

# Alamance Lutheran Church

## May 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*

*"No Winter lasts forever; no Spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it." Hal Borland "A Promise-April 29" Sundial of the Seasons (1964)*

## Words from Pastor Aaron

I know that I've already had the joy of meeting many of you, but if we haven't yet had the chance, let me take this moment to say: Hello, Alamance Lutheran Church! I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor, and I look forward to all the ministry we will share together. I join a long line of faithful and gifted pastors, and I hope to continue the legacy of nearly 100 years of vibrant ministry in this community.

I imagine some of you may be wondering what my vision is for this place. But before we talk about my vision, I think it's more important that we talk about God's vision for this place, because that's the one that truly matters. At my ordination, my uncle, Rev. David Shreiber, shared some wisdom that continues to

echo in my heart: It's not about us; it's about the God who equips and sends us into ministry together. That truth is at the core of how I hope to lead and serve here.

Our journey together is not about lifting up individual achievements or chasing after personal goals. It's about growing together as a community rooted in Christ, a community that listens, learns, serves, and supports one another. Ministry isn't something I'll be doing *for you* or *on behalf of you*; it's something we are all called into together. God's vision is something we will seek out and live into side by side, trusting that the Spirit is already at work among us.

As we begin this new chapter, I am filled with gratitude and hope. I am committed to walking with you, learning from you, and paying attention together to the ways God is moving through Alamance Lutheran Church. I believe that God is leading us into a future full of possibility: one where we grow deeper in faith, widen our community, and serve our neighbors with courage and joy. It is through God's will and mission that we will continue to become servants for each other. **Amen**

## North Carolina Synod Assembly and ELCA 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 31. Important decisions will be made at the Synod Assembly this year, including electing a new Bishop for the North Carolina Synod.

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.

## Council

The Council will meet again on May 4<sup>th</sup> immediately following the "Because of You" luncheon featuring "Meals on Wheels." We will confirm schedules for upcoming Council Meetings, review the proposal for management of **memorials and honors** from the Stewardship Team, have a conversation about the **Fall Festival**, schedule a leadership planning day, and other business.

## Finance Team

We will be reviewing the March Finance Report at the upcoming meeting. In spite of the recent downturns in the markets, the endowment funds, while experiencing some decline, are still ahead of where they were at the end of '23, and slightly below where they were at the end of '24.

## Hospitality Team

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The next drive is on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The team hosted Midweek Lenten soup suppers and a farewell luncheon for Pastor Rooney. Many thanks to Cindy and Kathy and all the soup volunteers. The men of the church hosted an Easter breakfast. Thanks to Kirk, John, and Ted for their efforts.

A "Because of You" covered dish is scheduled following the service on May 4<sup>th</sup> featuring "Meals on Wheels." The annual Mother's Day Tea is planned for May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Improvements have continued in the kitchen. The dishwasher, donated through the Above and Beyond campaign, is now installed and operational. It sure does make clean up easier!

## Worship and Music Team

Easter Service was great with all the music and decorations. Vicar Aaron hit the ground running! We are still in Easter Season. Pastor Aaron was ordained on April 26<sup>th</sup> in a beautiful service. If you weren't able to attend, you can watch it on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McQAoy3IBME>. His installation will be scheduled soon.

## Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thanks to all of you who are donating food for the **Blessing Box** and the **Dream Center**. The **Blessing Box** continues to see heavy use. We will be collecting **Tuna** in May, **Beans** in June.

We have discontinued our food prep ministry at **Allied Churches** and are looking for other ministries to support.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. We will be buying fried chicken for a nominal charge (\$5 per person). Bring a side to share. Let Katie Whitehead know if you are attending by the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Aaron is already taking steps to reach out to our homebound members with much more to come.

If you haven't looked at our website ([alamancelutheran.org](http://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 have been introduced for the Fellowship Hall door. Current codes have been discontinued. 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 continue. A major concern is the condition of the ramp leading to the Sanctuary. Repairs are expected to cost \$12K. John Ritchey should have the quotes for the lift shaft this month. Pastor Aaron has affirmed improving accessibility as important for ALC.

Parking spaces near the Fellowship Hall door will be designated for visitors. A property use policy is currently being developed.

## 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 that the Stewardship team 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.

A Community Youth Corn Hole Tournament was held on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to Sidney Dill for coordinating this. By all accounts it was a success, and the attendees look forward to future opportunities to compete with Pastor Aaron.

## 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 Kirk Tucker

Exciting times for sure! Although we couldn't attend Pastor Aaron's ordination, we were pleased to see a large number of you did attend demonstrating our support to our new Pastor. As Pastor Aaron shared in his sermon last Sunday (April 27<sup>th</sup>) we need to become comfortable with change, which is easier said than done for all of us. During these times of change, we need to demonstrate our care and support for each other and our community even if we are uncomfortable with change.

## Calling all Quilters!

Macedonia Lutheran is starting a quilting ministry, to create simple 'Mission Quilts' for Lutheran World Relief. In 2024, over 370 thousand LWR quilts were sent to folks in 16 countries, including folks in poor and disaster-affected areas of the United States, to shield against the cold and rain and for warm bedding.

We would love to have Alamance folks join us! We will be meeting every 2 weeks beginning May 7 at 11am at the church (421 W. Front Street). We are also in need of fabric and other quilting supplies. For more information, you can check out the LWR website ([lwr.org/quilts](http://lwr.org/quilts)) or contact Connie Poovey

## Schedule for May

- May 1<sup>st</sup>: Christian Education/Youth Team meeting – 6:00 pm; Choir Practice – 6:30 pm.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - 8:30 am; Hospitality Team - 10:00 am.
- May 4<sup>th</sup>: Adult Bible Study - 9:00 am; Children and Youth Bible Study - 9:00 am; Because of You covered dish for Meals on Wheels - 11:00 am; Council Meeting following covered dish; Let Katie Whitehead know if you will be attending the May 8<sup>th</sup> Lunch Bunch.
- May 5<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group Meeting - 7:00 pm.
- May 6<sup>th</sup>: Women's Bible Study – 10:30 am.
- May 7<sup>th</sup>: ALANON – 10:00 am.
- May 8<sup>th</sup>: Lunch Bunch luncheon in Fellowship Hall – 11:30 am; Evangelism/Social Ministry team meeting - 4:30 pm; Choir Practice - 6:30 pm.
- May 10<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day Tea -12:00 pm.
- May 11<sup>th</sup>: MOTHER'S DAY!!! Adult Bible Study - 9:00 am; Children and Youth Bible Study - 9:00 am

- May 13<sup>th</sup>: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>: ALANON – 10:00 am.
- May 15<sup>th</sup>: Choir Practice - 6:30 pm.
- May 18<sup>th</sup>: Adult Bible Study - 9:00 am; Children and Youth Bible Study - 9:00 am
- May 20<sup>th</sup>: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am.
- May 21<sup>st</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Choir Practice - 6:30 pm; Hand Bell Practice: 7:45 pm.
- May 24<sup>th</sup>: Girl Scouts - 9:00 am.
- May 25<sup>th</sup>: Adult Bible Study - 9:00 am; Children and Youth Bible Study - 9:00 am; Noisy Offering Sunday - 10:00 am.
- May 27<sup>th</sup>: Women's Bible Study - 10:30 am.
- May 28<sup>th</sup>: ALANON - 10:00 am;
- May 29<sup>th</sup>: Hand Bell Practice – 7:45 pm.
- May 29<sup>th</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>: North Carolina Synod Assembly Koury Center Greensboro.
- June 1<sup>st</sup>: Adult Bible Study - 9:00 am; Children and Youth Bible Study - 9:00 am

## Serving in May

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers
<b>May 4</b>	Marty Adams	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Katie and Roy Whitehead	Elizabeth Powell Don Eash
<b>May 11</b>	Marty Adams	Lela Rhodes	Bob Hawkins	Sidney Dill Sharon Isley	Terry Adams Jaxon Richards
<b>May 18</b>	Marty Adams	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Jerry Combs Kerry Sullivan	Hugh Smith Roy Whitehead
<b>May 25</b>	Marty Adams	Dale Thompson	Kathy Ritchey	Katie Beard Sandy Kirkpatrick	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.*