



**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

**Faith Formation Director
Volunteer**

Judy Newman
judy_new@aelc.org

Music Director

Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson
Annie_musicd@aelc.org

Praise Team Leader

Bill Moczydlowski
wsmoczy@hotmail.com

Office Administrator

Dee Constable
office@aelc.org

Sexton

Jean Jones

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Charles Charles

AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church



JANUARY 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 the Son who grows up before our eyes this month. Happy New Year!!!

As we welcome in a new year, with hope we look back at what was, the good and the bad, and seek a new year filled with more good. Do you have goals for this year? Hopes? Plans? The new year is always a great time to try something new, to be engaged differently, and to stretch ourselves, physically, spiritually and emotionally.

We quickly move through Jesus' early life. What seems like just yesterday he was born, now he's being baptized and set out into the wilderness to begin his ministry. Time may seem to fly for us as well. Now as we begin 2022, do we remember what it was like in 2010? Or 2000? Where did that time go? What has changed in the last decade or two in your life? What did those events that you remember teach you? How did they shape who you are today? How has your faith been impacted? In 2010 I had just started a new call to serve a two church parish in Upstate NY. Our kids were small, and we were figuring out a new area. It was a snowy winter and I remember my first Sunday going up to the first church (which was in the



country) I made a turn in the road only to be faced with a whiteout. Not knowing the road yet I trusted that it went straight, and headed in that direction. I made it to the church and back, but what an experience of faith and trust.

As we head into the New Year, after two years of struggle, how can we live into hope and trust? Has what has taken place in our nation and the world eroded your trust and hope? The promise that we can all hold to is that our hope and trust is not based in humanity. It is placed in God, who guides us. Do we follow? Are we willing to put aside our individual wants and demands to see God at work in the world and in us? This work and promise is communal. Yes, it is within each of us, but we do it together. We share in God's ministry and mission together. We uplift and care for each other together. As part of the Body of Christ, we have the joy and promise to serve and care alongside each other. Does this mean we always agree? No. But it does mean we can support one another, challenge one another, and pray for one another in the midst of all that is going on. Moving forward together let us see the promise of this New Year in God's grace for us, and our community, and live more fully into our mission "Come, to know the Love of God: Go, to make it known."

Peace in Jesus our promise of grace and truth.

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.



Adult Faith Formation:

Jan 9— Dr. Bill McKay, Governor Mifflin School District Superintendent.

Deacon Travis Woodfield will also be joining us in January, date TBA

Faith Formation

We will not have Faith Formation classes on Sunday, **January 2**.



ELCA World Hunger God's Global Barnyard donations for animal, seeds, and gardening tools purchases are due Sunday, **January 9**.

Thank you for your support in growing the children's faith and their awareness of the glorious love of GOD.

Advent Workshop November 28



Youth & Mission



Our next youth group meeting will be Sunday, **January 23** at St. John's! On that date, our CAT class will be traveling to St. John's that morning to join them for their 9am worship and Confirmation Class. Our Sr. High Faith Formation students are also invited to join us on that date! We will meet and depart from AELC at 8:35 am, or you can meet us at St. John's at 9am. Youth Group will start at 11:30 am at the conclusion of worship and CAT Class. Youth Group will conclude at 1:30 pm and youth can be picked up from St. John's at that time. We can't wait to see you there!

CAT Class

Reminder: no CAT class on January 2!

INTERWOVEN

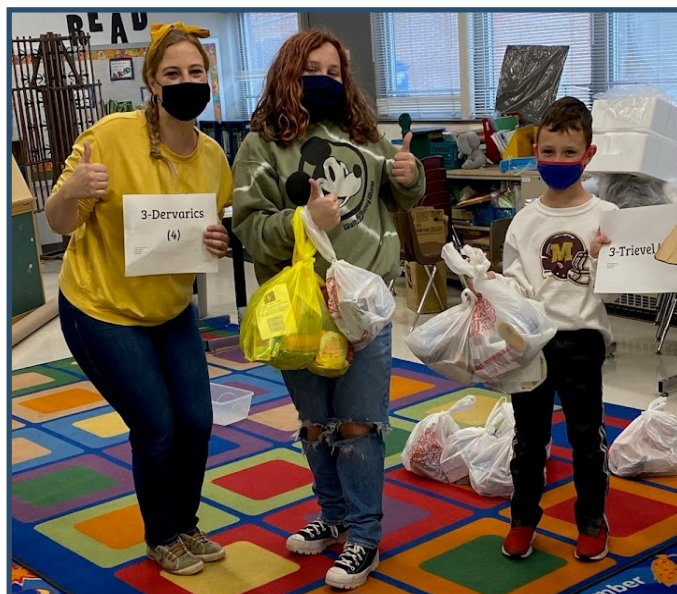


Our next Interwoven will take place on Sunday, **January 9** at 5 pm! Pack a dinner and join us for a night to exhibit your artistic ability! Connie Kelly will be joining Interwoven to help us make our very own pour paintings!

A POWER PACK PROGRAM THANK YOU

Good morning all,
I hope you all have a safe and peaceful holiday season. Last week we delivered another 370 bags for the Power Pack program. I am very thankful to you and your congregation for their kindness and willingness to donate to our project. I received all your donations in the past week and am very grateful. We are now good till the beginning of February, 2022.

God bless & Happy New Year!!
Dave





World Hunger Auction

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!

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!



Happy New Year! The season of reflection and hope for the year ahead is upon us. Time to relax and recharge and treat yourself to some downtime. The fair trade stand is full of goodies to help you out with this endeavor, so stop by and check out our selections. A hot steaming cup of tea or coffee, or a frothy mug of hot chocolate are a welcome addition to winter downtime.

Need some motivating, feel good reading material to inspire while you reflect, or to enjoy while you self-pamper? Follow this link to the story of the three men who started the Equal Exchange Coop, creating a worldwide movement, by following a vision and taking a leap of faith <https://equalexchange.coop/story> and in doing so, changed the futures of so many from bleak to hopeful.

Enjoy, reflect, recharge. Here's to 2022. It is our sincere hope that this year is one that brings health and happiness to all.

Thank you for your constant and continued support,
Connie and Janine



THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who donated to our Brecknock Angel Tree this year! Your generosity and excitement in helping provide gifts embodies the Christmas Spirit!

A special thank you to our Youth Group who spent some of our December meeting helping us wrap gifts!



Packages that were delivered to Brecknock Elementary School!

AELC Book Club

Join us on Thursday, **January 6** at 6:30 pm to discuss "Good Neighbors" by Sarah Langan! Our next book will be "Transcendent Kingdom" by Yaa Gyasi. The reading schedule for that will be:



January 20 at 6:30 pm: Chapter 1-25 (pgs. 3-136)

February 3 at 6:30 pm: Chapter 26-Epilogue (pgs. 137-288)

After reading "Transcendent Kingdom", we will read "Requiem in Ashes" by David Crossman.

**Women's Group**

Women's group will meet on Wednesday, **January 26** at 5:30!

**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!

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>



Thank you Roxanne Loose for your many years as head of our Prayer List. Your commitment to this ministry has allowed it to grow and flourish. We are grateful for all you have done.

We are also excited to welcome Steve Cope to this role. He will be taking over for Roxanne. The new email address for the prayer list is prayerlist@aelc.org.

Thank you **ALL** who participate and pray.



A baptism was held at AELC on December 12 for Destiny Marchetti and Jordan Kercher. Their parents are Heather George and Derik Kercher. The proud grandparents are Dean and Jacquelyn Hirneisen.

L to R - Jordan, Derik, Destiny and Heather

Scouts at work



Steven Armstrong & Knicki Knickerbocker with wreaths to place at the graves of veterans.



The Scout troops placing the wreaths at the graves.

Financial Info

Treasurer's General Fund Report

GENERAL FUND UPDATE			
	Total Attendance	General Fund Income	Weekly Budgetary Need
Nov 21, 2021	119	\$3479	\$5418
Nov 28, 2021		\$11,227	\$5418
Dec 5, 2021	104	\$8808	\$5418
Dec 12, 2021	117	\$4728	\$5418
Total		\$28,242	\$21,672

*attendance includes onsite and online figures.

In November our income exceeded expenses by about \$2800 boosted by a \$7800 annual donation . For the first eleven months of 2021 expenses exceeded income by \$21,000. Expenses are \$4900 under budget, but income is \$26,200 under budget.

The HVAC fund balance which is not part of the General Fund is sufficient to cover payments through February.

Also, outside of the budget, members continue to contribute to the Debt Reduction Fund and at the end of November we had over \$7500 to use for our next principal paydown. After our December mortgage payment, our mortgage balance stood at \$47,925.

You continue to generously support the mission of AELC. Through November, in addition to being on pace to meet our annual \$18,360 commitment to the Synod and the West Berks Mission District, through your donations and funds from the Kachel Benevolence Fund, over \$15,400 has been given to needy causes.

THANK YOU!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church,

With gratitude I share this word of thanks to you for your recent gift and for your support of the ministries of the ELCA.

I give thanks for your generosity and what it makes possible in the lives of others. Gifts like yours make a real difference in the world as the ELCA works to spread the Gospel, build and nurture the faith lives of others, reach out to the unchurched, provide educational opportunities and much more. Like your gift, the ELCA's commitment to these ministries is a long term investment in future generations.

I pray that you will find great joy in knowing what your gift makes possible in the lives of others today, and in the future.

Elysiann A. Eaton

The Rev. Bishop Eaton
ELCA Presiding Bishop

Gift Amount: \$3,080.00

Gift Date: 11/29/2021

Designation: Haiti Crisis (\$1,000.00); Lutheran Disaster Response (\$2,040.00); Hurricane Response (\$40.00)



Mary's Shelter

Business Office:
615 Kenhorst Boulevard • Reading, PA 19611
610-603-8010 • Fax 610-603-8011
Maternity Services: 610-376-1975
Youth Services: 484-577-4474
www.marysshelter.org



THANK YOU!

TO: Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church, Melissa Forrer

Thank you for including our shelter and for all your donations from the AELC Neighborhood Flea Market and Donation Drive on 11/6/21. We truly appreciate everything and thank you for your support of Mary's Shelter!

Together we are building stronger individuals and a stronger community!

Thanks! Chris *Thank You! -massi* *Thank You! -Selena U* *Thank You! Saul*
Opti *Thanks Dani* *Any* *Ruthy*

Mary's Shelter is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines for 501(c)(3) organizations. No goods or services were provided by this agency in exchange for the gift. The official registration and financial information of Mary's Shelter may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free within PA 800 732 0999.



December 6, 2021

Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church
1327 Alleghenyville Road
Mohnton, Pennsylvania 19640

Dear Friends:

Please accept our sincere "Thank You" for your generous \$1,000 contribution to our military veterans' program, Hope and Healing with Horses. Your gift will help us to continue our mission to improve the body, mind and spirit of veterans, regardless of disability, through equine-assisted activities and therapeutic riding.

Your support makes it possible for our organization to exist and to continue with our mission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura

Laura Rutledge
Executive Director
Triangle Therapeutic Riding
www.TriangleTR.org

In accordance with regulations of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, we have not provided any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this document for your records. Triangle Therapeutic Riding is a nonprofit, charitable 501(c)(3) Corporation.



AUDIO-VISUAL ---team---

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

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



Altar Flowers

Ministry Opportunity

Sponsors Needed

Please check the sponsor chart for altar flowers in the lobby...there are many openings. Cost is \$43 for 2 altar vases & \$40 for a chancel arrangement. Contact Sandy Fluck at 610-334-3175



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

Thank you!



Bulletins

Sponsors are needed!

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

There are many Sunday's available to sign up for. Cost—\$20.00

If you have any questions or wish to sponsor a week (or two), please contact Jo Verrill at jodaverrill@gmail.com.

**Ronald McDonald House Can Tabs
are now being collected again.
Please drop them off in the container
on the table 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 **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 or in Dee Constable's mailbox.



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 16
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
10:30 AM COMBINED
WORSHIP SERVICE.
MEETING IS TO APPROVE THE
2022 BUDGET.**

**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!



AELC has received a check from the AmazonSmile Foundation for \$44.64 as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30. Thank you!

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.



Ladies Aid was formed in 1937 and was comprised of Lutheran and Reformed women who held suppers, picnics, bake sales, etc. to earn money to pay for building expenses, such as Sunday School tables, chairs, dishes & utensils for the kitchen, lights and pews for the sanctuary, a new roof, etc.

January Birthdays

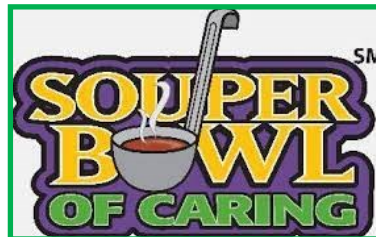
- 3 James Spangler
Kurtis Zirkel
- 4 Gregg Hauptert
- 5 Susan Messner
Jenna Relkin
- 6 Noah Angstadt
- 7 Natalie Wilde
- 8 Aiden Chen
- 9 Erin Bleacher
- 10 Heidi Keiser
Janet Orth
- 11 Kenneth Baur
Bryce Sakach
- 13 James Messner
Jacob Labagh
- 16 Evan Keiser
- 17 Greg Duffin
- 19 Ronald Fluck
Kelly Keiser
- 20 Abby Naugle
- 22 Jasmine Weaver
- 23 Keith Naugle
- 26 Lewis Everline
Jeremiah Thompson
- 31 Xavier Weaver

**January Anniversaries**

- 5 Tammy & Doug Taylor (1991)
- 9 Tara & Jeff Prince (2010)
- 10 Kathryn & Barry Voigt (1970)
- 21 Roxanne & Apollo Loose (1999)
- 23 Mary Louise & Ray Hill (1954)
Robin & Bruce Ream (1988)
- 31 Beth & Troy Angstadt (2004)



UPCOMING



Souper Bowl of
Caring and Scout
Sunday —

February 13.

More details to
come in February
newsletter and
weekly worship
bulletins.



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!



AELC Church Council

Ex-Officio	Pastor Zach Labagh
President	Joe Hickson
Vice President	John Thomas
Secretary	Tammy Taylor
Council Members	Greg Horton
	Ellie Loose
	Kimberley Peiffer
	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>

JANUARY

January 2 (no FF or CAT Class)

8:30 am Traditional Worship
10:30 am Praise Worship

January 9

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

January 16

9:00 am CAT Class/Faith Formation
9:30 am Adult Faith Formation
9:30 am Sr. High Faith Formation
10:30 am Combined Worship
11:30 am Congregation Meeting

January 23, 30

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



Merry
Christmas



Christmas Eve 2021—Outside Family Service

A beautiful evening to celebrate
the birth of Jesus.
Music , worship and some hot cocoa
to keep us warm!

