

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



MAY 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Christ is risen!

Thank you to the Senior High Youth Group members and other volunteers who helped ensure that we would have enough people to lead Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The Confirmation Classes appreciated your help as they prepared to lead this important service during Holy week. Well done!

You may have noticed that the stone wall along 7th Avenue starting at Main Street has been re-pointed by Saxon Restoration. This necessary preventive work was done to keep water from penetrating the wall and freezing, causing enough movement in the stone wall over time that the wall must be rebuilt. The only stone wall on campus still in need of work is the section along Main Street. Information about sponsoring a section of the preventive work can be found on the Wish List, found elsewhere in this newsletter.

On the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 24, 2026, five (5) of our young people will affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation:

Summer Allen
Mya Schiller

Abigail Catagnus
Gavin Strasinski

Cora Van Alstine

Russel Einsla has also completed the confirmation program this year and will be Confirmed with his sister Grace on the Day of Pentecost in 2027.

Please support our young people by being present on the Day of Pentecost and praying for them as they affirm their faith.

Almighty God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you on Sunday!



PARENTS:

Sign Up for Vacation Bible School NOW!

Kids aged 3 and up are invited to Vacation Bible School at Augustus! Don't miss Vacation Bible School at Augustus June 22-25, 2026! Sessions are daily from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and our theme is "Road Trip: On the Go with God!" Scan this code to register.



Our mission is to help people develop a closer relationship with Jesus.

We do this by making disciples (Matthew 28) and helping neighbors in need (Matthew 25).



From the Bench: Have you noticed?

Have you noticed that our Sunday morning bulletins include a lot of supplemental information to enrich our worship experience? For example, we always have an "Introduction to the Day" that is printed on the first page of the bulletin.

This narrative provides some background on the readings and themes of the day. The organ prelude provides us with a time to read and reflect on these thoughts as we prepare ourselves for worship.

In addition, you may have noticed that some of the organ music selected for the Prelude, Communion Voluntary and Postlude will have hymn texts and/or biblical references included under the title of the music. These texts often make reference to one of the lessons of the day or psalm.

For example, the Prelude for the Third Sunday of Easter, J. S. Bach's organ setting of the hymn, "Soul, adorn yourself with gladness," was selected in reference to the Gospel reading (Luke 24:13-25). Here, Jesus appears to two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The risen Christ isn't recognized at first, but becomes known through the scriptures and the breaking of the bread.

When we look at the first verse of "Soul, adorn yourself with gladness," which is number 488 in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, we read:

*Soul adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy, designs to dwell with you most lowly.*

The third and fourth lines specifically highlight the "Last Supper" and the risen Christ who dwells with us in the breaking of bread. These two lines, basically summarize the Gospel reading in eloquent poetry.

So, I invite you to reflect on these supplemental notes, especially during the presentation of organ voluntaries, choir anthems, and handbell anthems. So that, by focusing on the musical settings of related texts, we may more fully experience that which is unseen and eternal.

Darryl

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

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brianohara24@gmail.com



Christian Education



Our program year is winding down and I'm looking back on another great year of ministry with our young people. Our senior high youth group provides us with many fellowship opportunities during the year: a Rally Day picnic in September, Trunk or Treat in October, and Shrove Tuesday pancakes. They also keep us well fed with Thanksgiving pies, Christmas cookies and Easter eggs. The money they raise goes toward their annual summer mission trip where they are the hands and feet of Christ as they repair homes in an underserved community in upstate New York. In addition to all this, SHYG went the extra mile this year when they joined our confirmation students in the presentation of Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Thanks, SHYG!

Speaking of confirmation students, in addition to Stations of the Cross, they presented a Living Nativity on Christmas Eve and helped lead the Ash Wednesday service. They also put together the worship bags for children attending church services and made Advent chains so our Sunday school children could better observe Advent. Thanks confirmation students!

The Sunday school children did their part as well—they helped with the annual collection for Gemma Services, presented the Christmas story to the congregation on December 21st, gathered baby supplies for needy families at the Baby Shower for Jesus, and collected money for Christian Appalachian Project with their Lent boxes this year. They also sang in church on Palm Sunday. Thanks kids!

Our children and youth are a vital part of the worship and ministry of Augustus. Please continue to pray for them, volunteer to work with them, and support them as much as you can.

Summer will be here before we know it and summer at Augustus means **Vacation Bible School**. VBS will take place June 22-25 from 9 a.m. to noon. All children aged 3 and above are welcome at VBS and we always love it when they bring friends and neighbors along for the fun. Sign up using the QR code found in this newsletter or just email me at education@augustrappe.org. Please sign up before June 10th so we can be sure to have enough snacks, craft supplies, *etc.*



Finally, thank you to everyone who offered prayers and support in the past couple of months as I laid my parents to rest. A special thanks to Lorna DePaul, who kindly provided snacks and party food for the Stations of the Cross green room, and to all the veteran senior high youth and adults who re-joined the presentation this year. I give thanks to God for all of you.

Blessings,

Sonya Sowards
Director of Christian Education



Adult Bible Study



Our Adult Bible Class welcomes all adults to join us each Sunday in May as we study the themes: Christians Expectations of Grace, Duties of Christians, What is Real Justice, and how does that affect the Rhythms of Life and our own Christian Community?

Our Adult Study Class invites all adults to meet each Sunday at 9:00 AM during the School year. Our study room is in our lower level library and our study material is taken from the International Bible Lesson Commentary series and seeks to address daily Christian living.

Respectfully,
Pr. Howard

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brian.chara24@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

Outreach Social Activity

Square Dancing

Grab your partner or come alone! The Outreach Committee is hosting a Square Dancing event on Friday, May 08th. The event is open to people of all ages, and no prior experience is necessary. Our instructor, Anna, will teach you everything. The Outreach Committee will provide light refreshments. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. It is a fantastic opportunity to socialize with fellow congregants!!!



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brian.chara24@gmail.com

Square Dance

GRAB YOUR PARTNER OR COME ALONE !!!

FRIDAY MAY 08, 2026

A SOCIAL ACTIVITY FOR ALL AGES!!!

INSTRUCTION LED BY
ANNA MARIE KURTZ
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

7:00 PM

AN EVENT HOSTED BY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

717 W. MAIN STREET WWW.AUGUSTUSTRAPPE.ORG 610-489-9625

AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM Communion * 9:00 AM Sunday School * 10:30 AM Communion

With Sincere Gratitude

The Spring Turkey/Craft & Vendor Fair Committee would like to extend with much gratitude and appreciation to all those who helped make the Dinner/Craft & Vendor Fair an enormous success. For every volunteer that was seen in person at this event, there were many others working behind the scenes, resulting in countless volunteer hours. From acquiring funds, equipment, supplies, donations, and community support to thoroughly cleaning the kitchen, food preparation, and providing service to our patrons, no effort went unnoticed.

The committee would like to thank our community sponsors:

Word FM, Great Songs of the Faith Radio
Trappe Tavern
Thrivent Financial
Phoenixville Federal Savings Bank
Harleysville Bank
Risher Van Horn
Good Harvest Farms
Sunnyside Pastries
Giant Food Stores
Redner's Warehouse Market
KMA Design Studio

for providing us with the vehicles needed to have the event.

Additionally, the committee would like to thank the many local businesses that donated and supported the raffle.

We would also like to extend a heart-felt "Thank You" to all of the members of Augustus Women of the ELCA for their continuous support of the Turkey Dinner/Craft & Vendor Fair and global mission work.

Lastly, we would like to thank all those who patronized this event. It takes the entire Augustus Family to make an event like this feasible, and in return the entire church receives credit and acknowledgement for the support of pediatrician Dr. Stephen and Jodi Lynn Swanson, Missionaries in Tanzania.



Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA) arises out of a decade of innovative pediatric and neonatology work, especially in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). It is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and a registered international non-governmental organization (NGO).

Care of hospitalized newborns and children, and training of doctors and nurses, is supported through your donations.

You can see more at:
www.ichafrica.org



ONE DREAM MISSION TEAM

First UCC, Quakertown
Trinity Lutheran, Quakertown, PA
Augustus Lutheran, Trappe, PA

The goal of our Mission Group is to help families improve their everyday lives by making needed improvements and modifications to their homes. At the same time, teaching the teenagers in the group, valuable skills that they can use throughout their lives. The Mission Group includes teenagers, as young as 8th grade, and adults from three churches. We have come together as one group to share this dream with families in need.

2025 MISSION TEAM



First United Church of Christ, Quakertown
Trinity Lutheran Church, Quakertown, PA
Augustus Lutheran, Trappe, PA



Friday, June 5, 2026
1:00pm Shot Gun Start

BUTTER VALLEY GOLF
3243 Gehman Rd, Barto, PA



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for your support throughout the church year. The monies made from our fund-raisers are used toward the group activities and the year-end mission trip. Our last event for this year will be a trip to see the Phillies in June.

This year's mission trip will take place from July 25th through the 31st. We will be going to Camden, NY again this year with Trinity Lutheran and the 1st United Church of Christ from Quakertown. **On June 5th, we'll be having a golf outing fund raiser. If you're interested in being a part of the outing, please see the brochure in this issue or in the bulletins.**

The SYG meets on the first Wednesday and the third Sunday of each month (September through May), as well as various other days for activities and fund raisers. 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 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.

Lorna DePaul, lornadepaul@gmail.com
Joe Schaffer, joe.schaffer.44@gmail.com

Cathy Meeley, tcmeeley@verizon.net
Liz Wentworth, lizwentworth@yahoo.com

Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net

TOURNAMENT INFO
Friday, June 5, 2026
Registration Starts 12:00 pm

1:00 pm Shot Gun Start
 4-Person Scramble

BUTTER VALLEY GOLF
 3243 Gehman Rd, Barto, PA

\$125 per golfer

Greens fees, cart food at turn,
 beverages, soda, water,
 steak dinner & gift bags

CONTESTS

Tickets Available at Registration

-  Closest to the pin
-  Longest drive (men)
-  Longest drive (women)
-  Straightest drive
- 50/50 pot of gold
- Putting contest
-  = Sponsorship for \$100

RAFFLES & AUCTION

Dinner Only

\$40 @ 6:30 pm

Can't join us for golf?

Then please join us for dinner & festivities!

Check www.firstucc.net for updates

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Gold Sponsor \$1075

2 Foursomes
 2 Hole sponsorships
 Your name and company info
 listed on cart

Silver Sponsor \$600

1 Foursome
 2 Hole sponsorships

Hole Sponsor \$75

Sign at tee box
 Name/company name
 Company information

Cart Sponsor \$75

Name/company name
 Company info in every cart

Hole/Cart Sponsor Combo

\$125

Name/company name
 Company info in every cart

Monetary Donation

We are happy to accept any amount
 that you can contribute

Raffle/Auction Donation

All sponsors will be able to provide
 promotional materials to be placed
 in each golfer's gift bag.

REGISTRATION FORM

Mail this form and check to
 First UCC-Mission Team
 151 S 4th St, Quakertown, PA 18951

\$125 per golfer
Register by May 22

***Payment MUST be sent with your
 entry form to hold your spot**
 and be made payable to:
 "First UCC-Mission Team"

Venmo Available: @Linda-Friday-10
 Questions? Contact Linda Friday
misiontrips@firstucc.net - 215-514-5911

Team Captain

Name

Phone

Email

Add'l Golfer

Email

Add'l Golfer

Email

Add'l Golfer

Email

Add'l Dinner Guest(s)-Dinner Only
Number of Guests _____
Total Amount enclosed \$_____

2026 Vestry

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

Giving Sacrificially

A husband and wife who were traveling around the world saw a boy in Korea one day pulling a crude plow in a field, while an old man held the plow handles and directed it through the rice paddy. The husband was amused by the sight and took a snapshot of the scene.

“That’s very curious,” he remarked to the missionary who was their interpreter and guide. “I suppose they are poor.”

“Yes,” said the missionary. “That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold the only ox they had and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves.”

The husband and wife were silent. Then the wife said, “That was a real sacrifice.”

“They did not call it that,” said the missionary. “They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell.”

The two tourists had little to say, but, when they reached home, they took the photograph to the church and told their pastor about the incident. “We want to double our pledge to the church,” they said, “and give us some plow work to do. We never knew what gratitude or joy or sacrifice really meant until now.”

God spoke to this couple through their experience in Korea about the joy that comes from giving. In his Word, God speaks to all of us about the importance of giving. Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35). He also said, “*Freely you have received, freely give.*” (Matthew 10:8). If we choose not to give faithfully and generously, we forego the blessings that God gives to those who give cheerfully. There is no better time than now to examine your level of giving, and, if need be, to take a leap of faith and increase your giving. In the words of Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we give; we make a life by what we give.”

Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, May 18 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room.

We’ll discuss

Good Dirt: A Novel by Charmaine Wilkerson

Want more info?

Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustrappe.org

Graceful Generosity

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

Run the Race

"...let us throw off everything that hinders... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1), exhorts the writer to the Hebrews. Perhaps that writer was the Apostle Paul, for running a race is a phrase he often used. In Acts 20:24, he declared that he wanted to "finish the race and complete the task ... the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace." That task belongs to us as well as to Paul. We have been chosen by God to run the race for the sake of the Gospel. Like Peter and John, we "cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

Certainly our words testify to the Gospel of God's grace, and so do our lives. That's why we are also involved in the race of holy living. In this race, we put aside the hindrances of sin and self-interest that would keep us from a close relationship with our Savior and that would give ammunition to those who wish to disparage the Christian faith.

Our race is by no means all downhill. Competing in this race requires strict discipline and a focus on the goal. Scripture urges us to keep our eyes on "Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Like the faith heroes of old, we run the race for those who will follow not in our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament.

Perseverance is key in our race. Scripture challenges us to stand firm, knowing that our labor for God is not in vain. We're commanded to hold fast to our faith and to keep to God's ways. As we run the race with perseverance, we are filled with "inexpressible and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1:8) in our Savior in whom we believe, even though we haven't seen him. Although the race is long and difficult, we have an eternal perspective and consider any suffering or distress but "light and momentary troubles" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

On the Lighter side

Garrison Keillor tells of a letter written from a local church to one of its members who was not present on pledge dedication Sunday, and therefore, did not fill out a pledge card:

"Dear Anne and Joe: We missed you last Sunday, Pledge Sunday. Since you were not present to fill out your pledge card, and to make it easy for you, we have completed a pledge card for you. Thank you for being so generous. Your Finance Committee."



Our culture now has "lite" everything on the market: butter, cheese, syrup, even beer. A suggestion arose regarding what a "lite" church might look like: perhaps a 45-minute worship service, a seven percent tithe, and only eight of the Ten Commandments. And you get to choose which eight!

Self-centered or God Centered

At different times throughout our lives, we all make the choice whether to serve ourselves or to be servants to others. If we make a practice of putting ourselves first, we will spend life joyless and empty, wondering why fulfillment escapes us

Even though God never abandons us, we can elect to turn away him. God wants the best for us, and his best for us is that we deny ourselves

and follow him. If we focus only on our earthly possessions and make it our top priority to take care of ourselves only, we push God out of our lives. Putting our own interests first, we become selfish and self-centered.



The Apostle Paul wrote that, as people redeemed by God's mercy, we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. He further said in Romans 12:2, *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by*

the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is ... his good, pleasing and perfect will." Paul revealed the secret of the transformed mind to the Galatians. *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20). Joy comes into our lives when God, instead of self, is the object of our love and worship. It was joy that compelled Jesus to endure the Cross (Hebrews 12:2).

The stewardship life is a life dedicated completely to God through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said that if we would follow him, we *"must deny [ourselves] and take up [our] cross[es] and follow [him]"* (Matthew 16:24). The reward outweighs by far the sacrifice, for Christ promised in Matthew 16:25, *"Whoever loses his life for me will find it."* Martin Luther said, "If anyone would rap at the door of my heart and ask, 'Who lives here?' I would answer, 'Martin Luther once lived here. But Martin Luther has moved out and Jesus Christ has moved in.'" When Jesus has permanent residence within us, he can use us to build his kingdom among men.

Through God's grace, we are transformed into "new creatures" (2 Corinthians 5:17) willing to live lives that honor him with all that we are and have. God's love and generosity are seen through us as we recognize the opportunities God places before us to share our time, talents, and treasures in the building up of his kingdom.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Fraktur Bookplate Workshop with Emily Smucker-Beidler

Saturday, May 16, 1 to 4 pm



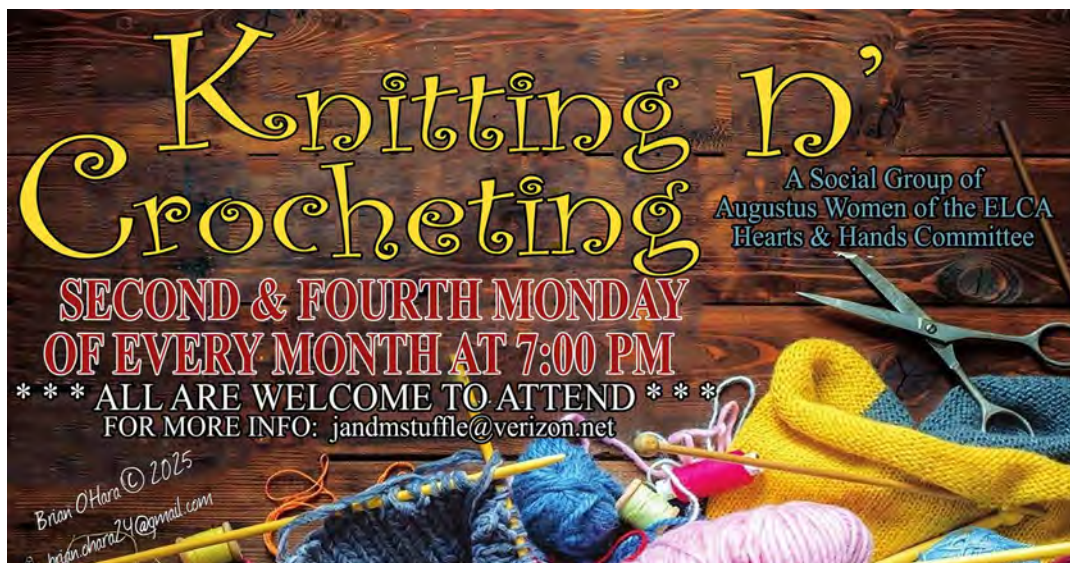
Learn how to create a bookplate in the fraktur style of the late 1700s. Perfect to place inside a book cover and give as a gift or keep as your own. Choose from one of four historical patterns and learn from Emily how to borrow ideas to integrate into your one-of-kind fraktur. No experience necessary to create.

All supplies are included. Watercolor sets in the traditional fraktur colors will be available to use for this workshop or bring your own watercolors, colored pencils, or other medium of choice to add color to your finished ink fraktur. (Fraktur watercolor sets will also be available for purchase for \$20 at the end of the workshop.)

Location: Visitor Center behind the Muhlenberg House, 201 W. Main St. Trappe, PA

Cost: \$70 Member, \$75 Non-Member. Advanced registration required. This workshop is limited to 12 people.

Go to HistoricTrappe.org/events/ for tickets!



Remember Augustus in your Estate Planning

We have a beautiful campus to maintain.

If you are considering a gift, please talk with Pastor Weleck about where funds are most needed.

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00 am Private Event
3 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion Holy Baptism	4	5 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	6 2:00 pm Staff Mtg	7 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	8 7:00 pm Square Dance	9
10 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	11	12 7:00 pm Comm. Club	13 9:00 am Soup Kitchen	14 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	15	16
17 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion Holy Baptism	18 7:00 pm Book Club	19 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm CC Board Meeting	20 2:00 pm Staff Mtg	21 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	22	23
24 PENTECOST 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	25 Office Closed Memorial Day	26 7:00 pm Committee Night	27	28 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	29	30

31
8:00 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Holy Communion
11:30 am Luncheon/
Presentation on Old Church Graffiti



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Janet Lauman	2 Johnathan Branch James Herr
3 Joseph Brennan Brittany Cornish John Niskala Megan Williams	4	5 Amanda Christy Barbara Cornish Jonathan Price	6 Kevin Millheim	7 Michael Stokes	8	9 Alexa King Linda Romano
10 Pamela Kunasz	11 Ben Dogonniuck Nancy Ehret Gary Halteman Devyn Parker	12	13 Quinn Perkins Zoe Perkins Dawn Schmitt Terri Yetter	14 Emma Raupp	15 Piper Fisher Dylan Funk Jessica Krauter Walter Mills	16 Sarah Allen Daniel Garton Garrett Halteman
17 William O'Boyle	18 Sam Gabel Faye Jenkins Dianne Scelza	19 Lindsey Allebach Jeffrey Althouse Tyler Schwirian	20 Colby Davis	21 Denise Althouse	22 John Robinson Peyton Shaffer R. Walter Slauch	23 Dennis DeWane Scott Halteman Dave Rheiner
24 Cooper Demark	25 Jaime Nelson Riley Smith	26 Dylan Crothers Lucy Olsen Charlie Richvalsky Ryan Sellman	27 Tim Anderson	28 Gus Frisco Jennifer Kuklantz Pat Mancuso Mya Schiller Riley Schmidt	29	30 Anita Halteman Dustin Keim Mason Stephan

31
James DeNucci
Ethelyn Perkins

May Birthdays