

# Augustinian

## Augustus Lutheran Church

### An Historic Church for Today's People

JUNE 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We continue to live in strange and anxious times. As I write this letter in the middle of May, we are unlikely to be able to gather at Augustus for worship in June. We will continue to record services and post them on our parish web site along with a complete bulletin so you may join in the service.

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of our members and friends. Such generosity has allowed us to provide an addition lunch for 150 of our neighbors in need through the Soup Kitchen in Norristown and to record weekly services to strengthen your faith through God's Word.

After a discussion at the online May Vestry Meeting, First Holy Communion has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2020 at the 10:30 AM service. Confirmation has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2020 at the 10:30 AM service. We rejoice that eight (8) of our young people will receive First Holy Communion and twelve (12) of our young people will affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation.

I do not know what the future holds for us regarding the Covid-19 virus, but I am sure that God continues to be with us during this difficult period. St Paul assures us

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God for his faithfulness.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Weleck



## *Congratulations!*

Heartfelt congratulations are offered to  
**The Reverend Howard L. Kriebel**  
who will celebrate the  
**60th Anniversary of his Ordination**  
on June 19, 2020

## From the Bench

# June 2020

Some of you know that I volunteer in the mailroom at the Norristown Hospitality Center on Monday mornings. Back in March, the volunteer director asked me how long I thought we'd need to operate on a limited basis. I responded, "July." He was incredulous, and asked why I picked July. I said I thought this was going to last a long time, longer than any of us wanted. Now it's nearly June, and it doesn't look like the end is in sight yet, at least for Montgomery County. Even more disturbing to me (and many of us Lutherans), is the research that indicates singing is a "super spreading" activity. Even when we are able to reopen, singing together appears to be very ill-advised. This makes me very sad. Listening to music, and even singing along (alone) at home, just isn't the same.



So if this is really it for awhile, I'm going to dream of what could be. Even 10 years ago, no one would have imagined that cell phone technology would be as advanced as it is now. So I don't see why my dream is unrealistic! I dream of a video game type technology where we can see each other, sing together without latency, hear each other loud and clear. A "virtual reality" Augustus, where you can choose a seat, talk with a fellow parishioner before service begins, focus your view anywhere you like, sit, stand, sing, pray - be present and interact with real others in real time. Even when this forced isolation time is over, wouldn't this be wonderful for our shut ins, parents home with sick children, or people who have moved away and would like to visit us again?



In the meantime, I'm grateful for Jeannie, Ed, and Tyler Funk, who have recorded all our online services, to Pastor for providing inspirational weekly sermons, for my son Jonathan who edits them all together, to Alan and Jamie for song leadership, for Jim Lien who will install a mounted camera in our sanctuary, and for all of you who watch and participate. Thank you. As the Bible says (and Pastor points out in his letter), nothing can separate us from the love of God. And if God is the one in whom we "live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28) and Christ "is all and is in all" (Colossians 3:11) then maybe we only *seem* separated.

With you in Christ,  
~Laurie Mueller

P.S. A quick commercial break - Pastor Martha Kriebel has begun a blog in which she discusses matters of faith from the perspective of a faithful sheep dog. Head there for some inspiration: [tinyurl.com/pastormartha](https://tinyurl.com/pastormartha)

## Our Church Family Is Here for You!

We have volunteers at the ready! Several of our church family members have contacted the church to offer their assistance to parishioners who might not be able to get out, or may be isolated from friends, family or other helpers during the quarantine.

**Please call the church office if you need help.** Karen can put you in touch with someone who can assist you—and is happy to do it. 610-489-9625

Also, **our church services are online** at least through Mid-June. Go to [www.augustustrappe.org](http://www.augustustrappe.org) for the service and an accompanying bulletin.

You can also **check out our Facebook page** for glimpses of what is going on at church while you are safe at home.



## Coordinator of Faith Development

On May 31<sup>st</sup> we celebrate Pentecost, the day the Church was born. Jesus has lived, died, risen again and ascended and now it's our turn to do God's work in the world. God sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in that work—to be the "Body of Christ."

We are unable to be "all together in one place," as Jesus' followers were on the Day of Pentecost, but we are still together in the mission of being Christ to our brothers and sisters. Religious organizations are on the list of essential businesses from our governor for a reason. The work we do as a congregation is essential to our community and Augustus has been doing that work. The people of Augustus have been continuing to feed hungry neighbors in need at St. John's in Norristown and through a generous donation to St. James' Outreach House, which has tripled its number of clients due to this pandemic. The Senior High Youth Group warmed many tummies and lifted a lot of spirits by delivering soup to some parishioners in quarantine. Worshiping God and teaching about God has continued with the help of technology and many talented volunteers. Parishioners have reached out to check on one another and provide comfort and strength. That is God's work.

We will continue with Sunday school via downloadable lessons and Zoom through June 7<sup>th</sup>. Vacation Bible School is scheduled to begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and it is doubtful that our county will be in the "green phase" of re-opening at that time so we are preparing a virtual Vacation Bible School. We'll share stories and music via Zoom or YouTube and make take-home activities and/or snacks reinforcing each day's lesson available for pick-up or downloading. If your child(ren) would like to sign up for VBS 2020, just return the registration form below or let me know.

May God be with you until we meet again!

Grace & peace

Sonya Sowards

Coordinator of Faith Development



Augustus Lutheran Church

## Vacation Bible School

Monday-Thursday, June 22-25, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### Registration Form

(Please complete a form for each child attending)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Best email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Grade this fall \_\_\_\_\_ Best Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

We are: ☐ members of Augustus ☐ interested in joining Augustus ☐ just visiting

Does your child attend Sunday school or CCD? \_\_\_\_\_ If so where? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return completed form to Sonya Sowards, Coordinator of Faith Development, by mail to 717 W. Main Street, Trappe, 19426 or by email to [education@augustustrappe.org](mailto:education@augustustrappe.org)*

## Color Me Red, Then Green

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down on each disciple as a flame of fire. That's why the color for the day is red. But it doesn't stay red! On the Sundays after Pentecost the color changes to green. Green is the color of growth, and it reminds us of how the church grows and works because of the things Jesus did and taught us. It takes a long time to consider all those things, and that's why Pentecost is not just one day. It is a whole season—stretching through the summer and into the fall.

There may be red cloths on the altar and the pulpit. These cloths are called paraments. The pastor may wear a band of red cloth on top of a robe. That band of cloth is called a stole. Pastors wear stoles to remind themselves that they are servants of the people who come to church. On the Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday, the color of the paraments and stoles changes to white. On the Sundays after that, all through the summer and into the fall, the paraments and stoles will be green.

On your calendar at home, put a red circle around Pentecost Sunday. Plant fire-engine red geraniums outside or in pots in a sunny window to remind you of the Holy Spirit's visit as fire. Remember that the Holy Spirit is active at home as well as at church. Plant them for someone else to show with your hands that the Holy Spirit visits them, too!



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***“Prayer does not change God, But it changes him who prays.”***

Soren Kierkegaard



### Christian Parenting **God Knows Best**

Have you ever had a bad experience that resulted in something good? Chances are that you've had several such experiences. We are taught to trust and depend on God.

When our children go through difficult times, we can reassure them that God will see them through. Share stories about Bible characters who had to deal with difficulties. For instance, life must have seemed unfair to Joseph. Yet, in the end, all his "misfortunes" led to his becoming the Governor of Egypt, being reunited with his family and saving them from starvation. Many heroes and heroines of the faith say that their "troubles" brought

them closer to God. Tell your children about positive things that have resulted from your troubles.

We can't take away our children's bad experiences, but we can nurture their trust in a wise, dependable God who helps them through the bad times. And some day, they'll be able to look back and see how their faith grew as they learned to trust and depend upon God.

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# What's on God's Refrigerator Door?

If you are a parent or grandparent or even just an admirer of a young child, your refrigerator door may be the showcase of one or more paintings or drawings. To a visitor, that work of art may be just a mass of scribbles, but to the one who loves the child it is a masterpiece. We love the gift because of the person who made it and gave it to us. It is precious to us because it was a gift from the heart. The motive of the child was pure and loving.

Perhaps our gifts to God are similar. We're such amateurs, such babies. God could accomplish his work so much more efficiently by himself. Our works, even if monumental by human standards, are just scribbles if God would judge them in relation to his ability. Because he loves us, though – and loves us far more than a parent or grandparent loves a child – He looks at our works with eyes of love. He sees our hearts and knows we are motivated by love and faith, and he is pleased. He is so pleased that, if he had a refrigerator, he'd use it to display our works done for his glory.

God has given us gifts to use for this purpose – to glorify him by serving others. In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."* God has seen to it that each of us has something to offer. He gives us the privilege of serving and then provides all that we need to do so.

Just as the budding art student improves with the help of a teacher and with appropriate tools to create his work, so does God teach us through his Word how to fulfill our purpose and how to improve our service. So also he gives gifts of time and money and talents and then his Word and Sacrament to strengthen us for service.

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday                   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|----------------------------|
|  | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>Addie Matoney<br>Kenneth Missimer           | <b>3</b><br>Courtney Moomaw<br>James Sellman<br>Brandie Snyder | <b>4</b><br>Susan Hess   | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b><br>Robert Bunting |
| <b>7</b><br>Krista Mourar   | <b>8</b><br>Jeanne Halteman<br>Christine Maurer                 | <b>9</b><br>Julia DeNucci                               | <b>10</b><br>Caitlyn Hart<br>Emily Hart<br>Kathryn Hausman     | <b>11</b><br>Gavin Elison<br>Kathryn Franc<br>Kelley Olsen<br>Jessica Schiller | <b>12</b><br>Stefan Franz                                | <b>13</b><br>Ainsley Leigl |
| <b>14</b><br>Lois Robinson<br>Olivia Smith  | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b><br>Nathan Gabel<br>James Lien<br>Gemma Patten | <b>17</b><br>Josey Augustine                                   | <b>18</b><br>Alexander<br>Schmidt  | <b>19</b><br>Brian Schad                                 | <b>20</b><br>Lauren Davis  |
| <b>21</b><br>Marty Burke  | <b>22</b><br>Emily Barndt<br>Aaron Crothers<br>Griffin Crothers | <b>23</b><br>Nicole Dubeck                              | <b>24</b><br>Kelly Balzereit<br>Howard Frazier<br>Jane Whitman | <b>25</b><br>Gayle Hones<br>Christy Smith                                      | <b>26</b><br>Kevin Krasley<br>Ryan Krasley<br>Cora Wells | <b>27</b><br>Mike Hones    |
| <b>28</b><br>Dean Allebach<br>Miles Klenk<br>Harrison Lumley<br>Scott MacMullen     | <b>29</b><br>Casey Demark<br>Lila Olsen<br>Kyle Schwirian       | <b>30</b><br>Mikaela Schad                              |  |  |  |                            |

## June Birthdays



# SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## SYG

The Senior Group Leaders would like to congratulate this year's graduating class and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.



JONATHAN BRULL

TYLER FUNK

EVAN GRIGGS

ALEC JENSON

ANDREW MEELEY

RACHEL SCHAFFER

ALEX SCHMIDT

ANNA SWEITZER

The Senior Youth Group hopes everyone is doing well during these trying times. If you need someone to run errands for you, please don't hesitate to ask any of the SYG Leaders.

The Senior Youth Group is sad to announce that we will not be going on a mission trip this year due to the virus. We would however like to do mission work in our community. If you are in need of work or you know someone that is, please let us know. The three churches that make up the One Dream Mission Team would like to help where we can in the fall.

The SYG is always looking for new members and leaders. If you have any interest in either, please reach out to any of the current leaders. The Senior Youth Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Along with our monthly meetings, we also have a monthly activity for the youth.

We will be reaching out to last year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders shortly with a calendar of events for the 20/21 year as we look to start our new year in September. We're hopeful that they'll be joining us for a fun filled year.

Lastly, The SYG would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the years. If you have any questions, need errands run or have projects you need help with, please contact any of the leaders or contact the office with a message. This year's leaders are:

Chris Dogonniuck, [bulldog7224@comcast.net](mailto:bulldog7224@comcast.net)

Cathy Meeley, [tcmeeley@verizon.net](mailto:tcmeeley@verizon.net)

Joe Schaffer, [joe.schaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joe.schaffer@gmail.com)

Gary Wessner, [gtwess@comcast.net](mailto:gtwess@comcast.net)

[youth@augustustrappe.org](mailto:youth@augustustrappe.org)



# Love. Grow. Serve.



# Sharing God's Bounty

## Summer Stewardship

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing..." Hebrews 10:25*

**T**he old song goes "Summer time and livin' is easy." Warm weather, vacations, no school, golf, tennis, fishing, hiking, swimming, relaxing, less hectic schedules ... all seem to define summer time.

Thankfully our Lord never takes a vacation from blessing us with his abundant love, gracious gifts, and providential care. The Psalmist writes about our heavenly Father, *"He who watches over Israel will neither slumber or sleep. The Lord watches over you ... the Lord is your shade at your right hand."* (Psalm 121:4-5). The Lord's care is ongoing. God never tires of caring for us.

Summer presents God's people with numerous opportunities to be good stewards of his manifold gifts. We care for the wonderful world God has given us when we are outdoors. We treasure the important relationships we enjoy as we spend time with loved ones. Also, we use wisely the material blessings he gives us.

There is great temptation during the summer months to neglect the most precious of all our Lord's gifts, His holy Word and Sacraments offered in worship. As many other responsibilities are taken more lightly in the relaxed atmosphere of summer living, so, too, are we tempted to take lightly the spiritual aspect of our lives. Vacation plans and recreational activities often replace worship. And we diminish in the stewardship of our Christian faith by letting worldly things take precedence over God in our lives.

In response to our Lord for his grace and mercy, may we place him first in all our summer plans and activities, allowing adequate time for worship, Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. May we be good stewards of God's rich blessings. May we all continue to support the mission and ministries of our church with our regular tithes and offerings given from thankful hearts, even when we are away from home.



*With his thumb, a hitch-hiker says: "You furnish the gas, car, repairs, upkeep, and insurance; and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, I'll sue you for damages!"*

*Sounds pretty one-sided, but one wonders how many hitch-hikers there are in churches and organizations. Many seem to say: "You go to the meetings, serve on boards and committees, and take care of the things that need doing and I'll go along for the ride! If things don't happen to suit my fancy I will complain, criticize, and probably get out and hitch-hike with another group."*

# Money Matters

## *Personal Financial Stewardship*

### The Problem of Materialism

In our society, we've come to expect a high level of material comfort. We want the "good life," which sometimes means the freedom and wherewithal to follow our impulses. Most people want bigger, newer, and more things to enjoy. Our society tells us that what we have is not enough and that we deserve more. The "more is better" attitude of our culture makes it difficult to know when enough is enough. This focus on material things is called materialism. Webster's New World Dictionary defines materialism as "the tendency to be more concerned with material than with spiritual or intellectual values." Materialism suggests an inordinate concern ... some might say an addiction ... with the acquisition, possession, and consumption of material goods and services. Inherent in a materialistic attitude is an attitude of superficiality, selfishness, individualism, possessiveness, and covetousness. Martin Luther wrote the following about the desire for wealth.



*Many a person thinks he has God and everything he needs when he has money and property; in them he trusts and of them he boasts so stubbornly and securely that he cares for no one. Surely such a man also has a god—mammon by name, that is, money and possessions—on which he fixes his whole heart. It is the most common idol on earth.*

Russ Crosson wrote about how riches can consume us. "It has been said that 95 percent of those who have been tested with adversity pass the test, but 95 percent of those who have been tested with prosperity fail." It seems that Christians handle adversity better than they handle success. It is ironic that, as one of the most prosperous countries in the world, our drug abuse, spouse and child beatings, divorce rate, and crime are out of control. Wealth seems to contribute to our problems rather than alleviate them. The love of money and material things has the potential to possess a person's life like no other emotion can. A person can spend a lifetime chasing prosperity that, when found, often destroys him. C. H. Spurgeon said it this way: "It is a very serious thing to grow rich. Of all the temptations to which God's children are exposed, it is the worst, because it is the one they do not dread, therefore, it is the more subtle temptation." Unfortunately, the love of money and possessions is like drinking salt water. The more water we drink the thirstier we become. Likewise, the more money we have the more we want. The problem with materialism is that people try to fill emptiness in their lives with "things."

When our hearts become more concerned and obsessed with the accumulation of things than anything else, we've joined our materialistic society. Do we see ourselves or other members of our churches as materialistic? The number of possessions we have or the size of our homes or bank accounts does not indicate our disposition toward materialism. A materialist may not have a lot of money or possessions or he could own a lot. Materialism may be seen in one's lifestyle, but it is mainly a condition of the heart, which is unseen. Because materialism has become the norm in our society, it is hard not to be part of it. Unfortunately, as Christians, we may be unaware that we have fallen into a materialistic mindset and lifestyle.

### Need a Prayer?

The Augustus Prayer chain welcomes your calls with prayer requests. If you need a prayer or know someone in need of a prayer, please contact Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109.



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        | 1      | 2       | 3         | 4        | 5      | 6        |
|        |        |         |           |          |        |          |

**All activities at Augustus Church are cancelled or postponed until further notice**  
Please check our web site, [www.augustustrappe.org](http://www.augustustrappe.org), call the office at 610-489-9625,  
or e-mail the office at [office@augustustrappe.org](mailto:office@augustustrappe.org) for closing updates  
or if you have questions about a church-related event.  
For outside events, contact your organization.

|    |    |    |    |  |
|----|----|----|----|--|
|    |    |    |    |  |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |  |
|    |    |    |    |  |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |  |

**June 2020**

