

# Augustinian

## Augustus Lutheran Church

### An Historic Church for Today's People



FEBRUARY 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Given the amount of snow we have received in January, I thought it might be helpful to recall our usual practice on closure.

On Sunday we will have worship at the stated time(s). In the unlikely event that we need to close; e.g., because the parking lot is impassable or no heat or no electricity, the closure message will be posted on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/augustustrappe.org](https://www.facebook.com/augustustrappe.org)) by 7:00 am. On Sunday, when in doubt, consult [www.facebook.com/augustustrappe.org](https://www.facebook.com/augustustrappe.org).

On weekdays, if the Perkiomen Valley School District closes, Augustus automatically closes. The school district has much better information about regional road conditions than we do at Augustus. On weekdays, when in doubt, consult [www.pvsd.org](https://www.pvsd.org).

**Ash Wednesday falls on February 18, 2026.** Our service, led mostly by the Confirmands, begins at 7:00 p.m. Please be present to support our Confirmands in their faith development.



**The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026,** at 11:30 a.m. in the Brick Church Nave. In addition to the usual reports, we will vote on the Revised 2026 budget and changes to our constitution mandated by the ELCA, most of which are minor. The Vestry will also ask for authority to respond to a request from the Borough of Trappe. The bulletin of reports for the meeting will be distributed after each service on Sunday, February 1, 2026. We do not anticipate a long meeting. Usually, the February meeting lasts 15 minutes. This year it may last 30 minutes. Your attendance is requested so we have a quorum for conducting business.

I would be remiss if I did not remind you of the gentle request from our General Treasurer in her year end letter to you. Augustus has not asked its members to consider increasing their giving in quite a number of years. The generosity of our members and friends is praise-worthy. Given the increased costs to conduct our ministry, we are asking you to see if it might be possible to increase your giving. Even a small amount from each person will help keep us running smoothly.

May almighty God, 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.  
Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you Sunday!



#### 2026 Congregational Meeting Part 1

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 8, 2026 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

# **From the Bench:**

## **The Augustus Chorister Program**

As you well know, parents and their children have so many options to choose from when considering extracurricular activities these days! And we're blessed with many options to match our children's many interests. The challenging part is, of course, deciding which activities to participate in and making sure that we're not over-scheduling.

Regarding activities related to music, academic research consistently shows studying music provides significant cognitive, academic, social, and emotional benefits. Singing and playing an instrument boosts brain function, improves math/literacy skills, enhances memory, fosters confidence, increases school engagement, and even reduces risks for conditions like dementia!

So, it makes sense when a family is choosing extracurricular activities to consider opportunities in music. I would like to share in this and upcoming articles what makes the Augustus Chorister Program an exciting and unique musical opportunity for our children and youth.

While many choirs rely heavily on rote memory to learn music, the Augustus Chorister Program provides choristers with a solid and systematic curriculum for music literacy. Choristers begin with identifying lines and spaces of a musical staff and progress to mastering higher levels of music theory.

And what is very important is that choristers connect symbols to sound and are taught how to sight-sing. Sight singing is the ability to read and sing music accurately at first glance, without prior hearing. We use the Kodály method for sight singing and incorporate solfège syllables like "do re mi."

And (!!!) all of this is presented in a way that is fun and engaging. The curriculum includes built-in incentives as well as short-term and long-term goals. For example, as choristers progress through the program, they earn medals and ribbons that represent specific levels of achievement. I've included a picture of these ribbons and medals here and will talk more about this in our next newsletter!

In the meantime, please reach out to me regarding any questions you may have about the Chorister Program. We accept new students throughout the year!

Thank you!

Darryl



Brian O'Hara © 2019  
brianohara24@gmail.com

# *Women's Ministries*

A member of Women of the ELCA

**FOURTH TUESDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH  
AT 7:00 PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

FOR MORE INFO: [charadvd@aol.com](mailto:charadvd@aol.com)

## Congregational Meeting in February

The Congregational Meeting to approve the final 2025 financial and committee reports will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the Brick Church Nave. We will also vote on a Revised 2026 Expense Budget and minor revisions to our congregation's Constitution. [The Vestry will also ask for authority to respond to a request from the Borough of Trappe.](#) Copies of the Bulletin of Reports will be available after each service on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Please make sure to be there for this brief but necessary meeting.

### What is the purpose of the Congregational Meetings?

The Congregational Meeting is necessary to approve the final financial and committee reports for the previous calendar year. The Congregational Meeting is an opportunity for the Augustus Lutheran Church family to gather and seek to discern God's will for Augustus in the current year. Augustus has another Congregational Meeting in the latter part of the year to deal with other important issues.

### Who can vote at the Congregational Meeting?

**Voting members** are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

### Valentine's Day Workshop at Dewees Tavern

Saturday, February 14, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm 301 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA



Drop in for a Valentine's Day workshop. We will be making watercolor cards and paper cut hearts inspired by Pennsylvania German fraktur and Scherenschnitte (scissor cuttings). This workshop is for all ages! For younger kids, come look for hearts around the museum. If you find a certain amount, you will win a prize! **Cost:** Museum admission (includes workshop instructions and materials)

### PASTA BUFFET DINNER AT AUGUSTUS ON



You, your family, and friends are invited to a delicious meal of Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, a variety of Soups, Salad, Fruit and home-made desserts in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 7, 2026. Dinner will be served between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, and you may arrive at your convenience. There is no cost for the meal; however, you may donate towards the Augustus Soup Kitchen Outreach.

There will also be information for anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for the Soup Kitchen. We serve lunch to the needy on the second Wednesday of every month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown. Plan now to drop-in for dinner at Augustus on February 8th to support this important outreach and to enjoy the fellowship.

***"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in."***  
**(Matthew 25:35)**

# Christian Education

The program year is in full swing in Epiphany! Sunday school children are learning about events that made the folks who witnessed them have an “epiphany” and realize that Jesus was the Son of God and Savior of the World. Confirmation students are on the home stretch in their lessons on the sacraments and the creed. On the third Sundays in winter, Senior High Youth Group students are making soup to provide comfort for the congregation and raise money for their summer mission trip.

But Lent is just around the corner, and our confirmation students will have leading roles in the Ash Wednesday service on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. After that they will get ready to present the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday to help us prepare for our most holy of Sundays: Easter.

Meanwhile everyone is invited to the **pasta dinner benefiting the soup kitchen on February 7th** and the **Shrove Tuesday pancake supper for February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Come to enjoy fellowship with your Augustus friends!

Thank you for your prayers and support of the children and youth of Augustus.

Blessings,

Sonya Sowards

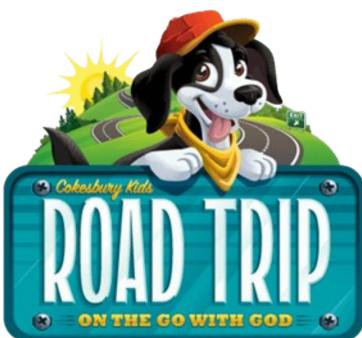
Director of Christian Education

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR... Youth Group Soup Sales!

The Senior Youth Group and friends will be preparing and selling quarts of soup after both services on the following dates:

**February 15 and March 15, 2026**

This is a great way to support our Youth Group in their projects—including their annual mission trip—and enjoy some delicious homemade soup! If you've had them before, you know they're amazing. If not, this is your year to give them a try!



## PARENTS: Sign Up for Vacation Bible School NOW!

It certainly doesn't feel like summer out there, but we know you're already planning your kids' summer schedule. Don't miss Vacation Bible School at Augustus **June 22-25, 2026!** Sessions are daily from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and our theme is "Road Trip: On the Go with God!" Scan this code to register:



## Disciples of the Cross

In Ephesians 2:1 and 4, the Apostle Paul writes, “*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . . but because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ . . .*” Before Christ, we were dead in sin. Through no effort of our own, we have been made alive “with Christ”!

Now what? Now what, indeed! Yes, Christ has saved us for eternity, but that eternity begins at Baptism. Some of us will spend only a short portion of eternity on earth, others much longer, but all of us are called to make these days count. In the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls us to “*go and make disciples of all nations.*” He asks us, empowered by Word and Sacrament, to carry on his work.

There are many facets to the work of the Church. Not all of us are preachers and teachers of the Word, but we read in 1 Peter 4:10 that each of us has a gift and each of us is to use this gift to serve others. Peter speaks of offering hospitality and serving as gifts which God has given to edify the Church. The Apostle Paul writes about spiritual gifts to the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Ephesians, each time stressing the point that we are to use what gifts we’ve been given for the good of the Body of Christ and according to the grace we’ve been given.

Jesus said:

*“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”* (Matthew 16:24-25).

This is the challenge Jesus issues to each of us individually and to the Church collectively. Alive in Christ, we pick up the cross and, joyfully, just as Jesus, “*who for the joy set before him endured the cross*” (Hebrews 12:2), carry it wherever Jesus leads us. There is no life apart from Christ. As disciples of the cross who have found this to be true, let us carry this message to the world.

### Augustus Book Club

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

*We'll discuss*

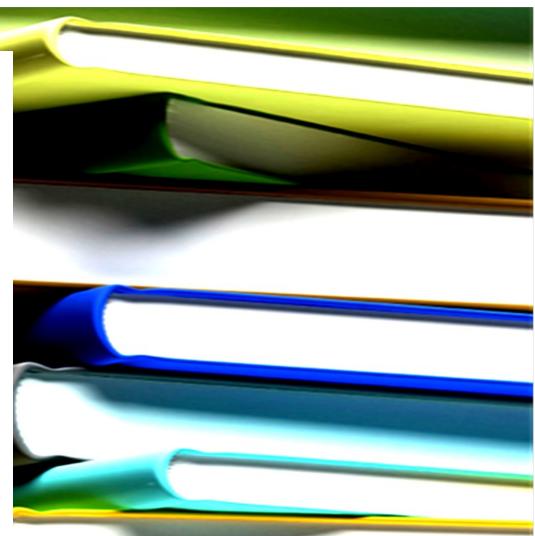
Courage Has No Color by Tanya Lee Stone

and

MAUS by Art Spiegelman

Want more info?

Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or  
[office@augustustrappe.org](mailto:office@augustustrappe.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Piper Bouchard Melissa Dogoniuk Lilyan Ferraro Sean Frisco Barbara Krauter Amy Rose	2 Michele Fisher Kaden Menendez	3 Donna Cooney Kristine Crothers Carson Leigl George Snear
4 Devlin Reagan	5 Jenna Griggs	6 Russel Einsta	7 Shealyn Frazier 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 Mike 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 Alison 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 Bleming Robert Garton	28 Laurn Hart Dave Mourar Brandon Weaver	29 Greta Askew Derek Cornish Emma DePaul Dennis Ludwig Eric Noonan	30 Luke Alessandrini Kenneth Linsenbigler	31 Jamie Berg

*So sorry to all the January babies! I forgot to put this in the January Newsletter. Please wish these folks a "Happy Belated"!*

*-Karen*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Cassidy Hones Joseph Swan	3 Cole Kutteroff	4	5 Jennifer Maurer Brett Schulz	6 Avery Benner Nancy Bunting Dylan Firth Curtis Watro Jerry Wentworth	7
8 Cathy Menendez Wyatt Mourar	9 Mona Chylack Rebecca Wilson	10	11 David Linsenbigler	12 Jeffrey Stuffle	13	14 Jeff Bauder Tresa Franz Griffin Henze McKenzie Peters
15 Jake Smith	16 Andy Fisher Jeffrey Wentworth	17 Taylor Brennan Douglas Stearly	18 Giovanni Branch	19 Ellen Davis	20 Graham Anderson Andrew Keim Brent Wagenseller	21
22 Olivia Hart Elizabeth Staples	23 Mary Reese Robert Yost	24 Carol Oelschlager Mirabel Park	25 Susan Landis	26 Charlotte Wentworth	27	28 Ally Napier Ro Lehman

## February Birthdays

# Graceful Generosity

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

## Materialism

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world ... the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does ... comes not from the Father but from the world" (1 John 2:15-16).*

Webster's Dictionary defines materialism as follows: "the tendency to be more concerned with material things than with spiritual goals or values." Based on this definition, there is no doubt that we live in a very materialistic society. Materialism involves greed, covetousness, and the love of money. It results in our envying others who have what we don't have. It causes us to dwell on money and possessions and is characterized by an extreme lack of contentment. Materialism leads us to spend money we don't have to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't even like.

Some of the symptoms of materialism are as follows:

- † *Love of money*
- † *Lack of generosity*
- † *Lack of contentment*

*People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.*



## Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

What parable could the following picture refer to?

If you said the The Parable of the Hidden Treasure, you were right! This two sentence parable, which is found in Matthew 13:44-45, reads as follows: *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hit it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."* The man understood that what he had found in the field was of such great value that he was willing to give up all he had to gain it.

The parable does not imply that we can buy the kingdom of God with money, but teaches that, when Christ enters our lives, we willingly surrender our past lifestyles and loves and devote ourselves completely to Jesus.

## On the Lighter Side

A minister was walking along the beach one day and stumbled upon a lamp. Picking it up and wiping if off caused the lamp to shake and smoke, and a genie came out. The genie thanked the minister for this new-found freedom after years of captivity and offered him one wish.

The minister immediately said, "I've always wanted to visit the Holy Land, but I am afraid of flying. I just can't bring myself to fly. And I get seasick thinking about boats. So could you build

a highway across the ocean so that I could drive to the Holy Land?"

The genie looked at him in surprise and shock and replied, "You must be kidding. Do you realize the engineering challenges that would have to be overcome to achieve that feat? Even I



have limitations. Can't you think of anything else to wish for?"

The minister thought for a few minutes and then said, "Okay, I know what I want. I wish for all the members of the congregation I serve to become tithers." To that the genie replied, "Do you want that to be a two-lane or four-lane highway?"

### Disciples of the Cross

In Ephesians 2:1, 4-5, the Apostle Paul writes, *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ . . ."* Before Christ, we were dead in sin. Through no effort of our own, we have been made alive "with Christ"!

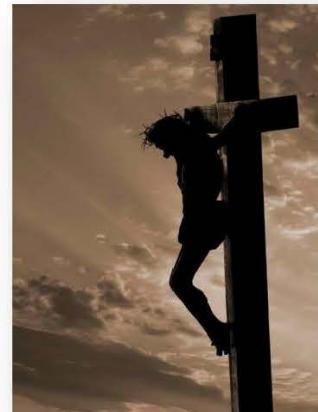
Now what? Now what, indeed! Yes, Christ has saved us for eternity, but that eternity begins at Baptism. Some of us will spend only a short portion of eternity on earth, others much longer,

but all of us are called to make these days count. In the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls us to *"go and make disciples of all nations."* He asks us, empowered by Word and Sacrament, to carry on his work.

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Jesus said, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."* (Matthew 16:24-25). This is the challenge Jesus issues to each of us

individually and to the church collectively. Alive in Christ, we pick up the cross and, joyfully, just as Jesus, *"Who for the joy set before him endured the cross"* (Hebrews 12:2), carry it wherever Jesus leads us. There is no life apart from Christ. As disciples of the cross who have found this to be true, let us carry this message to the world.



### Remember Augustus 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.

2026 Vestry		
Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Shane Elison	President	Scrabbie1@aol.com
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary/Worship & Music	alisonfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer/Finance	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life/Mutual Ministry	John.kochel@thrive.com
Karl Stefan	Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Joe Cooney	Property	JoeCooney302@gmail.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Janet Stokes	Christian Education	sjastokes@aol.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church	jawentw@aol.com
Tim Anderson	Cemetery	T1anderson@hotmail.com



Historic Trappe

## A Visit With...Martha Washington

Tuesday, February 17 at 7 pm St. Luke's Fellowship Church, 200 W. Main St., Trappe



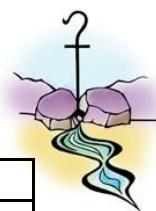
George Washington is rightfully known as "the indispensable man." However, few people really know the "worthy partner" who supported him through the long War of Independence. Lady Washington followed her husband to every winter encampment during the war, and then into the most powerful residence in the new nation, the President's House in Philadelphia. As the "first" of our founding mothers, Martha Washington's influence still resounds with us today.

**Carol Spacht** performs extensively in the Philadelphia region, presenting interactive programs to schools, libraries, and civic organizations. Her portrayal of Martha Washington has taken her from Valley Forge Park to the National Portrait Gallery. Carol also appears regularly as our nation's premier flag maker at the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia.

**Cost:** FREE

## 2026 Midweek Lenten Service Schedule

Mark your calendar now and check your weekly bulletins  
for final details of these services.



Date	Preacher	Place
February 25	Debra Stevens	Evansburg United Methodist Church
March 4	Betty Wright-Riggins	Evansburg United Methodist Church
March 11	Andrew L. Weber	Thomas Paine Unitarian Church
March 18	Suzanne Schwarz-Green	Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ
March 25	Lenten Music Program	Augustus Lutheran Church

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	2	3 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	4 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	5 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	6	7 5:00 pm Soup Kitchen Dinner
8 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	9 7:00 pm Knitting	10 7:00 pm Comm. Club	11 6:00 pm 3-in-1	12 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	13	14
15 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion <b>Youth Group Soup Sale!</b>	16 7:00 pm Book Club	17 4:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	18 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1 <b>7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service</b>	19 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	20	21
22 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	23 7:00 pm Knitting	24 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm CC Board Meeting	25 6:00 pm 3-in-1	26 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	27	28

