

From the Bench

JANUARY 2019

Happy New Year! Thank you to the many people who attended our Community Concert and to all those who made our Concert and Christmas Eve services so special. Approximately 30 singers from four churches helped raise \$887 for the Collegetville Trappe Ministerium. Thanks to Santa Claus, all the people who baked cookies, the reception crew (Tracy Wessner, Karen Lachenmayer, Karen McClain), Karen McClain for bulletin printing, Pastors Weleck and Mike Taylor reading, our “bell boys,” Connor and Gavin Elison, the Providence String Quartet, and especially all our choir members who made beautiful music to bring the spirit and the message of the season to our community.

I would like to thank our Choirs, WELCA, and Vestry for your generosity to me this Christmas. After a busy and wonderful December, culminating with Christmas Eve, I had a nice time with my family – thank you for all the ways you help make that even more special.

If you’d like to sing in a choir, but can’t rehearse Thursday nights, or can’t sing Sunday mornings at the 10:30 service, please note that the Collegetville Trappe Ministerium Choir will reappear this winter to sing for our Ministerium Lent services on Wednesday nights. This choir will rehearse several Saturdays in the winter, and ANYONE is welcome to sing with us. Please tell your friends from other churches (or who have no church) – anyone who enjoys singing – and look for the flyer in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

A very big thank you to **Bob Reichner**, who generously donated a C3 handbell to our handbell choir for Christmas. If you have no idea what this is, it is the largest bell we own, and is a lot of fun to ring and hear as the last note in many pieces of music. In the past, I borrowed this bell from a friend’s church – now we have one of our own. Thank you, Bob!

Welcome **Gavin and Shane Elison** to our Bell Choir! Gavin is a 4th grader who played in the Christmas Concert. He asked me if he could ring in the bell choir, and since he will need to have a parent present, I asked his dad if he would also join us. Win-win: two for one! I am very happy to welcome them both. Also, **Dylan Funk**, an 8th grader, returned to our choir for our November and December performances, and he will continue with the choir this winter. It’s great to have some young students in the bell choir!

On **January 12**, thanks to your generosity during the Pastor Kriebel (and Kochenderfer!) challenge in October, Pastor Kochenderfer will preach for us at both services. Thank you, Pastor K, for supporting the music department in this way. We are happy to have you preach again at Augustus!

I am very thankful to serve at Augustus, and I look forward to a great year of music making with all of you. Happy New Year!

~Laurie Mueller

Notice from the 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, 2020, the cost of graves spaces will be \$660.00 each for members and \$1,640.00 each for non-members.”



Need a Prayer?

The Augustus Prayer chain welcomes your calls with prayer requests. If you need a prayer or know someone in need of a prayer, please contact Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109.

If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and Carol will call you back.

Christian Education

On the last of the twelve days of Christmas, January 5th, our Sunday school students will have a baby shower for Jesus to benefit Genesis Pregnancy Care Center in Pottstown. Jesus said “just as you did to least of these, you did it to me” so we’ll bring diapers, wipes and other baby supplies to donate to Genesis so no baby goes without the things they need. We’ll also be singing in church on January 5th.

During the season after the Epiphany (January 6th), when the Church celebrates the revelation of Christ’s divinity to the Gentiles, we’ll hear stories of Jesus’ life and ministry in Sunday school, including some miraculous healings!

Be sure to look for all the ways God reveals Himself to you during this Epiphany season and continue to bless “the least” among us.

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Coordinator of Faith Development



EPIPHANY

PASTA BUFFET DINNER AT AUGUSTUS FEBRUARY 1st



You, your family and friends are invited to a delicious meal of Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, a variety of Soups, Salad, Fruit and home-made desserts in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 1, 2020. 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 donate towards the Augustus Soup Kitchen Outreach.

There will also be information for anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for the Soup Kitchen. We serve lunch to the needy on the second Wednesday of every month at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Norristown. Plan now to drop-in for dinner at Augustus on February 1st and support this important outreach.

"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)



Library Corner

Augustus Lutheran Church now has a library cart to the Muhlenberg Center. The cart contains books that can be borrowed. Please follow the instructions listed on the cart.

The highlighted books for the month of January are some books about St Paul. Who was he? What did he write about in his letters? Where was he from? How was he changed by Jesus?

1. Letter from Paul by Roger Borass
2. Paul by Dan Larsen
3. Paul, man of conflict by Donald Riddle
4. Life of Paul by Benjamin Robinson
5. Dictionary of Paul and his Letters edited by Gerald Hawthorne

God's Abundance

We have before us a whole new year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God lays before us for service to his kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the New Year!

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave his only Son who declared to us, *"I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10). Through him and because of the abundance of his love for us, we *"are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for [we] are receiving the goal of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls"* (1 Peter 1:8-9). While he is slow to anger, the Lord is *"abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion"* (Numbers 14:18).

He gives the gifts of his creation to us in abundance as well, for who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He also pours out on his people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8, we read,

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

God has equipped and enabled us with his abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach his Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift. Ask God to show you where he wants to use you. Go to your pastor and other church leaders and let them know you're available in this new year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for his service.



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.

Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism was administered to Hayley Moomaw on Sunday, December 1, 2019.
Holy Baptism was administered to Hannah Brown on Sunday, December 29, 2019.
May God bless these children and their families and they begin their journeys of faith.

Welcome to the Augustus Family, Hayley and Hannah!



Sympathy and Prayers

Sympathy and Prayers are offered to the family of Mr. David MacPhee, recently deceased.
May God grant eternal rest to David, and comfort to his family during this difficult time.

Promises at Baptism

Baptism is a covenant relationship between you and God, wherein your child is claimed as one of God's children and given the gift of the Holy Spirit. In response to the promises God makes, parents make several promises. Many parents leave the keeping of those promises to the Christian education, confirmation, and youth programs of their congregation. Unfortunately, if these programs work in isolation and without the support of a faith nurturing environment in the home, they lose a great deal of their potential effectiveness. How many hours a week is your family in church? At home? A child's faith grows as he or she experiences the faith attitudes and practices of his or her parents and caregivers.

If you can't remember what it is you promised to do for and with your child, talk to your pastor or look up the baptismal service in your worship book. Write a list of the promises you made and put it where you'll see it often. When your child begins elementary school, share the list with him or her. Ask him or her to help you keep the promises you made.

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SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

SYG



The Senior Youth Group would like to thank everyone who supported us over the holidays by purchasing apple pies and cookies. Your support is amazing and much appreciated.

We'd also like to thank all those who helped in baking the pies and cookies. We are grateful for all you do.

Next up is our annual soup sale fundraiser that will take place the 3rd Sunday in January, February and March. If you have a favorite soup, let us know and we'll see if one of our chefs can make a batch. Also, if you have a recipe and would like to share it, please forward it.

The SYG is always looking for new members and leaders. If you have any interest in either, please reach out to any of the current leaders (Cathy, Chris, Joe or Gary). The Senior Youth Group meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month and the 3rd Sunday of each month. Along with our monthly meetings, we also have a monthly activity for the youth.





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. Contact us at youth@augustrappe.org or gtwess@comcast.net.

January *Worship Assistants*



Altar Servers:	Acolyte	Crucifer
January 5	Nate Long	Piper Bouchard
January 12	Abigail Stalker	Leo Hunsberger
January 19	Olivia Smith	Madeline Reiser
January 26	David Judisch	Madeline Kring
Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am
January 5		
January 12	Contact Laurie Mueller	
January 19		
January 26		
Communion Assistants	8:00 am: Debra Augustine	
January 5	John Kochel and David Schweitzer	
January 12	Pr. Martha Kriebel and Sonya Sowards	
January 19	Janice Reiff and Bob Rodenberger	
January 26	Jeannie Funk and Gary Wessner	
Ushers	8:00 am: Usher Team	
January	Karl Stefan, Frank DePaul, Jack Schatz, and Dick Allebach	
Offering Tabulation		
January	Janet Stokes, Sherry Jessee, and Chris Dogonniuck	
Altar Guild	8:00 am: Sally Sweeney	10:30 am: Jim Lien

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Piper Bouchard Melissa Dogonniuck Lilyan Ferraro Sean Frisco Barbara Krauter Amy Rose	2 Kaden Menendez	3 Donna Cooney Kristine Crothers Shirley Latshaw Carson Leigl George Snear III	4
5 Jenna Griggs	6	7 Shealyn Frazier Jennifer Gilbert Ashley March Anita North Phyllis Oehlert Richard Schmidt	8 Kurt Dengler Cheryl Holcombe Olivia Olsen Bob Reichner	9	10 Deborah Yost	11 Merrill Taylor Hannah Thompson Pamela Waltz Sara Watro
12 Courtney Askew	13	14 Wes Long Sally Sweeney	15 Robyn Hart	16 Peg Below Aurora Zvarick	17 Lisa Cornish Jessica Lari	18
19 Allison Griggs Dorothy Moorehead Dorothy Opperman	20 Helen Newton Jill Young	21 Carolyn Kibblehouse	22	23	24	25 Lauren Fishell
26 Meredith Clark Barbara Lewis Elizabeth Meeley	27 Shannon Beattie Robert Garton Judith Lien	28 Lauryn Hart Lyla Hunsberger Dave Mourar Brandon Weaver	29 Greta Askew Derek Cornish Emma DePaul Dennis Ludwig Eric Noonan	30 Kenneth Linsenbigler	31 Jamie Berg	

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 whatever 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.”

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

December 2019 update from:

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson
ELCA Global Personnel



2019 draws to a close and we look back at the year's work with gratitude that we can be a part of such a wonderful journey:

- Continued training of Tanzanian doctors and nurses in Pediatrics and Neonatology
- Caring for hospitalized children with severe malnutrition at Selian Lutheran Hospital
- Hosting residents and medical students from around the world who are choosing to become involved in global health
- Treating dozens of children with chronic bone infections (osteomyelitis) at Plaster House, and watching them walk again
- Doubling our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) bed capacity and adding a new Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) unit
- Experiencing a 25% increase in NICU admissions, allowing us to provide care to more babies than ever
- 12 neonatology training workshops led across Tanzania among the largest hospitals in the country

Jodi and I are grateful to be on this journey. It has never been easy, but watching our Tanzanian colleagues grow in their abilities as doctors and nurses, and seeing children like Fatuma (in the video above) defeat death and live fills us with a deep sense of purpose and joy.

As the calendar year ends, our NICU/Pediatric funds are at their lowest balance ever.

We ask that you would consider making a year-end donation to this work.

All donations go directly to compassionate care and education.

www.tanzanianchildren.org

www.tanzanianchildren.com

This year, our NICU cared for 300 critically-ill and preterm babies...with an annual budget that is less than the cost of 1 baby being hospitalized for 2 weeks in USA!

We depend on your support.

"No matter the medicinal virtues of being a true friend or sustaining a long close relationship with another, the ultimate touchstone of friendship is not improvement, neither of the other nor of the self; the ultimate touchstone is witness, the privilege of having been seen by someone and the equal privilege of being granted the sight of the essence of another, to have walked with them and to have believed in them, and sometimes to just have accompanied them for however brief a span, on a journey impossible to accomplish alone."

~David Whyte

We have been given this in Tanzania.

We are so grateful for our families and friends, churches and individuals who support our work through finances and prayers. We wouldn't be here without you, "on a journey impossible to accomplish alone."

Thank you for walking with us.

Steve & Jodi Swanson



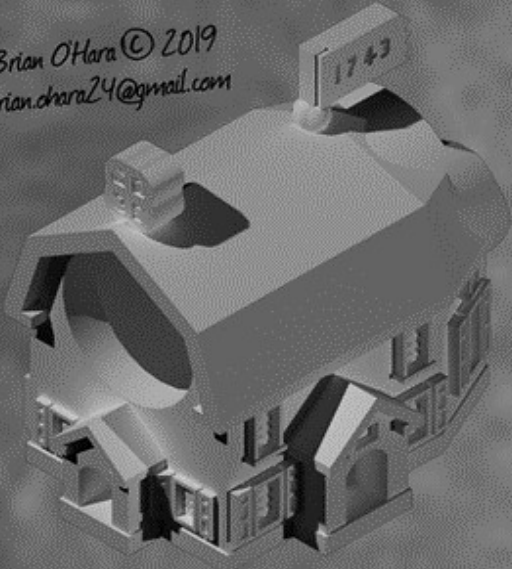
Did you know that newborn diseases are the leading cause of death in Tanzania?



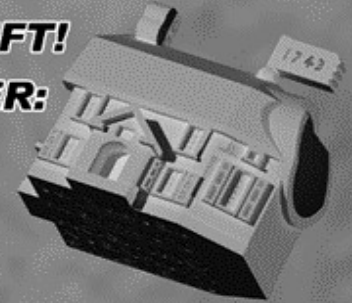
TRAPPE CHARMS

CHARMING CHARMS FROM THE TINY TOWN OF TRAPPE

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AUGUSTUS CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH OUTREACH

 Old Trappe Church \$70	Parsonage	Third Schoolhouse	First Muhlenberg House	Church Well
NEXT RELEASE!!!	Brick Church	First Schoolhouse	Carriagehouse	Third Muhlenberg House
				Parish House

WOMEN OF ELCA CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT AUGUSTUS WOMEN OF ELCA

 Women of ELCA Logo \$65	 Just Love Logo \$65			
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