



Augustus Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Report Part I February 14, 2021

To attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on your computer:

Click here <https://zoom.us/j/99628843949?pwd=VjRqMGIKVzFmekRxWW11YnloYjYwUT09>
to join the meeting on February 14 at 12:30PM

You may be asked for a Meeting ID: **996 2884 3949** and a Passcode: **208203**

If you are unable to join using a computer, you may also join by phone:

Dial **+1 646 558 8656**
and enter Meeting ID: **996 2884 3949**
and Passcode: **208203**

Press *6 to toggle between mute and unmute, if you need to speak

Senior Pastor:
The Reverend G. Warren Weleck
Pastor's E-mail: Pastor@augustrappe.org

Associate and Visitation Pastor:
The Reverend Thomas Kochenderfer

Pastor Emeritus:
The Reverend Herbert H. Michel, D. D.

Director of Music and Organist:
Mrs. Laurie Mueller, CAGO
Music@augustrappe.org

Director of Christian Education:
Mrs. Sonya Sowards
Education@augustrappe.org

Vestry President:
Mr. Gary Wessner

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Office Phone: 610-489-9625
Office E-mail: office@augustrappe.org

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Karen McClain
Sexton: Mr. David Ward

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MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING

1. Meeting Called to Order by President John Kochel @ 12:40 PM
 2. Opening Prayer: Pastor Weleck
 3. Minutes of the prior Congregational Meeting on February 9, 2020 - A motion was made by Karl Stefan to bring the minutes to the floor. Jeannie Funk seconded. Minutes were approved.
 4. Election of Vestry Members - President John Kochel made a motion to bring the Vestry nominations to the floor. Deborah Augustine seconded.
 - a. Nominees for a three year term – Richard Allebach, Jeannie Funk, Brian O’Hara
 - b. Nominee to complete final year of an unfinished term – Shane Elison
- After no further nominations from the floor, Robert Rodenberger motioned to close. Karl Stefan seconded. Nominees were approved.
5. Presentation of the Budget for 2021 – President John Kochel made a motion to bring the budget for 2021 to the floor. Karl Stefan seconded. Budget was approved. Pastor Weleck abstained.
 6. Old Business - None
 7. New Business – Pastor Weleck stated that Augustus will fully reopen when Perkiomen Valley School District does.
 8. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Lois Robinson and seconded by Jeannie Funk. Approved. Adjournment was @ 1:03 PM and followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Jessee,
Vestry Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT

It is good to be the Pastor of Augustus Lutheran Church. I am grateful for the prayers and support of so many Augustinians. The dedication of our staff enriches our ministry.

Worship

Augustus Lutheran Church is a Biblical and Sacramental Church. Worship continues to be centered in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Within the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to celebrate traditional Lutheran worship each Sunday and holy day. Our music ministry continues to be one of our strengths.

Witness

Covid-19 has forced us to adopt new ways of reaching people with the Gospel. The ability to live stream our services and Sunday School has been our primary outreach in 2020.

Learning

Our ministry to children and youth continues to be a strength of our parish family. We have had to adapt Sunday school, Confirmation, and the Senior High School Youth Group to the online and socially-distanced times in which we minister.

Service

We continue to help our neighbors in need. The range of this work at Augustus is indeed broad. We serve monthly lunches at St. John's Soup Kitchen in Norristown, collect Christmas gifts for children at the Silver Springs Martin Luther School, support the Ministerium Emergency Fund, and participate in many other activities. Our Sunday School helps support a missionary in South Sudan, one of the most dangerous places in the world. Our generosity is a blessing to others. Over one hundred Augustinians each year assist in various ways to enable us to serve the hungry at St. John's Soup Kitchen. Well done, Augustus.

Support

We continue to emphasize the essential need for the generous and increasing financial support of our members and friends. The financial offerings of our current members and friends fund about 60% of our annual budget. The rest of the financial resources come from Trust Funds left to us by previous generations and we use all their earnings to fund the balance of our ministries. The tithe (10%) is the basic Biblical teaching for faithful church giving.

The leadership of Augustus is determined to conduct our financial affairs with wisdom and transparency. However, without accurately knowing the income for the coming year, the Vestry can only guess at a figure based on past practices. I would urge those who do not regularly return an annual Commitment Card to prayerfully consider the negative effect that has on our ability to live within our means, because we do not know what our means are. Employees know what their salary will be for the coming year. Social Security recipients know what their monthly Social Security payments are. Augustus needs the same certainty.

I would like to thank our staff and volunteers. Without their dedication and commitment, we would not be the wonderful parish family that we are.

Looking Ahead

Working together, we accomplished much good ministry. Working together, we can accomplish even more ministry pleasing to God. Our three (3) broad ministry goals which Jesus stressed in Romans 10, Matthew 28, and Matthew 25 are:

- Weekly Worship
 - (Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”)
- Making Disciples
 - (Matthew 28:8-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”)
- Helping Neighbors in Need
 - (Matthew 25:40 “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”)

Augustus Lutheran Church is “An Historical Church for Today’s People.” We have a wonderful example of faithful ministry left by Father Muhlenberg and his successors. God calls us to continue the faithfulness of previous generations of Augustinians. Working together, we will continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

Senior Pastor

VESTRY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 virus and its effect on people, families and the community. Through it all, the congregation of Augustus Lutheran Church has continued to worship every Sunday, to offer the sacraments, and to help our neighbors in need. We thank Pastor Weleck, Laurie Mueller, Sonya Sowards, David Ward, Karen McClain and Pastor Kochenderfer for all they have done to continue our ministry at Augustus through the pandemic.

I appreciate the members of our Vestry for their leadership and thoughtful deliberations. The first three months of 2020 were normal, where we would meet in-person to oversee the work of our church. When the virus became a pandemic, the Vestry met routinely on-line. We had thoughtful deliberation through the year on when and how to safely reopen our church for in-person worship. We carefully developed a plan to reopen and to protect the health of our parishioners. During the time after Thanksgiving, we experienced a surge in virus cases and an increase in hospitalizations throughout the country. Because the health of our parishioners is our priority, the Vestry agreed to change our carefully crafted plans for in-person Christmas Eve Services and return to online worship.

We are blessed that Worship at Augustus is now available online as an alternative when we are unable to physically attend at the church. We began with recorded worship services in March and were live-streaming by the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

We achieved our budget projections for contributions and expenses for 2020 that were approved by the congregation before we knew there would be a pandemic. Thank you to everyone who financially supports Augustus and helps us continue with our church mission.

Our Congregational Meeting to approve the 2021 budget and to elect new members to the Vestry was successfully held online in November. Thank you to our congregation members who participate in these meetings.

In 2021 we look forward to the time when the pandemic is behind us and we fully reopen our building to our Sunday School, our Congregation and our community. We will continue at Augustus Lutheran to have a faithful and strong congregation for all generations.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Kochel

Vestry President

STAFF MEMBER REPORTS

Associate and Visitation Pastor

Fear and frustration are the two words that describe best the year 2020 for me. Things seemed to start out normally and then all of a sudden the pandemic hit and everything shut down. Even churches shut down. I have never experienced anything like this before. My statistics to report this year are pathetic. I miss visiting our home-bound people. I enjoy being the channel of your love for them. Right now I am visiting no one anywhere. I have made a few phone calls to our folks. That's better than no contact at all. But face to face encounters is what we all prefer and need.

Even in the year 2020 there were bright spots. On line Services were created. Zoom meetings were developed. I was given the honor of preaching the sermon for the ordination of Eric Schwirian at Augustus Church. God never forsakes his faithful people. At some point we will be delivered from this time of trial. I close with the following statistics:

Funerals- 1

Worship Services led, preached, or assisted- 7

Visits- 8

Meetings- 5

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Thomas J. Kochenderfer

Visitation Pastor

Director of Music

Due to COVID-19, there's not a lot to report this year:

- Final choir rehearsal was held in March; regular choir rehearsals did not resume for the rest of the year
 - However, bell choir did have two Thursday rehearsals; one in October and one in November, and they played on two Sundays in church
- Colledgeville Trappe Ministerium Lent Cantata Choir met for a few rehearsals, and appeared at two churches on Wednesday nights; after that, COVID-19 shut it down for the remainder of Lent
- Jeannie, Ed, and Tyler Funk, Jonathan Mueller, and Jim Lien were invaluable in recording and editing our worship services for YouTube until we had the capability to live-stream.
- I appreciate live-streaming! Live-streaming is much easier (for me) than recording, because we do it from start to finish in one take. THANK YOU to Jim Lien for contributing and allowing funds from Judi's memorial to purchase the camera and equipment that make it possible.
- Before choir came back, some of our section leaders sang solos at special services (i.e. Palm Sunday), and Kyra McFadden, a colleague at the Norristown Hospitality Center, sang solos in October and November.
- We ordered and received 12 Sing-Safe masks, which were proven to stop the aerosol spread in lab tests. Choir sang in church on December 6; then church closed December 20 through January 4. Choir is returning on a limited basis in early 2021.
- I normally teach the First Communion Class, but with COVID-19, we are not starting this academic year until March 2021. There will be five (5) classes.
- THANK YOU to those who secured the PPP loan that allowed me to keep receiving paychecks from Augustus. Please keep in your prayers all those who have not been so blessed this year. Looking forward to the vaccine!

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Mueller

Director of Music

Director of Christian Education

2020 was a year in which I joined everyone at Augustus in learning new ways to be the church, teach the faith, and do ministry. I am grateful to God for giving us the strength to preserve and to my colleagues for their skills and encouragement.

CRADLE ROLL

I continue to maintain monthly contact with our members under three years old, sending gifts and information to help their parents fulfill the promises they made at their child's baptism. This year five of our cradle roll members turned three years old and I am so looking forward to welcoming them into our Sunday school program as soon as we can gather in person.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We began the calendar year last January with our usual Sunday morning program. Laurie Mueller provides our music and Pastor Weleck joins us for the opening program, after which we send the students off to their age-related classes. I'm very thankful for our talented teachers: Al Dubeck, Chilly Lyaro, Laura Schlegel, Tami Brandt, Bill Kelly, Pat North, Renee Parker, Jeanne Halteman, Lorna DePaul, Brianna Dubeck, and Jess Schiller, and to Jen Gabel who serves as a substitute teacher. We are also blessed by two very fine young men who serve as assistant Sunday school teachers: Thomas Lyaro and Kevin Dubeck. We had a Baby Shower for Jesus benefitting Genesis Pregnancy Care Center in January and continued the year with stories of Jesus' life and teachings until our last in-person Sunday, March 8th. On March 1st, the Sunday before our last, we met the prayer pals who committed to pray for the Sunday school children during Lent. Little did we know how important their prayers for our children would become! Many thanks to Sandy Trauger, Rachel Schaffer, Andrew Meeley, Lois Robinson, Dorothy Moorehead, Joey Schaffer, Janice Reiff, Pastors Martha and Howard Kriebel, Dylan Crothers, Sally Sweeney, Debra Augustine and Terri Yetter for your prayers.

On March 15th I began sending at-home Sunday school materials to parents every week via our Augustus Sunday school Facebook group. Soon thereafter our curriculum provider, Sparkhouse, began producing digital Sunday school lessons which I utilized for the remainder of the program year.

On April 19th we began Sunday school meetings via Zoom. Pastor Weleck usually joins me on Zoom. In our normal program year, I greet the children as they enter our building, lead the opening program and then send them off to their classes. It has been a silver lining that in leading Sunday school via Zoom I've gotten to know many kids better—they are a wonderful group!

We continued Sunday school meetings through Pentecost Sunday, which is later than we usually meet but we had the materials from Sparkhouse and children were not going off to their usual summer activities so we were able to meet longer. I also mailed Easter and Pentecost materials out to all the children on our rolls, including those who are not currently participating in Sunday school.

Since Sunday school resumed after our summer break we have been planning on a month-by-month basis and looking for ways to connect through outside activities wearing masks, rather than meeting in the building. On Rally Day—the first day of the program year—I prepared activity bags (with treats) relating to our Zoom Sunday school lessons for the children to pick up. The students came to chalk encouraging messages on our parking lot and pick up their bags on September 13th. Since then, we have had monthly activity bag pick-up events outside, including the Blessing of the Animals on October 4th, a scavenger hunt for All Saints Day on November 11th, and dropping off gifts for Gemma Services (formerly Martin Luther Silver Spring School) on December 6th. On December 6th we also filmed our socially distanced Nativity play, which was made available to the congregation via Facebook and Augustus' webpage.

Forty-four children attended Sunday school in 2020 and 25 of those have remained active during the pandemic.

3-IN-1 (CONFIRMATION)

During the usual program year, students in 7th and 8th grade gather at 6:00 p.m. for dinner, followed by the lesson at approximately 6:30 p.m. We return to the Fellowship Hall after the lesson for games and dessert. I teach 1st year confirmation students about the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer and Pastor Weleck and the 2nd year students study the sacraments and the creeds. This year we added one session on spiritual gifts and how to use them at Augustus. Sixth graders join us on the first Wednesday of the month to learn about Holy Communion from Laurie Mueller. The Senior High Youth Group also joins us on the first Wednesday and usually cooks for us before going on to other fun activities, which we very much appreciate!

We wrapped up our 2020 confirmation year early due to the pandemic. Our last meeting was on March 11th and we were preparing to present Stations of the Cross to the congregation on Good Friday. That was not possible but our students were still able to learn much about Jesus' last hours by working on the play. First Communion and Confirmation was deferred due to the pandemic, but did take place on September 20th, when eight students received their first communion, and September 27th, when eleven students confirmed their baptismal promises and became full-fledged, adult members of Augustus.

The start of our fall 3-in-1 classes was delayed but classes have now resumed via Zoom.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was held June 22nd through the 25th via Zoom. VBS is scheduled for the fourth week in June every year. Our theme this year was "Bolt Toward Faith in Jesus." Jeanne Halteman provided crafts for the children and Laurie Mueller led the lessons using her technology skills. Twenty children attended VBS. Our next Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 28th through July 1st in 2021 and we're hoping it will be an in-person event.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION

When we're not having a pandemic, I attend staff meetings every other week, as well as the monthly committee night and occasional congregational meetings. I usually meet with Sunday school teachers quarterly during our program year and have had several meetings with them via Zoom since the pandemic. I follow up with any students who miss Sunday school. I attended several continuing education events in 2020 via Zoom.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve God at Augustus!

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education

Senior Youth Group

The Senior Youth Group (SYG) would like to thank the congregation for their support throughout 2020. Your donations and the funds raised throughout the year from our fund raisers are used for the many activities we plan, as well as our yearly mission trip. The youth group is made up of students in the 9th -12th grades. We normally meet on the first Wednesday of each month during 3 in 1 and the 3rd Sunday of each month during Sunday school, along with our various outside activities. The SYG is led by Chris Dogonniuck, Cathy Meeley, Joe Schaffer, and Gary Wessner. If you're interested in being a youth group leader, please contact Gary Wessner (gtwess@comcast.net). New people bring new ideas which are always welcome. In 2020, we were sad to have 8 seniors graduate last year, but happy to have 10 new youth join the group.

Due to the pandemic, we weren't able to meet as often as we would of during a normal year. We're hopeful that we'll be able to meet regularly in the near future. Due to the pandemic, our fund raising was limited to soup sales and the apple pie sale. In a typical year we would also have a Christmas Cookie sale and an Easter Egg and Mint Cookie sale. We also made soups and delivered them to the congregation during the pandemic. The only outside activities we were able to do in 2020 was our annual Trunk or Treat event and a miniature golf outing in October.

Our annual pilgrimage to Camden, New York with Trinity Lutheran and the United Church of Christ from Quakertown had to be cancelled last year. Hopefully we'll be able to return in 2021. While we take great pride in the work we do for the people of Camden, we realize there is work to be done at home. If you need help with any projects, please contact Joe Schaffer or Gary Wessner (youth@augustrappe.org).

Respectfully Submitted

The Senior Youth Group Leaders

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Altar Guild

Usual responsibilities include changing of the paraments, setting up for Holy Communion, placing flowers on the altar, laundering of linens, etc.

Mildred Stuffle embroidered Baptismal Cloths to be used during baptisms and then given to families.

Additional volunteers are needed for Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Scholl

Chair

8:00 am: Debra Augustine, Sally Sweeney

10:30 am: Jim Lien, Linda Romano, Becky Quirk, Mike Van Blaricum

Substitute: Jim Richvalsky

Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee is responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and enhancement of the cemetery grounds for the purpose of preserving the appearance and historical significance of the property. The Committee is also involved in the creation and enforcement of rules and regulations intended to protect the cemetery and its history.

During 2020, the Committee held several on-site work sessions. Debris, trash and left over items were collected and disposed of, various grave markers were up righted and stabilized, various monuments that were leaning were straightened, and the committee continued to add topsoil to regrade and seed various plots and depressed areas. The Cemetery was also aerated and seeded in 2020.

It is the Committee's plan to repair/clean various monuments/grave markers each year, as well as straighten and stabilize additional grave markers. The Cemetery Committee would also like to repave the roads in 2021.

In order to meet increased cemetery maintenance costs in the future, increases in cemetery fees are implemented on a regular basis. The Committee, with Vestry approval, implemented a schedule to increase cemetery burial and marker fees and grave space prices on an annual basis through 2035. Copies of the rules and regulations and the schedule for fee and grave space price increases are available in the church office.

The ongoing work performed by the Cemetery Committee will ensure that our cemetery will be preserved and beautified in order for it to remain a source of pride for the congregation. The amount of work required to maintain and improve the cemetery is significant, and volunteers to assist the Committee in its efforts are welcomed. A special thanks to all those who were on the committee and to those who volunteered their time throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the Cemetery Committee, please contact Gary Wessner (gtwess@comcast.net).

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Wessner

Christian Education

The Christian Education committee is supported by the following members:

- Chilly Lyaro (Vestry Representative)
- Sonya K. Sowards (Coordinator of Faith Development) Group and Vestry Member
- Lorna DePaul (Sunday school liaison)
- Chris Dogonniuck (Youth

The committee convenes monthly on committee night. The committee provides oversight into the various Christian Education programs at Augustus Lutheran Church. Our programs include: - the Sunday school program, First Communion classes, the Confirmation program, the Youth Ministry, and Vacation Bible School.

The Sunday School Program has seen online since the beginning of this year and the attendance has been steady. With Covid-19, it has not been safe for Sunday School kids to meet at church in person.

The Christian Education Committee's major activities included:

- Sunday school (meets weekly from the Sunday after Labor Day until the Sunday before Memorial Day)
- A Rally Day Picnic
- Reformation Sunday celebration
- The Christmas Pageant
- Baby Shower for Jesus
- Prayer Pal Program during Lent
- Bear Creek Sunday
- Parents celebration (on Mother's Day)
- Pentecost Happy Birthday to the Church party/end of year celebration
- Periodic parent meetings and Sunday school teacher meeting
- In 2022 we will add a "Buddy Day" and invite the children to bring a friend to Sunday school.
- The Sunday school program features the children singing each month during the 10:30am service. Laurie Mueller leads this program and a children's musical instruments session every week before Sunday school.
- 3-in-1 (This includes the First Communion and Confirmation programs. First Communion meets on the 1st Wednesday night of each month. Confirmation meets every Wednesday night during the program year. The Confirmation program lasts two years and brings our youth to a mature state of spiritual re-birth.)
- Advent chain making
- Living Nativity
- Stations of the Cross
- Senior High Youth Group (meets on the 1st Wednesday night and the 3rd Sunday morning of each month)
- Help with Rally Day
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner hosted by the Youth Group

- Box City
- Mission Trip
- Throughout the year the SHYG holds fundraisers, to fund the mission trip and youth activities including selling pies, cookies, soup, Easter candy, and a golf outing.
- Vacation Bible School (held during the 4th week of June)
- Vacation Bible School is offered to Augustus' children and as an outreach to those in the community. SHYG members also participate in VBS.

In closing, we have a dedicated staff of Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders. We eagerly welcome new children and youth and the support of the rest of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chilly Lyaro

Chair

Old Church

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there is not much to report. This past year our usual celebrations of Old Church Sunday and Christmas Eve in the Old Church were canceled. We also had no tours scheduled. The Old Church however did see extended use once in-person worship returned. 8 AM services were held there during the summer and into the fall. We are thankful that we had this second building to use during this time.

Jennifer Wentworth

Chair

Outreach and Spiritual Life

A year ago, we were noting that our Christmas eve marketing campaign attracted an extremely high attendance with almost 700 patrons attending the famed Christmas Eve services at Augustus. No-one could conceive that we were at the doorstep of a pandemic that would ultimately change our lifestyles, the way we think, and technology interaction, which may well exceed the duration of the pandemic. Although the Outreach and Spiritual Life Committee started the year 2020 with multiple social events, church gatherings, community connections, and marketing campaigns all in the planning stages to build brand awareness and name recognition with the community, we quickly learned that these plans would be deviated from. Our group starts planning events on an average of six months in advance. Consequently, we had to retract many of our activities on accord of the circumstances in the global environment in which we operate. It has definitely been a unique year.

Planned Activities

Prior to the pandemic, we were fortunate enough to try out a new activity at a new venue with our 'Movie Night with Dinner'. Augustus took over the theater at Brandywine Assisted Living to watch 'Heaven is for Real'. This faith building activity turned out to be an extremely positive event. We maxed out the theater capacity and the food was fantastic! Many participants indicated that they would like similar events like this one in the future.

February's activity was the Valentine's Show at Imperial Music Hall. The famed Jeff Krick portrayed Elvis. Jeff does an extremely good job playing this role. The committee is currently looking for other 'Dinner and Show' events in the local area in order to continue offering this type of social activity.

Advertisements

We can plan endlessly numerous events and activities for our church, but if we do not advertise the happenings, then our effort is futile. Marketing strategists will tell you that a successful advertising campaign has a component of frequency in order to create brand awareness. As a result, the committee seeks out many different channels to get the word out about our services. Many of our ads are free, have low re-occurring costs, or are a one-time sunk cost which are usually donated by generous patrons who believe in the cause. They can be anything from posts on community bulletin boards, to digital newspaper ads, to more traditional means like lawn banners and handouts. In any event, all of these ads strive to create brand-recognition for Augustus. The committee requires that the church footer is on all of these ads so others can easily recognize our church sponsored activities no matter which ad they are looking at. Unfortunately, advertisements usually need to be submitted six weeks prior to an event in order to get the word out. Some of the ads can be extremely difficult to retract once they are publicized. Additionally, money is lost on paid ads if events are cancelled. All that being said, with this year's digressing circumstances, many of the ads we publicized occurred early in the year and then ceased. We are looking at starting up this program again once our pandemic environment stabilizes a bit.

In addition to advertising our social events and internal organizational events, we also publicized our special church services. The promotion of the Easter Service was in full swing with its advertisements, and a promotional gift was in the works. Although the Easter Service was cancelled, we do have this gift ready to go thanks to Mildred Stuffle for the first available Easter Service in the future.

The Outreach committee continued the Augustus Lutheran Soup Kitchen Outreach in 2020 by serving over 1450 meals to needy individuals and families. The soup kitchen is located at St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown, where we serve a nutritious meal on the second

Wednesday of each month, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members of our congregation participated in this outreach by either preparing food in their home or traveling to the soup kitchen to serve the meals. Beginning in April we assembled bag lunches to hand out at the door, since the dining room was closed due to COVID virus. We have been able to accomplish this safely with social distancing. We thank everyone in our church family who has helped with this outreach through your donations or by preparing food. We invite everyone to participate, whether you are available just once per year or more often. Our day to serve at the Soup Kitchen is always the second Wednesday of every month. We car-pool from the Augustus parking lot, leaving at 9:30 a.m. and returning at 1:30 p.m.

After the past year, it is hard to imagine what the upcoming year will bring. Upon recently listening to a Christian Morning radio show, one caller had a wish of 'hope' for the Christian community in the upcoming year. She stated that all across the globe, ministries have simply ceased their operations due to social distancing and the strain on resources. Although there are constraints to all of the internal committees at our church, there is opportunity...opportunity to use the time we are currently in to plan on re-building the Christian community through our local connections at Augustus, our community connection through the Collegeville-Trappe ministerium, and our global connections with all Christians. My hope is that you get involved with building the Christian relationships to propel the church well into the future. If you have ideas or passion to help build these relationships within the church, please reach out to me about getting involved with our committee. We especially would like to hear from our under-served demographics, such as those who recently graduated from college!

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian O'Hara
Chairperson

Committee Members

Brian O'Hara
John Kochel
Maria Kochel
Dot Opperman
Rebecca Catagnus
Cathy Engle Menedez
Cheryl Camuso
Martha Kriebel

Parish Life

In a normal year the Parish Life Committee receives and processes Facility Use Request Forms for various groups wanting to use the church facilities and replenishes paper products and kitchen supplies on an ongoing basis.

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the church facilities have been closed for all activities except Sunday worship. Therefore, the Parish Life Committee has been inactive since March, 2020.

Committee Members: Janet Stokes (Chair), Karen McClain

Property

Because of the pandemic and social distancing requirements, the committee met on an 'as needed' basis this year.

In 2020, the significant completed projects included:

- New carpets were installed in the office area.
- Various walls in the Parish House, the Nave and Choir Room were repaired from years of water damage. They were then painted.
- The French drain by the boiler room was modified to prevent flooding of the boiler room.
- The light fixtures in Fellowship Hall were replaced to give better illumination to the hall.
- A new electrical line was run to the Augustus front lawn sign.
- The declining Ash tree along 7th Avenue was removed.

To maintain the campus, it takes many dedicated volunteers with a commitment to service. I would like to recognize and thank many of those volunteers including Michael Van Blaricum, The Halteman Brothers (Scott, Gary and Dave), Brian O'Hara, Frank Yocum, Jim Lien, Gary and Thomas Wessner, Chilly Lyaro, Jeff Stuffle, Karl Stefan, Joe & Joey Shaffer, Frank DePaul, Dave Iverson, Scott Detwiler, John Wentworth, Rich Holcomb, Ron Oelschlager, Dave and Matthew Schweitzer, Karen Lachenmayer, Pastor Weleck, Al Dubeck, various members of the Youth Group and their leaders for their unselfish services throughout the year.

I would also like to express my gratitude to those volunteers not mentioned above who quietly and generously gave of their time to plant flowers, weed the gardens around both Churches and complete other projects. You have made Augustus a place that we can be proud of.

Listed below are the major projects that are under consideration for 2021:

- Repairs to the soffits of the Brick Church and the Parsonage
- Replace the Steeple lights with LED's.
- Repair the rain gutters in the Brick Church roof
- New shutters for the Brick Church
- Repairs (as needed) to the walkway from the Brick Church to Main Street
- Paint the wood trim (doors, cornices, medallions, etc.) of the Parish House.

Pat O'Hara, Chair

Scholarship Loan

Since 1975, Augustus Lutheran Church has maintained an Educational Loan Fund granting scholarships to young people for the pursuit of education beyond high school. The loans are interest-free and are repaid upon completion of the student's educational program. The funds supporting this program originated with the income from the Earl B. Moyer Trust Fund and the Charles Simons Fund and are perpetuated as the loans are repaid. In 2020, One loan of \$1,000 each was granted.

Loans up to \$1,000 per year are granted, depending upon the number of requests received. The loans are granted in June and applications can be obtained in the administrator's office.

Scholarship Loan Committee

Robert Rodenberger

Chairperson

Social Ministry

Committee member Carol Oelschlager has been calling shut-ins and is in charge of the Prayer Chain.

Other typical Social Ministry activities were canceled due to the pandemic (eg. Clothing Drive, Tea on the Lawn).

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Scholl

Chairman

Alice Rodenberger

Carol Oelschlager

Mutual Ministry

The Mutual Ministry Committee provides oversight to the employment relationship of the Parish Administrator, Sexton, Director of Christian Education, Director of Music/Organist and Visitation Pastor within the church. The Committee serves to address and help resolve issues related to the Church Staff, to facilitate communications between the Staff and the Vestry, to evaluate Staff performance, and to offer consultation regarding staff work-related issues. The Committee also acts as a liaison between the Vestry and certain volunteers. The Committee provides advice and guidance to the Pastor and Vestry on various issues.

The Committee meets at least annually with each member of the Staff to review their job duties and responsibilities and to provide feedback and advice with respect to job performance. The Committee offers recommendations but refers all employment, wage, and other Staff decisions to the Vestry.

The Committee is also responsible for assuring that all Staff, Scout leaders and certain Church Volunteers obtain and maintain current State and Federal Clearances. During 2020, the Committee addressed various Staff needs, requests and other issues, following consultation with the Vestry where appropriate. The Committee also evaluated the performance of each member of the Staff and then met with and conducted reviews of each Staff member.

At Vestry's request, the Committee also reviewed the status of Clearances for Staff members and Volunteers and continued to process of obtaining a full set of Clearances from all members of the Staff, all Volunteers involved with our youth, and all active Scout leaders.

The Committee is appointed by the Vestry and is presently comprised of Karl Stefan, Debra Augustine, and John Kochel.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the dedication and efforts of the members of the staff: Pastor Weleck, Pastor Kochenderfer, Laurie Mueller, Karen McClain, Sonya Sowards, and David Ward, and to thank them for all they do on behalf of Augustus.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl L. Stefan

Chair

Worship and Music

Although 2020 was indeed a unique year at Augustus, the challenge was met, and adjustments were made to accommodate new guidelines for worship throughout the year. Worship and music committee met only in January and February, but we were off to a good start. Pastors Kochenderfer and Martha Kriebel offered to preach if a donation challenge was met, which, of course, was a well-supported effort by the congregation and both pastors did indeed honor us with preaching on their assigned Sundays. Funds raised through these challenges were donated to the choir section leaders fund. Committee discussed other possible fundraising ideas to support this fund also.

Dr. Lois Robinson was welcomed as the new vestry representative for this committee and offered to coordinate scheduling of greeters. Additional communion assistants were welcomed and additional robes were ordered for them. Robes for altar servers were laundered over the summer to be ready for the new fall season. Augustus offered to host rehearsals this year for the Ministerium Choir, as they prepare musical selections for the community Lenten Services. Augustus was scheduled to host the service on April 1st. Music director Laurie Mueller planned to do an organ concert in the spring, which, of course, could not be scheduled. The handbell choir was very appreciative of Bob Reichner's generous gift of a C-3 handbell—for now, Bob will be ringing that big beauty.

When Vestry decided to cancel in-person services for the foreseeable future, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a plan was put into place to offer worship online. A big thank you to Jim Lien, whose video/audio production skills were offered to make this happen. Many thanks also to section leaders, members of the choir, and handbell choir, some of whom offered to share their musical talents during some of these services. In-person worship with modifications was offered again in the fall season, but, due to a spike in the number of cases of the virus locally, this option was cancelled for a time at the end of the year. Unfortunately, no in-person Christmas Eve services were able to be offered this year.

Indeed, our Augustus family met the challenge to move forward and celebrate through worship any way we could in 2020. This is how we manage to keep our faith and bonds of friendship strong, and live every day with the hope and love that Jesus Christ has given to us.

Regards,

Judy Bubeck

Chair



Augustus Women of the ELCA for 2020

Purpose: 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.

Officers:

Coordinator - Liaison with Augustus Church	“vacant”
Coordinator - Liaison with Cluster/Synod	“vacant”
Secretary	Ann Walker
Treasurer	Dale O'Hara

Committee Chairpersons - Elected	
Faith and Life Programs	“vacant”
Christian Service/Hearts & Hands Workshop - coordinates the making of afghans/quilts for rescue and relief activities	Mildred Stuffle
Outreach/Fellowship/Membership	Deb Scholl

Committee Chairpersons - Appointed	
Kitchen	WELCA Members
Eyes for the Needy	Dot Moorehead
General Mills Box Tops	Ann Walker
Smartphone/Tablet Recycling	Dale O'Hara
Redner's Tape Rebates	Deb Scholl
Sick & Shut-Ins/Prayer Requests	Carol Oelschlager
Pentecost Geraniums	Karen Lachenmayer
WELCA Support	Karen McClain

The Covid-19 pandemic has made this year a tough year for everyone and everything, including the Women of the ELCA Organization. In January, the year began as normal with our regular activities. The Quilting Group, under the direction of Mildred Stuffle, met the first Wednesday of February & March and the third Tuesday of January & February. The Quilting Group's primary goal was to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, which distributes them to countries all over the world to help people less fortunate. Additionally, the quilters were also preparing quilts for a quilting workshop to be held in March at Augustus Lutheran Church for the Upper Montgomery Conference Spring Gathering. The Knitting/Crocheting Group, also under the direction of Mildred Stuffle, met on the second Monday of January, February, and March, as well as the 4th Monday of January & February. Assorted items were made including afghans for Laurel House (a shelter in our area for homeless and abused women) and smaller afghans for the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry. Despite moving full speed ahead with the church's missions, everything came to a halt the middle of March. Augustus, in following suit with the rest of the state, closed its doors to all outside activities. Nevertheless, the Hearts & Hands committees continued their work and the mission of the group in the privacy of their own homes. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this ministry in 2020.

Augustus Women/ELCA participated in Augustus' monthly committee nights held the 4th Tuesday of January & February. In May, WELCA was successful taking their meetings virtually continuing their monthly meetings and social connections via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of each month except for March, April, August, & December. This technology has turned into a fantastic blessing by allowing us to connect with members of our group that may be in other states in ways that we were not able to before. We even had long-time Augustus member, Dottie Reiger join us! It was wonderful being able to connect with everyone via Zoom!

Augustus Women of the ELCA collected Redner's tapes, eyeglasses, General Mills Box Tops for Education, and used cell phones/smartphones/ipads. The Women of the ELCA earned \$138.55 through Escrip, iGive, Amazon Smile, Redner's, & electronic recycling rebate programs. Through the sale of Pandora-like charms, Augustus WELCA raised \$28.00. The stated funds help to pay for the yearly operations of Augustus WELCA, which cover programs & materials. Augustus Women of the ELCA also contributes to SEPA Women/ELCA, on the synod level, for their expenditures. Thanks to everyone who supports these programs!

Christian Service Duties/Projects
1. Maintained, organized, & cleaned church kitchens.
2. Constructed quilts (2) for Lutheran World Relief.
3. Made flannel receiving blankets (16), knitted / crocheted afghans (24 full/14 baby), & knitted hats (42) for Laurel House shelter.
4. Knitted/crocheted small afghans (5) for the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry.
5. Knitted/crocheted prayer shawls (3) for Augustus' sick & shut-ins.
6. Collected General Mills Box Tops for Education for Martin Luther Silver Spring School.
7. Collected eyeglasses (13) for "New Eyes for the Needy".
8. Collected cell phones/smartphones/ipads (18) for recycling.
9. Crocheted afghans (1 full) for Turkey Dinner Matching Fund Campaign (Prayer/Pledge Drive): Mildred Stuffle.

Outreach to Church & Community
1. Managed the Spring Turkey Dinner Matching Fund Campaign (Prayer/Pledge Drive) in support of Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Augustus' Missionaries, in Tanzania. (Sept - Nov). Co-Chairpersons: Dale O'Hara/Brian O'Hara
2. Hosted Thankoffering/Quilt & Afghan Sunday to raise money for WELCA Churchwide: Rev. Martha Kriebel guest speaker. (November)
3. Sent money for Egg Appeal to Artman Home.
4. Participated in Upper Montgomery WELCA Conference monthly bible studies – March.
5. Participated in Augustus' monthly committee meetings.
6. Collected Christmas gifts for the children of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. Chairperson: Ann Walker
7. Prepared & delivered Amaryllis plants (27) to Augustus shut-ins & staff for Christmas. Co-Chairpersons: Dale O'Hara / Karen Lachenmayer
8. Hosted "Girl's Night Out" – February Chairperson: Deb Scholl

WELCA's Upper Montgomery Conference Monthly Bible Study was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sumneytown in March. Augustus Women of the ELCA partook in the new series entitled "We Are Called" by Kathryn Kleinhans. Although the series was truncated as a result of the pandemic, we were able to attend Session 1: "Hearing God's Call" presented by Kitty Pell. The program was taken from the Gather magazine. All subsequent events including Bible studies, and Upper Montgomery Spring & Fall Conference Gatherings were cancelled, and WELCA's 2020 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Convention was postponed to 2021.

Augustus Women of the ELCA hosted a “Girl's Night Out” in February which included dinner at the Collegeville Diner in Collegeville and then the musical “9 to 5” at Ursinus College. This event was lots of fun and well attended. Many thanks go to Deb Scholl for organizing this event. The fellowship achieved through these events help to strengthen lifelong friendships with one another.

Although the Annual Turkey Dinner and Craft/Vendor Show was well into its planning and advertising stage, the fundraiser was forced to cease operations as a result of the pandemic. However, our missionaries chose to stay in Tanzania rather than return home when they were asked to do so by churchwide. As a result, the need to financially support the mission was still present. In place of the annual Turkey Dinner, a Matching Fund Campaign (Prayer & Pledge Drive) was held to support Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson’s work in Tanzania. Many thanks to Mildred Stuffle for crocheting and donating a beautiful, warm and cozy afghan that was raffled off and won by Dot Opperman. The committee would also like to extend gratitude to Thrivent for their seed money, Print Copy Design Solutions for their financial and direct mailing donation, Pastors Martha and Howard Kriebel, Pastor Thomas Kochenderfer, and the congregation of Augustus for their matching funds. We would also like to thank the community and congregation for their donation of time, talent, and treasure. No contribution went unnoticed. When the campaign was completed, Augustus was able to send \$21,039.35, which includes Augustus’ match of \$10,500.00, to Tanzania in support of Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson. This is awesome!! We are so blessed!

Although Bishop Davenport was scheduled to speak at our Thankoffering Service in November, the event was postponed to 2021 because of the need to limit in-person gatherings due to Covid-19. Pastor Martha Kriebel stepped up and delivered a fantastic sermon entitled “When Did We See You”. She spoke on three stories that occurred over the year 2020 – the work of Augustus’ Missionaries in Tanzania, the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women into the Lutheran Ministry, and the protection of quilts & kits for Lutheran World Relief despite a devastating explosion in Beirut. Thank you Pr. Martha! We were able to send \$759.00 to Churchwide Women of the ELCA in support of Women Ministries. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Davenport in 2021 for her rescheduled engagement.

In place of the Christmas baskets for the sick & shut-ins and staff this year, Augustus WELCA prepared & delivered Amaryllis plants. We would like to thank Alisha Allebach, Nancy Allebach Berg, Pr. Martha Kriebel, Karen Lachenmayer (Co-Chairperson), Dale O'Hara (Co-Chairperson), Deb Scholl, Ann Walker, Karen McClain, and Pastor Weleck for helping with this event. A special “Thank You” goes to Thrivent Financial for helping to defray the cost of this project.

Many thanks go to everyone who supported the collection of Christmas gifts & gift cards for the children of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School (Gemma Services) in November. The event was chaired by Ann Walker and could not have happen without everyone’s help & support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale O'Hara

FINANCIAL REPORT 1/1/20-12/31/20

AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH - WOMEN OF THE ELCA

	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET	BALANCE
Opening Balance 1/1/20				\$5,081.81
Offerings/Donations	\$120.00		\$120.00	
Interest - PFS	\$10.01		\$10.01	
Ruth Cornish Trust Fund Interest - 2019	\$96.12		\$96.12	
Synodical WELCA Organization		\$200.00	(\$200.00)	
Rebate Programs	\$138.55		\$138.55	
Program Materials & Supplies		\$14.35	(\$14.35)	
Flowers & Plants		\$20.00	(\$20.00)	
Egg Appeal - Artman Home		\$300.00	(\$300.00)	
Mission Work in Tanzania	\$425.00		\$425.00	
Missionaries Dr. Stephen & Jodi Lynn Swanson	\$9,539.35	\$10,539.35	(\$1000.00)	
The Irente Children's Home in Tanzania		\$250.00	(\$250.00)	
SEKOMU Support - Tanzania		\$250.00	(\$250.00)	
Gifts/Speakers		\$200.00	(\$200.00)	
Augustus' Memorial Fund – All Saints' Sunday		\$50.00	(\$50.00)	
Thankoffering	\$534.00	\$759.00	(\$225.00)	
Christmas Plants for sick & shut-ins/staff	\$250.00	\$296.73	(\$46.73)	
Bert Long's Memorial Gifts		\$71.98	(\$71.98)	
Quilting/Knitting & Crocheting Fund	\$50.00		\$50.00	
WELCA Pandora-like Charm Sale	\$28.00		\$28.00	
Balance as of 12/31/20	\$11,191.03	\$12,951.41	(\$1,760.38)	\$3,321.43

Certificates of Deposit - Phoenixville Federal Savings

#1	Opening Balance as of 12/31/19	\$2,685.09
	Interest	\$27.84
	Balance as of 12/31/20	\$2,712.93

Submitted
by

Dale D. O'Hara, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Augustus Lutheran Church Balance Sheet 12/31/2020

	A	B	C
1		2020	2019
2	ASSETS		
3	Current Assets	\$232,848	\$185,528
4	Property & Equipment	\$918,322	\$993,613
5	Other Assets	\$2,560,686	\$2,397,132
6	TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,711,856	\$3,576,273
7			
8	LIABILITIES & CAPITAL		
9	Current Liabilities	\$5,647	\$5,736
10	Long-Term Liabilities	\$0	\$0
11	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$5,647	\$5,736
12	TOTAL CAPITAL	\$3,706,210	\$3,570,537
13	TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$3,711,856	\$3,576,273

**Augustus Lutheran Church
2020 Income Expense Report**

	A	B	C	D	E
		2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
1					
2					
3	INCOME				
4	Total current income	\$314,296	\$282,800	\$341,063	\$375,500
5	Total benevolence income	\$4,110	\$1,200	\$2,152	\$1,500
6	Total trust fund receipts	\$62,742	\$29,790	\$199,421	\$28,590
7	Total trust fund income	\$48,818	\$87,550	\$66,459	\$82,250
8	Total rentals income	\$725	\$2,225	\$1,925	\$2,225
9	Total miscellaneous income	\$194,847	\$0	\$328,819	\$0
10	TOTAL INCOME	\$625,538	\$403,565	\$939,838	\$490,065
11					
12	EXPENSES				
13	Total pastoral expenses	\$112,704	\$115,461	\$110,162	\$113,714
14	Total worship & music expenses	\$43,629	\$53,909	\$53,130	\$53,000
15	Total evangelism expenses	\$442	\$3,000	\$2,789	\$1,000
16	Total stewardship expenses	\$1,803	\$2,300	\$2,400	\$2,300
17	Total Christian Ed expenses	\$27,985	\$29,272	\$29,400	\$28,108
18	Total administration expenses	\$69,566	\$54,847	\$64,855	\$53,231
19	Total cemetery expenses	\$22,658	\$19,200	\$16,490	\$21,250
20	Total social ministry expenses	\$8,004	\$3,500	\$5,624	\$3,500
21	Total old church expenses	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,666	\$6,000
22	Total property expenses	\$175,330	\$94,736	\$181,926	\$87,016
23	Total benevolence expenses	\$25,695	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$17,000
24	Total memorial expenses	\$2,049	\$0	\$456	\$0
25	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$489,865	\$402,225	\$498,897	\$386,119
26					
27	NET OF INCOME & EXPENSES	\$135,673	\$1,340	\$440,941	\$103,946