

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



AUGUST 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. A creed is a Statement of Faith, summarizing what the Bible teaches us about God the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Nicene Creed is one (1) of the three (3) ecumenical Christian creeds.

At Philadelphia Seminary I had the pleasure of studying Early Church History with the venerable Professor Dr. Clarence Lee. Dr. Lee noted that in the early days of the Christian Church every possible false teaching (heresy) about the Trinity had been proposed. Since then, the same old heresies have been repackaged, but there is nothing new. The problem with heresy is that it leads innocent people astray from the truth about God's loving nature and God's compassion for humanity.

In 325, bishops from across the Christian Church gathered in Nicaea in modern-day Turkey for the Church's first ecumenical council to combat the spread of lies about God. Within the Church, there were many different concepts about the nature of the Trinity. Below are some of the false teachings that were widespread at the time:

- For example, some people taught (incorrectly) that the God of the Old Testament was a different than the God of the New Testament, the heresy of Marcionism.
- Others taught (incorrectly) that Jesus only appeared to be human but was really only divine, the heresy of Docetism.
- Still others taught (incorrectly) that Jesus didn't have a human mind or soul but only a human body, the heresy of Apollinarianism.
- And others taught (incorrectly) that there were three (3) separate modes of God, the heresy of Modalism.
- Some taught (incorrectly) that Jesus is not fully divine but is only a created being, the heresy of Arianism.

After a series of civil wars in the Roman Empire, Constantine had become its sole ruler. Constantine was the first Christian Emperor of Rome and wanted a united Christian Church to have a solid relationship with the Roman state. This required that Christians have a unified understanding of the faith. The result was the Nicene Creed. This is the creed that has traditionally been proclaimed (usually sung) at all celebrations of Holy Communion throughout the Christian Church ever since.

So Happy 1700th Birthday Nicene Creed!

May the blessing of God Almighty,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
+ be upon you now and forever.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck



Summer Schedule through September 7, 2025, 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

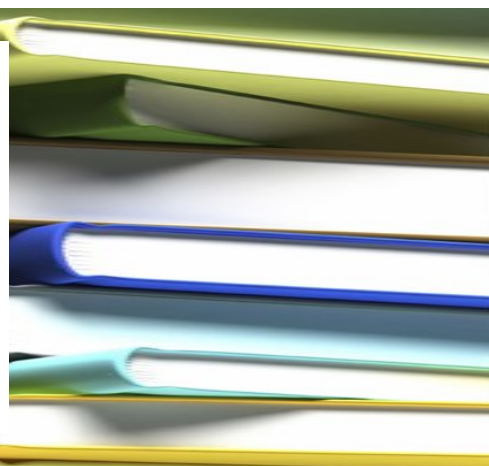
Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, August 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room.

We will discuss

A Well-Trained Wife by Tia Levings

Want more info? Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustustrappe.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Brayden Kitchens Linda Linsenberg	4 Bob Hallman Pamela Leighton Amanda Scholl James Stewart	5 Julie Niskala Kathryn Robinson	6 Luke Chellew Ashley Interrante Cathie Van Alstine	7 Emerson Smith Debbie Steiner	1 Ronald Young 8	2 Sean Wagenseller 9 Kimberlee Davis Melinda Einsla
10 Dennis Oscapinski Katie Ries	11 Gary Long	12 Stan Lilienthal Timothy Stalker	13 Sue Bardman 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 Jesse Allen	21 Vincent Brown Connor Elison Debbie Hoffman Bruce Jennings Nathan Kerr	22 Ralph Kibblehouse Madison Kuklentz David Schweitzer	23 Greg Allen Andrew Meeley Marjorie Price
24 Alexander Jagers/Brown	25 Blair Booth-Glacken Eric Linsenberg Kimberly Lumley Nixon Madden Krista Oscapinski Rachel Oscapinski	26 Susan Millheim			28 Stephanie Frazier	30 Andrea Jagers/Brown Cayla Schulz Corrine Schulz R. Scott Young
31 Kathryn Kerr Cynthia Rauch					29 Ellie Hernandez Karen McCrea	

August Birthdays



Remember Augustus 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.

If you would like to learn more about the history of Augustus Lutheran Church, there are several books that you can borrow from the Church library. See Mildred Stuffle, our librarian, for more information.

“A generation which ignores history has no past and no future.”

Robert Heinlein, American author (1907-1988)

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!

Christian Education

We had a great week at Vacation Bible School! Many thanks to all our leaders and teen helpers: Jeanne Halteman, crafts leader; Jen Wentworth, science teacher; Karen McClain, who provided wonderful snacks; Rosario Lehman our registrar and nurse; Shane Elison, who helped on VBS set-up day; Gavin Elison, who also helped set up and then served as our puppet master; and Aliyah Sowards (my granddaughter from Florida), who played “Counselor Sam” in the skits. We’re also grateful for our Senior High Youth Group who assembled many of the sets during their Wednesday meeting just before VBS. Please mark your calendar for our next VBS: June 22-25, 2026.

Sunday school will resume on September 14th. If your family is a member of Augustus, your kids are registered and expected at Sunday school and you don’t have to do a thing. However, if you’re not sure or want to make sure Karen has all the correct information in our database, please scan the QR code or go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_6GoYjdfBtCofHbnxnJ_wPkDaKEwqcnjn0AAqcm3kws/edit to fill out the registration form. We hope to see all Augustus children aged 3 through 6th grade in Sunday school this year!



We can’t do Sunday school without teachers, and we’d love to add some new teachers when our Sunday school resumes in the fall. Augustus requires two teachers in each classroom so the more teachers we have, the more we can increase the number of classrooms in order to cater to the needs of each age group. You can teach every single Sunday or just sometimes. You can prepare lesson plans and activities like crafts or science projects or just be an extra pair of hands in the room. We welcome anyone who has a lot or a little time to give to our children—and the free snacks are a bonus!



Our confirmation program will begin with registration on the evening of September 7th. All youth who have participated in a first communion class are ready to begin the two-year confirmation process.

Please contact me at education@augustrappe.org or (904) 476-4409 if you have any questions. Thank you for your prayers and support for the children and youth of Augustus!

Blessings,

Sonya Sowards
Director of Christian Education



Vacation
Bible School
June 2025



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.

Food Pantry School Supplies Needed!

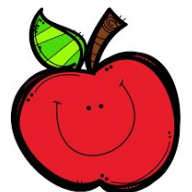
Once again we are asking for your support of our school supplies drive for the children of the clients we serve at our food pantry. We would sincerely appreciate any help you are able to provide. As you can imagine the number of clients we serve at the food pantry is increasing all the time so your help is very much needed and appreciated! Please consider donating:

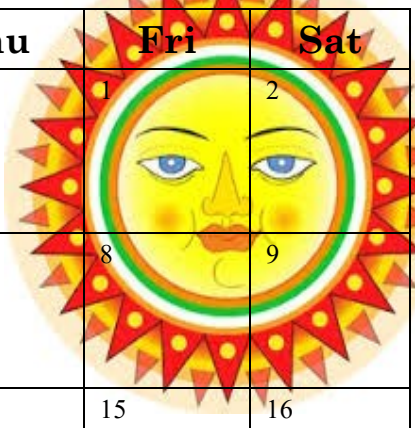
Large backpacks for high school girls
Medium backpacks for girls in 5th through 8th grades
Plastic pencil boxes for elementary school children
Colored markers in packs
Colored pencils in packs of 24
Pencil cases for binders for 5th through 12th grades

Dry erase markers
Sharpie markers of any color
Packs of loose leaf filler paper
Highlighters in colors other than yellow
Dividers for binders
1" binders

For an ongoing list of needs, go to dailybreadcommunityfoodpantry.org.

Feel free to drop your donations at the food pantry or in the basket in the Muhlenberg Center.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August						
3 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion	4	5 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	6 2:00 pm Staff Meeting	7	8	9
10 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion	11	12	13 9:30 am Soup Kitchen	14	15	16
17 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion	18 7:00 pm Book Club	19	20 2:00 pm Staff Meeting	21	22	23
24 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Sunday School Teacher's Meeting	25	26 7:00 pm Committee Night	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion Holy Baptism	<p>Please note that the church office will be on “Summer Hours” in July and August Monday—Friday 9:00 am until noon.</p>					

September is Coming!!

September 7: Services in the Old Church at 8:00 am and in the Brick Church at 9:30 am

September 14: BOTH Services in the Old Church—8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday School starts at 9:00 am with our Rally Day Picnic after the 10:30 service

September 24: Back to normal schedule: 8:00 am in the Chapel and 10:30 am in the Brick Church nave

2025 Vestry

Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	President/Property	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary	alisonhfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life	John.kochel@thrivent.com
Karl Stefan	Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	selison76@gmail.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church Committee	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery Committee	Matthew vera@verizon.net