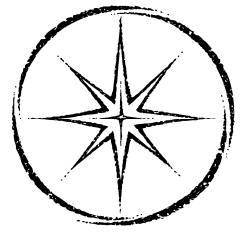


Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



JANUARY 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your many expressions of love and support at Christmas. I missed seeing you in person at Christmas. I pray that you remain healthy and that the New Year brings us all relief from the anxiety and uncertainty of 2020 caused by the Covid-19 virus.

The decision by the Vestry to suspend in person worship because of the increasing spread of Covid-19 was made with a heavy heart but out of abundant love for all who would join us at Augustus for worship. The Vestry will re-examine its decision on January 5, 2021 based on then current conditions. Please check our web site (www.augustustrappe.org) and/or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/augustustrappe) for updates.

I continue to thank God for the good will and cooperative spirit of our members and friends. In spite of the need to make various changes to adapt to the current situation, our members and friends have been so kind and generous throughout this period. The people of Augustus Lutheran Church have always been a dedicated group, committed to fulfilling our God-given mission, regardless of the obstacles we encounter. Remember that we are never alone during this stressful time. Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck

**Remember that we are never alone during this stressful time.
Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.**

Christian Education

Our Sunday school children brought lots of gifts for the children at Gemma Services (formerly Martin Luther Spring Springs School) on December 6th! On that day we also filmed our Christmas program. We filmed each part separately in accordance with COVID-19 safety precautions and then the wonderful Jonathan Mueller put the parts together, along with pieces presented by our musical children, to make a terrific Christmas program. Many thanks to Jonathan and Laurie Mueller and all the children who participated: Ben and Charlie Richvalsky, Erick Lyaro, Arianna Judisch, Devyn Parker, Gavin Elison, Corrine Schulz, Gracie Schlegel, Nola Kelly, and Emily Brandt. If you would like to view the Christmas program, you can find it on the Augustus website.

After our Christmas break, we look forward to our Baby Shower for Jesus to benefit Genesis Pregnancy Care Center in Pottstown. On January 3rd we will resume Zoom Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. and then meet 11:45 to drop off our baby shower gifts and enjoy an outdoor activity.

With the end of the pandemic on the horizon, I'm looking forward to getting back to normal (lots of fun plans for Sunday school when we resume) but I'm very thankful for all the families who have continued to participate despite the challenges. God has been with us!

Grace & peace,
Sonya Sowards
Director of Christian Education



EPIPHANY

From the Bench

JANUARY 2021

A few years ago, our choir sang an anthem titled “The Work of Christmas.” The music was composed by Dan Forrest. If you have internet, you can listen to it here: <https://tinyurl.com/AugustusWorkOfChristmas>.

The text is a poem by Howard Thurman, and it’s a wonderful reminder of “what’s next.” Here it is:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.



Friends, I don’t know what’s ahead in 2021. But it’s time to do the work of Christmas. If you’re stuck at home, you can still “make music in the heart.” Pray and ask God how you can be part of “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Peace be with you.

~Laurie Mueller

The poem “The Work of Christmas” is from Howard Thurman’s The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations and is used by permission of Friends United Press. All rights reserved.

**Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love,
every time we give, it’s Christmas.”**
Dale Evans

THANK YOU!

The Augustus Women of the ELCA thank Joan Rubendall for her assistance in providing amaryllis plants at a reasonable cost. These plants were given to the sick and shut-ins and staff of Augustus as an annual gift as WELCA remembers them during this Christmas season. We appreciate her floral business, Risher Van Horn, for helping us spread Christmas cheer through flowers. The church is decorated with poinsettias from Risher Van Horn also. During these unusual times we like to remember our local businesses. Joan is always ready and willing to support our church community and we hope you will support her endeavors. Thank you Joan and the Risher Van Horn staff.



Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Manage Credit Cards Wisely

The Bible warns us that debt should be taken seriously and avoided when possible. In Proverbs 22:7 we read, “*The borrower is servant to the lender.*” As servants, we become obligated. Debt enslaves, and, through debt, we lose our freedom. Debt can impede our serving and giving. If we are in debt, we may not be able to do what God wants us to do with our money because we already owe it to others. If debt is out of control, our livelihood and homes can be in jeopardy.



Credit cards are the simplest type of debt to obtain, but are also the most expensive if the balance is not paid at the end of the month. In more than half of the states, there is no limit on the interest rate that can be charged for carrying a balance.

The cost of not paying your balance in full can add up very quickly. For example, if you have a credit card balance of \$4,000 and plan to pay it off over 36 months, the costs are as follows:

<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Time to Pay Debt</u>	<u>Interest Expense</u>
9.9 %	36 months	\$ 610
15.9 %	36 months	980
19.9 %	36 months	1,227

At a rate of 19.9 percent interest, a person would have to pay an additional 30 percent for what had been purchased. Moreover, as new items are purchased with a credit card, it is that much more difficult to make the payments!

The phrase, “We are in the world, but not of the world,” aptly describes us as Christians on how we should be viewing and using debt. We should only be comfortable purchasing what can be paid within a short period of time.



The more you purchase on credit cards, the less you have to save. If you didn’t have to pay credit card balances, and instead you invested \$100 each month with an average of 8 percent return (mutual funds) over 20 years, you will accumulate \$58,902! Effective money management is getting money to work for you instead of against you.

Remember this maxim:

“If I can’t pay for it promptly, I won’t buy it.”

Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, January 18 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

We'll discuss: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek
by Kim Michele Richardson

New members are always welcome!

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



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.

If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and Carol will call you back.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS					1 Piper Bouchard Melissa Dogonniuck Lilyan Ferraro Sean Frisco Barbara Krauter Amy Rose	2 Kaden Menendez
3 Donna Cooney Kristine Crothers Shirley Latshaw Carson Leigl George Snear	4 Devlin Reagan	5 Jenna Griggs	6	7 Shealyn Frazier Jennifer Gilbert Ashley Herr Anita North Phyllis Oehlert Richard Schmidt	8 Kurt Dengler Cheryl Holcombe Maggie McClain Olivia Olsen Elise Reagan Bob Reichner	9
10 Charlie Ries Wyatt Vargo Deborah Yost	11 Merrill Taylor Hannah Thompson Pamela Waltz Sara Watro	12 Courtney Askew	13	14 Wes Long Sally Sweeney	15 Robyn Hart	16 Peg Below Aurora Zvarick
17 Lisa Cornish Jessica Lari	18	19 Allison Griggs Dorothy Moorehead John Niskala Dorothy Opperman	20 Helen Newton Jill Young	21 Carolyn Kibblehouse	22	23
24	25 Lauren Fishell	26 Meredith Clark Barbara Lewis Elizabeth Meeley	27 Shannon Beattie Robert Garton	28 Lauryn Hart Leah Hunsberger Lyla Hunsberger Dave Mourar Brandon Weaver	29 Greta Askew Derek Cornish Emma DePaul Dennis Ludwig Eric Noonan	30 Kenneth Linsenbigler
31 Jamie Berg						

Sharing God's Bounty

January

Forgetting What Is Behind

Forget about it." It's a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don't want to face up to something. Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who's complaining about an offense he's received. According to Paul, it's a good thing to do. It's counsel he followed himself: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn't "forget what was behind." He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.

Like Paul, we can't forget about our past sins ... and maybe that's good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God's ways only as we rely on him to lead us, thankful that he forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can "[forget] what's behind" and "press on toward the goal" that Christ has laid out before us as we serve him with all the gifts he so graciously gives us.

We begin a new year in God's grace. We also begin each day, sometimes each moment, as newly forgiven, cleansed stewards equipped through Word and Sacrament to fulfill God's purposes for our lives.



Our own growth and the growth of our church depend on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others. As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life. Membership is responsibility - the response to the call to ministry, and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.

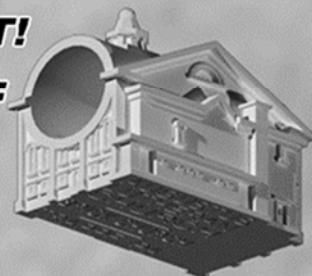
TRAPPE CHARMS

CHARMING CHARMS FROM THE TINY TOWN OF TRAPPE




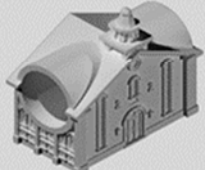
- * **STERLING SILVER**
- * **FITS "PANDORA" STYLE BRACELETS**
- * **IDENTIFICATION INSCRIBED (ON THE UNDERSIDE)**
- * **NOW TAKING ORDERS - (LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE ON HAND)**
- * **COLLECT THEM ALL! (ADDITIONAL CHARMS TO BE RELEASE AT FUTURE DATES)**
- * **MAKES A GREAT GIFT!**
- * **TO PLACE AN ORDER:**
CONTACT BRIAN O'HARA AT:
BRIAN.OHARA24@GMAIL.COM

Brian O'Hara © 2020
brian.ohara24@gmail.com



AUGUSTUS CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH OUTREACH

 Old Trappe Church \$70	Church Well	First Schoolhouse	First Parsonage	First Muhlenberg House
 Brick Church \$70	Carriagehouse	Third Schoolhouse	Second Parsonage	Third Muhlenberg House

WOMEN OF ELCA CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT AUGUSTUS WOMEN OF ELCA

 Women of ELCA Logo \$75	 Just Love Logo \$75			
--	--	--	--	--