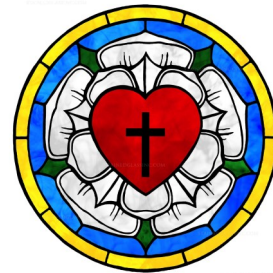


Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



DECEMBER 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a warm time Christmas is! Everyone adores the baby in the manger. Families gather together to sing "Silent Night" and wish each other peace on earth. Too often, however, after the season has passed, many go back to empty lives. They rush from one task to another, from one activity to another. They try to do good things, and, when doubts nag at them, they comfort themselves by deciding that they are "good people," after all.

As Christians, we have seen those who would measure themselves by the numbers of good deeds they have completed. These deeds are empty gestures without the love for God. The real message of Christmas proclaims the gift of the baby and, in return, we honor him by doing for others.

We should adore the newborn Christ child, but we should also worship him as our Redeemer, the one who did for us what our good deeds could never accomplish.

"For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering."
(Romans 8:3)

The helpless baby grew up, suffered in our places, took the sin of the whole world in his body on the cross, and brought us salvation.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humans by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

This is the freeing message of Christmas. Without Christ, there is no peace on earth. Without Christ, there is no goodness in us. Without Christ, there is no purpose in life. Without Christ, there is no life at all.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 PM – Living Nativity (Old Church)

7:00 PM – Family Carol Service (Old Church)

9:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion (Brick Church)

Remember the 5:00 and 7:00 PM Services are in the unheated Historic Old Church. If you attend one or both of these services, please remember to dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

May God the Father direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord
Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck





From the Bench

Welcome to the new liturgical year, as Advent is here again! In this season of hope and joyful expectation, we are reminded of the coming of Jesus, not only as a baby in a manger, but also his second coming at the end of time. As we prepare for Christ's coming, I encourage you to come and invite your friends of all ages to our free Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 15 at 3:00 pm (see the full page ad elsewhere in this newsletter).

This year's concert is "progressive" (think "progressive dinner"). We'll start at 3:00 in the Old Church with a sing-a-long and some festive music. Then at 3:30 we'll warm up in the heated building with cocoa, cookies, and Santa (bring your cameras and take pictures with your kids!) At 4:00 pm we'll be in the Brick Church (take the elevator!) for Joseph Martin's festive cantata: A Celebration of Carols, including audience participation in favorite carols. This year's free will offering at the concert supports **Silver Springs Martin Luther School**. Come for part of it or the whole afternoon, and get in the Christmas spirit while supporting a very worthy cause. Thanks to Brian O'Hara for our flyer and program design; to Tracy Wessner and Karen Lachenmayer for preparing the reception; to Karen McClain for clean-up; to Thrivent Financial for seed money; and to our musicians who will make this a very special presentation. There is no cost and no tickets are required. You can share this event with your friends via Augustus' Facebook Page, or send me an email and I'll send you an electronic flyer you can forward to your friends.

And of course, join us on Christmas Eve at 5 pm or 7 pm in the Old Church, or at 9 pm in the Brick Church. We will have costumed carolers before the 5pm service, and there will be special music beginning at 8:45 for the 9 pm service. Arrive early to get comfortable and enter the wonder of this joyous season.

In case you haven't heard - we met and exceeded the Pastor K Little Christmas Challenge! **Thank you to all who donated.** Over \$4,000 was raised. We will see Pastor K in the pulpit at both services on Sunday, January 6!

O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

-Laurie Mueller



Dance and Sing a Song of Christmas

Christmas is a very special time. It's also a very busy time. There are many things to do. We decorate our homes, cook special foods, and come together as families and friends to celebrate with each other. People who like to sing get together to sing Christmas carols. We do some of these things at church, too. We also share the Christmas story with each other—the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. What a night that was! God, who can do anything, chose to come as a baby. We all know babies are pretty helpless! But God wanted us to know that people are important.

That's one thing Christmas tells us: regular, everyday human beings are very important to God. You don't have to be an excellent athlete or musician to be noticed by God. You don't have to be popular, or smart, or good-looking. You don't have to work especially hard. God loves you just as you are.

Sing one of your family's favorite Christmas carols. You or your grandparents might know carols in a language other than English, too. Originally, carols were simple, rhythmic songs that had a refrain which was meant for dancing. Make up simple actions or a dance for your favorite carol. Celebrate the best Christmas present of all: Jesus!

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AUGUSTUS MUSIC ENSEMBLES

present

A Family Christmas Concert in HISTORIC OLD TRAPPE CHURCH

A Celebration of Carols



Brian O'Hara © 2018
brianchar24@gmail.com

BENEFITING:
SILVER SPRINGS
MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 3 PM
AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

717 W. MAIN STREET, TRAPPE
610-489-9625 augustustrappe.org

CHRISTMAS EVE AT AUGUSTUS: **5PM AND 7PM IN THE OLD CHURCH**
9PM IN THE BRICK CHURCH

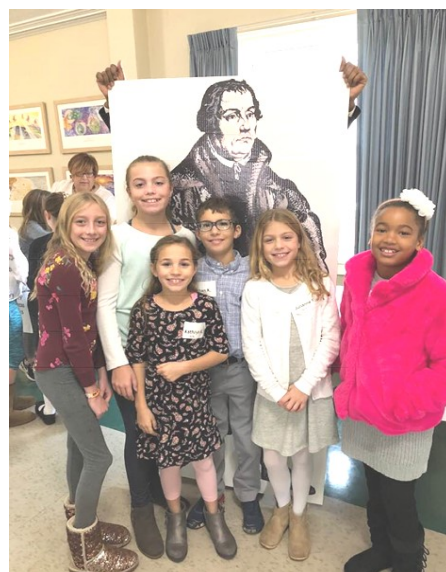
Coordinator of Faith Development

The Sunday school students had a great time celebrating the Reformation on October 28th and All Saints Sunday on November 4th. We especially loved being part of the procession in church on All Saints Sunday and singing in church. We will sing again in church on December 2nd, the 1st Sunday of Advent. Also on the 1st Sunday of Advent, our Sunday school students will receive Advent chains made for them by our 3-in-1 (Confirmation) students to help them during this time of holy anticipation.

On December 9th we begin practicing for our Christmas pageant, which will be presented on December 23rd.

We collected lots of new hats and gloves for Silver Springs Martin Luther School, an ELCA-affiliated organization that ministers to children and their families facing emotional and behavioral difficulties. We are also donating all of our Sunday school offerings for four Sundays to SSMLS so the school can purchase more warm clothes as needed. To learn more about the SSMLS, please go to <https://www.silver-springs.org/about/>.

In January 6th, the date the Church celebrates the magi bringing gifts to the Christ Child, we will have a baby shower for Jesus benefitting Genesis Pregnancy Care Center. January 27th is "bring a buddy day." Please join our Facebook group "Augustus Sunday School" so you can keep up to date with all our activities!



Ring in the New Year

In Isaiah 43:19-21, the prophet talks about new beginnings. Our church calendar begins anew during Advent, while our secular calendar starts with New Year's Day. Either time provides an opportunity for family members to reflect on blessings received and challenges faced in the past year and to look forward together to the future.

Start your new traditions with a family notebook. Purchase a spiral notebook to place by the telephone. Invite family members to record phone messages, as well as thoughts and feelings, successes and failures. Encourage your family to write positive comments to each other as well. Family members who can't write may dictate their ideas or draw pictures. Save the book and use it during family times through the year. (You may need more than one book!) Look through it together next year. It's fun to see how each person grows and changes throughout the year.

Play together a favorite board game or card game. If you have time, let each family member pick a game to play. Enjoy a special snack. Serve treats that the whole family has helped prepare, such as "ants on a log" (celery stalks filled with cream cheese or peanut butter and dotted with a row of raisins). Sandwiches cut with holiday cookie cutters are also fun to make.

Close with devotions. Gather together around a lighted Advent wreath or large candle. Read aloud Isaiah 43:19-21. Talk together about how it feels to start afresh, and that God forgives mistakes and offers us new challenges each year. Share one way that God helped you during the past year and invite other family members to do the same. Then think about the many blessings God has given you. Distribute slips of paper. On each one have family members draw or write about a way God has blessed them. Roll up each slip and tie it with yarn to form a prayer scroll. Put them in a basket or box, which you label: Our Basket of Blessings. Read the blessings during the year to remember how God has blessed you. Add more scrolls as blessings continue.

Invite each family member to choose a scroll from "Our Basket of Blessings." Offer a pray of thanks for the blessing written on it. An older family member may need to help a non-reader.

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Advent and Christmas Worship 2018

December 2, 2018 – First Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Communion (Chapel)

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Holy Communion (Brick Church Nave)

December 9, 2018 – Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Communion (Chapel)

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Holy Communion (Brick Church Nave)

December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Communion (Chapel)

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Holy Communion (Brick Church Nave)

December 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Communion (Chapel)

Sunday School on Christmas Break

10:30 AM – Worship: Sunday School Christmas Program
(Brick Church Nave)

December 24, 2018 – Christmas Eve

5:00 PM – Living Nativity (Old Church)

7:00 PM – Family Service (Old Church)

9:00 PM – Candlelight Communion (Brick Church Nave)

December 30, 2018 – First Sunday after Christmas

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ONE SERVICE ONLY:

9:30 AM – Lessons and Carols (Brick Church Nave)

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Why God's Word Cautions us about Debt

God cautions us from using debt because debt creates bondage to the world and prevents us from allowing God to act freely in our lives! Reverend Bill Hybels in his "Achieving Financial Freedom" audiotapes discusses reasons that God says "no" to debt:



- ✚ Debt obligates a person to earn more money and to earn it constantly. Working two or three jobs just to pay off debt is not the way to live.
- ✚ Debt enslaves a person to a creditor (Proverbs 22:7). When the creditor says, "Jump," we say, "How high?"
- ✚ Debt undermines joy. It is difficult to enjoy a weekend away or a dinner out when we are deep in debt, because money spent for those activities is money not spent on paying off credit card debt, which prolongs the problem.
- ✚ Debt erodes giving opportunities. God gives us the ability and the desire to help others. The lack of money makes it difficult to respond to God's gracious prompting.
- ✚ Debt imperils a Christian witness in two ways. First of all, we can be less effective in our evangelism when we face daily tension and anxiety over debt. Second, our witness to others suffers when they see or hear about our financial difficulty.
- ✚ Debt exaggerates character problems. Experiencing a problem with debt may reveal character weaknesses such as impatience, discontentment, a lack of self-discipline and even failure to trust in the Lord's provisions.

Before you use your credit cards, you should be slow, deliberate, and cautious. Prior to taking on debt, it is advisable to ask yourself some basic questions, such as the following:

- ✚ If I borrow, will I get something of enough value that it's worth the added obligation? Will the asset purchased appreciate in value?
- ✚ Will the taking on of debt allow me to give, save, and maintain my lifestyle?
- ✚ Have I considered giving up expensive activities and/or liquidating valuable possessions?
- ✚ Does the borrowing fit my budget?
- ✚ Will the borrowing cause any tension or anxiety in my family?

"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world."

— Norman Vincent Peale



Remember Over Christmas

During the Holidays, consider sending a Christmas card to Augustus Family members who are ill, alone, or homebound.

Let them know they are in our thoughts during this special time of year.

Sara Jane Shaffer
20 1/2 Carhart Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905

Thelma Hess
800 Maple Avenue
Harleysville, PA 19438

Muriel Ludwig
800 Maple Avenue
143 Westview Court
Harleysville, PA 19438

Betty Imes
19 Steinmetz Road
Schwenksville, PA 19473

Margaret Bouche
624 East Moore Street
Norristown, PA 19401

Sue Gorski
864 Mt. Airy Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Janet Saylor-Rhoads
Colonial Manor
111 Oak Street
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Ron and Susan Hess
321 Colonial Avenue
Collegeville, PA 19426



December Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Richard Althouse Robert Price	3 Charles Interrante Daniel Reiser Raymond Waltz Jr.	4 Deborah Harley	5 Matt Kerr Holly Lucas	6 Elimchili Lyaro	7 Sam Dogonniuck James Lorah	8
9 Bruce King Gayle Neborak	10 David Cornish Danielle Halteman	11 Amber Whitman	12 Landon Raupp	13 Debra Augustine	14 Christine Napier Lilly North Alexis Romano	15 Samantha Penny Sara Jane Shaffer Dan Smith
16 Allison Christy Justin Maurer Colin Smith	17 Laura Schlegel	18 Jack Neborak Rachel Schaffer Jennifer Wentworth	19 Brendan Cooney	20 Liam DePaul Corbin Schindler	21 Laura Fritts Vicki Gallagher Patricia Reiser	22 Alexa Kozacheson Susan Schatz
23	24	25 Bill Weaver	26 Judy Bubeck Margaret Schwirian	27 Chloe Rose Karen McClain	28 Dale Ehret Matthew Schweitzer Ann Walker	29 Christia Keim Anthony Scelza
30	31 Stephanie Matoney					



Senior High Youth Group
Is having their 7th Annual Cookie Sale



What: Homemade Christmas Cookies

When: December 9th

Where: Cookies will be available for pick up after each service on the 9th.

How much:

\$4.00 1 Dozen

\$8.00 2 Dozen

\$12.00 for 3 Dozen

Senior High Youth Group is selling Christmas Cookies again this year.
The cookies will be assorted and arranged in a container. Please preorder to ensure you get a tray of these freshly baked homemade cookies.

Name: _____

Phone # or E-mail Address: _____

I would like:

1 dozen (\$4) _____

2 dozen (\$8) _____

3 dozen (\$12) _____

I will pick up after the 8:00 service _____

I will pick up after the 10:30 service _____



If you have any questions, please contact:
Cathy Meeley at tcmeeley@verizon.net

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS



**Thank
You!!!**

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank everyone who purchased apple pies from us this year. We'd also like to thank the youth and their parents for their hard work. We made 102 pies in less than 4 hours. This was the most pies ever sold. The monies raised go towards youth activities and the annual mission trip. Please be sure to check out pictures from our events on the web site. We will be updating these in the near future.

December starts off with cooking dinner for the 3 in 1 youth. We do this on the first Wednesday of each month. After dinner, we will be joining the youth in the tree lighting ceremony in Trappe. We will also be having our annual cookie sale. The month ends with a Christmas Party. We will be going to the Escape Room in Trappe.

The Senior Youth Group meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month and the 3rd Sunday of each month. Along with our monthly meetings, we also have a monthly activity for the youth.

Lastly, while we travel to Camden, New York to do mission work each year, we understand that there is work to be done in our own community. If you have a project that you need help with, please do not hesitate to ask the SYG to help. Our rules are simple, if you purchase the materials, we'll do the work to the best of our abilities. Contact us at youth@augustustrappe.org or gtwess@comcast.net.



Social Ministry Committee



We will again be collecting winter hats and gloves for Silver Springs Martin Luther School (in addition to the Sunday School's collection). At the request of school personnel, please no hand knitted or crocheted items and no scarves or mittens. Sizes range from age 7 to adult. Please place your donations on or beside the Christmas tree in the Muhlenburg Center starting in December. The collection will continue through the end of the year.

The October clothing drive was cancelled due to the Craft Show and Flea Market. We plan to hold another clothing drive in May 2019. Thank you for your past contributions.

2018 Vestry Members

Vestry Members	Special Area	Home Phone	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	<i>President/Property</i>	610-454-0106	gtwess@comcast.net
Richard Allebach	<i>Vice President</i>	610-948-3488	dallebach@verizon.net
Brian O'Hara	<i>Secretary/Worship & Music</i>	610-489-0417	brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Janice Reiff	<i>Treasurer</i>	610-385-7493	janicetreiff@gmail.com
Frank DePaul	<i>Property Committee</i>	215-669-0677	fvd52@gmail.com
Jeanne Funk	<i>Comm. & Tech.</i>	610-792-3830	jfunk@kpinterface.com
John Kochel	<i>Outreach/Mutual Min.</i>	484-945-0100	John.Kochel@thrivent.com
Janet Stokes	<i>Parish Life</i>	610-948-8554	sjastokes@aol.com
Debra Augustine	<i>Christian Education/Mutual Ministry</i>	610-489-3869	Anniedwebb@verizon.net
Bob Rodenberger	<i>Trust Fund Treasurer</i>	610-489-3280	r.rodenberger7@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	<i>Old Church</i>	757-604-5300	dsajessee@hotmail.com
Karl Stefan	<i>Cemetery/Mutual Ministry</i>	610-454-0373	kssurf@verizon.net

December *Worship Assistants*



Altar Servers:	Acolyte	Crucifer
December 2	Nathan Kerr	Casey Demark
December 9	Braden Tighe	Ashley Tighe
December 16	Cole Brenner	Shayna King
December 23		Thomas Lyaro
December 24 5:00 pm	Addison Smith	
December 24 9:00 pm	Dylan Funk	
December 30 9:30 am		Sam Dogonniuck

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am Lector	10:30 am Prayers
December 2	Mike Van Blaricum	Ben Richvalsky	Connor Elison
December 9	Earl Catagnus	Jeannie Funk	James Lorah
December 16	Jeff Stuffle	Alan Shunk	Chris Dogonniuck
December 23	Sandy Trauger	Jim Lien	Dicole Dubeck
December 24 5:00 pm	Senior Youth Group		
December 24 7:00 pm	Mike Van Blaricum		
December 24 9:00 pm	John Kochel		
December 30 9:30 am	Readings 1-5:	Jennifer Wentworth	
	Readings 6-9:	Chris Dogonniuck	

Communion Assistants	8:00 am: Debra Augustine
December 2	John Kochel and David Schweitzer
December 9	Janice Reiff and Sonya Sowards
December 16	Jennifer Wentworth and Bob Rodenberger
December 23	<i>No Communion (Children's Program)</i>
December 24 9:00 pm	Jeannnie Funk and Jennifer Wentworth
December 30	<i>No Communion (Lessons & Carols Service)</i>

Ushers	8:00 am: Early Usher Team
December	Gary Halteman, Scott Halteman, David Halteman, and Dick Allebach
Altar Guild	8:00 am: Sally Sweeney 10:30 am/9:30 am:
December	Mike Van Blaricum Deb Scholl assisting on 12/24

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time.

Contact the church office to help with our weekly worship.
610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org



Church Office Hours Over the Holidays

December 24th through December 28—Office Closed
December 31st—9:00 am—12:00 noon
January 1st—Office Closed



Sharing God's Bounty

Gold, Incense, and Myrrh . . . and a Message to All

How much do babies appreciate the gifts they receive when they are born? Did Jesus, being the Son of God as well as the son of Mary, value the gifts the Magi brought? We would think those gifts impractical for a baby, but then this was not an ordinary baby. That gold bought food and lodging and everything that was needed by the holy family as they fled to Egypt and then got established in a new home. The incense was burned as their prayers ascended to the Father in Heaven, and the myrrh was used some thirty years later to anoint the body later of the Baby grown to be our Savior.



"The gifts are traditional gifts of the East," the Concordia Commentary on Matthew 2:11 tells us. We can be sure that these gifts were appreciated by our Lord, for St. Paul writes, *"If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have"* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

Were the gifts of the shepherds that first Christmas night acceptable as well? What did the shepherds bring? The Bible does not record their bringing any gift at all – except, that is, the gift of their running to the stable with anticipation, the gift of their humble worship as their anticipation turned to realization, and the gift of their *"spread[ing] the word concerning what had been told them"* as they returned to their flocks, *"glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen"* (Luke 2:17, 20). It is obvious the willingness was there as the shepherds brought gifts according to what they had. Therefore, according to Scripture, their gifts were acceptable.

We, too, can be sure that our gifts are appreciated by our Lord – the gifts of our treasures – our gold and silver and the gifts of our praise and adoration as we witness to what we have heard and seen. Like the Magi and the shepherds, we are drawn to the manger bed. Like them, we kneel in awe and adoration. Like them, we use the gifts God gives us, wherever we are, wherever God places us, to *"spread the word concerning what [has] been told [us]."*



"If you want to live longer give the other driver the right of way."

"There will always be roses, but someone has to take care of them."

"People who spend their time finding fault usually have little else to do."

"A church member who feels no responsibility for his church does not really belong."



**SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Upper Montgomery Conference
First Tuesday Bible Studies**

10 a.m. [Coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m.]

**Fall: Repentance Winter: Meetings with Jesus: John's Gospel
9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Fall/Winter 2018; Winter/Spring 2019**



December 4, 2018 "Fear not: an Advent/Christmas devotional" St. James Lutheran Church
High & Price Streets, Pottstown

When God's people are afraid, it doesn't mean we are outside of faith. "Fear not" appears frequently in the Bible, in a way that is comforting. Knowing God is with us, we can face our fears. As we enter the season of Advent, this devotional by the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, Illinois, will help us begin to see that the Christmas story is also the story of life in faith.

Presenter, Jean John

January - February 2019 Mid-winter break — SAVE *GATHER* Magazines

March 5, 2019 "Come and see: Seeking and finding faith" St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Session one 81 Main St., Pennsburg

Presenter, Debra Long Study from **January**/February issue of *GATHER*

April 2, 2019 "By night and day: Coming to faith in Jesus" St. James Lutheran Church
Session two Kugler Rd. & Swamp Pk., Limerick

Presenter, Bobbie Hoffman Study from January/**February** issue of *GATHER*

May 7, 2019 "Friends for life in Christ" Augustus Lutheran Church
Session Three 717 W. Main St., Trappe

Presenter, Pat Leberman Study from **March** issue of *GATHER*

June 4, 2019 "Seeing the risen Christ" St. John's Lutheran Church
Session Four 3104 Main St., Sumneytown

Presenter, Fran Ivarson Study from **April** issue of *GATHER*

2019 Summer Bible Study to be announced in the Spring

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BRING FRIENDS. Study materials are found in the *Gather* magazine.

Subscriptions available at \$19.95 per year. Please call (844) 408-0576. THANK YOU.

**On Saturday, December 15th, at 9:30 a.m.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

to assemble fruit baskets for Shut-Ins. We will hold this event in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. This has changed from last year's location. We will need volunteers to fill baskets with fruit, **as well as to deliver the baskets to Augustus members living in nursing homes or at home**. These are members that can no longer attend church services. All that are willing to lend a hand are encouraged to participate in this service to our Shut-in members. Many thanks for your help. On behalf of Augustus' WELCA, Fran Ivarson

