

# Augustinian

## Augustus Lutheran Church

### An Historic Church for Today's People



JANUARY 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers for me throughout the year and especially at Christmas. I am grateful for your love and support. Thank you, too, for your generous Christmas gift to me. It is much appreciated.

In December we bade farewell to Laurie Mueller, who served Augustus with great distinction and faithfulness for 12 years as our Director of Music/Organist. We wish her the best in her new ministry, leading the singing of the saints at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, North Wales.

This month we welcome Bruce Tonkin as our Interim Director of Music/Organist. Mr. Tonkin is no stranger to Augustus. He was our church musician 50 years ago and has fond memories of his time here. We are blessed to have such skilled leadership as we search for our next church musician. Please welcome Mr. Tonkin back to Augustus in the true warm Augustus fashion.

In November the Vestry appointed a Director of Music/Organist Search Committee, which has been meeting regularly, reviewing the Job Description, and preparing to advertise the open position in a variety of places. Jen Wentworth is the chairperson of the Search Committee. Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers as they seek to find the right person to continue and expand our traditional Lutheran music program.

On Sunday, January 5, 2025, we will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord a day early. On Epiphany we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men (Magi) to worship Jesus, bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts have a deep meaning. The gold points to Jesus' kingship. The frankincense points to Jesus' divinity as the Second Person of the Trinity. The myrrh points to Jesus' sacrificial death for us and the forgiveness of our sins. Epiphany is also the 12th and last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

*PS: See you on Sunday!*



## 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:

January 19

February 16

March 16

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!



## *Director of Music*

Greetings, Augustus!

Each year brings new things to us all, and I am ready to begin Music Ministry with you as your “new” Interim Director of Music Ministry - (well, not really new - Augustus was my first church as organist/choir director) - and I am excited to be back! I’ve know Laurie for many years and hope to continue her excellence in church music.

I taught in the Norristown School District for over 30 years, starting in elementary school and then going to the high school where I taught 5 choirs, piano, theory and music appreciation. I have degrees from Mansfield U., West Chester U. and many post- graduate credits from Westminster Choir College.

My wife Marcia, worked for 30 years for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit where she taught the blind and visually impaired. She is an expert in sewing anything and loves to play tennis. She works as a volunteer distributing books and reading to young children in the Pottstown area. We both like to walk a few miles each day, too.

We live in Gilbertsville and have a daughter, Susan, who lives in NJ with her husband Keith - both instrumental music teachers. They have a 13 year old daughter, Aubree, who is a dancer and plays violin and French horn.

Looking forward to meeting everyone and sharing Music Ministry with you!

“Soli Deo Gloria” (to God be the glory) J.S.Bach

~\*Bruce



## **2025 Congregational Meeting *Part 1***

February 9, 2025

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 9, 2025 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

## **PASTA BUFFET DINNER AT AUGUSTUS ON FEBRUARY 8th**



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 8, 2025. 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)***

# Thank You!!

Dear WELCA Ladies and Pastor Kochenderfer,  
Thank you so much for your care for me through cards and visits throughout the year.  
May God bless you today and always.  
Muriel Ludwig

To our long-time Augustus Church family, Happy Holidays! Thank you for your cards and your concerns. We think of you often and hope all is well. You are all in our prayers. Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.  
Ron and Carol Oelschlager.

Dear Augustus Family and Friends  
Thank you so much for the lovely gift bag that the WELCA ladies delivered to my home over the holidays. It was full of wonderful goodies. Also, to the friends who were kind enough to remember me with Christmas cards. Thank you!  
Peg DeWane

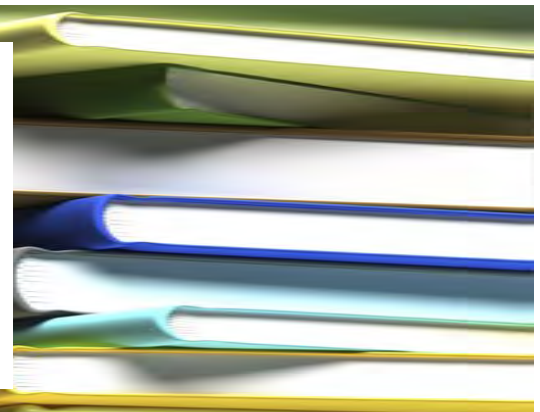


## ***Augustus Book Club***

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on  
**Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm** in the Vestry Room.

We will discuss The Dance Tree by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Want more info?  
Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or of-  
fice@augustustrappe.org



## **Special Thanks to Our Supporters!**

The multiple Christmas programs, advertisements, promotional, and campus-wide decorations that were provided to enhance your worship experience over Christmas were supplied by many internal organizations and committees, individual church members, and multiple community businesses who united to make our worship memorable. The Outreach Committee would like to extend with much gratitude and appreciation to all the patrons and volunteers that made it possible and ask that you continue to support your local community businesses, especially:

Print Copy Design: for assisting in creating and distributing advertisements

Risher Van Horn: for exterior campus decorations

Best Version Media

Thrivent Financial

Peter Wentz Farmstead

The Word FM Radio

Great Songs of Faith Radio

The multiple and countless committees and individual members of Augustus



# Christian Education

Our Sunday school students did a great job presenting the Christmas story to the congregation on December 15<sup>th</sup>! Many thanks to our adult helpers: Andrea Jagers Brown (director of visitors from the east), Chilly Lyaro (director of angels and sheep), Al Dubeck (stage manager and sound technician), as well as Gavin Elison (angel whisperer—and soloist!)

At this writing we're looking forward to the Living Nativity presented by our confirmation students and the Senior High Youth Group at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Sunday school is now on a break until January 5<sup>th</sup>, when we will celebrate Epiphany. The season of Epiphany begins with the story of the magi bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. Augustus' tradition is to bring gifts for the needy children in our area on Epiphany and you don't have to be a Sunday school student to participate! Please bring diapers, wipes and other baby needs in the first couple of weeks of January and we will get them to St. James' Outreach House which serves nearly 200 families in our area. I will have a basket at the bottom of the stairs leading to my office for gifts from non-Sunday school students. Thank you for your generosity!

After Christmas many of us think about our resolutions for the new year. How about a resolution to attend church more often as a family? I know from personal experience that this can be a challenging endeavor. Children are often loud, wiggly, and contrary—but so are adults! Quiet or loud, wiggly or calm, contrary or complacent—everyone aged 9 minutes to 199 years has a place in worship at Augustus. Here's some tips for attending church with your children:

- We provide children's activity bags including a learning sheet related to the day's lessons. You can also make your own Sunday activity bag for younger children with small toys that are only for Sundays—this helps mark Sunday as a special day.
- Many parents like to sit either near the front of the sanctuary or on the balcony where children can see and hear everything.
- As children get older, it helps to follow the parts of the service with your child. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you do feel the need to leave the sanctuary, there is a comfy couch and books in the upper Muhlenberg center near a bathroom with a changing table. There is a speaker in that area so you will be able to hear the service, and you can re-enter when you and your child are ready.

One final note: I have to say thank you to Laurie Mueller for enriching our education programs with her musical and teaching talents for so many years. We are all sorry to see her go but we wish her the best in her new position.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year!



**Sunday  
School  
Christmas  
Pageant  
2024**

# Graceful Generosity

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

## Full-Time Stewards

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

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

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

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



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

## Church signs ... LOL ...

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

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

*FORBIDDEN FRUIT  
MAKES MANY JAMS.*

### **Are You One of the Nine?**

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

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

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

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

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



### **The Golden Rule**

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



*Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!*

Ten Important Dogmas of the Lutheran Church  
By Bo Kristian Holm, Associate Professor, Systematic Theology, Aarhus University



5. Resurrection

The resurrection from the dead. Christianity bases the belief in the resurrection on what the New Testament teaches about the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. The resurrection brings hope to Christians that lasts beyond this world and a faith in the victory of life over death. The belief in the resurrection is professed in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene Creed.

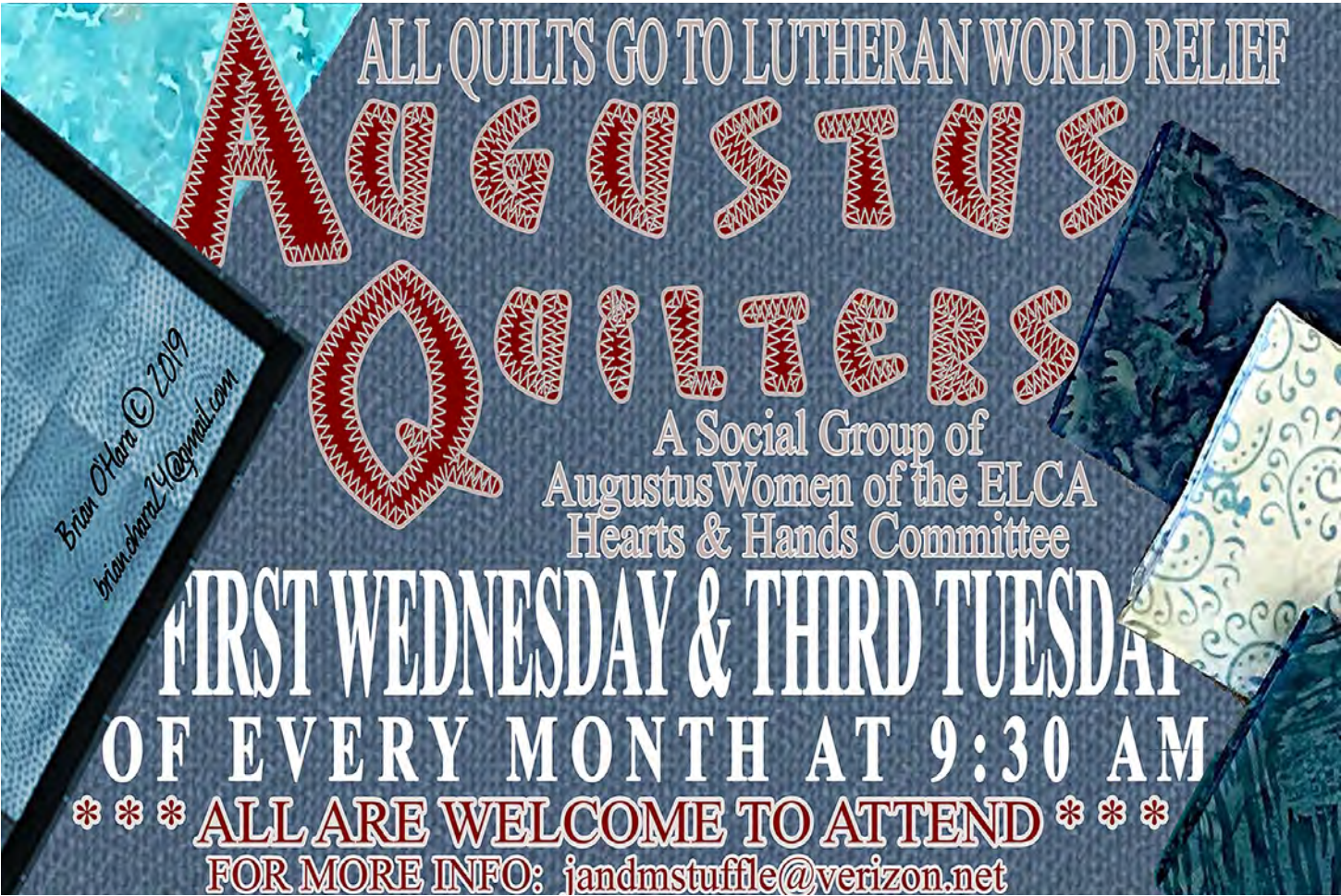
Brian O'Hara © 2019  
brian.ohara24@gmail.com

# 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: [oharadvd@aol.com](mailto:oharadvd@aol.com)



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](mailto:jandmstuffle@verizon.net)

Brian O'Hara © 2019  
[brian.ohara24@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jandmstuffle@verizon.net)

Brian O'Hara © 2019  
[brian.ohara24@gmail.com](mailto:brian.ohara24@gmail.com)



**WELCA's  
Thankoffering  
Sunday  
2024**



**Quilts, Afghans,  
Lap Blankets, and Prayer Shawls  
made by WELCA Work Groups**

*Augustus Quilters  
Knitting n' Crocheting*





A g s t s WELCA T r k e y S p p e r

ALL THAT'S MISSING IS :

**U!**

This annual fundraiser helps support medical missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson working to save the lives of infants and children at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania.

**YOUR** help is needed!

- \*Food Prep
- \*Set-up/Clean up
- \*Food Service
- \*Craft Fair
- \* Parking and SO MUCH MORE

The Turkey Dinner Committee would greatly appreciate early commitments by the end of January to facilitate the evaluation of the feasibility for this year's fundraiser. If you are able to provide an early commitment, please reach out to Nancy Loughery ([nancyloughery63@gmail.com](mailto:nancyloughery63@gmail.com)) or Dale O'Hara ([oharadvd@aol.com](mailto:oharadvd@aol.com))

Mark your calendars now and plan to help on

**Saturday April 26th**

**WE SIMPLY CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT:**

**U!**

# Gracious Givers

## Lay Reader Message

### Giving More than Money

For many, giving is associated with money. Giving includes money, but, as faithful givers, we first give ourselves, and the giving of our gifts and resources will follow (2 Corinthians 8:5). We all have different gifts and blessings to share. God has blessed us with gifts of wood-working, sewing, serving, teaching, singing, gardening, leading, cleaning, etc. Whatever our skills or gifts, we can use and give them to extend the kingdom and help others. Through faith, we are compelled to give because we know that God is the source of all of our blessings (2 Corinthians 5:14). Giving expresses our gratitude to God for what he has given to us.

In the third chapter of Acts, we find a lame beggar at the temple in Jerusalem, pleading with people to give him money. Peter and John were entering the temple, and they heard the beggar's plea for help. Perhaps the beggar saw Peter with his hand in his pocket, but the hand came out empty, dashing the beggar's hopes. "Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk' " (Acts 3:6). Peter's pocket was empty, but he was willing to give what he had, and he had something worth far more than a pocketful of money.

God wants us to give more than our money. He wants us to give of ourselves, our hearts and our lives, and to share our time and talents. We have been blessed to be a blessing. Thank God Peter had more to give the beggar than money. In order to use our gifts and blessings effectively in service for others, let us ask God for guidance as to how to best use and give what he has given us. Through faith, we can be confident that God will open our eyes and hearts for opportunities to give and share what he has entrusted to us.

## SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group hopes that the congregation had a happy holiday season and we wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. **We'd like to thank all of those who purchased apple pies from us** for Thanksgiving. We hope you enjoyed them. In December, the SYG met on the 14<sup>th</sup> to plate cookies for the congregation. Afterwards, the group went to Applebee's for dinner and then to Christmas Village in Bernville.

**As we enter the New Year, we'll begin our soup sales**, which will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of January, February and March. Our activity for January will be a lock in at the church. We'll spend the night and enjoy many activities.

**The SYG meets on the first Wednesday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month (September thru May)**, as well as various other days for activities and fund raisers. All youth in 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades can take part in the SYG. If you're new to the congregation and have a teen in high school, reach out to one of the leaders and we'll make sure you get information on our group.

**The SYG is looking for a couple of new leaders to help in future years.** Please let us know if you are interested. It's a very rewarding experience and we'd like to pass on our knowledge to a new group of leaders. New people bring new ideas and that is always a good thing.

Cathy Meeley, [tcmeeley@verizon.net](mailto:tcmeeley@verizon.net) Joe Schaffer, [joe.schaffer.44@gmail.com](mailto:joe.schaffer.44@gmail.com)  
Liz Wentworth, [lizwentworth@yahoo.com](mailto:lizwentworth@yahoo.com) Gary Wessner, [gtwess@comcast.net](mailto:gtwess@comcast.net)



| Sun   | Mon                     | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|---|-----|-----|
| <h1>January</h1>  |                         |  | 1<br>Happy New Year!<br><br>Office Closed     | 2<br>6:00 pm Bell Choir<br>7:00 pm Vocal Choir  | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br>8:00 am Holy Communion<br>9:00 am Sunday School—<br>Baby Shower for Jesus<br>9:00 am Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 am Holy Communion<br>Vestry Installation | 6                       | 7<br>7:00 pm Vestry Meeting                        | 8<br>9:00 am Soup Kitchen<br>6:00 pm 3-in-1   | 9<br>6:00 pm Bell Choir<br>7:00 pm Vocal Choir  | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>8:00 am Holy Communion<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>9:00 am Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 am Holy Communion<br>Holy Baptism                                 | 13<br>7:00 pm Knitting  | 14<br>7:00 pm Comm. Club                           | 15<br>2:00 pm Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm 3-in-1 | 16<br>6:00 pm Bell Choir<br>7:00 pm Vocal Choir | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br>8:00 am Holy Communion<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>9:00 am Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 am Holy Communion/<br><b>Youth Group Soup Sale!</b>               | 20<br>7:00 pm Book Club | 21<br>9:00 am Quilting<br>7:00 pm CC Board Meeting | 22<br>6:00 pm 3-in-1                          | 23<br>6:00 pm Bell Choir<br>7:00 pm Vocal Choir | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>8:00 am Holy Communion<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>9:00 am Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 am Holy Communion   | 27<br>7:00 pm Knitting  | 28<br>7:00 pm Committee Night                      | 29<br>6:00 pm 3-in-1                          | 30<br>6:00 pm Bell Choir<br>7:00 pm Vocal Choir | 31  |     |

**Soup FOR THE SOUL**  
**FREE-WILL OFFERING dinner**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 08**  
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**  
 A PASTA BUFFET DINNER WITH SOUP, SALAD, FRUIT, HOME-MADE DESSERTS  
 Proceeds Benefit Augustus Lutheran Church Soup Kitchen Outreach

Brian O'Hara © 2024  
brano24@gmail.com