



**Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Church Staff

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Jean Jones

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Charles Charles

AELC News

News from and around
Allegheny Evangelical
Lutheran Church



NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ. What are you thankful for? You might struggle with this answer, in the wake of all that is going on in the world. I even had someone ask me, "How can you ask that?" I can and I do ask because we need to see all that is in our personal lives that we can be



thankful for. If we only focus on the negative, the pain, the animosity, the anxiety, the loss, we will become overwhelmed. So I ask again, what are you thankful for today? At this moment? Do you have to think hard, or did something come quickly to your mind? As members of the body of Christ, we are called through our faith to live our lives in thankfulness. That doesn't always mean it's easy to be thankful or to find something that we can be thankful for in our lives. However, as part of the body of Christ, we help support each other faithfully. When we see others struggling with being thankful we can share our thankfulness with them. Just by sending a random note, email, text, or phone call sharing how thankful you are for that person can uplift them. Offer your time to help with an event or activity to give thanks for the ministry that is going on.

These simple acts allow us to not only talk about our thankfulness, but to give thanks in action. As we move through the month of November and into the day of Thanksgiving, which may look very different for many of us this year, and not like it used to be, we may struggle even more with the feeling of thankfulness. For some there may be empty chairs separated due to Covid, or due to loss of family. When we are faced with that loss it can be difficult to be thankful for anything. Perhaps as we look at that empty space we can be thankful for the life

that once filled it, we can be thankful for the impact they had on our lives, and give thanks by sharing their impact with others.



Paul reminds us to give thanks, the prophets talk about giving thanks with grateful hearts, and even David sings in the psalms about giving thanks to God in times of difficulty. We are in some of the most difficult times in our lives, struggling with the world around us, because it's not the same. We allow ourselves to become bitter, angered, frustrated and depressed with the world. We can also choose to see that God is still at work in the world. We can see the help others are offer-

ing, the support and the community that is happening in spite of all that is going on. Let us give thanks. Let us see the good, let us see others with grateful hearts this month, and continue to always give thanks to God.

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Zach*

Bishop Elect Christopher deForest

Pastor Christopher deForest has been elected bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. He will be the fifth bishop of our synod, and his term of office begins on January 1, 2021.

Chris is pastor at Trinity, Kutztown. Ordained in 2011, he served at St. John, Mahoning (Lehigh) until 2018. Previous to entering the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Chris worked as a video creative specialist for Tupperware; a Director of Communications for PartyLite; Interim Executive Director of the Haitian Timoun Foundation, Littleton, CO; and Admissions Advisor for Wartburg Seminary.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will install Pastor deForest as Bishop on Saturday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m. Because of COVID-19 safety concerns, the service will be digital and will be live-streamed.

We ask your prayers for our newly elected bishop as he works to discern the nature and implications of his call; and for Bishop Zeiser and his wife, Linda, as they seek to live out the ministry of their daily life in retirement.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Since Spring, we all have been faced with new challenges and placed in situations where we need to reevaluate how we live our daily lives for our own safety and the safety of others. Along with all the changes has come a feeling of uncertainty. That's why it has been so important for us to discover new ways to connect with our AELC community and continue with Faith Formation. Now more than ever, we need to rely on our faith to see us through. We have adjusted our programming to fit our current circumstances and allow us to continue teaching the Word of God.

IN-PERSON LEARNERS

We're Back! We welcomed our in-person Faith Formation kiddos back on October 11 with success. Although we were socially distanced and wearing masks, it was great to engage with one another again. Thank you to all of the Faith Formation teachers for coming back and providing a safe environment for the children of AELC to continue their faith journeys.

Faith Formation occurs on Sundays from 9:00a.m to 9:45a.m. If you are interested in joining us in person, please email Beth at chrised@aelc.org to register. Please be aware, due to our current health safety plan, we cannot accept new students on a walk-in basis. All students must pre-register.



**ALL FAITH FORMATION CLASSES
ARE CANCELLED FOR
NOVEMBER 29.**

AT-HOME LEARNERS

This year we are offering a new program in Faith Formation for our children who would still like to participate in Faith Formation but don't feel comfortable coming back to in-person classes at this time. We are excited to continue to engage all the students of Faith Formation, including those at home. Our At-Home Learners are following the same lesson plan as our in-person children. Each child is provided with learning materials, activities, and bible stories each week. They are also being offered video recordings of the bible stories, children's messages from Pastor Zach, and a live zoom meeting to engage with a teacher and other students once a month. Our At-Home program kicked off October 18.

If you feel as though you would be interested in participating in our At-Home program, please contact Beth at chrised@aelc.org.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

At this time we are unable to have our Children's Message as part of our regular worship service inside the church. However, that does not mean that our children will not receive this important time with Pastor Zach. Instead we will offer a Children's Message biweekly on our Facebook page and website.

Tune in:

October 25

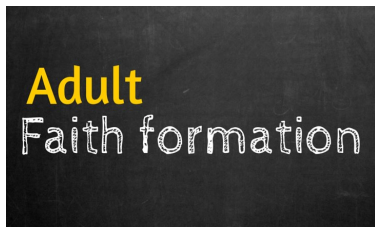
November 8

November 22



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We have had a bit of slow start in our ability to welcome back the adults of AELC to Faith Formation classes. All class attendance does require pre-registration as our seating is limited. If you are interested in attending please see the sign-up that has been sent out to all congregants or contact Beth at chrised@aelc.org to pre-register.



October 25 - 1 Corinthians—Glenn Beyer

November 1— 1 Corinthians—Glenn Beyer

November 8—1 Corinthians—Glenn Beyer

November 15—1 Corinthians—Glenn Beyer

November 22—TBA

November 29—No classes

It is hard to believe it is November already!! I enjoyed talking with those of you who joined us in October for Senior High Faith Formation. We will meet virtually again on **November 15 from 9am-9:45am**. I will email and text a link the week before. For now, we will meet virtually on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

I hope you will also plan to join Interwoven on the 2nd Sunday and Virtual Youth Group on the 4th Sunday.

If you have any questions or if you would like more information, feel free to contact me! I look forward to seeing you all on November 15!

Janine @ j9labagh@gmail.com



Youth & Mission

Virtual Youth Group

Join AELC and St. John's on Sunday **November 22** for Virtual Youth Group. Youth Group will start at 6pm and is open to all youth 7th-12th grade. We ask all participants access our group from individual devices to allow us to utilize small groups and break out rooms for deeper conversations. Contact Kristen at youthd@aelc.org for your Zoom invite! We can't wait to see you!



INTERWOVEN

Our next Interwoven will take place on **November 8!** Join us at 5pm for our BYOP (bring your own picnic). We will spread out through the gym, enjoy our picnic dinner, and then begin working on making plastic mats to provide to those facing homelessness. We will spend November and December on this project. If you don't feel comfortable joining us in person, but would like to participate, contact Kristen. She will get you a care package with the supplies and host a Zoom at 4:00pm to discuss the importance of the mats and give instructions. Make sure to RSVP to Kristen at youthd@aelc.org by Friday, November 6 and let her know how you plan to attend! We are collecting plastic grocery bags for this project. If you have extra grocery bags that you would like to donate, please drop them off in the vestibule for Kristen to collect.



AELC Book Club

AELC's next two book picks are here! On Oct. 22, we met to discuss the first section of

"American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. Our schedule for November is:

Nov. 5 at 6:30pm: Chapters 13-22 (pgs. 120-238)

Nov. 19 at 6:30pm: Chapters 23-Epilogue (pgs. 239-378)

Upon conclusion of "American Dirt", we will take a holiday break. We will pick back up in January with "The Book of Two Ways" by Jodi Picoult. Keep an eye out in December's newsletter for the reading schedule. Happy reading!

World Hunger Auction

Ready for a Challenge?

Just like so many things, our World Hunger Auction will look a little different this year. Stay tuned and get ready for our World Hunger Challenge, kicking off on January 3!

**Save
the
Date**



Financial Info

Treasurer's General Fund Report

In September, expenses exceeded income by \$10,900. We knew that expenses would be high

GENERAL FUND UPDATE			
	Total	General Fund	Weekly
	Attendance	Income	Budgetary Need
Sept 13, 2020	On-line	\$2306	\$5763
Sept 20, 2020	On-line	\$3292	\$5763
Sept 27, 2020	On-line	\$2060	\$5763
Oct 4, 2020	42 On-site plus On-line	\$6258	\$5763
Oct 11, 2020	64 On-site plus On-line	\$4158	\$5763
Total	—	\$18,074	\$28,815

because September had three paydays, but in addition to that, the September income was the lowest of any month this year. The chart above shows how giving dropped off.

The General Fund checking account balance stands at \$25,000 compared to \$9000 at this time in 2019.

For the first nine months of 2020, income is still ahead of expenses by \$13,000, but could use a boost. At this time of the year we are usually seeing rental income from Kardia and volleyball, but they are not happening now.

Contributions to the Endowment Fund In Memory of Shirley Kachel

Harry & Mary Kring

Contributions to the Endowment Fund In Memory of Beverly Breniser

Harry & Mary Kring



Contributions to the Memorial Fund In Memory of Tom Oeffinger

Cheryl Adkinson
Bill & Dawn Baxter
Paul & Beth Brockman
Colette Price
Jim & Lucille Spangler



Delicious drinks and treats abound at the Fair Trade stand. Get them while they are hot and get them safely as well. To aid with social distancing, we have created a new method of purchasing and receiving your Fair Trade products. To purchase products email us at fairtrade@aelc.org. We will fill your order by placing it in a bag with your name on it on the table in the narthex for easy pick up on Sunday morning. We can also arrange to leave the products in the vestibule. Payment can be submitted by mail, or by dropping it into the offering plate. Please mark envelopes with your name, and reference that the monies are for Fair Trade. As always, Thank you for your support, Connie and Janine

Concern—Update

THANK YOU MEMBERS! As of October 25, all the names have been taken. Now it's time to go shopping and stores are having sales now. Put the gift with child's name, your name on a slip of paper, and put it in a bag, drop of at church Monday thru Thursday, BEFORE 12 noon and put in the container marked CONCERN between the doors, or bring along to church and put in the container on Sunday. DEADLINE is **November 22**, please do not wrap.

THANKS for helping to make Concern's foster children have a nice holiday, Susan

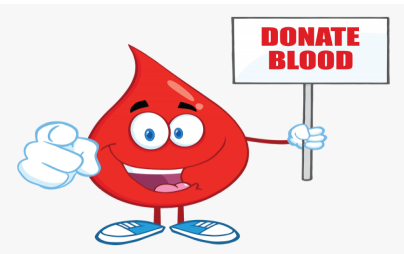


Fall Blood Drive at AELC Saturday, November 28, 2020

Your Chance to Make a Difference or Even Save a Life

Our Fall blood drive will be held in the **Fellowship Hall** from 8:00 am until noon on Saturday, **November 28**.

We are choosing this option instead of using the bloodmobile for several reasons. Miller-Keystone could do it either way and they exceed COVID-19 safety guidelines either way, but following the guidelines for the bloodmobile would expand the times available to five



hours and would still limit the number of donors to fewer than under normal circumstances. Using the Fellowship Hall allows for more donors to participate, although still not as many as normal, and allows for much more social distancing than the bloodmobile does.

Of course, as with everything else, this is all subject to change.

Several members have donated during the summer at the Miller-Keystone center and felt very comfortable with the safety procedures.

The need for blood donations is critical at this time. Please consider donating.

If you have any questions or want to sign up to donate, contact Bill Baxter at 610 775-3763, text 610 413-1820, Email to dandbbax@gmail.com or sign up online at www.giveapint.org. Our online sponsor code is 3222.

We will keep you up to date on any changes.

Thank you!

Personnel Committee Update

There have been some updates to report from the Personnel Committee.

We wish to thank Yolanda Werner for her service on the committee. Her time and contributions are much appreciated. Heidi Ramsbottom continues to spearhead the committee, and new members include Emilie Carl, Greg Horton, and Cindy Hickson. Heidi conducted a valuable exit interview with Tracey Ormsbee, which provided great insight into the needs for the new Christian Education Director position. We thank Beth Thomas for stepping into the interim position while we search and secure the permanent Director. In addition, to the Chris Ed Director, our search continues for the Music/Organist position. We pray our next newsletter update provides progress and some good news. Lastly, we are in the process of performing the Fall performance reviews with the staff.



The Joy of Music

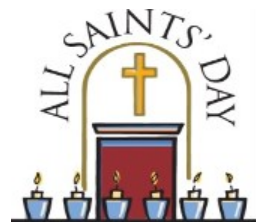


Do you sing or play an instrument? If so, consider sharing your gifts as part of our Sunday morning service. Due to restrictions on singing, vocalists would record their song prior to the 10 am service. Instrumentalists could either record their song or play live during the service.

If you're interested or have questions, contact Bill Moczydlowski at wsmoczy@hotmail.com

All Saints Sunday November 1

We will be remembering all those who have passed since Nov. 3, 2019 during both worship services on November 1.



TURN YOUR CLOCK
BACK ONE HOUR ON
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 1st!

SERRV & EARN
DO A WORLD OF GOOD



Serrv & Earn is back for the holidays! When you shop through this link, serrv.org?a=aelc-bcc, 20% of the proceeds will be donated back to AELC, now through December 31st.

When you shop using our unique [link](#) not only will you be helping support and empower small-scale artisans and farmers to earn a fair living for their work, you will also be supporting the various ministries of AELC, including World Hunger, Helping Harvest, Family Promise, Opportunity House, Mission Trippers and more! When using the link, be sure to look for the **orange** banner at the top of the Serrv webpage letting you know you are supporting AELC.

In addition, there are some exciting promotions over the next two months:

10/31-11/1 FREE Gift!
Quilled Joy Decor (\$16 value!)
Handmade of recycled paper,
7 1/2"l x 4"h, from Vietnam
Promo Code: SEFREEJOY20



Future promotions:

11/14-11/15 FREE Ground Shipping over \$50; *Promo Code: SEHOLIDAY20*

11/21-11/22 FREE \$10 Gift Card with every \$50+ purchase; *Promo Code: SEGC20*

12/5-12/6 FREE Ground Shipping over \$50; *Promo Code: SESNOWMAN20*

Use this [link](#) and the promo codes for all of your holiday shopping! Thank you for supporting artisans and farmers as well as AELC.

If you have any questions contact Janine or Connie at fairtrade@aelc.org

****Feel free to pass the unique code and information along to others as well.**

AELC Home Worshippers

Please keep these Home Worship members in your thoughts and prayers:

Molly Althouse, Jean Epler,
Pat Hiester, Arlene Hoster,
John Messner, Janet Orth, Paul Pray,
Malcolm Reider, and Colleen Williamson

**Looking Ahead...**

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

Newsletter



Wed. November 11

**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 Roxanne Loose at reign0827@hotmail.com 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 Roxanne 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 Roxanne or the office and we will communicate with you in a way that works for you!

Thurs. November 26



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	Lynne Scheetz
Vice President	Melissa Forrer
Secretary	Tammy Taylor
Council Members	Steven Davis
	Greg Horton
	Kimberley Peiffer
	John Thomas
	Andrew Zirkel
Council Treasurer	Bill Baxter
Council Financial Secretary	Colette Price

Women's Group

Our Women's Group is resuming on **November 18!** Join us from 6pm-8pm on November 18 to watch the film *The Secret Life of Bees*, and discuss the themes of the movie, and if they are relevant today. We will not be having dinner, due to the pandemic, but please feel free to bring your own snacks to munch on during the film! If you plan to attend, please follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054CAEA62AA3FF2-womens> Due to our current AELC guidelines, we are limited to 25 individuals attending. If you are interested in planning a Women's Group, please contact Kristen at youthd@aelc.org.....

**Men's Group—****Bible & Brew**

Meeting date to be determined.



***Worship Schedule—November**
Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

8:15 am—Trad. Worship

9:00 am—Faith Formation

Class/CAT Class/Adult

Faith Formation Class

10:00 am—Praise Worship

***Subject to change**

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

*Traditional Worship services at 8:15 am
2nd & 4th Sunday*

*Praise Worship services at 10 am
All Sundays*

November Birthdays

- 3 Amy Naugle
Gianna DePasquale
Nora Frantz
- 5 Danielle Dougherty
- 7 William Layton
Paul Yadlosky
Brooke Mummau
- 8 Geraldine Naugle
Jannine McCurley
Rena Armstrong
- 10 Don Lamont
Matthew James
- 11 Robert Seidel
Jay Hiester
- 12 Emilie Carl
- 13 Connie Kelly
- 15 Kivi Ganster
Landon Price
- 17 Laurence Craley
- 18 Eileen Curry
Carol Bender
Dustin Armstrong
- 19 Janice Forrer
- 20 Karleigh Smith
- 21 Guy Knickerbocker
Haylee Martin
- 23 Sara Thomas
- 24 Carol Knickerbocker
Casey Relkin
Briana Vitulli
- 27 Brian Heath
Timothy Bender
- 28 Louisa Moczydlowski
- 30 Jane Kohl

**November Anniversaries**

- 2 Robyn & Joseph Smith (1996)
- 6 Elaine & Jeff Fiant (1986)
Kristen & Dennis Kintzer (1993)
- 9 Minta & Charles Heinly (1985)
- 13 Colleen & James Williamson (1948)
- 15 Lynne & Craig Scheetz (1997)
- 30 Fan & Allan Benfield (1968)

**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.



celebrate!