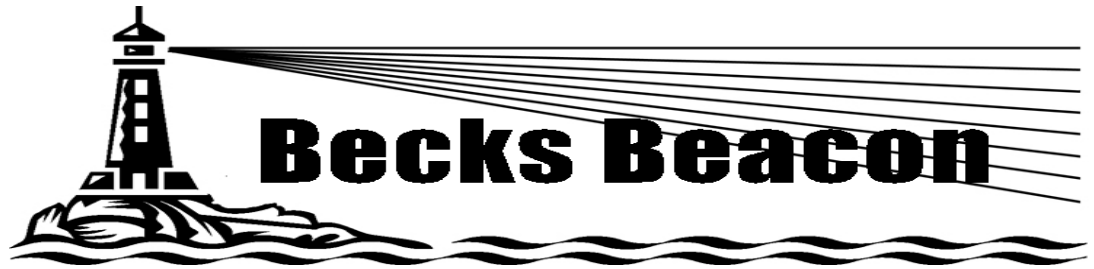


July
2025



Up until a few years ago, I used to ride my bike on a twelve-mile loop on local roads in Gibsonville. This was before I started riding mountain bike trails. That old road-bike route was a great but difficult ride, including some really tough hills, one with dogs on it that would chase me every time. I actually ended up adding to my route because it wasn't taking me an hour to finish, and my goal was to hit at least an hour of exercise most days.

Most of my rides were uneventful. Oh, I'd stop to help a turtle across the road or, using a stick, try to get a snake to move on so it wouldn't get run over, but mostly the ride wasn't adventurous. One day, though, about half-way through the ride, my brakes came loose. I didn't get thrown off my bike, but the breaks were unusable, so the bike was not rideable. I did the only thing I could think of to do: I picked up my bike, laid it across my shoulders and started walking the six miles back. After just a little ways, a car stopped. The driver was pulling an empty trailer, and asked if I needed a ride.

I thought for a second. And then I replied, "Thanks, but I came out here for

exercise. Well, I'm getting exercise!" And I walked the rest of the way back. Sometimes things don't work out the way we expect, but we still get what we need. I got more than my hour of exercise in, after all.

To me, this is a metaphor for the situation we find ourselves in today. We're here to do a mission, to follow the teachings of Jesus; we're here to love, to serve, and to share the good news. As we look ahead, we see times changing for churches in the US. The shape of our work may change, but our mission won't. We may go out for a bike-ride that turns into a walk instead. We still exist to follow our call, our mission, but the way we do that will continue to change.

We talked at Pentecost about how the Greek and Hebrew words we translate as "spirit" are indistinguishable from the words for "wind" and "breath". We talked about how the wind of Spirit is blowing us and powering us and moving us. And those winds continue to blow. None of us know yet where they will blow us or what shape the future will take, but we came out to follow Jesus' mission and that's what we're going to do, whatever form it may take. So keep at it. Keep going. Follow the call to love and serve, in whatever manner becomes available to you.

Peace,
Pastor Chris



**Becks Evangelical
Lutheran Church, ELCA**
441 Becks Church Road
Lexington, NC 27292
(336) 249-2056

The Rev. Chris Johnson

Visit us on the web:
www.beckslutheranchurch.org
The Rev. David K. Huddle, Pastor Emeritus



Monthly Stewardship

Needed for the month of June — Budget	\$16,41.00
June 1, 2025 —Budget —Facility Reserve	\$6,037.00 \$60.00
June 8, 2025 —Budget —Facility Reserve	\$980.00 \$110.00
June 15, 2025 —Budget —Facility Reserve	\$2,254.00 \$20.00
June 22, 2025 —Budget —Facility Reserve	\$2,140.00 \$20.00
June 29, 2025 —Budget —Facility Reserve	\$2,897.00 \$200.00
Received for June —Budget —Facility Reserve	\$14,308.00 \$410.00



<i>Kevin Gallimore</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Jackie Helton</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Shirley Jones</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Shelly Aldridge</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Artie Helton</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Hunter Cole</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Greyson Myers</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Carleigh Ward</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>David Aldridge</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Nathan Gallimore</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Charlee Blankenship</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Robbie Harrison</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Lucas Alley</i>	<i>30</i>



**Summer
Stewardship**

*As you begin making
your summer
vacation plans, please
remember
that the work of the
church continues
year-round.*

*Please prayerfully
consider
maintaining your
contributions to the
church.*

**Blood
DRIVE**

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

2:00 PM — 6:30 PM

**Register online at
www.redcrossblood.org**



**Becks Lutheran Church Council
Stated Meeting — April 27, 2025
Huddle Classroom**

Members Present: Buford Blankenship – President, Micky Beck - Vice President, Selina Everhart, Pastor Chris Johnson, Artie Helton, Kent Beck, Donna Myers

Members Absent: Eva Cushman-Secretary, excused

President, Buford Blankenship called the meeting to order.

No guests were present.

Micky began the meeting with the devotions.

Donna made a motion to approve the April 27, 2025, minutes, seconded by Micky and approved by all.

No Closed Session.

Reports:

Finance: Report attached – For the month of April 2025, we were \$1,992.55 to the good. All expenses were as expected. Offerings were up for the second straight month; this is also including the catch-up offerings during Easter. For our year to date there is a loss of \$3,217.38. Bank account balances General Fund \$40,194.9, Facility Reserve \$49,033.75, Non-Budget \$68,114.53, and Edward Jones \$103,892.89.

Membership and Outreach Team: No Report. We no longer have a team for this.

Pastor Chris report: Report attached – Since last Council meeting led 4 Sunday services, attended 3 text studies, Council Meeting, Worship Board informally. Visits including phone calls, shut-ins, hospital/nursing

home visits (61 as of 5/21/25). The average worship attendance for April was 53. Sunday school class met on May 4, 2025, with 14 attending and May 18, 2025, with 13. Bible Study met on May 7, 2025, with 4 in attendance. Bin placed outside sanctuary for Pastor's Pantry collection.

Property Team: All emergency lights in the old and new basement have been replaced or repaired. The front doors are getting closer to completion. Rear doors at the ramp will be painted by the following weekend.

Service and Fellowship Team: No Report.

Stewardship Team: Thanks to all who helped with the catch-up offerings. We have not met budget, but we have successfully paid all expenses.

Worship Team: June 1, 2025, Senior Sunday.

Discretionary Fund: In \$0.00 and out \$200.00, balance on hand \$3,806.58 as of April 30, 2025.

Upcoming Events/Reservations:

- June 29, 2025, Selina Everhart 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- July 12, 13, 25, and 26, 2025, Chase Blankenship

New Business:

- Pilgrim Lutheran Church is going to try to remain open for now.
- We are now the "canned pasta" church for Pastor's Pantry for the next few months. Please continue to donate if you are able.
- Front door dedication on June 30, 2025. Council will provide heavy finger food.
- Scholarship and Bible presentation to Alyssa Everhart scheduled for June 1, 2025.
- Bible study will resume the first Wednesday in September.
- Adult Sunday school will resume in September.
- Vacation Bible School discussion of program and activities.
- Continue parking in front of the building if possible.

The next Council meeting will be on June 22, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the office complex.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eva Cushman, Secretary



Wedding

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



**Congratulations to
Mr. and Mrs. Lucas and Madison Alley**

**We wish them much joy and happiness
in their marriage!**



**NC Lutheran Synod
Bishop-Elect
The Rev. Emily Hartner**

What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop?

I bring the following:

- A faith shaped by this synod and, as a result, a solid grasp of and love for the unique perspective of our Lutheran theology.
- A sense of deep gratitude for the church.
- Experience in all three expressions of the ELCA—congregational pastor, NC Synod Council, and ELCA Church Council.
- A clear pastoral identity and also respect for constitutions, budgets, policies, and procedures believing that, when developed with care and attention, they allow us to do our best work.
- Experience of having served in a mission redevelopment site and in congregations of varying sizes.
- Compassion, theological astuteness, approachability, and vulnerability.
- Concern for those who live on the margins and a commitment to the work involved in being an inclusive, welcoming, and antiracist church.
- A pattern of self-care that involves consistent exercise, time with my family, a talented therapist, and doing something “just for fun” (tap dancing!).

What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six years, and how would you address it?

As a member of the ELCA Church Council, I have tracked the decline in membership and resources in the church for the past six years. We must address this reality by: 1) the grief process, and 2) functioning as authentically as possible in light of God's abundance. For our synod, authenticity involves leaning in to a greater sense of collaboration that crosses boundaries between rostered and lay leaders, large and small congregations, ecumenical partners, and among neighboring congregations. As the NC Synod, WE are one another's gifts: one church, one mission, many (SO many!) gifts. Of course, the pattern of decline signifies greater issues within the church and society, including our reticence to share the gospel. I dream about a synod where we are not afraid to proclaim the gospel loudly. It will take continued education, training, and practice to make this message as relevant to our wider culture as it feels to those of us within the church. The moment is now!

Describe your leadership style.

Through various leadership training courses and my own self reflection, I've come to understand that I naturally lead democratically, intentionally, consistently, conscientiously, and patiently—with prayer and seeking guidance and wisdom from others. I appreciate differing opinions and generally seek consensus, trusting that wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit among those gathered. While my natural tendency is to seek harmony and peace, I can also be decisive when the situation calls for it. I tend to follow the wise advice of a beloved professor: leading through change requires the pastor to both love and teach. I love the people I serve and by also teaching them, I challenge them to be the best versions of themselves, disciples transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

VBS 2025 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



**Sunday, July 27 -
Tuesday, July 29,
2025**

**5:30 - 8:00 pm at
Grace Church
419 S. Main Street,
Lexington, NC**



Supper served at
5:30pm

**Grace Episcopal Church, First Lutheran and Becks Lutheran
Church are excited to present Vacation Bible School**

Follow Fin the Friendly Fish as we learn that Jesus Knows Me

- Fin reminds us that God sees us, loves us and knows our name!

Jesus Calls Me

- Just like fishers cast their nets, Jesus calls us to follow Him!

Jesus Changes Me

- Zaccheaus changed, and we can too when we follow Jesus!

This year, we're excited to use the Messy Church curriculum—a family-oriented program where all ages (K-Adult) can participate together. We also have a preschool area for 3-4-year-olds.

Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and
friends for a fun and meaningful experience!

Register Here <https://bit.ly/VBSFin2025> or scan QR Code



Lector Schedule July/August



JULY
6 Kent Beck
13 Kent Beck
20 Shane Young
27

AUGUST
3
10
17
24
31

**Volunteers
Needed.**



Looking Ahead for Church Council

Though it may seem to be quite early, it is never too soon to begin thinking about nominees for Council. If you would be willing to serve on Council, or may know of someone you'd like to nominate, please contact a current Council member; Buford Blankenship, President; or Pr. Chris Johnson.



The Blessing Bags Project

Blessing Bags have been packed and are available for pick-up in the hallway just beyond the mailboxes.

We invite you to take a bag to give to someone you may encounter who is less fortunate.



A new opportunity for ministry!



We are collecting **canned pasta** (ravioli, SpaghettiOs etc.) for Pastor's Pantry. Please bring your donations each week. Pastor's Pantry has suggested this as our target item moving forward for the next few months.

We wish you all a safe and happy 4th of July!

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025.