



## Allegheny Evangelical

### Lutheran Church

1327 Alleghenyville Rd.

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610-777-2520

[www.aelc.org](http://www.aelc.org)

### Church Staff

#### Pastor

The Rev. Zach Labagh

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610-777-2520

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#### Sexton

Jean Jones

#### Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Charles Charles

# AELC News

News from and around  
Allegheny Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



## MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

*“Come, to know the love of God: Go, to make it known.”*

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and our Risen Savior Jesus. Alleluia!! From the pain and suffering of the cross through the tomb, Jesus went through it all for our sake. Jesus' sacrificial action restores our relationship with God who created us. God has sought from the beginning a deeper relationship with us and reinvigorated it by Jesus' actions. The question we can now ask ourselves is NOW WHAT are we going to do with that gift of grace? Is this Easter season different? Have we learned anything new, experienced something special that transforms us? Do the actions of Jesus from the Last Supper through to the resurrection impact us so deeply that we are moved to something different? Do we expect that something different to come without effort on our part? Do we wait to have Jesus fully impact us rather than responding as we are able to the call of Jesus to be active in our faith in the world?



*Do we seek to go beyond what we 'know' to what God offers as a new reality?*

#### The Celtic Christian Tradition

People speak of hope as if it is this delicate, ephemeral thing made of whispers and spider's webs. It's not. Hope has dirt on her face, blood on her knuckles, the grit of the cobblestones in her hair, and just spat out a tooth as she rises for another go.

-Matthew  
@CrowsFault



Do we offer hope to others? Knowing that our

hope is grounded deeply in God who shows his love not in far off ways but through blood, sweat, and tears, of the cross and tomb, yet rises triumphant on

Easter morn to show us what Hope truly looks like? Are we able to engage in the world differently? I believe we are. I believe we can be stronger together, because of our diversity, because of our differences of opinion. I believe we are able to walk in the light of the resurrection more fully by celebrating in the joy of being the church today. Living into the resurrection we can see the power of God not in pain and anguish of others, but in the hope that God has for all humanity. That hope that guides us into this season of Easter that pushes us out of our comfort zone, that empowers us to speak faithfully to each other and to the world. We have a great cloud of witnesses from our ancestors to those of the first disciples, who spoke out in hope about their faith in God who saves through love put into action. Let us put our Love of God into action this Easter season and beyond. Through our action together may we live into hope and proclaim the joy of the season "Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia Amen!!!!"

Peace in the Risen Christ,

*Pastor Zach*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
GOVERNOR MIFFLIN MUSICIANS  
WHO RECEIVED A MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE  
READING MUSICAL FOUNDATION!**

**Trevor Knosp, Trumpet**

Governor Mifflin Intermediate, Grade 5  
Thomas W. & Edna Garrett Balkcom Brass  
Scholarship, Second Place

**Anya Medianick, Piano**

Governor Mifflin MS, Grade 7  
Robert Kreitz - Mark Hornberger Piano  
Scholarship Fund (Gr. 7-8), Second Place (tie)

**Nadia Medianick, Piano**

Governor Mifflin HS, Grade 9  
Runyeon Piano Fund (Performance Award),  
Second Place

**Caitlin Paige, Voice**

Governor Mifflin MS, Grade 8  
Holly Altenderfer - Nancy Voigt MS Vocal  
Scholarship, Award Recipient

**Jillian Rosenbaum, Violin**

Governor Mifflin HS, Grade 10  
Katherine N. Quartner - Rita Quartner Herman  
String Scholarship (Gr. 10-12), Honorable  
Mention

**Lydia Sobowiak, Piano**

Brecknock Elementary, Grade 1  
Thomas W. & Marion Christman Balkcom Piano  
Scholarship (Gr. 1-3), Honorable Mention

**Rachel Sobkowiak, Piano**

Governor Mifflin HS, Grade 9  
Bruce P. Bengtson Keyboard Scholarship  
(Grade 9), Honorable Mention

**Tedd Stabolepszy, Bassoon**

Governor Mifflin HS, Grade 12  
David Bilger Woodwind Fund, Second Place

**Kyle Wodehouse, Cello**

Governor Mifflin HS, Grade 11  
Peter J. Brye Cello/Harp Fund (Grades 10-  
11), Cello Award Recipient

**Kurtis Zirkel, Piano**

Brecknock Elementary, Grade 3  
Thomas W. & Marion Christman Balkcom  
Piano Scholarship (Grades 1-3), First Place

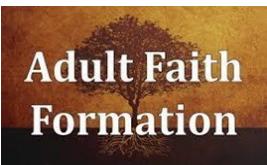
## Sr. High Faith Formation

We meet again at 9:30 on **May 1** and **May 15** in the Sr High room (upstairs - if you go up the staircase across from CAT Class it is the first room on the left). We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please contact Janine Labagh or Allison Eshleman.

**May 1**—Thrivent

**May 8**—discussion

**May 15**—Pastor Zach and Joe Hickson will be leading Adult Faith Formation discussing “Looking Forward” and how the council and staff are planning for our future. Please come and join us for an exciting discussion



### Mission Trip Update

Join us for our At Home Mission Trip **June 20–23**! Spend the week with us, Building Stronger Together, as we serve our community and come together for fun! We can't wait to have you join us! Included in our Mission Trip is our Mini Mission Trip for rising 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to take place June 21-22. Registration fee for the At Home Mission Trip is \$25.00 and \$10.00 for the Mini Mission Trip, with financial aid available. Registration forms are now available in the lobby or contact Kristen!



# Youth & Mission



Our final Youth Group for the year will take place on Sunday, **May 22**! Join us for fun, community, and a little bit of clean up at Boehringer's Drive in!

## INTERWOVEN



Join us for our next Interwoven on Sunday, **May 15**! We will meet for a picnic at the conclusion of church and join Tammy Taylor for some nature clean up!



Do you know what a cupper is? How about an agronomist? If you don't, and you want to find out, follow this link <https://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/women-in-coffee> to the Equal Exchange website to learn what Equal Exchange is doing to insure equality amongst their women employees.

Of course, researching this new information will definitely make you thirsty for a cup of coffee, and guess what? We've got plenty of delicious coffee varieties at the Fair Trade stand. And a few snack choices to enjoy as well. Be sure to stop by to restock a tried and true favorite, or to try something new. If you have any questions about any of the products we carry, please be sure to ask one of us. We'd be happy to help!

As always, thank you for your continued support,  
Janine and Connie

## God Bless Our Graduates!

Celebrating your achievement (high school, college, or advanced degree) on Graduate Sunday, **June 5** at the 9:30 am service.



Please contact Kristen Kelly to let her know where you are graduating from and what college you will be attending, also what your major or degree is.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Lay Readers have a choice of either pre-recording the readings or providing the readings in person, onsite. Please use the link below to sign up for the reading you wish to do and make your choice of presentation – pre-recorded or onsite. Or you can contact Gaye Dougherty at [gayedougherty@gmail.com](mailto:gayedougherty@gmail.com) or 610-507-4562 or contact Dee Constable at [office@aelc.org](mailto:office@aelc.org), 610-777-2520.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45ABAD2EA1F58-worship>



## World Hunger Auction

**Our World Hunger Auction will be taking place on Saturday, May 21!**

Included this year will be a spaghetti dinner! Tickets will be sold for \$10 a ticket. Presale for the spaghetti dinner is happening now! You can contact Kristen. Tickets will also be available at the door. Join us on May 21 for a night of community, fun, and a little competition and help us raise money to feed our community and beyond!



### Featured World Hunger Auction Item

A week at this beautiful cottage in Fair Haven, New York! This cottage sleeps up to 8 individuals, is two and a half hours to Niagara Falls and Thousand Island or head an hour to the Finger Lakes Region.

We are still looking for donations for our World Hunger Event. We are looking for baskets to include in our raffle opportunities as well as larger items for our silent auction. If you are willing or interested in donating in any way, please contact Kristen Kelly at [youthd@aelc.org](mailto:youthd@aelc.org). Get creative! If you have a talent you'd like to donate (such as baking a cake, or offering your babysitting services) we'd love to showcase and auction those off as well!



## Volunteers Needed!



**Volunteer and Donations needed!** We are looking for volunteers to help **set up tables and displays** for our World Hunger Auction on the evening of **Friday, May 20**.

We are also looking for donations of items for our Spaghetti dinner and dessert. If you are interested or willing to help set up or donate items for the dinner, please sign up in the lobby or contact Kristen Kelly at [youthd@aelc.org](mailto:youthd@aelc.org).

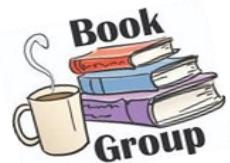


## AELC Book Club

Our final book for the year will be "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri. Our reading schedule will be:

**May 5** at 6:30pm: Pgs. 3-158

**May 19** at 6:30pm: Pgs. 159-307



### Women's Group

Women's Group will resume **Tuesday, May 24**. Women's Group set up however is changing. A Google Docs sign up sheet now exists. Women are invited to sign up to host a month and prepare the activity or topic for the month. Kristen will be available to assist with communications, announcements, and sign up sheets. If a month does not have a sign up, Women's Group will not happen that month.

The adults in the John Paul II Center program have been visiting our facility since March, they come on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a few hours to be out in the community. It is a joy to have them sharing in our facility. They bring such energy and life during the week. They are always looking for ways to connect with others and to help. If you have ideas please contact the office to share.

### FOLLOW US!

Our youth have their own Instagram page. Follow us to see all the great things we do - such as Mission Trips, Interwoven, CAT class and more! Our handle is @aelc\_youth! Check out all the amazing things we are doing through our faith!



A big **THANK YOU** to the John Paul II Center for making cookies for the staff and members of AELC...so delicious!!

# Faith FORMATION

**Thank you** for your generosity in supplying us with all the candy donations for our Easter Egg Hunt!! Faith Formation classes have been very busy learning all about our upcoming Easter holiday. Along with learning, we also played games, such as pin the blanket on the donkey, memory verse detective with palms. We also made bread for Maundy Thursday.

**Here are some important dates to mark on your calendar:**

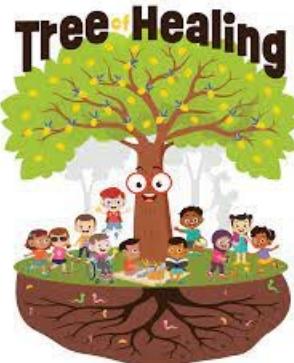
### Muffins with Mom

We will also be enjoying Muffins with Mom. Come and celebrate with us on Mother's Day morning (**May 8**) from 8:30am - 9:00am in the cafe. Juice, coffee and muffins will be served for all Faith Formation children and their special woman in their life. Please reserve your spot so we have enough goodies for everyone attending. Email: [Annmarie@AELC.org](mailto:Annmarie@AELC.org)



### Last Day of Faith Formation

Last day of Faith Formation will be held on **May 15**. We will be having some fun celebrating with F.R.O.G's. "Fully rely on God". We will be having lots of fun with games, decorating cookies, and receiving our awards for participation.



### Vacation Bible School

Join us this summer **August 8 to 12** for "Tree of Healing". From 6:00pm to 8:00pm we will be focusing on ELCA World Hunger Programs. This is a chance for children to consider what health means and how God invites us to share in the building of a just world where all can enjoy the gifts of God's creations. We will include music, creative crafts, fun games, Bible stories, and yummy snacks. Each child will receive a t-shirt and registration is free. Registration forms can be found on the children's bulletin board. Please send in your registration to the church office or drop off the registration in the box in our church office.

