

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



EPIPHANY

JANUARY 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the many Christmas cards and gifts I have received. It is a joy to be the Pastor of such a wonderful, committed parish. Thank you, too, to the many people who worked so hard to make our Christmas services the glorious celebrations that they are.

Thank you

In January, we conclude the 12 days of Christmas, during which we focus on the birth of Jesus, and turn to the green Sundays after Epiphany, where we focus on the adult Jesus' efforts at evangelism and outreach. Why not consider inviting a relative, friend, neighbor, or co-worker to join you for worship on Sunday. It will be a blessing for both of you!

Each New Year offers us hope for a fresh start. My prayer for the People of Augustus is for a healthy and grace-filled 2022:

May the Lord
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.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck



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.



Didn't get your envelopes?

Due to timing issues with Karen's leave in the fall, some folks who have had issues receiving envelopes in the past may find that they are still not getting them.

If you find that you have not received your envelopes for the first quarter, please contact Karen in the church office. She would be happy to send you a set.

So sorry for the inconvenience.

From the Bench

JANUARY 20212

Happy New Year!

I would like to thank Pastor Weleck, the Vestry, WELCA, the choirs, and the Senior High Youth Group for your generosity to me this Christmas (those cookies were amazing!). And a shout-out to Brian O'Hara and the Outreach Committee for the many ways our sanctuary was even more beautiful this year for Christmas – well done! After an unsettling (with several sicknesses in the choir) but exciting December (my son Jonathan graduated from Kutztown on December 18), I am humbled and grateful for your continued encouragement and support of my ministry here.

Speaking of support of the music ministry, if you'd like to sing in a choir, but can't rehearse Thursday nights, or can't sing Sunday mornings at the 10:30 service, please note that we are hoping to reinstitute the Collegeville Trappe Ministerium Choir this winter to sing for our Ministerium Lent services on Wednesday nights. This choir will rehearse several Saturdays in the winter, and ANYONE is welcome to sing with us. Please tell your friends from other churches (or who have no church) – anyone who enjoys singing – and look for more information in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.



And in case it doesn't feel like a Happy New Year, I want to share some encouragement from 2 Corinthians, chapter 4. The Apostle Paul was in very dire circumstances when he wrote these words: "But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies."



Keep on keeping on – God is with us. Rejoice!

A rejoicing heart soon makes a praising tongue.

Charles Spurgeon

Sunday School/Christian Education



Our lively Sunday school students enjoyed Advent lessons while we waited for the coming of the Christ child, from the prophets predicting His arrival, to Mary's meeting with Elizabeth, to Jesus' birth. On December 19th, our last day of class before the Christmas break, we recorded a Christmas program to be posted and shared with the congregation.



On January 9th, our first Sunday after Christmas break, we'll have a Baby Shower for Jesus to benefit Genesis Pregnancy Care Center and then we'll continue with stories of Jesus' life.



Our 3-in-1 confirmation students will also break for Christmas and resume their studies in January. We were unable to have a Living Nativity pageant due to increasing virus cases, but we remain hopeful that we'll be able to present Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.




I hope you are all enjoying a blessed Christmas and Epiphany season. Please continue to pray for our wonderful young folks at Augustus.

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						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 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 Dave Mourar Brandon Weaver	29 Greta Askew Derek Cornish Emma DePaul Dennis Ludwig Eric Noonan
30 Kenneth Linsenbigler	31 Jamie Berg					

Recipe for Fun!

In Psalm 95:1-7 the psalmist offers a joyful look at life in these verses of praise. Celebrate life with a family fun day! Set up a picnic table, indoors or out, for serving the meal. To create a fun, loving atmosphere, agree that no criticism or negative comments will be allowed during the meal. Encourage a sense of celebration.

Invite the young people of the household to plan dinner. Consider a circus theme. Serve hot dogs and lemonade. Or, make cookie cutter sandwiches by cutting slices of meat, cheese, and bread using animal cookie cutters. Make snow cones by crushing fruit juice ice cubes in a blender. Pour the mixture into paper cups and add two tablespoons of fruit juice per cup. Serve with straws. For dessert, decorate a cake with animal crackers.

After the meal, invite family members to create their own circus. Set up sideshow booths, indoors or out, using card tables or large boxes. Play old-fashioned arcade games, such as: ring toss, bean bag toss, or bowling (knock down stacked, clean cans with tennis balls). Take instant photos of each other and glue them to index cards to make trading cards.

Have races with tricycles or three-wheeled riding vehicles. Teens and adults get a kick out of trying to pedal! Or decorate the vehicles with crepe paper streamers and have a circus parade. (Don't forget the stuffed animals!)

Create a balloon sweep obstacle course. On a lawn or large carpeted area, set up obstacles, such as: chairs, blocks, a rope to duck under, and a box to jump over. Using brooms, have players sweep their balloons around the obstacles and back to the finish line.

Play miniature golf over the same course. Make "holes" by laying down pieces of yarn in a circle. Mark the holes with flags made from construction paper triangles taped to drinking straws. Add a tunnel made from juice cans (remove top and bottom) or a cardboard box. A board tilted against a brick or log makes an incline to go up and over.

Use a balloon to play volleyball. Stretch a string between two poles, indoors or outdoors. Hit a balloon back and forth across the string.

Pray an "electric prayer." Join hands. The first person prays aloud or silently, then squeezes the next person's hand. Continue in this fashion until each person has prayed.

Augustus Book Club

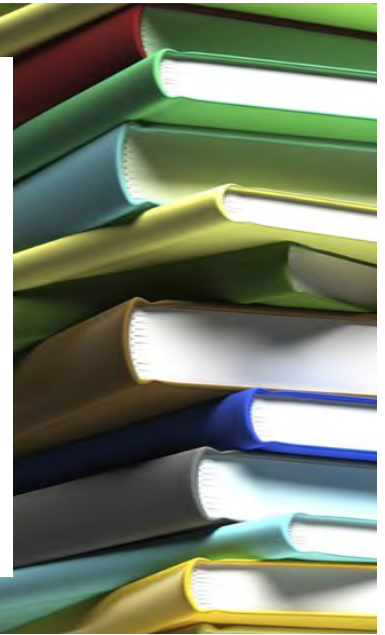
**The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, January 17 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room**

We'll discuss:

Blink by Malcolm Gladwell

New members are always welcome!

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



Thank You!

Augustus Congregation and WELCA,

Thank you so much for your kind cards and thoughts during the holiday season.

WELCA Ladies—thank you for the lovely “bag of goodies”!

Your love and support mean so much to me, especially when I cannot visit with my church family as much as I used to. I am so blessed!

Peg DeWane



Sympathy and Prayers

Sympathy and Prayers are offered to the family of Mr. John Moorehead who passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. May God grant eternal rest to John, and comfort to his family during this difficult time.

Remember us 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.

2022 Congregational Meeting Part 1 February 13, 2021

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 13, 2022 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Need a Prayer? Want to Pray for Others?

Prayer Chain Volunteers Needed

Did you know Augustus's WELCA has a prayer group? People are invited to call the leader of the group, Carol Oelschlager, or the church office with prayer requests and a group of folks will say special prayers based on these requests. This group is now seeking additional people to pray for our congregants and friends. If you're interested in participating, please call Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109.

Graceful Generosity

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

Full-Time Stewards

God has created and designated us to be his stewards (Genesis 1:28-30). He has charged us with the care and management of his creation. Our responsibilities as his stewards are not in effect only at certain times of the day or days of the week or month. We are not stewards merely on Sundays or other special days. As stewards for Christ, we are to be devoted to full-time effort and commitment to serve the Lord with our lives and possessions. Stewardship involves our entire being, our entire time, and our entire resources. We are not passive managers but active and involved. We are to commit all that we are, all that we have, and all that we will be to God's glory. First Peter 4:10 reads, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*

Stewards act as partners with God. Paul tells us, *"For we are God's fellow workers"* (1 Corinthians 3:9). As our senior partner, God provides everything we need to make our work as *"fellow workers"* possible. To further his kingdom, we are called to exercise our intelligence and resourcefulness. We are God's instruments through which he works. In essence, we are God's hands, feet, and mouth.

Not only are we God's partners, we are his children. He gives us the privileges and the duties of children. God loves, protects, and provides for us. It is the privilege and the duty of the child to be with, talk to, trust in, love, and obey his father. God has been faithful to us; shall we not be faithful as good children and stewards to him who gives our lives direction, purpose, and hope? Our heavenly Father expects us to be faithful stewards of all that he entrusts to us. *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). In Romans 14:12 we read, *"So then, each of us will give an account of himself*

to God." We will be accountable for what we did with his gifts of time, talents, and treasures.



As stewards, we are shaped and transformed by the Holy Spirit. God energizes and equips us for our stewardship journey. God does all and provides all things to make our stewardship lifestyle possible. As we diligently and faithfully serve him, we will hear his words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:23).

Church signs ... LOL ...

*YOU GIVE GOD THE CREDIT.
NOW GIVE GOD THE CASH.*

*FOR THE ROAD TO HEAVEN,
TURN RIGHT AND GO STRAIGHT.*

*FORBIDDEN FRUIT
MAKES MANY JAMS.*

Are You One of the Nine?

The account in Luke 17:11-19 of Jesus' healing of the ten lepers is very familiar to us. We remember how these poor afflicted outcasts cried out to the Lord for healing and that Jesus had pity on them and healed them. After getting official clearance from the priests who verified that they were indeed cured of the dreadful disease, nine of them went their joyful way, completely forgetting about Jesus who had answered their pleas. Only one of them returned to thank Jesus.

Isn't this just like us? Aren't we so often one of the nine? We put our requests before God, and, when he answers them, we go our joyful way, forgetting to thank him for hearing us and blessing us. Still he continues to pour out his goodness on us. Take a walk on a summer morning, and you can't help but praise him for the beauty all around – for the world he has created to sustain us and for us to enjoy. Go to bed at night, safe and secure in your home, with a full stomach and an unworried mind and thank God for his benefits.

Sit down with your Bible, unconcerned that anyone might storm your door and take you off to prison for your "subversive" activities, something that happens regularly to our persecuted brothers and sisters in the faith. Gather with other believers on Sunday morning to hear and sing the Word, partake of Christ's body and blood which impart forgiveness of

sins, life, and salvation, and to pray . . . and thank God for his blessings.

Thank him with your words of thanksgiving. Thank him with deeds of service to others. Thank him with giving your money. Thank him with your life, for he gave his for you.



The Golden Rule

Jesus said, "*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . .*" (Matthew 7:12). Christ in us enables us to treat others with love and kindness. We can live the Golden Rule. Our hope and desire is that others will return that love to us, although we realize that, just as many didn't return Christ's love to him, others may not return our kindness to us. Just because we don't always receive goodness and kindness from others, we should never be deterred from expressing God's love to others.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

December 2021 Update

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson
ELCA Global Personnel



Frank, age 3. A graduate of our NICU (112 days hospitalized), and among our smallest, sickest babies ever. A star of our recent ***Tiny Feet, Big Steps*** Neonatology Conference.



Dear Augustus Lutheran Church,

Last you heard from us, we were embarking on a Neonatology Conference during the end of October. We are so grateful to give you a positive report!



We completed what was likely the largest-ever training conference on Neonatology in East Africa, held here in Arusha and hosted by our hospital. ***Tiny Feet, Big Steps*** was meant to train doctors and nurses from just our zonal region of northern Tanzania. As word grew of our conference, attendance requests increased. We ended up with **160+ nurses and doctors from Tanzania**, as well as from **Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya and Uganda! 55 hospitals were in attendance.** It was an amazing 3 days of lectures, skills workshops, and learning.

International doctors and nurses came from the United States, Germany and Canada to join our Tanzanian colleagues, and together we created an unforgettable team and conference! One of the most emphatic comments in the evaluations at the end of the conference was, "Please repeat this conference next year!" There was "a buzz" about the place everywhere you looked, in every session, with so many questions and constant engagement. I think it was fair to say, there was not a dull moment.



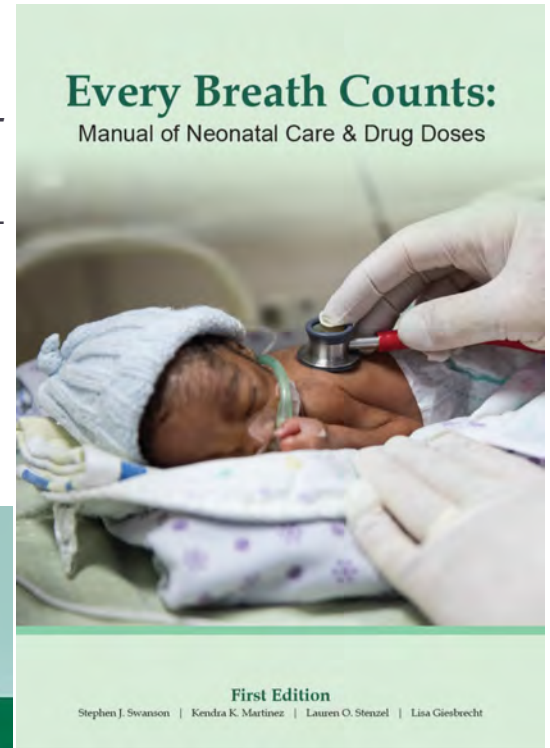
Throughout our time in Tanzania, we have had a **Vision** for creating a clinical space where every baby, no matter how small or sick, can have the opportunity to get compassionate, life-saving care. Our **Mission** to teach, train, and improve care in East Africa was at the heart of this conference. Since the conference ended, we have continued to receive requests to host visiting doctors and nurses and train them. Next month, we welcome a pediatric doctor from Ethiopia to learn from us, followed by doctors coming to us from the national referral hospital in Dar es Salaam.



Book Launch

On October 25th the official book launch occurred of **"Every Breath Counts: Manual of Neonatal Care & Drug Doses"**. This 360-page manual for doctors and nurses in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) will help standardize care of hospitalized babies, and represents the first-ever published Neonatology manual in East Africa, written by and for an East African hospital. The book is now being used in 40 - 50 hospitals, and represents a team effort and years of learning and work.

Since the printing and distribution of this book, we have received numerous calls and texts with stories and videos of how units are utilizing this handbook. We know it will change the care for neonates in Tanzania.



Our outstanding team of Tanzanian pediatricians and registrars at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and Selian Hospital. They have been my inspiration.

At this farewell dinner, we said goodbye to our beloved **Dr. Evelyn Mushi** (front row, 2nd from right), who has left for South Africa to formally train in pediatrics. I have worked with Evelyn since 2017, after she completed medical school. Through the ELCA International Leaders Scholarship, she will attend a pediatric residency program at University of Stellenbosch.

She will be deeply missed during her 4 years away in training, but we are thrilled for her to have this opportunity!



As I write this, I know that we are stretched beyond our limits most days. I am receiving calls from the hospital late into the night regarding admissions, and we have no more space in the NICU... but they keep arriving (4 sick babies arriving tonight alone).

We are challenged by a demand for care that is far greater than we can humanly provide. Our reputation now results in even more referrals to our NICU from outside hospitals, and they arrive without advance notice. We face continual shortages of nurses, declining supplies, tired doctors and limited donor funds to cover all our charitable care, equipment and training costs. We want to help every baby and child, and we just can't.

Yet we continue to try because we choose to live in mercy and compassion. We have a deep conviction that God values the smallest and the weakest among us. We depend on your generosity to help us train, equip, and care.

Please consider making a year-end donation.

All funds go towards the work above.

www.tanzanianchildren.com or www.tanzanianchildren.org

USA tax-deductible donations and charitable account giving can also be received through the *Tanzanian Pediatric-NICU Fund* at [Global Health Ministries](http://GlobalHealthMinistries.org).

Advent Season reminds us that God comes to us at the most unexpected, inopportune moments. A dirty stable and cries of childbirth opened the world to unimaginable grace and holiness. With pregnant faith, we believe that God remains alive and present in messy stables all over the world. He meets us in our stable.

In joy and anticipation of God,

Steve & Jodi



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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

find our names under the drop down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship
Information regarding tax-deductible contributions for pediatric work can be found at:
www.tanzanianchildren.org

All funds are received through Global Health Ministries (GHM), 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.

Donations inside and outside USA can also be received through: www.tanzanianchildren.com

Your support makes this work possible!

GHM will send you a tax deductible receipt.

Our mailing address is:

Steve and Jodi Swanson
c/o Michael Swanson
16608 Early Dawn Trail
Lakeville, MN 55044

With the help from the congregation of Augustus, Christmas came to Gemma Services (formerly Silver Springs - Martin Luther School) through WELCA's collection in November. Many heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated. Your donations were very much appreciated.



The Holidays Have Come to Gemma!

Thank you to the many individuals, congregations, and businesses who have donated dozens of presents, stacks of gift cards, and endless season's greetings to make the holidays joyful and bright for the youth and families we serve!

Gift cards have been distributed to families served in our Community Based Programs to purchase gifts, volunteers have wrapped dozens of presents, and Gemma's team gave each of our residential children a bag full of presents at the annual holiday parties this week! In a long-standing tradition, each child chose a new stuffed friend to call their own.

Thanks to many volunteer elves, the children who will wake up with us on Christmas morning will also find decorated stockings and additional gifts to make their day bright, too! We are so grateful for the generosity of all of our friends and partners for making this cheerful holiday season possible for the kids and families of Gemma.

We wish you a very happy holidays!

