



Allegheny Evangelical

Lutheran Church

1327 Alleghenyville Rd.

Mohnton, PA 19540

610-777-2520

www.aelc.org

Church Staff

Pastor

The Rev. Zach Labagh

pastorzach@aelc.org

610-777-2520

Director of Youth & Mission

Kristen Kelly

youthd@aelc.org

Dir. of Children & Family Ministries

Annemarie Pietrobono

Annmarie@aelc.org

Music Director

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Annie_musicd@aelc.org

Praise Team Leader

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Sexton

Jean Jones

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Charles Charles

AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church



APRIL 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 offers us Salvation. The road is long. Forty days long. It requires endurance, stamina, and a willingness to support one another.

The road to the Cross is long, exhausting, both physically and spiritually. However, we don't walk that road alone. Not as individuals, or as members of this faith community, as Lutherans, or as Christians, we walk this Lenten road together. Our first steps on Ash Wednesday and the ashes that adorned our head a faded memory, washed away so long ago, yet the truth and promise of those ashes remain. This month the conclusion of our Lenten journey comes to fruition. Those days of either giving up something or seeking to cultivate something new draw ever closer to the cross. Has the journey changed us? Has it made us more humble? Has it guided us into a deeper relationship with Jesus who came to offer us new life, abundant life?

Has it opened our eyes to those in need? Those across this world who are living in war-torn areas? Those who are hungry? Those who are invisible? Jesus seeks to bring us all into a fuller community with each other and with God. Through the services of Palm Sunday (April 10), Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, we walk to the cross and the tomb, we experience the

nal steps of Jesus and hear again the extent Jesus goes to, to show the Love of God for all people. The journey for Jesus to the cross, the grave and beyond was a selfless act of grace-filled love for all humanity.



How do we respond? How do we live into the Love of God anew this Easter? Does this Love of God change us? Does the Love of God change everything? Are we able to see the centrality of God's love for our lives? The Love of God that we can take and share with all we meet?

While you will receive this newsletter before Easter, we are poised and ready to celebrate, to come together as siblings in Christ, to worship and proclaim the Love of God together this Easter season. And as we gather on Easter morn may we proclaim boldly together **"In thanksgiving we seek to share the grace we have been given, with others. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, God's Son, the Christ, our Messiah, who calls us forth into the world to proclaim the Joy of Easter."**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!!! Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia, Amen.

Peace as we await the Risen Christ,

Pastor Zach

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 10

10:30 am Combined Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 14

7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 15

7:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17

6:45 am Community Sunrise Service at
Fairview Cemetery

8:30 am Traditional Service—AELC

10:00 am Praise Service—AELC
No Faith Formation



We are excited to announce the hiring of Annmarie Pietrobono, our new Director of Children and Family Ministries at AELC.

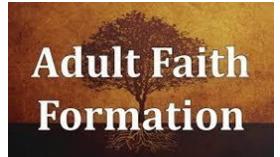
In her own words: "I am a mother of four girls and a grammy of 5 grandsons. Previously I was a pre-school teacher, while loving every second being with children, I wanted to touch them with faith while learning all about God's vision for each one of them. I am currently attending Liberty University for an Associates in Biblical Studies. I am committed to bring fun, energy, and dedication to AELC children and families through children's ministry and memorable family events." Send her an email welcome at: annmarie@aelc.org

We are excited to welcome her into this role and her family to our community of faith. Help me in welcoming Annmarie and her family.

Sr. High Faith Formation

We are looking to have any Sr High youth from 9th grade and up join us. We meet at 9:30 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month 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 on **April 3** at 9:30am. If you have any questions, please contact Janine Labagh or Allison Eshleman.

April 3 – Brecknock Police Chief Erik Grunzig



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 5th and 6th 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 next youth group is on **Saturday April 23**! We will meet at City Park, Reading PA from 1pm-3pm to participate in Berks County Earth Day. While youth group will be meeting from 1pm-3pm, the event is 12pm-6pm and we encourage families and all members to spend some time checking out this event!

INTERWOVEN



Join us for our next Interwoven on Sunday, **April 10**! Pack a dinner and depending on weather, we will picnic outside! Then we will create final care packages to send to our college kids and help fill Easter Eggs for our Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16!



Stop by the Fair Trade stand and pick up a box of our new Hibiscus tea, just in time for spring. Try it cold with a spot of honey or lime to balance its bright tart flavor. Don't forget, Fairtrade teas and coffees are delicious hot or cold and, as the weather gets warmer, can be easily brewed, or steeped, and poured over ice as a quick, cool, warm weather beverage.

Did you know that tea is the world's second most popular drink, second only to water? Or that the growth and consumption of tea originated in China? For an interesting article on the history of tea, check out this link: <https://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/a-farmer-led-future-for-tea> Knowing where our food comes from is not only good for our health as consumers, but fairly sourced food is also good for our planet's health, and the health and wellbeing of those who grow our food. Happy farmers, happy planet, happy us!

As always, thank your continued support, Janine and Connie

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Lay Readers to 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>



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 of tickets will begin Sunday, April 24.

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: This beautiful refurbished sheet music cabinet will be up for bidding at our 2022 World Hunger Auction! This piece is just one of the many amazing and wonderful donations we have received to include in our auction this May!

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. 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!



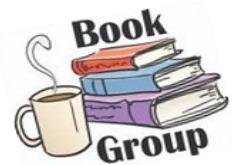
Volunteers and Donations needed! We are looking for volunteers to help set up tables and displays for our World Hunger Auction on the evening of **Friday, May 20**.

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.



AELC Book Club

We will be taking a three week break for the Easter Season. Over that time, join us in reading "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult and join us on Thursday, **April 21** at 6:30pm to discuss the book!



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.

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!



Congratulations, Tim Garmin

I have been appointed by Bishop Jim Dunlap of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, to serve as the Intentional Interim Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lebanon, PA.

This opportunity came together quickly, but It also came together perfectly on God's Time. These kinds of announcements always come with mixed emotions, but I am very much looking forward to this next chapter in my ministry. My last Sunday at Peace Lutheran in Reading will be May 1st. My ministry at Holy Trinity will begin May 8th. Please pray for the people of Peace as we say goodbye and the people of Holy Trinity as we say hello.



Governor Mifflin & AELC News



Congrats to our Governor Mifflin students and AELC youth who competed in the 70th Annual Reading-Berks Science and Engineering Fair.

9-12th Grades Behavioral and Social Science:

Second place: Atreyu Heller, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect Of Frames Per Second On Video Game Performance.

Fourth place: Isabella Seidel, Gov. Mifflin High School: The effect of Plating Techniques on Human Dish Choices.

9-12th Botany

Third place: Lily Watts, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Companion Planting on Soil Quality.

Fourth place: Braden Holmes, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium on Growth of Impatiens Plants.

9-12th Engineering

Fourth place: Jacob Labagh, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Size of a VWT on Energy Produced.

9-12th Mathematics and Computers

Fourth place: Garrett Hyneman, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Benford's Law on the Frequency of Different Music Notes in Classical Music.

9-12th Physics and Astronomy

Third place: Sierra Hess, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Soccer Ball Volume on Distance Traveled.

9-12th Zoology

1st place: Sarah Joseph, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Different Light Cycles on Bioluminescence.

2nd place: Noah Talarico, Gov. Mifflin High School: Superworm Preference.

3rd place: Jacob Clasper, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect of Food Types on Carpenter Ant Egg Laying Production.

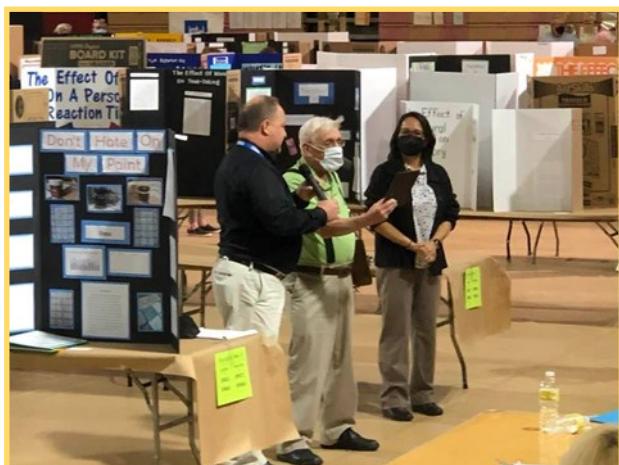
4th place: Ali Abdur-Rahman, Gov. Mifflin High School: The Effect Of Music On Chicken Laying Patterns.



Continued on next page

Continued from page 7...

Plus, many other students receiving Honorable Mention including among others from GMSD, Gianna DiPasquale in Behavior Science, Dylan Overley, and Kylie Stout in Engineering. Gianna also received an honorable mention for her interview. Along with that many from GMSD received special awards including Meghan Pacharis 3rd Place from the Berks County Medical Society. Grace Kerschner who received the Mohnton-Cumru Lion's Club award. Jacob Labagh Received the Schantz Electric award.



Congratulations to Karl Peterson who was honored today for 60 years of involvement with the Reading Berks Science and Engineering Fair. For as long as I can remember, he showed a strong commitment to helping students excel in the field of engineering, and he gave countless hours each year with setting up the fair.



Sign-Up Sheet for Easter Flowers in Lobby!!

Flowers available:
Lilies, Hyacinths,
Daffodils and Tu-
lips

Cost: \$11/each
Deadline: **April 10**

Please Note

We are resuming delivery of Easter Lilies to our Home-Bound Worshipers. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can support this ministry by delivering a lily.



ALSO...There is a paper in the narthex to sign up to sponsor an Easter lily for our Home Worshippers – the cost is \$11/each

Financial Info

Treasurer's General Fund Report

GENERAL FUND UPDATE			
	Total Attendance*	General Fund Income	Weekly Budgetary Need
Feb 20, 2022	126	\$5098	\$5418
Feb 27, 2022	116	\$3461	\$5418
Mar 6, 2022	115	\$6976	\$5418
Mar 13, 2022	90	\$3613	\$5418
Total	447	\$19,148	\$21,672

*attendance includes onsite and online figures.

In February our expenses exceeded income by about \$4800. Both income and expenses were below budget.

The General Fund checkbook balance at the end of February was about \$40,700 including the PPP funds.

The HVAC fund balance which is not part of the General Fund is sufficient to cover payments through April. An increase in contributions is needed to cover future payments.

Also, outside of the budget, members continue to contribute to the Debt Reduction Fund and at the end of February we had over \$11,600 to use for our next principal pay-down.

As of the date of this report, **March 21**, you have contributed over \$1500 to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine. You have until Easter to contribute. Remember AELC will match up to \$2000 from the Kachel Benevolence Fund and the ELCA will match up to about \$258,000 for the total contributed by ELCA congregations. Your response to these causes is always generous!

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 22



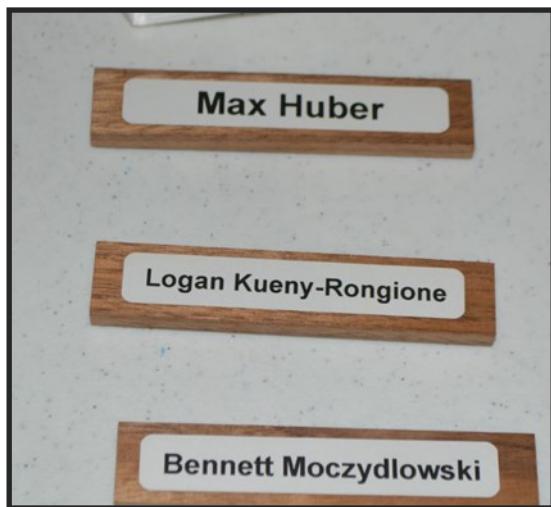
The 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of The Rev Charles Charles and The Rev Dr. Foster McCurley

Worship with us on Sunday, **May 22** at 10:30 am as we celebrate The 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of The Rev. Charles Charles and The Rev. Dr. Foster McCurley at Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church. What an honor it is for our congregation to recognize the accomplishments of these ministers who have devoted 60 years serving others in the name of our Lord and Savior. Following the service, we will continue our celebration with a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall.

In recognition of the anniversary of the ordinations of Pastor Charles and Pastor McCurley, a special gift has been established. Monetary gifts to AELC will be forwarded to the United Lutheran Seminary Student Scholarship Fund to support individuals pursuing the ministry. Blessings from donors will continue the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!

Scout News

Congrats to Bennet Moczydlowski, Max Huber and Logan Kueny-Rongione, as they celebrated at their Cross-over event on March 15. Congrats to Hazel Huber for earning her "Arrow of Light Award" (for completing the Cub Scout requirements).





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:

\$20 - Bulletin

\$43/2 altar vases, \$40/chancel arrangement

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.



AELC Home Worshippers

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

Ron Austin, Pastor Charles,
Larry Craley, Pat Hiester, John Messner,
Janet Orth, Paul Pray, Malcolm Reider



Looking Ahead...

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

Newsletter 

GROUNDS CLEAN-UP MAINTENANCE BOOK

The Property Committee has created a book for you to sign-up to clean a specific grounds area and to maintain on an on-going basis. Please look through the book on the table in the lobby and if you have an interest in keeping the grounds in good shape or just enjoy working outside, pick an area and sign your name. When you and your group want to do the clean-up/maintenance is whatever works best for you and your time schedule. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of the property committee.



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@aclc.org or the church office at office@aclc.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!



May 21—World Hunger Auction/Meal
May 22—60th Anniversary Service of Ordination/Potluck Luncheon for Pastor Charles & Pastor McCurley
June 10 & 11—Synod Assembly—virtual
June 12—Annual Congregation Meeting
June 20-23—At Home Mission Trip
August 8—12—Vacation Bible School
September 11—Big Day of Serving

HELP BOTH OUR CHURCH AND OUR PLANET AT THE SAME TIME

AELC is now using the Planet Green Recycling Program to collect used ink cartridges to send in to recycle and receive money back to be used in support of the church's Mission Trip program. A collection box is in the vestibule for dropping off your used ink cartridges for us to submit to Planet Green Recycling.

If you wish to mail them in yourself from home, please follow the steps below:

- Open the following link on your computer: <http://www.planetgreenrecycle.com/>
- Click on item 2 "Free USPS Label"
- Fill in label request

Your first & last name

Your email address

Organization Program Code: Enter 31821

Address – Enter Church Address: 1327 Alleghenyville Rd, Mohnton, PA 19540

Identify how many cartridges. **YOU MUST SEND AT LEAST 4**

- You will receive a prepaid label in your email to mail the cartridges
- Box up the cartridges, attach the label and drop off at post office

The church receives funds directly from Planet Green Recycling, \$1.00 for every cartridge (commonly used cartridges). **If you choose to mail in your cartridges yourself, it is very important to make sure to include the church's Organization Program Code (31821) so we receive the credit for the cartridges. No toner cartridges accepted.**

Thank you for your support of the AELC Mission Trip Program!

WBMD Spring Assembly & Ascension Service

Thurs. May 26th at 7:00 PM

Location to be determined.

Join us for an Ascension Day service followed by our annual WBMD Spring Assembly.

Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Aaron Decker, who recently served at Faith, Mt. Penn and Bethany, Stoney Creek, and is now serving the Lutheran Church in Bolivia as a seminary educator.

The service will be followed by the Spring Assembly where we will elect new Council members and conduct other necessary business.

We hope to have an in-person Assembly, however if COVID should surge again we will meet via Zoom instead.

Join us for an
easter egg Hunt
Saturday, April 16
10:00am

Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran
Church
1327 Alleghenyville Road
Mohnton

For more information call Annmarie at 610-777-2526

Candy donations are appreciated. If you are willing
to donate, please bring all donations to the church
by April 3rd.



April Birthdays

3 Rebecca Yoder
 7 Greta Bender
 8 Alex Vitulli
 9 Jo Verrill
 10 Tara Prince
 Ellie Loose
 Natalie Herling
 11 William Baxter
 14 RJ Voit
 15 Lillian Pakradooni
 Peter Relkin
 Jillian Michel
 17 Kathleen High
 Zach Scheetz
 18 Apollo Loose
 20 Dean Hirneisen
 Ethan Charles
 21 Emelia Haupert
 22 Andrew Keith
 23 Kevin Kelly
 Joseph Smith
 24 Steven Armstrong
 25 Matthew Relkin
 27 Jonathan Beyer
 28 Alexander Prince
 Skylar Hatt
 29 Mary Ann Homrich
 David Henry
 Eva Etienne

**April Anniversaries**

8 Fran & John Holton
 12 Dawn & David Henry (1997)
 16 Shirley & Dennis Eskey (1971)
 26 Natalie & Mike Wilde (2003)

**AELC Church Council**

Ex-Officio	Pastor Zach Labagh
President	Joe Hickson
Vice President	John Thomas
Secretary	Tammy Taylor
Council	Greg Horton
Members	Ellie Loose
	Lynne Scheetz
	Gayle Tomasko
	Andrew Zirkel
Youth Member	Emelia Haupert
Youth Member	Jacob Labagh
Council Treasurer	Bill Baxter
Council Financial Secretary	Colette Price



JUNE 12
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
10:30 AM WORSHIP



APRIL

April 3

8:30 am Traditional Worship
 9:00 am CAT Class/Faith Formation
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation
 9:30 am Sr. High Faith Formation
 10:30 am Praise Worship

April 6

7:00 pm Midweek Lenten worship/study (online)

April 10—Palm Sunday

9:00 am CAT Class/Faith Formation
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation
 10:30 am **Combined** Worship-HC

April 14—Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday (onsite & online)

April 15—Good Friday

7:00 pm Good Friday (onsite & online)

April 17—Easter Sunday

6:45 am Community Sunrise Service at Fairview Cemetery
 8:30 am Traditional Easter Worship Service-AELC
 10:00 am Praise Easter Worship Service-AELC

April 24

8:30 am Traditional Worship-HC
 9:00 am CAT Class/Faith Formation
 9:30 am Adult Faith Formation
 9:30 am Sr. High Faith Formation
 10:30 am Praise Worship-HC

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 610-856-1386 or if no reply then contact Jim Spangler at 717-445-6537.

Thank you!



Men's Group

Bible & Brew is taking a break until the spring. Please look for monthly emails from Pastor Zach

**All services
 on
 Facebook
 can be
 found:**



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