

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People

FEBRUARY 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Let me begin by asking you to mark your calendars for the dedication of the new construction on



Dedication Day, April 15, 2018



Please worship with us as we celebrate what the Lord has led Augustus to build – a new entrance and a large elevator, which can reach all levels of the Brick Church and Parish House. We are also working to complete the next item on the Capital Campaign agenda: new and improved lighting in the parking lot. We hope to have the new parking lot lighting installed by the dedication. Further information about the activities on Dedication Day will be included in the March *Augustinian*.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on February 14th this year. We will begin a new Ash Wednesday tradition by assigning leadership roles in worship to the students in the Second Year Confirmation Class as part of their preparation to become adult members of the parish. Please come out and support these young people as we begin a holy Lent.



The Ash Wednesday service begins at 7:00 PM. Prior to the service, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM, we will provide a Soup and Bread supper for anyone who would like to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet for dinner the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.



I would like to thank all those who have completed and returned their 2018 Commitment Cards. As of the writing of this article, we have received 99 Commitment Cards totaling \$149,579. We need additional commitments for 2018 totaling \$85,421 to fund our regular operating budget.

Why is completing and returning a Commitment Card annually so important? Commitment Cards are essential so we know what our current income will be for the calendar year. Without Commitment Cards, we must estimate current income, but that estimate is nothing more than an informed guess. Would you be comfortable taking out a mortgage or a car loan without knowing what the monthly payments will be so you can see if you can afford it? Imagine if Social Security did not tell you what your regular income would be for the current year. Could you budget adequately?

At Augustus, the leadership strives for prudence and transparency in our financial dealings. Your returned Commitment Cards allow us to accurately budget current income so we can prudently budget expenses in line with income. If you have not yet returned your 2018 Commitment Card, please go to www.augustustrappe.org. Under the "About Us" tab, you will find a copy of the Commitment Card. Please complete it and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.

May you have a holy Lent filled with a renewed commitment to live as children of God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck

“God’s Will for Me”

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm



Date	Place	Theme
February 21	Trinity Reformed UCC	God’s Will and My Inadequacy
February 28	St. Eleanor Roman Catholic	God’s Will and My Dream
March 7	Trinity Reformed UCC	God’s Will and My Identity
March 14	St. James Episcopal	God’s Will and My Worldview
March 21	Lower Providence Baptist	God’s Will and My Response

About Being Lutheran

Why do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God’s condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a tomb:
“We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust”
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.



The Congregational Meeting to receive a report on the previous year’s actual income and expenses, receive reports from committees and organizations, and act on any new business, will take place on Sunday, February 11, 2018, after the 10:30 AM service. Copies of the bulletin of reports for this meeting will be available after each service on Sunday, February 4, 2018.

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Budgeting for God and the Future

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

A budget is a spending plan in which you determine, in advance, how much of your income to allocate to each spending category. The purpose of a budget is to plan your monthly expenditures so that you can make sure you have enough to pay the essential bills, save for the future, etc. The amount of income you allocate to spending categories will be defined by your values and interests.

In developing your budget as a Christian, one of your first tasks will be to examine the priorities that God has directly revealed in his Word. There are four general budget categories that are clearly mandated: giving, saving, living expenses, and debt repayment.

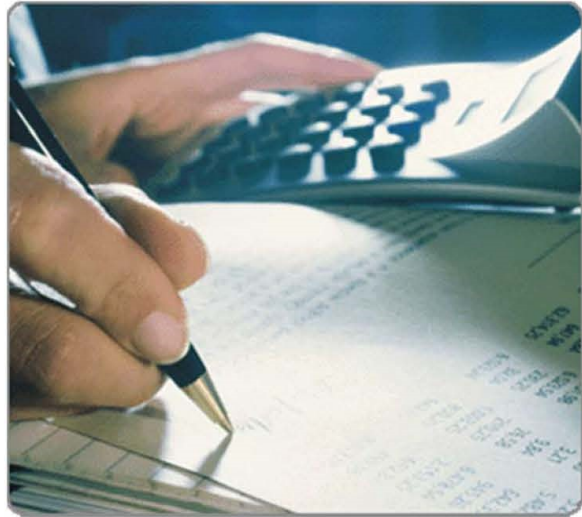
Giving: God’s Word directs us to give him our first and best. In Proverbs 3:9 we read, *“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.”* The Apostle Paul wrote, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income”* (1 Corinthians 16:2). Giving demonstrates our gratitude for all of the gifts that God has bestowed upon us.

Saving: In order to prepare for emergencies and to have resources so you can achieve your financial goals, saving is essential. In Proverbs 21:20 God shares this wisdom regarding saving: *“In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.”*

Living expenses: What you allocate for your living expenses should be established with the money that is left after giving and saving. If you have not previously developed a budget, you could be struggling to maintain a reasonable allocation for your lifestyle that you can afford. An important first step is to distinguish between what you need versus what you want. Jesus said, *“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15).

Debt repayment: In Scripture, God warns us to be cautious about debt. God’s Word discourages borrowing: *“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender”* (Proverbs 22:7). The Bible is clear as to your responsibility to repay money that you borrow.

In order to avoid dependence on others and to set a good example, you should develop a budget. If you wisely include the four essential categories, you will gain control of your money!



Notice from your Cemetery Committee

In order to keep pace with inflation, anticipate increased maintenance costs, and provide for the future care of our cemetery, please know that effective January 1, 2018, the cost of graves spaces will be \$620 each for members and \$1,550 each for non-members.

Coordinator of Faith Development



February is an exciting month in Sunday school and 3-in-1! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Our confirmation students will attend and help lead the Ash Wednesday service as part of their learning. They will also begin cooking classes with Joe Shaffer on Wednesday nights in February. Instead of waiting around for pizza to be delivered, they will be cooking their own dinner!

Our Sunday school students will hear about the calling of the disciples and perform for the congregation on singing Sunday, February 4th (also Super Bowl Sunday). Then they will learn about the Transfiguration on February 11th on the last Sunday after Epiphany (the time when we remember how Jesus' divinity was revealed to the world). On the first Sunday of Lent, February 18th they will receive their "lamb box" so they can collect money throughout Lent to buy lambs for Heifer International. They will also meet their prayer pals—adults and children from Augustus not otherwise involved in Sunday school who have agreed to pray for our children during Lent. If you would like to serve as a prayer pal to one of our classes, please email me at education@augustustrappe.org or call me at (904) 476-4409.



I hope your February is filled with lots of love!

Sonya Sowards



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank everyone who purchased soups from us in January. We hope you enjoyed them. We'll also have soups the 3rd Sunday in February and March. The SYG will also be having the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Diner on February 13th. The monies raised from our fund raising efforts are used for senior youth group activities and the yearend mission trip.

We're also collecting socks that the soup kitchen will be giving out on February 14th. There's a drop box in the new meeting area if you're interested in donating.



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.

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

From the Bench

February 2018

Thanks to all who attended the annual service for Christian Unity at Augustus. Nearly 60 people from six different churches were in the massed choir. We also had some young singers and a worship band this year! The choirs enjoy getting together and singing in a big group, and it's a great way to help our neighbors in need.

New in the loft: we welcome Abby Gravel to the alto section. She is Pastor Kochenderfer's tenant right across the street, and the former alto section leader at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pottstown. She will be joining us occasionally when she can.

This month, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Valentine's Day) February 14. We are hoping to offer a dinner for the congregation that night at 6 pm; church will begin at 7:00 pm. Our young people will serve in various leadership roles in that service. Come and join your church family as we begin our Lenten journey.

Next month, the choir will perform a special Lenten cantata. Watch for more details coming soon! If you'd like to sing with us, let me know (music@augustustrappe.org).

Please know how much we need and appreciate your financial support for our music program. Our section leaders assure that we have a solid musical base for the choir. We can learn music more quickly, and we sound better because of our section leaders. If you've been to other churches, you know that we have one of the best choirs in the area. As a bonus incentive, if you are able to support us with a gift of \$340 or more, you may choose one of the Sunday hymns. Gifts for the music program should be directed to Bob Ro-denberger's attention to be deposited to the correct fund. Thank you!

~Laurie Mueller



Christian Unity Service 2018

Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 13th

4:30 – 6:00 pm



Free (your donation benefits youth ministry)

No reservations required!



Augustus Lutheran Church

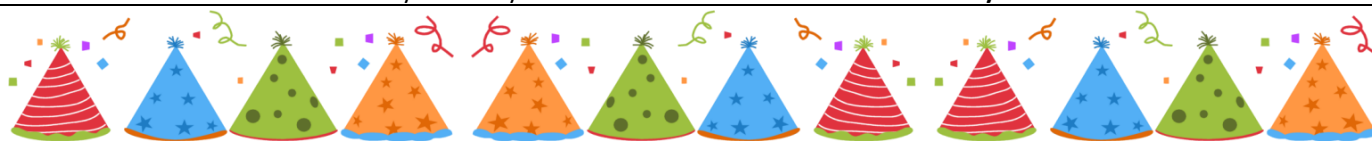
717 W. Main Street, Trappe

All Welcome!

February *Worship Assistants*



Altar Servers:	Acolyte	Crucifer	Torch Bearers
February 4	Griffin Crothers	Aaron Crothers	
February 11	Dan Reiser	Thomas Lyaro	
February 14	Ash Wednesday	3-in-1 Students	
February 18	Brianna Dubeck	Kevin Dubeck	
February 25	Cooper Demark	Casey Demark	
Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am Lector	10:30 am Prayers
February 4	Earl Catagnus	Griffin Crothers	Aaron Crothers
February 11	Mike Van Blaricum	James Lorah	John Kochel
February 14	Ash Wednesday	3-in-1 Students	
February 18	Sandy Trauger	Jim Lien	Alan Shunk
February 25	Mildred Stuffle	Jonathan Mueller	Chris Dogonniuck
Communion Assistants	8:00 am: Debra Augustine		
February 4	John Kochel and Dave Schweitzer		
February 11	Janice Reiff and Sonya Sowards		
February 14	Ash Wednesday	3-in-1 Students	
February 18	Jennifer Wentworth and Bob Rodenberger		
February 25	Jeannie Funk and Gary Wessner		
Ushers	8:00 am: Early Usher Team		
February	Frank DePaul, Jim Lien, Mike Taylor, and Dick Allebach		
Offering Tabulation	Debra Augustine, Karl Stefan, and Jeannie Funk		
Altar Guild	8:00 am: Sally Sweeney 10:30 am: Deb Scholl and Sherry Jessee		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Cassidy Hones Joseph Swan	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Caitlin Cunningham	Jennifer Maurer Brett Schulz	Avery Benner Nancy Bunting Dylan Firth Curtis Watro Jerry Wentworth		Cathy Menendez	Rebecca Wilson	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
David Linsenbigler	Jeffrey Stuffle		Tresa Franz Griffin Henze McKenzie Peters Dave Ward		Jake Smith	John Wentworth IV Jeffrey Wentworth
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Douglas Stearly		Ellen Davis	Andrew Keim	Olivia Hart Elizabeth Staples	Robert Yost III	Carol Oelschlager
25	26	27	28			
Susan Landis	Paul Hernandez Charlotte Wentworth		Phillip Lien Ally Napier			

February Birthdays

Christ's Love Compels Us

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Some sons disobey their fathers. Others obey unwillingly with arguing and complaining, resentful of their fathers' authority. Still others are compliant, but are there any who would be as submissive as Jesus was to his Father's will? "... yet not my will, but yours be done," Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42). Carrying out his Father's will was no easy task, but, because his love for us is as great as the Father's, he was willing to win our salvation for us by carrying out the plan the Triune God had established before the foundations of the world were laid. It was his love for us that caused Christ to give his very life so that we, who were dead in sin, might be alive forevermore in him.



There is nothing we can do to earn this love; there is nothing we can do to "pay him back." The Christian life of stewardship is a response to his love. His love compels us to respond by loving him first and best and loving others as ourselves. His love compels us to provide for our pastors, teachers, and missionaries who work to bring the Gospel to the world for which he died (1 Corinthians 9:9-12). His love compels us to look after the widow and the orphan (James 1:27). His love compels us to feed the hungry, extend hospitality to the homeless, clothe the destitute, and visit the prisoner (Matthew 25:37-40).

Stewardship is the use of life and all of life's resources in response to the grace of God in our lives, poured out in service to others, even as Christ poured out his lifeblood for us. The prophet Micah clarifies to us what God requires of us: *"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6:8b). These are not attitudes we can work up of our own accord. Only as we are renewed daily through Word and Sacrament can we respond to this great love of Christ and respond in joyful service and generous giving that please God.



Taking a seat opposite the treasury, Jesus observed the crowd putting money into the collection box. Many of the wealthy put in sizable amounts; but one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins worth about a cent. He called his disciples over and told them: "I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44

For questions about this event or to place your reservations,
contact: brian.ohara24@gmail.com

Dinner & Show

Imperial's Catering Presents

February 10 , 2018

Take a Musical Journey through some
of the greatest times in American
Music History

Steve Ritrovato



Tickets \$ 40

BYOB

Beer/ Wine

Only



*The
Smooth Sounds
of
Steve Silicata*

SINATRA
DEAN MARTIN
BOBBY DARIN
TONY BENNETT
LOUIS PRIMA
FRANKIE VALLI
THE TEMPTATIONS
THE BEATLES

Bring a Friend !!!

Doors Open 7:00

Dinner 7:30

Show 8:30

AN EVENT HOSTED BY:



717 W. MAIN STREET
AUGUSTUS

WWW.AUGUSTUSTRAPPE.ORG
LUTHERAN

610-489-9625
CHURCH

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM Communion ~ 9:00 AM Sunday School ~ 10:30 AM Worship

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.

Spring Turkey Dinner/Craft & Vendor Fair will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Save the date! More information will follow. Included in this newsletter are Christmas Greetings from Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Augustus' Missionaries in Tanzania who are supported through our annual Spring Turkey Dinner/Craft & Vendor Fair.

SEPA Women/ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference First Tuesday Bible Study will not be meeting in February due to concerns regarding inclement weather.

The next bible study will be held on Tuesday March 6, 2018, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg, PA. Coffee & treats begin at 9:30am and the Bible study begins at 10:00am. From March thru June we will discussing a four-part series, "Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations," about how God speaks to us in unique and different ways through Scripture. This series was written by Mark Allan Powell, a professor of the New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and who



has taught at seminaries in Estonia, Russia and Tanzania. He edited the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary and has written more than 100 articles and 25 books on the Bible and religion. Session one is "Washing hands with distant hearts" taken from Mark 7:1-12. When we read or listen to Scripture, we identify with different characters in the Biblical story to discern what the story means to us. In this session, we explore this phenomenon, as well as Mark 7:1-12, which some people interpret from the perspective of the disciples, some from the perspective of the Pharisees and others from the perspective of Jesus. Janet Luyben is the presenter. Please bring your Bibles and your January/February edition of the Gather magazine. Please try to attend. All women and girls are invited. Please contact Fran Ivarson if you have any questions or if you would like to carpool.

The Hearts & Hands Committee continues to meet twice a month on the 1st Wednesday & the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30am in Augustus' quilting room. Among an array of various projects that the committee embarks on, the ladies concentrate their efforts on making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Also, afghans are knitted/crocheted for Laurel House, a shelter in Norristown for abused women and children. Currently, the committee is in need of people who can knit or crochet, and who are willing to help make afghans. If you are interested in partaking in the efforts of this committee, the workshop will meet on Feb 7 and Feb 20. You can also work from home at your leisure. New members are always welcome and no experience is necessary. For more information, please contact Mildred Stuffle at 610-489-7461 or jandmstuffle@verizon.net.

Augustus' Committee Night will continue to be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. All the committees will first meet in Augustus' Chapel and then we will break off into our separate meeting rooms. The Women of the ELCA will be participating. The next committee night will be held on February 27. Please come out & share your opinions. All women of Augustus are welcome.



Your 2018 Purchases Can Support Augustus Ministries:

Support WELCA through AmazonSmile!

Now you can support Augustus Women of the ELCA with an even sweeter smile – an AmazonSmile, that is.

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support Augustus Women of the ELCA every time you shop at Amazon.com, at no cost to you. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5 percent of what you spend at Amazon to the Augustus' Women's Organization.

Your privacy is protected – Augustus Women of the ELCA is never informed of your purchases, the amount you spend, or even that it's you who's supporting Women of the ELCA through AmazonSmile. It couldn't be easier.

To shop with AmazonSmile, go to **smile.amazon.com** from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You might also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start shopping with AmazonSmile. You can also download and install an extension on your browser so that you can go to our smile.amazon.com portal automatically. If you use Internet Explorer, you should start each shopping session at the URL after making **Augustus Lutheran Church** your default charity.

Sign-up your Credit/Debit Cards on eScrip.com to support WELCA

Augustus Women/ELCA will receive a rebate every time you use your cards when you shop, dine, or travel. The rebate could be as high as 20%. Please go to eScrip.com to sign-up or renew your cards today and see the many rebates that are available. Use ID #148993154. There is nothing else that you need to do. This fundraiser is easy, simple, & has the potential of making a lot of money. If you have any questions, please contact Dale O'Hara at 610-489-0417.

Make a Difference!

Shop Locally!

Shop Online!

Shop at participating local grocers and drug stores or dine out with eScrip dining restaurants that give back!

Shop with your favorite online retailers through eScrip's Online Mall. Over 800 shops to choose from, plus money saving offers!

Please continue to Save the Following Items to help WELCA

Place items in the appropriate box in the lower narthex: 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".

Schedule Of Events



- Feb 6: No Upper Montg Conference Bible Study
7: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am @ Augustus LC, Trappe
14: Ash Wednesday
20: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am @ Augustus LC, Trappe
27: Augustus' Committee Night in the Chapel 7:00pm

- Mar 6: Upper Montg Conference Bible Study @ St. Mark's LC, Pennsburg – 9:30am
Topic: Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations
"Washing hands with distant hearts" (Mark 7:1-12) Presenter: Janet Luyben
7: Hearts and Hands Workshop 9:30am @ Augustus LC, Trappe

Stephen & Jodi Lynne Swanson are supported by Augustus' Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through their annual Spring Turkey Dinner/ Craft & Vendor Fair.



Swanson Family Newsletter

Arusha, Tanzania

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Joyous New Year!

It is a busy season for everyone and our family of 5 is no exception! We are blessed to be reunited with our daughter, Hannah, as she returned from Kenya and together celebrate the birth of Christ as a family.

I love the opportunity to quiet my heart in preparation for the coming of Christ and remember the miraculous event of the incarnation, "God became man and dwelt amongst us." Yet this year I found myself overly busy with the therapeutic feeding program, community outreach, and spending time addressing new problems at work. Steve was spending longer hours in the hospital, as new babies born critically ill or premature were arriving at all hours of the day.

At some point in December, I realized the "quiet, contemplative times of Christmas" was not going to happen as I had expected, and that Christ had come into the world for exactly these overwhelming, troubling situations. We need Him. The world needs Him. The world we live and work in here in Tanzania needs the love and light of God to bring healing and hope into their troubled situations. The premature baby needs breath; she needs oxygen and medication to help her breathe. The malnourished child needs food; the young toddler with TB needs a correct diagnosis and proper dosage of medicine so that he may recover. And they all need hope. They all need compassion. So, I began to take the quiet moments when I could, and see my work as a natural outpouring of the coming of Christ. He came to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, and we are privileged to be in this place, to do the work of God in this world.

May His peace be upon you in this coming year,

Jodi and Steve Swanson

December 2017

Like a stone on the surface of a still river

Driving the circles on forever

Redemption breaks through the surface of time

In the cry of a tiny babe.

~Bruce Cockburn, singer/songwriter

The past few months have been quite full and rewarding: travel to South Africa, speaking at CDC conferences in Arusha and Dar es Salaam; team writing a new government neonatology manual—*Care of the Newborn* (130 pages), that will guide Tanzanian hospitals in the care of sick neonates; daily clinics and teaching rounds at 2 hospitals; fund-raising; continued training of Tanzanian interns, doctors, and visiting pediatric residents from Europe and America; and sending two of my finest Tanzanian doctors (that I had mentored for 2+ years) off to Uganda to start a 3-year pediatric residency program.

Our NICU continues to receive considerable attention for the work we are doing in caring for critically ill and preterm newborns, providing a level of care found nowhere else in the country. The baby pictured above was an 800-gram survivor from our NICU.

Below is a link to a 5-minute video that we posted online this month. It's worth watching, as we try to raise awareness of prematurity as the leading cause of global death among small children, what can be possible to save their lives in Tanzania, and celebrate the amazing work that our doctors and NICU nurses are doing.

Every breath counts. No matter how small.

Did you know that prematurity is now the leading global cause of death in children less than 5 years old?

We have a new video posted online: <http://www.vimeo.com/drswanson/breath>

Tax deductible
contributions for pediatric
work can be
sent to:

Via Online:

www.tanzanianchildren.org

Via Mail:

information at above website

All funds are received through
Global Health Ministries (GHM),
and directed in entirety towards
clinical pediatric training of doctors
and nurses in Tanzania, care of
babies in the neonatal intensive care
unit (NICU), medications, bed fees,
and food for malnourished children.

Your support makes this work
possible!

GHM will send you a tax-
deductible receipt.

He won our hearts

In the beginning of October, little Baraka* came to us from a far distance. He was 18 months old, and weighed only 12 pounds. He had not gained weight in 6+ months. His abdomen was significantly distended, and every breath was a struggle. Repeated respiratory infections and malnutrition had deformed the shape of his chest. He was weak and unable to stand. His father had secretly taken him away from his village, bringing him to us out of desperation. The mother and villagers believed he was a cursed child. The father believed differently.

He was diagnosed with pulmonary and extra-pulmonary tuberculosis (abdominal TB) and started on anti-TB medications and entered our feeding program for severely malnourished children. There were many nights I returned home from work, wondering if he would make it through the night.

After more than 2 months in our care, he was discharged home. Instead of struggling for oxygen, there were smiles and giggles. It was a great joy to care for him. He continues to be followed up through our program and is doing extremely well.

*child's name has been changed



Kid's Corner



We had a much-needed time away as a family before Christmas and headed to the coast for some beach time! All the kids are now well rested, and preparing for another school term.

Indya, our little fish, is pictured here swimming with a baby jellyfish in a jellyfish pond! Such are the wonders of childhood near the coast of the Indian Ocean. After her ear surgery this past summer, she came down with an infection and perforation this fall which we struggled to treat. In the end, we headed up to Nairobi to see an ENT specialist and with new medication her ear began to heal. Again. We appreciate your ongoing prayers for her health concerns (ear and toe infections, so she needs prayer covering from head to foot!) She has wonderful friends and loves her school. She keeps busy with reading, art, and was a munchkin and flying monkey in the school's production of the Wizard of Oz!



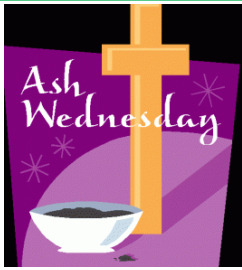
Caedmon also enjoyed the coast with some scuba and free diving, but is pictured here with Steve as they summited Mt. Meru, at 14,980 ft., as part of a celebration of Steve's 50th birthday. Caedmon worked very hard this semester and had a successful semester in academics, earning high honors. He has great friends and will be focusing on swimming and soccer in this new semester.



Hannah has transitioned to Rift Valley Academy in Kenya in her usual flexible and cheerful manner! She has made lots of new friends and is enjoying the cool mountain climate, as well as the new opportunities to grow socially, spiritually, and academically in this new environment. She made friends with the whale sharks on Mafia Island (Tanzania), and enjoyed taking selfies as you can see. It may be that marine photography is in her future! She has enjoyed being home with us, baking Christmas cookies and playing with her dog. She is not looking forward to saying good-bye, but we are confident she will be happy and settle in easily.

We are supported through the ELCA: <https://community.elca.org/Tanzania>

Photos: ALMC NICU, Selian Lutheran Hospital



A Time to Be Dirty

People can get very dirty playing ball or running around outside. If that happens to you, someone may tell you to go inside and take a bath. But things are different on Ash Wednesday. During that day you may see people with smudges of dirt on their foreheads. Those people have gone to church and had the dirt put on their foreheads on purpose. The smudge stays on their foreheads all day.

Actually the dirt is not dirt at all, but ashes. Ashes are put on people's foreheads to remind them that their lives follow the natural cycle of all life. People live, and people die. But that's not all that Ash Wednesday has to tell us. That day marks the beginning of Lent, and during Lent we find out that our lives don't end with death. Instead we find out that nothing separates us from God's love. God loves us now, and God always will. Putting ashes on people's foreheads also reminds us to look to God and remember all that God has done for us. We ask God to help us live in ways that are good and which don't hurt other people or damage our world.

During Lent the music changes in church. We don't sing "Alleluia!" again until Easter, to help us remember that Jesus died for us. "Alleluia" means "praise the Lord," and we shout that word to express our joy on Easter. On Ash Wednesday, make a sign with the word "alleluia" on it and put the sign in a box until Easter.

From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.



A Gentle Reminder

The generations of faithful Lutherans that have gone before us have left us a great legacy at Augustus Lutheran Church. Please do your part to keep our buildings neat, clean, and presentable to the many friends and visitors we welcome throughout each week of the year.



SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Upper Montgomery Conference
First Tuesday Bible Studies
Summer/Fall 2017 9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Winter/Spring 2018



January - February 2018 Mid-winter break — SAVE GATHER Magazines

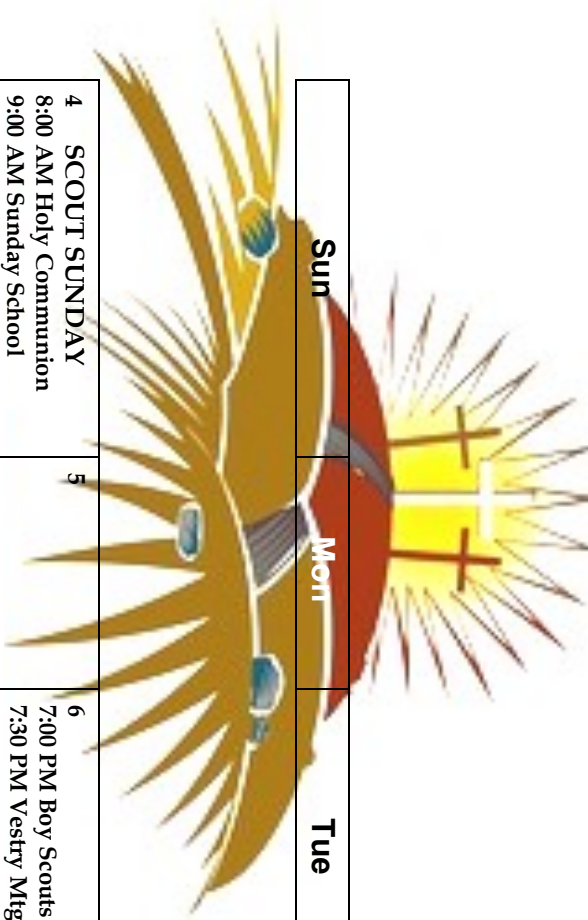
March 6, 2018	Multiple Meanings - <i>GATHER</i> January issue	St. Mark's Lutheran Church 81 N. Main St., Pennsburg
<u>Janet Luyben, presenter</u>		
April 3, 2018	Multiple Meanings - <i>GATHER</i> Jan/Feb. issue	St. James Lutheran Church Kugler Rd. & Swamp Pk., Limerick
<u>Barbara Lisi, presenter</u>		
May 1, 2018	Multiple Meanings - <i>GATHER</i> March issue	Augustus Lutheran Church 717W. Main St., Trappe
<u>Pat Leberman, presenter</u>		
June 5, 2018	Multiple Meanings - <i>GATHER</i> April issue	St. John's Lutheran Church 3104 Main St., Sumneytown
<u>Fran Ivarson, presenter</u>		

2018 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) 409-0576. THANK YOU.

February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 SCOUT SUNDAY 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion Sunday School Singing	5	6 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Vestry Mtg	7 9:30 AM Quilting Group 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM 3-in-1	8 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir	2 7:00 PM Cubs Committee Mtg.	3 5:00 PM Pasta Dinner 8:00 PM Scout Sleep Over
11 TRANSFIGURATION 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11:30 AM Annual Meeting	12	13 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 4:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00 PM Community Club	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM Soup Kitchen Outreach 6:00 PM 3-in-1 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir	16	17
18 8:00 AM Holy Communion 8:30 AM Soup Sale 9:00 AM Sunday School – PRAYER PALS 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11:30 AM Soup Sale 6:00 PM Organist Reception	19 7:00 PM Boy Scout District Mtg	20 9:30 AM Quilting Group 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Scout Comm. Mtg 8:00 PM Moms Set Up	21 8:30 AM Moms of Trappe 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM 3-in-1	22 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir	23	24 9:00 AM St. John's Church Re-treat
25 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion 3:00 PM Cubs Blue & Gold Banquet	26	27 9:30 AM Moms Board Mtg 7:00 PM Committee Night 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 6:00 PM 3-in-1			

