

# Augustinian

## From the Pastor's Desk



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, born to save us!

Christmas is the gift-giving season. Many of us will be asked, "What do you want for Christmas?" We, in turn, should be thinking about what we're giving to others. Even though the stores are stocked to overflowing, it is often difficult to find just the right gift for every person on our lists. God had no such problems. He knew exactly what each person needed. In fact, he knows our needs better than we ourselves know them, and he knew them before we were ever born. God's most indescribable gift was perfect. *"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of children"* (Galatians 4:4). Now, that's a gift that can't be topped! Over two thousand years ago, the world received the greatest gift, and it's the gift that truly keeps on giving!

Jesus tells us, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). God has given us his Son, whom we celebrate each Christmas, and he has given us all other good things as well. As recipients of God's gifts, are we discovering the joy that comes from giving back some of our gifts? Are we expressing our gratitude by sharing some of our blessings? We don't give to Jesus by going to the malls to shop for him, but we do give to him by sharing our love, time, talents, and money with those in need and our church. The best gift we can give Jesus is our hearts, showing him our love by faithfully and obediently doing what he asks of us.



As your pastor, I want to thank you for your generous giving to the Lord through our church. It is a wonderful blessing to have so many of you give so generously of your time, talents, and treasures. God is doing great things through you. Because of your generosity, we are able to share the Good News of our Savior, born on Christmas Day, with many people.

A great gift to give others is to invite them to join you at worship on Christmas Eve. We will maintain our customary schedule on Christmas Eve:

5:00 PM Living Nativity (A shorter service for our youngest members and friends in the Old Church)

7:00 PM Family Service (A service of Lessons and Carols in the Old Church)

9:00 PM Candlelight Carol Communion (A Communion Service with lots of Christmas carols and candlelight)

There will be no services on Christmas Day!

On January 1, 2017 there will be one Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30 AM.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and make Jesus the reason for our joy. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

*Unto Us  
a Child is Born*



# FROM THE BENCH

## December 2017

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 of his second coming at the end of time. As we prepare for Christ's coming, I encourage you to come and invite your friends to our free **Christmas Concert on**

**Saturday, December 10 at 3:00 pm** (see the full page ad elsewhere in this newsletter). This year's concert is guaranteed to put you in the true spirit of Christmas, and features the Morris String Quartet, the Community Music School Children's Choir, flute, harp, percussion, handbell choir, organ— and *you* in some familiar Christmas carols. Afterward, have a nice dinner at DaVinci's down the street. If you bring your program, they will donate 10% of your check (excludes alcohol) back to Augustus. Thanks to Brian O'Hara for our flyer and program design, to Thrivent Financial for seed money, to all our sponsors and advertisers, and to all our musicians who will make this a very special presentation. There is no cost and no tickets are required; a free will offering supports music at Augustus.

And of course, join us on **Christmas Eve** at 5 pm or 7 pm in the Old Church, or at 9 pm in the (heated!) Brick Church. We will have costumed carolers before the 5pm service, and our choir will provide beautiful music of the season beginning at 8:45 for the 9 pm service. Arrive early to get comfortable and enter the wonder of this joyous season. O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*On the lighter side, here is a little Christmas fun for you*



### **Guess the Christmas Carols (or lines therefrom)! Answers at bottom...**

#### TITLES OF CAROLS

#### LINES FROM CAROLS

1. 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
2. Miniscule hamlet in the far east
3. Ancient benevolent despot
4. Adorn the vestibule
5. Exuberance directed to the planet
6. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
7. Monarchical trio
8. Yonder in the haystack
9. Assemble, everyone who believes
10. Hallowed post meridian
11. Tin tintinnabulums
12. A dozen 24-hour Yule periods
13. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour

14. Slumber in ethereal quiet.
15. Hey there! The announcing celestial beings
16. O greetings of ease and happiness
17. On commencement of Yuletide my honey bestowed upon me
18. Decorate the passage with branches of evergreen sprigs.
19. Ohh, celestial body of marvel, celestial body of strength.
20. Ourselves bid yourselves a joyous Noel and a cheerful neoteric 365 days
21. O sacred darkness, the asterisks are brilliantly shimmering.
22. Royalty of royalties always and always
23. O approach, y'all devoted happy and victorious
24. Remarked the evening breeze to the tiny sheep
25. Harmony on the planet, kindness to Homo sapiens



1. Silent Night 2. O Little Town of Bethlehem 3. Good King Wenceslas 4. Deck the Halls 5. Joy to the World 6. Hark the Herald Angels Sing 7. We Three Kings 8. Away in a Manger 9. O Come All Ye Faithful 10. Holy Night 11. Silver Bells 12. The Twelve Days of Christmas 13. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear 14. Sleep in heavenly peace... "Silent Night" 15. Hark! the herald angels sing... 16. O tidings of comfort and joy... "God rest ye merry gentlemen" 17. On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me... "The Twelve Days of Christmas" 18. Deck the halls with boughs of holly... "Deck the Halls" 19. Ohh star of wonder, star of night... "We Three Kings" 20. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year... "We wish you a Merry Christmas" 21. O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining... "O Holy Night" 22. King of kings, forever and ever... "Hallelujah Chorus" 23. Oh come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant... 24. Said the night wind to the lamb... "Do You Hear What I Hear" 25. Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men... "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

# Advent & Christmas Worship

## Advent 1, November 27

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Communion—Lighting of the first candle of the Advent wreath

## Advent 2, December 4

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Communion—Lighting of the second candle of the Advent wreath

## Advent 3, December 11

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Communion—Lighting of the third candle of the Advent wreath

## Advent 4, December 18

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am The Service—Lighting of the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

Sunday School Christmas Program

## Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 pm Old Trappe Church—Living Nativity

7:00 pm Old Trappe Church—Family Carol Service

8:40 pm Choir Music in Brick Church Nave

9:00 pm Candlelight Carol Communion Service in Brick Church Nave

## Christmas Day, December 25

**No Service**

## 1st Sunday after Christmas, January 1, 2017

9:30 am Service of Lessons and Carols

In the Brick Church Nave



## Church Office Holiday Hours

*December 23*

*Office Closes at Noon*

*December 26 and 27*

*Office Closed*

*December 30*

*Office Closes at Noon*

*January 2*

*Office Closed*

*January 3*

*Normal Office Hours Resume*

## Please remember our Active Duty Service Men in your Prayers

Jason Bockelmann

Eric Schwirian

Matthew Yosua

Michael Yosua



## THANK YOU!

Many, many thanks to the members of our church family who purchased apple pies from the Sr. Youth Group this Thanksgiving! This fundraiser is a great way for us to connect with the members of our Augustus Family! Proceeds from this sale and the other food sales we conduct through the program year help us to support our ongoing youth programs including our annual mission trips!

**Thank you for your support!**



## *Remember Augustus Lutheran Church in your Will!*

*Including Augustus Lutheran Church in your Will is an important way to assure that the church will be here to serve the needs of the congregation and community in the future.*

*We benefit today because members of Augustus in years past have taken this important step. Have you included your congregation in your estate planning?*

# AUGUSTUS' CHOIR & FRIENDS

Conducted by LAURIE MUELLER

## Christmas Concert

### **FEATURING:**

**MORRIS STRING QUARTET**

**COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

**AUDIENCE JOINS IN FAVORITE CAROLS**

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 10**

**3:00 PM**

**FREE WILL OFFERING**

**AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Brian O'Hara © 2015  
brianohara24@gmail.com

**717 W. MAIN STREET, TRAPPE  
610-489-9625 [augustustrappe.org](http://augustustrappe.org)**

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

# 2015 Christmas Poinsettias

POINSETTIAS CAN NOW BE ORDERED FOR CHRISTMAS!

Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to: AUGUSTUS FLOWER FUND

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 6, 2015

Mail to: Karen Lachenmayer  
412 Dartmoor Road  
Schwenksville, Pa. 19473

Phone: 610-287-2827  
E-mail: kal412@comcast.net



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY	TOTAL \$	QUANTITY	TOTAL \$
RED _____ @ \$9.50 ea	_____	WHITE _____ @ \$9.50 ea	_____

Check One:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please distribute my plants to others.

I would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## The Advent Wreath

*What is the history and significance of the Advent Wreath?*

The Advent wreath originated several hundred years ago among the Lutherans of central Germany, and was probably suggested by the many light symbols which were used in folklore during November and December. At that time of year, pre-Christian cultures, fearing the winter solstice (the shortest day of the year), celebrated the month of Yule (December) by placing lighted candles in a wheel, praying the god of light to turn the wheel of the earth toward the sun and lengthen the days.

The Christians in medieval times kept and Christianized many of the light and fire symbols. The evergreens (originally placed near the hearth) symbolized the everlasting life found in Christ. Bending the branches to form a circle further symbolized life without end. The candles signified God's Son as the Light of the world, and there are four (4) candles for the four (4) weeks of Advent.

Gradually, the Advent wreath became a traditional symbol reminding the faithful of the Old Testament, when humanity was "[sitting] in darkness, and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:79); when the prophets, illumined by God, announced the coming of the Redeemer; and when the hearts of humans glowed with the desire for the Messiah (Christ). The wreath itself came to symbolize the fulfillment of time — the coming of Christ and the glory of his birth.



# 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?

## Coordinator of Faith Development

I love old movies and one of my favorites is *The Bells of St. Mary's*. In one scene, some children perform a Christmas pageant that they've written themselves. The great theologians of the world would object to some of the details, *i.e.*, the shepherds and wise men arrive at the same time, the costumes are hardly authentic, and the newborn Jesus is walking, or at least "toddling." But it is clear that the heart of the story has been grasped by these children—it's Jesus' birthday!

In early December our children will begin rehearsing their own pageant. We hope to include as many of our children from three years old through sixth grade as possible in this endeavor. The point of a Christmas pageant is to teach the incarnation story using a pedagogical method that children employ even in their own playtime: acting out a story. We adults are the lucky bystanders who get to enjoy the performance!

I hope your children will be able to rehearse with us during the Sunday school hour on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and to participate in the pageant during the 10:30 a.m. service on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Middle schoolers will also get a chance to tell the story at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas service and will rehearse their Living Nativity on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Please make plans now to make sure our young folks know the true meaning of Christmas.

Grace & peace,  
Sonya Sowards



### Love. Grow. Serve.

## Senior Youth Group News

Things are heating up with the Senior Youth Group! At our 'First Wednesday' meeting, the Youth Group joins the confirmation classes for 3-in-1 for dinner and fellowship, it is always an enjoyable time to spend time with our future members! In November we made dinner for the group, the pasta recipe which is used for the Soup Kitchen. Joe Schaffer headed up the kitchen to be sure everything was done right! After clean-up, our service project for the month was to make 15 more pans of pasta to put in the freezer for the Soup Kitchen - they should be set for a couple of months now!

Our first two fundraisers were again successful! The Thanksgiving Apple Pie Sale set a record - 80 pies!! This has grown from about 20 our first year to 80 four years later! The Christmas cookie sale is always well appreciated, the ability to enjoy a wide variety of cookies at a great price - just in time for Christmas entertaining.

With winter upon us, you know what that means?? SOUP SALES!! The Youth Group will be selling home made soups after both services the Third Sunday of January, February and March.... Prices remain the same, \$4.00/pint. If you would like to donate a pot of soup (4-6 quarts), please let Tracy Wessner know! We will provide the containers and will even help with the cost of ingredients.

The Senior Youth Group is interested in helping members of the congregation with small to medium projects around their home. As noted elsewhere in the Augustinian, if you have any 'odd jobs' with which you would like assistance, please contact us.

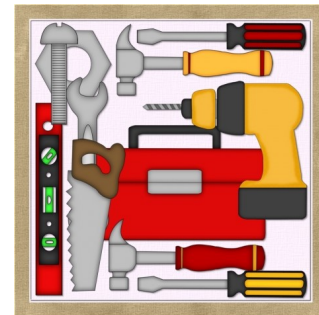
The Senior Youth Group would like to wish the entire congregation a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Thank you again for all of your financial and spiritual support.



# Can the Senior Youth Group help you?

The Senior group goes on a Mission trip every year during the summer. During these trips we do service projects for families in need. We realize that we don't have to travel in order to help those in need. If you have a service project that our youth could assist in, please let us know. Please send your request to [youth@augustustrappe.org](mailto:youth@augustustrappe.org).

We are looking to do 3-5 projects throughout the year. Any materials needed would have to be purchased by those for whom we are doing the work. The labor and supervision will be provided by the youth group. Once requests are made, we will determine which projects we are able to do.



## Waiting in the Dark

Have you ever been awake at night when the electricity went off and everything got dark? That can be scary! It can also be a time of hope, because you know that the electricity will come back on eventually, and daylight will come again. That's what Advent is all about. The word Advent means "coming." We see things differently because Jesus came to us and will come to us again, and that fills us with hope. That's why Advent's color is blue—for hope. It could also be purple—reminding us that Jesus is a royal king.

On the "New Year's Day" of the church—the first Sunday of Advent—we start using a different series of Bible readings in worship. Some years we read from the book of Matthew, the next year we use Mark, and then we use Luke. The Gospel of John is used every year.

Advent is a time of waiting. Sometimes the four weeks of Advent seem like a long time, but that time can help us remember that there is more to Christmas than shopping for Christmas presents! Some people light a candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent, both at church and at home. Some people use Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas. Some people drill holes in a log, one for each day before Christmas, and put a candle in each hole. One candle is lit each day. Sometimes Advent carols are sung, and prayers for those who are homeless or hungry are shared. Why not try some of these ideas in your home this year? Jesus came to save us all!

From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## ***A LONG JOURNEY***

Long trips are both exciting and tiring. It's exciting to think of all the things you'll do when you arrive. It's also tiring to sit in the car, a bus, a train, or an airplane for a long time. Imagine what it would be like to hike about 80 miles on a rough, rocky path over gigantic hills! That's what it was like for Mary and Joseph, who traveled all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They had to make the trip because the emperor, Augustus Caesar, wanted to count all the people so that he could tax them.

By the time Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, all the rooms had been taken by other people. So an innkeeper let them stay in his barn with the animals. One night it was time for Mary's baby to be born. After this birth she wrapped the baby in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger—a box for the animals' food. Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus.

Meanwhile, out on the hills around Bethlehem, an angel was visiting a group of rag-tag shepherds who were taking care of their sheep. Seeing the angel terrified them! But the angel told them not to be afraid and announced that the Messiah had been born. They were to look for a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Then the sky filled with angels who sang songs praising God and announced peace to God's people on earth. What a sight that first Christmas was!

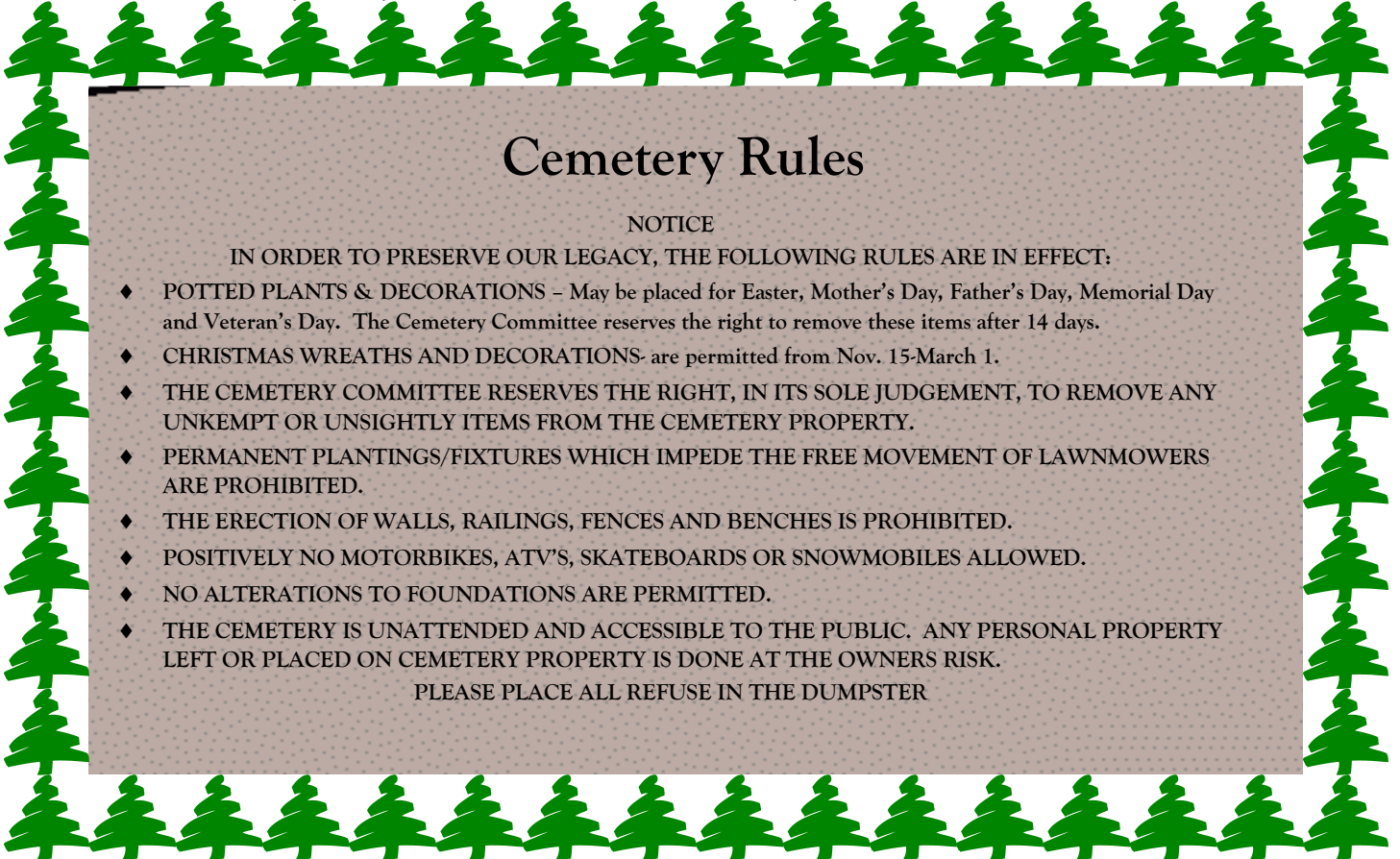


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# *WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for December*

Worship Assistants	Acolyte 10:30 am	Crucifer 10:30	Torch Bearers 10:30
December 4	Shayna King	Brianna Dubeck	
December 11	Ben Richvalsky	Ally Napier	
December 18	Ben Richvalsky	Daniel Reiser	Cooper Demark and Dylan Firth
December 24 5:00 pm			
December 24 7:00 pm			
December 24 9:00 pm	Ashley Tighe		
Lectors	8:00 am	10:30	10:30
December 4	Ron Hess	Diane Mills	Alan Shunk
December 11	Laurie Mueller	Sean McClain	Barbara Burch
December 18	Sandy Trauger	Cynthia Snyder	Cheryl Camuso
December 24 5:00 pm	Members of the Sr. Youth Group		
December 24 7:00 pm	Emma Moulder		
December 24 9:00 pm	Diane Mills	Jennifer Wentworth	
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	10:30	
December 4	Debra Augustine	John Kochel and Dave Schweitzer	
December 11	Debra Augustine	Bob Rodenberger and Janice Reiff	
December 24 9:00 pm	Contact Karen Lachenmayer		
Offering Tabulation			
December	Debra Augustine	Karl Stefan	Jeanne Funk
Ushers	8:00 am		
December	Michael Beattie, Dick Allebach	Scott Halteman and Dave Halteman	
Altar Guild	8:00 am	10:30 am	
December	Sally Sweeney	Donna and Joe Cooney	



## Cemetery Rules

NOTICE

IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR LEGACY, THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE IN EFFECT:

- ◆ POTTED PLANTS & DECORATIONS – May be placed for Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove these items after 14 days.
- ◆ CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND DECORATIONS- are permitted from Nov. 15-March 1.
- ◆ THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT, IN ITS SOLE JUDGEMENT, TO REMOVE ANY UNKEMPT OR UNSIGHTLY ITEMS FROM THE CEMETERY PROPERTY.
- ◆ PERMANENT PLANTINGS/FIXTURES WHICH IMPEDE THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LAWNMOWERS ARE PROHIBITED.
- ◆ THE ERECTION OF WALLS, RAILINGS, FENCES AND BENCHES IS PROHIBITED.
- ◆ POSITIVELY NO MOTORBIKES, ATV’S, SKATEBOARDS OR SNOWMOBILES ALLOWED.
- ◆ NO ALTERATIONS TO FOUNDATIONS ARE PERMITTED.
- ◆ THE CEMETERY IS UNATTENDED AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY LEFT OR PLACED ON CEMETERY PROPERTY IS DONE AT THE OWNERS RISK.

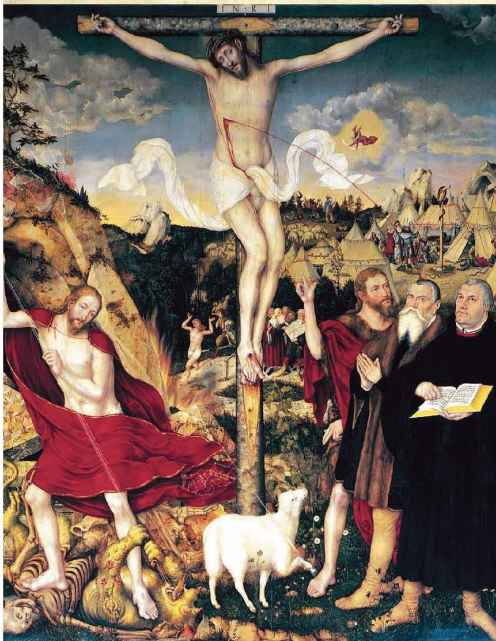
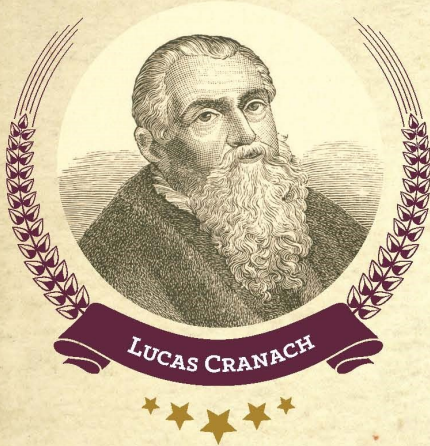
PLEASE PLACE ALL REFUSE IN THE DUMPSTER

## FACES OF THE REFORMATION

### LUCAS CRANACH THE ELDER

Born: 1472 | Kronach, Germany

Died: 1553 | Weimar, Germany



REFORMATION  
2017 It's Still All About  
**Jesus**

[LutheranReformation.org](http://LutheranReformation.org)

© 2016 LCMS

## Artist, businessman and friend of Luther

IN 1520 LUCAS CRANACH THE ELDER WAS, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, A

**SUCCESS.** He had been serving the court of Frederick the Wise for 14 years.

His works of art had become so famous that he moved his personal studio, with several apprentices, into the town of Wittenberg. He had expanded into pursuits of real estate and small business. Cranach was active in local politics, having just been elected to Wittenberg's city council the previous year. Things were, however, about to change for the artist-entrepreneur. In the wake of the death of Emperor Maximilian, which made the political climate for reformers more dangerous, Frederick and Court Secretary George Spalatin decided that Martin Luther's face needed to be presented before the people so that he might become a household name. Cranach was the man who brought Luther's face to the people. Most of the images we have of the reformer came from his brush.

While some reformers, like Zwingli, mistakenly believed that religious art and paintings were against the Ten Commandments, Luther embraced the responsible use of the arts in the church. While Luther, Melanchthon and others led the charge of the Reformation with their writings, Cranach aided the cause through the use of images, specifically paintings and woodcuts. Cranach and Luther grew close when they became colleagues in the publication of Luther's writings and pamphlets, most notably his Small Catechism and German translation of the Bible. Be it children's textbooks or scathing propaganda against the papacy, Cranach provided visual representations of Luther's thought.

More than just a colleague, Cranach became an important part of Luther's personal life. When Luther required homes for refugee nuns, Cranach provided housing. Later, when Luther married one of the escaping nuns, Katherina von Bora, Cranach was a witness at the wedding. As time went on, Luther and Cranach served as godparents for each other's children.

Cranach's lasting appeal is multifaceted. Not only is he remembered for his pictorial contribution to the Lutheran Reformation, but he is also lauded by the art community for his late-Renaissance "Wittenberg" style of painting. He painted, for many patrons, a variety of subjects including Catholic saints and Greek myths. Today his paintings and altar pieces grace museums all over the world. He accomplished all of this while engaged in politics and enterprise. In addition to working under Frederick the Wise he also served the Saxon Court under John the Steadfast and John Frederick the Magnanimous. His loyalty was unquestionable; he followed John Frederick into exile in 1547. Painter, businessman and friend, Cranach was a man who exemplified Luther's doctrine of vocation: that all stations in life are necessary for society and are God-pleasing.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

[ConcordiaHistoricalInstitute.org](http://ConcordiaHistoricalInstitute.org)

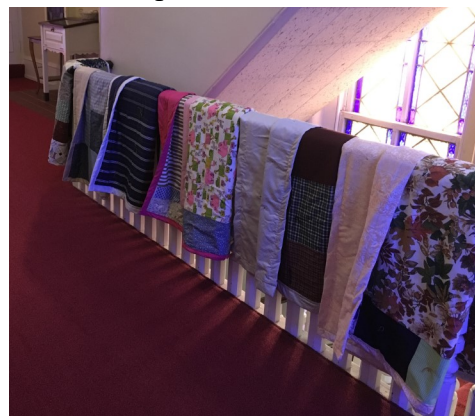


# DECEMBER 2016

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*As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit – we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society, and the world.*

**SEPA Women/ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference First Tuesday Bible Study** will be held on Tuesday December 6, 2016, at St. James Lutheran Church in Pottstown, PA. Coffee & treats begin at 9:30am and the Bible study begins at 10:00am. In December the topic is an Advent Devotional... “Waiting: What Wants to be Born in You? Advent is a Time of Darkness and Possibility” Advent is a time of waiting (anticipation), of preparations (making ready), of many unknowns (darkness), of wondering what was ahead (what was being born) and of deep reflection. Barbara Thornton is the study leader. Please bring your Bibles and your December edition of the Gather magazine. Please try to attend. All women and girls are invited. Due to the inclement weather that usually occurs during January & February, there will be no further Upper Montgomery bible studies until March 7, 2017. Please contact Fran Ivarson at 610-489-4969 if you have any questions or if you would like to carpool.



**Thankoffering/Quilt & Afghan Sunday** was held on Sunday November 20, 2016 during both the 8:00am & 10:30am church services. Many thanks to Augustus’ church member Barbara Burch who gave her testimony on her spiritual journey and the many ways God has worked in her life. Her inspiring message was felt in the hearts of all.



On this day, 33 quilts and 16 afghans made by the Hearts and Hands Committee of Augustus’ Women of the ELCA under the direction of Mildred Stuffle adorned the church sanctuary. The quilts will be given to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed to countries all over the world to help those people less fortunate. The afghans will be taken to Laurel House, a shelter for abused women and children, in Norristown. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with this ministry: Dolores Allebach, Barbara Burch, Sherry Jessee, LaVonne Johnson, Dale O’Hara, Carol Oelschlager, Gemma Patten, Janice Reiff, Mildred Stuffle (Chair), Ann Walker, and Jennifer Wentworth.



The Hearts & Hands Committee meets twice a month on the 1st Wednesday & the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30am in Augustus’ quilting room. In December the workshop will be held on December 7 and December 20. New members are welcome. For more information, please contact Mildred Stuffle at 610-489-7461.



**Renew, Respond, Rejoice!**

**Christmas Fruit Baskets** will be assembled on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall kitchen of Augustus Lutheran Church. Volunteers needed!

**Tenth Triennial Gathering of Women/ELCA** in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from July 13 – 16, 2017, is now open for registration. The registration book can be downloaded from WELCATG.ORG or see Dale O'Hara for information. The theme for the Gathering is "All Anew".



**Please continue to Save the Following Items** and place them in the appropriate box in the **Lower Narthex** of the church: Redner's Tapes, eyeglasses, General Mills Box Tops for Education, and your old smartphones/cell phones/ipads/ipods. We are no longer collecting Campbell soup labels.

Regarding the collection of old smartphones/cell phones/ipads/ipods, please do not include chargers or other accessories. If you are recycling an iPhone, please turn off "Find My iPhone". Go to settings > iCloud, turn off "Find My iPhone". Please place all smartphones, cell phones, ipads, and ipods in the appropriate recycling box on the church's windowsill in the lower narthex.

### Schedule Of Events

- Dec 6: Upper Montg Conference Bible Study @  
St. James LC, Pottstown – 9:30am  
An Advent Devotional....  
Waiting: What Wants to be Born in You?  
Study Leader, Barbara Thornton
- 7: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am
- 17: Christmas Fruit Baskets – 10:00am Augustus'  
Fellowship Hall Kitchen
- 20: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am
- 25: Merry Christmas!
- Jan 1: Happy New Year!
- 4: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am
- 17: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am
- 24: Augustus' Committee Night in the  
Chapel 7:00pm

.....Dale O'Hara.....

**SMARTPHONE & CELL PHONE COLLECTION**

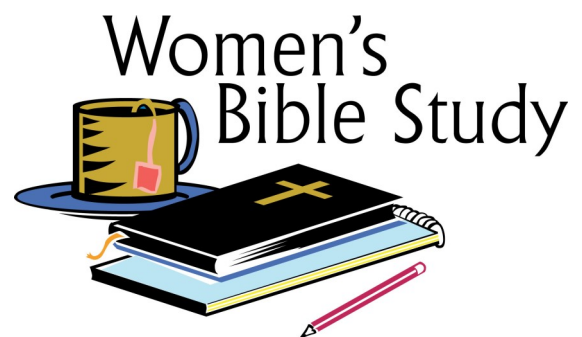
Please donate your smartphones & cell phones to benefit:

Augustus Lutheran Church  
Women of the ELCA

Money will be earned for every phone.  
Help us reach our goal today!

SMARTPHONE RECYCLING.com 800-203-1506  
SmartphoneRecycling.com

The December 6th First Tuesday of the Month Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, High & Price Sts., Pottstown, PA. The lesson is from the December *Gather* magazine's Advent Devotional. Advent is a period of waiting and anticipation, a time of preparation, of making ready, and a time of possibility. The 2016 Fall theme is about "When God's Not Fair; Coming to Terms with a Merciful God." The Study's theme is "What wants to be born in you?" Christian Faith and Christian Freedom. The Study Leader is Barbara Thornton. Please bring your Bibles and your edition of the *Gather* magazine. Thank you for your faithful attendance. Please call Fran Ivarson if you need a ride to St. James.





**SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA**  
**Upper Montgomery Cluster**  
**GATHER BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**  
**First Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m.)**



**Fall 2016: "When God's Not Fair; Coming to Terms with a Merciful God"**

**An Advent Devotional**                      **"...waiting: what wants to be born in you?"**

Tuesday, December 6	<b>Christian Faith and Christian Freedom</b> <i>No other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-2:21)</i>	St. James Lutheran Church High & Price Sts. Pottstown
Barbara Thornton, Study Leader		

**Winter/ Spring 2017**                      *No other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-2:21)*

Tuesdays, January / February	<b>HOME STUDY</b> <i>Children of God through faith (Galatians 2:19-3:29) and Galatians 1:1-3:29</i>
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**INVITE A FRIEND OR GROUP TO STUDY THESE SESSIONS WITH YOU OR STUDY ON YOUR OWN –  
 NOTE ANY QUESTIONS OR HIGHLIGHTS**

March 7	<i>Heirs of the promise</i> <i>Galatians 3:24-4:31</i>	St. Mark Lutheran Church 81 N. Main St. Pennsburg
Kitty Pell, Study Leader		

April 4	<i>For freedom Christ has set us free</i> <i>Galatians 5:1-6:18</i>	St. James Lutheran Church Kugler Rd., & Swamp Pike Limerick
Barbara Lisi, Study Leader		

May 2		Augustus Lutheran Church 717 W. Main St. Trappe, PA
Jean John, Study Leader		

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BRING FRIENDS.** Study materials are found in the *Gather* magazine. Subscriptions available at \$15.00 per year.

**Please call (800) 328-4648. THANK YOU.**

Vestry Members	Special Area	Home Phone	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner, <i>President</i>	<i>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</i>	<i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	610-489-0417	brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Cynthia Snyder, <i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mutual Ministry</i>	610-409-8333	yosua@aol.com
Jeanne Funk	<i>Comm. &amp; Tech.</i>	610-792-3830	jfunk@kpinterface.com
John Kochel	<i>Outreach/Mutual Min.</i>	484-945-0100	John.Kochel@thrivent.com
Janice Reiff	<i>Parish Life</i>	610-385-7493	janicetreiff@gmail.com
Janet Stokes	<i>Parish Life</i>	610-948-8554	sjastokes@aol.com
Deb Augustine	<i>Christian Education</i>	610-489-3869	AnnieWebb@verizon.net
Bob Rodenberger, <i>Trust Fund Treas.</i>	<i>Finance</i>	610-489-3280	r.rodenberger7@gmail.com
Jack Schatz	<i>Old Church</i>	610-489-3176	
Karl Stefan	<i>Cemetery/Mutual Ministry</i>	610-454-0373	kssurf@verizon.net

**Vestry  
 Members  
 2016**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				Madison Cooper	Richard Althouse Robert Price Russell Wilson Evelyn Yeagle	Charles Interrante Mary Keyser Daniel Reiser Sarah Wagenseller Raymond Waltz Jr.
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Deborah Harley	Paul Kerr Holly Lucas	Elimchili Lyaro Carter Tantillo Kelli Wilson	Sam Dogonniuck James Lorah	Marcus Hernandez Harriett Houser Samantha Nelson Connor Ottinger	Brianna Doering Bruce King Gayle Neborak	David Cornish Danielle Halteman David Stuffed
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Amber Whitman	Erin Barnitz Charles Beishl Landon Raupp	Debra Augustine Rachel Hamilton	Christine Napier Lilly North Alexis Romano	Samantha Penny Sara Jane Shaffer Dan Smith	Allison Christy Justin Maurer Colin Smith	Matthew Hamilton
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Ryan Hackett Jack Neborak Ronald Pakkala Rachel Schaffer Jennifer Wentworth	Cheryl Anderson Brendan Cooney Elizabeth Sheeder	Liam DePaul Corbin Schindler	Laura Fritts Patricia Reiser	Holly Birch Elizabeth Ehret Alexa Kozacheson Susan Schatz		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Bill Weaver	Judy Bubeck Margaret Schwirian	Cooper DeWane Karen McClain	Dale Ehret Caitlyn Hacker Matthew Schweitzer Ann Walker	Christia Keim Kaitlyn Mulle Anthony Scelza	John Nolan V	Karen Evans

## Remember During the Holidays

Some Augustus Family members are unable to attend services and may be unable to venture out during the holiday season. Please remember these people with cards and good wishes this Christmas and throughout the year.

**Stanley Hedrick**  
Telford Lutheran Community  
235 Washington  
Telford, PA 18969

**Thelma Hess**  
354 Ridgeview  
Harleysville, PA 19438

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

**Evelyn Yeagle**  
815 Maplewood Dr., Apt. 161  
Harleysville, PA 19438

**Leon Linsenbigler**  
127 Pennapacker Road  
Trappe, PA 196426

**Mr. & Mrs Thomas Lachenmayer**  
176 Berry Hill Lane  
Oak Park, VA 22730

**Dick Weicheld**  
109 Hopwood Road  
Collegeville, PA 19426

**Charity Jennings**  
601 Taylor Way  
Collegeville, PA 19426

Betty Imes  
19 Steinmetz Road  
Schwenksville, PA 19473

**Dave Phillips**  
1188 Sanatoga Road  
Pottstown, PA 19465

**Sara Jane Shaffer**  
811 Long Meadow Drive  
Chalfont, PA 18914

## Christmas Cards



# Sharing God's Bounty

## New Year Resolutions

In chapter 4, beginning with verse 13, James talks about our planning. He reminds us that our lives and plans and futures are in God's hands, and that we should pray, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that" (verse 15). With that preface, then, we can begin to do some self-evaluation of how we can best spend our time, abilities, and resources. A new year can provide a new resolve and commitment to do many things in a new and better way. We may find that our priorities are a little skewed.

Our lifestyles could possibly use some redirection, and a New Year's resolution based on God's plan for us could be what we need.

How can we make our resolutions a reality? One way is to talk with one of the members of the church staff or the chairperson of one of our boards and volunteer our time, energy, and abilities. Another commitment may be to spend more time reading God's Word and join a Bible Study group to stimulate spiritual growth. We may find that God is leading us to increase our knowledge and commitment in the area of our financial stewardship as well. God has blessed us so we may be a blessing to others.

The Apostle Paul tells us, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling, because, he adds, "it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." (Philippians 2:12-13). To the faithful, God has made known his will and purpose which is "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ (Ephesians 1:10). God wants us to have a relationship with Jesus as the head. The personal relationship Jesus develops with us compels us to serve and honor him through our faithful stewardship. Faith enables us to understand that we "are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). May it be our resolve and commitment to do what we were "created to do" as God's workmanship.




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*In looking to the coming year, remember that rooted deeply and firmly within scripture and our Christian tradition is the vision that we are expected to be faithful stewards of all we are and all we have. This can be done by making the best use of our talents, the time allotted to each of us, and the monies we possess. Stewardship must be seen as a life-long attitude and ever-deepening commitment.*

## Senior High Youth Group 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Sale



**What: Homemade Christmas Cookies**

**When: December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Cookies will be available for pick up after each service on the 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**How much: \$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 on a plate. Please preorder to insure you get a tray of these freshly baked homemade cookies.**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**I would like: 1 dozen (\$4) \_\_\_\_\_**

**2 dozen (\$8) \_\_\_\_\_**

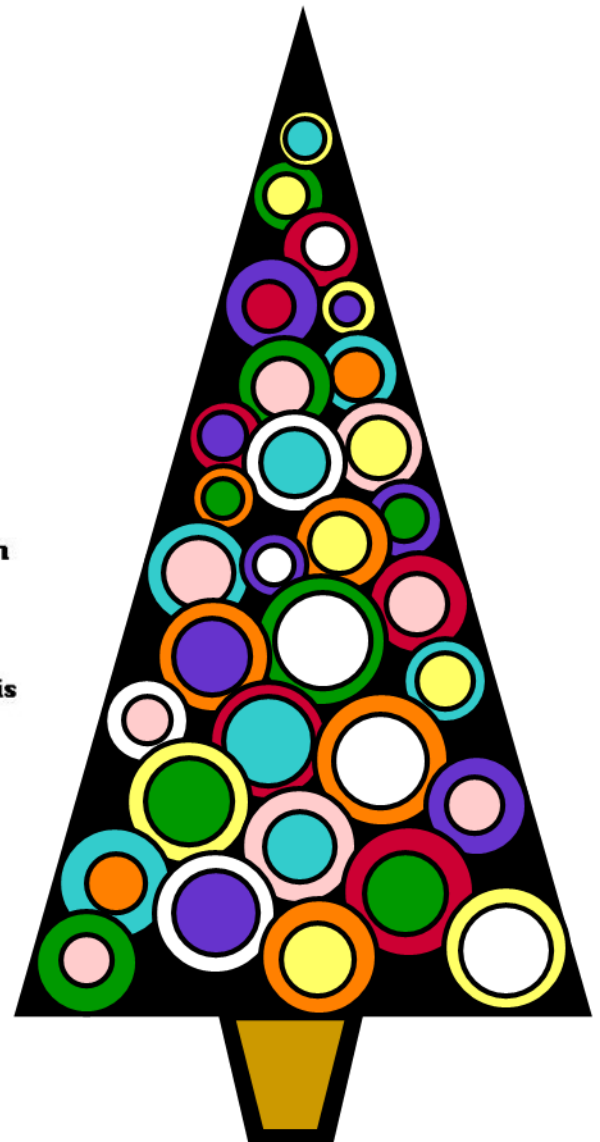
**3 dozen (\$12) \_\_\_\_\_**

**I will pick up after the**

**8:00 Service \_\_\_      10:30 service \_\_\_**



**If you have any questions please contact: [jhalteman@dejazzd.com](mailto:jhalteman@dejazzd.com)**



### *Gloves and Hats Tree*

The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting gloves and hats for the children at Silver Springs this winter. They will place their collection tree in the lower narthex during the first week of December. Thank you so much for your donations of hats and gloves ranging in size from toddler through adult. PLEASE NOTE: Silver Springs cannot accept mittens or scarves due to the disabilities of the children they support.



### *Book Club Break*

The Augustus Book Club will be on break during the month of December due to our busy Christmas schedules, but we'll re-convene in January on the 16<sup>th</sup> in the Vestry lounge at 7:30 pm.

We'll be discussing

The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent

**Planning to make a resolution to read more?**

**Here's your chance to make it fun!**

**Refreshments always served**