

Augustinian

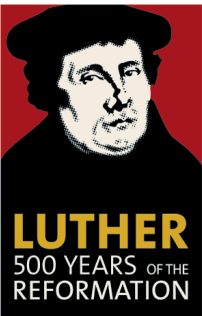
Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People

JANUARY 2018

Greetings,

Thank you for the many cards and gifts I received at Christmas. I am always moved by your love and support as we work together as a church family to proclaim the Word of God. I look forward to a wonderful 2018 at Augustus.




On the green Sundays of the Epiphany season, we will have a sermon series on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. Romans was formative in shaping the biblical thinking of the Lutheran Reformers. This series will continue our joyful celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

The Vestry has chosen Sunday, April 15, 2018 for the dedication of our new building. Please mark your calendars now to make sure you can join us for this once in a generation event.

More information will follow in the coming months, but I can tell you that the Vestry has decided that the name of our founding Pastor, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, will figure prominently in the official name for the building.



 Our Capital Campaign projects continue in 2018. The next item on the list is a significant improvement of the lighting in the parking lot. The current light fixtures are no longer waterproof, the telephone poles on which they hang are deteriorating, and the insulation on the underground wiring is failing. The Vestry is working with our architect to make sure the new light poles complement the architecture of our campus. We anticipate installation in the spring as the lead-time for fabrication of the light poles is 10 weeks from the signing of the contract.

If you have not yet returned your Commitment Card for 2018, please return the completed card as soon as possible. A copy of the 2018 Commitment Card can be downloaded from the parish web site, www.augustustrappe.org, under the "About Us" tab.

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck



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.





Coordinator of Faith Development

Our children's Sunday school will resume at 9:00 a.m. on January 7th with the **BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS!** This a wonderful Augustinian tradition where our Sunday school families bring diapers, wipes and other needful baby items to Sunday school to donate to the Genesis Crisis Pregnancy Center in Pottstown. We will have shorter lessons on that date and enjoy a special snack together at the end of Sunday school. We continue hearing stories about the boy Jesus throughout January, including the

presentation at the temple and the 12-year-old Jesus' disappearance from a family trip to instruct the religious leaders about God (and giving his parents a scare in the process). All children aged three through sixth grade are always welcome at Augustus' Sunday school. Please join us and bring friends and neighbors!

Our confirmation classes (3-in-1) are continuing their formal instruction in January and looking forward to attending the Ash Wednesday service together in February and working on the Stations of the Cross presentation during Lent.

The weather may be cold and dreary, but my heart is always warm when I'm surrounded by Augustus' wonderful kids!

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank everyone who purchased apple pies and cookies this year. We hope you enjoyed them. Our next fund raisers will be our soup sales in January, February and March. The monies raised from our fund raising efforts are used for senior youth group activities and the yearend mission trip.



In January we will be collecting socks to give to the people who attend the soup kitchen.



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</i>	610-454-0106	gtwess@comcast.net
Richard Allebach	<i>Vice President</i>	610-948-3488	dallebach@verizon.net
Brian O'Hara		610-489-0417	brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Janice Reiff		610-385-7493	janicetreiff@gmail.com
Frank DePaul		215-669-0677	fvdp52@gmail.com
Jeanne Funk		610-792-3830	jfunk@kpinterface.com
John Kochel		484-945-0100	John.Kochel@thrivent.com
Janet Stokes		610-948-8554	sjustokes@aol.com
Deb Augustine		610-489-3869	Anniedwebb@verizon.net
Bob Rodenberger		610-489-3280	r.rodenberger7@gmail.com
Sherry Jesse		757-604-5300	dsajessee@hotmail.com
Karl Stefan		610-454-0373	kssurf@verizon.net

From the Bench

January
2018

Happy New Year! Thank you to the many people who attended our Concert and to all those who made our Concert and Christmas Eve services so special. Even though it was cold in the Old Church, the sound was amazing, and the kids didn't seem to mind the cold. Thanks to Santa Claus and our Hippo, Joe Schaffer. I'd like to also specially thank the Wessner family for so much concert help – from shoveling the Old Church walkway, to setting up, preparing, and cleaning up the reception, helping our hippo get dressed, resetting for Sunday School, putting bell choir tables and bells away, phoning the “cavalry” when a technical problem arose after the concert...so much work was done by the Wessners, but all I heard from them was “no problem, we’ve got it covered!” THANK YOU!



Did you know that Christmas is not over? In the Lutheran Church we celebrate Christmas for twelve days, from December 25 through January 5, inclusive. These (not the days before Christmas) are the Twelve Days of Christmas. Here is what some believe is the symbolism in that well-loved carol:

“My true love” is God, the giver of all good things.

1. (Dec 25) The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.
2. (Dec 26) The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. (Dec 27) The three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. (Dec 28) The four calling birds are the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).
5. (Dec 29) The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. (Dec 30) The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. (Dec 31) The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord).
8. (Jan 1) The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes (see Matthew 5:3-10).
9. (Jan 2) The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).
10. (Jan 3) The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. (Jan 4) The eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful disciples.
12. (Jan 5) Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve phrases in the Apostles Creed.

Perhaps this Christmas season, you could reflect on each of these things on its appropriate day.

A blessed new year to all. See you in church!

-Laurie Mueller



God Has a Plan for You

In the Bible, we read about God's plans. God planned to save people from their sins by sending a Savior. God plans a time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Is a God who's in charge of the universe interested in what's happening in your life and mine? Yes, indeed!

One of the most important things we can tell our children is that God has a plan for us in this life. And God not only has a plan, but God also equips us with talents to fulfill that plan. Telling children that God has given them talents encourages them to discover what their talents are. Knowing that these talents have been given for a purpose inspires them to search for that purpose. Later in life, they'll be able to look back and recognize the wonderful patterns of God's plan for their life. They'll also realize how much their faith grew as they followed God's direction in their lives.

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Posture at Worship

Why does Lutheran worship have so much "getting-up-and-down" in it?

Compared with many denominations, Lutherans do seem to engage in a great deal of "liturgical calisthenics". Our liturgies are filled with action and movement because common gestures in our worship are a way to let the *whole person* pray, as well as a way of expressing the unity in prayer of the *whole people of God* - the Church. We use gestures and movements because of a deep respect within the Lutheran Church for the Incarnation (God in human flesh and blood) - theology comes off the page and becomes a matter of the heart and body.

It is not, of course, a matter of just any gestures performed in just any way. Certain actions convey special meanings for Christians. Some of these include:

SITTING: Sitting is the easiest posture to explain in worship, perhaps because we do so little of it. We sit to listen (at the first and second readings and the sermon) and to watch and wait (during the distribution of Holy Communion).

STANDING: We rise to greet the clergy as they enter the Church, to express our joy (Song of Praise, Offertory, Prayer after Communion), to honor Christ (Gospel Acclamation and Gospel), to voice our beliefs (Creed), and to welcome the Christ who is in our midst (Great Thanksgiving).



KNEELING: We kneel to express sorrow and humility (Confession) and to show adoration of God (receiving Holy Communion).

BOWING: Bowing is an action of reverence. We bow our heads in prayer to show respect for God and toward the altar and the cross because they represent Christ's presence among us.

These, along with making the sign of the cross (to remember our baptism), sharing the Peace, processing and recessing, and many other gestures, are ways of expressing our faith, showing deep adoration and heartfelt praise, and being people who can fully pray.

Sharing God's Bounty

Forgetting What Is Behind

“Forget about it.” It’s a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don’t want to face up to something. Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who’s complaining about an offense he’s received. According to Paul, it’s a good thing to do. It’s counsel he followed himself: “*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn’t “forget what was behind.” He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.



Like Paul, we can’t forget about our past sins ... and maybe that’s good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God’s ways only as we rely on him to lead us, thankful that he forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can “[forget] what’s behind” and “press on toward the goal” that Christ has lain out before us as we serve him with all the gifts he so graciously gives us.

We begin a new year in God’s grace. We also begin each day, sometimes each moment, as newly forgiven, cleansed stewards equipped through Word and Sacrament to fulfill God’s purposes for our lives.



Our own growth and the growth of our church depend on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others. As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life. Membership is responsibility - the response to the call to ministry, and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.

DINNER AT AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

DATE: February 3, 2018

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 3. 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 3. The people we feed in Norristown appreciate your support.

"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)



January *Worship Assistants*



Altar Servers:	Acolyte	Crucifer	Torch Bearers
January 7	Ben Richvalsky	Jennifer Beattie	
January 14	Madeline Kring	Ethan DePaul	
January 21	Ashley Tighe	Shayna King	
January 28	Dylan Firth	Piper Bouchard	

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am Lector	10:30 am Prayers
January 7	Earl Catagnus	Sam Dogonniuck	Kevin Dubeck
January 14	Mike Van Blaricum	John Kochel	James Lorah
January 21	Sandy Trauger	Alan Shunk	Anita Luft
January 28	Mildred Stuffle	Jeannie Funk	Jennifer Wentworth

Communion Assistants	8:00 am: Debra Augustine
January 7	John Kochel and David Schweitzer
January 14	Janice Reiff and Sonya Sowards
January 21	Jennifer Wentworth and Bob Rodenberger
January 28	Jeannie Funk and Gary Wessner

Ushers	8:00 am: Early Usher Team
January	Dick Allebach, Joe Cooney, Ed Funk, and Jack Schatz

Offering Tabulation		
Altar Guild	8:00 am: Sally Sweeney	10:30 am: Jim Lien and Linda Romano

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Piper Bouchard Melissa Dogonniuck Sean Frisco Amy Rose	2 Kaden Engel-Menendez	3 Donna Cooney Kristine Crothers Shirley Latshaw Carson Leigl George Snear III Eric Yeager	4	5 Jenna Griggs	6
7 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	11 Merrill Taylor Sara Watro	12 Courtney Askew	13 Jay Gregory
14 Wesley Long Sally Sweeney	15 Robyn Hart	16 Peg Below William Clelland	17 Timothy Cooper Lisa Cornish Jessica Lari	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 Leon Linsenbigler	25 Lauren Fishell Myrtle Perosa	26 Meredith Clark 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

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Manage Credit Cards Wisely

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.



Credit cards are the simplest type of debt to obtain, but are also the most expensive if the balance is not paid at the end of the month. In more than half of the states, there is no limit on the interest rate that can be charged for carrying a balance.

The cost of not paying your balance in full can add up very quickly. For example, if you have a credit card balance of \$4,000 and plan to pay it off over 36 months, the costs are as follows:

<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Time to Pay Debt</u>	<u>Interest Expense</u>
9.9 %	36 months	\$ 610
15.9 %	36 months	980
19.9 %	36 months	1,227

At a rate of 19.9 percent interest, a person would have to pay an additional 30 percent for what had been purchased. Moreover, as new items are purchased with a credit card, it is that much more difficult to make the payments!

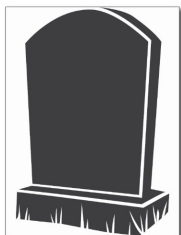
The phrase, “We are in the world, but not of the world,” aptly describes us as Christians on how we should be viewing and using debt. We should only be comfortable purchasing what can be paid within a short period of time.



The more you purchase on credit cards, the less you have to save. If you didn’t have to pay credit card balances, and instead you invested \$100 each month with an average of 8 percent return (mutual funds) over 20 years, you will accumulate \$58,902! 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.”



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.

Mpiandry: The Healing Shepherds

In Luke 15:1-7 Jesus tells a parable about the shepherd who rejoiced when the lost sheep was found. In Madagascar, there is a special kind of shepherd, the “mpiandry” (pee-AHN-dree). The mpiandry are church workers who care for orphans, the sick, and the poor who are some of Jesus’ “lost sheep.” The mpiandry also lead worship services in which they lay their hands on the heads of worshipers and bless them in Jesus’ name. They pray that God will solve the people’s problems and worries.

Talk about the mpiandry and consider ways that each of us can be shepherds. Read aloud the Bible reference. It may be fun for the family to act out the story. Preschoolers could follow a set of hoof prints to a “pen” (circle of chairs) and play the roles of sheep and shepherd. Older children can pretend what it would be like to be lost and share their feelings. Teens can consider the shepherd’s role. What leadership qualities would a shepherd need? Adults can ponder how they as parents fill the role of a shepherd.

Make a flannel board for children to use when they retell the parable of the lost sheep. Older children can help younger ones draw and cut from construction paper these things: a shepherd, neighbors, several sheep, and a fence. Glue felt strips on the back of each piece to use on a flannel board. Glue a felt square to the lid of a clean large-sized cardboard pizza delivery box to make the flannel board. Store the figures inside the box.

Wrap wooden models of sheep (obtain at craft stores) in fuzzy yarn. Display them throughout your home as reminders of how God loves and cares for us like a shepherd cares for sheep. Play “Find the Lost Sheep.” Have one family member hide (the game may be played indoors or out) while the others hunt for the lost sheep. When the sheep has been found, everyone cheers.

Enjoy a Malagasy meal. In Madagascar, rice is a staple of the diet. “Laoka” (LAU-ka) is meat and vegetable toppings spooned over rice. Make chicken topping by browning 1 cup thinly sliced chicken in 1/4 cup of oil. Stir in 1/4 cup each of chopped onions and tomatoes, 1/2 teaspoon minced ginger root, and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer until tender, adding water if necessary.

Before the meal, lay hands on top of each other’s heads and say, “God bless you.” Close by asking for God’s help in becoming good shepherds who care for others.

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Augustus Book Club

The January meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on January 29, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Vestry Lounge. We will be discussing:

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

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@augustustrappe.org

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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.



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 Iverson, 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion Sunday School Singing</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Community Club</p>	<p>10 9:30 AM Soup Kitchen Outreach 6:00 PM 3-in-1</p>	<p>11 7:00 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>12 7:00 PM Cubs Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM Quilting Group 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Scout Comm. Mtg 8:00 PM Moms Set Up</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Moms of Trappe 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM 3-in-1</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 8:00 AM Holy Communion 8:30 AM Soup Sale 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11:30 AM Soup Sale 2:30 PM Christian Unity Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 7:00 PM Committee Night 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 6:00 PM 3-in-1 7:00 PM Pinewood Derby Weigh Ins</p>	<p>25 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Pinewood Derby Weigh Ins</p>	<p>26 7:00 PM Pinewood Derby Set Up</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM Pinewood Derby</p>
<p>28 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00 AM Moms Board Meeting</p>	<p>31 6:00 PM 3-in-1</p>			

January