



Allegheny Evangelical

Lutheran Church

1327 Alleghenyville Rd.

Mohnton, PA 19540

610-777-2520

www.aelc.org

Church Staff

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The Rev. Zach Labagh

pastorzach@aelc.org

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AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

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



Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and our Lord and Savior Jesus. As we walk through this season of Lent, it can be easy to get pulled away

from our willingness to follow Jesus. The world seeks to quickly pull us from one thing to another, and forget about what is important in our faith lives. As we go through this season, we focus on a few words of the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples and us; “Thy will be done”. When we pray this together in worship we ask for God’s will to be done, and not ours. We ask for that promise to be with us, and for us to be molded by God to be used to fulfill God’s will. Last month I encouraged you to find someone or a group to support you on your Lenten Journey, how is that process going? Are you still searching? Does it seem like just another thing to put on your already busy schedule? Lent reminds us of our need to be in communion with God and others, it reminds us of simplicity, and promises us a closer walk with God. We just need to take the first step with God.

One question that didn’t get answered during the Sermon series at the beginning of the year is “did anyone else contribute significantly to the founding of Lutheranism, other than Luther?” Yes, there were several who walked with Luther as he struggled with his faith, and the understandings of the gospel. It wasn’t easy, and he didn’t do it alone. Johann von Staupitzm was the Dean of the faculty at the University of Wit-





tenburg and Luther's spiritual advisor. Johann, who didn't fully understand Luther's direction never stopped loving him. Philipp Melanchthon, a professor of Greek at Wittenberg, became an ally of Luther. While they agreed on a great deal, they didn't see eye to eye on everything. Melanchthon was considered the peacemaker, and became known by his efforts to share this faithful understanding with all of Germany. There were also many others who challenged Luther, who's views were close but not close enough like, Karlstadt, Zwingli, Calvin and Knox. Why bring this up now? Because as we walk through Lent, it is a reminder that our faith history didn't begin without struggle and antagonism. Our faith fathers' struggled with their decisions, and interpretation of God's word. It was their 'Lenten journey' so to speak where they sought God's will be done. It led to a reforming of the church that still continues today.

And so we continue to seek God's will for us, and for God's church here and now. We follow our faithful leaders of old, and those whom have been entrusted with leadership now, not blindly but continually pursuing God's will to be done, and challenging when necessary. We do this by following a God who promises to walk with us and who invites us to walk humbly down this Lenten Road, together.

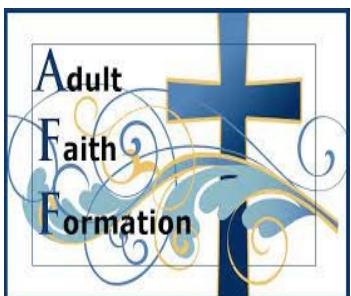
Peace on your Journey with Christ,

Pastor Zach



Mid-week Lent Soup and Bread meal with worship.

We are looking for volunteers to sign up to make soup and bread. If you are willing, please sign up in the lobby or contact Pastor Zach.



March

Adult Faith Formation Classes

March 5 Mr. Kopetsky (Principal at Brecknock Elem.)
March 12 Introduction to Civil Life and Faith Study (Pastor Zach)*will resume April 2
March 19 Mark Dombrosky (Thrivent)
March 26 Chief Grunzig (Brecknock Police)

Youth & Mission



Our next Youth Group will take place Sunday, **March 19** from 3pm-5pm as we participate in St. Mary's Bowl-a-thon! Youth who would like to participate need to sign up by Sunday, March 5 so our team can register. Sponsor sheets will be available for those participating. Members can also donate to the team and donations will be split between team members.

Save the Date for our April youth group on the 23rd! We will be joined by Tammy Taylor to talk about the environment and do some litter pick up to help celebrate Earth Day.

Senior High Faith Formation Class

Sr. High Faith Formation will meet on **March 5** and **March 19**. Please note the time change for **March 5** as we will meet with CAT Class at **9am** to make bread together for the midweek Lenten service on March 8. March 19 we will meet at our regular time of 9:30. Be sure to come and check out the Senior High space as three of the four walls are painted and the room looks great! Thanks to all the youth who have helped with this transformation. We look forward to seeing you in March as we talk about issues important to you and your faith. If you have any questions please contact Janine Labagh, Allison Eshleman or Kristen.

INTERWOVEN



"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." (Psalm 139:14). We are all made in God's image, and while we are all unique, we are all beautiful and God is proud of Their creation in each and everyone one of us. Just as we are all beautiful individuals created by God, we have the ability to create something beautifully individual for on **March 12**! Join us for Pour Painting for March's Interwoven from 12pm-2pm! Bring a dish to share for lunch and then get ready to get creative! Wear clothes you are ok with getting paint on! Please sign up here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mD-BC25e_oxCOzWo5jGNzGBmXiULHxYfkTNfHX23q-0/edit?usp=sharing or in the lobby by March 9 to ensure we have enough supplies for everyone participating!

Our April Interwoven will take place Saturday, **April 15** from 11am-1pm. We will be helping with the family Stations of the Cross event and the egg hunt for our faith formation kiddos!



Fair Trade

Stop by the Fair Trade stand and check out our recent remodel! Many thanks to Ron Fluck for doing such an amazing job on our beautiful new shelving unit! The new shelves have some room for new products, so we would love to hear your suggestions. We highly recommend visiting the Equal Exchange site [Equal Exchange | Fairly Traded Coffee, Tea & Chocolate](https://www.equal-exchange.org/), which is full of everything from product information to delicious recipes. We welcome any inquiries you may have regarding products, or the organization. Questions or requests? Email us at fairtrade@aelc.org



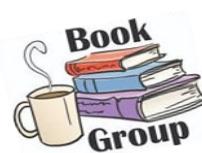
Please remember- if you see a product you are interested in trying, you are not obligated to purchase an entire case of that product. If you make a request, and we think it may be something others would like to try as well, we will purchase a case for the Fair Trade stand, where you can then purchase the item singularly.

As always, thank you for your continued support,

Janine and Connie

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!

**AELC Book Club**

Join us in March as we continue reading "The Most Fun We Ever Had" by Claire Lombardo! The reading schedule is:

Thursday, **March 2** at 6:30pm:
Chapters 13-21 (pgs. 185-320)

Thursday, **March 16** at 6:30pm:
Chapters 22-Epilogue (pgs. 323-532)

Our next book will be "Hour of the Witch" by Chris Bohjalian. The reading schedule will be:

Thursday, **March 30** at 6:30pm:
Prologue-Chapter 19 (pgs. 3-204)

Thursday, **April 13** at 6:30pm:
Chapter 20-Epilogue (pgs. 207-400)

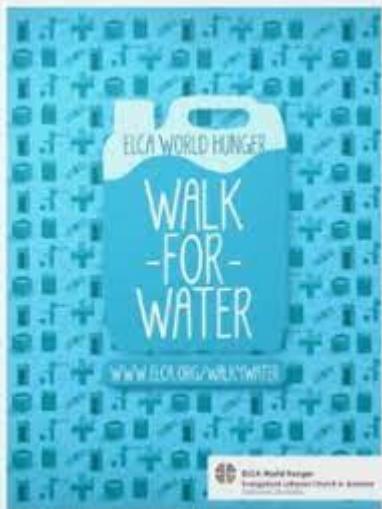
Mini Mission Trip

Join us this summer as AELC hosts "Breaking Bread" a Mini Mission Trip! Youth 5th grade and up are invited to participate in Breaking Bread from **July 13-15**. Participants will spend two days in service, community, and worship with one another, and end with an overnight here at AELC, dipping their toes into what a mission trip looks like. Registration is \$10 per participant and will start March 1. Questions? Talk to Kristen Kelly or Emma Labagh!





Faith Formation



What would it be like to carry a 5-gallon jug of water (41.5 pounds) just to have water for your family? Did you know:

- 768 million people do not have access to improved drinking water sources
- 40 billion hours are spent every year walking to collect water in Africa alone.
- 272 million school days are lost each year to diarrhea

Most of the world cannot take a hot shower, get clean water from a faucet or flush a toilet in their home.

Help us support ELCA World Hunger Walk for Water starting March 1. On March 26 at 12pm - join us at AELC "Walking for Water" event for a walk around our Church to see what life would be like to live without a reliable drinking source.

Help us to reach our goal of \$2,500.00. With this goal we will be able to build a water source for a community in need!! Each family will receive a empty water bottle in the month of March at worship. Please fill this bottle with your spare change and return it to the "Walk for Water" table in the lobby. You can also donate by placing funds in the water container in the lobby. Thank you for your continued support!!

Join us on **March 4 from 12 pm to 2 pm** for our shoe drive up event. Fill your trunk, **drop off your new/ newly worn shoes** between these times, we will grab them out of your trunk for you! Thank you for your support in this double donation event!



Keep donating your shoes!! So far we have received close to 300 pounds of shoes!! Our goal is 1000 pounds. Spread the word!! Shoes can be dropped off anytime in the Church entrance. Thank you bunches!!



Faith Formation

BAREFOOT SUNDAY!

Come on **Sunday March 19** to Faith Formation and worship barefoot! Leave your shoes at the church entrance, head to the library to see what it is like to walk barefoot, no shoes, every day. By bringing us your shoes, we are donating to those in need...they no longer will have to go barefoot!!



**Faith Formation & Family Events
Registration is Open at AELC.org
All information can be found on our FF Board**

March

4 - Shoe Drive Thru Drop Off
26 - "Walk for Water"

April

15 - Family Event "Journey to the Cross"
1 pm Egg Hunt
1:30 - 2:30 Play Practice
16 - FF Easter Play at 10:30am service

May

14 - Bring your mom to a special Interwoven at 9:30am. Families invited. FF children can bring their moms to this special event. Continental breakfast provided.

21 - Last day of FF
Church Picnic & FF Graduation

information to follow

June

12 - 16 Creative Arts Camp
"Pet's Unleashed" 10am-12 pm
Ages 3-10
18 - Donuts with Dad

July

17 - 21 Creative Arts Camp
"Kindness Camp" 9:30am-12:30pm
Ages 3-12

August

Vacation Bible School! "Stellar"
August 7 -11 5:30-8:00pm
Special Preschool Program at VBS
"Preschool Space Place" Ages 3-PreK

Summer Camp Early Bird Registration Ends March 31st!

Many sessions and age groups are filling quickly, so we encourage you to register early!

All campers who register before March 31st will receive an exclusive Early Bird T-Shirt when they arrive at camp featuring this year's theme logo!

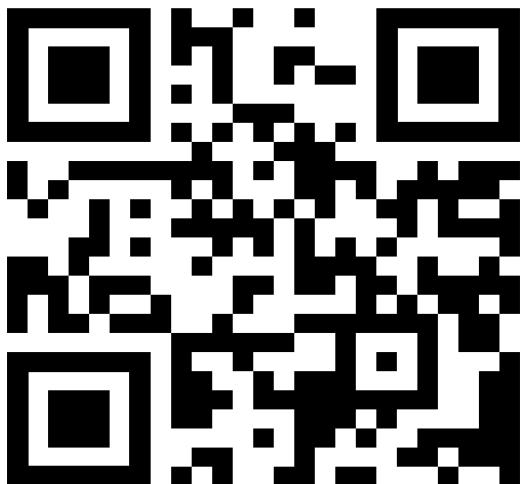


BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!



Learn More and Register for Summer Camp 2023!



We are excited to announce that our **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** is now **OPEN** for registration for the 2023-2024 school year. If your child attends Brecknock Elementary School and is in kindergarten to 4th grade, you can register by using the QR code or by going to our webpage AELC.org!!



Run for Dreamers

5K

& 1 MILE FUN RUN: All Ages

Benefits Greater Reading Immigration Project's (GRIP) Scholarship Fund
of Berks County Community Foundation

Sat, May 6, 2023 - 10 AM - Reading, PA

LOCATION/REGISTRATION:

Starts at Schlegel Park, 100 East Wyomissing Blvd. Reading; from Lancaster Blvd. turn onto Carroll St. Registration/number pickup at Schlegel Park Field House, starting at 9:00 AM. 5K at 10:00 AM. Fun Run at 10:45 AM.

COURSE:

Course flattened, wheel measured course begins at Schlegel Park to Thom Trail and back.

No street crossings!

Clock at finish, splits, instant results.

Results on www.pretzelcitysports.com in 1-2 days.

Rain or Shine. No refunds or mailed awards.

AMENITIES:

T-shirt to all pre-registrants of 5K, if reg. by April 10th, afterwards while supplies: Breathable Tech short sleeve T-shirt
Sizes available are S, M, L, XL.

Finish Ribbons for all Fun run finishers.

Refreshments

Indoor toilet facilities

Lots of parking.

Questions of Concerns?
Contact: Myrna SH. Tuchs
Myrnashluchs@gmail.com,
or 610 307 9986

5K AWARDS: for the Overall Male & Female winners plus:

13 & Under: 3M,3F	14 - 19: 3M,3F
20 - 29: 3M,3F	30 - 39: 3M,3F
40-49: 3M, 3F	50-59: 3M,3F
60-69: 3M, 3F	70+: 3M, 3F

ENTRY: For 5K: \$25 if registered by April 10th. Afterwards, inc. day of race, \$30 while shirts last, \$25 with no shirt. Fun run, \$5 up to and including the race; Ribbons for all participants.

Online Registration Only at <https://www.pretzelcitysports.com/online-registration/>
Nominal service fee applies, closes at midnight, the Wednesday before race day

Registration is Available Day of Race: Cash or Check Only

Financial Info

Treasurer's General Fund Report

GENERAL FUND UPDATE

	Total Attendance*	General Fund Income	Weekly Budgetary Need
Jan 22, 2023	136	\$6154	\$5702
Jan 29, 2023	118	\$4774	\$5702
Feb 5, 2023	170	\$6657	\$5702
Feb 12, 2023	107	\$5214	\$5702
Total	531	\$22,799	\$22,808

***attendance includes onsite and online figures.**

In January, 2023, our expenses exceeded income by \$2800.

The General Fund checkbook balance at the end of January was about \$29,700.

In mid-February the mortgage balance stands at \$23,112 and the Debt Reduction Fund has a balance of \$17,886 to pay down on the principal. That leaves us \$5226 short of being able to pay off the mortgage.



Direct Thivent Choice Dollars® by March 31

Eligible Thivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until **March 31**,

2023, to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thivent provide outreach funding to Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church. Go to www.thivent.com/about-us/membership/thivent-choice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thivent Choice" after the prompt.



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity

Sponsors are needed for bulletins and flowers!

Won't you please consider sponsoring the Sunday worship bulletin and or the altar flowers? The charts are on the bulletin board in the lobby.

Cost: Bulletins—\$20.00

Flowers—2 Altar Vases/\$54, Chancel Arrangement-\$50

Questions: contact Jo Verrill at jodaverrill@gmail.com
for bulletins and Sandy Fluck at 610-334-3175 for flowers.



REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

Stop, before you cut off the bottom you want make sure you have the 1% total left on. If you use self-checkout be sure you use your Redner's card. I recently threw out over 100 tapes that did not have this information on them. That's money we can't get for our church. Any questions, call me.

Susan @ 6110-777-7776.



**Ronald McDonald House Can Tabs
are now being collected again.**

**Please drop them off in the container
in the vestibule any time at your
convenience.**

Thank you.

PULL TOGETHER.



AELC Home Worshippers

Please keep these Home Worship members in your thoughts and prayers:

Ron Austin, Larry Cralley,
Paul Pray, Malcolm Reider

**Looking Ahead...**

Our next newsletter is the **April** issue. If you have content for the newsletter, please submit your articles by **March 15** to the church office via email at office@aelc.org or in Dee Constable's mailbox.

Newsletter 



**PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETS
THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 7PM**

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 6

Meetings are held in the
Wittenberg Room
(Adult Faith Formation Room)

**AELC Prayer Ministry**

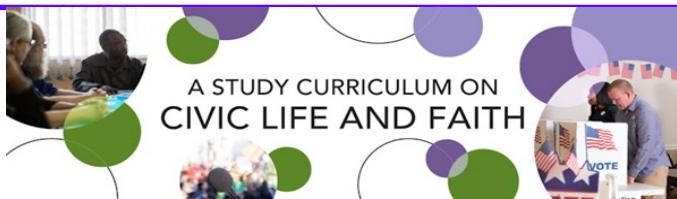
Recognizing the importance of prayer for our congregation and the world, AELC has a prayer ministry that communicates needs in various ways. We primarily communicate through a weekly email and listing prayers in the Sunday bulletin. We also have a closed Facebook group to share emergency requests and praises. To receive the weekly email, send requests, updates or praises - please email Steve Cope at prayerlist@aelc.org or the church office at office@aelc.org. You may also call the church office to leave a request. If you would like to be a part of the Facebook group, please let Steve know so you can be added. There is a Prayer Request box and slips in the lobby. Feel free to add requests this way; it will be checked weekly. When adding someone to the list, please make sure you have their permission.

Additionally, if you do not use email or social media and would like to be a part of this ministry, please leave your name and phone number with Steve or the office and we will communicate with you in a way that works for you!

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 or 610-507-4562 or contact Dee Constable at office@aelc.org, 610-777-2520.

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

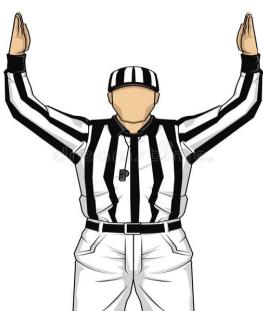


How are we as Lutheran Christians called to civic engagement, including in the arenas of government and political life? What is the proper relationship of the church with government, and what is not? What does religious liberty actually include? What are our scriptural and confessional resources for probing such questions about civic life?

We invite you and the congregation to explore these questions and more by gathering for Adult Faith Formation in March, April and May as we use "[A Study Curriculum on Civic Life and Faith](#)" for our discussion. AND you get to give your feedback to the ELCA and the committee who is working on this new social statement. Join us as we begin with an introduction on **March 19**.



A reminder: The next time you go to a doctor appointment ask to make sure you have AELC as your congregation in your files. This way if you are in the hospital, the hospital will notify the pastor who then can visit. Many might not have this in their account, and you cannot go into MyChart to update it.



TOUCHDOWN!!

Our Souper Bowl has ended with Team A-L leading with 1,068 points to Team M-Z score of 772. Not only did we have a fun competition, we almost doubled our food donation from last year, collecting 805 items to go to the Mohnton Food Bank! We also raised \$1,064 (without the matching gift) to donate to ELCA World Hunger and Helping Harvest! Wow! Thank you all for your help and generosity in helping tackle hunger in our community and around the world!



Give thanks to the Lord! For our traditional and praise services in January, we will once again be using our offering plates at each pew. Following the offering, the donations will be brought to the altar as we all give thanks to the Lord for all that he has done for us.

Four ushers are needed each week to pass the plate and to bring the offering plates to the altar. There is a sign-up sheet on the lobby bulletin board for those willing to help. Thank you for serving our church.



March 4—Pinewood Derby (Scouts)
 Shoe Drive Thru Drop Off
March 5—Reading Royals Game
March 12—Daylight Savings
March 18—WBMD Prayer Breakfast
March 25—Council/Staff Retreat
April 1—Church Clean Up w/Scouts
April 2—Palm Sunday
April 6—Maundy Thursday
April 7—Good Friday
April 9—Easter Sunday
April 15—Journey to the Cross, Easter Egg Hunt, Play Practice
April 22—Cub Pack 241 Blue & Gold Banquet
April 29—Zoo America



ALTAR GUILD

MARCH

8:30 am—Lucille Spangler
 10:30 am—Gayle Tomasko

APRIL

8:30 am—
 10:30 am—Gayle Tomasko



TIME TO TURN
 YOUR CLOCK
 AHEAD ON
 SUNDAY,
 MARCH 12TH

Mid-week Lenten Meal/Worship/Study

March 1

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29

More info on page 2

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

There are Lenten Devotionals available in the Lobby. Use these daily devotionals to set aside more time for prayer and form a deeper relationship with Christ, our hope and our light.

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Combined 10:30 am Worship

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 pm

Friday, April 7

Good Friday Service – 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday

6:45 am Community Worship Service

8:30 am – Traditional Worship Service

10:00 am – Praise Worship Service

March Anniversaries

- 20 Anna Mae & Karl Peterson (1965)
- 24 Sheri & Michael Kaufman (1996)
- 26 Ann & Michael Deibert (1994)
- 29 Colette & Kim Price (1987)



**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023**

GOING
BEYOND
DEATH
TO LIFE

**JUNE
1-3**

What's happening at Kalahari?

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning
this incredible event!*

*SO, LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.*

March Birthdays

- 1 Patricia Ebling
- 3 Dorothy Smith
- 6 Rodney High
- 8 Lynne Scheetz
- 9 Erik Peterson-Smith
- 16 Melvyn Smith
- Helen Heath
- 17 Lucille Spangler
- Bennett Moczydowski
- 18 Allison Eshleman
- 20 Anna Mae Peterson
- 21 Nichole Heath
- Alexis Thomas
- Jaxon Thomas
- 24 Kate Naugle
- 25 Michael Kline
- 27 Lauren Lorah
- 29 Garry Forrer
- Ann Deibert
- 30 Kristen Kintzer



Join Pastor Zach for a monthly Bible Study on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8:30 am at AELC. All are welcome to participate in this time of study and fellowship.



AELC Church Council

Ex-Officio	Pastor Zach Labagh
President	Joe Hickson
Vice President	Gayle Tomasko
Secretary	Allison Eshleman
Council Members	Steven Cope Ellie Loose Laraine Montgomery Andrew Zirkel
Youth Member	Emelia Haupert
Youth Member	Jacob Labagh
Council Treasurer	Bill Baxter
Council Financial Secretary	Colette Price



Council/Staff Retreat
March 25



Men's Group

**Next meeting to
be determined**

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Church Picnic/Ice Bucket Challenge
After 10:30 am Combined Worship
More information to come.



MARCH

March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Early Worship
 9:00 am Faith Formation Classes/CAT Class
 9:00 am Senior High Faith Formation Class
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation Class
 10:30 am Late Worship—HC

March 8

6:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal/Worship Study
March 12

Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Early Worship—HC
 9:00 am Faith Formation Classes/CAT Class
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation Class
 10:30 am Late Worship—HC

March 15

6:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal/Worship Study
March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Early Worship—HC
 9:00 am Faith Formation Classes/CAT Class
 9:30 am Senior High Faith Formation Class
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation Class
 10:30 am Late Worship—HC

March 22

6:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal/Worship Study
March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Early Worship—HC
 9:00 am Faith Formation Classes/CAT Class
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation Class
 10:30 am Late Worship—HC

March 29

6:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal/Worship Study

NOTICE

Please help our Safety and Property Committee by making sure **all** doors are **closed** and **locked** when you leave the building. Your continued help with this matter makes us and the church a safer place.

If there are any issues with the church property that need to be addressed contact Rod High first at 484-755-4364 or if no reply then contact Jim Spangler at 717-445-6537.

Thank you!

All services
 on
 Facebook
 can be
 found:



on the church
 page <https://www.facebook.com/matthew44>

or on the
 church website <https://www.aelc.org/podcasts/media>