

Alamance Lutheran Church

June 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*

"A great deal may be done by severity, more by love, but most by clear discernment and impartial justice."

Goethe, quoted in Johann Peter Eckermann's *Conversations with Goethe*, March 22, 1825

Prayers

We pray for our Graduates as they move into new phases in their lives. We pray for Pastor Aaron as he continues his training to become a Chaplain in the Army National Guard. We **continue to pray** for the poor and underprivileged. With continued increases in prices of food and fuel, and lower government support. There are many in our community who are facing financial challenges. We pray for those in need and for our governments at all levels to remember their responsibilities to care for the poor and less fortunate. We **continue to pray for peace**, especially in the **Middle East and Iran**. Last but not least, we pray for the family of our departed member Bob Hentze as they deal with their loss.

Words from Pastor Mark

Members and friends of Alamance Lutheran,

It is a joy to be your interim pastor for the summer while Pastor Aaron is away to National Guard training. We will be keeping him and his family in our prayers this summer.

Over the next week or two we will be in full summer mode where church attendance and activities will slow down. This happens as people travel more in the summer and outdoor/week-end activities become more common. It is great to take vacations to relax, renew and recreate in God's creation. Beaches and Mountains are proximal to Alamance. Families are open to visits and shared times in distant places as well. While being retired allows one to travel year-round, the folks/loved ones may be more available during these summer months. All of this is to say, "Enjoy this summer to the fullest." We believe in a God of bountiful love and grace. If you have the opportunity to take a break, please do.

With that being said, your absence does impact us here at Alamance Lutheran. Fewer people means fewer people lifting their voices in singing the hymns of the church or being able to see and love those other members we see every week in worship. It can also mean a time of reduced financial support. Please know that church bills continue through the summer.

If you are in town, I invite you to make worship on Sunday at Alamance Lutheran a priority for your life. Invite your visitors or guests to join you. It can serve as a marker for your week that this day is different from all the rest as you give of yourself to the worshipping community. Let this be a place and time for you to help feed others as you are fed with Christ's body and word.

I look forward to hearing of your travels and greeting any visitors who join us this summer. Come and worship.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mark Coulter

Interim Pastor of Alamance Lutheran Church

An Update from Pastor Aaron

Beloved people of Alamance Lutheran,

My time at Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course (CHBOLC) has been wonderful so far. Myself and 74 other individuals showed up to the "schoolhouse" on May 12th where we began our in-processing. There is not much for me to highlight from this particular part of the training other than getting yelled at by Drill Sergeants and the teaching cadre from the course. Some of you may have even seen the photo of me posted on the school's main Facebook page from the first day.

I was put into 1st Platoon of the 2026-002 CHBOLC class. My platoon leader (Small group leader, or SGL) is Chaplain (Maj.) Staten. I am with 25 other soldiers; some prior service like myself and some brand new to the Army. We are associated with our SGL's prior division, so I am temporarily associated with the 25th Infantry Division which is stationed in Hawaii, and it is why we take a picture with their emblem, motto, and division flag in the photos to come. There is one other chaplain candidate from the state of North Carolina with me, her name is Shauna Taylor. Otherwise, we have people from all over the United States and even other countries with us. There are two Jewish Rabbi's and one Muslim Imam with us as well.

Most of our days start out by doing physical training (PT) around 5:30 am each morning followed by breakfast and then coursework in army skills and training. After classes and lunch, we will often wrap up our day around 6:00 pm each day. The most interesting class we have had so far was about the Laws of Armed Conflict. As a special advisor to commanders, it is part of my duty

to understand the rules and laws that the Army must abide by during times of conflict. We have also touched on the topics of suicide prevention, future warfare, and basic soldier skills.

Our CHBOLC experience is broken into 4 different phases, and we are nearing the end of the first section, the Direct Commission Course (DCC). I have passed nearly all of the required training from land navigation to most recently the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear defense (CBRN) course. CBRN is often called the gas chamber in which tear gas is concentrated and soldiers enter with a filtering mask before taking it off and having our sinus cleared out for the next few weeks. I still need to complete a 2.5 mile walk with 35 pounds in a large bag called a rucksack. I look forward to moving to the next phase and updating you all again soon. Also, I have had a total of 5 meals ready to eat (MRE), all of which taste the exact same.

Peace and Blessing,
Pr. Aaron Spangler

Council

The Council met on May 31st. Pastor Mark shared that he is enjoying his time with at ALC despite a couple of early surprises (like a spam supposedly from him asking you for gift cards). Pastor Mark will be on a long planned for vacation for two weeks in July. He will ensure we have supply coverage when he is away.

The Council supported a recommendation from the Memorials/Honors team to accept a donation of a memorial bench.

Council also approved a request from the Property Team for funds to repair one of our air conditioning units. **Council requests all teams to seek approval from Council for any expenditure of \$500 or more even if it is in the team's budget.** A request does not need to wait for a scheduled Council meeting. Reach out to Kirk, Marty, or John, and one of us will contact Council members for their approval.

The next Council meeting will be June 28th at 1:30 in the Parlor.

Finance Team

Income in April was \$11,294, expenses \$18,486. Year to date through March we have \$49,971 income, \$78,846 expense - **a \$28,875 deficit**. Slightly better performance than in March, but still behind last year.

The Finance Team is also preparing an Audit for 2025. We are seeking members who will serve on the audit team. See Ted Milling if you are interested and willing to serve.

Hospitality Team

Another Red Cross Blood drive will be held on June 12th starting at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up online. Thank you to Chris Turner who has stepped up to be our new Blood Drive Coordinator.

The Hospitality Team organized the covered dish reception for Matt Swain on May 17th, Matt's last day as our Director of Music. The Hospitality Team also provided and set up light refreshments for family and guests attending Bob Hentze's memorial service.

A kitchen clean-up and reorganization day was held on May 30th.

Thanks for all the hard work.

Worship and Music Team

Finding guest organists/pianists until we find the next Director of Music is a challenge. We pray that God is with us as we face this challenge. Some are saying "it is harder to find an Organist than it is to find a Pastor." We are looking for more than just an Organist or Pianist. Lenise is beating the bushes to find supply pianists/organists to cover our upcoming Sunday services. **If you would like to be involved in interviewing or participating in an audition for our new Director of Music, please reach out to Kirk.** We have a couple of potential candidates that have expressed some interest. Early days though!

The acoustic band, led by Joel and Ruthie, is a great resource, and provided a great service on May 31st.

The Hand Bell Clinic was a tremendous success. Ruthie was pleased, as were the attendees. The Hand Bell performance on the 24th was praised by many.

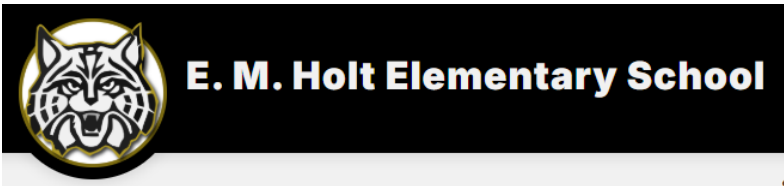
Open Chapel will continue Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 in the Chapel even when Pastor Aaron is away.

Evangelism/Social Ministry Team

Thank you for donating food to the **Blessing Box**. We hope to see increased donations for The Blessing Box, which continues to see heavy use, especially now. Feeding people is an important part of who we are. 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. The donation basket will be placed in front of the altar, where both the offerings and the ministry will receive a blessing.

We are planning a "Blessing Bag" event for September 13th in support of the ELCA's "God's Work; Our Hands" Day in conjunction with our Girl Scout Troop. Our goal is to complete and provide 150 bags. We will provide bags and menus during the month of August and are asking

for people to take and fill the bags. A more detailed schedule will be provided. We may plan to do this more often depending on the support from the Congregation and Community.



We provided donuts, coffee, and juice for the faculty and staff of E.M. Holt Elementary School on May 7th during Teacher Appreciation Week. The Girls Scouts provided a great sign for the table.

The staff at E.M. Holt appreciated all our efforts. We anticipate providing another staff recognition in the fall as school resumes.

Evangelism: 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.

We are having tee shirts printed with the “Lutheran Rose” on the back and “Alamance Lutheran Church” on the front. See Sherry if you would like to order one or more. We already have more than enough orders to start.

The Evangelism/Social Ministry Team will be providing breakfast for our Girl Scout Troop on June 20th prior to their final meeting of the year and awards ceremony. **We are looking for volunteers willing to help.**

Although a number of questions need to be answered, the Council approved a request from the team to explore using the Fellowship Hall as a “cooling station” during heat advisories. This is a way to serve community members that do not have air conditioning.

The **Lunch Bunch** will be meeting at Carvers (3352 South Church Street) on June 11th, at 11:30. Let Katie Whitehead know if you can attend. Come and join us!

The team will be meeting on June 11th at 4:30 (our normal meeting day).

Property Team

The team is continuing to explore options to finish the accessibility project by providing a lift/ramp from the Sanctuary to the office/classroom level. This is a priority for the coming year.

Thank everyone who voted for the color for painting the Sanctuary. The contractor did a great job repairing the plaster. I know for some folks it's too plain. The contractor has provided a quote for repainting the trim that is good for a year.

A number of projects are underway and being considered. Improvements to the Scout Hut are continuing. One of the air conditioning units in the basement was repaired. Improvements on the ballfield and concession stand are underway. We are also screening in and making improvements to the Parsonage porch. Council approved up to \$2,000 to make these improvements.

Elizabeth is donating a playground set for the playground which you should see soon.

The Property Team asked for guidance from the Council on donated items to the Church. **Do not donate any well-meaning gifts to the Church without getting approval from the affected Ministry Team or the Council.**

The next meeting is June 8th at 6:00pm

Stewardship Team

Ted Milling is leading the team. A stewardship campaign is being planned for the fall.

The Memorial Committee met recently and has made a recommendation to Council for a bench which the Council approved. Going forward, we need to ensure memorial donations meet approved standards which need to be developed.

The next Stewardship Team meeting will be on June 20th at 11:00 am in the Parlor.

Youth/Christian Education Team

Youth Movie night is planned for June 20th. We are looking for donations to purchase concession items that will be sold. Proceeds will fund Youth Programs.

We plan to attend a Sock Puppets baseball game on Tuesday, July 14th. See Rebecca for details. Tickets are \$21.00 and need to be purchased by July 1st. **Donations for scholarships for the game are also welcome.** Cost includes tickets to the game, food, and beverages. Our seats will be in a shaded area near the dugout.

Youth Sunday School classes are over for the year. We offered three different Sunday School Classes for children and youth. With new participants and ages, we need to consider restructuring classes for the coming year. **We continue to look for volunteer teachers and assistants.**

Online registration for Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 15th to the 17th from 5:00 to 7:30, with dinner provided, is now available. A world hunger themed curriculum has been

obtained from the Synod. It is intergenerational with our youth helping to lead the Bible Study, Games, and Songs. Please come and support our youth!

Adult classes are held in the Parlor every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are currently using an Augsburg study of the Book of Romans.

Women's Bible study continues Tuesday mornings. Men's breakfast and Bible Study continue the first Saturdays. We are always looking for more men to come and join the Men's Breakfast and Bible study.

The next Team meeting is June 4th at 4:00pm.

WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) is a gathering for service, study, advocacy, and fellowship. We embrace all kinds of ministries to mobilize women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ. All women are welcome, and any service ideas are appreciated. WELCA meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 4:30, although they will not be meeting over the summer.

A Chrismon construction gathering to learn to make decorations for our Church Christmas tree will be held on August 22nd from 10 to 4. Chrismons are ornaments representing Jesus Christ aspects of our faith. A slight cost to defray cost of materials is anticipated.

Words from the Council Vice President, Kirk Tucker

Do you ever think about all the folks it takes to keep our faith community and facilities open so we can come and worship on a Sunday morning? We have our paid staff - the Pastor, our Admin/bookkeeper, and hopefully, a Director of Music in the not-too-distant future. We are fortunate we can afford someone to clean our facilities and take care of the grounds. Then there are all of the volunteers: teachers, technologists, altar and communion preparation, counters, ushers, greeters, readers, worship assistants, Council members, choir members, team leaders, and team members. Someone that makes sure the doors are open and then locked. I am sure I am missing some; the important thing to remember is this doesn't all just happen. It takes people dedicated to our Faith Community to keep our Faith Community vibrant and alive every week throughout the year.

10th – Don Eash
13th - Kaia Johnson
14th – Donna Morrison
20th – Casey Dill
26th – Ella Powell



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!

Serving in June

	Communion Setup	Reader	Assisting Minister	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
June 7	Lynn Tucker	Terry Adams	Marty Adams	Peg Heffernan Sandy Kirkpatrick	Elizabeth Powell Hugh Smith	Derrick Dill Ted Milling
June 14	Kathy Youngblood	Pastor Bob Hawkins	Kathy Ritchey	Roy and Katie Whitehead	Aaliyah Dill Ted Milling	Elizabeth Powell John Ritchey
June 21	Sandy Kirkpatrick	Lynn Tucker	Kirk Tucker	Sidney Dill Kerry Sullivan	Roy Whitehead Ina Dill	Hugh Smith Kirk Tucker
June 28	Marty Adams	Ted Milling	Elizabeth Lockley	Kirk and Lynn Tucker	Don Eash Kirk Tucker	Derrick Dill Ted Milling Elizabeth Powell

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.