds. The Black Fund has \$200,000. The Endowment Committee has stated we can spend \$9,000 from this fund in 2024. We have another endowment around \$30,000 which is from restricted stock and can only be accessed when the company that issued the stock allows it to be sold.

Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team will host a Red Cross blood drive on October 11th and a potluck for the Beard family in honor of their formally joining our Church family on November 3rd.

From the Worship and Music Team

We will continue to worship in the Chapel until **Reformation Sunday** which we will celebrate on Sunday, October 27th in the main Church. We will remain in the sanctuary the rest of the year and into our Christmas season.

Our pianos have been tuned and maintenance on the organ has been scheduled.

We will hold three Wednesday Advent simple meal and vespers services December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 11:00pm on December 24th again this year and are asking Matt to find some special music to enhance the service.

Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival

We are in the “reality phase” as the event is on October 26th. Please plan to attend and volunteer to make it the best fall festival yet. Ted has done a great job coordinating the effort this year. He is getting great support from Clare, Donna and Don, Cindy, Lisa, and Sharon. Lots of details need to be covered. The planning group will be meeting the following Wednesdays at 6:00 in the Gathering Room: 9th, 16th, 23rd. Join us! Show the community what a great faith community ALC is.

From Evangelism/Social Ministry

Thanks to everyone who has been donating food for the **Blessing Box**. It is continuing to be put to good use. Pastor Bob Hawkins is keeping an eye on the box and making sure it is stocked. We continue to donate food to the **Dream Center**. We will be collecting Rice in October, **Tuna** in November. Thanks to all of you who are donating food for both the Blessing Box and for the Dream Center.

We continue to help **Allied Churches** with food preparation on the first Wednesday of the month. Craven and Sherry Ford in October. Pastor John and Pastor Bob in November. Lynn and Kirk in December. Lynn Tucker continues to look for volunteers and maintains a schedule.

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet at the Village Grill (580 Huffman Mill Road) on October 10th at 11:30. Please reach out to Katie Whitehead by October 7th to let her know you are coming.

Men's Breakfast and Bible study is being rescheduled from the 5th to the 12th at 8:30am to fit with the cook's schedule.

The new **Church Directory** will be published in October. We will provide hard copies of the new directory for members. Our current website is not robust enough for us to maintain the directory on it.

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!)

In the spirit of building community, Sherry has placed a couple of picnic tables under the tree in the lot south of the Church inspired by her reading of "**The Turquoise Table.**" Ask her about it and what she has in mind. She is waiting for cooler weather.

Next meeting is October 10th at 4:30.

Stewardship Team

When the Bible talks about Stewardship it almost always talks about the intimate connection between how a person handles financial matters and the person's relationship with God. Stewardship is really all about discipleship. The focus of biblical stewardship is not on the congregation's needs at all. Rather, the focus is on the fact that generous giving is one of the basic acts of discipleship.

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help us, God's people, grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to us. Our congregation's stewardship ministry is first and foremost about making and growing disciples. Stewardship isn't just about having a "Stewardship Drive" in the fall. It's about our discipleship and our way of life all year! Our stewardship ministry hopes to encourage and help each member to grow in faith, thanksgiving to God, and discipleship. Thanks Be to God!

We hope to be able to provide a **Financial Planning Seminar**. We are inviting other Congregations to join us. A tentative date is Sunday, November 17th in the afternoon. Please save this date on your calendar. We will provide more details as they become available.

We are also looking to improve how we recognize and acknowledge memorial contributions. Sherry is investigating how other Churches are doing this. Our lack of an administrator for many years has impacted our efforts.

The **“Above and Beyond”** campaign is continuing. Thanks to those of you who have already donated toward the campaign. You may have noticed the new directional signs inside the building. Soon, there will be new signs outside the building. In addition, several kitchen and office items have been bought. While it is important to support various project based fundraising efforts, and we appreciate all your generosity, we still need to support the on-going operations of the Church.

The Team is also looking at **ways we can get to know each other**. This may be in the form of News Notes blurbs. Finding out more about our spiritual gifts? What moves us? We are all members of a faith community. The more we get to know, respect, and even “like” each other, the better and more vibrant our faith community will be. We also need to continue to be a welcoming community for the strangers amongst us.

Next Meeting – October September 13th at 3:00.

Member Spotlight

Thanks to the Stewardship Team and their desire for us all to get to know each other better we are starting this section in our News Notes.

Derrick and Casey Dill are originally from Indiana. They have been married since 2005. Derrick enjoys participating in community theater, playing the guitar, and hiking. Casey enjoys being a Girl Scout Leader, yoga, and painting. They have five children: **Sidney, Asher, Aaliyah, Ina, and Kora**.

Sidney and Asher are heavily involved in Boy Scouts and Order of the Arrow. They both enjoy playing games and hanging out with friends. Sidney enjoys practicing the bass and guitar while Asher prefers the keyboard and guitar.

Aaliyah, Ina, and Kora love being Girl Scouts. Aaliyah enjoys drawing, playing guitar, and sewing. Ina enjoys crocheting, playing the guitar, and reading. Kora is really into fashion, make up, and playing the drums.

They have called the Village of Alamance home since 2013 and are happy to be members of Alamance Lutheran Church.

Our congregation is blessed by the presence of the Dill family and all of our members; we welcome all with open arms!

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.

We will be replacing the roof on the Parsonage and looking at other improvements to ensure it will be “move in” ready for a new Pastor or renters.

We are moving ahead with automatic door openers for the bathrooms on the office level to improve accessibility. While the final location of a lift from the Fellowship Hall level to the office level has not been finalized, we are moving ahead with engineering work and are cautiously optimistic spendable Gilmore Foundation funds will cover the expense of the lift. This major accessibility improvement was thought of as “pie in the sky” not long ago, and now it may become reality in less than a year.

We have concerns to minimize ALC’s liability when our facilities are being used, especially the playground and the ball field. We are happy to share these facilities with our neighbors.

The new countertops and sinks in the bathrooms look great! Thanks again Elizabeth.

There continues to be a lot of energy about more improvements. We need to continue ensuring that we are spending money on the important and necessary things.

Next Meeting October 5th 10:00am.

Youth/Christian Education Team

Ladies Morning Out are continuing on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare and light refreshments are provided. **Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause While Deepening Friendships** for men, women, and young people continues on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. A light supper/snack is provided along with childcare. Each night will be a standalone program so people can join at any time.

Rebecca continues to hold a Sunday school class for children and youth on Sundays at 9:00 am.

The team will be taking on the responsibility to hold our “Live Nativity” again this year. This is an opportunity for all ages.

Things are Happening! Who would have imagined we are where we are less than a year ago!

Next Meeting TBD in October.

Cemetery Team

Ted Milling is working to schedule a meeting to clarify policy and guidelines. Longer term, we need to look for a way to separate the cemetery as a legal entity from the Church such as creating an LLC (limited liability corporation).

“Be the Light” Campaign

Please support this important ministry of Lutheran Services Carolina. If you have any questions about “Be the Light,” please reach out to Kirk Tucker.

Some Other Words from Kirk Tucker

No question there are many good things happening. I am especially pleased with the Ministry Site Profile. Now onto the next phase of the Call Process.

Our “Values” are to be proud of. While we were creating them the question arose about were they for us or for ALC? In my mind they are for each of us, and for ALC. The “Vision” statement is great, and we think you will like our new “Mission” statement too. We had a good time working on these important statements defining who we are, what is

important to us, and what we are going to do. Let's put those values to work now! Act with integrity, be accepting, loving, forgiving not only to others; for ourselves too, providing service by sharing our blessings, and reinforcing our religious beliefs. Best of all let us all be "Beacons of our Christian Faith, love, and compassion...." Even in this time of transition there is a lot of positive energy in our faith community, and it shows.

PRAY! DO NOT BE AFRAID! GOD IS WITH US AND THE SPIRIT IS GUIDING US.

Schedule for October

- October 1st: Ladies Morning Out - 10:30 am
- October 2nd: Allied Churches food prep - 9:00 am. (Sherry and Craven); ALANON - 10:00 am
- October 3rd: Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause while Deepening Friendships - 7:00 pm
- October 5th: Property Meeting - 10:00 am
- October 7th: Let Katie know if you will attend Lunch Bunch on the 10th
- October 8th: Ladies Morning Out - 10:30 am
- October 9th: ALANON - 10:00 am; Fall Festival Meeting – 6:00 pm
- October 10th: Lunch Bunch Village Grill (580 Huffman Mill Rd) – 11:30 am; Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting - 4:30 pm; Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause while Deepening Friendships - 7:00 pm
- October 11th: Red Cross Blood Drive - 1:30 to 6:00 pm
- October 12th: Rescheduled Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am
- October 13th: Adult Bible Study Resumes – 9:00 am; Stewardship Meeting – 3:00 pm
- October 14th: Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day: Remember, the vast majority of us were not here first.
- October 15th: Ladies Morning Out - 10:30 am
- October 16th: ALANON - 10:00 am; Fall Festival Meeting – 6:00 pm
- October 17th: Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause while Deepening Friendships - 7:00 pm
- October 20th: Church Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
- October 22nd: Ladies Morning Out - 10:30 am
- October 23rd: ALANON - 10:00 am; Fall Festival Meeting – 6:00 pm
- October 24th: Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause while Deepening Friendships - 7:00 pm
- October 26th: **Raise Your Spirits Fall Festival** - 11:00 am

- October 27th: **Reformation Sunday** in the Sanctuary. Noisy offering Sunday
- October 29th: Ladies Morning Out - 10:30 am
- October 30th: ALANON - 10:00 am
- October 31st: Opening Fellowship and Taking a Pause while Deepening Friendships - 7:00 pm

Serving in October

	Altar Setup	Communion Setup	Worship Assistant/ Reader	Greeters	Ushers
October 6 Chapel	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Pastor John Weinbach	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Jerry Combs Sherry Ford
October 13 Chapel	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Kathy Ritchey	Jerry and Sally Combs	Pastor Bob Hawkins Ted Milling
October 20 Chapel	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Marty and Terry Adams	Pastor John Weinbach Ted Milling	Hugh Smith Roy Whitehead
October 27 Sanctuary	Rebecca Maness	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Katie and Roy Whitehead	Wanda Patterson Kerry Sullivan	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.