



**Allegheny Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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# AELC News

News from and around  
Allegheny Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



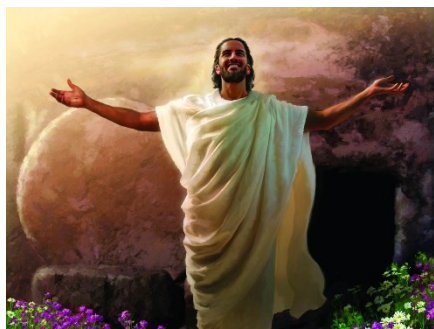
## APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Grace to you and peace from God our creator, and Jesus, who journey to the cross to give the world new and abundant life. We want to rush to Easter, to the joyous empty tomb, but before we get there, we have to travel the path that leads there. The first week of April is that culmination. As we gather on April 2 for Palm/Passion Sunday, and walk through Holy Week, we move to the cross and the tomb. To that place of agony, and death, where Jesus goes to show us the Love of God. Facing grief and loss is not something we like to do. Many go to great lengths to avoid or deny it, and yet in this week we can't. God won't let us ignore what Jesus goes through. Whether it is on Palm/Passion Sunday or throughout the rest of the week, we come face to face with a God who sends Jesus into the world to redeem the world, through death.



What does that mean to us? While it might be something we'd rather ignore for the joy of Easter, we need to see this Holy Week as a significant desire of God to offer salvation and grace to the world. The criminal that Jesus was crucified next to who cries out to Jesus, receives salvation, just by calling on Jesus' name in his hour of torment to be saved. This interaction shows us just who is 'eligible' for Jesus' grace. Jesus' final words, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." offers grace to those who twisted 'justice' in order to serve their purpose. Jesus' grace extends even to them.



As we enter Holy Week and move into Easter, we can hear Jesus' promise for us and the world and for those who speak hate against others, for those who revile and demean and those who act violently. Jesus' journey that led to the tomb should cause us to pause and see the Love of God for the world. Jesus' actions should invite us to see one another, and all of humanity as Christ sees us. So that as we run to that tomb on Easter morn with the disciples, we are able to let go of our pain, anguish, fear, guilt, loss, and run with abandonment, not into an empty tomb but into the arms of our Risen Savior who welcomes us into new and abundant life through God's grace.

Peace in the Love of God,

*Pastor Zach*

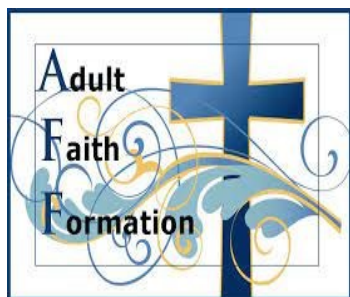
## CORE VALUES

Thank you to our Guiding team, Heidi Ramsbottom, Lisa Peterson, and Joe Hickson, who worked diligently

throughout these last months to listen to the congregation at our three events (History, Scripture, and Experience) and form language of 'core values' of AELC from those discussions. More information will be coming out soon, and we are excited to share them at our Annual Meeting in June.

## 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](http://aelc.org), using the QR code, or texting "Give" to (610) 379-3132.



### April

#### Adult Faith Formation Classes

April 2	Civil Life and Faith Study (Pastor Zach)
April 9	No Adult Faith Formation
April 16	Civil Life and Faith Study (Pastor Zach)
April 23	Civil Life and Faith Study (Pastor Zach)
April 30	Civil Life and Faith Study (Pastor Zach)

# Youth & Mission



Our next youth group will take place Sunday, **April 23!** We will be joined by Tammy Taylor to talk about the environment and do some litter pick up to help celebrate Earth Day! Bring a packed lunch to AELC for lunch at noon and a conversation about sustainability and our environment. We will then head out into the community for some trash clean up.

## **RAFTING IS BACK!**

We will be White Water Rafting again this year for our June Interwoven! Join us Saturday, **June 24**



for our rafting adventure. This year we will be offering two options for rafting:

Rafting with Pirates with Ms. Kristen! This is the trip we participated in last year. We will be rafting at 11:05 am. This option is for ages 4+, will include class 1-2 rapids, and covers about 8 miles with a break for a cook out. Cost is \$69.99 for ages 12+ and \$59.99 for ages 4-11.

Dam Release with Pastor Zach! This trip will begin at 10:15am. This option is for ages 8+, will include class 3-4 rapids, and covers about 12 miles, and does not include the cook out, rafters must include their own lunch. Cost is \$79.99 per person.

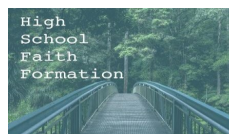
Sign-ups will take place March 26-April 9, and rafters must place a \$35.00 deposit per rafter when they sign up. Remainder of the balance will be due June 4.

## INTERWOVEN



On **April 15**, AELC is hosting Journey to the Cross—a powerfully moving, multisensory family event that takes people along the path that Jesus walked during his last days on earth. Activities focused on Jesus' love and forgiveness demonstrates the real meaning of Easter: our risen Christ's victory over death! Interwoven for the month of April will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> as helpers for Journey to the Cross and the Easter egg craft and hunt. Anyone willing to help at the stations, help with the craft, or hide/help with the egg hunt, please contact Kristen at [youthd@aelc.org](mailto:youthd@aelc.org) or Annmarie at [annmarie@aelc.org](mailto:annmarie@aelc.org)!

Save the date for **May 14** for our next Interwoven! Interwoven will take place during Faith Formation on the 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our Mother's, Grandmother's and other important women in our lives! Come celebrate all the wonderful women who have helped raise and shape us!



**Senior High Faith Formation**  
**1st & 3rd Sunday's**  
**of the month**  
**9:30 am**

**FAIR TRADE**

As the weather begins to get warmer, don't forget, Fair Trade teas and coffees are delicious hot or cold, and can be easily brewed, or steeped, and poured over ice as a quick, cool, warm weather beverage.



Warmer weather also halts our chocolate shipments for the summer, so if you like a particular flavor of chocolate bar and are hoping to have some on hand during the summer months, please let us know so we can have some in our inventory. If you really love a particular flavor, consider purchasing it by the case which contains 12 delicious bars.

Speaking of chocolate, we currently have lots of flavor choices on hand to add to Easter Baskets or consider purchasing some mini chocolate bars to use for Easter Egg hunting.

Happy Easter, and 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!



Join us in April as we finish reading "Hour of the Witch" by Christ Bohjalian. We will meet Thursday, **April 13** at 6:30pm to discuss Chapter 20-Epilogue (pgs. 207-400). After that we will be reading "A Man Called Ove" (also can be found as "A Man Called Otto") by Fredrik Backman. Our reading schedule will be:

April 27 at 6:30pm: Chapter 1-16 (pages 1-156)

May 11 at 6:30pm: Chapters 17-Epilogue (pages 157-337)

**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 now open and is \$10 per participant. Questions? Talk to Kristen Kelly or Emma Labagh!







## Faith Formation

### Easter Skit

Join us on **April 16** at our 10:30 service for our Faith Formation Easter Skit. This will be a wonderful, fun, skit that your whole family will enjoy!!

**ACOLYTE:** Any child in 3rd grade and older who are interested in being an Acolyte, please sign up at Charlie's Cafe. Sign-up sheet is located on the Faith Formation Table.



**WEE WORSHIP:** Any child ages 2 and up are welcome to attend Wee Worship during our 10:30 service. During Wee Worship we discuss Jesus, Bible, Love, Faith, Holidays through crafts, stories, songs. Your child will be back in time for communion during the service. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with Wee Worship please see the signup sheet on the Faith Formation Table

in the lobby.

Follow our Facebook page at Faithfilledfun for all our Children, Camps and Family Events.



We're only 419 pounds away from our goal of 1000 pounds of gently worn, used and new shoes! Help us reach our goal by cleaning out your closet. Have shoes in your closet that you never wear? We'll take them! Every pair of gently worn, used and new shoes we collect turns into funds for our



cause and is kept out of landfills! We are collecting shoes till the end of March! Thank you BUNCHES!



**Calling all those Adult and Children Gardeners out there!** We are looking for you! We are going to start building our community garden and would love for you to join us. If you are interested please contact Annmarie at [Annmarie@aelc.org](mailto:Annmarie@aelc.org)



## Faith Formation

**Join us for an Easter Family Event  
Saturday, April 15**

**Come to this event anytime between 11:00am – 1:00pm**

Journey to the Cross is a powerfully moving, multisensory family event that takes people along the path that Jesus walked during his last days on earth. Activities focused on Jesus' love and forgiveness demonstrate the real meaning of Easter: our risen Christ's victory over death! Parents and their children can experience together!



This event teaches about the life-changing message of the cross in a way that everyone can understand, and no one will forget. **Registration is located on our webpage at [AELC.org](http://AELC.org) or on the clipboard in the lobby.**



**Join us after this wonderful experience  
for our Easter Egg Hunt at 1pm!  
Rain or shine**



We are looking for Volunteers. Do you love working with Children? Are you willing to volunteer for 3 hours? We are in need of Volunteers for our afterschool program. Starting in August 2023 we will be opening our After School Program. If you are willing to Volunteer please see Annmarie or email Annmarie at [Annmarie@aelc.org](mailto:Annmarie@aelc.org).



Galatians 6:10

*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,  
and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

**Faith Formation  
Join us on Facebook:**

**Faithfilledfun  
Keep in touch with Family  
And Children Events**



**Our After School Program  
now has a facebook!**

**Join us at:  
AELCafterschool**



## SUMMER IS COMING SOON!!!

Here is what is happening this summer at:  
Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Creative Arts "Kindness Camp"**  
**July 17—21** 9:30am-12:00pm  
Ages 3-12 \$15.00 per child  
We will be making art..flower pots  
to deliver to our homebound mem-  
bers, cards..for children in other  
countries, kindness jars..for fami-  
lies, meal ..for an organization in  
need and more!



**Creative Arts "Pets Unleashed"**  
**June 12-16** 10am-12pm  
Ages 3-10 \$10.00 per child  
Kids are crazy for critters with  
whiskers, tails, feathers, or scales!  
That's why kids will think this  
camp is the cat's meow. During the  
week at Pets Unleashed we will in-  
troduce kids to Jesus, God's Son  
who lovingly cares for us through  
games, art, music and pets!!



Vacation Bible School  
"Stellar"

**August 7-11** 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Ages 3 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Join us for out of the world excitement!**  
**This is a Bible-rich program grounded**  
**in hands-on, multi-sensory learning ex-**  
**perience that kids will be talking about**  
**all summer long!**

Registration is now OPEN for our afterschool program starting in  
school year 2023-2024. Children K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade attending Brecknock  
Elementary can register on our website or through the QR code.



**All Camps and Families activities can be found on our website at**  
**AELC.org or by joining our Facebook page at Faithfilledfun**



## From Gayle Tomasko

### A BIG THANK YOU AND BLESSING!

In January my cousin, Eileen Larouere (she lives in Western PA) saw my Facebook page about Interwoven doing a baby shower for Parish Resources. She messaged me asking if she could make baby afghans. In the beginning of March, she shipped me 12 beautiful baby afghans including a Blessing Prayer. Kristen will be delivering 6 to Mary's shelter and 6 to the Parish Resource Center. Blessings happen beyond our church Walls.



### BAREFOOT SUNDAY

Faith Formation students participated in the Barefoot Sunday event on March 19 which showed them what it's like to walk barefoot to get water. All this ties in with the ELCA World Hunger Walk for Water Event on March 26.

