

AUGUSTINIAN

JANUARY 2017

Augustus
Lutheran
Church



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your Christmas cards and gifts. They are most appreciated.

Work on the new elevator and entryway is proceeding apace. This phase of the Capital Campaign should be completed before Easter. The generosity of our members and friends has made this congregational dream come true. There is still more to do. Over the summer, a new floor in Fellowship Hall and Kitchen will be installed. After that, new wiring has to be run for the lights in the parking lot and better light fixture installed. And after that, the exterior foundation of the entire Parish House needs to be sealed to keep out moisture. If you have not yet contributed to the Capital Campaign, there is still much to do. Your special offerings to the Capital Campaign, over and above your regular offerings, will help us accomplish many tasks to make our campus more accessible and welcoming. If you would like to receive a pledge card, email Karen McClain at office@augustustrappe.org. She would be pleased to send you the card.

As we rejoice in the many physical improvements to our campus, we should take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to the core mission of any Lutheran parish:

- Worship
- Making disciples
- Helping our neighbors in need

Worship is important because, "Faith (trust in God) comes through hearing," St. Paul teaches us. Making disciples is the natural call of the church. And helping our neighbors in need is the way a believer gives thanks to God for the many blessings showered upon us.

As we carry out our mission, God will give us the means to accomplish it.

May the New Year bring you the peace of the Christ Child.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck



P.S. If you haven't returned your Pledge/Commitment Sheet for 2017 yet, please do so. Augustus depends on the support of our members and friends to pay for the programs of the church.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. **You are invited to join us as we begin a new Bible study on Martin Luther "A Man Named Martin: Part 1: The Man" on Sunday, January 29, 9:15AM in the library.** Each session has a video and discussion guide. All are welcome to join us.

Nearly 500 years ago, an unknown monk from a backwater town in Germany, set in motion a movement that would literally transform Western civilization.

The impact Martin Luther had on the growth and development of Christianity is enormous. But *how* did this unknown miner's son change the world? In this Lutheran Hour Ministries' Bible study, we will examine the life and times of this religious reformer. From his humble beginnings in Germany to his indefatigable work to understand Scripture and share the truths of the Bible, Martin Luther inspired a Reformation that reverberates throughout Christendom to this day.

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

The Borrower is Servant to the Lender

Are there really only two certainties in life: death and taxes? Debt is likely a third. We live in a society that depends on credit card and installment debt. As the bumper sticker reads, “I owe, I owe, so off to work I go.”

The phrase, “We are in the world, but not of the world,” aptly describes us as Christians on how we should be viewing and using debt. Just because people in our society are comfortable in extending themselves to the limit with credit, it should not be acceptable to us. The Bible warns us that debt should be taken seriously and avoided when possible. In Proverbs 22:7 we read, “*The borrower is servant to the lender.*” As servants, we become obligated. Debt enslaves, and, through debt, we lose our freedom. Debt can impede our serving and giving. If we are in debt, we may not be able to do what God wants us to do with our money because we already owe it to others. If debt is out of control, our livelihood and homes can be in jeopardy.

Mismanaging money through excess debt is costly. For example, if you have a credit card balance of \$4,000 and are paying a minimum of \$100 every month, the costs are as follows:

<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Time to Pay Debt</u>	<u>Interest Expense</u>
9.9 %	45 months	\$ 874
12.9 %	47 months	1,257
15.9 %	53 months	1,736
18.9 %	63 months	2,362

At a rate of 18.9 percent interest, a person would have to pay an additional 60 percent for what- ever purchase he made over the five-plus years. It is very probable that most things would have been broken or worn out before the credit card bill was paid.

Debt is both an opportunity loss and a financial loss. The more you pay in debt, the less you have to invest. Debt causes a depreciation of your asset base instead of allowing your goods and savings to create and appreciate in value. Let’s consider two different options of spending \$100 per month. If, for example, you used \$100 to pay off interest of 14 percent for a 20-year period, you would spend \$130,117. In contrast, if you invest \$100 with an average of 12 percent (mutual funds) over the 20 years, you will accumulate \$98,926. The opportunity cost would be the total of \$130,117 plus \$98,926 or \$229,043. Effective money management is getting money to work for you instead of against you.

Remember this maxim: “If I can’t pay for it promptly, I won’t buy it.”

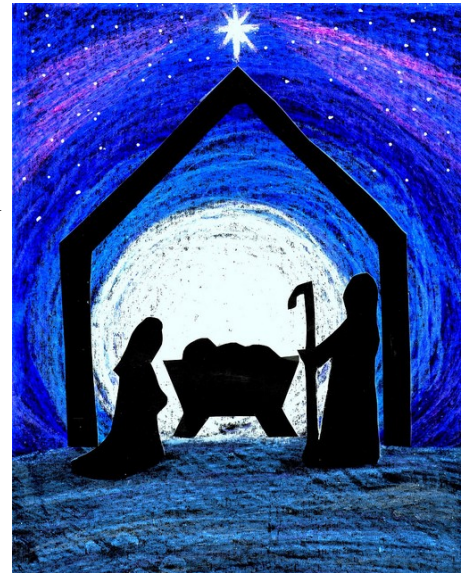


THE CRECHE

What is the origin of the creche, or Christmas Crib?

The Child in the manger and other representations of the Nativity have been used in churches since the first centuries. The earliest known depiction comes from around A. D. 380, and served as a wall decoration in the burial chamber of a Christian family in St. Sebastian's Catacombs, Rome.

The creche in its present form and use is traced to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas Crib popular through his celebration at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas Eve 1223, with a Nativity scene including live animals. This reflected the then popular custom of the Crusaders who, returning from the Holy Land, enacted or erected tableaux of Biblical scenes and sites. Francis' biographer wrote:



(Francis said) "I want to enact the memory of the Infant who was born at Bethlehem, and how he was deprived of all the comforts babies enjoy; how he was bedded in the manger on hay, between an ass and an ox. For once I want to see all this with my own eyes."

The crib was made ready, hay was brought, the ox and ass were led to the spot. . . Greccio became a new Bethlehem. The crowds drew near and rejoiced in the novelty of the celebration. . . As they sang in praise of God the whole night rang with exultation. . . A solemn Mass was sung at the crib.

The animals at the crib (usually an ox and an ass), although not mentioned in Scripture, were associated with the scene on the basis of two Old Testament passages which were applied to the Nativity: Isaiah 1:3 ("The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.") and the Greek text of Habakkuk 3:2 ("In the middle of two living things you will make yourself known; when the years draw near you will be recognized; when the time comes you will appear.").

Augustus Book Club

The January meeting of the
Augustus Book Club will be held on
January 16, 2017

at 7:30 pm in the Vestry Lounge.

We will be discussing:

The Heretic's Daughter

by Kathleen Kent

New members are always welcome.
Come to discuss the book and get to know
some new folks!

Refreshments are always served.

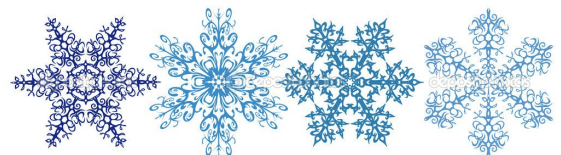
Questions?: Contact Karen McClain

610-489-9625 or office@augustrappe.org

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.

*Sparkle
& Shine*



Happy 2017! Thank you to the many people who made our Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve services so special – instrumentalists, choirs, soloists, narrators, bell ringers, ushers, sponsors, those who set up and decorated, outdoor costumed carolers, and all who attended. Put next year's concert on your calendar – Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 3 pm!

Attention all adventurers: I will be playing an excellent and FUN organ recital (yes, that's possible!) with my good friend Jon Riss at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Lancaster (31 S. Duke Street) on **Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm**. We are playing a few organ duets, a few organ solos, and a few pieces featuring organ plus trumpet! My substitute here at Augustus that morning will be Holy Trinity's organist Robert Horton. So when you see Rob on the bench that morning, it will remind you to take a trip to Lancaster in the afternoon!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During the Epiphany season, the Church celebrates the stunning realization that Christ was sent not just to the Jews, but to all the peoples of the earth. We begin with the celebration of the magi (who were so wise and knew so many secrets that we've named with a derivation of the word "magic"). The magi came from a country very different in history, culture and understanding of the divine from Jerusalem, but they recognized that Jesus was Christ the King and followed a star to visit him. After that our lectionary takes us through several stories revealing that Jesus was a very special baby, including the remarkable events at his baptism.



We'll learn about the magi and about Jesus' baptism in Sunday school but we will also take time out to recognize that we ourselves are Christ in this world. On January 22nd we'll have a "baby shower for Jesus" and collect gifts to be donated to Genesis Pregnancy Care Center to help ensure that all babies have everything they need. This event will be coordinated by Jeanne Halteman and Lorna DePaul. Suggested gift items are:

- Diapers (newborn and sizes 4-6)
- Formula (Similac Advance)
- Baby soap, lotion, oil
- Diaper rash ointment
- Sleepers sizes 12-24 months
- Infant toys and teething rings
- Pacifiers
- Infant medical items
- Bowls and spoons
- Bibs and burb cloths



Please consider bringing a baby gift with you to Sunday school on January 22nd.

In January our middle and high school students will continue with 3-in-1 (confirmation) and senior high youth group meetings beginning on January 4th and we're hoping to get a special speaker on that date.

Happy Epiphany!



Grace & peace,
Sonya Sowards

DINNER AT AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

DATE: February 4, 2017

TIME: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

PLACE: Fellowship Hall

COST: Free. Donations will be accepted to support the Augustus Lutheran Soup Kitchen Outreach program.

You, your family and friends are invited to a delicious meal of Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, Soup, Salad, Fruit and home-made desserts in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 4. Dinner will be served between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are not necessary and you may arrive at your convenience. There is no cost for the meal; however, you may make a donation towards the Soup Kitchen Outreach.

There will also be information for anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for the Soup Kitchen. Our congregation provides a full meal to needy individuals once per month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown. Volunteers are needed to serve the meal in Norristown, or to cook an entrée or dessert at home. We welcome anyone who can help once per year, twice per year or more often.

Please plan now to drop-in for dinner at Augustus on February 4. The Soup Kitchen Outreach appreciates your support. And, any donations will be supplemented by the Upper Montgomery Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in."
(Matthew 25:35)



Christian Parenting

All God's People

In church school children hear and read stories about people like Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman who were shunned by the Jewish people, but who were loved by Jesus. How do these stories affect our children's attitude and behavior toward other people? That depends on us. Do our children see us reflecting Jesus' love when we deal with difficult neighbors, coworkers, and relatives? Do they hear us speaking about others in respectful or biased ways? Is our treatment of others based on their value to God or their net worth in the world? None of us can possibly measure up to Jesus when it comes to loving people. If we try to love like Jesus, it will make a lasting impression on our children.

When we struggle to reflect Jesus' love in our lives, we're helping our children learn the importance of demonstrating this kind of love in their own lives. We're teaching them to stop and ask: What would Jesus do in this situation? Hopefully, they'll remember the Bible stories and follow his example.

From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

The Annual 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 12, 2017, after the 10:30 AM service. Copies of the bulletin of reports for this meeting will be available after each service on Sunday, February 5, 2017.

Who can vote at the Congregational Meeting?

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.





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

Christian Faith and Christian Freedom
No other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-2:21)

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

HOME STUDY

Children of God through faith (Galatians 2:19-3:29) and Galatians 1:1-3:29

**INVITE A FRIEND OR GROUP TO STUDY THESE SESSIONS WITH YOU OR STUDY ON YOUR OWN -
NOTE ANY QUESTIONS OR HIGHLIGHTS**

March 7

Heirs of the promise
Galatians 3:24-4:31

St. Mark Lutheran Church
81 N. Main St.
Pennsburg

Kitty Pell, Study Leader

April 4

For freedom Christ has set us free
Galatians 5:1-6:18

St. James Lutheran Church
Kugler Rd., & Swamp Pike
Limerick

Barbara Lisi, Study Leader

May 2

Augustus Lutheran Church
717 W. Main St.
Trappe, PA

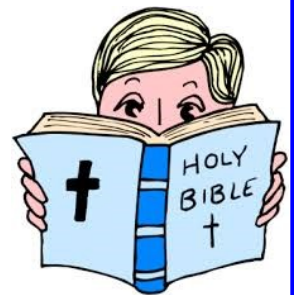
Jean John, Study Leader

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.

WELCA Bible Study on Winter Break

The SEPA-WELCA, Upper Montgomery Cluster, First Tuesday of the Month Bible Studies will **not** be held on January and February 2017 to due to concerns about bad winter weather. Please study **Galatians 2:19-3:29 and Galatians 1:1-3:29 "Children of God through faith"** as Home Study lessons. The Bible Studies will resume on Tuesday, March 7th at St. Mark Lutheran, 81 N. Main St. in Pennsburg, at 10:00 a.m. The lesson will be from Galatians 3:24-4:30 – "Heirs of the promise." Kitty Pell will be the Study Leader. 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. Mark's.



FACES OF THE REFORMATION

NIKOLAUS VON AMSDORF

Born: Dec. 3, 1483 | Torgau, Germany

Died: May 14, 1565 | Eisenach, Germany



Nikolaus von Amsdorf



REFORMATION
2017 It's Still All About
Jesus

LutheranReformation.org

© 2016 LCMS

Luther's faithful friend and defender

BORN TO A NOBLE SAXON FAMILY, NIKOLAUS VON AMSDORF

first studied theology in Leipzig and then was one of the first students at the newly founded University of Wittenberg. There, he obtained his master's degree and a position as a professor. He also often served as rector. He was trained in and taught scholastic theology until he was won for the Reformation by his colleague Martin Luther, whom he accompanied to the Leipzig Debate and the Diet of Worms. His friendship with Luther would be the most definitive aspect of Amsdorf's theological activity.

After visiting Magdeburg with Luther in 1524, Amsdorf was encouraged by Luther to take a call there, where he served for nearly two decades. In Magdeburg, he battled radicals and Papists through his sermons and simply worded pamphlets, and he was instrumental in turning the city and surrounding areas into a bastion for Lutheranism.

At the behest of his prince, John Frederick, and against the wishes of the emperor, Amsdorf was made bishop of Naumberg-Zeitz in 1542. Due to the opposition of the clergy in his bishopric, he met with little success and was frustrated in his work. After the Smalcald War broke out in 1546, Amsdorf was driven from his position. Following John Frederick's capture by imperial forces at the battle of Mühlberg, Amsdorf served for a short time as counselor to his prince's sons in Weimar. Thereafter, Amsdorf retired to Magdeburg, where he was a leading voice against the compromises made by Melancthon and his followers to the Augsburg Interim imposed upon Saxony by Emperor Charles V.

From 1552 on, Amsdorf lived in Eisenach, where, though retired, he was engaged in matters of church and academia, including the founding of the University of Jena. Until his death in 1565, he was involved in a number of theological controversies and prodigiously published polemical works. Among the most famous of these controversies was his dispute with Georg Major, who argued that "good works were necessary for salvation." Amsdorf pushed for the other extreme and claimed that "good works" were detrimental to salvation, by which he meant those "good works" that are seen as contributing to salvation. Amsdorf's writing, though it seeks to reproduce Luther's legacy, is simple, unoriginal and lacks the depth and intensity of Luther's work. In some cases, Amsdorf missed the subtlety of Luther's theology, as can be seen in Amsdorf's systematic treatment of predestination, which is similar to the views of Calvin's followers. Nevertheless, Amsdorf's almost singular focus on the exclusive action of God in Christ for our salvation and the prestige he enjoyed as a close friend of Luther's kept the Lutheran movement from drowning in a sea of compromise in the tumultuous years that followed Luther's death.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
ConcordiaHistoricalInstitute.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Piper Bouchard Melissa Dogonniuck Lilyan Ferraro Amy Frisco Sean Frisco	2 Kaden Engel- Menendez	3 Donna Cooney Kristine Crothers Carole Hallman Shirley Latshaw Carson Leigl George Snear III Eric Yeager	4	5 Jenna Griggs	6	7 Brittany Dotterer Shealyn Frazier Jennifer Gilbert Ashley March Anita North Phyllis Oehlert Richard Schmidt
8 Kurt Dengler Diane Fisher Taylor Hainley Cheryl Holcombe Maggie McClain Olivia Olsen Bob Reichner	9 Gavin Kennedy James Stokes	10 Nevin Scholl Deborah Yost	11 Merrill Taylor Pamela Waltz Sara Watro	12 Courtney Askew	13 Kristen D'Antonio Jay Gregory	14 Maria Kellner Wesley Long Sally Sweeney
15 Robyn Hart Christie Romano	16 Peg Below William Clelland	17 Timothy Cooper Lisa Cornish Jessica Lari Linda Moorehead	18 Stephanie Bentz	19 Allison Griggs Sean Hackett Aaron Heck Dorothy Moorehead John Niskala Dorothy Opperman Magdalene Sidoriak	20 Helen Newton Jamie Slack Jill Young	21 Carolyn Kibblehouse James Sabre Susan Sidoriak
22 JJ Booth	23	24 Luke Doering Zachary Doering Leon Linsenbigler	25 Lauren Fishell Myrtle Perosa	26 Meredith Clark Shannon Fulton Barbara Lewis Elizabeth Meeley	27 Shannon Beattie Robert Garton Judith Lien	28 Westen Babb Lauryn Hart Allison Smith Brandon Weaver
29 Greta Askew Lisa Betz Derek Cornish Emma DePaul Dennis Ludwig Eric Noonan	30 Kenneth Linsenbigler Frankie Yocum	31 Jamie Berg Traci Slaybaugh Adam Sypherd				

January Birthdays



No Ordinary Bath!

Water is very important. Scientists say that most of our planet is covered with water. Living things are mostly water, too. We need water. We drink water, swim in water, bathe in water, and go fishing in water. Too much water or too little water is dangerous. People drown in water. Floods damage crops and destroy people's homes. Plants and people die if there isn't enough water. But there's one way water is used that is different from all the rest: when it is used to baptize people.


When people are baptized they become members of God's family. Even Jesus was baptized, and we celebrate his baptism on the first Sunday after Epiphany. The place where people are baptized is called the font. Fonts come in all shapes and sizes. When people are baptized, they may have water poured over them. They may be dipped in a small basin or wade through a pool of water. But baptism is more than just water. When you're baptized, God promises to be with you, no matter what happens.



Seashells are symbols for baptism because they remind us of an unending source of water—the ocean. If someone from your church is going to visit the ocean, ask that person to bring back a shell for you. Then, on the anniversary of your baptism, scoop up some water with it, dip your finger into it, and make the sign of the cross on your forehead to help you remember the wonderful promises God made to you when you were baptized!

From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

January *Worship Assistants*

Altar Servers:	Acolyte	Crucifer	Torch Bearers
January 1			
January 8	Riley Smith	Daniel Reiser	
January 15	Ally Napier	Ashley Tighe	
January 22	Riley Smith	Shayna King	
January 29	Ashley Tighe	Brianna Dubeck	

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am Lector	10:30 am Prayers
January 1		Alan Shunk	
January 8	Mike Van Blaricum	Jean Funk	Jean Funk
January 15	Sherry Wagenseller	John Kochel	James Lien
January 22	Mildred Stuffle	James Lorah	Donna Beishl
January 29	Jeff Stuffle	Alan Shunk	Jonathan Mueller

Communion Assistants	
January 1	
January 8	Janice Reiff and Bob Rodenberger
January 15	Barbara Burch and Janice Reiff
January 22	John Kochel and Dave Schweitzer
January 29	Jeannie Funk and Brian Funk

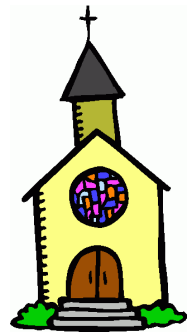
Ushers	
January 1	Scott Halteman, Dave Halteman, Mike Beattie, and Dick Allebach

Offering Tabulation	
Contact Gary Wessner	

Altar Guild	
January	8:00 am: Sally Sweeney & Debra Augustine 10:30 am: Mike Van Blaricum

Resolving to become more involved at church?

Worship Assistants are always needed and welcome!
 |Contact the church office for more information about one of the ways you can help!
 Most commitments are short term, and we could use your help!



Vestry Contacts 2017

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
Cynthia Snyder	<i>Treasurer/Mutual Ministry</i>	610-409-8333	yosua@aol.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
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	Anniedwebb@verizon.net
Bob Rodenberger	<i>Trust Fund Treasurer</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

Sharing God's Bounty

A New Year – New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the January calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things!

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. God asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end, God gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities; that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of his people. The motivation to do this comes from the same one who gave the gifts! Just as God was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but his greatest gift, his Son, so we are motivated by love for God to serve those he calls us to serve.



The Scriptures call each of us to a deeper awareness of the wonders of God's blessings, the gifts that he has showered on us in so great an abundance, and to the challenge to use those gifts and talents creatively and responsibly.

But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7