

# Augustinian

## Augustus Lutheran Church

### An Historic Church for Today's People



FEBRUARY 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the new delivery format of *The Augustinian*, our monthly newsletter. Starting this month, we are emailing the newsletter to each household, avoiding the delay of sending it by bulk mail and also allowing you to see the newsletter in color. We will also continue to upload the newsletter to our web site, [www.augustrappe.org](http://www.augustrappe.org). *The Augustinian* looks even better in color!

Our Congregation Meeting to approve the final 2023 financial and committee reports will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please make sure to be there for this brief but necessary meeting. I can tell you Regular Member Giving in 2023 was the highest it has been in the last 10 years. Average weekly attendance continues to increase as we continue to recover from the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Our Ash Wednesday Service, led by our First Holy Communion and Confirmation students, begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Brick Church. Please make sure to be present to begin a Holy Lent and support our young people as they continue to deepen their faith and their relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May God the Holy Trinity  
bless you and keep you,  
fill you with courage,  
and + give you peace.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Weleck



## PASTA BUFFET

Saturday, February 3

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 3, 2024. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to support this important outreach and to enjoy the fellowship.

## 2024 Congregational Meeting *Part 1*

February 11, 2024

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 11, 2024 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.



## From the Bench

# February

This month, I'd like to tell you about this year's Collegeville Trappe Ministerium Choir (CTM Choir). This is a choir for anyone who likes to sing even if you cannot commit to every Thursday and every Sunday. The CTM Choir will sing for one Ministerium Lent service on Wednesday night, March 20th at 7:30 pm, here at Augustus. I will be directing the choir, and Laurent Exley will accompany on piano. Please tell your friends from other churches (or who have no church) – anyone who enjoys singing – and give them the information below:

### Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium Choir 2024 "Come"

Introduction

Come...and See the Triumph - Palm Sunday

Come...and Serve - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Come...and Remember - The Last Supper

Come...to the Way of Grief and Pain - Jesus journeys to the cross

Come...and be Forgiven - Jesus dies on the cross

Conclusion

If you would like to participate, please register at [stjames-episcopal.org/ctmchoir](http://stjames-episcopal.org/ctmchoir). The password is CTM.

#### Schedule (all rehearsals and the performance at Augustus):

Sunday, February 4th – Rehearsal 1pm-3pm

Sunday, February 18th – Rehearsal 1pm-3pm

Sunday, March 3rd – Rehearsal 1pm-3pm

Sunday, March 17th – Final Rehearsal 1pm-4pm

Wednesday, March 20th, 7:30pm (Service @ Augustus Lutheran, Choir arrive at 6:45 pm)

I hope to see some new faces – come sing with us! If you're not a singer, please join us on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm for a very moving Lent service. It will be just under an hour in length, and the offering supports the work of the Collegeville Trappe Ministerium, which helps our neighbors in need. Bring a friend!



### **Augustus Book Club**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry room.

We'll discuss **Demon Copperhead**  
by Barbara Kingsolver

New Members always welcome!  
Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or  
[office@augustustrappe.org](mailto:office@augustustrappe.org)

### **Pancake Supper!**

The Senior Youth Group invites you to attend their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, **February 13 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. Join us for this free dinner of pancakes and all those yummy breakfast fixings! A free will offering will be accepted to support youth programs.



## 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.



## Gracious Givers

*Lay Reader Message*

### Give Credit Where Credit Is Due

A steward is one who manages the resources and affairs for someone else. On behalf of the owner, a steward is given the latitude to make far-reaching decisions. As God's stewards, we recognize that we are managers, not owners, of all that God has entrusted to us.

Perhaps the best example of stewardship the Bible gives us is in the life of Joseph. We know about his youth ... that he was the favored son of his father, but hated and resented by his brothers whose bitterness led them to sell him into slavery. Throughout the account of Joseph's life in the book of Genesis, the words, "*God was with Joseph*" are repeated.

Joseph recognized God's control over his life. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, he rejected her, saying, "*How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?*" (Genesis 39:9) And he fled from evil, trusting in God to protect him. Although the result of this encounter was that Joseph landed in prison, he still relied on his God. When the cupbearer finally remembered Joseph's ability to interpret dreams, and Pharaoh called for Joseph, it was his chance to build himself up and get back into good standing. Instead, Joseph answered, "*I cannot [interpret your dreams], but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires*" (Genesis 41:16).

As second only to Pharaoh and with the wisdom God had given, Joseph saved not only Egypt from starvation but surrounding nations as well. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, seeking to buy grain so they wouldn't starve, Joseph had the right and the power to punish them. Instead he saw God's hand in all the events of his life and forgave his brothers, saying, "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good . . .*" (Genesis 50:20).

As stewards, we work and serve under God's direction. We use our gifts wherever he places us and we work for him, not for Earthly bosses. We acknowledge that he is the one who gives us our gifts and enables and equips us to use them. And we thank him, giving him the credit, for it is his due.

# Christian Education

We are in the midst of the Epiphany season and our Sunday school students are enjoying lessons on the life of Jesus as he calls his disciples and begins his work in the world. We do this through art, drama, science, cooking, music, and games.

February 11<sup>th</sup> is Transfiguration Sunday—the last Sunday before Lent. Our Sunday school students get ready for a time of less feasting and more fasting by eating lots of ice cream at our annual ice cream party.

You and your family can get ready for Lent by joining us at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 13<sup>th</sup> hosted by our wonderful senior high youth group. Pancakes will be served from 4-6 p.m. Join us for an evening of fellowship and—no cooking!

Our confirmation students will serve as worship assistants in the Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on February 14<sup>th</sup>. During Lent, we will be getting ready for the presentation of the Stations of the Cross with the choir on Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Young people are an integral part of our Augustus community--thank you for all you do to support the children and youth of Augustus!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



## 2024 Mid-Week Lenten Services 7:30 p.m.

**2/21/2024 at St. James' Episcopal Church**

Theme: "Come and See the Triumph"

The reading will be around the events of Palm Sunday.

**2/28/2024 at Evansburg United Methodist Church**

Theme: "Come and Serve"

The readings will be around the Foot Washing (John's Gospel)

**3/6/2024 at Trinity UCC**

Theme: "Come and Remember"

The readings will be around the Last Supper (Do this in remembrance of me.)

**3/13/2024 at Thomas Paine UU Fellowship**

Theme: "Come to the Way of Grief and Pain" The readings are Jesus' journey to the crucifixion.

**3/20/2024 at Augustus Lutheran Church**

Theme: Combined CTM Choir Cantata

"An Invitation to Come"



# Graceful Generosity

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

## Stewardship is a Matter of the Heart

God gives us the privilege and opportunity to be his stewards. Even though God gives us all things, he still allows us the freedom to choose whom or what we will serve. Whether we are stewards for the Lord, for ourselves, or for some other master depends on what controls our hearts. What or whom we love, serve, and follow is dictated by what our hearts value as most important. The choices we make reflect what is in our hearts. Satan is doing everything possible to take the love, compassion, and peace from our hearts that only Jesus offers.

In Matthew 6:21 Jesus said, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* We can paraphrase this by saying, "Show me your treasure and I will show you your heart." What we treasure the most receives our time, energy, money, and heart. Each of us determines where his treasures lie. What do you love and treasure the most? Unfortunately, some of us may find treasures in our homes, careers, cars, hobbies, or investments. God continually invites us to make him our treasure. If our hearts are right, our treasures will be right.

Jesus spoke about the relationship between the condition of a tree and the fruit that it bears.

***"Make a tree good and the fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit" (Matthew 12:33).***

In the same way that the condition of the tree determines its fruit, so will the thoughts of our hearts dictate our words and actions (Matthew 12:34-35). When our hearts are filled with God's presence, we reflect God's love, goodness, and kindness. When our hearts are right with God, our eyes are opened to the opportunities to serve and help others. When

God controls our hearts, we willingly use our time, talents, and money in ways that glorify him. Good hearts produce good fruit. Through time spent in God's Word and through participation in the Sacraments, God changes our hearts, making us into faithful disciples and stewards for Christ. As Solomon wrote, *"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life"* (Proverbs 4:23).



## Say It!

Many of us admire the strong, silent type of person for which Vermont has become famous. But I think it was rather too long a silence which the Vermont farmer broke, when he said to his wife as he sat whittling on the porch, "Do you know, Sarah, you have meant so much to me that sometimes it's almost more than I can stand not to tell you about it." Most of us go too long without telling those nearest to us how much they mean to us. Silence is golden, but it can become leaden. So is it in our relations with God. We become more responsive to God's goodness by expressing our response.

## Loving All People

Jesus said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Jesus showed his tremendous love for us by going to the cross to suffer and die for us so that we can be reconciled with our heavenly Father. Christ's love is in us, and he asks us to reflect his love to others. As Christ loved all people, we are called to love all people whether or not they like us.

Former President Abraham Lincoln exemplified the ability to reach out in love to an enemy. His staff often criticized him for his positive treatment of his sworn enemies. One of the president's enemies once stated in print that he thought Lincoln was an obvious incompetent in the White House. The nature of the critic's attack on Lincoln even degenerated to the level that Lincoln's physical features were compared to those of a gorilla. Later, when war broke out between the States, Lincoln asked that critic to serve as his secretary of war.

Lincoln's advisers were appalled with the president's actions. When they asked him why he would choose his critic for such an important post, he responded that he thought Stanton was the best man for the job. When they advised him that he should seek to destroy his enemies rather than treat them like friends, he reminded them he was destroying his enemies when he made them his friends. When Lincoln died some years later, Stanton was standing by the president's bedside. As he watched Lincoln breathe his last breath, he uttered the words, "There dies the greatest ruler of mankind the world has ever seen."



We show our spiritual maturity by how we respond to those who have treated us wrongfully. It is easy to show kindness to friends or people who treat us with kindness. God's love is most evident when we show our love to those who dislike us or mistreat us. It is by God's grace that we are enabled to show Christian kindness to all people.

## Poor Jesus

A woman tried to teach her daughter the meaning of proportionate giving. She took ten pennies from her daughter's bank and laid them in a row. The mother said, "These are your ten pennies." She then put one penny aside and said, "This is for Jesus."

The young girl looked at the nine pennies, then at the one. She looked up at her mother, and glancing at the one lonely penny, said, "Poor Jesus."

**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: [jandmstuffle@verizon.net](mailto:jandmstuffle@verizon.net)

Brian O'Hara © 2019  
[brianohara24@gmail.com](mailto:brianohara24@gmail.com)



## WINTER SOUP SALES!!

The Sr. High Youth Group soup sales have begun! Proceeds will be used to fund Sr. Youth programs including their summer mission trip. Soup Sales will be held after both services on February 18 and March 17. If you haven't tried any of their soups, this is the time to do it! They always get rave reviews!

ALL QUILTS GO TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

**AUGUSTUS**

**QUILTERS**

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

**FIRST WEDNESDAY & THIRD TUESDAY**  
**OF EVERY MONTH AT 9:30 AM**

\*\*\* ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND \*\*\*

FOR MORE INFO: [jandmstufle@verizon.net](mailto:jandmstufle@verizon.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Cassidy Hones Joseph Swan	<b>3</b> Cole Kutteroff
<b>February Birthdays</b>						
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Jennifer Maurer Brett Schulz	<b>6</b> Avery Benner Nancy Bunting Dylan Firth Curtis Watro Jerry Wentworth	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Cathy Menendez Wyatt Mourar	<b>9</b> Mona Chylack Rebecca Wilson	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> David Linsenbigler	<b>12</b> Jeffrey Stuffle	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Jeff Bauder Tresa Franz Griffin Henze McKenzie Peters	<b>15</b> Liz Rutter	<b>16</b> Jake Smith	<b>17</b> Jeffrey Wentworth
<b>18</b> Taylor Brennan Douglas Stearly	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Ellen Davis	<b>21</b> Graham Anderson Andrew Keim Brent Wagenseller Joseph Yosko	<b>22</b> Olivia Hart Elizabeth Staples	<b>23</b> Mary Reese Robert Yost	<b>24</b> Carol Oelschlager Mirabel Park
<b>25</b> Susan Landis	<b>26</b> Charlotte Wentworth	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Ally Napier	<b>29</b> Ro Lehman		



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dear Augustus Lutheran Church,

We have so much to be grateful for in this season! Not least is the opportunity we have had to be together as a family, with all 3 children here. We have had the time to play games, bake cookies, have good conversations over many cups of coffee. It has been wonderful to be together in our home in Tanzania.

We hope that you also have been blessed in this festive season where we celebrate the coming of the Light. Your support over this year in heartfelt conversations with us, prayers, giving and encouragement in our journey are invaluable to us. We cannot do this work, nor walk this path, alone.



It has been a year with plenty of challenges that at times have felt without end. The main hospital where Steve has worked for the past 10 years has faced a growing exodus of talented doctors and nurses, chronic shortages of medications and supplies, financial challenges and hospital governance concerns.

Yet here at the end of the year, we see God's provision of strength and vision, and we can look back and give thanks for this past year. Even in the difficult and stressful situations, we have seen unexpected gifts amidst shortages.

We are grateful for...

- 10 years of medical service in Tanzania
- Our 3rd annual *Tiny Feet, Big Steps Neonatology Conference*: 94 hospitals, 226 attendees, 15 countries, and 40 instructors present.
- Healing of Caedmon's knee after a very dangerous fall
- Generous welcome for Jodi to work with two local schools in the development of a Garden and Nutrition Club
- 200+ malnourished children served through the feeding program at Selian Lutheran Hospital
- 300 babies treated in a NICU that is still running well
- 2 Tanzanian doctors (Deborah and Hilda) accepted into pediatric residency programs in Kenya and South African, respectively
- Children treated every day in clinics, urgent care and on the pediatric wards through doctors trained by Steve
- Ongoing support of all bed fees for hospitalized children at our sister hospital, Selian Lutheran Hospital
- Training of doctors and medical students in Global Pediatrics from USA and other countries.

2024 promises change. New work is to begin, which fills us with hope and is needful for children in Tanzania.

Stay tuned.

We look forward to your continued to journeying with us.



With wars and displaced people searching for a place to lay their heads... we look for light. Somewhere. Everywhere.

Praying that the light shines in the darkness. Praying for peace on earth. Working for peace on earth.

May you have peace in your home and in your heart this season of light.

With our love,  
Steve & Jodi



We had a fun Christmas party with the 6 Pediatric Doctors in Training! Such amazing, committed and capable young Tanzanians for whom we are so grateful.



If you are interested in sending a gift for the work we are doing, we would be grateful. Tax-deductible donations support purchases of equipment, supplies and medicine in NICU, as well as feeding for malnourished children, bed fees for pediatric and NICU families without funds, and educational costs of training doctors and nurses in pediatrics.

Care of hospitalized newborns and children, and training of doctors and nurses, is entirely supported through your donations.

[www.tanzanianchildren.com](http://www.tanzanianchildren.com)

or

<https://give.ghm.org/nicu>

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](http://elca.org/missionarygiving) Find our names under the drop down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship.

For more information and videos: [www.tanzanianchildren.com](http://www.tanzanianchildren.com)

Funds are received through Global Health Ministries (<https://give.ghm.org/nicu>) 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.

**Our mailing address is:**  
Steve and Jodi Swanson  
c/o Michael Swanson  
16608 Early Dawn Trail  
Lakeville, MN 55044



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

# THE SCHOOLHOUSES OF AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The First Schoolhouse built in 1743

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg became the Pastor of the Trappe Church on December 25, 1743. He observed that the children lacked a fundamental education. He asked the congregation to erect a schoolhouse. By January 5, 1743, it was ready for use.

According to surviving documentation, the first schoolhouse was a log structure measuring approximately 18' wide x 22' long x 7 feet high, reminiscent of those found at Valley Forge. They consisted of one room with a fireplace about 4 feet wide located along the gable end wall. The fireplace floor was stone, while the chimney was constructed out of logs. They had one door with wooden hinges, latches, and handles because metal hardware was costly. The windows were approximately 8" to 12" high and extended most of the length on two sides of the building. They were constructed of oiled paper rather than glass because of the high cost of glass. Below the windows on the inside of the schoolhouse were desks with slanted tabletops running the length of the building. The students sat on long wooden benches.

Muhlenberg's initial concept was that he would be the school master at the three churches he ministered at because there were no other qualified candidates in the area to take on this task. He would teach one week in Trappe, one week in New Hanover and one week in Philadelphia. This concept was highly commendable, but it had many challenges for a minister highly involved with multiple churches. Muhlenberg was trying to organize other Lutheran congregations, resolve conflicts, and start the Ministerium. In short, his available time was very limited, and he was soon looking for a schoolmaster who could take charge. In 1745, Muhlenberg hired John Jacob Loeser as the schoolmaster for the Trappe Church.

He also hoped that education would come at no cost to the families. Generally, schools in the mid-1700's would only be in session for about 5 months each year, occurring late fall and the winter months the children were needed to help with the family chores, which usually revolved around farming.

The children had to walk to school. Muhlenberg mentioned in his papers that some children lived 4 miles away and some even farther. The farther they lived from the school the less likely they would be able to attend classes. The weather played a crucial role in the attendance; In the 1700's, all streams in the area lacked bridges. As a result, watercourses would be treacherous to cross when heavy rains would cause them to overflow their banks. Attendance was spotty under the best of circumstances.

Muhlenberg did enjoy teaching the children. Reference books that he used included "Das A, B, C Buch", Bibles printed in German and Luther's Small Catechism. Lessons were typically in German, but he would teach English upon request.

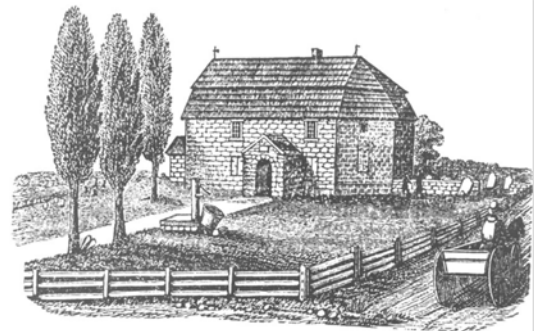
The first schoolhouse was ultimately replaced in 1750 with a larger schoolhouse, which will be discussed in more depth in future issues of the Augustinian. No information was found regarding the fate of the first schoolhouse after 1750.

Submitted: Pat O'Hara

**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)*



THE OLD TRAPPE CHURCH AS IT APPEARED FROM 1743 TO 1814.

REPRODUCTION OF A RARE OLD PRINT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February</h1>				1 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	2	3 5:00—7:00 pm Pasta Dinner 
4 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion 1:00 pm CTM Choir Rehearsal	5	6 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	7 9:30 am Quilting Group 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Group	8 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	9	10
11 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion 11:30 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation Part 1  	12 7:00 pm Knit and Crochet Group	13 4:00—6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Community Club  	14 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm 3-in-1 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 8:15 pm Vocal Choir  	15 6:00 pm Bell Choir	16	17
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! 1:00 pm CTM Choir Rehearsal  	19 7:00 pm Book Club	20 9:30 am Quilting Group	21 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1 7:30 pm Lenten Service @ St. James Episcopal Church	22 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	23	24
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 Knit and Crochet Group	27 7:00 pm Committee Night	28 6:00 pm 3-in-1 7:30 pm Lenten Service @ Evansburg UMC	29 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	