

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People

JULY 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Because of vacations, July appears to be the quietest month at Augustus, but ministry continues unabated: the worshipping of God and helping of our neighbors continue without interruption.

On Sunday, July 3, 2022, we will
give thanks to God for the blessings of liberty,
sing patriotic hymns which ask for God's continual guidance, and
pray for peace.

I will begin my vacation on Monday, July 4th. For the rest of July, the Reverend Thomas Kochenderfer will preach and preside at worship and be on call for emergencies. Pastor Kochenderfer began his connection to Augustus when his retired grandfather served as Vice-Pastor of Augustus during a pastoral vacancy. Augustus is blessed to have a friend as loyal as Pr. Kochenderfer. Please come to worship and support him in his ministry with us.

In your prayers please pray to God for an increase in the number of pastors in our denomination. Our South-eastern Pennsylvania Synod is widely considered to be a desirable place to do ministry, and yet 25% of our congregations do not have permanent pastoral leadership. In our neighboring Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the situation is even worse: 33% of parishes are without a permanent pastor. Especially for smaller congregations, this current situation will result in a different style of shared ministry. Please pray also for those congregations who are seeking a permanent pastor.

Summer Schedule June 19 through September 4, 2022, 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

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



Candle Lamp and Altar Flower Sponsors



Altar Flowers

Each Sunday, a member or family from the congregation donates flowers for the altar at our worship services (\$45 per week). Another member or family donates the candle lamp that hangs over the altar (\$6 per week). These are two great ways to honor someone you love, as well as to honor your commitment to God and to Augustus. After the service, a volunteer delivers the flowers to shut ins or others who could use a lift. The candle burns for the week over the altar to remind us that God is with us.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of these important parts of our weekly worship, please contact the Parish Administrator at 610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org.

From the Bench

July 2022

In a few weeks, I will be travelling to Valparaíso University to attend the annual conference of the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians. I signed up for some interesting workshops, and I look forward to bringing new learning home with me – to you! One very impactful workshop I attended years ago was hosted by 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 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



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Graceful Generosity

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

Blessed to be a Blessing

Many times in Scripture we are promised that the one who gives will receive.

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38).

"'Bring the whole tithe ... Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it' " (Malachi 3:10).

What happens when we emphasize the latter instead of the former is the development of a "name-it-and-claim-it" type of religion in which we give only so we can get.

First Timothy 6:5-10 warns us of the dangers of this attitude. Paul wrote that false teachers *"think that godliness is a means to financial gain."* We know from Scripture that we have been blessed that we might be a blessing to others. Therefore, we share our wealth—our monetary wealth (Romans 12:13), our wealth in talents and responsibilities (1 Peter 4:10-11), our wealth in experiences (2 Corinthians 1:4), and our wealth in time (James 1:27).

God blesses us so we can be his instruments to support the needy and extend his church.

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Money Will Buy Things

Money will buy ...

A bed, but not sleep.

Books, but not brains.

Food, but not appetite.

Finery, but not beauty.

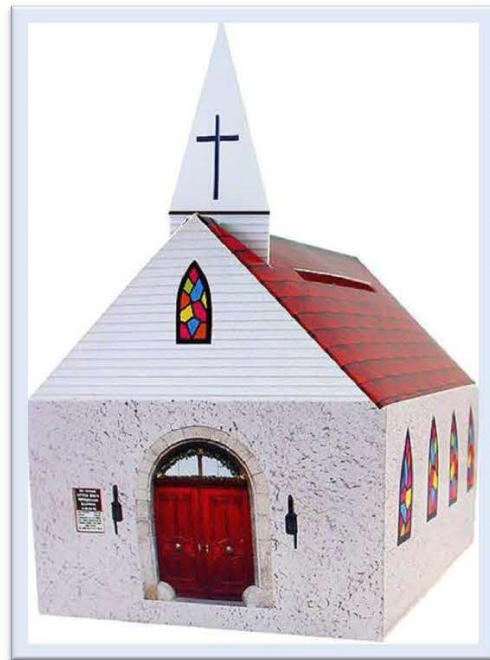
A house, but not a home.

Medicine, but not health.

Luxuries, but not culture.

Amusements, but not happiness.

A Crucifix, but not a Savior.



*The church is like a bank ...
The more you put into it, the more
interest you have in it!*

A Thief Has Broken into Our Church

He has done considerable damage. Even the casual observer may see evidence of the break-in. What has he taken?

He has taken strength from our Sunday School. Every Sunday his thievery deprives the congregation of about one-fourth of its membership. He depletes the offering potential of the church. There is no insurance that will cover the damage caused by this thievery ...

except the safeguard of spiritual commitment. The culprit's fingerprints are much in evidence. From this his identity has been established.

His name is MR. INDIFFERENCE. This criminal in our midst has weakened the educational arm of the church, depleted the attendance at worship, and looted the tithes and offerings. Most interesting of all is the method by which he initiates his crime. He begins first in the home.

BEWARE OF THIS THIEF!

Cell Phone vs. Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

Oh, and one more thing: Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill, and, one more thing ... there are no dropped calls!

Are You Willing?

"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your

means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:11-12).



There is so much need around us. Daily we are interrupted by telephone calls soliciting our donations to well-deserving causes. We hear of elderly people in nursing homes who never have visitors and children in need of mentors. Committees within our congregations seek to add to their boards in order to carry out the ministry of our churches.

We may become overwhelmed. Where do we start? How can I ... one person ... fill all these needs? Often guilt accompanies these questions. What is God asking of us? According to the Apostle Paul, we are expected to give according to what we have. He was speaking here of monetary offerings, but his admonition relates to the sharing of our time and abilities as well. The key, Paul seems to say, is to be willing. *"If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable."*

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 610-610-310-5008

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At this writing we are busy getting ready for Vacation Bible School which will be held for children aged three through sixth grade June 27th through the 30th. This year we'll be on a mission to Mars, learning all about God's power. There will be music, games, science experiments, crafts, stories and snacks.

You will probably receive this newsletter while Vacation Bible School is in session. Please pray, as we do, that that we will be able to guide our campers into a deeper relationship with God and that we ourselves will be strengthened and enriched by the Holy Spirit as we take part in this ministry.

Ministry with children and youth often reminds me of the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23). We never know and usually never see what seeds of faith are planted. We just trust God that some will fall on "good soil," God's Word will grow in hearts and minds, and God's kingdom will be built up. To build up God's kingdom on earth is the calling of all Christians.

Thank you for continuing to pray for and support the children of Augustus.

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank all those who supported us throughout the 21/22 year. We appreciated those who purchased items from our fund raisers, who volunteered in preparing items for the fund raisers and those who donated to our group. All of the donations were used for our various outreach projects, our monthly activities and the mission trip.

The SYG would like to congratulate Jennifer Beattie and Cooper Demark on graduating high school. We wish them good luck and blessings in all of their future endeavors. As they move on to their next stage of life, we look forward to welcoming the 7 new youth that will be joining our group for the 22/23 year.

The SYG year ended with an afternoon of paintball. It was a lot of fun. Thankfully the welts from the outing have finally gone away. We'll be kicking things off again in late August/early September. We have a full calendar with many exciting activities planned, along with our normal fund raisers.

This summer the SYG will be going back to Camden, NY for the annual Mission trip. After two lost years due to Covid, the leaders are looking forward to taking the youth north to get their hands dirty. The dates are July 23-29th. Three adults and 5 youth from Augustus will be attending this year.

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. Please contact any of the leaders or contact the office with a message.



Chris Dogonniuck, bulldog7224@comcast.net

Cathy Meeley, tcmeeley@verizon.net

Joe Schaffer, joe.schaffer.44@gmail.com

Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net

youth@augustrappe.org

Thanks again for your support. Have a great summer!

Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

Checking on our Job as Stewards

A young boy walks into a small drug store and asks the druggist, “Could I use the telephone?” The druggist replies, “You certainly can,” and shows him where the telephone is. The boy calls a grocery store and asks the man who answers the phone, “Is your grocery store looking for someone to stock the shelves?” The man says, “No, we already have a stock boy.” The boy inquires, “If he isn’t doing a good job, maybe you need to get someone who will do a better job.” The man replies, “No, we are pleased with the work the boy is doing,” so the boy hung up the telephone.

The druggist hears the conversation and says to the boy, “I’m sorry you didn’t get the job.” The boy says, “I don’t need a job, because I am the stock boy. I was checking to see what they thought of my work.”

What if we could call God to ask about the job we are doing as his stewards? If it were possible to call, what kind of response would you expect to hear? Would God see you as a person who acknowledges all that you have as having been given to you by him and yourself as a manager, not an owner? Would God tell you that you are using your time, talents, and treasures in ways that please him? Would God commend you for feeding the hungry, for sheltering the homeless, for giving generously to those in need? Would God be pleased with what you are giving to his church? Would God tell you, “Well done, good and faithful steward?”

Unfortunately, we all fall well short of God’s standards, but, because of what Christ did for us on the cross, we are forgiven for all the times that we have failed to be faithful stewards. With God’s grace given to us through his Son, we can be molded and transformed into God-pleasing stewards. In Christ, we can be stewards who do God’s work well.

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.



Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, July 15 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room

We'll discuss: The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

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



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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Jessica Kunasz	2 Cameron Tartar
3 Tamara Griggs Rose Swan Sandra Trauger	4	5 Pia Lari	6 Brittany Snyder	7 Terry Benner Paul Niemann Amy Noonan	8 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 Karen Lachenmayer	15 Heather Mullaney	16
17	18 Laurel Beattie William Fluck Benjamin O'Hara Kiley Veleber-Schmitt	19 Brian Funk Robert Williams	20 Amanda Halteman LaVonne Johnson	21 Alison Fishell Courtenay Kerr Rosemary McNeal	22 Jack Bowe Bryan McClain	23 Jennifer Cunningham Rebecca Quirk
24 Tripp Miller Hannah Pearson Andrew Schlegel	25 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						

July Birthdays

Every now and then, go away,
have little relaxation, for when
you come back to your work,
your judgement will be surer.

Leonardo da Vinci

The Parable of the Sower

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."



NRSV Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Get Moving!

Many people, especially young children, learn best through movement. Movement makes it possible for us to worship God with our whole beings. Let the children in your household lead this exploration. You will experience the Bible in totally new ways! Start by reading aloud Psalm 96:1-4. Choose a rhythm to fit the verses. Snap fingers, clap hands, and tap knees. Take turns leading the movements.

Pick a favorite Christian song or hymn and create a dance to it. Make dance streamers by stapling crepe paper or fabric strips to 12" dowels, pencils, or plastic straws. Twirl the streamers as you dance.

Create a frame drama for a favorite Bible story. This kind of drama tells a Bible story in a sequence of frames or story segments. You need: one leader, the players, and the audience. (You can do this with only three people.) A leader asks the audience to close their eyes. The player then position their bodies to represent a frame or segment of the Bible story and to freeze their position. The leader tells the audience to open their eyes. After 5-10 seconds, the leader asks the audience to again shut their eyes. The players then arrange themselves according to the leader's directions for the next scene.

Make rhythm instruments and use them to accompany a favorite hymn. Make finger cymbals with lids from baby food jars. Place each lid on a piece of wood and punch two holes in the center of each lid with a nail. Fold in half a rubber band and push each end through the holes in the lid. Play by putting a thumb through the rubber band on one lid and a forefinger through the rubber band on another. Tap the lids together. Make a bottle xylophone by hanging a matching set of bottles or glasses from a stand or placing them in a row on a table. Fill them with water to varying depths and tap with a spoon to play. Make a nail scale by hanging nails of different lengths and thicknesses from a coat hanger. Play by striking them with a spoon or gently tipping the hanger back and forth.

Without making any sound, move your bodies in positions of thanks and praise. End the motion prayer by all shouting, "Amen!"

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