



**Allegheny Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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# AELC News

News from and around  
Allegheny Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



## AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

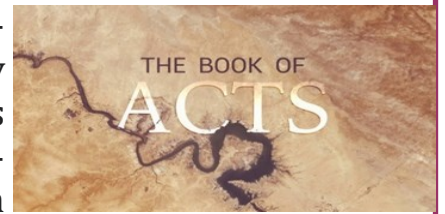
*"Come, to know the love of God: Go, to make it known."*



Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and Jesus who came to save us. Have you ever heard the term "Lectio Divina"? Perhaps not. It is a spiritual practice often used by monks, and others who seek to hear Biblical passages more deeply. Traditionally, it is done by choosing a passage and following four separate steps: read; meditate; pray; contemplate. Often the first two steps, read and meditate are repeated four times, with individuals being asked to consider the following questions after each reading of the passage. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Then what do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Finally, what is Christ's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? It is a powerful way to interact with the "Living Word" that is the Bible. It can challenge us to see ourselves differently in the stories, and open us to see where God is at work in the world and in our lives. If you have ever struggled to read the Bible or want to find a way to deepen your faith, I would invite you to try this practice. Write down your thoughts as you read specific passages. If you're unsure of what passages to use, I would invite you to use this practice through the next 5 weeks as we go back through Acts 16.

You may wonder why we are going back through this chapter, and that is a great question. So often we hear passages once every 3 years and while we may remember something about them we often forget.

During the months of June and July we heard this entire passage, and were able to reflect on Paul's second missionary journey, taking time to go through the chapter again allows us to have something akin to a Lectio Divina with this chapter. I would invite you to read it yourselves as we go through it again, (Starting Aug 7 with [Acts 16:1-5](#), [Acts 16:6-15](#), [Acts: 16:16-24](#), [Acts 25-34](#), and [Acts 16:35-40](#)) asking yourself the questions above and praying in your responses. If you are willing to share your insights, I would very much like to hear what struck you in these passages.



As we move into our fall schedule and activities the busyness of our lives can make it feel we don't have time for God. But this type of study, can go with us anywhere, and whenever we have time. It is a reminder of the power of God's connection into our daily lives and how we can focus on our faith more deeply this season. I invite you into this practice through the month of August. Use the weekly texts as your weekly focus. Maybe asking yourself a question a day and see where God is leading us together this season, grounded in the Love of God, together.

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Zach*



## **Make That Change The Change Challenge**

We often overlook how much change can make a difference.

Did you know if you stacked 120 quarters it would equal 1 foot?

We're challenging you to collect your change for change.

While our funding for our church mission is lower than expected we know that we can change that, through change. Bring in your change between now and Sept 18 to support the "Make that change the Change" challenge.

With your change you can vote for one or more staff people, Pastor Zach Ms. Kristen or Ms. Annmarie, who will have to do one of 3 things, which you get to vote for, so they don't even know what they will do.

Choose from a Dunk Tank, pie in the face or Ice bucket challenge. Whoever has the highest total change at the end has to do the event with the highest total. So check the couch, under the seats in the car, wherever you go to find that change... Drop it off in the containers in the lobby or give online, to support AELC and help us continue to serve our community.

# Youth & Mission



Join us for our Growing Young youth group on Sunday, **August 28!** We will be at Trinity Reading to make a meal and serve during Common Ground.

## INTERWOVEN



Our next Interwoven will be on Sunday, **August 7** at 5pm! Join us for a pizza party to celebrate and send off our college students! We are inviting all college students and graduates to come spend some time, have some pizza and share your future plans with us! We can't wait to celebrate you and send you off with our blessing!

## At Home Mission Trip



From June 20-23, AELC had 26 participants from 6 different churches join us for our At Home Mission Trip and Mini Mission Trip! It was a wonderful week of service, community, worship and fun! Our group served several churches in our synod, spent a day at Wittle Farm in Elizabethtown, and packed emergency packs at Helping Harvest. We are so excited to continue building the relationships and community that started this week, and we can't wait to continue Gaining Strength with our synod and youth! Thank you all who fed us, provided us with our shoe boxes, prayed for us, and supported us in this week! I encourage you ask our youth who participated to hear their favorite stories and memories! *(more pictures on next page)*



# At Home Mission Trip 2022

Helping out at Trinity Lutheran and Hope Lutheran-Reading, Wittle Farm-Elizabethtown, St. Johns-Mohnton, Helping Harvest, AELC

