

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People

SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You've missed us! We've missed you! It's time for us all to be together again!

Join us on September 18th for a grand homecoming at 10:30 AM in the Brick Church. We'll enjoy songs from our Sunday school children and from our wonderful choir. We'll hear a report from our young people about their mission trip. We'll share yummy picnic food provided by our Senior High Youth Group after church and enjoy games on the lawn. We'll glory in the wonder of being part of the Augustus family as we did in the days of yore (2019 ☺). You won't want to miss it!

Join us in person at Augustus for all the events in September:

Sunday, September 4, 2022 (Last day on the summer schedule)

8:00 AM – Old Church

9:30 AM – Brick Church (Air-conditioned)

Sunday, September 11, 2022

8:00 AM – Old Church

9:00 AM – Sunday School – Breakfast for students and their parents

10:30 AM – OLD CHURCH!

Sunday, September 18, 2022

8:00 AM – Old Church

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Brick Church (Air-conditioned)

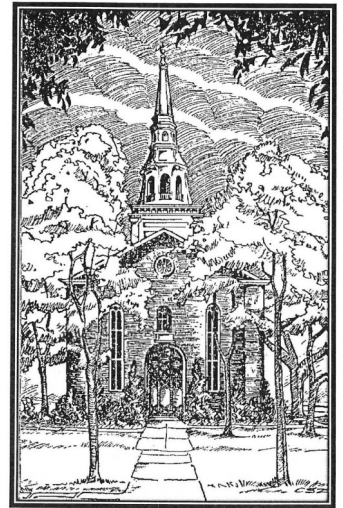
11:30 AM – Church Picnic

Sunday, September 25, 2022

8:00 AM – Old Church

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Brick Church (Air-conditioned)



See you on Sunday!
Pastor Weleck

Pastor Fluck recently turned 90!

He has been very generous to Augustus over many years, and we would like to honor him by raising some money for one of his favorite charities in his honor. So please, if you can, help us support **United Lutheran Seminary** in his honor. You can make a check payable to Augustus Lutheran Church and put Pastor Fluck/Seminary on the memo line. We will write one check to the seminary as a gift from his Augustus friends. Please give your gift on or before **October 30**. This is a great way to honor Pastor Fluck and to support our seminary at a time when the church truly needs new pastoral leaders well-trained for ministry.

Thank you!



From the Bench

September 2022

Dear friends,

Although it comes every year at the same time, somehow the fall season always catches me wondering where the summer went! Actually, I was very fortunate to spend some relaxing time away. I hope that you also had a restful summer and are ready for an exciting fall season at Augustus!

In the choir loft, we are welcoming Cheryl Camuso to the alto section. I'm also happy that two singers from pre-pandemic days, Vicky Gallagher and Tracey Richvalsky, will be rejoining us when they can. And Jennifer Wentworth is back with us as well, for choir and bells! As of this writing, new section leaders have not been found, but I still believe God is good and faithful to supply all our needs.



Choir will start September 1 at 7:00 pm, and will sing in church for the first time on September 11 in the Old Church. Bell Choir will start September 15 at 6:00 pm and we will decide when our first playing Sunday will be. The bell choir would like to thank Jeff Stuffle, who engineered a way to raise the bell tables bought from Malmark to the same height as our other tables. Thank you, Jeff!

And speaking of the bell choir, I promised exciting news. I want to thank the Lachenmayer family for allowing us to use memorial money for purchase of items for the bell choir. This month, two wooden bell tree stands were purchased, one in memory of Tom Lachenmayer and one in memory of Anne. One person can play a solo using many bells on a bell tree. This will be debuted in church in the coming months. If you'd like to see a short demonstration of how it works, here is a video: tinyurl.com/BellTreeStand. We are still choosing a date to debut these beautiful and versatile stands. Keep watching!



Elsewhere in this newsletter is an appeal in honor of Pastor Fluck. Many of you may remember when he was Augustus' visitation pastor. The people of Augustus meant a lot to him, and he has been very generous to us over the years. I hope you will look for and support this way to honor him as you are able.

I hope to see some of you who have been away this summer. There's room for you in the pews, and maybe even in the choir loft! You might even bring a friend!

~Laurie Mueller



Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism was administered to Quinn Perkins and Zoe Perkins on August 14, 2022. Quinn and Zoe are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Perkins. May God bless these little ones as they begin their journeys of faith.

Richard Weicheld Card Shower!

Our Father, **Richard Weicheld, will be 95 Years Young on October 18, 2022.** It would mean so much to all of us if he could be remembered with cards of good wishes on his 95th. If you would like to send a card here is his address: Richard Weicheld

Genesis Healthcare
Sanatoga Center
225 Evergreen Rd.
Pottstown, PA 19464

Thank you all so much!!

Sally (Sweeney), Anne, Susan, Ted and Max Weicheld & grandchildren

Cards can be given to Sally Sweeney to hand deliver after 8:00 am service, too.



Graceful Generosity

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

The Deceitfulness of Money

From beginning to end, the Bible emphasizes God's ownership of all things. *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). God is the creator and owner of the universe. He has created us and owns us. Not only has he created us, he has also redeemed us from our sins. Because of whom God is and what God has done and continues to do, he deserves to be honored and glorified. Even though he is almighty God, he seeks a loving relationship with each one of us.

That relationship is greatly jeopardized by a common attitude toward money: greed. Wanting more money and possessions and holding on to them tightly can become such an obsession that life exists only for the purpose of acquiring more and more. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus described the various kinds of people who respond to the Gospel. Jesus stated that some *"seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants"* (Matthew 13:7). He explained, *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful"* (Matthew 13:22).



Money and possessions can deceive us into believing that nothing is more important than to

own things and to enjoy the things money can buy. Of all the things that Satan can use to separate us from our relationship with Jesus, money may be his most effective tool.

The fact that Jesus referred to money and possessions in more than 2,100 Bible verses indicates that he is very concerned about our attitudes toward and our relationships with money. Jesus spoke often about money and possessions because he knew the influence and power money can have over our lives. He was very interested in helping people understand that money can never provide us with real satisfaction in life. Richard Halverson wrote, "Jesus Christ said more about money than any other single thing because money is of first importance when it comes to a person's real nature. Money is an exact index to our true character. Throughout Scripture we find an intimate correlation between the development of a person's character and how he or she handles money."

"Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where his heart is."

Billy Graham

The Joy of Contentment

In contrast to materialism, contentment is a state of mind that does not desire more than what one has. A contented person is satisfied with what he has. The goal of a Christian is to be content regardless of his financial condition. Discontentment is a spiritual problem. It affects rich and poor and everyone in between. Discontentment can eat away at our souls and rob us of the joy the Lord wants us to have in Christ. A contented person sees the world from

a different perspective than a materialistic person views it.

In the “have it now and enjoy life” society in which we live, contentment is no longer a goal. In this culture, the goal in life is self-gratification. Our society strives after material things that provide temporary happiness. Comfort is more of a goal than is contentment. Unfortunately, when all we care about is ourselves, we are never satisfied, because we keep telling ourselves we need and deserve more. We convince ourselves we should have more cars, bigger houses, better clothes, a classier neighborhood, a higher salary.

The writer of Hebrews wrote, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you’ ” (Hebrews 13:5). If we love money and the things of this world, we will never be content. Money and possessions can’t buy contentment. Only in Christ can we find lasting contentment. The Apostle Paul’s contentment came from knowing and trusting in Jesus. “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:12-13).

Paul had learned the secret of contentment. Paul was in prison when he wrote those words in Philippians, and he had been at the point of death several times. If anyone could have said he was in need or want, it was Paul. In fact, Paul’s message on contentment should make many of us uncomfortable.

How could our circumstances be as bleak as his? We know that Paul suffered from a physical problem, was stoned, beaten, and went without food. Yet he gave God thanks for everything. He was content whether he had abundance or nothing. Because Paul was content regardless of his circumstances, he is a magnificent example of contentment. Through Paul, we see that, when we depend on Christ for everything, we can accept any situation here on earth, knowing that God won’t abandon us.



What was Paul’s secret? How did he find contentment in all those circumstances? His contentment came from Christ Jesus himself. He found contentment in the fact that he was forgiven all of his sins and sinful behavior. He was assured that Christ was with him constantly. He knew that God was always there to see him through and that God would never give him more than he could handle. He knew that Christ Jesus died on the cross for him to give him life every day on earth and eternal life in heaven. He knew that Christ would rescue him from every trouble and sustain him in every trial along the way. He experienced Christ’s promise, “*My grace is sufficient for you!*” (2 Corinthians 12:9).



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.

Christian Education

We're looking forward to our Sunday school kick-off at 9 a.m. on September 11th! Parents are invited to attend with their child(ren) so we can all get re-acquainted. We will introduce our teachers and play some fun "get-to-know-you" games. We're also planning to learn a song to sing the following Sunday in church and then we'll enjoy breakfast together! A Sunday school registration form is included in this newsletter. If you are the parent of a child aged 3 through 6th grade, please complete the registration form and return it or bring it with you on the 11th. If you would prefer to complete an online form instead, you'll find the link in our Augustus Sunday School Facebook group. If you're not a member of that Facebook group, please join so you can stay up to date on all the Sunday school happenings! ***Please note: if you are members of Augustus or your child was baptized here, your child(ren) are already registered and expected at Sunday school! We're just asking for completed forms so that we can make sure all our information is correct—please don't think your child(ren) can't attend because you forgot to fill out the form.***

Our confirmation program, called 3-in-1, also kicks off on September 11th with registration and orientation at 6:00 p.m. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone—especially the former Sunday school kids who have graduated to confirmation class!

Pastor Weleck will pray for the Sunday school teachers at the 10:30 a.m. service in the Old Church on September 11th. We deeply appreciate the prayers and support of the entire church for the children of Augustus.

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards
Director of Christian Education



September Worship Assistants

Lectors	10:30 am Lessons	10:30 am Prayers
September 4		
September 11		
September 18	Cheryl Camuso	Abby Gravel
September 25	Martha Kriebel	Sonya Sowards
Communion Assistants	8:00 am: Debra Augustine	
September 4		
September 11		
September 18	John Kochel	
September 25	Janice Reiff	
Ushers	8:00 am: Early Usher Team	
September 3	Dick Allebach, Scott Halteman, and Mike Taylor	
September 10	Dick Allebach, Scott Halteman, and Mike Taylor	
September 17	Contact Dick A.	
September 24	Contact Dick A.	
Offering Tabulation		
September	Debra Augustine, Chilly Lyaro, and Brian O'Hara	
Altar Guild	8:00 am: Sally Sweeney	
September	Becky Quirk	

Augustus Lutheran Church Sunday Morning Christian Education Registration Form

Classes are held September– May

(from weekend after Labor Day weekend until weekend before Memorial Day weekend)

(please complete one form per family—return to Sonya Sowards)

Last Name: _____ Best phone number for family: _____

Address: _____

Best email for family: _____

We are: ☐ Augustus members ☐ interested in joining Augustus ☐ just visiting

I would like to help by: ☐ bringing peanut-free snacks with a UPC code ☐ helping to teach Sunday school
☐ serving on the Christian Education Committee

Please join our private Facebook group “Augustus Sunday School” to stay up to date on Sunday school events.

Adults:

Name	Relationship to child(ren)	Cell phone	Email

Children:

Name	Gender	Birth date	Baptized? (date if known)	Grade	Medical concerns/allergies

I (we) do for myself (ourselves) and on behalf of my (our) child(ren) do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to forever hold harmless Augustus Lutheran Church, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the ELCA, the employees, and the agents thereof, from any and all liability, claims and demands for personal injury, sickness and death, as well as property damage and expenses, of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by me (us) or my (our) child(ren) resulting from said child(ren)'s participation in Sunday school. Further I (we) (and on behalf of our child(ren) under 18 years of age) hereby assume all risk of said personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expenses as a result of participation as above set forth. I (we) am (are) the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of this (these) participant(s), and hereby grant my (our) permission for him/her/them to participate fully in Sunday school. I (we) also release the participant's name(s) as part of an information database for our church, synod and ELCA-related entities, and that photos/videos produced by the church or synod become property of the synod and can be used for ELCA-related purposes and publicity.

Signature of parent/legal guardian and date

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 William Seland	2 Hannah Kennedy	3 Amanda Balducci Cole Brenner Arlene Fowble Gavin Jacobs Jennie Lien
4 Tami Barndt Deborah Frisco Daniel Herb	5	6 Lauren Herb Lydia Herr	7 Jennifer Capetola Connor Hainley William Schindler	8 Kevin Stuffle Wendy Watro	9 John Betz Cindy Henze Emily Mullarkey James Tornetta	10 Nancy Berg
11 Tyler Funk Richard Patten Leighton Vargo Ruth Yoder-Taylor	12 Sarah Riegel Pamela Slauch	13 Brian Clark Melanie Donley Scott Maurer Hayley Moomaw	14 Terry Benner Irene Markert	15 Emma Linsenbiger Richard Opperman Joan Rubendall	16 Jean Brunswick Kairi Fagan Lori Innaurato Charlene Tucker Edwin Van Alstine	17 Steve Archer Caryse DeWane Peyton DeWolf Mark McCormack
18 Sandy Mason-Bealer David Trauger	19 Frank Martin Heather Tucker	20 Cindi DuBree Theresa Schindler Abby Stalker	21 Britney Brunswick Kristen Camuso Gillian Evans Michael Napier Alayna Wells	22 Martin Davis Julianne Fishell Peter Hausman	23 Abigail Cooper Cheryl Minella Ralph Nelson Frances Peale Kierstin Tartar	24 Peter Balzereit Donna DeNucci Melissa Elison Charlie Hallman Ben Lewis Thomas Meeley
25 Ethan DePaul Ronald Steiner Paul Sweeney Megan Wilson	26 William Penny Janice Reiff	27 Cheryl Camuso Abi Leigl Jay Peale Benjamin Richvalsky	28 Harry Antrim Bradley Hart Nola Kelly Cathy Meeley	29 Justyne Clarke James Fisher James Richvalsky	30 Cody Allen Madison Catagnus Ben Scholl	



Augustus Book Club

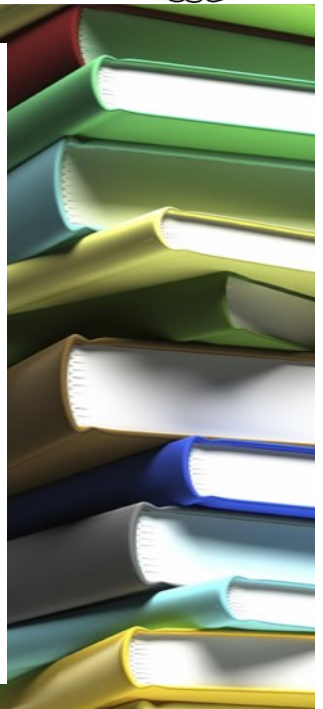
The next book club meeting will be on September 15 at 7:00 pm
in the Vestry Room. We'll discuss:
Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Our October meeting will be on October 17. We'll discuss:
Glory Over Everything by Kathleen Grissom

Our November meeting will be on November 21 We'll discuss:
The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

All are welcome to join us!

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



Sympathy and Prayers

Sympathy and Prayers are offered to the family of Mrs. Saranne Gorski, recently deceased. Pastor Weleck conducted a funeral service for Mrs. Gorski on Thursday, August 18, 2022. May God grant eternal rest to Saranne, and comfort to her family during this difficult time.



Money and the Great Commission

Jesus' parting command was: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus was very direct and explicit with his mandate. There is no question as to where or with whom we are to share the Gospel. The love that God gives to us is to be shared by us with all people everywhere. He has given us our marching orders, and, in his strength, we can give ourselves fully to his work.

Because God has chosen to use us as his tools to bring salvation to all people, we must use our lives and gifts to spread the Good News. Paul wrote, *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us"* (2 Corinthians 5:20). One of the tools that God gives us to use in our mission of reaching out to others with the Gospel is our money. According to an old stewardship phrase, "Stewardship without mission is unnecessary and mission without stewardship is impossible." Stewardship and mission are inseparable. The funding of the Great Commission needs to come from believers. The money which God entrusts to us has many purposes, and the funding of mission work is of first importance. Through the giving of our money, we demonstrate our obedience to Jesus' command to reach out to all people. Paul wrote that, through our giving, we *"test the sincerity of [our] love by comparing it with the earnestness of others"* (2 Corinthians 8:8).

For nonbelievers and those who lack spiritual maturity, the giving of money is done begrudgingly out of a sense of obligation. By the grace of God, our attitude toward giving is a "want to" rather than a "got to" give. We view giving as a privilege and an opportunity to spread the Gospel through our money. Our giving expresses our gratitude for who God is and all that he has done for through his Son. Through faith, we hold onto our money loosely and then are privileged to experience the joy of giving as we give God our first and best. As Christians we understand that God has a claim on all that we have, so we willingly and cheerfully give our money to help all people hear of God's love. Money is an important tool for God's mission. Through our faithful giving, we are able to leverage our witnessing to all people.

Tea on the Lawn Thanks!

Many thanks to the hosts of this summer's "Tea on the Lawn" refreshments following our services each week!



Mike Van Blaricum (x2!)
Jeff & Mildred Stuffle
Deb Scholl
Augustus Book Club

Wessner Family (x2!)
Richard and Gemma Patten
Dot Opperman
The Christian Education Committee

August 2022

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson
ELCA Global Personnel

Dear Augustus Lutheran Church,

We have often shared with you the highs and lows of life here in Tanzania and we are so grateful that you listen to both sides of the story. Once again, we have highs and lows to share. As you see from the above photo, in July, we celebrated Caedmon's graduation from Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. Then we reached a new "high"-- Mt. Kilimanjaro, at 19,341 feet! In celebration of his high school graduation, the family climbed to the top of Africa. We were above the clouds for 6 days and it was a remarkable adventure. (See below)

In the hospitals, we are once again grateful for hard working nurses and doctors in training in the NICU and Pediatric Wards. We have had the joy of working with dedicated physicians and nurses who are eager to advance their knowledge and practice and we will be supporting them to take the next step in their career advancement.

We arrived home in MN early August, and will be in the US for the remainder of this month for a brief home assignment and work conference. Due to limitations around Indya's school schedule, our time is more limited than other home assignments. We hope we can keep you up to date through this newsletter!

Continue to read the stories below for a quick catch up with the Swanson family and our work in Tanzania

Teaching and NICU Update

Last year we hosted a neonatology conference in Arusha for 55+ Tanzanian hospitals, entitled "[*Tiny Feet, Big Steps-- Advancing Care of Critically Ill and Premature Babies in Tanzania*](#)".

This October, we will leading an even larger Neonatology Conference in Arusha. We have a team of 30+ neonatologists, pediatricians, psychologists, and NICU nurse educators arriving from across Tanzania, USA, Canada and Europe to teach doctors and nurses. This may possibly be the largest neonatology training conference ever held in (and for) East Africa.



Kid's Korner

Change is upon us as **Caedmon** graduated high school and is headed to UW- Madison (Madison, Wisconsin), where he will begin his studies in the College of Engineering (Computer Engineering). He is ready to take it all in stride, eager for his continued training in computer science, computer engineering, mathematics and more! He has already read up on the Rock Climbing club and has used his graduation money to build up his gear. He is ready to scale not only the cliffs near Madison, but the academic challenges ahead.



August 2022

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

ELCA Global Personnel

As you can see from the photos below, we had an Epic Journey to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak on the African continent, and the tallest free standing mountain in the world. This was a desire of Caedmon's, to summit before leaving Tanzania and it was amazing. We spent 6 days and nights above the clouds, laughed, cried (altitude headaches), and trudged our way up to the top. OK, Caedmon didn't trudge, and he is ready for more summits and alpine mountaineering in the future! We were entertained by Steve's stories as we all traversed the rocky slopes. It was an experience we will never forget.



Hannah spent the summer with us in Tanzania and interned with a wildlife conservation organization, Honeyguide. She spent her days editing blogs, grants, and helping to create informational material for them. She was able to spend a few days in the bush with their photography team and camped near a waterhole with lions nearby! It was great to have her with us in the home for a time. She will resume her studies at St. Olaf early September.

Indya is home with us for the month of August and will be starting her 11th grade at Rift Valley Academy this fall. She is having fun with friends, always has her music playing, and enjoys the sciences like her older siblings. She and Hannah had lots of laughs together this summer- it was good to get the kids all together for a time before they all go separate ways this fall.

Some specific requests to keep in your prayers:

- Caedmon's transition to UW Madison
- Hannah as she begins her Jr. Year at St. Olaf
- Indya - returning to her Jr. year at RVA
- Pray for family connections to remain strong though we are separated from each other.
- Wisdom and patience while working in broken systems with very demanding challenges in the hospitals.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support and we are thankful for an opportunity to care for children in need. It is such challenging work and at the same time, so very rewarding. It is a privilege to learn from our Tanzanian friends and coworkers as we watch them face the challenges of their work with determination and compassion.

In Christ's service,

Steve & Jodi

Much of the pediatric work, including care of hospitalized newborns and malnourished children, is supported through your donations.

Please consider making a donation.

www.tanzanianchildren.com