

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



JULY 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I will be on vacation and unavailable from July 1 – 28, 2024, inclusive. In my absence, Pastor Kochenderfer will be available for any emergencies. He will also preach and preside on the first three (3) Sundays in July at both services. Pastor William Mueller, the husband of Laurie Mueller, will preach and preside on the last Sunday in July while Pastor Kochenderfer does the same at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Audubon, PA. We are blessed to have good friends like Pastor Kochenderfer and Pastor Mueller.

Pastor Dr. Martha Kriebel is celebrating her 65th anniversary of ordination this year. One of the first women ordained by the Evangelical and Reformed Church, she was and is a trailblazer in ministry. Please congratulate her on this milestone in her long and faithful ministry to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

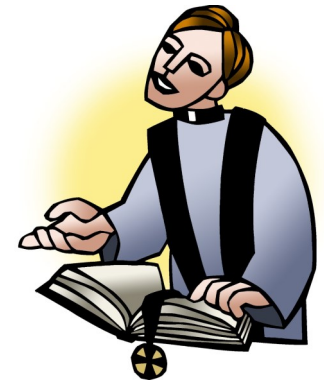
Thanks to all those who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. Augustus Lutheran Church has the strength in ministry that it has because our members are willing to lend a helping hand. Keep up the good work.

Please continue to worship wherever you find yourself this summer. God continues to shower his love on us without interruption. Make time to thank him at worship each Sunday.

As we remind you every year, please send or bring in your offerings before you go on vacation. We are glad you have the opportunity and ability to go on vacation; unfortunately, our expenses never take a vacation. Thank you!

May the God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck



Summer Schedule June 16 through September 1, 2024, 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

Thank You!



Blessed are the givers and grateful are the receivers. Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and the card I received from my Augustus Family and the lovely visit from Pr. Kriebel.
Renata Markert



From the Bench

July 2024

In a few days, I will be travelling along with Bishop Davenport and several groups from the ELCA to Greece to follow the footsteps (and missionary trips) of St. Paul. I don't think I have fully taken in all that this will mean. I hope there is time for silence at some of the sites, and also time for singing. I've always found that music expresses in a way words simply cannot. With that in mind, I have decided to rerun an article I wrote two years ago. I hope you won't mind. And I'm going to get back to packing!

One very impactful workshop I attended years ago was hosted by (the now late) Alice Parker, internationally known composer and arranger. It was a bit intimidating to sit with only six others and sing for Alice, but we learned a lot! I think the most important thing she said was, "The only bad singing is dull singing."

Dull singing happens whenever you don't think about what you're saying. I'm afraid this happens in church all too often. When we know something well, sometimes we just sing by rote. When we don't know something at all, sometimes we get so frustrated we don't sing at all. Sometimes, with a song we know well and love, we have a tendency to just "belt it out," rather than sing it thoughtfully. It's easy to think, "I come to church to sing what I like," rather than, "I come to church to worship God."

Think about what you're saying, and use all the qualities of your voice to express it. Read the text, and consider the mood of the song. Sing it prayerfully, joyfully, hopefully - whatever the text demands. Sing important words louder, and less important words softer. Think of it as a poetic reading in song. If you're not familiar with the hymn, take some time to look at the bottom of the page in the hymnal and see who wrote it and when it was written. Many times, a particular hymn tune was written hundreds of years apart from a particular text. Some of the tunes in our hymnal are hundreds of years old. Think of the generations of people from different lands, who have sung this song through the ages!

If you can't carry a tune in a bucket, and get generally frustrated when we sing hymns you don't know, don't just stand there! Look carefully at the words; think about why this hymn may have been chosen for today. Listen to the sound in the room, the people around you, the organ. Follow along, and pray the text silently if you really can't sing. Thank God for the opportunity to learn something new. Maybe by the third verse, you'll be brave enough to add your voice to the song. There is something wonderful and mystical about singing together, and we don't get to do it much except in church.

Lastly, if you have children who can read, have them do the same. Teach them to follow the service in the bulletin. Open the book to the correct page, if they need help. Share your hymnal (or bulletin!) with them, and point to the words of each verse. What we do on Sunday morning is not empty ritual, but rich tradition. It is our children's inheritance, and we cheat them when we allow them to be distracted so that we may concentrate.

I often hear the saying, "I know what I like." But I think the real truth is, "I like what I know." When we come to worship on a weekly basis, we can develop a repertoire of excellent praise songs, old and new, that we can sing together, and that we can share with our children. We will have a treasure no one can take away, a way to express our inexpressible thanks and praise to God. Sing!



~Laurie Mueller

Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

Drowning in Debt

In my stewardship talk for today, I may cause some people to be a little uncomfortable, because I want to talk about debt ... especially credit card debt. As the bumper sticker reads, "I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go." Before I share some debt statistics and causes of overspending, I will share some words from Scripture that caution us about debt. In Proverbs 22:7 we read, *"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."* In Luke 12:15 Jesus said, *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."* In Romans 13:8 the apostle Paul wrote, *"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another . . ."* To live beyond one's means is not only foolish, it is a violation of God's will regarding the management of the money that God has given to us.

Today the average U.S. household has almost \$9,000 in unpaid credit card bills. In the last decade the indebtedness has more than doubled. To pay the compound interest on credit cards will cause many people severe financial problems. So why do people live beyond their means.

The following are four temptations that cause overspending:

1. Pride: People will respect me more in the light of my increased possessions.
2. Selfishness: I deserve to accumulate things despite negative consequences.
3. Greed: I need that luxury car and bigger house even though I can't afford them.
4. Covetousness: If my neighbors have it, I want it, too, but I want it bigger, better, and newer.

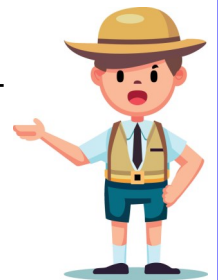
If these temptations are causing you problems, you need to ask God for strength to deal with them. With God's strength, we can not only overcome our spending problems, and we can learn to be content. A contented person is content with less and is less likely to overspend. As Epicurus, a Greek philosopher said, "If you want to make a man happy, add not to his riches but take away from his desires." How blessed we will be when and if we understand that our happiness is not dependent upon what we have or own.

Docent? What is that?



Google says, "a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis, in a museum, art gallery, or zoo", or an old church. The Augustus Old Church Committee is looking for a few people who love the history of the original church building and telling the story of what it meant to historic Trappe and Colonial America.

If interested in learning more about becoming a docent, contact Pat O'Hara at qadirector5@aol.com or call him (484) 919-2527. Training will begin in the fall of the year.



Tea On The Lawn



Augustus Lutheran is looking for volunteers (families or organizations) to host Tea on the Lawn this summer. There will be a signup sheet in the Muhlenberg Center to sponsor these events. After both services on your chosen week, you would provide lemonade, iced tea and snacks for the congregation. This a great fellowship opportunity for Augustus. If you're interested, please sign up. Augustus will provide the table, plates, napkins and cups. Your consideration is much appreciated.

Contact Gary Wessner for more information at gtwess@comcast.net.

Augustus Book Club

The next meeting is Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry room.

We'll discuss Seventy Times Seven by Alex Mar

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

Christian Education

At this writing, we're looking forward to Vacation Bible School, which begins on June 24th (it's always the Monday-Thursday of the last week of June). Our theme is "Twists and Turns," and we'll learn that Jesus is holy, Jesus is trustworthy, Jesus is forgiving, and Jesus is for everyone.

After VBS, things slow down considerably until September. Working with our young people is a great way to learn more about your faith and the Bible, plus you get to hang out with some pretty wonderful kids. If you'd like to become a Sunday school teacher, just let me know! Clearances are required but are easily obtained (I can help with that). You can teach every Sunday OR just the ones when you're available. We will have a teachers' meeting on August 25th to finalize our plans for the year and then we'll kick off Sunday school with breakfast for parents on September 8th. Send an email to education@augustustrappe.org or call/text me at 904-476-4409 if you'd like to help or if you have any other questions.

Enjoy your summer and don't forget to visit churches wherever you are and bring back good ideas for Augustus!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education

Make A Difference



Prayer Chain Volunteers Needed!



Do you know Augustus Has a prayer chain? We pray for others who are going though difficulties. Do you have time to pray and think of others during your day? If interested, please call

Dorothy Opperman at 610-489-4514.

Do you have a prayer request? Please call 610-489-4514.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Jessica Kunasz	2 Cameron Tartar	3 Tamara Griggs Rose Swan	4	5 Pia Lari	6 Brittany Snyder
7 Terry Benner Paul Niemann Amy Noonan	8 Linda Buckmaster William Garton Gail Martin	9	10 Braden Tighe	11 Nancee Clelland Bruce Tempone	12 Amanda Jacobs Morgan Nelson Cora Van Alstine	13 Laura Peljae
14 Turner Collins	15 Lewis Christy Karen Lachenmayer Heather Mullaney	16	17	18 Laurel Beattie William Fluck Benjamin O'Hara	19 Brian Funk Robert Williams	20 Amanda Halteman LaVonne Johnson
21 Alison Fishell Courtenay Kerr Rosemary McNeal	22 Bryan McClain	23 Rebecca Quirk	24 Tripp Miller Hannah Pearson Andrew Schlegel	25 Gina Christy Arianna Judisch	26 Erich Franz Dean Perkins Sonya Sowards	27 Benjamin McElhannon Anna Schweitzer Allison Wessner
28 Bryce Atherholt Jayden Smith Cynthia Snyder	29 Colleen Demark	30 Stacie Missimer Sherry Stufflet	31 Jonathan Brull Sean McClain Aubrey Nicholson			



Dinner on Main

Sunday, July 14, 5 to 8 pm

Celebrate Historic Trappe at a unique community dinner held in the middle of Main Street! Enjoy a variety of delicious foods provided by local restaurants.

Confirmed participants to date include Aavya Indian Cuisine, Ava's Ice Cream, Catering by Brenda Carter, Grace's Cafe, Italian Delite, Jasmine Asian House, Speck's, and Troubles End Brewing. Beverage options include beer, wine, and ice tea. The evening begins with a cocktail hour at 5 p.m. Grab a drink and head over to the Muhlenberg House, where you can travel back in time as you explore the house's colonial furnishings and herb garden. Then stroll on down to the Speaker's House to check out the newly-restored kitchen and adjacent kitchen garden. At 6 p.m., head back to the street for dinner and join your friends and neighbors at the long communal table. Live music will round out a memorable summer evening.

Parking is available at the Trappe Shopping Center, accessible via Main Street (westbound traffic only) or Route 113. The dinner will be located on Main Street between the Speaker's House and the Muhlenberg House.

In the event of rain, the dinner will be held at Arader Farm, 746 S. Trappe Road (Rt. 113), Collegetown, PA 19426.



For tickets and more information about this and other community events in Trappe visit historictrappe.org

Graceful Generosity

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

Stewards of the Gospel

God wants all believers to be willing to tell others what he is doing in their lives. He exhorts us to proclaim the Gospel in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and throughout the world. Each one of us is God's chosen instruments to reflect his power in and through us. As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:2-3



All believers have a testimony. Are you sharing it? What do others say your testimony is? God can help you become a person in whose life others can see that he is clearly working. He wants to make us vessels through which others see the character and nature of Christ.

Being a Steward through Influence

Story one:

In 1871, the *New York Herald Newspaper* sent Henry M. Stanley in search of David Livingstone, long overdue from his third trip

into Africa. He found the missionary in Central Africa and spent four months with him. Stanley went to Africa a confirmed atheist, but Livingstone's influence ... his piety, gentleness, and zeal ... won him over. Stanley became a Christian, saying, "I was converted by him, although he had not tried to do it." Livingstone was a good steward of his daily influence.

Story two:

Centuries ago a young monk went on a preaching tour with the famed St. Francis of Assisi. But to the young monk's surprise, St. Francis simply mingled with the people without preaching a single sermon. His explanation, "my child, we were preaching as we walked and talked with people." The stewardship of influence!

Keeping Faith

A young pastor and his wife, having agreed that they would tithe of their income, had paid their tithe regularly and faithfully throughout a period of two or three years.

There came a day when hospital bills, and expensive cross-country move, and one or two other emergency situations produced a financial crisis. For the first time in their young married life they found themselves hard pressed for funds and faced a difficult decision: should they take the tithe out of their small salary as usual, or should they spend their pittance for their own needs and make an entry on their books that they "owed the Lord" the proportionate amount?

It was then that the young wife's faith came to the rescue. "When we agreed to tithe," she said, "we did not stipulate that we would pay the tenth in good times and hold out in bad times. How can we expect God to see us through if he can't count on us in dark days?" With that, they paid up their pledge.

Years afterward, in telling of this experience, the young husband said, "Nothing gave us so much assurance of the companionship of God during those days as the sure knowledge that we had kept faith with him when all about us was dark."

Devoted Stewards

Christian stewardship is more than being an agent or administrator of God's property. As God's stewards, Christ controls us and we live for him.

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

As stewards, we have a full time vocation and a full time calling. Thus, our stewardship calls for total devotion. It is a way of life that is expressed in conduct, character, and actions. Jesus places us in a position of high status. He said, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you" (John 15:15). We can be faithful in our stewardship because God gives us what we need in order to accomplish his purposes for our lives through us.

The Apostle Paul told us that our status is raised above a servant level in a Master-servant

relationship. He wrote, "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). God uses us as his fellow workers. God's purpose becomes our purpose. We work together with our heavenly Father to unite all people under the Lordship of Jesus. The Master and fellow worker partnership grows into a Father and son relationship.

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir." Galatians 4:7



As sons, we become part of a family that works together, and we love one another. As part of a family, we are given responsibilities. As a family, we have common purposes and goals.

In his sovereignty, God has chosen to make us his stewards with all privileges and responsibilities of stewards. May God grant us the faith, strength, and wisdom to be the stewards he wants us to be.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!



2024 Historic Trappe Free Lecture Series

St. Luke's Church, 200 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Refreshments Following Lecture

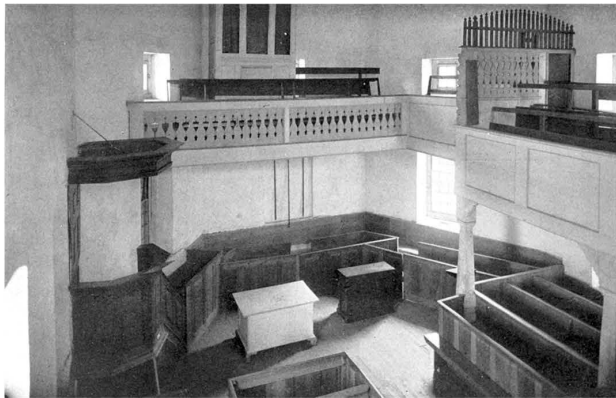
For more information, please visit the Historic Trappe Facebook Page

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 17 | Emily Sneff on Declaration of Independence and its translation into German + preview of our 2026-27 special exhibition plans for the America 250 |
| Oct. 22 | Trevor Brandt on fraktur + Americana Insights book signing |
| Nov. 19 | Chris Malone on paintings by Charles Hofmann + Americana Insights book signing |

Improvements to the Old Church in 1814

In 1814, the Old Church was only 71 years old, but the Vestry still decided that it was time to make repairs and improvements to the Church. According to the Rev. Ernest T. Kretschmann, Ph.D. author of "The Old Trappe Church, A Memorial of the Sesqui-Centennial Services of Augustus Evangelical Lutheran Church", one of the building improvements was a new cedar roof while another improvement was new window sashes. Pine paneled doors with butt hinges and hand-forged drop latches were installed on the main pews in 1814. The hand hewn oak columns supporting the galleries were painted white with blue lines which was intended to resemble marble columns.

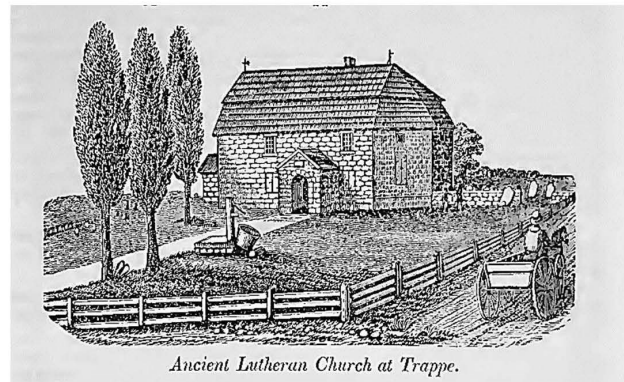
A heating system for the Church was introduced in 1814 which consisted of a wood burning stove that sat on an oak stool. There are no records about what happened to the stove. All that remains is the stool, a small piece of stove pipe and a hole in the ceiling where the stove pipe went.



current floor.

Mortar was applied to the exterior walls in 1814. The sketch to the left shows the appearance of The Old Church before the walls were covered over. Today, all exterior walls are covered except for the south portico. These walls are left exposed to help visitors visualize what the exterior looked like in 1743. The interior walls were likely plastered between 1743 and 1745.

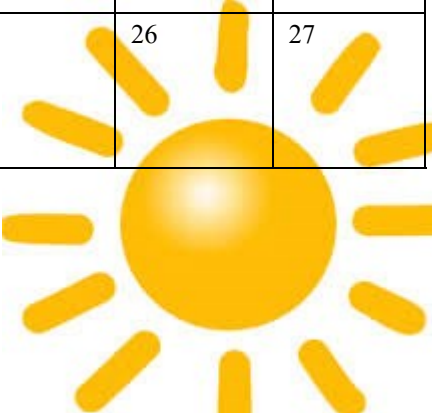
In 1743, the original floor was dirt. It was later upgraded to large flat stones laid on the dirt floor. In 1814, the stone floor was overlaid with a wood floor. To achieve this, sleepers (logs that are planed on two sides) were laid in the ground and wood planks were nailed to them to make the floor. Unfortunately, the wood floor was in poor condition and removed in 1928, however, the original flat stones were discovered between the sleepers and used in the construction of the



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.

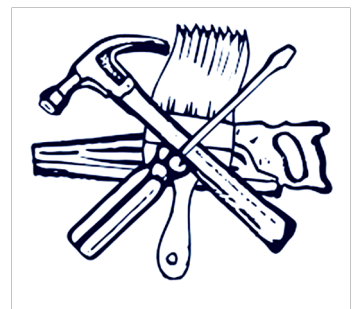
“A generation which ignores history has no past and no future.”
Robert Heinlein, American author (1907-1988)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>July</i>	1	2	3	4 Office Closed Independence Day	5	6
	7 <i>Pr. Kochenderfer</i> 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion	8	9	10 9:00 am Soup Kitchen	11	12
14 <i>Pr. Kochenderfer</i> 8:00 am Holy communion 9:30 am Holy Communion	15 7:00 pm Book Club	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Pr. Kochenderfer</i> 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Pr. Mueller</i> 8:00 am: Holy Communion 9:30 am: Holy Communion	29	30	31			

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On July 20th, the Senior Youth Group will be leaving on their annual Mission trip to Camden, New York. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during their week's journey.

On Sunday, July 14th, please join us for tea on the lawn and learn more about the mission trip. Our youth/leaders, along with the youth and leaders of the 1st UCC of Quakertown and Trinity Lutheran of Quakertown will be building ramps, putting on new roofs and assisting where help is needed.



We thank you for support your throughout the year. It's much appreciated. Through your donations, we are able to pay for the youth activities and the costs of the mission trip.

The SYG meets on the first Wednesday and the 3rd Sunday of each month (September thru May), as well as various other days for activities and fund raisers. All youth in 9th -12th grades can take part in the SYG. The leaders will be sending more information on the group in the near future.

The SYG is looking for a couple of new leaders to help us in the fall. Please let us know if you are interested. It's a very rewarding experience and we'd like to pass on our knowledge to a new group of leaders. New people bring new ideas and that is always a good thing.

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

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