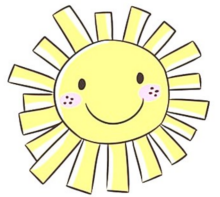


Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



AUGUST 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month I thought I would write about some of the ministries of Augustus in response to Jesus' instructions to his followers to make disciples and help our neighbors in need. We have some great programs, which are a blessing to those who take part. For example, *did you know that all those who teach in 3 in 1 (First Communion and Confirmation instruction) have seminary degrees?* Few parishes can make such a statement about the preparation and effectiveness of its staff to strengthen the faith of its young people.

Did you know that Augustus goes above and beyond the Pennsylvania legal requirements to protect our children and youth? We also require an FBI background check for all those who teach our children in Sunday School or lead our Youth Ministry. While many Pennsylvania organizations also require this higher level of background checks, it is not legally required. We feel that this step provides an added layer of protection to our most vulnerable members.

Did you know that we collect non-perishable food items for the Daily Bread Food Pantry each week? Such donations can be placed in the basket in the Muhlenberg Center on your way to worship. They are regularly taken to the food pantry to help feed our hungry neighbors.

Did you know that each month for the past 20 years members and friends of Augustus cook and serve a full hot meal to our hungry neighbors in Norristown? This ministry originated at Trinity Lutheran Church when it was located on DeKalb Street. The number of guests quickly outgrew Trinity Lutheran Church's facility so the meals were moved to St. John's Episcopal Church, which has a bigger space for guests to sit and eat.

Did you know that our support of missionaries at the Arusha Lutheran Medical in Tanzania has helped save the lives of countless babies? The Arusha Lutheran Medical Center is a ministry of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, founded to provide medical care in an area of Tanzania lacking good hospitals. When our missionaries, the Swansons, arrived at Arusha, the survival rate of babies admitted to the neo-natal intensive care unit was 40%. Working closely with the dedicated Tanzanian staff, the Swansons helped to increase the survival rate in the unit to 92% last year. Arusha treats all who seek help, regardless of the ability to pay or religious beliefs. This is the way Lutherans have always done ministry, helping the most vulnerable among us.

Summer Schedule June 19 through September 4, 2022, inclusive:

8:00 AM Holy Communion in our historic Old Church followed by Tea on the Lawn

9:30 AM Holy Communion in our air-conditioned Brick Church followed by Tea on the Lawn

Please note:

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, we return to our customary schedule:

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

As we remind you every year, please send or bring in your offerings before you go on vacation. We are glad you have the opportunity and ability to go on vacation; unfortunately, our expenses never take a vacation. Thank you!

May the God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

From the Bench

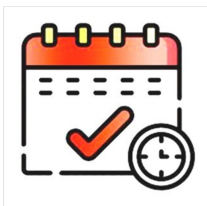
August 2022

As I write this, I'm getting ready to leave for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conference which begins next week. I'm excited to be able to share ideas and things I learned with the choir in the next year, and perhaps with you in this newsletter. It feels good to be able to go to an in-person conference again!

In July, I was in the audience at the Ocean Grove (NJ) Choir Festival for the first time. This year was the 68th Annual Festival at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove. Since my good friend Ross Boerner (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Norristown Chorale) was chosen to conduct an anthem this year, I knew I had to be there! He gathered a group to be part of the choir, and I served as their rehearsal accompanist for three Tuesday rehearsals (sorry I wasn't at Committee Night in June!). Judy Bubeck, Jonathan Mueller, and Jen Wentworth sang in the choir of over 250 singers. What a wonderful event! It is held each year on the second Sunday of July. Make plans to go next time if you can. Get there early - parking is difficult, but you can get a spot on the neighborhood streets and spend the afternoon at the shore before attending this concert where you get to hear a huge choir in an amazing space - and sing some favorite hymns with the whole audience.



August's choir rehearsals start next month! **September 1 at 7 pm** will be the first Senior Choir rehearsal (we'll sing on September 11 for the first time), and **September 15 at 6 pm** will be the first bell choir rehearsal. I'm so happy that Jen Wentworth is returning to both choirs, and we have one new (female) member who I won't name yet - you'll need to wait and see! As of this writing, I'm still searching for new section leaders. Quinn Adams (tenor) graduated from Methacton High School and is attending Penn State this fall; we all miss Alan Shunk (baritone/bass) and it's hard to imagine the choir without him. Pray with me, believing that God will send the right people at the right time.



Watch here for exciting news about the bell choir next month!

See you in church!

~Laurie Mueller



Remember Us in Your Estate Planning

We have a beautiful campus to maintain. If you are considering a gift, please talk with Pastor Weleck about where funds are most needed.



Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, August 15 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room

We'll discuss: The Book of Lost Friends

by Lisa Wingate

Questions? Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustrappe.org



Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Purpose for Giving

It is always a sad thing to hear members of a church, brothers and sisters in Christ, talk about “we” and “they” when speaking of fellow church members. These words are often heard in phrases such as, “**They** are always asking **us** for money. Why should **we** give just so that **they** can spend it where **they** want?”

It's an attitude that brings puzzlement to many minds. Why the division into these camps? Who is it that asks us to give anyway? For what purpose do we give? Of course, we know it's scripturally-based. From the beginning, God has asked for our firstfruits. We also know that God could accomplish his work without any help from us, just as he created the world out of nothing, but he gives us the joy of being his partners. Perhaps we should consider those two thoughts when we think about our giving.

For what should our money be used? For the Lord's work, which is done through the church. What is the main task of the church, but to preach the Word? And is it not the task of the church members, then, to support that preacher of the Word?

“Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:13-14).

So spoke St. Paul.

“Feed my lambs” (John 21:15), Jesus said. Having received our spiritual sustenance, we, his lambs, now go out into the world to feed the lost sheep who need both spiritual and physical food. “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” (1 John



3:17). Having experienced the love of God through his children, the lost sheep are then receptive to the spiritual food which is offered – offered over back yard fences, offered through homeless shelters, offered in faraway lands where our missionaries minister.

Do you still feel as if **you** are giving to **them**? Actually, you're not even giving to God, only returning to him what is his to begin with. Let us pray that we might find joy and excitement that he chooses to use the gifts, the time, the financial resources he has entrusted to us so that his people might be cared for and the Gospel may be preached to the ends of the earth.

A Sermon to Remember

While watching a little TV on Sunday before going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church would even bother to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all the trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me ... the only thing that would comfort me was this verse...

"Jesus loves me this I know.

For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong.

We are weak but he is strong . . .

Yes, Jesus loves me . . .

The Bible tells me so."

That was a sermon to remember!

On the Lighter Side

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention!



Three Kinds of Givers

It has been said, "There are three kinds of givers: the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb."

To get everything out of a flint, you must hammer it and then you get only chips and sparks.

To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you squeeze, the more you will get.

But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness.

Some people are stingy and hard; they give nothing away if they can help it. Others are good natured; they yield to pressure and the more they are pressed the more they will give. A few delight in giving, without being asked at all; and of these the Bible says: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Candle Lamp and Altar Flower Sponsors



Each Sunday, a member or family from the congregation donates flowers for the altar at our worship services (\$45 per week). Another member or family donates the candle lamp that hangs over the altar (\$6 per week). These are two great ways to honor someone you love, as well as to honor your commitment to God and to Augustus. After the service, a volunteer delivers the flowers to shut ins or others who could use a lift. The candle burns for the week over the altar to remind us that God is with us.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of these important parts of our weekly worship, please contact the Parish Administrator at 610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We had a wonderful time at Vacation Bible School this year. Many thanks to our teachers Jeanne Halteman, Jen Wentworth, Shane Elison, and Rosaria Lehman! Thank you to Laurie Mueller for leading the music and to Pastor (our “mission commander”) for participating in the skits. We also thank Connor (puppet master) and Gavin Elison (snack master) for their energetic help as youth leaders. Finally, thank you to Cole Brenner for helping Connor, Gavin, Shane & Melissa Elison and others on decorating day.

Now we’re looking forward to Sunday school! We have some exciting plans in the works for our Sunday school kick-off, and of course we will be looking for teachers. Teaching Sunday school is a great way to serve your church and make a difference in life of a young person. You can commit to teaching every Sunday during the school year (with some off for holidays) or you can volunteer to serve as a substitute teacher. The lessons are all provided for you and no theological expertise is required; in fact, teaching is a great way to learn more about your own faith. It’s also a great way to spend quality time with your children, grandchildren or just enjoy being around inquisitive young minds. In addition, we welcome guest teachers so if you have a special skill, message or craft to share with the children, please let me know! Clearances are required but I am happy to help you obtain them.

Thank you for continuing to pray for and support the children of Augustus.

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



V
B
S
2022



ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Have you ever wondered about the drapes on the altar? What do the colors mean? What are the pieces for? Who puts them there, anyway? What about the candles? There are many important pieces that make up our weekly worship at Augustus! The people who make sure everything is where it needs to be, that communion is available, and that the candles are ready to be lit are a group of volunteers called The Altar Guild.

These folks are well trained and serve usually one month each year—in pairs. It takes a few minutes each week to set things up, and you don't even have to be present for the church service to participate during these crazy times.

If you're interested in learning more about this very important opportunity to help with our weekly worship, please contact Deb Scholl at schollde@aol.com. She'd be happy to give you more information and show you what's involved.



Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Christian Parenting

The Age of the Believer

Children in the first through third grades are enthusiastic and eager, creative and curious. They're ready to learn. This zest for learning applies to their religion, too. This stage of life is sometimes called "the age of the believer." Church educators consider it to be one of the prime times for teaching students how to use the Bible, introducing them to church liturgies and rituals, and encouraging their participation in worship and other church functions.

As parents and caregivers, we can assist in this faith growth spurt by continuing to teach and reinforce their faith at home and by making every effort to see that they are able to attend Sunday school, worship, and other church activities. Positive experiences within their church family promote affirmative attitudes toward God and faith. They foster a sense of belonging to God and to the Christian community. This identity and these attitudes are important vehicles for the future growth of our children's faith.

What Do You Think?

When they reach the upper elementary grades, children begin challenging what we say. Why? They're beginning to be able to think abstractly and reason logically. They can think about familiar things in new ways. This is a good age to encourage faith exploration. Allow your child to say what he or she thinks. Restrain yourself from correcting him or her when he or she says something religiously inappropriate or strange. Instead, help your child think through what he or she said by questioning him or her. What do you mean by...?

"What do you think?" is often the best way to initially respond to your child's faith questions. It gives you some idea of what he or she is thinking. Many questions arise because of his or her growing awareness of other people's beliefs. Your child wants to know what you believe and why you believe that way. During the upper elementary years, your child's horizons are expanding rapidly. Nurture this growth by giving him or her the freedom to discover, doubt, question, and explore his or her faith.

From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ronald Young	2 Sean Wagenseller	3 Linda Linsenbigler	4 Pamela Leighton Amanda Scholl James Stewart	5 Julie Niskala Kathryn Robinson	6 Luke Chellew Ashley Interrante Cathie Van Alstine
7 Emerson Smith Debbie Steiner	8	9 Kimberlee Davis	10 Dottie Luft Dennis Oscapinski Katie Ries	11 Gary Long	12 Stan Lienthal Timothy Stalker	13 David Ivarson Francis Tomaselli
14 Madeline Kring	15 Alex Dogonniuck	16 Richard Allebach Landon Watts	17 Skylar Althouse	18 Penelope Balzereit Gail Bischoff	19 Amy Sellman Kathleen Wilkins	20
21 Connor Elison Debbie Hoffman Vincent Jaggers/ Brown Bruce Jennings Nathan Kerr	22 Ralph Kibblehouse Madison Kuklentz David Schweitzer	23 Greg Allen Andrew Meeley Marjorie Price	24 Alexander Jaggers/ Brown	25 Blair Booth-Glacken Eric Linsenbigler Kimberly Lumley Nixon Madden Krista Oscapinski Rachel Oscapinski	26 Susan Millheim	27
28 Stephanie Frazier	29 Ellie Hernandez Karen McCrea	30 Andrea Jaggers/ Brown Cayla Schulz Corrine Schulz Scott Young	31 Kathryn Kerr Cynthia Rauch			

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Get Moving!

Many people, especially young children, learn best through movement. Movement makes it possible for us to worship God with our whole beings. Let the children in your household lead this exploration. You will experience the Bible in totally new ways! Start by reading aloud Psalm 96:1-4. Choose a rhythm to fit the verses. Snap fingers, clap hands, and tap knees. Take turns leading the movements.



Pick a favorite Christian song or hymn and create a dance to it. Make dance streamers by stapling crepe paper or fabric strips to 12" dowels, pencils, or plastic straws. Twirl the streamers as you dance.

Create a frame drama for a favorite Bible story. This kind of drama tells a Bible story in a sequence of frames or story segments. You need: one leader, the players, and the audience. (You can do this with only three people.) A leader asks the audience to close their eyes. The player then position their bodies to represent a frame or segment of the Bible story and to freeze their position. The leader tells the audience to open their eyes. After 5-10 seconds, the leader asks the audience to again shut their eyes. The players then arrange themselves according to the leader's directions for the next scene.

Make rhythm instruments and use them to accompany a favorite hymn. Make finger cymbals with lids from baby food jars. Place each lid on a piece of wood and punch two holes in the center of each lid with a nail. Fold in half a rubber band and push each end through the holes in the lid. Play by putting a thumb through the rubber band on one lid and a forefinger through the rubber band on another. Tap the lids together. Make a bottle xylophone by hanging a matching set of bottles or glasses from a stand or placing them in a row on a table. Fill them with water to varying depths and tap with a spoon to play. Make a nail scale by hanging nails of different lengths and thicknesses from a coat hanger. Play by striking them with a spoon or gently tipping the hanger back and forth. Without making any sound, move your bodies in positions of thanks and praise. End the motion prayer by all shouting, "Amen!"

From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

Stewards in Partnership

Faithful stewards live their lives in service for Christ because Christ dwells in them and they desire to please him. As his steward, you are *“an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work”* (2 Timothy 2:21). God calls us into his fellowship and partnership through his Son and equips us to be faithful stewards.

In John 15:5, Jesus explains fully what it means to be in partnership with him. Jesus said *“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* We are branches which have no life by ourselves, but we receive life from the vine. The vine supports and sustains the branches on which the fruit appears. Faithful stewards are branches that bear much fruit as Jesus, the vine, nourishes them. In this way, God calls us into partnership with himself.

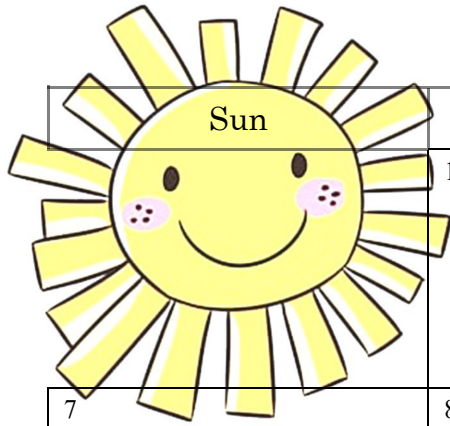
As stewards, our partnership with Christ is made possible because God dwells in us. 1 John 4:15 reads, *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God.”* When God dwells with in us, we are no longer the same. He transforms and molds us into stewards who willingly surrender our will to seek his will. No longer is it “I” or “me”, but God who works through us to accomplish his purpose. Our lives are dedicated to him, and we are prepared for tasks given to us as God takes us into full partnership.

On our own we can do nothing. Only as we stay connected to Jesus can we be faithful and fruitful stewards. In comparison to what Jesus provides, our part in the partnership is small, but God has chosen us to extend his Kingdom. On earth, we are God’s hands, feet, and mouth. We have been created to do good works that he has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). With God as our senior partner, we can make a difference in our families, churches, places of work, and our communities. When we allow Christ to work through us, we will see how God can multiply and magnify our talents, gifts, and resources.

Need a Prayer? Want to Pray for Others?

Prayer Chain Volunteers Needed

Did you know Augustus’s WELCA has a prayer group? People are invited to call the leader of the group, Carol Oelschlager, or the church office with prayer requests and a group of folks will say special prayers based on these requests. This group is now seeking additional people to pray for our congregants and friends. If you’re interested in participating, please call Carol Oelschlager at 610-610-310-5008



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1		2 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	3 9:30 am Quilting Group 2:00 pm Staff Meeting	4	5	6
7 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Old Trappe Church 9:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church	8 7:30 pm Knit & Crochet	9	10 9:30 am Soup Kitchen	11	12	13
14 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Old Trappe Church 9:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church	15 7:00 pm Book Club	16 9:30 am Quilting Group	17 2:00 pm Staff Meeting	18	19	20
21 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Old Trappe Church 9:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church	22 7:30 pm Knit & Crochet	23 7:00 pm Committee Night	24	25	26	27
28 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Old Trappe Church 9:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church 10:30 am Sunday School Teachers Meeting	29	30	31	<h1>August</h1>		

