



**Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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www.aelc.org

Church Staff

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AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church



AUGUST 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, whom we follow out into the world. Where did you see God in your travels thus far this year? Where did you gather with others where you felt God in your midst? In worship? In nature? With family? I have heard some powerful stories of your experiences this summer, mission trips, and baptisms, to transition of new council members and guests looking to take the next step and join more fully into our faith community. AELC has long been a place where people gathered. From our beginnings we gathered as neighbors and family with our siblings at the UCC church and formed a community. We stepped out in faith and built our new building and then expanding. We strive to invite the community far and wide, in and to go out to serve. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, Mary's shelter, Opportunity House, and many more to have our faith be more than just worship on Sunday morning but actions that are part of our daily lives.



Our Core values that we shared during our congregation meeting in June, speak to not only our history, but our present and our future. These values are:

- ✝ Mutual support
- ✝ Faith in Action
- ✝ Congregation in service
- ✝ Deepening/Growing/Cultivating Faith
- ✝ Gathering place
- ✝ Welcoming of everyone no matter what
- ✝ Grounded yet moving forward (flexible)

They are what make AELC, well AELC. They guide us as we live together in community and invite us to love one another through knowing God in each other. These values are driving both the staff and council as we live into our mission to invite others to “Come, to know the Love of God: Go, to make it known.” We encourage you to share these values with others as you share about AELC, and invite others to join with us in worship, or any activity sponsored by AELC. We joyfully share the gospel through word and deed with those we encounter. St. Paul reminds us that *“so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5)* As we continue to grow, learn, and live together as the Body of Christ, let us engage our world and our community sharing in who we are because of whose we are.



Blessings as you conclude your summer. I look forward to serving with you soon.

Peace in Christ,

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.



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**



Newsletter and Announcements

Starting **Sept 1** we will be moving away from Constant Contact and using Tithe.ly for our emails. We are transitioning the current lists we have, if you do not receive the newsletter or weekly announcements please check your Junk mail or Spam folders. The new email address that these will be coming from is aelc@messaging.church

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!

INTERWOVEN



Save the Date for our Graduate and College Brunch on Sunday, **August 6**. Join us following our 9:30 service for a brunch to celebrate all our Graduates and College students as they plan to return to school or enter the working world!



Mission Trip

Thank you to all who supported, prayed for, and created shoe boxes for our Mission Trippers! We spent 5 wonderful, faith-filled, service driven days in Nashville, TN Serving Boldly.



AELC Book Club

We are on our summer vacation! During the summer, join us in reading "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult. We will resume meeting on Wednesday, **September 13** to discuss the book and pick our next read. Moving forward book club will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Happy reading!

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!



FAIR TRADE

Things have been busy at the Fair Trade stand as we continue to offer a selection of fairly traded, equally exchanged products. We have a freshly stocked inventory of chocolate, a new feature coffee (Café Salvador, a full body roast), and more beautiful chocolate boxes from the Cross Atlantic Chocolate Collective! Do yourself a favor if you haven't already done so and consider treating yourself to one of the products from these employee owned and governed companies.



The term "Fair Trade" has become a buzz word of sorts in the marketing industry. Much like the word "organic", companies use this tag line to lure customers into feeling good about the products they buy. However, the label, especially in regard to the equal exchange market, can be misleading, and have nothing to do with an item truly being purchased through an equal exchange system. To understand more about this, Equal Exchange has provided this article to explain more about this in regards to food supply chains: <https://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/equal-exchanges-radical-model> In the meantime, stop by the stand where you can be sure the products you purchase are fairly traded!

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

Mini Mission Trip



Mini Mission Trip— Breaking Bread

Our second Mini Mission Trip took place July 13-15. We were joined by 15 youth from 5 different congregations for two days of Breaking Bread together. Together we participated in projects that focused on feeding others, and discussed how our faith feeds us.



FAITH FORMATION

Registration is OPEN for the Faith Formation 2023-2024 year.

Children ages Pre-K to 6th Grade will have an amazing year of fun, events, learning, as we BLAST off to a new year with our Bible Learning Adventure Stations!!
Register your child/children on our webpage AELC.com



Thank you to the congregation for supporting our Faith Formation Children in their mission for “Walk for Water”. With your help and thoughtfulness, we raised \$774.18!!! We helped to provide clinic visits for a child suffering from water-borne illness. We helped to develop an irrigation canal! Your help has helped to change the world in our mission for cleaner water!





AELC
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
OPEN HOUSE

Bring your friends and family!

Join us to learn all about the amazing, exciting program we
have to offer!

Tuesday, August 15

6:00pm till 8:00pm

Cookies and Refreshments will be served.

Any questions or for more information please email

Annmarie at Annmarie@aelc.org



Columbarium at AELC

Did you know AELC has a columbarium? Do you know what that is? It's a place where funeral urns can be placed. Instead of purchasing a plot at a cemetery.

Ours sits out the back of Charlie's Café. It is in our memorial garden. A place to remember those we've lost (whether in the columbarium or not), and to be in God's presence.

There have been discussions about making this space more peaceful as well, and we are working on some phased planning for walls, gates, and water features, that give privacy and peacefulness to the setting. Two ways to reach that goal are to have people purchase a niche (\$2000 and \$100 for an urn), as you do your funeral planning, or to donate to the "Memorial Garden." If you have questions about either feel free to reach out to the church office or Greg Duffin.



Making Sense of Martin Luther

A four-morning, eight-session study on the life and theology of Martin Luther will be held in the Social Hall at Trinity, Robesonia (100 S. Robeson Street, Robesonia, PA 19551) on Tuesday mornings, **October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023**. Sessions begin at 8:00 am each day and end at 12:00 Noon. Please RSVP to csmjrc33@comcast.net by September 12, 2023.

During the four sessions, we will explore how Luther's dynamic understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. We will also see how Luther's legacy continues to influence our own way of life.

The course instructor will be Jeff Culp. RSVP to Jeff or e-mail him with your questions at csmjrc33@comcast.net.

A Participant Guide is required for the course. Couples are encouraged to share one copy. Participant Guides may be ordered from Augsburg-Fortress at the single price or they be picked-up in the Trinity, Robesonia church office after September 19 at the group price.

The course is based on the series *Making Sense of Martin Luther* written by the Reverend Doctor David J. Lose. Dr. Lose has written several successful *Making Sense* series in the past.

Copies of the movie, **LUTHER, One Man's Faith in God Launched The Greatest Revolution of All** will be available for loan during the course.



AELC MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION

Allegheny celebrated the burning of the church mortgage on **July 16**. Since the weather did not cooperate for an outdoor worship service, the mortgage was shredded in the sanctuary.



Women, Word, and Wine



Announcing a new Bible Study for all adult women.

We will meet:

**On Thursday, September 7 and 21, 2023
then continue on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays through May
at the Village Haus in Reinholds, PA from 6:30 to 8:00P.M.**

Our first study topic will be **“The First Advent in Palestine”**. Using this book we will explore the journey through great darkness to hope experienced by Mary and Joseph. We will see how to relate many of their daily struggles to our own lives while discovering the wonders and goodness of God’s grace.

You may enjoy any food or drink you wish to order. Each participant is responsible to pay for her own order.

Study materials will be provided.
Please contact Wendy Yeckley at (484) 524-3113 by **August 13** if you plan to participate or with any questions.

Feel free to bring a friend or family member.
Looking forward to taking this enlightening journey with you.

Financial Info

Treasurer's General Fund Report

GENERAL FUND UPDATE			
	Total Attendance*	General Fund Income	Weekly Budgetary Need
May 21, 2023	108	\$3599	\$5702
May 28, 2023	126	\$6927	\$5702
June 4, 2023	121	\$5819	\$5702
June 11, 2023	86	\$5011	\$5702
June 18, 2023	69	\$3057	\$5702
June 25, 2023	121	\$4500	\$5702
July 2, 2023	116	\$2740	\$5702
July 9, 2023	98	\$10,163	\$5702
Total	845	\$41,816	\$45,616

***attendance includes onsite and online figures.**

In May, 2023, our income exceeded expenses by \$3600. Income was boosted by a generous annual gift from one of our families.

In June, 2023, our expenses exceeded income by \$6800.

May had the highest monthly income of any month this year, but June had the lowest.

The General Fund checkbook balance at the end of June was about \$13,600.

For the first six months of the year, general fund expenses have exceeded income by \$19,000.

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Each year we have two months in which there are three paydays. This year March was one and the second is August which will make August a rough month expensewise.

As of this writing in mid-July, a recaulking preventative maintenance has been completed. The \$8800 cost has been paid for by funds outside of the general fund and is not included in any of the numbers shown in this report. This plus the money used to pay the large HVAC replacement bill earlier this year did put a strain on those funds.

We are always looking for opportunities to make our great facility available for rental to outside organizations and individuals. Currently, we are looking into some possibilities. If you have any ideas, mention them to the pastor or a council member.



**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—2 Altar Vases/\$54, Chancel Arrangement-\$50

Questions: contact Jo Verrill at jodaverrill@gmail.com for bulletins and Sandy Fluck at 610-334-3175 for flowers.



Bulletins



REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

Stop, before you cut off the bottom you want to 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, please call me.

Susan @ 6110-777-7776.



**Ronald McDonald House
Can Tabs are being col-
lected . 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,
Paul Pray



Looking Ahead...

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

Newsletter



**PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETS
THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 7PM
NEXT MEETING:
AUGUST 7**

Meetings are held in the
Wittenberg Room
(Adult Faith Formation Room)



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!

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 or 610-507-4562 or contact Dee Constable at office@aelc.org, 610-777-2520.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45ABAD2EA1F58-worship>

AUGUST

- 2 Kaitlyn & Kyle Zimmerman
- 3 Jannine & Foster McCurley
- 10 Jennifer & Andrew Zirkel
- 19 Ruth & Joe Malone
- 20 Emily & Grayson Hager
- 21 Jo & David Verrill
- 24 Kathy & Michael Grim
- 27 Patricia & Scott Ebling
- 30 Susan & Calvin York
- 31 Annmarie & Todd Pietrobono

**ALTAR GUILD****AUGUST**

9:30 am Holly & Rob James

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3—

Sept. 10—Gayle Tomasko

Sept. 17 & 24

8:30 am—

10:30 am—Holly & Rob James

AUGUST

- 1 Danielle Kintzer
- 2 Ciera Ganster
- 3 Danielle Heath
- 5 Hannah Ramsbottom
- 7 Judy Beidler
- Emily Hager
- 9 Gary Pacharis
- 11 Bette Cope
- Logan Forrer
- 12 Madeline Kring
- Margo Dougherty
- 13 Jeb Taylor
- 16 Savannah Ganster
- 17 Sandy Reider
- Judith Conrad
- 18 Bruce Ream
- 21 Cristiano DiPasquale
- 23 Susan York
- Emily Carlson
- 24 William Moczydlowski
- 27 Joe Malone
- 28 Barbara Smith
- Jennifer Zirkel
- 29 Theresa Laudermilch
- Jeannine Michel
- 31 Roxanne Loose



Outdoor Worship Service

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

August 20

Weather Permitting



AELC Church Council

Ex-Officio

Pastor Zach Labagh

President

Allison Eshleman

Vice President

Gayle Tomasko

Secretary

Laraine Montgomery

Council Members

Steven Cope

Joe Hickson

Emelia Haupert

Kevin Kelly

Youth Member

Jacob Labagh

Council Treasurer

Council Financial
Secretary

Colette Price



Allison Eshleman
President



Gayle Tomasko
Vice-President



Laraine Montgomery
Secretary

REMINDER—DROP BOX AT AELC

We have a drop box in the vestibule for those who wish to drop off their giving envelopes after hours.





**August
6, 13, 20, 27**

8:15 am—Service of the Word
9:30 am —Worship-HC



A thank you letter was sent to AELC from Amanda White of the ELCA for the gifts given from “Walk for Water” event at AELC to the Synod and received by ELCA World Hunger in July 2023 (\$774.18).

**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>



August 6—Blessing for College Students
August 7—11—VBS “Stellar”
August 15—Open House for After School Program
August 20—Blessing of the Backpacks
August 21— First Day of School—Governor Mifflin
September 4—Labor Day Holiday—office closed
September 10—Big Day of Serving
September 13—Book Club
September 16—S’more Party for AELC & Hmong Congregations
September 17—Regular Worship Times Resume
September 20—Bell Choir Practice to begin
September 30—Craft Fair/Yard Sale
October 1—Blessing of the Animals
October 7—GM Homecoming/Tailgating/Parade
October 8—Hunger CROP Walk
October 14—Women of the ELCA Retreat at AELC
October 21—PA Traditional Folk Art/Craft Show
October 22—Trunk or Treat
October 29—Reformation Sunday

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!