



# AELC News

News from and around  
Allegheny Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



## Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church

1327 Alleghenyville Rd.

Mohnton, PA 19540

610-777-2520

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

### Church Staff

#### Pastor

The Rev. Zach Labagh

[pastorzach@aelc.org](mailto:pastorzach@aelc.org)

610-777-2520

#### Director of Youth & Mission

Kristen Kelly

[youthd@aelc.org](mailto:youthd@aelc.org)

#### Dir. of Children & Family Ministries

Annemarie Pietrobono

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#### Music Director

Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson

[Annie\\_musicd@aelc.org](mailto:Annie_musicd@aelc.org)

#### Praise Team Leader

Bill Moczydlowski

[wsmoczy@hotmail.com](mailto:wsmoczy@hotmail.com)

#### Office Administrator

Dee Constable

[office@aelc.org](mailto:office@aelc.org)

#### Sexton

Jean Jones

## JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and Jesus, our infant Messiah who's birth we celebrate. With a New Year comes new possibilities. Often we make New Years' resolutions to start something to make us healthier, or create a new (positive) habit. So what might those look like, if we view them based in our faith? If we cling to our faith and seek to go deeper in our faith this year? Do you attend faith formation? If not maybe find a time to join in, we have some interesting speakers coming this spring. What about getting your children involved? I understand how busy life can get, so many activities, and events, we often let church slide, but our faith goes beyond our worship on Sunday morning (besides you can stream it wherever you want online). We live our faith daily, with each decision and action we encounter God. Deepening our faith can mean reading the Bible more, praying more, or having a faith conversation. Do you struggle with that? Maybe you need a buddy to help keep you on track. We can find you one. Whether you are looking for something like this or ways to serve at AELC we can help you find time during worship, or throughout the week. We are working to find ways for people, whose lives are busy to volunteer when, where, and how, they are able.



Struggling to figure out what gifts you have to offer? The ELCA, our national church, has a tool to help you identify your spiritual gifts, and we can help you learn about them, and how to use them. If you're interested in taking the Spiritual Gifts inventory, [click here the link and spend some time faithfully answering the questions.](#) We all

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS



MANY GIFTS ONE SPIRIT

have gifts to share, and we at AELC are looking to find ways to have everyone share their gifts in some way. We are excited as we talk about our Experiences on Jan 8, and continue to find out what our core values are

from what you share. We are all part of the Body of Christ, who invites us into community, and encourages us to live into God's mission for us and the world. We claim this mission by inviting others to "Come, to know the Love of God: Go, to make it known" for not just a specific group but all people. Whatever your resolutions, I pray you see God at work in your lives, and live into the promise of God for your life this year.

Peace in the Infant Christ,

*Pastor Zach*



Thank you!

My family and I wanted to extend our Thanks for all the cards, gifts, and well wishes during this Christmas season. You are all a blessing to us.

Pastor Zach, Janine, Emma, and Jacob.

### January/February Adult Faith Formation Classes

**Jan 15** Bethany Bower-Director of Family Promise

**Jan 22** Dr. Bill McKay GMSD Superintendent

**Feb 5** Paul Brockman- Hunger in America

**Feb 12** Mark D.-Thrivent- College Planning

**Feb 19** open

**Feb 26** Rabbi Brian Michelson

# Youth & Mission



Youth Group will take place on Sunday, **January 22**! Join us for an afternoon of snow tubing fun at Roundtop Resort! We will meet at AELC for lunch around 11:45 and depart for Roundtop at 12:15pm. We will snow tube from 1:30pm-3:30pm and return to AELC around 5pm. Cost is \$36 per person. Please let Kristen know if you are attending and submit payment by Thursday, January 12.



## CAT CLASS

There will be **no** CAT Class on Sunday January 1. We will resume class on Sunday, January 8, attending the Experience talk at 9am in the gym.

### INTERWOVEN



Interwoven is turning 4! Join us after worship on Sunday, **January 15** from 12pm-2pm for a pot luck lunch. We will be revisiting several activities Interwoven has participated in over the years. Come join us in the celebration and see what Interwoven is all about!



Sr High Faith Formation will meet on **January 15** from 9:15 to 10:15. We are planning to finish painting the senior high space so come prepared with clothes you don't mind getting paint on! If extra time is needed, we will work after church as well (lunch will be provided). We look forward to seeing you on the 15th as we paint and discuss current issues that are of interest to you!

Sr High meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 9:30 to 10:15. If you have any questions please contact Janine Labagh, Allison Eshleman or Kristen.

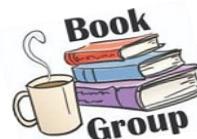
**Fair Trade**

The New Year brings new products to the Fair Trade stand. We now have K Cups, Spicy Hot Chocolate, and, in addition to their delicious, bagged teas, Equal Exchange now has loose leaf tea available. The AELC Fairtrade stand is the place to find a special treat to relax with, while supporting fair wages to farmers. If you are a coffee, tea, hot chocolate, or organic candy bar consumer, please take a moment to stop by the stand to compare our prices against the same products sold at the local market. Because we don't sell for profit, but rather to provide you with the opportunity to purchase these products, while supporting Fair Trade initiatives, our prices are lower than grocery or super stores. And we love questions and special requests!

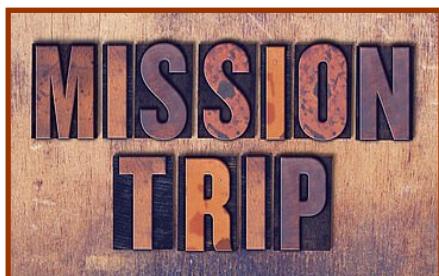
As always, thank you for your generous, and continued support,  
Connie and Janine

**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**

Book club resumes Thursday **January 5!** Join us at 6:30pm to discuss the book "The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot" by Marianne Cronin! Our book for January will be "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. The reading schedule for "Lessons in Chemistry" is:  
**Jan 19:** Chap. 1-Chap. 22 (pgs. 1-181)  
**Feb. 2:** Chap. 23-Chap. 45 (pgs. 182-386)  
 While you're at it, grab some of our Fair Trade tea or coffee to cozy up with while you read! Happy reading!

**Mission Trip News!**

Our Mission Trip this year will take place from **June 10-16!** We will be working with Serve Boldly to travel to Nashville TN for a week of service, community, and faith! The trip will cost \$400 per person. We will be partnering with Trinity, Reading and St. John's, Sinking Spring for our trip. This trip is for any youth who has completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Registration is \$50 and **due by Sunday, January 16.** Have questions - contact Kristen! We can't wait to Serve Boldly with you this summer!

## Fun at the AELC Christmas Party!!

Thank you to all the families that came to this year's Christmas Party! It was such an amazing, blessed event to spend time having fun, eating yummy food, playing games, spending time with friends and family!



Faith Formation will not be held on January 1. We welcome the children back on **January 8** to hear about their wonderful Christmas! [Registration for Faith Formation is always open](#). We welcome new faces to our blessed Faith Formation Classes!!

Join our Facebook page at [faithfillfun](#) for all our family and children events.

Chronic Pain Support Group will be starting back up on **January 3** at 6:30pm. If you are interested in joining us please register at AELC.org on our events page. If you wish to be added or wish to add someone to our emails, prayer list and support list please email to [Annmarie@aelc.org](mailto:Annmarie@aelc.org).

Help our Faith Formation Children to raise money for World Hunger! You can do this online at: [Http://support.elca.org/goto/faithformationmission](http://support.elca.org/goto/faithformationmission) and help us reach our goal of \$2,500.00!! With this amount we are able to supply two families with a full barnyard!! Every gift makes a difference.

## Brecknock Angel Tree



### Thank you!

Thank you to all who provided for our Brecknock Christmas Tree this year! Because of your generosity we were able to provide for 9 families! Thank you for bringing the Christmas Spirit!

# Financial Info

## Treasurer's General Fund Report

### GENERAL FUND UPDATE

	Total Attendance*	General Fund Income	Weekly Budgetary Need
Nov 20, 2022	134	\$7254	\$5418
Nov 27, 2022	107	\$3695	\$5418
Dec 4, 2022	120	\$8504	\$5418
Dec 11, 2022	118	\$5125	\$5418
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>\$24,578</b>	<b>\$21,672</b>

\*attendance includes onsite and online figures.

In November our expenses exceeded income by \$283.

For the first eleven months of the year, income trails expenses by \$28,700.

The General Fund checkbook balance at the end of November was about \$18,800 including the balance of the PPP funds.



Family Promise®

### Family Promise Report

Thanks to all who helped with our December host week! Through your generosity we provided: 4 meals delivered, gift cards for each of the four families, and both homes received a large bag of necessary household supplies - laundry detergent, sponges, paper towels, toilet paper and tissues. The families were extremely grateful! Being homeless at the holidays is very difficult but you have all helped to lighten their load. Thank you!

## ❖ West Berks Mission District ❖

The West Berks Mission District is a coalition of area Lutheran churches working together to do effective, cooperative ministry. YOU are a member of the West Berks Mission District!

WBMD 1015 Windsor Street Reading PA 19604

### **CHANGES FOR THE WBMD...**

Hello friends,

As you read this I will be in my early days of retirement. Not really sure how I feel about that yet but I do know that I will miss working with all of you in the important ministries we did together. For the past 18 years, working with you has indeed been a privilege. And we accomplished a lot together! Developing Family Promise of Berks County to serve homeless families with children. Starting GRIP- Greater Reading Immigration Project – to learn more about issues facing our local immigrant community as well as starting a college scholarship fund for deserving undocumented students. Helping to organize our local CROP Hunger Walks to serve the hungry both locally and around the world. Continuing to feed our neighbors who utilize our Lutheran Pantries. And there were other fun activities too – Day Camps, Music Camps, Bowl-a-thons, youth events, rostered leaders gatherings, prayer breakfasts, learning events and more! It has been great serving with you as we were **Witnessing Boldly & Making a Difference!** Thank you all for this extraordinary opportunity!

BUT... God's work isn't finished! Your support is still needed! Your talents are still needed! Your service is still needed! Moving forward, the structure of the WBMD will be different BUT, the mission continues!

There will no longer be a central office – but mail can still be sent to the address above for now. A new, part-time WBMD Coordinator will be hired to serve as a facilitator and main communicator who will continue to keep folks informed and connected. New contact information will be made available as soon as this staff person is in place. **Lay members are needed** to serve on the WBMD Council which will be the leadership board going forward. Ministry liaisons will be identified to lead and support our important on-going ministries. Please, if you want more information about serving in any of these areas, contact our WBMD Dean, Rev. Colleen Cox, at [acre100@aol.com](mailto:acre100@aol.com)

Thank you again for your continued good work and our ministry partnership. Be blessed!

*Dawn Baxter*

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### **Afghan Family Resettlement Update**

We have been hearing reports on the resettlement efforts of the Afghan Sponsor Circle as they helped a multi-generational family of 9 settle into a new life here in Reading. The 90-day resettlement support program has come to a close and the group has good news to share. This family will soon be relocating to California. They have connected with family and an established community there that can provide better work and living opportunities for them all. The family has expressed sincere gratitude for the support they have received from the Sponsor Circle, volunteers and those who have donated monetarily and with necessary household and personal items! The recent car fundraising effort brought in \$3,100. And since a vehicle was not purchased the funds have been put toward moving expenses. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to get this family to the U.S. and out of harms way!

See the WBMD website for the entire report.



**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—see below



Bulletins

Flower prices for weekly altar and chancel bouquets will be increasing for 2023, beginning in January. The 2 altar vases will be \$50 plus \$4 delivery fee for a total of \$54.00. One chancel bouquet, will cost a total of \$50.00. Amy, at Stein's Flowers, has tried to keep our costs down for the last few years, but now finds it necessary for an increase. Thank you so much for sponsoring flowers in the past, and hopefully will continue to sponsor in the future! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sandy (610-334-3175).

Questions: contact Jo Verrill at [jodaverrill@gmail.com](mailto: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, Larry Craley, Pat Hiester,  
Paul Pray, Malcolm Reider

**Looking Ahead...**

Our next newsletter is the **February** issue. If you have content for the newsletter, please submit your articles by **January 15** to the church office via email at [office@aelc.org](mailto:office@aelc.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@aelc.org](mailto:prayerlist@aelc.org) or the church office at [office@aelc.org](mailto: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](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>



### HELP BOTH OUR CHURCH AND OUR PLANET AT THE SAME TIME

AELC is 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!*



Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that **Allegheny Lutheran Church** has been issued a **\$53.31** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2022.



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.



**January 1**—New Years 2023! 10:30 am Combined Worship (Lessons & Carols)

**January 8**—Breakfast & Discussion – 9 am, 10:30 - Combined Worship, 11:30 am – Congregational Meeting (finance)

**January 18-25**—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**February 5**—Souper Bowl/Scout Sunday

**February 22**—Ash Wednesday (drive by ashes 8-9:30am, 11:30-1pm) Service at 7pm

**February 26**—First Sunday in Lent



## ALTAR GUILD

### JANUARY

8:30 am—Susan, Ruth & Dottie  
10:30 am—Gayle Tomasko

### FEBRUARY

8:30 am—Theresa Laudermilch  
10:30 am—Allison & John Eshleman  
& Norma Jean Rogers

## UPCOMING

Souper Bowl and Scout Sunday —  
**February 5.** More details to come in February newsletter and weekly worship bulletins.



**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22**

**Drive by Ashes**  
**8-9:30am,**  
**11am-1pm**  
**Service 7pm**



## What a beautiful night for singing!

Thank you to the 45 AELC members who participated in the Christmas at Joanna Carol Sing, Friday, December 2.



The stage was filled with children and adults bundled in their winter coats and mittens. Following the prelude, Erik Peterson Smith read the nativity story and all of us sang the many Christmas carols which enhanced the Bible reading. The audience grew around the bonfire as they listened to our message. Yes, the story of our Savior's Birth was shared to all!



# THANK YOU!

**A Special Thank You for the beautiful new decorations and ornaments that now decorate our Sanctuary, lobby and front entry and the church sign. (Dianne Ostrich, Marsha Yadlosky, Gayle Tomasko, Annmarie Pietrobono) and all those who did the decorating too!**

**Also...a special Thank You to Rich DiGuardi of Cobblestone Farms for donating the 2 beautiful Christmas trees that sit in the Sanctuary.**



**January Anniversaries**

- 5 Tammy & Doug Taylor (1991)
- 10 Kathryn & Barry Voigt (1970)
- 21 Roxanne & Apollo Loose (1999)
- 23 Mary Louise & Ray Hill (1954)  
Robin & Bruce Ream (1988)

**January Birthdays**

- 3 James Spangler
- 4 Kurtis Zirkel
- 4 Gregg Haupert
- 5 Susan Messner
- 6 Noah Angstadt
- 7 Natalie Wilde
- Carter Link
- 11 Kenneth Baur
- 13 James Messner
- R. Jacob Labagh
- 17 Greg Duffin
- 19 Ronald Fluck
- 20 Abby Naugle
- 22 Jasmine Weaver
- 23 Keith Naugle
- 26 Lewis Everline
- Jeremiah Thompson
- 31 Xavier Weaver

END OF YEAR  
**GIVING**  
 STATEMENTS

**As We Approach Year-End, Please Remember...**

- If you have automatic giving to the church set up and you need assistance to update your giving, please reach out to Colette Price at [ColettePrice@comcast.net](mailto:ColettePrice@comcast.net)
- 2022 Year-End Giving Statements will again be distributed electronically in mid-to-late January. If the church does not have an email address on file for you or your spouse, you'll receive a printed statement. If you don't have access to a printer & need a printed copy, please contact Colette to be placed on a mailing list. Note that any printed giving statements will not be received as quickly as the electronic statements.

Any questions on your giving statement should be immediately addressed to Colette prior to 1/27. Responses received after that date will be addressed as quickly as possible; however, there will be delays due to Colette's availability.



## AELC Church Council



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE  
10:30 AM COMBINED  
WORSHIP SERVICE.  
MEETING IS TO APPROVE THE  
2023 BUDGET.

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



### Men's Group

Next meeting to  
be determined



Join us on **Jan 8** for our final event. This event will focus on personal experiences with church and faith. How we have journeyed to this point, the good and bad, has impacted our current faith. We will gather again at 9am with breakfast to discuss our experiences and learn from each other how we continue to grow in our language of Who we are at AELC.



## JANUARY

**Jan. 1**

### First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 am Combined Worship

**Jan. 8**

### Baptism of Our Lord

9:00 am Discussion: Church Experience/  
Breakfast Included

9:00 am Faith Formation Classes/CAT Class

10:30 am Combined Worship

11:30 am Annual Meeting (to approve 2023  
budget)

**Jan. 15**

### Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 am Early Worship

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

**Jan. 22**

### Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

**Jan. 29**

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

## 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>

