



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

Music Director

Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson

Annie_musicd@aelc.org

Praise Team Leader

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wsmoczy@hotmail.com

Office Administrator

Dee Constable

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Sexton

Jean Jones

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Charles Charles

AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church



FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

“Love one another” (John 13:34)
“Love one another” (John 13:35)
“Love one another” (John 15:12)
“Love one another” (John 15:17)
“Love one another” (Rom 12:10)
“Love one another” (1 Thess 3:12)
“Love one another” (1 Peter 1:22)
“Love one another” (1 John 3:11)
“Love one another” (1 John 3:23)
“Love one another” (1 John 4:7)
“Love one another” (1 John 4:11)
“Love one another” (1 John 4:12)
“Love one another” (2 John 5)

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and Jesus who gives us a new commandment to love one another. This month we celebrate Valentine's day, a day to show love. Often it is romantic love that we are encouraged

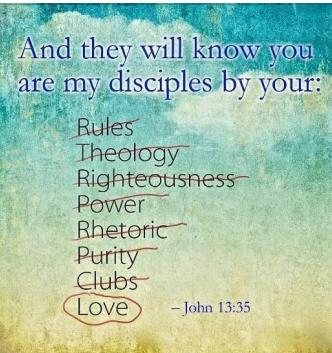
to share. How do we live into the love that Jesus shows us, and calls us to live into? Jesus explains love by caring for those who are cast aside, those whom struggle. Jesus seeks to teach those who are unaware, and open his hand to those who are in need of someone to walk with.

Jesus never seeks to force people to believe, or accept him, rather he seeks to offer something so profound, so overwhelming, that the only response is to be enveloped by this love. Jesus speaks this commandment to the disciples in John's gospel at the close of the Last Supper “³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35).” The power of the final statement about how people will know us, is not by who we exclude, how loud we are against others, or how ‘righteous’ we believe we are. Rather the central way that people know we are followers of Christ is by our love for others. Jesus shows his disciples what it means to care for others, throughout his ministry, and in the last days he shows them and us, exactly the

kind of love he talks about. From the institution of the Lord's Supper, to washing the disciples' feet (even Peter's, even Judas' feet) and then handing himself over to the cross.

This love doesn't exclude not agreeing with one another, this love doesn't exclude struggling with one another. This love doesn't exclude all our 'baggage' that we carry or our own flawed sense of God's perfect love for us all. What it includes however is the ability to offer forgiveness, to see each other as created in the image of God, and opportunities to grow together through dialogue and prayer. When we do this we become counter cultural, and move more fully into the understanding of this Love that Jesus gives us, and invites us to share with others.

I often tell people that the greatest strength of AELC is the breadth of understanding, and then state that the greatest challenge for AELC is our broad understanding. We are a community that sometimes struggles with each other, and that's ok. It's important, it helps us grow, but part of that growth is a willingness to come together to talk with one another, to worship together, to hear of God's love for one another and to share that love with one another, even and especially when we are struggling with one another.



So how do we respond? How do we engage with one another? How do we answer Jesus' commandment to love one another? How do we live into our mission of inviting ourselves and others to "Come, to know the Love of God: Go, to make it known?" Yes, these are challenging questions, but they are questions that we as a community rooted in the "Love of God" can struggle in together. As we move through this month, and look towards the season of Lent, I invite you to be in conversation with each other, to see the Image of God in each other, and to seek ways to show that selfless love that Jesus gives to us, freely with all people.

Peace in Christ, who offers us perfect love.

Pastor Zach

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>

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 **February 6** at 9:30am. If you have any questions, please contact Janine Labagh or Allison Eshleman.

God's Global Barnyard

Faith Formation purchased 4 piglets (including 1 from staff) 5 Chicks, 1 goat, 1 seed and gardening tools. PLUS an additional goat, honey bees, and \$115.00 in gifts where most needed, for a total of \$455.00. Thank you to all who contributed!



February 13

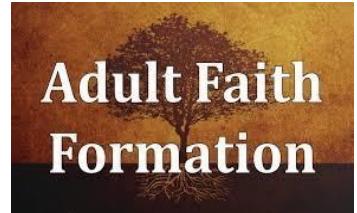
Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials

No matter your wealth or status, you have an estate. And all estates have something in common—you can't take it with you when you die. Having a strategy in place can make things easier for your family after you're gone. At this workshop:

- Explore assets – whether they be financial or physical.
- Understand beneficiaries – family or organizations you care about.
- Gain tools to help put your plans into action.

This workshop will be held at Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church on Sunday, **February 13** at 9:30 am. It's hosted by Suzanne M Rigg and Mark Dobroskey. No products will be sold. Thrivent and its financial professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional.

For more information visit Thrivent.com/social. R9-20



February 20

Deacon Travis Woodfield—Part-time Director of Congregation Legacy and Purpose from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

February 27

Bill McKay—Governor Mifflin School District Superintendent

March 6

Discussion on the Bishop's video concerning Gaining Strength in the Synod: How can AELC play a part?

Youth & Mission



St. John's will be hosting our youth group for the month of February! Join us at St. John's for a morning of fun, community, and service! CAT Class will be attending St. John's worship at 9 am on Sunday, **February 27** and then join their Sunday morning Faith Formation. All youth are invited to attend! Youth Group will start at 11:30 am with lunch! We will then pack Blessing Bags to donate to Mary's Shelter. Youth Group will conclude at 1:30 pm.

We are looking for donations for our Blessing Bags. We are in need of personal hygiene items, feminine care items, \$5 gift cards to Wawa, Sheetz, Dunkin, etc, and socks. Please no razors or snacks.



Happy Valentines Day! Say "I love you" with one of the many different recipes on the Equal Exchange website. There are so many to choose from, and nothing says "I care" more than homemade deliciousness! You can peruse the sites many recipe offerings by following the link <https://blog.equalexchange.coop/recipes/>

February is also Black History Month. Equal Exchange takes a firm stance in supporting social justice not only in faraway lands, but also right here at home, by supporting both the BLM movement, [Black Lives Matter - The Equal Exchange Blog](#), and supporting African American Farmers, [Learn the Story of the Black Farmers Who Grow EE Pecans - The Equal Exchange Blog](#).

While we repeat this often, it is a message worth repeating, purchasing Equal Exchange products not only benefit you and yours but offers support worldwide. Thus, making giving a Valentine from our delicious assortment of goodies twice as nice.

Questions, requests, or suggestions? Email us at fairtrade@aelc.org

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

INTERWOVEN



Join us for a night of self care on Sunday, **February 20** at 5 pm! AELC calls us to go out into the world to make God's love known. But before you can do that, you need to make sure you love and take care of yourself! Join us for a night full of ways to care and re-energize yourself to fully live into our mission here at AELC!

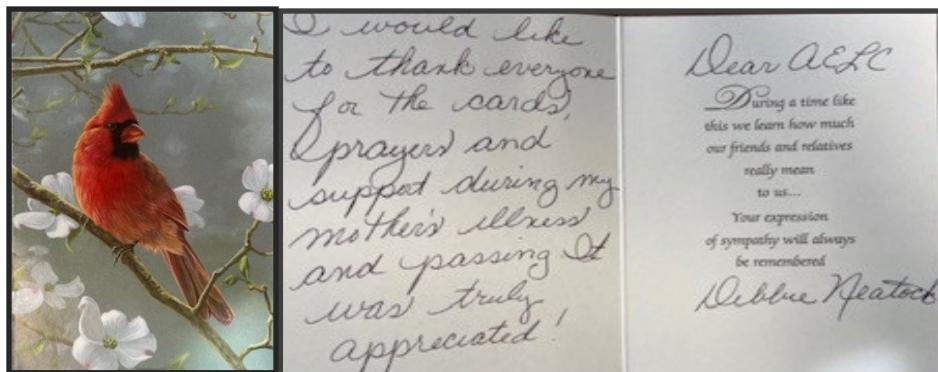


Thank you all for your continued excitement and support of our World Hunger Auction and Raffle event. After many conversations and prayerful consideration, the planning committee has made the decision to postpone the event for the time being. We recognize the importance of this event and want to see it take place safely and in celebratory manner. We recognize that it is our call as a committee to serve our community and keep all members of that community safe and healthy. At this point, the best way we feel to do that is to wait until our

Covid-19 numbers are significantly lower. Donations will continue to be received so we are ready to host our event as soon as we can safely come together in celebration and maybe a little bit of competition.

We on the World Hunger Auction and Raffle planning committee continue to thank you for your support and excitement in preparation for our event!

Looking for Donations: 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!



To AELC,

Thank you for the love and support given to Karen in her 20 year battle with dermatomyositis complicated with her accident 14 years ago.

Thank you for all the cards, donations and meals during our time of grief.

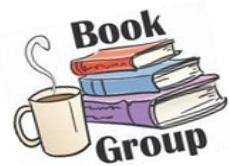
Rod & Kathy High
Peace be with you.

A NOTE OF

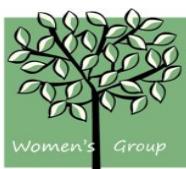


AELC Book Club

Join us on Thursday, **February 3** at 6:30 pm as we finish up our discussion on “Transcendent Kingdom” by Yaa Gaysi. Our next book will be “Requiem for Ashes” by David Crossman. The reading schedule for “Requiem for Ashes” is:



Thursday **February 17** at 6:30 pm: Chapters 1-13 (pgs. 1-151)
 Thursday, **March 3** at 6:30 pm: Chapters 14-Epilogue (153-269)



Women's Group

Our next Women's Group will be Wednesday, **February 23** at 5:30 pm.

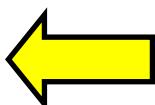


Mid-week Lenten Worship/Study

Starting March 9 we will be gathering together for a time of worship and discussion during the season of Lent. Our theme this year will be “Walking Humbly With God.” This comes from the third part of God’s call to everyone in Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” We will consider how we see this language in today’s world and how we as individuals and community experience this.



A Date to Remember



FOLLOW US!



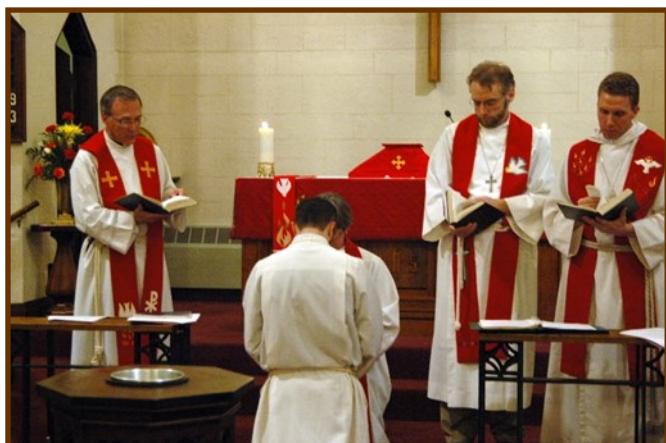
Our youth have their own Instagram page. Follow us to see all the great things we do - such as Mission Trips, Interwoven, CAT class and more! Our handle is @aelc_youth! Check out all the amazing things we are doing through our faith!

Bring on the Soup

We will again be hosting our Mid-week Lenten worship/study online, and we are looking for soup recipes to share and highlight for each week. If you have a soup recipe that you would like to share, and a story behind it if you have one. Please email it to Pastor Zach (pastor zach@aelc.org) By Feb 21st. One soup will be highlighted each week, and everyone will be encouraged to make the same soup to share ‘together.’ A couple of bread recipes will also be included. Join us to be nourished body, mind, and spirit during the season of Lent.



Did you know that February 2, 2022 commemorates Pastor Zach's **15th Anniversary of Ordination**? He was ordained at the church he grew up attending, Bethany Lutheran Church in Elmira, NY surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues. Everyone braved the snow to be a part of this special day for Pastor Zach. Then Bishop of the Upstate NY Synod, Marie Jerge, presided over the service with many others having a part in the service to help celebrate Pastor Zach's ordination. It was a very special day indeed! Please wish him a Happy Anniversary as he celebrates his 15th year of ordained ministry and 4 years at AELC!



Contributions to the Endowment Fund

In Memory of Arlene Hoster

AELC Young at Heart Seniors

William & Dawn Baxter

Bucknell University Finance Office

Larry & Gloria Craley

Robert Hoster

Harry & Mary Kring

Marian Jameson

Robert Jameson

William & Chrissie McCutchen Charity Fund

Geraldine Naugle

Colette Price

David & Jo Verrill

In Memory of Colleen Williamson

Colette Price

In Memory of Edith Austin

Harry & Mary Kring

Colette Price

In Memory of Karen High

Colette Price

Contributions to the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Arlene Hoster

James & Susan Messner

In Memory of Colleen Williamson

Maryan & Stanley Yoder

In Memory of Edith Austin

Larry & Gloria Craley

James & Susan Messner

In Memory of Karen High

James & Susan Messner



Contributions to the Unrestricted Fund

In Memory of Colleen Williamson

William & Dawn Baxter

In Memory of Edith Austin

William & Dawn Baxter

In Memory of Karen High

William & Dawn Baxter

Contributions to the Christian Education Fund for Children

In Memory of Rosemary Schweitzer

Theresa Laudermilch

Financial Info

Treasurer's General Fund Report

GENERAL FUND UPDATE			
	Total Attendance*	General Fund Income	Weekly Budgetary Need
Dec 19, 2021	139	\$14,803	\$5418
Dec 24 & 26, 2021	208	\$5096	\$5418
Jan 2, 2022	71	\$9473	\$5418
Jan 9, 2022	102	\$4123	\$5418
Total	520	\$33,495	\$21,672

*attendance includes onsite and online figures.

In December our income exceeded expenses by about \$8000 boosted by some especially generous year end contributions. For 2021 expenses exceeded income by \$13,200. For the year expenses were \$3500 under budget, but income was \$17,000 under budget.

The General Fund checkbook balance at year end was \$47,350 including the PPP funds.

The HVAC fund balance which is not part of the General Fund is sufficient to cover payments through February. The \$20,000 HVAC loan will be paid off with the January, 2023, payment.

Also, outside of the budget, members continue to contribute to the Debt Reduction Fund and at the end of 2021 we had over \$8800 to use for our next principal paydown.



January 6, 2022

Dear Friends of Bear Creek Camp,

It's been an incredible year here at camp as we've continued forward into living out the ministry and mission of Bear Creek Camp in an ever changing landscape. You are an important part of an entire community of supporters that have carried this organization into the next phase of our work together. Only together can we continue to answer the call of helping individuals and communities explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation.

I'll never forget the Sunday night bonfire of this past summer's Session One. We had gathered all the campers together as a larger group for the very first time. While learning and singing songs, the woods once again fully echoed with the glee of campers returning to this place so many call their second home. Near the midpoint of that first bonfire, there was a quiet moment to pause where I finally let myself breathe and look around the circle. I saw summer staff in their brand new teal tee-shirts keeping their heads on a swivel making sure their campers were all okay. I saw two campers that hadn't seen each other since camp two years prior holding hands in that way only best camp friends do. I saw nervous first time campers reacting every time a hemlock log would pop in the fire shooting sparks high up in the sky. A lump caught in my throat as the manifestation of all the work our community had done over the past two years came to fruition. And I was grateful as I reflected on the many many supporters that it took to get to that point of sharing in God's love as a community around a simple campfire.

Everything we do at camp throughout the year is building to moments like those opening bonfires. Whether facilities projects, summer staff salaries, food purchases or camperships - every resource we steward is moving us towards living into our shared mission. With your generous support throughout this past year and prayerfully continuing into the future, I look forward to further building the BCC community and welcoming all to experience the power of God within this place.

Thank you once again for your support this year!

Sincerely,

Collin Grooms

Bear Creek Camp Executive Director

Allegheny Lutheran Church Mohnton 1327 Alleghenyville Rd Mohnton, PA 19540-7700
Financial History from 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021

Donations

Date

May 14, 2021	Congregational Gifts #3601	\$300.00
Jun 7, 2021	Congregational Gifts #3601	\$255.00

Total: \$555.00



Congratulations to Shockwave Thunder!

Shockwave Thunder took 1st place at the MLK Tournament!

Congratulate Autumn Albera on her excellent games if you see her!



Join us in the fight against hunger in our community by bringing in canned goods and monetary donations to support the Mohnton Food Pantry and Helping Harvest. Food donations can be dropped off at worship or in the church vestibule. Pantry items can also be purchased through Amazon and delivered to the church, or you can make a monetary donation through Tithely, drop off at worship or put in the mail (make sure to mark your donation). This year our goal is 600 canned goods and \$1200.00. Our deadline for donations is:

Sunday, February 13th

Won't you do your part to feed the hungry?

Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. **The donations will be distributed in the following manner:**

MOHNTON FOOD PANTRY (Zion ECC) – will receive all non-perishable food items
HELPING HARVEST – will receive all monetary donations.



AUDIO-VISUAL team

do we have a role for you. The AV Team at AELC is currently looking for individuals to assist with worship on Sunday morning and for special services. They are a great group of people who control the sound and live internet feed during worship. They are looking for a few extra people to assist in their ministry. If you are interested, please reach out to Andy Zirkel. itteam@aelc.org

Can you turn up the volume on your car radio or your TV? **Can you** use your computer to access webpages? IF you've answered yes to either of these, then



Altar Flowers

Ministry Opportunity

Please check the sponsor chart for altar flowers in the lobby...The new chart is up for 2022. Contact Sandy Fluck at 610-334-3175

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



Redner's Tapes can now be dropped off in the church vestibule at your convenience. Please place them in the box on the bookcase. Contact Susan Messner with any questions (610-777-7776).

Thank you!



Won't you please consider sponsoring the Sunday worship bulletin?

The new chart is up for 2022.

Cost: \$20

If you have any questions or wish to sponsor a week (or two), please sign up on the chart in the lobby or contact Jo Verrill at jodaverill@gmail.com.

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:

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



Looking Ahead...

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

Newsletter 



Congratulations

Craig Scheetz and everyone else who was inducted into the Governor Mifflin Wrestling Hall of Fame on Thursday Dec 30! Know of anyone else who's had something exciting happen to them? Please send it to the church office to share.



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!

Volunteer Needed

Looking for someone to scan old pictures and create digital files. This can be done at your home. We will supply a drive to save them on. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Zach.



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!

**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 Fun Facts**

Reformed and Lutheran Sunday School teachers taught every Sunday whether it was Lutheran or Reformed Sunday. It did not matter what denomination you were.

February Birthdays

1 David Mummau
 2 John Thomas (JT)
 3 Patricia Hiester
 4 Lisa Peterson
 5 Fiona Heath
 7 Kevin Naugle
 8 Aileen Kline
 9 Brendan Dougherty
 12 Mary Kring
 17 Tracey Ormsbee
 17 Lisa Weaver
 19 Michael Herling
 19 Ralph Voit
 20 Donna DiPasquale
 20 Alexis Carl
 21 Gayle Tomasko
 21 Beau Cylcewski
 23 Steven Cope
 24 David Chen
 24 David Keiser
 27 Mary Louise Hill
 28 Greg Horton
 29 Katie Grim

**February Anniversaries**

1 Meg & Russ Relkin (1992)
 9 Connie & Kevin Kelly (1984)
 12 Jacquelyn & Dean Hirneisen (2006)
 14 Lucille & James Spangler (1998)
 15 Joan & Guy Knickerbocker (1964)
 18 Betsy & Peter Diebolt (1984)
 27 Gloria & Larry Craley (1960)

**2021 Giving Statements**

Statements for your 2021 giving have been generated. If your email address is on file in the church's system, you should already be in possession of your electronic giving statement. If you don't have an email address on file, or if you've opted out of receiving electronic communications, your paper statement will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, please contact Colette Price at ColettePrice@comcast.net (please note the correct spelling of Colette in her email address) or at 610-780-7795.

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!



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
Council Treasurer	Bill Baxter
Council Financial Secretary	Colette Price

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

FEBRUARY**February 6**

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

February 13**Souper Bowl of Caring/Scout Sunday**

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

February 20, 27

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 (Feb. 20)
10:30 am	Praise Worship