

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



JULY 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is such a blessing to be able to see many of you at worship again. I have missed your smiling faces and faithful worship. We are slowly recovering from the effects of the pandemic. We still have much to do as we return to "normal." I pray that this summer will provide some rest and renewal for you.

At Augustus, this summer will be filled with needed work on campus. We anticipate that re-paving the cemetery driveways will begin at the end of June or beginning of July. Earnings from the Cemetery Trust Fund, accumulated over nearly a decade, will pay for this improvement, expected to cost approximately \$70,000.

In July, we hope to replace the Brick Church roof. The start of this work depends on the availability of roofing shingles which match the remaining roofs on campus. The roof project will cost \$24,000. This was a completely unexpected expense, discovered after the Vestry sent out the special appeal letter for the Brick Church Re-pointing.

In August, we will remove the waterproof cement mortar on the sides and back of the Brick Church which has caused water damage, repair or replace any damaged exterior bricks, and re-point the bricks with the appropriate lime mortar. This re-pointing will cost \$130,000. We did not anticipate that this project would need to be done this year.

To complete these necessary projects and prevent further damage to our beloved Brick Church, we depend on the generosity of our members and friends. The total cost of the emergency Brick Church repairs (re-pointing and new roof) this year will total \$154,000. The Vestry will use the entire \$104,000 it has set aside over several decades to fund major emergency property projects. This action still leaves us with a deficit of \$50,000, which must be fully funded. If you have not already responded generously to the special Brick Church Re-pointing appeal from the Vestry and are in a financial position to do so, your Vestry will appreciate your help. Thank you.



Remember the generosity of God, that throughout the entire stressful Covid-19 pandemic, we have never been alone. Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck



HELP WANTED

CUB SCOUT/BOY SCOUT

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (COR)

The Vestry of Augustus Lutheran is looking for an individual over the age of 18 to be a liaison between the Scouts and the Church. Augustus Lutheran is the sponsor for Troop/Pack 87. The responsibilities are as follows:

1. Sign forms when needed. This pertains to any leader applications, Pack & Troop Charters, etc.
2. Communicate with Pastor and/or the Vestry when there are questions or issues.
3. Attend committee and district meetings a couple of times throughout the year.

Work with Vestry / Pack / Troop regarding clearances and keys.

If you are interested, please contact Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net, for more information. The COR must be a member of the Sponsors organization (Augustus Lutheran Church). Being a past member of the Scouts is not a prerequisite for this position.

While not everyone from our choirs was able to participate this year due the virus, I want to acknowledge everyone anyway:

Senior Choir:

Ali Backlund, Donna Beishl, Judy Bubeck, Jeannie Funk, Vicky Gallagher, Abby Gravel, Alanna Jessee, Howard Kriebel, Anita Luft, Joshua Myers, Becky Quirk, Robert Reichner, Tracey Richvalsky, Jamie Roach, Alan Shunk, Leesa Shunk

Bell Choir:

Susan Adams, Judy Bubeck, Gavin Elison, Dylan Funk, Jeannie Funk, Karen Lachenmayer, Laura Peljae, Becky Quirk, Robert Reichner, Alan Shunk, Mildred Stuffle, Gary Wessner.

I will be away from the bench on July 18 and July 25. I'm very happy that Josh Kraybill will be able to substitute for me. Here's some info about Josh:

A Pottstown resident, Josh completed high school this past May, and has been studying organ with Dr. Gordon Turk since eighth grade. Josh has attended organ camps at Eastman School of Music in NY, Jacobs's School of Music in Indiana and Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He has also been the recipient of the AGO Next Scholarship and the Martha Bell Sanders Excellence Scholarship from Cleveland Institute of Music, where he will study organ with Todd Wilson toward his BMus in Organ Performance. When he's not practicing or playing for churches and concerts, Josh loves everything golf, working out, and volunteering with the local fire department.

Please welcome Josh while I'm away!

I look forward to seeing our choir loft fuller in the fall! If you've thought about singing or ringing – let me know this summer: music@augustustrappe.org.

Enjoy your summer!

~Laurie Mueller



Altar Guild Help Wanted

Altar Guild members attend to the altar on Sundays. They change and adjust the paraments, prepare the Holy Communion elements, place and remove the flowers, and a host of other small jobs that are so important to our weekly worship. Are you interested in helping? No experience required! We'll train you! Contact Deb Scholl at Schollde@aol.com.

Christian Parenting

Let the Children Come to Me

Since faith is first learned by experience and imitation, imagine all the lessons a child learns when he or she attends worship. A child sees people praising, thanking, confessing, receiving forgiveness, praying, and listening to God's word. Attending worship with your children may not always be pleasant. Yet children are more likely to attend church regularly as adults if they worship as children.

Help your child become a worship participant by preparing him or her at home. Teach him or her the Lord's Prayer and other repetitive parts of the service. Sing some of the familiar hymns. Encourage questions about what's happened in previous weeks.

During worship, let your child hold a bulletin and keep track of where you are in the service. Invite him or her to find readings and hymns in the worship book. If he or she is too young to sit through an entire service, invite your child to stay for a short time. By encouraging your children to become a worship participants, you're showing them that they belong to God's family.

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Sharing God's Bounty

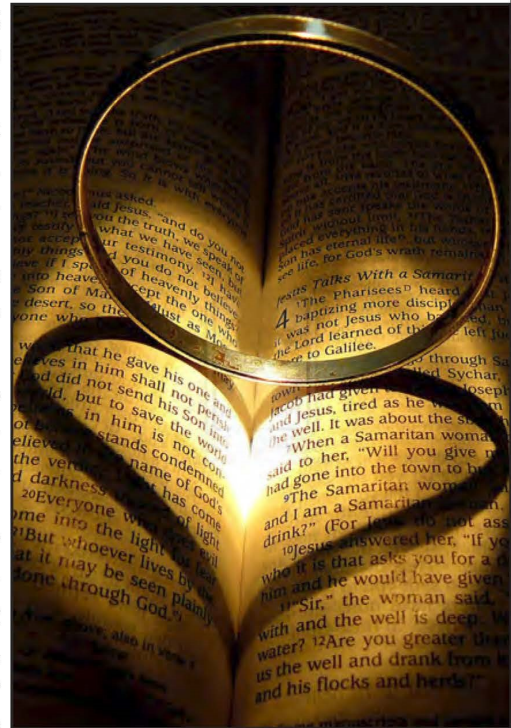
July

Living a Stewardship Lifestyle

When we discuss stewardship, we may immediately start to think of giving our time and money. Stewardship certainly involves giving and serving, but, even more, our stewardship is incorporated into a way of life. It does not consist of just isolated events. When God's word and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship becomes a lifestyle. As a lifestyle, it defines who we are and what we do. It is our vocation. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Through faith, God provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

In defining stewardship, W. H. Greever wrote, "Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions." Our faithful stewardship, as it reflects God's love, becomes our approach to life. It is more being than doing. Our deeds of stewardship such as using time wisely or helping the needy arise out of being stewards. Stewards are who we are. Stewardship is a whole life response to God out of gratitude and thanksgiving for all of his love, goodness, and mercy. T. A. Kantonen wrote, "The life of stewardship is nothing less than 'total devotion' to the Christ who is known as a real, living personal presence in the hearts of believers, a genuine loyalty that is expressed not in mere opinion or sentiment but in character and conduct."

It does not take talented people to be faithful stewards, but it takes all there is of us. It takes our total commitment. Stewardship is our response to God's abundant grace in all aspects of life. This faithful stewardship is only possible when we acknowledge our sinfulness and our forgiveness through faith in Christ. God gives us faith so he can use us to carry out his plan, which is to save all people. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge God in all things and in all places. As faithful stewards, we know that all we have belongs to him so we can give generously of our time, talents, and money.



"I have learned to manage on whatever I have. I know how to be poor and how to be rich..."

"There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the one who gives me strength."

St. Paul



Mighty Miti Work

Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commands us to tell others the good news. Many Papua New Guineans became Christians through the witness and evangelism of persons from neighboring tribes. Often, these tribes had formerly been enemy tribes. Evangelist families travel long distances and settle in totally unfamiliar areas to help spread the gospel there. This is known as “miti” work. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC/PNG) has sent missionaries to Australia and a number of pastors have served congregations in the United States.

Invite your family to consider how they could do “miti” work in their daily lives, such as: at school, at work, or on a sports team. (Suggestions include inviting someone to vacation Bible school, Sunday school, or youth group; sharing toys; taking turns, and so forth.) Join with your family to make a “Miti Cross” as a way to witness to others. Collect shells, stones, pine cones, or whatever forms of nature you find in your area. Glue these materials to a wooden cross. Give the cross to another family.

Exotic flowers such as frangipani and orchids flourish throughout Papua New Guinea. Glue silk flowers to a large piece of construction paper. Print: “Christians, listen together and hear the good news of Jesus.” Display the poster, using this time as an opportunity to do “miti” work by telling about Jesus.

Puppets are a fun way to share the good news and tell Bible stories. Make “Proclamation Puppets” from dish washing or laundry detergent bottles that have handles. Rinse out the bottles. Place a paper towel tube over the pour spout of each bottle and fasten it with silver duct tape. Draw a face on the bottom of the bottle with permanent markers and turn the bottle upside down so the handle is the nose. Glue felt, yarn, or buttons in place for other facial features and hair. Cut a 12” square of cloth. Cut an “X” in the center of it. Slide the tube through the “X” and tape the fabric around the tube. Choose a favorite Bible story and tell it using the puppet.

Pray for courage to tell others about Jesus’ love and for guidance in how to best to do this. (Quieter family members might feel comfortable sharing prayers through the use of their puppets.)

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SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Group Leaders would like to congratulate Kevin Beattie, Dylan Crothers, Cooper DeMark and Jeremy Wentworth on their graduations. We wish them the best in all of their future endeavors. It’s a shame we couldn’t do more with them over the last year.

We would like to thank the congregation for your donations and support throughout the year. We look forward to starting our next year in September with Rally Day. We’re planning a full schedule, so be ready for apple pies, Christmas cookies, Easter eggs, soups and much more!

This past year wasn’t a complete loss. We were able to end the year with pizzas, kickball and axe throwing. The events were well attended by the youth group and the 8th graders. We look forward to seeing the new 9th graders in the fall.

The Senior Youth Group will not be going on a Mission Trip this year, but we would like to do mission work in our community. If you are in need of work or you know someone that is, please let us know. The three churches that make up the One Dream Mission Team would like to help where we can. We are gearing up for a 2022 Mission Trip.

If you have projects you need help with, please contact any of the leaders or contact the office with a message. This year’s leaders are:

Chris Dogonniuck, bulldog7224@comcast.net

Joe Schaffer, joe.schaffer@gmail.com

Cathy Meeley, tcmeeley@verizon.net

Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net

youth@augustustrappe.org

School Supply Drive

Daily Bread Community Food Pantry is collecting school supplies

small backpacks with cartoon characters Disney or similar
medium and especially large backpacks
boxes of 24 colored pencils
pencil cases with 3 holes for binders
red pens
packs of dividers for binders
folders with prongs
black dry erase markers
packs of dry erase markers containing 4 different colors
Sharpie markers
packs of Post-It notes

24 count packs of crayons
Fiskar children's scissors
plastic pencil boxes
composition books
packs of 3x5 index cards
1" three-ring binders
loose leaf filler paper
highlighters of any color
mechanical pencils
small pencil sharpeners
flash drives

They will be distributing backpacks and school supplies at the food pantry throughout the month of August and will gladly accept donations through mid-August. All donations can be delivered to the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry. There is someone there to receive donations Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. until Noon. Since we distribute food to clients on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 A.M. you might want to avoid those times. You can also drop off school supplies at any time in the beige bin near the garage doors on the side of the food pantry. This bin is checked each morning by our volunteers. Thank you so very much for your dedicated and generous support of this project! We sincerely appreciate it!

**Food Pantry donations are also accepted here at Augustus. Place your donations in the labeled basket in the Muhlenberg Center and we'll get them where they need to go.



Green Thumb Volunteers Needed



We are very proud of the Augustus campus and would like anyone who visits it to be left with a feeling that the congregants really cares how it looks. As a result, the Property Committee is looking for a few individuals to maintain/weed various areas around the campus such as the Mother's Day Garden, the Bubeck memorial and the gardens around the Old Church throughout the summer months. If you have any interest please contact Pat O'Hara (qadirector5@aol.com) or Gary Wessner (gtwess@comcast.net). Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Augustus Book Club

Our Next Book Club meeting will be on July 19 at 7:00 pm
in the Vestry Room at Church.

We'll discuss: Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows
by Balli Kaur Jaswal

New members are always welcome!

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



Christian Education

We're busily getting ready for Vacation Bible School 2021! Last year VBS was all on Zoom with children enjoying outdoor activities in their own backyards with their "social pods." What a difference a year makes--this year we will be at the church! We'll be outdoors as much as possible, but with cases going down and vaccines going up we'll be able to use the indoors when necessary.

This year our theme is "We're on God's Team," with lots of outdoor games and fun while we learn that trusting in God defeats fear and obstacles, life is better when we follow God's rules, and that we are guaranteed victory because Love wins.

All signs are pointing to our being able to return to in-person Sunday school this fall and we have some exciting changes planned.



**Rally Day, the first day of Sunday school, for the 2021-22 year is
September 12th.**

What a blessing it is to serve the children and youth at Augustus!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



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 the church office at 610-489-9625 or Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message. The only information we need is your name. Any details you choose to provide are at your discretion.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

July Birthdays

1

Jessica Kunasz

2

Cameron Tartar

3

Tamara Griggs
Rose Swan
Sandra Trauger

4



5

Pia Lari

6

Brittany Snyder

7

Terry Benner
Paul Niemann
Amy Noonan

8

William Garton
Gail Martin

9

10

Braden Tighe

11

Nancee Clelland
Bruce Tempone

12

Amanda Jacobs
Morgan Nelson
Cora Van Alstine

13

Laura Peljae

14

Karen Lachenmayer

15

Lewis Christy
Heather Mullaney

16

17

18

Laurel Beattie
William Fluck
Steven O'Hara
Kiley Veleber-Schmitt

19

Brian Funk
Robert Williams

20

Amanda Halteman
LaVonne Johnson

21

Alison Fishell
Courtenay Kerr
Rosemary McNeal

22

Jack Bowe
Bryan McClain

23

Jennifer Cunningham
Rebecca Quirk

24

Tripp Miller
Hannah Pearson
Andrew Schlegel

25

Arianna Judisch

26

Erich Franz
Sonya Sowards

27

Benjamin McElhannon
Anna Schweitzer
Allison Wessner

28

Bryce Atherholt
Nancy Moyer
Jayden Smith
Cynthia Snyder

29

Colleen Demark

30

Stacie Missimer
Sherry Stufflet

31

Jonathan Brull
Sean McClain
Aubrey Nicholson

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Affording a House

Your house will probably be the biggest single investment you'll make in your entire lifetime. Therefore, your mortgage is likely to be the biggest single debt of your life! Scripture clearly points out the danger of getting into debt: *"The borrower is servant to the lender"* (Proverbs 22:7), and *"Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you"* (Proverbs 22:26-27). Therefore, whenever you borrow money, you should never enter into an agreement lightly or without careful thought, research, and planning.



The monthly payments you assume on a mortgage are likely to be the biggest single item in your budget. Because of its importance, you'll want to shop for the best rate and terms among all types of lenders. Whatever the source of the mortgage, you'll want to ask about variable or fixed interest rates, term of loan, fees, closing costs, points, and prepayment or late payment penalties.

Although most mortgage lenders in any given city are likely to charge about the same rates at any given time, you still may find a variation of $\frac{1}{2}$ percent or slightly more at any given time. A small amount of difference in rates can mean a significant dollar amount of interest paid. For example if you borrowed \$100,000 at 7.5 percent for 30 years you would pay \$127,500 in interest over the life of the loan, whereas, if you paid 8.5 percent interest your total interest paid would be \$151,700!

Before you start shopping for a mortgage, you must decide how much mortgage or, in essence, how much house can you afford. A rule of thumb is that you can buy a house costing roughly two and one-half to three times your gross yearly income. For example, if your gross annual income is \$40,000, you can afford a house between \$100,000 to \$120,000. However, this average should be lower if you already have significant credit card or auto debt, if you have additional expenses of a large family, if you are buying an older house in need of repairs, if you have education costs, if your income is irregular, or if property and living costs are high in the area.

Another long standing rule of thumb is that you should not be spending more than 40 percent of your take-home pay for each month's total housing expenses including all the costs of owning and operating your home. This includes mortgage principal and interest, insurance, taxes, and utilities. For example, if your monthly take-home pay is \$2,500, you should be spending only \$1,000 a month on housing.



Dear Augustus Lutheran Church,

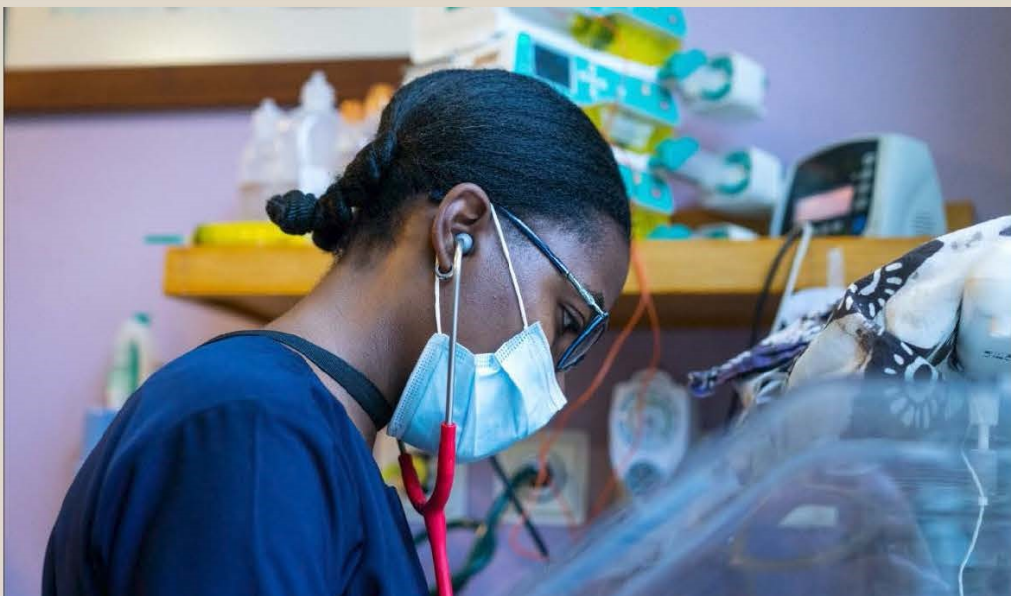
Last month we held our 4th annual NICU Fundraiser in Arusha. Please take a moment to watch the 2-minute video above. It is not too late to give:

www.tanzanianchildren.com

In 2020, we cared for 325 babies (144 premies!) with a 93% survival rate.

It costs us \$40 per day to care for our smallest babies.

Our sickest babies invariably come under our charitable NICU Fund... and we care for all babies, irregardless of family income. In so doing, we express God's value of life and His care for the most fragile among us.



Congratulations to Dr Evelyine Mushi!

She received the **ELCA International Leaders Program** scholarship to study Pediatrics in South Africa for 4 years! Evelyine is one of my shining doctors, who has worked with us for the past 3 years. She was profiled in our last newsletter. I could not be prouder of her.



Allen & Jean Swanson, 1955

Today I sit with my parents, celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. Remarkable. It started in Duluth, Minnesota, with a proposal on the shores of Lake Superior (top photo). Seminary followed, then 31 years of service in Asia.

My parents worked as Lutheran missionaries for 31 years between Taiwan ('62 - '90) and Malaysia ('90-'93). Undoubtedly, their willingness to think globally, love and celebrate another culture and country, and embrace a long journey impacted me greatly. During my childhood in Taiwan (above), I felt it was so special to live in Asia.

When Jodi and I married (1997), we were drawn to each other's passion for overseas work and healthcare among the poor. Without parents and spouse, our work in Tanzania would never have begun.

When Jodi and I married (1997), we were drawn to each other's passion for overseas work and healthcare among the poor. Without parents and spouse, our work in Tanzania would never have begun.

Our work today bears the legacy of my parents' life in Asia. In reading Paul the Apostle, I remember them:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [2 Timothy 4:8]

May we also aspire to finish the race, and keep the faith.

Steve



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



We are supported through the gifts of churches with the ELCA. Churches and individuals can donate to our support through the ELCA:

elca.org/missionarygiving

find our names under the drop down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship

Information regarding tax-deductible contributions for pediatric work can be found at:

www.tanzanianchildren.org

All funds are received through Global Health Ministries (GHM), and directed in entirety towards clinical pediatric training of doctors and nurses in Tanzania, care of babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), medications, bed fees and food for malnourished children.

Donations inside and outside USA can also be received through: www.tanzanianschildren.com

Your support makes this work possible!

GHM will send you a tax deductible receipt.

Our mailing address is:

Steve and Jodi Swanson
c/o Michael Swanson
16608 Early Dawn Trail
Lakeville, MN 55044

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

CRAFT & FLEA MARKET CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Two years ago, Augustus Women of the ELCA (WELCA) held a Fall Craft and Flea Market in support of mission work in Tanzania. This event did very well netting over \$1500, all of which was donated in support of our global Christian community.

This year in 2021 Augustus WELCA would like to resume the event this upcoming autumn in support of the Irete Children's Home and the Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU). Both of these missions are located in Tanzania. However, the Fall Craft and Flea Market needs a chairperson or co-chairperson for this activity to continue. The event comes with a team of support to facilitate your success.



If you have a desire to help us out and support the children and youth of Tanzania or have a passion to be part of global Christian missions, please reach out to Dale O'Hara at 610-489-0417 for more information. Your efforts will be most appreciated and will not go unnoticed.

Quilting and Knitting and Crochet

We now have quilting packs available in the Muhlenberg Center. The pack each has 48 squares in it.

- Pick a pack out of the Basket on the table.
- Sew the squares into a Quilt top.
- Return the pack to the bin under the table.
- Each quilt top will then be used to make a quilt for Lutheran World Relief.
- Each pack has instructions, and a contact email address if you have any questions.



Do you like to Knit or Crochet? You don't need any more Afghans or sweaters? Helping Hand collects knitted and crocheted 7" x 9" inch blocks that are sewn together into Afghans. We also collect completed Afghans.

The completed full-sized Afghans should be about 49" X 56" (about the same size as the top of a double bed).

Baby Afghans should be about 36" X 36" or 36" X 45" in pastel colors.

Place blocks and Afghans in the basket in the Muhlenberg Center. Please contact me if you need any yarn at jandmstuffle@verizon.net.



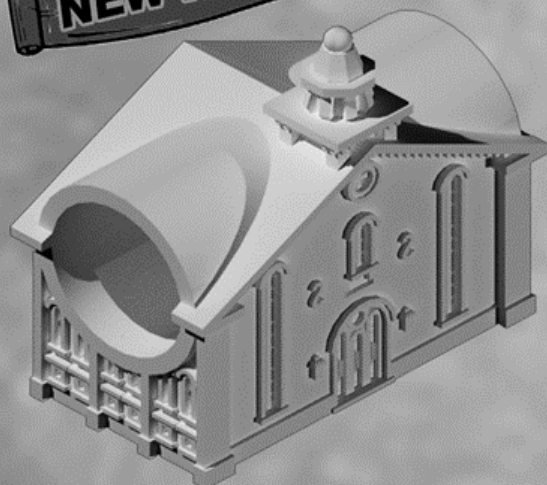
Quilting will meet Wednesday July 7th and Tuesday July 20th in the quilting room from 9:30 AM to 11:30 PM.

Knitting 'n Crochet will meet Monday July 12th and July 26th in room 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

TRAPPE CHARMS

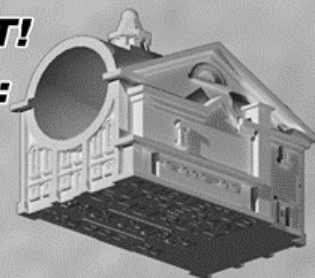
CHARMING CHARMS FROM THE TINY TOWN OF TRAPPE

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CONTACT BRIAN O'HARA AT:
BRIAN.OHARA24@GMAIL.COM

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brian.ohara24@gmail.com



AUGUSTUS CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH OUTREACH

 Old Trappe Church \$70	Church Well	First Schoolhouse	First Parsonage	First Muhlenberg House
 Brick Church \$70	Carriagehouse	Third Schoolhouse	Second Parsonage	Third Muhlenberg House

WOMEN OF ELCA CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT AUGUSTUS WOMEN OF ELCA

 Women of ELCA Logo \$75	 Just Love Logo \$75			
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