

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



JANUARY 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers for me throughout the year and especially at Christmas. I am grateful for your love and support. Thank you, too, for your generous Christmas gift to me. It is much appreciated.

On Sunday, January 4, 2026, we will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord two (2) days early. On Epiphany we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men (Magi) to worship Jesus, bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts have a deep meaning. The gold points to Jesus' kingship. The frankincense points to Jesus' divinity as the Second Person of the Trinity. The myrrh points to Jesus' sacrificial death for us and the forgiveness of our sins. Epiphany is also the 12th and last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, we will install the 2026 Vestry. Please keep them in your prayers and help them when they ask.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck

PS: See you on Sunday!



2026 Congregational Meeting Part 1



Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 8, 2026 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR... Youth Group Soup Sales!

The Senior Youth Group and friends will be preparing and selling quarts of soup after both services on the following dates:

January 18, February 15, and March 15, 2026

This is a great way to support our Youth Group in their projects—including their annual mission trip—and enjoy some delicious homemade soup! If you've had them before, you know they're amazing. If not, this is your year to give them a try!



From the Bench:

Words of Appreciation and Invitation to Join the Augustus Chorister Program

January is a great time to pause and thank members of our choir, chorister program, and handbell choir for the beautiful music during the Advent and Christmas season. I also want to thank all of the volunteers who have supported the music program by serving as greeters and ushers, hosting receptions, and helping with publicity. And, of course, I would like to express my appreciation to the Augustus parish as a whole for your support of our music ministry.

January is also a great time for children and youth to think about joining the treble choir! In addition to making great music, forming new bonds with peers, and enjoying pizza, the Augustus Chorister Program provides our young people with an award-winning music education. Choristers learn healthy vocal technique, music theory, and sight singing. The program also builds on the Christian education they receive in Sunday School and Youth Group by singing and understanding the texts of our great hymns and choral anthems throughout the liturgical year.

Families should consider giving the Augustus Choristers Program a "text drive" for 4 weeks to see if it's a good match! Please reach out to me after a service or send an email at music@augustustrappe.org!

Thank you!

Darryl

Darryl Roland, DMA
Director of Music/Organist
Augustus Lutheran Church
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PASTA BUFFET DINNER AT AUGUSTUS ON



You, your family, and friends are invited to a delicious meal of Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, a variety of Soups, Salad, Fruit and home-made desserts in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 7, 2026. Dinner will be served between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, and you may arrive at your convenience. There is no cost for the meal; however, you may donate towards the Augustus Soup Kitchen Outreach.

There will also be information for anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for the Soup Kitchen. We serve lunch to the needy on the second Wednesday of every month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown. Plan now to drop-in for dinner at Augustus on February 8th to support this important outreach and to enjoy the fellowship.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in."
(Matthew 25:35)

Thank You!!

Augustus Family,

I'd like to thank you all so much for your care and sympathy at the passing of my father-in-law Charles in November. The words of comfort as well as the beautiful flowers sent by the Vestry were so thoughtful. I can't thank you enough for all you do for me.

Karen McClain
Parish Administrator



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brianohara24@gmail.com

Women's Ministries

A member of Women of the ELCA

**FOURTH TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
AT 7:00 PM**

***** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND *****
FOR MORE INFO: oharadvd@aol.com

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE would like to extend much gratitude and appreciation to all those who came out to the Decorating Party to help prepare the facilities for the Christmas season, including the Youth Group, Property Committee, Old Church Committee, WELCA and those who facilitated with decorating the campus and assisted with preparing and delivering the WELCA Christmas gift bags to the sick and shut-ins and staff.

The committee would also like to express their gratefulness to the congregants who supported their efforts by purchasing poinsettias. No effort went unnoticed; the campus looks fantastic and our homebound congregants appreciate being remembered. It is amazing what the congregation can do when they pull the combined efforts of all their resources to achieve a common goal. Small things like improving the aesthetics of the campus for special occasions and the distribution of gifts entices the community to connect and find comfort with an 'Old Fashioned Christmas' in an ever-changing world. Food, fun, and fellowship were had by all!



Christian Education

Our Sunday school presented the nativity program on December 21st at the 10:30 a.m. service. We missed a rehearsal because of snow, but our kids still did a great job!

After the pageant, Sunday school took a hiatus until January 4th, then kicked off 2026 with a celebration of the visit from the magi, who came bearing gifts for Baby Jesus. We honor them by bringing gifts for needy babies in our area at the annual baby shower for Jesus. We'll continue the year with stories about Jesus' life and teaching

Our confirmation kids presented the living nativity at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service and then took a break for Christmas. We'll resume on January 7th. Pastor is teaching them about the creeds of the Church.

Thank you to our Senior High Youth Group for the delicious Christmas cookies! Now we look forward to soup sales on the third Sundays of January, February and March. All proceeds go to benefit the SHYG programs, including their annual mission trip. In between serving the church and the world, SHYG always enjoys lots of fun activities such as mini golf, movies, paintball and even, on occasion, axe throwing! If you have a teen that would like to join, contact Gary Wessner.

It's the time for making New Year's resolutions! Here's an opportunity to resolve to become more involved with Augustus by attending church regularly to worship God, and to use the talents God has given you by volunteering where needed. We are always looking for Sunday school teachers, and I know all our committees would welcome more help! Please contact me at education@augustustrappe.org or call/text (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



PARENTS: Sign Up for Vacation Bible School NOW!

It certainly doesn't feel like summer out there, but we know you're already planning your kids' summer schedule. Don't miss Vacation Bible School at Augustus **June 22-25, 2026!** Sessions are daily from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and our theme is "Road Trip: On the Go with God!" Scan this code to register:



Graceful Generosity

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Where is Your Heart?

Jesus said, “*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (Matthew 6:21). Your treasure is the thing that is most important to you. Maybe it’s your job, investments, a new house, or a new car, your spouse or children. Regardless of your particular passion, your treasure is what you think about, what you go after, what you want to attain. It’s where your heart is.

As Christian stewards, God wants us to treasure him and hold our time, talents, and treasure with open hands. If you are unwilling to part with earthly goods your treasure isn’t God. When God is your treasure, he will receive from you a generous amount of all that you possess.

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify the parable in which birds have a part?

If you said the Parable of the Sower, you were right. In the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5-15), Jesus describes four different conditions of the soil, which represent conditions of the heart.



“*A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up*” (Verse 5).

The birds represent Satan who comes and takes away the Word from our hearts. Continuing the parable, Jesus said,



“*Some [seed] fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown*” (Verses 6-8).

Two other types of hardened hearts are represented in this parable. There is the shallow heart that doesn’t allow God’s Word to take root and the other heart that is choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures. However, there is also good soil which represents a good heart, which hears the Word, retains it, remains faithful, and bears fruit.

Jesus Accepts and Perfects Our Gifts

As sinful people, we are incapable of giving God what he deserves from us. However, we can be confident that our gifts are acceptable to God through Jesus. To illustrate this point, there is a story about a wood-carver who early in his life was a renowned carver. He passed on his craft to his son. Later in his life, the old man’s eyes began to dim, and his hands began to tremble. He could no longer carve the perfect figures of his youth. He would mar the figure, and imperfections blighted his work. His fading eyes could no longer see the flaws.

During the night, as the father was sleeping, the son would sneak down and correct his father's flaws in the newly carved wood. When the figures passed through the hands of the son, they were made perfect again.

In the same way, we may bring our imperfect gifts with the confidence that, as they pass through the hands of Jesus, they will all be placed before the Father in absolute perfection.

Developing an Unselfish Character

Scripture says, “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world*” (Romans 12:2). The pattern of this world is to acquire and to hold on to material acquisitions. Romans 12:2 continues, “*but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*” This transformation is brought about in you, the believer, through your relationship with the Holy Spirit, who, through Word and Sacrament, renews your mind so that, instead of following the pattern of the world, you seek to follow your Savior. Like Jesus who emptied himself of equality with God (Phil. 2:6), let us empty ourselves of the desire to acquire and hoard. This way of life leads only to misery, not self fulfillment. Like Jesus, let us give freely, even sacrificially.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 exhorts, “*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*”

Life that is truly life belongs to those who are unselfish givers. Giving is an indicator of your unselfishness and an outward litmus test of the inner condition of your heart.



The astonishing thing is that, in God's economy, the more you give, the more you have left to give. Because God replenishes you, your giving can be a daily and a lifetime activity. “*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us you generosity will result in thanksgiving to God*” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

A little girl exclaimed, “Poor Jesus!” when her mother told her that she had to give only one dime of her ten-dime allowance. May you acquire the same unselfish attitude as the little girl when you come to the Lord with your offering.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

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brianohara24@gmail.com

Women's Ministries

A member of Women of the ELCA

**FOURTH TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

AT 7:00 PM

***** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ***
FOR MORE INFO: oharadv@aol.com**

Many Thanks to Our Augustus Family and Our Generous Community Partners

The multiple Christmas programs, advertisements, promotional, and campus-wide decorations have been provided to enhance your worship experience and were supplied by many internal organizations and committees, individual church members, and multiple community businesses who have united to make this event a success. The Outreach Committee would like to extend with much gratitude and appreciation to all the patrons and volunteers that made the event possible and ask that you continue to support your local community businesses, especially:

Print Copy Design: for assisting in creating and distributing advertisements

Risher Van Horn: for exterior campus decorations

Best Version Media

Thrivent Financial

Peter Wentz Farmstead: candles aligning the pathways

Four Rivers Community Broadcasting Corp. (The Word FM and Great Songs of Faith Radio Stations)

Holcombe Funeral Home

The multiple and countless committees and individual members of Augustus



THANK YOU!

Many thanks to our generous church family for all of their donations for Gemma's children this Christmas. My prius was full!

Ann Walker
WELCA



Knitting n' Crocheting

A Social Group of
Augustus Women of the ELCA
Hearts & Hands Committee

SECOND & FOURTH MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM

*** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ***

FOR MORE INFO: jandmstuff@verizon.net

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brian.chara24@gmail.com

God's Abundance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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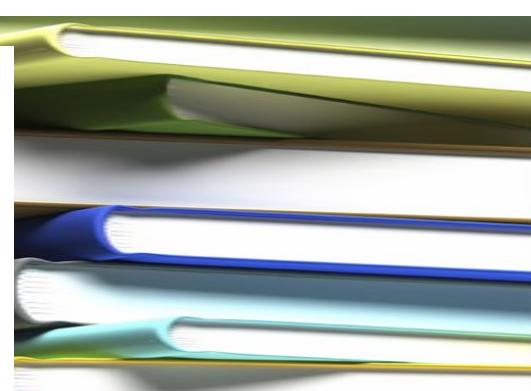
Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, January 19 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room.

Contact Karen for January's pick!

Want more info?

Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustusrappe.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School— Baby Shower for Jesus 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	5	6 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	7 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3
11 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion Vestry Installation	12 7:00 pm Knitting	13 7:00 pm Comm. Club	14 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm 3-in-1	15 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	9	10 Private Event
18 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion/ Youth Group Soup Sale!	19 7:00 pm Book Club	20 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm CC Board Meeting	21 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	22 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	16	17
25 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	26 7:00 pm Knitting	27 7:00 pm Committee Night	28 6:00 pm 3-in-1	29 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	23	24
					30	31

