



**Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!!! These words we profess with joy in the season of Easter. We celebrate our Risen Messiah, the Christ, God's Word made flesh that comes and dwells among us. It is a promise fulfilled by God that challenges us today, to see the Risen Christ at work in the world. It is a reminder of all that Jesus went through for our sake. It is also a reminder of what God was willing to do, come in flesh, take on something practical, that we can understand, and love. Jesus is the presence of God in the world that allows us to interact personally with God, and helps us understand the Love that God has for humanity.

This presence of God in the world reminds us of our own transformation. Of the Spirit that will soon descend on the first Pentecost, to be shared. That Spirit which is part of us, through faith. That Spirit which challenges us, to live as the Risen Lord showed us, serving others, without reservation or expectation. I am reminded of a Veggie Tale's song, that goes "Our God is a God of second chances..." and third and forth, and five thousandth chances. Our God is one who continually invites us, thru the water, and to the table to be fed and cleansed, to offer us peace, and calls us out into the world, to sharing our Spirit-given gifts with others.

The Joy of the resurrection is a gift that for us to share that doesn't diminish when we give it away. It is a gift much like the loaves and fish, (Matthew 14:17-18-21) that there is always plenty for everyone to have enough to be satisfied. The Love of God is a gift want-

ing and waiting to be given away, freely.



And yes I'm going to say it again. Easter Changes EVERYTHING. This resurrection changes Jesus, it changes the disciples, it changes us, here and now. It reminds us that we are part of a great community that is always being challenged, and always being called to go out into the world, to share the Love of God with a world that needs it, and often doesn't deserve it.

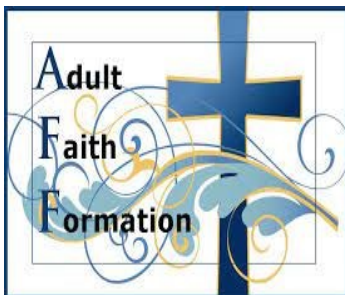
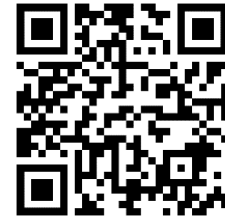
But neither do we. It's not something that's ours to parcel out as we see fit. God's grace is a gift that should be tossed about as the sower did when he cast out the seed in handfuls across the ground (Luke 8:5-15). Our faith isn't just about the historical Jesus, but about the Risen Jesus, and the God who was, is, and will be. The God who created everything that is too big to fit fully into our understanding. The God who invites us to walk alongside in humbleness, to share that Love that we have been given with others. So as we continue this joy-filled Easter walk may we be challenged to Love as Jesus loves us, and to share it with humbleness and grace tossing it abundantly about, because the Love of God will never run out.

Peace in the Risen Christ whose Resurrection (Easter) Changes Everything.

Pastor Zach

THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

We now give thanks to God who has richly blessed us as we return a portion of those gifts to the work of God here in this place. You can also give electronically by going to our website aelc.org, using the QR code, or texting "Give" to (610) 379-3132.



May Adult Faith Formation Classes

May 7	Civics and Faith Discussions
May 14	Civics and Faith Discussions
May 21	Ideas for Next Year (final class till Sept.)

Youth & Mission



Our Youth group will be taking a break for the summer. Keep an eye out in August for information on a fun activity we are working on planning!

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.



Register here: <https://forms.gle/31N3nq4BGujFQBFB7>
Questions? Talk to Kristen Kelly or Emma Labagh!

Last Day of CAT Class

Our last day of CAT Class will be Sunday, May 21.

INTERWOVEN



"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue" (Proverbs 31: 25-26).

Join us on Sunday, **May 14** during our Faith Formation hour, beginning at 9 am to celebrate the wonderful women in our lives who have helped shape and raise us. Bring your mothers, aunts, grandmothers, and other motherly figures in your life for a morning of fun and celebration!

Please sign up in the lobby if you plan to attend.

Shoe Box Ministry



Shoe Boxes are now available to claim for our Mission Trippers this summer! Seven of us will be traveling to Nashville, TN from June 10-19! Shoe boxes are due by **June 4!**



Senior High Faith Formation

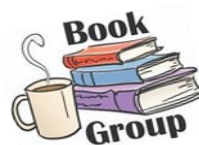
Sr. High Faith Formation will join with Cat Class at **9:15 on May 7** to make breakfast sandwiches for Opportunity House. We will meet for the final time this year on **May 21 at 9:30**. Be sure to come and check out the Senior High space and talk about how you want to use our time together in the upcoming year. We look forward to seeing you in May! If you have any questions please contact Janine Labagh, Allison Eshleman or Kristen.

FAIR TRADE

The Fair Trade Stand has an exciting new feature product! Equal Exchange is collaborating with a The Cross Atlantic Chocolate Collective, an organization whose goal is to decolonize the chocolate market. Typically, in the world of chocolate growing and production, those who harvest the chocolate beans work for pennies and stay poor, while those who produce chocolate products reap the monetary benefits. The Cross Atlantic Chocolate Collective is working to enable its members to participate in all stages of growing and producing their own chocolate, from the seed to the delicious, finished product.

We Currently have a sampler of 9 mini bars, each created by growers/producers in 12 different countries, including the USA, retailing for \$18.00. Stop by the stand to check it out, or visit their website at <https://www.chocolaterebellion.com/> to learn more about this exciting new venture, and to see which countries are participating.

Thank you for your continued support,
Janine and Connie



Join us on **May 11** at 6:30 pm as we finish "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. After our meeting on the 11th, we will go on our summer break! During the summer, we will read "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult. We will resume meeting on Thursday, September 7 to chat about Mad Honey and start our fall reading schedule. Happy Reading!

Congratulations Grads!

Brandon Carl graduates from Governor Mifflin High School.

Ellie Loose graduates from Immaculata University with a Bachelors Degree in History with Secondary Education. She plans on taking a well deserved vacation post graduation!

Connor Naugle graduates from Shenandoah University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Management and Finance. Connor is currently working on applying to jobs in his field.

Kate Naugle graduates from Governor Mifflin High School. She is planning on attending Florida Institute of Technology majoring in Forensic Psychology.

Annmarie Pietrobono graduates from Liberty University with an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Gracie Ramsbottom graduates from Governor Mifflin High School. She is currently deciding on which college to attend where she will major in Elementary Education.



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!



Faith Formation

Here are some happenings at AELC Children & Families

Join our Facebook page for all Family and Children Events:
Faithfilledfun
Contact Annmarie for any questions
Annmarie@aelc.org

Pets Unleashed Camp

June 26 -30

10am to 12pm

Ages 3 to 10 years' old

\$10.00 a child / Sibling discount offered

"Were Jesus Cares for You!!"

We will be making "Projects with a purpose"
Centered around our community pet organizations.

T-shirt, Making toys, Bowls, Treats,
Blankets, Games, Snack, FUN!!



Camp Registration is available on our website at AELC.org under the events tab!



Kindness Camp

July 17 to 21

Ages 3 to 12 years' old

\$15.00 a child / Sibling discount offered

Creating projects to spread throughout our community for those in need!

T-shirt, Cooking, Painting, Creating, Games, Snack, FUN!!



Vacation Bible School

Calling all Preschool Kiddos!!
Join us for a special Preschool VBS!

"Stellar"

Sing, Play, Blastoff in your Preschool Space Place!

August 7 - 11 5:30 pm to 8 pm

Children **Grades 1st to 6th** Grade Bring a friend and
Join us for "Stellar"

We will be "Shining Through Jesus Light" while we Sing, Dance, Play Games, Eat Snacks, Have Fun!!



AELC After School Program is now open for registration!! Registration and information can be found on our Website AELC.org under the Events Tab.



**Easter Morning
Goodies Shared
Together!**



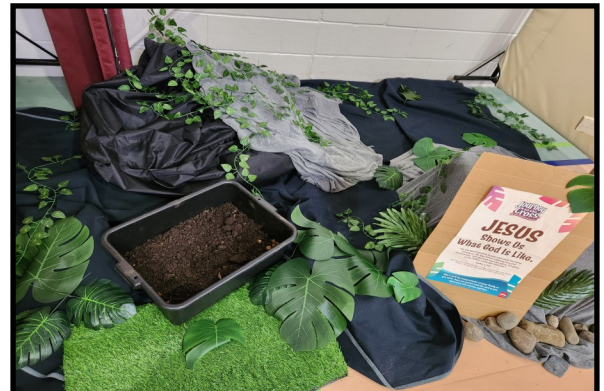
**Easter Egg Hunt
Prize Baskets**



Faith Formation Skit: "Jesus Is Sweeter Than Candy"



**Journey
to the
Cross**





Brandon Carl carrying the cross for Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday.



Thank you to David Henry, Harry Kring, the Hmong congregation and the Scouts for braving the weather and preparing our outdoors for Easter.



A special thank you to the following for providing bread and soup for the Lenten suppers:

Sheri Kaufman	Laraine Montgomery
Dianne Ostrich	Annmarie Pietrobono
Ruth Ruth	Sr. High/CAT Class
Lucille Spangler	Gayle Tomasko
Wendy Yeckley	