

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



FEBRUARY 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of the distinctive characteristics of our congregation is a wonderful sense of camaraderie to both longtime friends and visitors. I am always heartened when I see or hear established members taking the time to greet newer members or visitors. It is a sign of Christian discipleship to be welcoming. It is a demonstration of a living Christian faith. Well done! Keep up the good work!

Lent is the time the church gives to us to make a special effort to strengthen our faith. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. At our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM, members of the First Communion and Confirmation classes will take leadership roles in the liturgy. Please come out and support our young folks as they take an ever more active role in the life of the church.

May almighty God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,

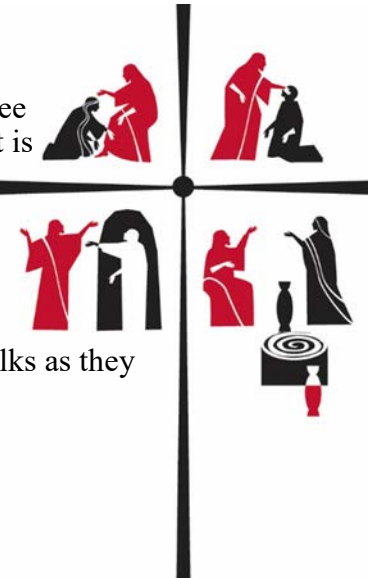
✝ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.

Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you on Sunday!



2023 Congregational Meeting

Part 1

February 12, 2023

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 12, 2023 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Augustus Book Club

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry room.

We'll discuss The Hunting Party
by Lucy Foley

New Members always welcome! Resolve to read more in 2023! Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org



A Gentle Reminder

The generations of faithful Lutherans that have gone before us have left us a great legacy at Augustus Lutheran Church. Please do your part to keep our buildings neat, clean, and presentable to the many friends and visitors we welcome throughout each week of the year.

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.

From the Bench

February

I'd like to do two things with this month's letter. First, I'd like to introduce you to our new bass section leader, Jesse Shutt. Jesse sang here at Augustus many years ago. A resident of Pottstown, he has sung with many churches, and currently also sings with the Coventry Singers. Years ago, Jesse's father sang in a choir with our own Bob Reichner, and Jesse sang in that same group as a boy soprano. Jesse joined us on January 1st, and (unfortunately) quickly tested positive for COVID. We hope he'll be back feeling better in full voice soon, but if you haven't seen him yet, that's probably why! I'm so grateful to have another male voice in the choir, and Bob Reichner is happy to have company in the men's section.

Second, 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 29th at 7:30 pm, here at Augustus. I will be directing the choir, and we will be accompanied by an excellent string quintet, flute, and other instruments. Please tell your friends from other churches (or who have no church) – anyone who enjoys singing – and give them the following information:

Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium Choir
Lenten Cantata 2023
“It Is Finished” by Mary McDonald

Each year, choir directors Laurie Mueller (Augustus Lutheran) and Lauren Exley (St. James' Episcopal) gather area singers to present a Wednesday night Lenten Cantata. This year, we are using “It Is Finished,” a cantata by Mary McDonald. You can get a copy from your choir director.

If you would like to participate, please register at www.tinyurl.com/ctmchoir

Schedule (all rehearsals and the performance at Augustus):

Sunday, January 29th – Rehearsal 2pm-4pm
Sunday, February 19th – Rehearsal 2pm-4pm
Sunday, March 5th – Rehearsal 2pm-4pm
Sunday, March 26th – Final Rehearsal 2pm-4pm
Wednesday, March 29th, 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 29th 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!

~Laurie Mueller

PASTA BUFFET

Fundraiser for the Soup Kitchen Outreach

FEBRUARY 11



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 11, 2023. 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 11th and support this important outreach.

Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

Love Makes Us Do It

A young girl was dying. Her only hope lay in a complete blood transfusion, but she had a very rare blood type. Only her brother, even younger than she, had the same type blood. His parents and doctors explained the situation to him, giving him time to ask questions. He agreed and, without delay, he was laid on a bed, the needle was pushed into his tiny vein, and slowly his blood seeped from his small body into the bag hanging from his bed. He lay quietly as the nurse stood next to him, ready to attend to any need he might have. "How do you feel?" she asked. "Ok," he answered, "but, Nurse, when do I die?"

What love this little boy had for his sister. What must he have thought when his own parents seemingly agreed, even asked him to sacrifice his life to save his sister's?

The boys' love for his sister can help us see how much Jesus loves us. Jesus suffered abuse, torture, persecution, and death for all of us. "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13). He demonstrated his tremendous love not because of our worthiness, but because he is a God of tremendous love. Jesus' love for his heavenly Father and for us changed the world. Through his death and resurrection from that death, we through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. God's love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love him. "*We love because he first loved us*" (1 John 4:19).

The love of Jesus empowers us to be his stewards. Because of Jesus' love, we change from people giving to a need to people responding out of love. Certainly, we give to needs such as our church budget, Christian causes, and people, but our primary reason for giving is out of love and commitment to Jesus. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. However, our primary reason for giving is a desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for our Lord and the love that he shows us every day. Because our love for Jesus is our motivation for giving, our giving becomes joyful. Love changes our giving from an obligation to a privilege.

We live in difficult and changing times. How wonderful it is that, as Christians, we know that there is the certainty that Jesus always reaches out to us and loves us. May our lives and our giving genuinely reflect his love for us.

Christian Education

In January and February, the Sunday school is focusing on stories of Jesus' healing miracles. Those miracles often caused folks to have an "epiphany" and realize that he was Emmanuel—God with us. February 12th is "Bring a Buddy" Sunday so we hope to see lots of new friends on that day. The most exciting day is February 19th on which the church celebrates the Transfiguration. It's the last Sunday before Lent begins so we'll have an ice cream party and also sing in church about our Big, Bold, Powerful God! If you're the parent of a child aged 3 through sixth grade, be sure to bring your child to Sunday school and church on February 19th. And EVERYONE should plan to be in church on the 19th to hear our kids sing.

Our confirmation students are exploring the Lord's prayer and getting ready to begin rehearsals for Stations of the Cross, which will be presented on Good Friday, April 7th. You won't want to miss that presentation, but before that you'll definitely want to attend the Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd at 7 p.m. Our youth will be taking leadership roles in that service.

I'm so thankful to be part of a church where our children and youth are a part of everything we do. They are not just the church of the future. They are the church of today!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Soup Sale!! It's February and that means it's time for the annual soup sale fund raisers for the Youth Group. The soup sales will take place on February 19th and March 19th. Price will be \$4.00 a pint. If you would like to order soup and are not able to make it to church please call Jerry Wentworth (484 948 5129) and he will make sure you get it.



Chris Dogonniuck, bulldog7224@comcast.net
Joe Schaffer, joe.schaffer.44@gmail.com

Cathy Meeley, cmeeley@verizon.net
Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net

Graceful Generosity

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

Materialism

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world ... the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does ... comes not from the Father but from the world" (1 John 2:15-16).

Webster's Dictionary defines materialism as follows: "the tendency to be more concerned with material things than with spiritual goals or values." Based on this definition, there is no doubt that we live in a very materialistic society. Materialism involves greed, covetousness, and the love of money. It results in our envying others who have what we don't have. It causes us to dwell on money and possessions and is characterized by an extreme lack of contentment. Materialism leads us to spend money we don't have to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't even like.

Some of the symptoms of materialism are as follows:

- ✠ *Love of money*
- ✠ *Lack of generosity*
- ✠ *Lack of contentment*

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.



Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

What parable could the following picture refer to?

If you said the The Parable of the Hidden Treasure, you were right! This two sentence parable, which is found in Matthew 13:44-45, reads as follows: *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."* The man understood that what he had found in the field was of such great value that he was willing to give up all he had to gain it.

The parable does not imply that we can buy the kingdom of God with money, but teaches that, when Christ enters our lives, we willingly surrender our past lifestyles and loves and devote ourselves completely to Jesus.

On the Lighter Side

A minister was walking along the beach one day and stumbled upon a lamp. Picking it up and wiping it off caused the lamp to shake and smoke, and a genie came out. The genie thanked the minister for this new-found freedom after years of captivity and offered him one wish.

The minister immediately said, "I've always wanted to visit the Holy Land, but I am afraid of flying. I just can't bring myself to fly. And I get seasick thinking about boats. So could you build

a highway across the ocean so that I could drive to the Holy Land?”

The genie looked at him in surprise and shock and replied, “You must be kidding. Do you realize the engineering challenges that would have to be overcome to achieve that feat? Even I



have limitations. Can't you think of anything else to wish for?”

The minister thought for a few minutes and then said, “Okay, I know what I want. I wish for all the members of the congregation I serve to become tithers.” To that the genie replied, “Do you want that to be a two-lane or four-lane highway?”

Disciples of the Cross

In Ephesians 2:1, 4-5, the Apostle Paul writes, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ . . .” Before Christ, we were dead in sin. Through no effort of our own, we have been made alive “with Christ”!

Now what? Now what, indeed! Yes, Christ has saved us for eternity, but that eternity begins at Baptism. Some of us will spend only a short portion of eternity on earth, others much longer,

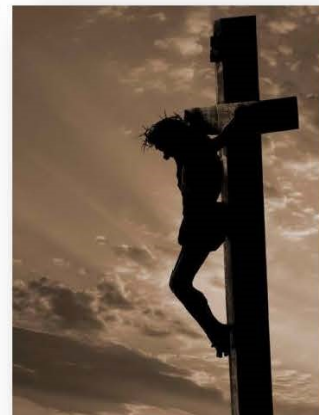
but all of us are called to make these days count. In the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” He asks us, empowered by Word and Sacrament, to carry on his work.

There are many facets to the work of the church. Not all of us are preachers and teachers of the Word, but we read in 1 Peter 4:10 that each of us has a gift and each of us is to use this gift to serve others. Peter speaks of offering hospitality and serving as gifts which God has given to edify the church. The Apostle Paul writes about spiritual gifts to the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Ephesians, each time stressing the point that we are to use the gifts we've been given for the good of the Body of Christ and according to the grace we've been given.

Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”

(Matthew 16:24-25). This is the challenge Jesus issues to each of us

individually and to the church collectively. Alive in Christ, we pick up the cross and, joyfully, just as Jesus, “Who for the joy set before him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2), carry it wherever Jesus leads us. There is no life apart from Christ. As disciples of the cross who have found this to be true, let us carry this message to the world.



ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Have you ever wondered about the drapes on the altar? What do the colors mean? What are the pieces for? Who puts them there, anyway? What about the candles? There are many important pieces that make up our weekly worship at Augustus! The people who make sure everything is where it needs to be, that communion is available, and that the candles are ready to be lit are a group of volunteers called The Altar Guild.

These folks are well trained and serve usually one month each year—in pairs. It takes a few minutes each week to set things up, and you don't even have to be present for the church service to participate during these crazy times.

If you're interested in learning more about this very important opportunity to help with our weekly worship, please contact Deb Scholl at schollde@aol.com. She'd be happy to give you more information and show you what's involved.

Altar Servers at 10:30 am

Date	Acolyte	Lessons	Prayers	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild
Feb 5	Erick Lyaro	Sonya Sowards	Matt Vera	Gary Wessner	Jim Lien and
Feb 12	Devyn Parker	Connor Elison	Sonya Sowards	John Kochel	Mike Van Blaricum
Feb 19	Charlie Richvalsky	Cheryl Camuso	Matt Vera	Sherry Jessee	
Feb 26	Arianna Judisch	Pr. Kriebel	Mike Taylor	Ethan DePaul	

Intercessors

It's OK to walk up to the lectern during the Creed.
Please be sure to be in position at the lectern so you can begin reading right away.

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

February Birthdays



THANK YOU!

Augustus Family,
Your kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, and Pastor Weleck's "Trüstende Worte" - Comforting Words - at Dieter's passing are gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.
Renata, Olaf, Niels, and the entire Markert Family

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your thoughtfulness with cards and well wishes over the holiday. Hope you all had a blessed Christmas. Wishing you all a Happy and healthy new year.

Phyllis Oehlert

My Augustus Family,
Thank you for the Christmas cards and thanks to WELCA for the Christmas Basket. Many thanks and blessings to you all.

Muriel Ludwig

Dear Church Family,
I am feeling much better, thank the Lord. Thank you for your prayers, well wishes, visits, flowers, phone calls, and the wonderful goodie bag from WELCA. We enjoyed it all. Thank you for being such a caring family.

Dot Opperman

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: jandmstuffle@verizon.net

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Knitting &
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

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