

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



OCTOBER 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I pray this edition of *The Augustinian* finds you well. You received a large envelope from Augustus this month. I would like to focus on a few points.

First, the Vestry has approved distributing the monthly edition of *The Augustinian* primarily by email through Constant Contact, beginning with the February 2024 issue. This change will save money on paper and postage, helping us to be better stewards of the resources you share with us. For the distribution to be effective, please make sure the Parish Office has the email address at which you would prefer to receive *The Augustinian*. You can email this information to Karen McClain at office@augustustrappe.org or you can call her at 610-489-9625 weekdays from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. If you do not wish to receive *The Augustinian* by email but in printed format via the Post Office, you can do that by emailing or calling Karen McClain the same way.

Second, the **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 12, 2023. At this meeting, we will vote on revisions to our current constitution. Copies of the current and proposed constitutions have been included for your perusal. All of the changes are the result of revisions mandated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are editorial in nature.

Reformation Sunday is October 29, 2023. This is our opportunity to give thanks to God for the renewed emphasis on God's grace in the church's proclamation. Please remember to wear something red to celebrate the Lutheran Reformation.

May God, the Father of glory,
Jesus Christ, the name above all names,
and the Holy Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you on Sunday!



THANK YOU, STAFF!

Rev. G. Warren Weleck
Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer
Rev. Howard L. Kriebel
Rev. Martha B. Kriebel
Laurie S. Mueller
Sonya Sowards
Karen McClain
David Ward

**Pastor & Staff
APPRECIATION
DAY !!!**

**RECEPTION TO
FOLLOW THE SERVICE**

**October, 15
8:00 & 10:30 AM**

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brianohara24@gmail.com



From the Bench

October 2023

This month, I would like to introduce our Senior Choir. Below are their photos and names.

Our Section Leaders:



Jennie Lien, Soprano



Ali Backlund, Alto



Bob Reichner, Tenor



Jesse Shutt, Bass

Sopranos



Alanna Jessee



Jeannie Funk



Denise Staub



Jennifer Wentworth

Altos



Cheryl Camuso



Becky Quirk



Judy Bubeck



Vicky Gallagher



If you know someone who can sing tenor or bass – we'd love for them to join us and add to our ranks! Next month, I'll introduce the bell choir with photos.

Save the date: Sunday December 10th at 4 pm will be our Christmas Concert. See you in church!

Laurie Mueller

Graceful Generosity

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

A Definition of Stewardship

"Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions." (W. H. Greever)

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify who the following person may represent in Scripture?



If you said the Prodigal Son, you were right. In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus told the parable of a wealthy farmer who had two sons. The younger of the two sons was not happy living at home so he left home with his share of the estate which was given to him by his father. While he was gone, he *"squandered his wealth in wild living"* (verse 13).

When the son finally came to his senses, he was ready to go home. He confessed his sin to God and to his father. He said, *"I have sinned against heaven and against you,*

I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (verses 18-19).

The parable ends with his loving father embracing him and celebrating his return. In this parable, Jesus illustrated the love of the father for his son in order to make it abundantly clear that God's love is infinite. God's love toward us sinners is unconditional and eternal.

The love of the Father shown in this parable is our motivation for Christian stewardship. In spite of who we are and what we do, God doesn't stop loving us. We respond out of gratitude in honoring him with the faithful use of our time, talents, and treasures.

On the Lighter Side

A pastor was talking to the church organist. "When I finish my sermon," he said, "I'll ask for all those in the congregation who want to contribute \$500 toward the church's debt to stand up. In the meantime, you can provide appropriate music."

"Any suggestions?" the organist asked.

"You might try the Star Spangled Banner," the pastor replied.

A Stewardship Thought

While opportunities to use our gifts seem almost limitless, we must be willing to make ourselves available. Often our tendency is to look at our shortcomings rather than to focus on Philippians 4:13: *"I can do all things through him who gives me strength."* As stewards we are to use our gifts gladly and wholeheartedly in service to God alone.

*God must work in us ...
If he is to work through us.*

Expressing Your Thanks to God

How are you saying THANKS to God for all that he has entrusted to you? When you think of Christian stewardship, you probably think of what you place in the offering plate. I hope that you are showing your gratitude through generous giving, but what about using your talents for God through the church?

All of us, to one degree or another, have the ability to do things that can be of benefit to our church. In other words ... after you have heard the sermon and participated in Holy Communion ... now it's time to show your thanks by doing some work for the Lord.

You may ask: "Why should I?" Think for a moment about our situation. Many do not realize that sin is a big problem and obstacle in this world. We do. Thanks to the Word of God, we have been brought to the realization that forgiveness is needed every day. Scripture also tells us that salvation is a free gift that we can't earn. That fact should make us more eager to say thanks to God who has saved and freed us from eternal prison and gives us a fresh start every day.

As stewards, we realize that our talents and abilities are gifts from God that are to be used in his service. When we use our gifts for God's glory, we are acknowledging that he is the provider, and we express our thanks for what he gives to us. Some of the tasks that we can do around the church are fairly obvious, such as being kind and courteous to fellow worshippers and visitors, giving words of encouragement, singing in the choir, ushering, teaching Sunday school, serving on committees or boards, washing the windows, etc. Check with us in the church office to see how you can use your gifts.

There are many ways of expressing thanks to the Lord. We hope that one of the ways that you will say thanks is through using your talents at our church.

Closing Thought

We can live one of two ways ... with or without Christ. We can live without Christ, living just for ourselves, exalting worldly pleasures and success, or we can live with Christ, exalting him as the risen Lord.

We can squander our talents, waste our time, and spend our money foolishly, or we can use these God-given gifts to his glory as they benefit others. *"Each of us will give an account of himself to God,"* we read in Romans 14:12. Let us be among those who hear the words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:21).



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all our wonderful teachers for a delicious kick-off breakfast on September 10th! We enjoyed plenty of food, fellowship, and fun. I'm very thankful for our new Sunday school students and teachers and for lots of donations of Sunday school snacks.

Also, thank you to our senior high youth group and their leaders for an inspiring worship service and lovely cook-out on September 17th. It was a great day for a picnic with friends.

Confirmation classes have begun and I'm looking forward to another year with our delightful young people.

On October 1st we will have the annual Blessing of the Animals during the Sunday school hour. Bring your pets (either live or stuffed) and Pastor Weleck will bless them. Invite your neighbors too—it's a great way to introduce them to Augustus.

Finally, our annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 28th—again, neighbors are very welcome!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

OPEN TO ALL KIDS THROUGH 6th GRADE
DECORATED CAR TRUNKS WELCOME

For more details or to contribute a decorated trunk, contact gtwess@comcast.net
In case of inclement weather, event will be held indoors

*Brian O'Hara © 2023
brian.chara24@gmail.com*

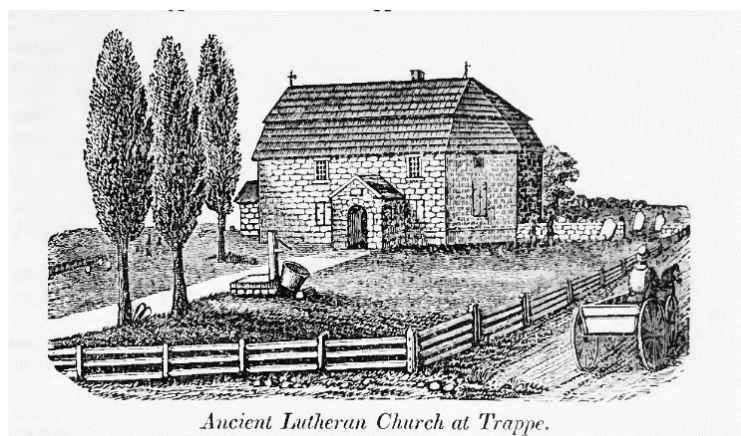
Some Facts about the Old Trappe Church

One day, I was thinking about the early history of the Old Church, and I started doing some research. Here are some facts that I found that I thought might be of interest to you:

- ♦ When Henry Melchior Muhlenberg first arrived in this region in November 1742, he wrote a letter that stated on that occasion he was accompanied from the New Hanover Church by ‘three elders to Providence which has a byname of Trappe’. This implies that the village of Trappe had indeed started.
- ♦ Muhlenberg called the building the “Augustus Church” or the “Providence Church” in all his correspondence and journals. No documents were found that he ever called the building the “Trappe Church”.
- ♦ Under the direction of Henry Muhlenberg, the construction of a new stone church (not wood) began in May 1743. The building was to be 54 shoes long by 39 shoes wide. The building was under roof by the end of August of the same year.
- ♦ The first service was held in the new church on September 12, 1743. The interior of the Church was not completed: there were no pews, pulpit, organ or galleries and the walls were plain. Muhlenberg promised the Congregation that he would dedicate the Church after construction was completed and the debt was paid off.
- ♦ From a letter dated April 21, 1744, Muhlenberg expected that the Church in Providence would be consecrated that summer and that it will be called ‘Augustus’ named after the Founder of the Halle Foundation, Augustus Hermann Franke (and not St. Augustus).
- ♦ By 1745 the pews, pulpit, and two galleries were completed. The debt was also paid off and on October 6, 1745, Muhlenberg dedicated the church to the “Society of the Augsburg Confession” and named the church “Augustus”. The name “Augustus” does not appear anywhere on the building.
- ♦ The Choir loft was added in 1751, to accommodate a new organ.
- ♦ On a map of Pennsylvania dated 1759, the building was shown as the “Dutch Lutheran Church”.
- ♦ In a book entitled “Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania” by Sherman Day and published in 1843, there is a sketch of the Old Church with the caption underneath calling the building the “Ancient Lutheran Church at Trappe”.
- ♦ In 1850, the Congregation at Augustus began to talk about constructing a “new and more comfortable” church. Construction of the New Brick church was started in 1852 and completed by 1853.
- ♦ In 1930, Pastor W.O. Fegley declared that the Old Church was the “Oldest Unaltered Lutheran Church in America” and “The Shrine of Lutheranism”.

Conclusion: Based upon the research, it is apparent that the Old Church was known by many different names over the years, however, it is not apparent where the name “Trappe Church” originated from. If the Brick Church (built in 1852) is the “New Church” then it is logical that the 1743 building is the “Old Church”. Regardless of the facts that were found or not found, the reality is that it will forever be known to all of us as the “Old Trappe Church”.

Submitted by Pat O’Hara



Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on Monday, October 16 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room.

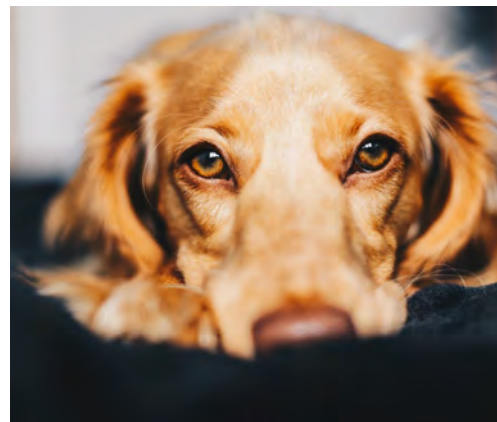
We'll discuss: The House at Tyneford
by Natasha Solomons

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



EVERYONE IS WELCOME at the Blessing of the Animals!

You and your pet(s) are invited to join us
on **October 1st at 9 a.m.**
in the church parking lot.
(Stuffed animals and/or pictures of pets
are also welcome.)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Alicia Allebach Scott Detwiler Ronald Oelschlager Megan Schaffer	2 Janet Rhoads	3 Robert Imes Bryce Ziegler Tye Ziegler	4 Wayne Williams	5	6	7 Marsha Franz Dawn Halteman Brooke Perkins
8 Dawn Kutteroff	9 Eric Hart Leo North Deborah Riegner	10 Elle Ralph	11	12	13 Ted Lewis Lizabeth Niskala	14 Paul Gallagher Tammi King Cheryl MacMullen Tony Mancuso Ike Matoney
15 Molly Hynes Stephanie Lash	16 Cormac Miller	17 Eugene Frank	18 Cheryl Imes Michael Wells	19 Tami Firth	20	21 Michael Krasley Dorothy Rieger
22 Evan Griggs Mildred Stuffle	23 Kelsie Mourar Amy Wells	24 Curt Allen	25 Gavin Strasinski	26 Abigail Catagnus	27 Jennifer Beattie Addison Smith	28 Bryan Fishell Jonathan Lumley
29 Kathryn Bubeck Nicholas Lari Robert Slauch	30 Dale O'Hara Abraham Van Alstine	31 Alfred Dubeck Phil Lehman Alfred Stuffle Douglas Sweeney				

October Birthdays





Our Gigantic Family Tree

Many people try to learn about their family's history by going back through many generations to discover who their ancestors are. People do this because they're curious about their family tree and they're looking for their roots. That's what All Saints' Sunday—the first Sunday after November 1—is all about. All Saints' Sunday is like a family tree for the whole Christian family. We are reminded of all the saints who have lived and died, and those who are living now. It's not a sad time; it's a time that gives us great strength.

Life isn't always happy. It's not fun to be sick or to feel lonely. Can you imagine living somewhere where there are no other people? Some things make us feel lonely and sad even when there are many people around us. When someone we love dies, it can be very hard to understand why this has happened. But that's one of the reasons we celebrate All Saints' Day. It reminds us that we are never really alone. We know that the people whom we love who have died are resting in God's arms. It reminds us that billions of people have sung, danced,

cried, laughed, eaten, and drank in God's house throughout the centuries, just like we do now.

Think of all the people alive now who love you and whom you love. If someone really special has died, look at pictures of that person and share stories of him or her.

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brian.ohara24@gmail.com

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN
AGES 3 - 6th GRADE

Sunday School

STARTS SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

EVERY SUNDAY 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

REFRESHMENTS

SINGING

BIBLE STORIES

CRAFTS



717 W. MAIN STREET
AUGUSTUS

WWW.AUGUSTUSTRAPPE.ORG
LUTHERAN

610-489-9625
CHURCH



Augustus' Women of the ELCA Thankoffering/Quilt & Afghan Sunday



Augustus' Thankoffering/Quilt & Afghan Sunday will be held on November 19, 2023, at both the 8:00am & 10:30am church worship services. The Reverend Betty Wright-Riggins, Ursinus' Chaplain Director of Religion & Spiritual Life, will be our guest preacher. She is an outstanding leader in our community. Please mark your calendars & plan to attend. You won't want to miss this service!!

Also, on this day handcrafted quilts and afghans by Augustus' Women of the ELCA Hearts & Hands Committee will be on display. The quilts and afghans were produced under the direction of Mildred Stuffle. The quilts will be given to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to the less fortunate in countries all over the world. The full-sized afghans will be taken to Laurel House, a shelter for abused women and children, in Norristown, and the baby afghans will be taken to the Genesis Pregnancy Care Center in Pottstown. The prayer blankets will be given to Doylestown Hospital for end of life patients and to St. Mary's Medical Center for mothers who lost their babies. Producing and distributing quilts and afghans to those in need is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need.

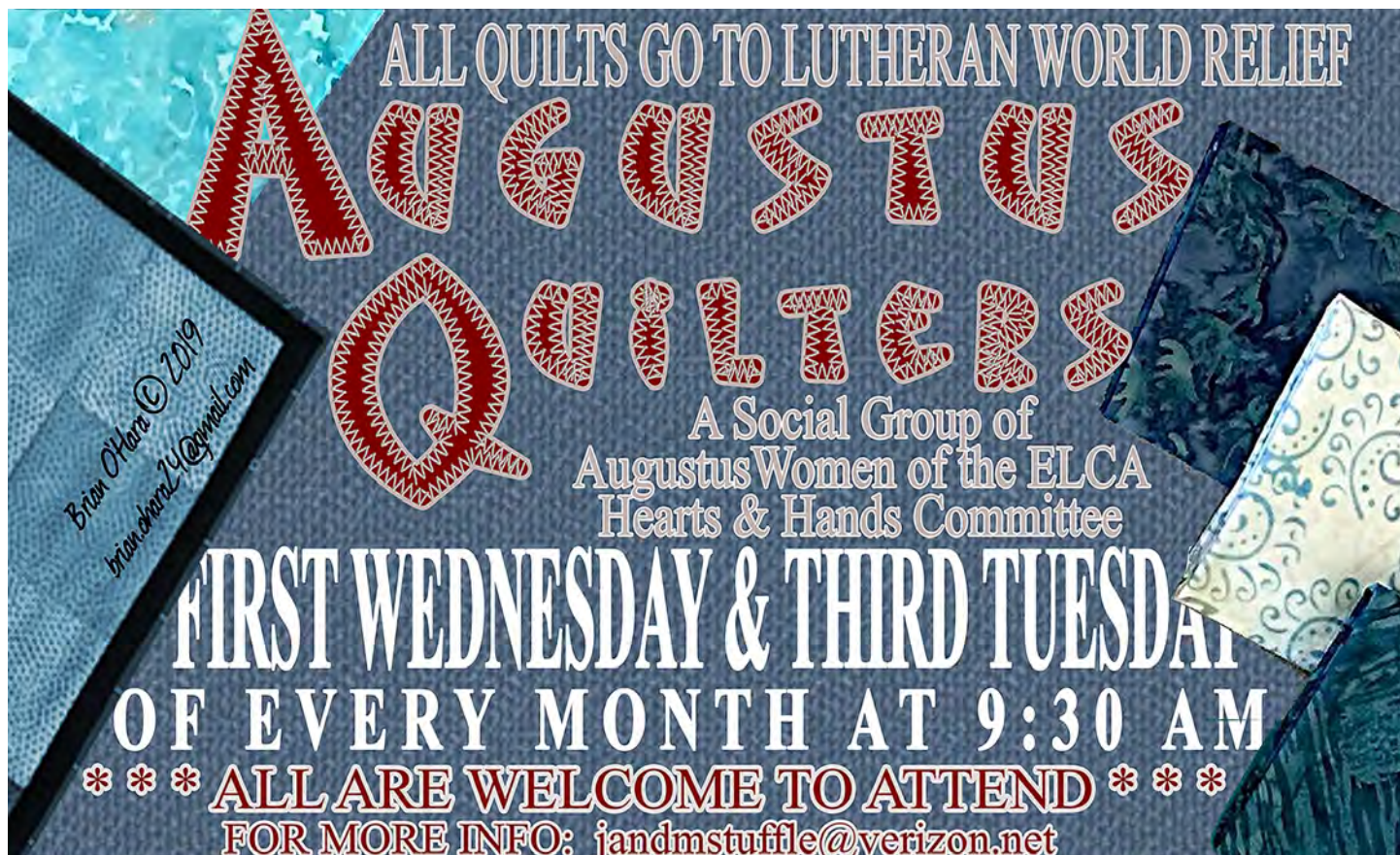
In honor of Thankoffering, envelopes will be distributed for your donation which support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA by covering the costs for programs, resources, leadership training, and operational expenses. All the money collected will be sent directly to the churchwide organization of the Women of the ELCA. Make checks payable to "Augustus Women of the ELCA". Please be generous! Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and hope for all that is to come. They give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude and hope. When significant or ordinary moments happen, it is our way of saying "thank you" to God!



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.





ALL QUILTS GO TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

AUGUSTUS QUILTERS

A Social Group of
Augustus Women of the ELCA
Hearts & Hands Committee

**FIRST WEDNESDAY & THIRD TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH AT 9:30 AM**

***** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND *****

FOR MORE INFO: jandmstuffle@verizon.net

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brian.ohara24@gmail.com*



Knitting n' Crocheting

A Social Group of
Augustus Women of the ELCA
Hearts & Hands Committee

**SECOND & FOURTH MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM**

***** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND *****

FOR MORE INFO: jandmstuffle@verizon.net

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brian.ohara24@gmail.com*

Gather, Rest and Renew



Women of the ELCA Day Retreat United Lutheran Seminary Campus Saturday, October 14 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Board of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA is sponsoring a spiritual retreat at the campus of the United Lutheran Seminary in Mount Airy. Its aim is to give us the opportunity to become more aware of God's presence in our lives and in our world. The Retreat, "Gather, Rest and Renew", is open to all women over 15, not just members of WELCA. The Retreat will be held on Saturday October 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As women we know that everyday life can be overwhelmingly demanding. It is all too easy to run ourselves ragged and become depleted in body, mind, and spirit; or to believe that if we were to stop or slow down, we would no longer have any usefulness. We need that grace which reminds us that our identity is not in what we do, but in who we are. We are Daughters of the King of Kings. We breathe the Breath of God here and now in this life, no matter how full or empty our daily life may seem. The world in which we live is teeming with goodness and the graces of God, whether we realize it or not.

The Reverend Leslie Richard will lead us, as we come away for the day and enter a time of sharing, prayer, discussion, and contemplative exercise aimed at renewing our sense of self and our growing recognition of God's Self in our daily life.

The Rev. Leslie M. Richard, MA was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1989. She has served in a variety of pastoral settings. She is a trained Spiritual Director with a Master of Arts in Holistic Spirituality.

Direct questions to Linda Garcia, President - email: jaglsg@comcast.net As the retreat is made possible by a Katie's Fund grant, information about the Women of the ELCA will be presented and available.

If you are interested in attending, we are requesting a \$20.00 donation to help defray expenses – this includes lunch.

The United Lutheran Seminary is located at 7301 Germantown Ave. in Philadelphia and is easily accessible by public transportation.

Please complete the following registration form by Friday, October 6th, and mail it along with a check to:

Carolyn Edwards
35 Bliss BLVD.
Shillington, PA 19607

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization



Women of the ELCA Day Retreat Registration Form

Attendee:

Congregation (optional):

Email address:

Attendee:

Congregation
(optional):

Email address:

Attendee:

Congregation(optional):

Email address:

Registration and payment are due by Friday, October 6th. Please mail this form with your check made out to Women of the ELCA – SEPA to:

***Carolyn Edwards
35 Bliss Blvd
Shillington, PA 19607***

Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

The Importance of Trust

Trust is an important part of a relationship between spouses, between parents and children, between employers and employees, and between friends. To illustrate the importance of trust, I will share a story from former President Eisenhower who described an event from his earlier days on a Kansas farm.

“An older farmer had a cow we wanted to buy,” the President said. “We went over to visit him and asked about the cow’s pedigree.”

“Don’t know,” replied the farmer.

“Well, how’s her butterfat production?” we asked.

“Don’t know.”

“Let’s see,” my dad finally said. “How many pounds of milk does she give each year?”

“Don’t know that either,” said the farmer shaking his head. “But I do know she’s an honest cow and she’ll give you all the milk she has!”

“Well,” Ike concluded. “I’m kinda like that old cow. You can always trust me to give you everything I have.”

Life would be so much easier if we could take people at their word. It doesn’t take long to discover that talk is cheap, so we are forced to decide whom or what we will trust. Where do we place our faith and confidence? Do we trust God as our source of life and things? Trusting is not an easy thing to do. We may trust God in some things but not all things. By nature, we are self-reliant, and we live in a society that admires self-reliance and discourages trust in anyone other than oneself.

Trust knows that God loves us and wants the best for us. Complete trust in God is seeking God himself, rather than his gifts. Knowing God, through Christ, brings about a self-surrender and total trust in him. Then our trust is not dependent on what he gives, but who he is.

In the same manner that God proves he is trustworthy, God wants us to prove our trustworthiness. The apostle Paul wrote, “*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful*” (1 Corinthians 4:2). How blessed we are that our God can be trusted totally and that he loves and trusts us enough to be his ambassadors and representatives here on earth. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful to his trust.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church—Sixth Grade Students receive Bibles	2	3 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	4 9:30 am Quilting Group 2:00 pm Staff Mtg 6:00 pm 3-in-1	5 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir	6	7
8 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church	9 7:00 pm Knit & Crochet Group	10 7:00 pm Community Club	11 9:30 am Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm 3-in-1	12 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir	13	14
15 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church	16 7:00 pm Book Club	17 9:30 am Quilting Group	18 2:00 pm Staff Mtg 6:00 pm 3-in-1	19 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir	20	21
22 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church 11:30 am Holy Baptism	23	24	25 6:00 pm 3-in-1	26 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir	27	28 9:00 am St. Andrews Re-treat 4:00 pm Trunk or Treat
29 REFORMATION 8:00 am Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion in the Brick Church	30	31 7:00 pm Committee Night				

October

