

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

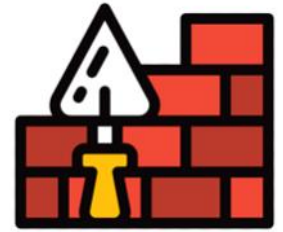
An Historic Church for Today's People



AUGUST 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to thank all our members and friends who have contributed so generously to the Brick Church Re-Pointing Appeal. We expect to begin this project in August. Our hope is to complete the work by early autumn.



As we continue to return to a more familiar pattern of ministry, our routine expenses have begun to return to their normal, pre-Covid-19 levels. Our ministry depends on the generous offerings of our members and friends. Offerings are received at the end of each service, through mailed in contributions, and through online giving. Please maintain regular financial support of our ministry along with your prayers and the offerings of your time and talent.

If the danger of Covid-19 continues to decrease, I will recommend to the Vestry at its August meeting that we return to our normal communion distribution practice at each of our services. That means a return to the Lutheran communion practice of distributing both the bread and the wine. I will also recommend that when the 8:00 AM service moves out of the Old Church in the fall, it return to its natural home, the Brick Church Chapel. Other possible changes must wait longer for consideration.



Although we will continue to live stream our later service for those who are unable to be with us in-person, I encourage everyone who is fully vaccinated to join us for in-person worship. The live stream and recorded service are a great gift to those who are sick and shut-in. They are not a substitute for the blessing of in-person worship. I look forward to seeing large numbers of familiar faces over the next months.

We are never alone during this stressful time. Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.



Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck
See you on Sunday!



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.

From the Bench

August 2021

This past month I've been getting excited, looking through music for the fall (and Christmas!) I'm so happy to get back to a normal choir schedule this fall. If you'd

like to join us this season, the first rehearsal of the Senior Choir will be on **Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 pm**. If you'd like to try bell choir (and aren't currently a member), please contact me ASAP as I will be meeting with beginners to learn some necessary techniques before bell choir starts later in September.

I will be away during the week before Labor Day, so there will be no choir rehearsal on Thursday, September 2, but we will resume again on Thursday, September 9 with singers at 7pm, and we will sing in church on Rally Day, September 12 at the 10:30 service in the Old Church.

Let's sing with the psalmist (Psalm 95):

- ¹O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵The sea is his, for he made it;
for his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- ⁷For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

See you in church!

~Laurie Mueller



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ronald Young	2 Sean Wagenseller	3 Linda Linsenbigler	4 Pamela Leighton Amanda Scholl James Stewart	5 Julie Niskala Kathryn Robinson	6 Luke Chellew Michaela DeCarlo Ashley Interrante Cathie Van Alstine	7 Emerson Smith Debbie Steiner
8	9 Kimberlee Davis	10 Dottie Luft Dennis Oscapinski Katie Ries	11 Gary Long	12 Stan Lienthal Timothy Stalker	13 David Ivarson Francis Tomaselli	14 Christopher DeCarlo Madeline Kring
15 Alex Dogonniuck	16 Richard Allebach Landon Watts	17 Skylar Althouse	18 Penelope Balzereit Gail Bischoff	19 Amy Sellman Kathleen Wilkins	20	21 Connor Elison Debbie Hoffman Vincent Jagers/Brown Bruce Jennings Nathan Kerr
22 Ralph Kibblehouse Madison Kuklantz David Schweitzer	23 Greg Allen Andrew Meeley Marjorie Price	24 Alexander Jagers/Brown	25 Blaire Booth-Glacken Eric Linsenbigler Kimberly Lumley Nixon Madden Krista Oscapinski Rachel Oscapinski	26 Susan Millheim	27	28 Stephanie Frazier
29 Ellie Hernandez Karen McCrea	30 Andrea Jagers/Brown Cayla Schulz Corrine Schulz Scott Young	31 Kathryn Kerr Cynthia Rauch				

August Birthdays



Sharing God's Bounty

The Importance of Giving

It is not uncommon for church members to perceive in a negative way the encouragement from their church to give generously. The perception of some people is that the church is only interested in their money. Certainly, a generous giving congregation does provide the money needed by the church for its budget so the church should work hard to help people grow in their giving. However, Scripture indicates that giving is as much for the sake of the giver as it is to support the needs of the church. Pastors and church leaders understand that giving is an activity that God directs us to do. Jesus said, *"Freely you have received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8). Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth about the collection for God's people, *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. . ."* (1 Corinthians 16:2).



Giving blesses the both the giver and the recipient of the giving. The blessings to the recipients are obvious. Not as obvious but as important to understand is that giving enriches the life of the giver. Giving strengthens the relationship that we have with our Lord. Through our giving, we are reminded of God's ownership and how dependent we are on him. Giving demonstrates our faith and trust. We give as part of our worship. Giving allows us to be used by God in partnership with him.

In God's Word, we are told that those who give faithfully and generously will receive even more of God's blessings. In Proverbs 3:9 we read these encouraging words, *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing. . ."* God blesses all people, but he wants to bless us even more for our faithful giving. *"One man give freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty"* (Proverbs 11:24). Generosity is the path to blessing. By contrast, a stingy person doesn't make any friends and hurts himself in the long run. Through the prophet Malachi, we are told again how God will bless us for our faithful giving, *"Bring the whole tithe in the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it'"* (Malachi 3:10).

In the future, we need to thank church leaders who encourage us to grow in our giving. Through our giving, we are expressing thanks to God for his goodness to us. We are also helping to extend God's kingdom through our church, providing for the needy, and enriching our own lives. As we grow spiritually and receive more of God's blessings, we will better understand and respond to the encouragement to increase our giving.



"No matter who you are or what you do ... no matter how meaningless you consider your life's work ... you can achieve greatness in the eyes of God by doing your work to the best of your ability and offering it up to him."

Christian Education

We had so much fun at Vacation Bible School! This year our theme was “We’re on God’s Team,” with lots of outdoor games and fun while we learned that trusting in God defeats fear and obstacles, life is better when we follow God’s rules, and that we are guaranteed victory because Love wins. Many, many thanks to Jen Wentworth, Jeanne Halteman, Laurie Mueller, and Pastor Weleck for their hard work. We were also joined by Mark Yanchek from St. John’s in Phoenixville, and we had two wonderful assistant teachers: Lauren Fishell and Connor Elison. Mark your calendars for next year, June 27-30, 2022. We have had to limit VBS enrollment for the past two years because of COVID-19 restrictions, but we hope that we’ll be able to accommodate as many children as want to come to Vacation Bible School in 2022!

Now our attention turns to Rally Day, the first day of Sunday school for the 2021-22 year on September 12th. We are looking for teachers and helpers to join us as we re-start Augustus’ in-person Sunday school program. I have enjoyed getting to know the children better during Zoom Sunday school for the past year and a half, but I really can’t wait to see us all together in person again. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of Sunday school beginning this September.

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

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards

Director of Christian Education



School Supply Drive

Daily Bread Community Food Pantry is collecting school supplies

- small backpacks with cartoon characters Disney or similar
- medium and especially large backpacks
- boxes of 24 colored pencils
- pencil cases with 3 holes for binders
- red pens
- packs of dividers for binders
- folders with prongs
- black dry erase markers
- packs of dry erase markers containing 4 different colors
- Sharpie markers
- packs of Post-It notes

- 24 count packs of crayons
- Fiskar children's scissors
- plastic pencil boxes
- composition books
- packs of 3x5 index cards
- 1" three-ring binders
- loose leaf filler paper
- highlighters of any color
- mechanical pencils
- small pencil sharpeners
- flash drives

They will be distributing backpacks and school supplies at the food pantry throughout the month of August and will gladly accept donations through mid-August. All donations can be delivered to the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry. There is someone there to receive donations Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. until Noon. Since we distribute food to clients on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 A.M. you might want to avoid those times. You can also drop off school supplies at any time in the beige bin near the garage doors on the side of the food pantry. This bin is checked each morning by our volunteers. Thank you so very much for your dedicated and generous support of this project! We sincerely appreciate it!

**Food Pantry donations are also accepted here at Augustus. Place your donations in the labeled basket in the Muhlenberg Center and we'll get them where they need to go.



Cemetery News

The Cemetery driveways have been re-paved. The new road surface looks beautiful.

This project, which cost \$70,000, was paid for by Cemetery Trust Fund earnings accumulated over the past decade. Multiple vendors provided an estimate of cost and their ideas for remedying the deteriorating condition of the driveway surface. The Cemetery Committee and Vestry chose the vendor that provided the best improvement at the best cost.

We were able to accomplish this long-overdue project because of the Vestry's careful management of the funds received for plot sales and burial fees. The Cemetery is self-supporting and does not use member offerings to pay its expenses.



Augustus Book Club

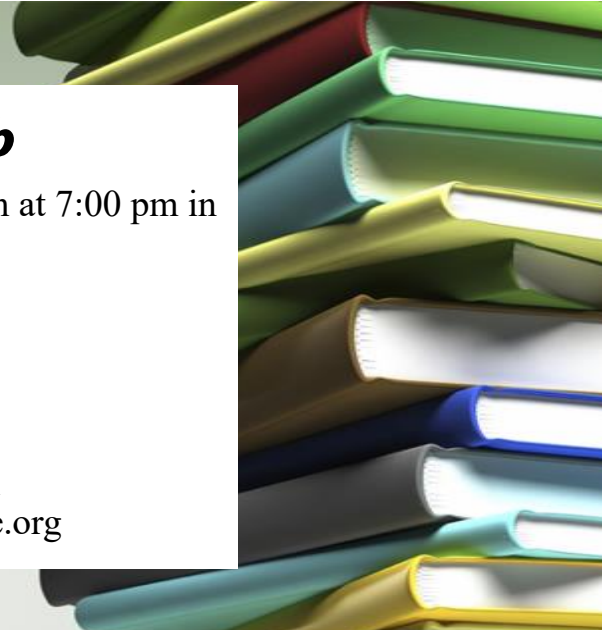
The next book club meeting will be on August 16th at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room. We'll discuss:

A Week in Winter

by Maeve Binchy

All are welcome to join us!

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



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group Leaders are looking forward to the 2021/22 SYG year. All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 1st at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. We'll review the 21/22 calendar, get input on the year's activities and discuss how to make up for lost time. Since we haven't been able to do a lot over the last year and a half, the leaders are eager to get going.

The SYG looks forward to cooking up a storm on September 12th at Rally Day. Then we will get ready for apple pies, Christmas cookies, Easter eggs, soups and much more throughout the year!

The Senior Youth Group did not go on a Mission Trip this year, but we would like to do mission work in our community. If you are in need of work or you know someone that is, please let us know. The three churches that make up the One Dream Mission Team would like to help where we can. We are gearing up for a 2022 Mission Trip.

If you have projects you need help with, please contact any of the leaders or contact the office with a message. This year's leaders are:



Chris Dogonniuck, bulldog7224@comcast.net
Cathy Meeley, tcmeeley@verizon.net
Joe Schaffer, joe.schaffer@gmail.com
Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net
youth@augustustrappe.org

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Are You Saving Enough for Retirement?

From the wisdom of Solomon, God shows us the wisdom of ants that save their provisions (Proverbs 6:6). With our anemic personal savings rate in this country of approximately 1.5 percent, we may be showing less wisdom than the ants. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, in twenty years, there will be a \$45 billion retirement income shortfall. Four out of five Americans do not have enough retirement savings.

One of our top financial goals should be a comfortable retirement. To live comfortably during retirement, we can project that we will need about 80-90 of our pre-retirement income. This income will come from Social Security, pensions, and private savings. For most people Social Security benefits will provide approximately one-third of their retirement needs. If you subtract your expected social security benefits from our desired annual retirement income, the result will be the annual income gap that will have to be covered by your pension income or savings.



Desired Annual Retirement Income:	Annual Social Security Benefits	Annual Income Gap
\$50,000	\$12,500	\$37,500
75,000	15,000	60,000

One of the greatest obstacles to a savings program for retirement is procrastination!



We fall into the trap of telling ourselves that retirement is a long way off, so we will start saving next month. The problem is that next month never comes. Procrastination is detrimental, because it eats up the time that money can be put to work for us.

As a general rule of thumb, if we start saving for retirement in our early 20's, we can set aside close to 10 percent of our incomes and have sufficient funds for retirement. As Solomon wrote, ". . . he who gathers money little by little makes it grow" (Proverbs 13:11). However, if we wait till we are in our 40's, our saving rate will have to increase to 30 percent or more.

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.

What Does God Look Like?

Invite everyone in your family to draw what they think God looks like. Stress that no one knows for sure, so there is no “right” answer. Have each person explain what he or she draws. Do some family members view God as happy and loving, while others have a more stern notion of God? Discuss where these notions may have originated.

Invite everyone to brainstorm more ideas about what God might look like. With these ideas in mind, read aloud these Bible verses about the images of God:

Numbers 11:10-13 describes God as mother;
Deuteronomy 4:24 describes God as fire;
Deuteronomy 32:11-12 and Exodus 19:4 describe God as an eagle;
Psalm 18:13 describes God as thunder;
Psalm 91:4 describes God as a protective bird;
Jeremiah 17:13 describes God as water;
Luke 15:37 and John 10:27 describes God as a shepherd;
John 3:8 and Acts 2:2 describe God as wind;
John 8:12 and Isaiah 60:2 describe God as light;
John 15:1 describes Jesus as a vine and God as the grower.



Did any of the verses use images that were the same or similar to those chosen by your family members? Did anyone’s ideas about God change after hearing these verses? Ask each family member to draw or create another image of God, choosing from the images above. Family members can draw pictures or they can create something that they think describes God, such as:

- a sand candle—to describe God as light;
- a felt or paper banner with tongues of fire glued on it—to describe the Holy Spirit;
- a wreath made of dried grape vines from your garden—to describe God as peace.

Note the related Bible reference with each creation. Point out that these images are not God, but that they serve to remind us of the greatness of God.

Ask each person to give thanks for one of God’s images during a group prayer.

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Christian Parenting

The Age of the Believer

Children in the first through third grades are enthusiastic and eager, creative and curious. They’re ready to learn. This zest for learning applies to their religion, too. This stage of life is sometimes called “the age of the believer.” Church educators consider it to be one of the prime times for teaching students how to use the Bible, introducing them to church liturgies and rituals, and encouraging their participation in worship and other church functions.

As parents and caregivers, we can assist in this faith growth spurt by continuing to teach and reinforce their faith at home and by making every effort to see that they are able to attend Sunday school, worship, and other church activities. Positive experiences within their church family promote affirmative attitudes toward God and faith. They foster a sense of belonging to God and to the Christian community. This identity and these attitudes are important vehicles for the future growth of our children’s faith.



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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.



Altar Guild Help Wanted

Altar Guild members attend to the altar on Sundays. They change and adjust the paraments, prepare the Holy Communion elements, place and remove the flowers, and a host of other small jobs that are so important to our weekly worship. Are you interested in helping? No experience required! We'll train you! Contact Deb Scholl at Schollde@aol.com.



A Gentle Reminder

The generations of faithful Lutherans that have gone before us have left us a great legacy at Augustus Lutheran Church. Please do your part to keep our buildings neat, clean, and presentable to the many friends and visitors we welcome throughout each week of the year.

**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

Hebrews 13:16



Quilting and Knitting and 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 full-sized Afghans should about 49" X 56" (about the same size as the top of a double bed).

Baby Afghans should be about 36" X 36" or 36" X 45" in pastel colors.

Place blocks and Afghans in the basket in the Muhlenberg Center. Please contact me if you need any yarn at jandmstuffle@verizon.net.



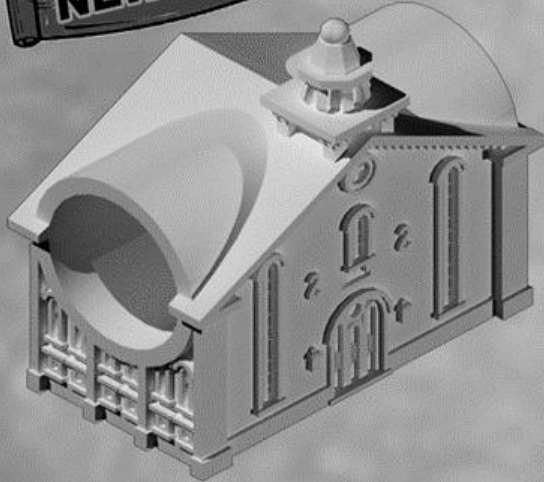
Quilting will meet Wednesday July 7th and Tuesday July 20th in the quilting room from 9:30 AM to 11:30 PM.

Knitting 'n Crochet will meet Monday July 12th and July 26th in room 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

TRAPPE CHARMS

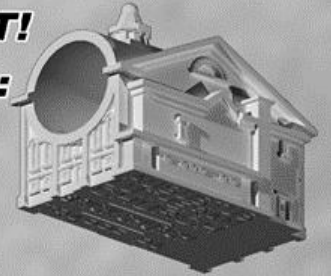
CHARMING CHARMS FROM THE TINY TOWN OF TRAPPE

NEW RELEASE!!!





Brian O'Hara © 2020
brian.ohara24@gmail.com

- * **STERLING SILVER**
- * **FITS "PANDORA" STYLE BRACELETS**
- * **IDENTIFICATION INSCRIBED (ON THE UNDERSIDE)**
- * **NOW TAKING ORDERS - (LIMITED QUANTITIES 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**



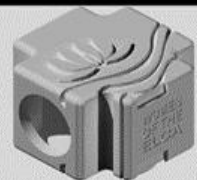

AUGUSTUS CHARMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH OUTREACH

 Old Trappe Church \$70	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

 Women of ELCA Logo \$75	 Just Love Logo \$75			
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