Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



June 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Summer is a special season. During this time, many of us are on a more relaxing schedule. With beautiful sunny days, we gather up the family for trips to the parks and lakes. Vacations give us the opportunity to see our extended families and other parts of our beautiful country. Leisure days during the summer give us a respite from our hectic lifestyles.

As we enjoy the beautiful summer that our loving and gracious heavenly Father provides each year, I want us to place this Bible verse in our thoughts:

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

God has given us summers so we can enjoy the beauty of his creation; however, we are never to lose focus on who and whose we are. Whether we are gardening, swimming, biking, walking, or cutting the grass, we should be fixing our eyes on Jesus.

As wonderful as the summer season is, it can be a distraction to fixing our eyes on Jesus and cause us to take our eyes and thoughts away from him. Rather than focusing on Jesus, we can let our activities interfere with our spiritual growth and nourishment. With God's strength, we can enjoy our summers and still keep on our focus on him.

As we fix our eyes on Jesus this summer, please keep me and the other church staff in your prayers. Please also continue to be faithful in your worship attendance, either here at home or wherever you find yourselves during summer vacations. I encourage you to bring in or send in your weekly offerings so that the Word of God might be proclaimed year round.

May God grant that all of us will find ourselves refreshed and renewed during these summer days and months. May he give us a safe and enjoyable summer as we "fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith."

May God bless us that we might continue our faithful stewardship of the blessings he has entrusted to us.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Weleck



Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

The Problem of Materialism

In our society, we've come to expect a high level of material comfort. Many people want bigger, newer, and more things to enjoy. Our society has long told us that what we have is not enough and that we deserve more. The "more is better" attitude of our culture makes it difficult to know when enough is enough!

Webster's New World Dictionary defines materialism as "the tendency to be more concerned with material than with spiritual or intellectual



values." Materialism suggests an inordinate with the acquisition, possession, and consumption of material goods and services. Inherent in a materialistic attitude is an attitude of superficiality, selfishness, individualism, possessiveness, and covetousness.

Russ Crosson wrote about how riches can consume us: "It has been said that 95 percent of those who have been tested with adversity pass the test, but 95 percent of those who have been tested with prosperity fail."

It seems that Christians learn more from adversity than they do success. It is ironic that, as one of the most prosperous countries in the world, our drug abuse, spouse and child beatings, divorce rate, and crime are out of control. Wealth seems to contribute to our problems rather than alleviate them. The love of money and material things has the potential to possess a person's life like no other emotion can. A person can spend a lifetime chasing prosperity that, when found, often destroys him. C. H. Spurgeon said it this way: "It is a very serious thing to grow rich. Of all the temptations to which God's children are exposed, it is the worst, because it is the one they do not dread, therefore, it is the more subtle temptation." Unfortunately, the love of money and possessions is like drinking salt water. The more water we drink the thirstier we become. Likewise, the more money we have the more we want. The problem with materialism is that people try to fill emptiness in their lives with "things."

When our hearts become more concerned and obsessed with the accumulation of things than anything else, we've joined our materialistic society. Do we see ourselves or other members of our churches as materialistic? The number of possessions we have or the size of our homes or bank accounts does not indicate our disposition toward materialism. A materialist may not have a lot of money or possessions or he could own a lot. Materialism may be seen in one's lifestyle, but it is mainly a condition of the heart, which is unseen. Because materialism has become the norm in our society, it is hard not to be part of it. Unfortunately, as Christians, we may be unaware that we have fallen into a materialistic mindset and lifestyle.

Need a Prayer?

The Augustus Prayer chain welcomes your calls with prayer requests. If you need a prayer or know someone in need of a prayer, please contact the church office at 610-489-9625

or Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message. The only information we need is your name. Any details you choose to provide are at your discretion.

Sharing God's Bounty

Lay Reader Message

GIVING TO GOD AND COUNTRY

The Pharisees, who were trying to discredit and intimidate Jesus, asked him a loaded question about whether or not it was proper to pay taxes to Caesar. Responding to the Pharisees, Jesus said,

"You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax."

After receiving the coin he said,

"Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription? Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (Matthew 22:18-21).

In his response, Jesus conveys to us our dual responsibilities to our country and to our God. We are to give to our country what belongs to our nation and give to God what belongs to him.

What belongs to our country? What are our responsibilities to our country? Certainly, we are to support our nation with our words and deeds. If need be, we are to serve in the military. We are to pay our fair share of the cost to run our country through our taxes. We need to be obedient to its laws.

What belongs to God? As Christians, we know that it all belongs to him. Everyone and everything is his. Our first responsibility to God is to love him above everything else. We are to serve and obey him. We are to obey his commands, and we are to return a portion of our money to him.

Unfortunately, it seems that our nation gets a better shake than our God does. Our nation threatens, and we obey. God commands our obedience, but we often ignore his commands. Our country forces us to pay our taxes, and so, by April 15 of each year, we submit our 1040 tax returns. God wants us to give generously to him; however, we often neglect to give our offerings to our church. Because our offerings are voluntary, they can be seen to be less important than our taxes.

As Christians, our commitment to our Lord must be even stronger than to our country. God has a claim on our lives, and we need to respond to that claim by giving to and serving him with our time, our abilities, and our money.

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June 2021

From the Bench

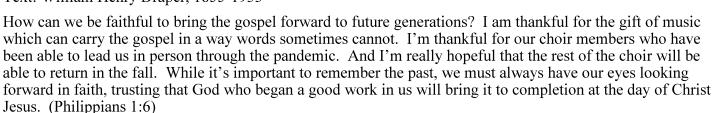
Old Church Sunday is June 13, 9:30 a.m.

I always enjoy Old Church Sunday, but I feel that this year is even more special, as we begin to return to normal and more of us can see each other in person again. Old Church Sunday is a time to reflect on all the faithful Augustus members who have gone before us, and we have the added blessing to spend time in the same space where they worshiped. It's truly awe-inspiring.

On this day, we sing the hymn "In Our Day of Thanksgiving" and think of hundreds of years of Augustinians. Here is the text:

- 1 In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer for the saints who before us received the reward; when the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed, but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.
- 2 In the morning of life, and at noon, and at evening, they were gathered to heav'n from our worship below; but not till God's love, at the font and the altar, had clothed them with grace for the way they should go.
- 3 These stones that have echoed their praises are holy, and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod; yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims, and still they were seeking the city of God.
- 4 Sing praise, then, and thanks that God's love here has found them, whose journey is ended, whose perils are past; they believed in the light; and its glory is round them, where the clouds of earth's sorrow are lifted at last.

Text: William Henry Draper, 1855-1933



Forward in faith!

~Laurie Mueller

Augustus Book Club

Our Next Book Club meeting will be on June 20th at 7:00 pm at Manderach Park. Bring a chair if you have one.

We'll discuss: This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

New members are always welcome!

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





Sew, Quilt, Knit, Crochet!

We now have quilting packs available in the Muhlenberg Center.

The pack each has 48 squares in it.

- Pick a pack out of the Basket on the table.
- Sew the squares into a Quilt top.
- Return the pack to the bin under the table.

Each quilt top will then be used to make a quilt for Lutheran World Relief.

Each pack has instructions, and a contact email address if you have any questions.

Do you like to Knit or Crochet? You don't need any more afghans or sweaters? Helping Hand collects knitted and crocheted 7" x 9" inch blocks that are sewn together into afghans. We also collect completed afghans. The completed afghans should about 49" X 56". (about the same size as the top of a double bed). Place completed blocks and afghans in the basket in the Muhlenberg Center. Please contact me if you need any yarn at jandmstuffle@verizon.net. The afghans are donated to Laurel House in Norristown.



HELP WANTED

CUB SCOUT/BOY SCOUT CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (COR)

The Vestry of Augustus Lutheran is looking for an individual over the age of 18 to be a liaison between the Scouts and the Church. Augustus Lutheran is the sponsor for Troop/Pack 87. The responsibilities are as follows:

- 1. Sign forms when needed. This pertains to any leader applications, Pack & Troop Charters, etc.
- 2. Communicate with Pastor and/or the Vestry when there are questions or issues.
- 3. Attend committee and district meetings a couple of times throughout the year.

Work with Vestry / Pack / Troop regarding clearances and keys.

If you are interested, please contact Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net, for more information. The COR must be a member of the Sponsors organization (Augustus Lutheran Church). Being a past member of the Scouts is not a prerequisite for this position.







Christian Education

At this writing the Sunday school is getting ready for our end-of-the-year Pentecost party on May 23rd. This will be an outdoor event with games and treats. Sunday school has been on Zoom all year with occasional outdoor events and take-home activity bags. I deeply appreciate the dedication of our parents who have continued to fulfill the vow they made at their children's baptism to "bring them to the word of God" and "nurture them in faith" while we enjoyed Sunday school in a new way. All signs are pointing to our being able to return to in-person Sunday school this fall and we have some exciting changes planned. The first day of Sunday school for the 2021-22 year is September 12th.

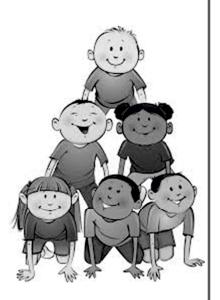
We're also getting ready for Vacation Bible School! VBS will be all outdoors and will begin June 28th. We will have limited capacity so sign up NOW via the Augustus website. If you would like to volunteer to help please let me know (you will of course need the necessary clearances for working with our children).

What a blessing it is to serve the children and youth at Augustus!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



Green Thumb Volunteers Needed

We are very proud of the Augustus campus and would like anyone who visits it to be left with a feeling that the congregants really cares how it looks. As a result, the Property Committee is looking for a few individuals to maintain/weed various areas around the campus such as the Mother's Day Garden, the Bubeck memorial and the gardens around the Old Church throughout the summer months. If you have any interest please contact Pat O'Hara (qadirector5@aol.com) or Gary Wessner (gtwess@comcast.net). Any help would be greatly appreciated.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Addie Matoney	Courtney Moomaw James Sellman	Susan Hess	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Robert Bunting	Krista Mourar	Barry Amole Jeanne Halteman Christine Maurer Sabrina Tomaselli	Julia DeNucci	Caitlyn Hart Emily Hart Kathryn Hausman	Gavin Elison Kathryn Franc Kelley Olsen Jessica Schiller	Stefan Franz
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ainsley Leigl	Adeline Park Lois Robinson Olivia Smith		Nathan Gabel James Lien Gemma Patten	Josey Augustine	Alexander Schmidt	Brian Schad
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Lauren Davis	Marty Burke	Emi l y Barndt Aaron Crothers Griffin Crothers	Nicole Dubeck	Howard Frazier Jane Whitman	Gayle Hones Christy Smith	Kevin Krasley Ryan Krasley Cora Wells
27	28	29	30			
Mike Hones	Dean Allebach Miles Klenk Harrison Lumley Scott MacMullen	Casey Demark Lila Olsen Kyle Schwirian	Mikaela Schad	June	e Birthdo	ays!

Augustus Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School

Monday-Thursday, June 28-July 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m.--noon

Registration Form

(Please complete a form for each child attending)

All children must be potty-trained in order to attend without a parent

Name:	Ge	nder Parents/Guardians		
Address_			ere e	
Best ema	ail:	Birth da	te	
Grade this fall		Best Phone #:		
We are:	☐ members of Augustus	☐ interested in joining Augustus	☐ just visiting	
Does you	ur child attend Sunday scho	ol or CCD? If so where?		

Please return completed form to Sonya Sowards, Director of Christian Education by any of the following methods:

- Hand deliver to Sonya's mailbox in the church office
- Mail to 717 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426
- Email to <u>education@augustustrappe.org</u>

Please complete reverse →



MEDICAL RELEASE AND GENERAL PERMISSION FORM

Please complete fully. Write "none" if a particular section does not apply to the participant. You must also include a copy of the participant's insurance card (front and back) with this form.

Partici	oant's Physician's Name ₋				
Hospita	al/Clinic and Address				
1.	Participant is allergic to (including food):				
2.		on diet or exercise:			
3.	Does the participant have any special needs or medical history? If so, please list:				
4.	Are there any over the cou	nter medications the participant cannot receiv	re?		
5.	Is the participant on regula	r medication? If so, please list the drugs, dos	ages, frequency and any instructions:		
	Please note tha	t no drugs are to be brought to VBS other	than those listed above		
In cons	sideration of being accept	RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS ed for participation in Vacation Bible Scho	<u>-</u> ″		
the em death, child/pa	ree to forever hold harmle ployees, and agents there as well as property dama	selves) and on behalf of my child/participaless Augustus Lutheran Church and the Seleof, from any and all liability, claims and deage and expenses of any nature whatsoe said child's participation in the synod spitivities.	outheastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, emands for personal injury, sickness and ver which may be incurred by me or my		
unders	al injury, sickness, death tand that staff and volunt	ehalf of our child/participant under 18 yean, damage and expenses as a result of eers are not responsible for the administrate some medication taken on a daily scheme.	participation as above set forth. I also ation of prescribed medication and I (we)		
hospita	r to participate fully in said al, share the above med	nt(s) or legal guardian(s) of this participant d youth events, and give my (our) permiss lical information and authorize medical reatment and assume responsibility of all	ion to take said participant to a doctor or treatment, including, but not limited to		
anti-dia	and the second of the second o	r the participant to receive over the counte cterial ointment, throat lozenges, eye was	Parameter Committee Commit		
related	I (we) also release the pa entities.	rticipant's name as part of an information o	database for the church, synod and ELCA		
(still ar		is, the synod and ELCA unrestricted rights n any medium without compensation.	to use, alter, and reproduce any images		
Parent	's/Guardian's signature:		Date:		
	ency contact		Phone 2 ⁻		

Tune

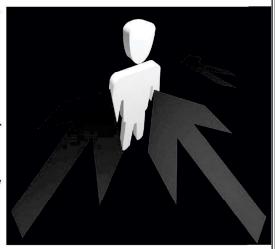
Sharing God's Bounty

Overcoming Pride

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis wrote the following about pride: "Pride is the one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine they are guilty of themselves." We demonstrate pride when go our own way and do our own thing. It is "my will be done" not "thy will be done."

Pride is sinful and destructive. It destroys gratitude to God for all his kindness to us. It destroys our desire and ability to serve others. It destroys contentment for it feeds our competitive nature so that we are not satisfied with just being wealthy or intelligent, but we want to be wealthier and more intelligent than anyone else.

Through faith, we are changed by God from being self-serving, proud people into people who are humble and seek the welfare of others before ourselves. God changes us from being people who always want to be in control into people who desire to be controlled by God. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). In Rick Warren's book The Purpose Driven Life, he wrote, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."



Through faith, we understand our need for humility. We become more humble as God molds and transforms us by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2).

Pride has no place in our lives as Christians and stewards. First Peter 5:6 reads, "*Humble yourselves, there-fore, under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time.*" It is God alone who can exalt us (Psalm 75:7). If Christ himself, God's only begotten Son, humbled himself, should we not follow his example and humble ourselves? Because Christ humbled himself, God exalted him (Philippians 2:9)

David, the shepherd-king, put our situation in proper perspective: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:3-4). The inference is that, although we are insignificant, God has exalted us: "You made [us] ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under [our] feet."

Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God's goodness. Humility is the decision to "let God be God." We are stewards through humility. We are to honor him with what we have, what we are, and what he will make of us.



Let us be generous with gifts we can give to others:

Time, Good Example, Acceptance, Seeing the Best in People, Self-esteem, Self-disclosure, Helping Someone Learn Something New, Listening, Fun, Letting Others Give to You.

May 2021 Update

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

ELCA Global Personnel



Dear Augustus Lutheran Church,

One year ago we were in the midst of wondering whether we should stay in Tanzania or leave in very questionable times. When we think back to "what we knew" then, in the midst of pandemic uncertainty and closing borders, we were living on the edge. Though there are still unknowns and risks, it seems our feet have landed on more certain ground. At the same time, we are aware of great losses for so many of our friends and supporters. Loss of loved ones is at the top of the list. For those of you who have lost close family members or friends, we hope you find comfort and peace.

Here in Tanzania, the top of our news headlines was the death of our President John Pombe Magafuli. The country held 21 days of mourning and a smooth transition to the incoming, former Vice President, President Samia Suluhu Hassan. She is the first female president of Tanzania, coming from Zanzibar. We are very hopeful that she will preside with wisdom and grace over this country. There is an air of hope that can be felt in Tanzania, and a deep joy over the peaceful transition that characterizes the people of this country.

In so many ways, hope has risen in our hearts even in the midst of that which remains unknown. As of yet, there is no Covid vaccine available in Tanzania, Covid statistics have not been released since May 2020, and the country still struggles to meet demands on it's healthcare system. But there is relief over having survived the last year, and a sense of changes coming. It could also be that hope is rising with the arrival of the long rains as everything has burst out in color! Whatever the reason may be, we hold on to hope.

In 2019, we recruited Evelyine to work with us after her internship was completed. Dr. Evelyine Mushi is among the top 1% of all doctors I have ever worked with in Tanzania. All who know her admire and respect her work ethic, intelligence, dedication, humility, and compassionate care for mothers and their children.

Her story is even more remarkable when one realizes that she became an orphan while still in primary school. Against a backdrop of personal suffering, childhood loss of both parents and 2 siblings, she is a testament to resilience and grace. Evelyine is committed to children, to serving in Tanzania, and to one day becoming a neonatologist -- perhaps the first Tanzanian neonatologist in northern Tanzania! I have been privileged to serve as her clinical mentor, supervisor, and friend. Later this year, we will be sending her off to a 4-year pediatric residency program in South Africa. I couldn't be prouder of her.



A NICU Year in Review: 325 babies (a record!)

93% survival (another record!)

144 premature babies (still another record!)
20 area hospitals and healthcare facilities sending us their sickest babies
Our smallest survivor ever, 612 grams (1.3 pounds) - Left Middle Photo
\$160,000 raised to support NICU babies through donors and churches
No baby ever turned away due to money issues

Using only appropriate technology for our setting Training at every opportunity (bottom left)

Our Motto: Every Breath Counts, No Matter How Small

Kids' Corner

We have come to the end of Caedmon and Indya's Spring Break from their school in Kenya. We've had some small trips, just the 4 of us, but mostly we have been home and the kids have taken a good long rest. In the meantime, the Covid curve took a rise and Kenya issued a lockdown around Nairobi, closing all schools for 6 weeks which meant they began their next term here at home online. This week we received the good news that Kenyan schools are re-opening, and our children will be returning back to their school this coming weekend for their 3rd and final term of this school year.

Caedmon took his ACT a few weeks ago and so begins the journey of searching for a college. There are many factors to consider and the combination of a pandemic and living an ocean away from the US certainly poses some challenges to visiting college campuses. Meanwhile, he is enjoying his classes (in particular Computer Science and Chemistry), and has found time to camp in the forest or climb the trees (with his rock climbing equipment). Hammocking is so much more fun at 60 feet above the ground!

Indya has also settled in well. Besides her regular classes, she thoroughly enjoyed cooking class (eating her homework was the best!), and sewing has become a new passion. She is now making bucket hats for friends. Though art and pottery are in her future next year, she has a passion for the ocean and marine science. We will see where that takes her! She's been an avid reader this break though it is a rare day that she doesn't draw or paint something new.

Hannah is pressing through challenging exams and long research papers and is eagerly awaiting bluer skies and warmer temperatures in MN. St. Olaf College in MN continues to have strict Covid protocols in place, which has been a bit isolating though she has had a few opportunities to see extended family. She was able to receive her first Covid vaccine in April, and the second is soon to follow. She has found a number of international students to whom she has connected which has lifted her heart. She will finish her first year the end of May (and what a challenging one it was!)

We are always grateful for your interest and support. We have a few requests for you to keep in your prayers:

- Jodi's work permit and resident permit renewal to be granted (thank God that the nursing license has been granted and should be "in hand" next week!)
- Wisdom for Steve as he makes many decisions regarding the future direction of the NICU and local physician/nurse training.
- Ongoing financial needs and fundraising efforts for the needs of the Pediatric Department, NICU, hospital bed fees for malnourished children, and salary support for pediatric trainees.
- Covid vaccine to become available to Tanzanians
- Health and well being for all our family and protection for the kids as they travel back to Kenya.
- Thank God with us for the glorious rain and the growing crops

With gratitude, Jodi and Steve Swanson

We are supported through the gifts of churches with the ELCA. Churches and individuals can donate to our support through the ELCA: <u>elca.org/missionarygiving</u> find our names under the drop down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship



RAPPE CHARMS

CHARMING CHARMS FROM THE TINY TOWN OF TRAPPE



*STERLING SILVER

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



AUGUSTUS CHARMS PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH OUTREACH

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

WOMEN OF ELCA CHARMS PROCEEDS BENEFIT AUGUSTUS WOMEN OF ELCA



