

# Augustinian

## From the Pastor's Desk



February 2016

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In January I was delighted to announce to the parish that the members and friends of Augustus had met the \$100,000 Capital Campaign challenge made by Mike and Ruth Taylor. To date our Capital Campaign has received cash and outstanding pledges totaling over \$680,000. The architect's plans will soon be submitted to the Borough of Trappe for approval. The elevator installation and breezeway replacement will cost \$400,000. If you have not yet made a commitment to this needed improvement project, there is still time to be a part of our legacy for future generations of Augustinians. Call the Parish Office (610-489-9625) if you have any questions.



Lent begins early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 10, 2016. The service will begin at the usual time, 7:30 PM. The schedule for the Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium Mid-Week Lenten Services is found elsewhere in this newsletter. Each year, one (1) of the six (6) parishes active in the Ministerium "sits out" the five (5) Mid-Week Lenten services. This year Augustus will be out of the rotation of hosting and preaching, but our members and friends are more than welcome to participate.

I noticed the following observation in another parish's newsletter. I think it is quite accurate.

My congregation is made of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

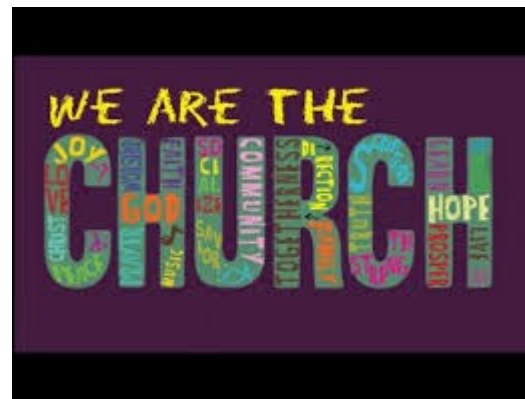
It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,  
if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into its worship,  
if I invite and bring them.

It will be a congregation of loyalty and love,  
of fearlessness and faith,  
of compassion, charity, and mercy,  
if I, who make it what it is,  
am filled with these same things.



See you on Sunday.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

**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 14, 2016, after the 10:30 AM service. Copies of the bulletin of reports for this meeting will be available after each service on Sunday, February 14, 2016.



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES 2016  
 Sponsored by Colledgeville-Trappe Ministerium  
**THEME: "Restored in Christ"**  
 Wednesday Nights in Lent  
 7:30 PM

Date	Scripture	Host Church	Preacher
Feb. 17	"Broken Bread"	St. Luke's UCC	Fr. Mike Sowards
Feb. 24	"Broken Justice"	St. Eleanor Roman Catholic	Pr. Martha Kriebel
Mar. 2	"Broken Promises"	Trinity Reformed, UCC	Pr. Eva Johnson
Mar. 9	"Broken Trust"	Evansburg United Methodist	Msgr. Michael McCulken
Mar. 16	"Broken Vessel"	St. James' Episcopal	Pr. Kris Peterson



Each year, one parish "sits out" the Lenten Mid-Week rotation. This year it will be our turn at Augustus.



## SOCK IT TO THEM!

The Senior Youth Group is conducting a service project this winter to help the homeless in Norristown stay warm this winter. Please consider donating warm socks in sizes from child through adult – boys, girls, men, and women. Socks are MOST appreciated by those in need who live with the elements! Donations will be distributed through the Norristown Soup Kitchen.

## Adult Bible Study

The 2016 Winter Adult Bible Study program began in January! We meet in the library from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. This session's study will be using the book Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church by N. T. Wright. There is a video. Participant's guides and Bibles are provided. It is divided into 6 sessions (though in the past we have taken 2 weeks for some of the sessions).



Come to one session, some sessions, or all sessions. Resolve to deepen your faith in 2016!

## THE ALTAR GUILD

*is seeking members!*

This important group prepares the altar for each service at Augustus. Volunteers are desperately needed at this time. This is a great job for individuals or couples. Most duties can be completed in a short time before Sunday services. All new volunteers will be paired with an experienced guild member for training. Anyone interested in participating in this most integral part of worship at Augustus should contact Donna Beishl at 610-650-0238.





Baby  
Shower  
For Jesus  
2016



## DINNER AT AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

**DATE: March 5, 2016    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, March 5. 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 7. 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)

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>	<i>Mutual Ministry</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>Finance</i>	610-409-8333	yosua@aol.com
Jeanne Funk	<i>Comm. &amp; Tech.</i>	610-792-3830	jfunk@kpinterface.com
Ron Hess	<i>Stewardship</i>	610-489-9427	rhess@ursinus.edu
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 Contacts



*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?*

**Book Club Meeting**

The Augustus Book Club will meet in February on the 15<sup>th</sup> in the Vestry lounge at 7:30 pm. We'll be discussing A Bride Most Begrudging by Deeanne Gist.

Refreshments always served

Questions? Contact Karen McClain at 610-489-9625 or [office@augustustrappe.org](mailto:office@augustustrappe.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.

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

Jason Bockelmann  
Eric Schwirian  
Matthew Yosua  
Michael Yosua



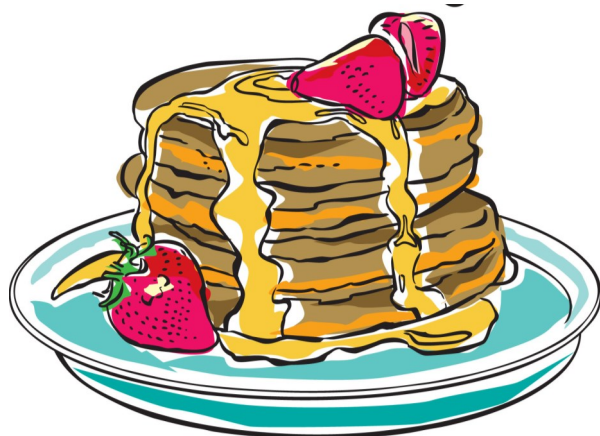
**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!**

The Members of the Middle School and Senior Youth Groups will hold their annual Pancake Supper on **February 9th from 4:30 pm—6:30 pm.**

Come for pancakes, bacon, fruit salad and beverages !

Chocolate Chip Pancakes are ALWAYS a winner!

Join us for this great annual tradition!



Thank you Augustus!

Please know how much I appreciated the visits, calls, and cards from Pastor Weleck, Pastor Kochenderfer, and Augustus friends during my rehab. at Shannondell.

Thanks also to the Sunday School children for their cards and to the Women of the ELCA for their delicious fruit basket.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Holcombe





## FROM THE BENCH – FEBRUARY 2016

Some news from the loft: Our bell choir welcomed new ringer, Sean McClain, last month – and we welcome BACK Alan Shunk! You will see the bell choir in worship on February 21.

In February, we begin the season of Lent. The word “Lent” (from the Old English word “lencten”) refers to the lengthening of daylight hours that occurs in the northern hemisphere as spring approaches. At Augustus, we will worship on Ash Wednesday (February 10) at 7:30 pm.

The season of Lent is the perfect time for us to reflect on the portion of our liturgy known as the Agnus Dei (AHN-yoos DEH-ee), which means “Lamb of God.” The following is from the website <http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=1116>

In the Revelation to St. John, John sees a scroll in the right hand of the One who was sitting on the throne. A "strong angel" challenges, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" Then the Lamb comes into view. Undoubtedly the most significant feature of this Lamb is that it appears to have been slain.

When we sing the Agnus Dei, "Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us," we are preaching and praying all at once. With these very words, John the Baptist pointed his disciples to Jesus (John 1:29, 36). As we prepare to feast on the Lamb of our salvation, we proclaim him who gave his life for us. Here is the Lamb of God! Yet we also pray to him who is now present in his body and blood. We pray for mercy from the One who showed the true depths of mercy and compassion as he was silently led to slaughter, dying like a lamb shorn of all its honor.

[Later in Revelation,] we hear [John's] description of the saints in white robes. "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:13-14). This is the blood of our redemption... foreshadowed at the first Passover when the blood of the year-old lambs was sprinkled on the doorpost.... In his Easter hymn, Martin Luther applies that incident to us: "See, his blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; Death passes o'er, And Satan cannot harm us."

So it is at every celebration of the Lord's Supper. The blood of the Lamb is poured out for our drinking and his flesh for our eating. Clearly, God's mercy is shown, and his peace rests on us.

Thanks be to God for his mercy on us. Peace be with you this Lenten season.

### Social Ministry Committee

Thrivent supported our Hats and Gloves Tree with a \$250 gift card. Boscov's gave an additional 15% off the price of the items purchased with the gift card. This combined with the congregation's generous donations allowed us to deliver 71 hats and 88 pairs of gloves to Silver Springs Martin Luther School in early January. We received the following note:



*Dear Augustus Friends,*

*Thank you very much for the wonderful assortment of hats and gloves. They arrived just in time to replenish anything that had gone missing before the weather turned cold again. Thank you also for the DVDs, basketball and action figure\*. The children will be thrilled to receive these!*

*We are grateful for your friendship and ongoing support of our ministry. With the help of friends like all of you, we are able to continue bringing hope and healing to the vulnerable boys and girls we serve. On behalf of the children, thank you!*

*Sincerely, Amanda*

\*These items were donated too late to be included with the Christmas gifts taken to the school in early December and so were delivered with the hats and gloves.

## February *Worship Assistants*

Worship Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer	Torch Bearers
February 7	Kayla Minkon	Dylan Crothers	Evan Griggs and Dennis Flynn
February 14	Jennifer Beattie	Kaleigh Funk	Kevin Beattie and Jeremy Wentworth
February 21	Brianna Dubeck	Lucy Olsen	Samantha Hiergesell and Rachel Schaffer
February 28	Dylan Firth	Tyler Funk	Lucy Olsen and Anna Schweitzer
Lectors	8:00 am	10:30 am	10:30 am
February 7	Laurie Mueller	Sean McClain	Sean McClain
February 10	Ash Wednesday 7:30 pm	Barbara Burch & Jeanne Funk	
February 14	Sherry Wagenseller	Cynthia Snyder	Jolie Wenger
February 21	Laurie Mueller	Kent Wenger	Jennifer Wentworth
February 28	Ron Hess	Cheryl Camuso	Chris Dogonniuck
Greeters			
<i>Greeters always needed! Go to <a href="http://bit.ly/PnjlrN">http://bit.ly/PnjlrN</a> to sign up!</i>			
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	10:30 am	
February	Debra Augustine	Contact Karen Lachenmayer	
Offering Tabulation			
February	Judy Lien	Jack Schatz	Ron Hess
Ushers	8:00 am	10:30 am	
February		Contact Dick Allebach	
Altar Guild	8:00 am	10:30 am	
February	Sally Sweeney & Sandy Trauger	Contact Donna Beishl	

*The Peconic Conference of the Metropolitan New York Synod (ELCA) as host  
and ImagineTours, Inc. as tour guide proudly invites you to*

## Germany in 2017

2017 is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing 95 Theses to the church doors in Wittenberg, thus catapulting the Lutheran reformation!

We will be visiting not only Wittenberg, but also great reformation sites like Leipzig (where Luther preached), Wartburg Castle (where Luther translated the New Testament into German), and Worms (which I believe Augustus has a stained-glass window dedicated to this memorable event). We will also be cruising on the Rhine River, traveling through the legendary Black Forest, visiting French Strasbourg, walking the famous Neuschwanstein Castle (the castle that inspired Disney's movies), sing in Austrian Salzburg, and visit both cities Munich and Berlin.

**The trip will be July 10-22, 2017** and will leave from and return to Philadelphia's international airport for those from this area (you will meet up with the rest of the group in Germany).

The cost for this event is \$4092.00 per person and includes breakfast and dinner every day, all tours, all hotels, air flight, and some gratuities.

A kick off event is scheduled for February 27th at 7:30 pm and we will try to get a skypeing session together so you can learn about this trip and have the opportunity to ask any questions to the tour agency.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or you are interested in more information or to sign up, contact Rev. Kevin O'Hara at [pastorkevinohara@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkevinohara@gmail.com) or call [631-475-5725](tel:631-475-5725). Hope to see you in Germany for this amazing opportunity!





## FEBRUARY 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.*

**Save the Date!! Augustus' Women of the ELCA Annual Spring Turkey Dinner/Craft and Vendor Show will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 4PM to 7PM.** This event will again support Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Missionaries in Tanzania, and the Irete Children's Home in Tanzania.

**"NEW" THIS YEAR WILL BE A SILENT AUCTION.** Augustus' Women/ELCA is asking the families of the congregation (or each committee of the congregation) to donate a "theme" basket (or items for a basket) to be auctioned at our Spring Turkey Dinner/Craft & Vendor Show. Some of the themes to consider would be a children's basket, a boy's beach basket, a girl's beach basket, a snack basket, a handyman basket, an auto supply basket, a baker's delight basket, etc. The possibilities are endless. Can you imagine if each family (or committee) donated a basket, the money we could raise? Please consider it, and contact Dale O'Hara at 610-489-0417 or [oharadvd@aol.com](mailto:oharadvd@aol.com) if interested in participating.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NOW NEEDED.** Over 100 volunteers are needed to run this special event, and your willingness to help will be greatly appreciated. Needed are cooks, bakers, hostesses, servers, waitresses, bus people, dishwashers, ticket sales people, people to set-up, people to clean-up, musicians, etc. We need people to work Wednesday night April 27, Thursday night April 28, Friday April 29, and/or Saturday, April 30. You can work 1 hour or all day. The more people that get involved, the easier it is for everyone, and it is a great way to meet other members of the church. We need everyone to support this important church event if it is to continue.

We need volunteers to sing or play Dinner Music during the Turkey Dinner between 4PM & 7PM on Saturday. "LIVE" DINNER MUSIC from previous years has been a very nice accompaniment to the meal. If you can play an instrument or sing a variety of songs for a period of approximately 30 minutes (depending on the number of people who volunteer) and would be willing to do so, please contact Dale O'Hara @ 610-489-0417 or see her in church. A sign-up sheet will also be available in the breezeway soon. Thanks in advance for your willingness to serve!!!

We need volunteers to help with the craft & vendor portion of this event, and also with the silent auction. Trish Reiser has graciously accepted to chair the craft & vendor portion, but she will need help. Trish can be reached at 610-587-9123 or [TrishReiser@Verizon.net](mailto:TrishReiser@Verizon.net).

**SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR ALL JOBS** will soon be available in the breezeway for your convenience, or you may contact Dale O'Hara @ 610-489-0417 or [oharadvd@aol.com](mailto:oharadvd@aol.com) to express your willingness to serve your church. Sign-up early for that job which suites you best. Don't wait for that personal contact.

**TICKET SALES** for the Spring Turkey Dinner will begin Mid-March. Please look for that designated person before or after Sunday Church Services, or you may call the Church Office to reserve your tickets. REMEMBER! THIS DINNER HAS ALREADY SOLD OUT, so don't wait until the last minute. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Tickets that are reserved and not paid for, will only be held until 6:00P.M. on the day of the Turkey Dinner. The best seating (with no waiting) is at 4:00P.M. So please, GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!

**SEPA Women/ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference First Tuesday Bible Study** will not be held in February. The next bible study will be held on Tuesday March 1, 2016, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg, PA. Coffee and treats will begin at 9:30am followed by a bible study presented by Elaine Strimpel. The bible study, Christian Citizenship 101 – Paul's letter to the Philippians, is titled "Confidence in God's Beginnings & Endings" taken from Philippians 1:1-26. This bible study can be found in the Jan/Feb issue of "Gather" magazine. Please contact Fran Ivarson at 610-489-4969 if you have any questions or if you need a ride. All women and girls are invited to attend. It's a wonderful way to meet your Sisters in Christ.



**Renew, Respond, Rejoice!**



FEBRUARY 2016 Continued



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

**The Hearts & Hands Workshop** will resume its meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on February 16 at 9:30am in Augustus' quilting room. Until further notice there will be no evening session. New members are welcome. Have you ever had the desire to quilt? Now's the time to learn! No experience is necessary. Bring a lunch or snack if you so desire. For more information, please contact Mildred Stuffle at 610-489-7461 or email [Jandmstuffle@verizon.net](mailto:Jandmstuffle@verizon.net).

**Augustus' Committee Night** will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Chapel. The Women of the ELCA will be participating. The next committee night will be held on February 23. Please plan to attend. If you would like to take a major role in the planning of the turkey dinner/craft show, this is the meeting to attend. All women of Augustus are welcome to join us for this very informative planning meeting.

**Please continue to Save the Following Items** and place them in the appropriate box in the breezeway: Redner's Tapes, Campbell soup labels, eyeglasses, General Mills Box Tops for Education, and your old cell phones.

**Thank You to Everyone Who Helped with the Christmas Baskets for the Sick & Shut-in and Staff in 2015.** Many thanks are extended to Fran Ivarson, Ann Walker, Judi Lien, Gemma Patten, Barbara Burch, Hazel Giera, Janet Stokes, Nancy Allebach, Emily Allebach, Dale O'Hara, Karen McClain, & Pastor Weleck. A special "Thank You" goes to Fran Ivarson for taking charge of this event, and to Thrivent Financial for helping to defray the cost. Due to the wonderful help we had this year, everyone was able to finish in a timely manner. Again, thank you!



## Schedule Of Events

### February:

- 16: Hearts & Hands Workshop – 9:30am in Augustus' Quilting Room
- 23: Augustus' Committee Night – 7:00pm in Augustus' Chapel

### March:

- 1: Upper Montg Conference Bible Study @ St. Mark's LC, Pennsburg  
Christian Citizenship 101 – A Study of Philippians  
"Confidence in God's Beginnings & Endings" - Philippians 1:1-26  
Presenter, Elaine Strimpel - 10:00am
- 15: Hearts and Hands Workshop - 9:30am in Augustus' Quilting Room
- 22: Augustus' Committee Night in the Chapel 7:00pm

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



The Cemetery committee has ordered signs for the entrances to the cemetery. Your cooperation in obeying the rules that are in effect would be appreciated.



## 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.

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Our first Youth Group Soup Sale was a great success - many varieties for sale and great reviews from everyone! The February Soup Sale will be February 21st after both services - Same price as last year: \$4.00/pint. NOTE: March Soup Sale will be on the second Sunday, 3/13 due to Easter Candy sale deliveries on the 20th (Palm Sunday). Speaking of which... Stay tuned for more information on the candy Easter Egg Sale, orders will start being taken soon!

New shelves were built and installed in the Youth Group Room to get all of our supplies for Mission Trip, Soup Sales, Carnival and other things organized and off the floor. Thanks to Olivia Brull, Sean McClain and Thomas Wessner for their diligent efforts completing this project during our Third Sunday Meeting time.

Members of the youth group will be attending the Harvey Cedars Retreat Center in early March for a weekend of fellowship and learning along with hundreds of youth and leaders from the PA/NJ/NY area. Last year even included a Polar Bear Plunge!!

Plans are underway for our Summer Mission Trip! The 3rd Annual Golf Outing will be June 10th at the Gulfport in Bally PA. The Mission Trip and Spring Retreat are the culmination of our year-long fundraising, service and spiritual efforts and mean so much to the youth and leaders - We thank the congregation for the continued prayers and financial support.

Reminder that we have decided to continue this project through March so please bring new, warm socks and put them in the box in the lower narthex, they will be delivered to the Norristown Soup Kitchen each month.

## ATTENTION ALL YOUTH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We will normally send out reminders before meetings, but typically they are held the First Sunday of the month @ 7:00pm and Third Sunday @ 9:00am. All Augustus youth grades 9-12 are welcome - come check it out!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Brianna Betz	<b>2</b> Cassidy Hones Joseph Swan	<b>3</b> Matthew Kennedy Jr. Tony Olecki	<b>4</b> Lorraine Betz Sara Clapper Caitlin Cunningham Nathan Ottinger	<b>5</b> Jennifer Maurer	<b>6</b> Avery Benner Nancy Bunting Dylan Firth Stephen Gara John Hamilton Curtis Watro
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Cathy Engel/Menendez Susan Stender	<b>9</b> Mona Chylack Margaret Coburn Rebecca Wilson	<b>10</b> Edward Hiergesell Teresa Sagwitz	<b>11</b> Amanda Lemon David Linsenbigler Christina Mason Schad	<b>12</b> Jeffrey Stuffle	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Jeff Bauder Tresa Franz Griffin Henze McKenzie Peters	<b>15</b> Allison Bentz David Kemmerer	<b>16</b> Sandra Kirsche Jake Smith	<b>17</b> Donna Pakkala John Wentworth IV Jeffrey Wentworth	<b>18</b> Taylor Brennan Mary Schlichter Douglas Stearly	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Renee Bar Ellen Davis Thomas Lachenmayer Alfred Paul
<b>21</b> Andrew Keim Brent Wagenseller	<b>22</b> Olivia Hart Elizabeth Staples	<b>23</b> Mary Reese Robert Yost III	<b>24</b> Jeni Gara Carol Oelschlager	<b>25</b> Susan Landis	<b>26</b> Paul Hernandez Connor Slaybaugh Charlotte Wentworth	<b>27</b>

**28**  
Phillip Lien  
Ally Napier

## February Birthdays



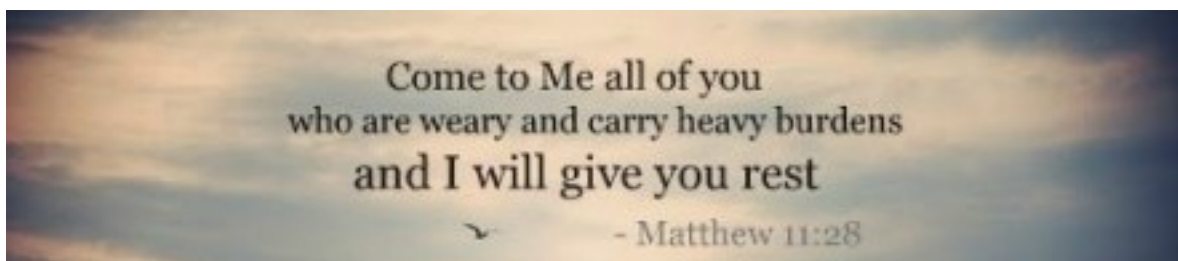
### TWO PIECES OF WOOD THAT SPELL 'LOVE'

Imagine someone loving you so much that he or she would give up absolutely everything—even life itself—just to let you know how much you're loved! Sometimes people in our own families or special friends show us glimpses of that kind of love, but to love someone like that all the time is impossible for human beings. Only God can do that, and that's exactly what God did by sending Jesus.

Because Jesus died for us, life is different. For one thing, there are things we don't need to be so afraid of—like being alone. Jesus loves us and comes with us in our hearts wherever we go. He died on the cross to show that to us, and that's why there are crosses in churches now. Crosses remind us that Jesus' love is so big that nothing can stop it or change it. What kind of crosses are there in your church? Sometimes at the beginning of worship, a person walks in carrying a cross attached to a long pole. That cross is called a processional cross. Others often follow that cross. It's like a little parade.

At home, make a cross from some tree branches—perhaps some from your Christmas tree if it's available. Hang the cross inside your front door to help you remember that Jesus loves you and is with you wherever you go. Then make one for someone in the hospital or nursing home, to let that person know the good news of Jesus' love!

*From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.*



# Sharing God's Bounty

## Love One Another

Each household has its own routine. We go to work; we help the kids with their homework and attend their events; we make the meals, clean the house, and do the laundry. Our days are full ... sometimes too full. So full that time for the Lord is abbreviated or omitted altogether. Then comes Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It's just what we need to get back on track. We gather together for worship. We hear again about Jesus' ministry, about the events that eventually lead up to his crucifixion, about his zeal for the Lord's house. We hear his prayer for his disciples and his words of comfort and preparation to them.

Our hearts are turned to Christ instead of toward ourselves. We ask for grace to love and serve as he did, sacrificing self for the good of others. *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Paul comments, *"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:7-8). God loved and chose us, the unlovely, to shed his grace upon. We are reminded that, *"since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:11).

*"Love one another."* Not just our close friends or those who agree with us, but *"one another."* We can't do it, can we? Some people are just too hard to love. Some people are not deserving of our gifts and our attention. Some people aren't interested in the love we have to offer. The command remains: *"Love one another."*

Now is a good time to read John 15. Here we find the secret of loving and serving. Here we find the source of love, of faith, of everything we need. That source is Jesus. He is the Vine. He sustains and nurtures us, the branches. He enables us to bear fruit, to *"love one another."* He calls those who obey him and tells us he will give us whatever we ask in his name. So we pray, Lord, let us *"love one another."*



*Too often we fail to understand that Christian instruction about money is one of the best opportunities we have to teach our children about God's love for us, and his ownership of all things.*

*The way we use money is the extension of our personal characteristics.*

*By teaching our children the Christian use of money, affording them control of money and the need to make decisions about money, we also confront them with the meaning of discipleship and Christian stewardship.*



SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
UPPER MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE  
First Tuesday BIBLE STUDIES 2015-2016  
10 a.m. (Coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m.)



**'ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW'**

**Please note: - Save all summer issues of GATHER for use in the Fall**

**"NO CATCHY SLOGANS"**

**WRITTEN BY Emma Crossen**

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THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY IN FEBRUARY.  
SAVE JAN/FEB ISSUE OF 'GATHER' FOR MARCH & APRIL 2016 STUDIES.

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***Christian Citizenship 101***  
***A Study of Philipians***

Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
Elaine Strimpel, presenter

"Confidence in God's Beginnings & Endings"  
Study from Jan/Feb issue of *GATHER*

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
81 N. Main St., Pennsburg

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Tuesday, April 5  
Janet Luyben, presenter

"Servant-Shaped Soldiers"  
Study from Jan/Feb issue of *GATHER*

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

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Tuesday, May 3  
Jean John, presenter

"Being of One Mind"  
Study from March issue of *GATHER*

Augustus Lutheran Church  
717 W. Main St., Trappe

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Tuesday, June 7  
Barbara Thornton, presenter

"Keep On Keeping On"  
Study from April issue of *GATHER*

Grace Lutheran Church  
660 N. Charlotte St., Pottstown

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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.**

The March 1, 2016 First Tuesday of the Month SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA, Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 81 North Main St., Pennsburg. Coffee and treats start at 9:30 a.m.; Bible Study is at 10:00. The study is in the *Gather* magazine's **January/February** issue about Christian Citizenship. "*Confidence in God's Beginnings & Endings.*" The Presenter will be Elaine Strimpel. Please bring your Bibles and your *Gather* magazine. Thank you for your faithful attendance. If you need a ride or have any questions, please call Fran Ivarson.