

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People

APRIL 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

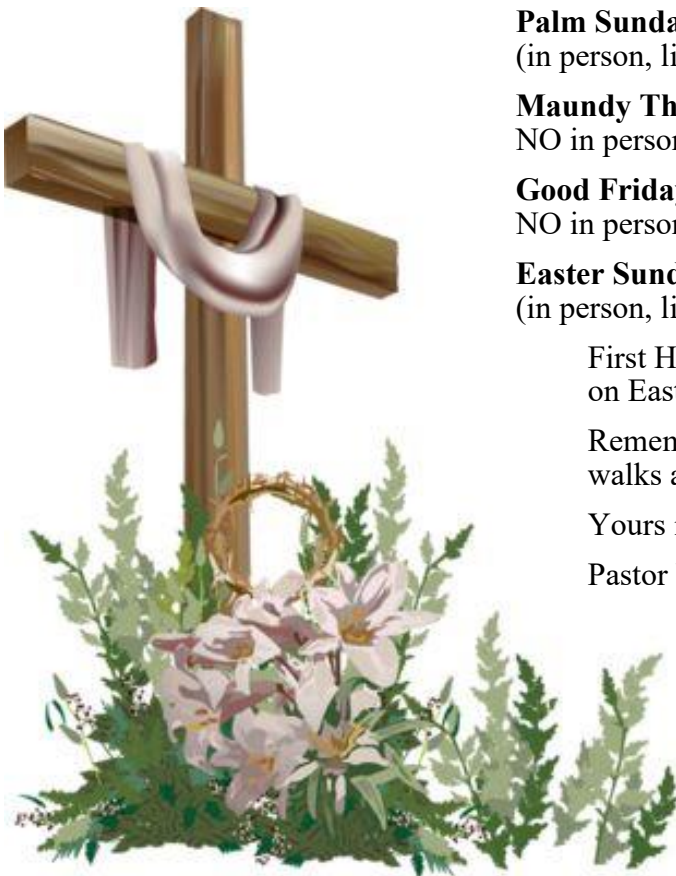
We have a picture of the women going to the grave that first Easter morning to anoint the body of Jesus. It is barely light, and perhaps they are speaking in soft voices. Certainly there is an air of solemnity, of sadness, for their Master is dead. Their hopes are gone.

Then we see them before the open tomb, bewildered, then fearful, as they see an angel with *"appearance like lightning and . . . clothes . . . white as snow."* The angel's first words are *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."*

Perhaps some of us, too, have been bewildered, afraid. Even though we have always known the whole story – even though we look back on the Resurrection – we have been bewildered and afraid. Bewildered by circumstances in our lives. Afraid of the future. The angel says to us, too, *"Do not be afraid . . . [Jesus] is risen, just as he said!"* That truth makes all the difference, for, as Paul says, *"Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep"* (1 Corinthians 15:20). Christ, the first fruits, and then we with him!

Hardly taking a breath, the angel gives a command to the women: *Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead . . .'"* (Matthew 28:2-7). By faith, we, too, have seen the empty tomb; by faith in the Word of God, we know Christ is risen. The command is for us as well: **go quickly and tell.**

To strengthen your faith so that you can **go quickly and tell**, the schedule of services for Holy Week and Easter Day will be:



Palm Sunday – 8:00 & 10:30 AM

(in person, live streamed, and later posted online)

Maundy Thursday – (Online service posted on our web site–
NO in person service)

Good Friday–(Online service posted on the our site–
NO in person service)

Easter Sunday – 8:00 and 10:30 AM

(in person, live streamed, and later posted online)

First Holy Communion will be received at the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday.

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

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

*Christ
is
Risen!*

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Loving Money

"People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" 1 Timothy 6:9-10.



How much we love money is not dependent upon the amount of money that we may have. We can love money and have very little love of it, or we can have lots of it and not love it at all. Loving money is very subtle, and it can manifest itself in different ways. For example for those who have accumulated some money, it could be seen in an unhealthy obsession with the investment markets. It could be seen in our desire to hoard our money and not give. Power and success for those who focus on money is relative to how much money they have.

Because we live in a very materialistic society, there is a great deal of interest in money. Webster's Dictionary defines materialism as "the tendency to be more concerned with material things than with spiritual goals or values." Materialism leads us to spend money we don't have in order to buy things we don't need so that we can impress people we don't even like. A materialistic person loves his possessions, is greedy, and lacks contentment.

The following are three negative consequences of both loving money and becoming part of our materialistic society:

- ✠ Distorts our thinking: Our hearts become darkened. *"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking become futile and their foolish hearts were darkened"* (Romans 1:22-23).
- ✠ Stimulates our pride: We become self-sufficient rather than relying on God. *"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me' "* (Deuteronomy 8:17).
- ✠ Preoccupies our thoughts: We have no time or concern for the needy or for God. *"Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things"* (Philippians 3:19).

When we call upon God's strength, God will empower us to serve him rather than our money. As we spend time hearing and reading God's Word, he will strengthen our faith so we can break the power that money and possessions can have over us.

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 Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109.

If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and Carol will call you back.

This year, April begins in the holiest week of the church year. Having waved palm branches and shouted “Hosanna,” we now follow Jesus to the last Passover meal with his disciples, to the garden where he prays for us while the disciples sleep, to the cross – and then to the triumph of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

There is much to celebrate in our world, too. The weather is getting warmer, more people are getting vaccinated, and we can begin to see the end of isolation. I’d like to introduce you to a very old Easter hymn, “The Strife is O’er”. The tune was composed by Palestrina in the 16th century; the text is anonymous, and first appeared in a Jesuit hymnal in 1695:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1 The strife is o’er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

3 The three sad days are quickly sped; he rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head. Alleluia!

4 He closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heaven’s high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death’s dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Here is some information from hymnary.org:

There is, in this text, a sense of finality. This, in a very real sense, is it. “It is finished.” Albert Bailey writes, “The words present the theological statement that the Crucifixion was a contest between Christ and the devil’s legions, in which Christ won. This is proved by the fact that Christ did not stay dead” (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 278). Christ rose and brought new life, and in so doing, through his declaration, “It is finished,” was also saying, “It has all just begun!” The finality of this text is the finality of newness. It is the realization that we are continually being made new, that Creation is continually being restored, and that every day we are called to life anew with Christ. Alleluia. What a song of victory that is!

I love the idea of “the finality of newness.” God makes us new each day. We know he can do this, because he raised Jesus from death. Surely, he can also deliver us from the burdens of our past, whatever they may be. And he walks with us through the burdens of today. The Strife is Over! The Battle is Done! Alleluia!

~Laurie Mueller



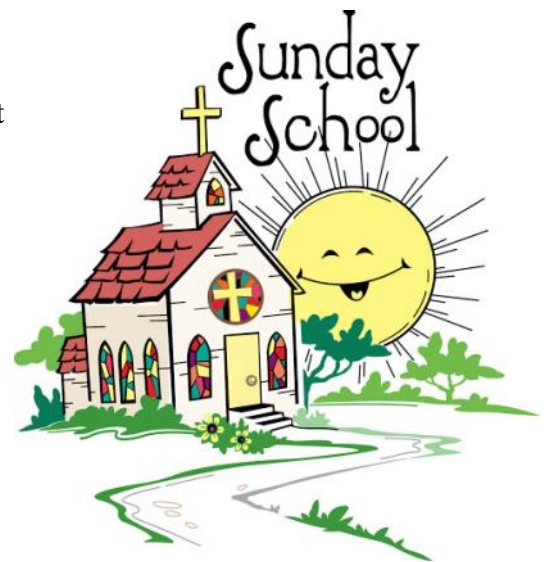
Christian Education

With cases coming down and vaccinations going up, we are daring to hope that our Sunday school will be able to gather in person for at least a few Sundays outside this spring. Meanwhile, Zoom Sunday school continues.

I am also finishing up with my Year 1 confirmation class—this was another great group of kids and I look forward to seeing them next year when we pray we'll be able to gather in person for pizza, fun and of course, learning.

We are truly blessed with wonderful young people at Augustus.

Grace & peace,
Sonya Sowards
Director of Christian Education



Christian Parenting

Interrupted Stories

Does your preschooler or kindergartner continually interrupt you as you're reading to him or her? Does he or she ask questions like: Did Moses have wrinkles? Why didn't Jesus wear jeans? Be patient. Children who ask questions are not being rude. It's their way of listening to a story.

At this age, a story isn't an integrated whole. Instead, it's a series of interesting details that your child wants to talk about. When he or she interrupts you with a question, he or she wants to start a conversation. A simple answer may disappoint him or her. Perhaps, he or she is trying to figure out how old Moses is in the story. Wrinkles might help your child compare Moses with a grandparent or great grandparent. Encourage questions and observations that will help your child understand the story in her or her own way.

These early conversations with your youngster will establish the foundation for continuing spiritual discussions throughout his or her childhood. By allowing your child to question and wonder, you're giving him or her the freedom to grow.

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Sew, Quilt, Knit, Crochet!

We now have quilting packs available in the Muhlenberg Center.

The pack each has 48 squares in it.

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

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

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

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



THANK YOU!

Dear Augustus Family,

With heartfelt gratitude I thank you for your outpouring of love and friendship at the passing of my Mother, Anne Lachenmayer. Mom was a faithful Lutheran her entire life. In 1956 the family moved to Collegeville and Augustus became a key part of the family's life. I see Mom (and Dad) everywhere in the church. Because of Augustus' live stream capabilities many friends and relatives were able to be with us as we paid tribute to our wonderful Mother. Thank you to all who made Mom's service special.

Gratefully,

Karen Lachenmayer



The Most Amazing Day



Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. To be resurrected means to come back to life. No ordinary person could do what Jesus did! That's what makes the day so important. Easter is the first festival Christians ever celebrated. Now, people have been celebrating Jesus' resurrection for almost 2,000 years!

On Maundy Thursday we remember when Jesus washed his disciples' feet and shared a meal with them. On Good Friday we remember when Jesus died on the cross and what that means for us. At the Easter Vigil on Saturday we wait for the good news that we know will come. Then on Easter Sunday we shout the news: Jesus has risen!

On Easter the church is usually filled with flowers. Many times the flowers are Easter lilies, which look like trumpets. Even the flowers want to announce that Jesus has risen! The colors for Easter are white or gold—important colors for an important day. We sing songs that are filled with the word "alleluia," which means "praise the Lord!" We hear the story about women coming to Jesus' tomb to take care of Jesus' body and finding the tomb almost empty. The only one there is an angel, who tells the women that Jesus has risen. What an amazing day Easter is!

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Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on Monday, April 19 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

We'll discuss: Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

New members are always welcome!

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April Birthdays				1 Christi Redeyoff	2 Pat O'Hara Joseph Schaffer John Schwirian Kelly Stalker	3 Susan Adams Randolph Riegner
				8 Emily Allebach Tessa Clark	9 David Judisch Thomas Wessner	10
4 Tracy Wessner	5 Mikey Ries	6 Taylor Halteman Dieter Markert	7 Kevin Beattie Kenneth Gold Marsha Llewellyn	15 Thomas Brown Richard Holcombe Olaf Markert	16 Jeannie Funk Teresa Niemann	17 Caroline Antrim Anna Jacobs Andrew Tartar
11	12	13	14	22 Frances Ivarson Ashley Smith	23 Ginger Oscapinski	24
18	19 Nicole Long Anthony Massare Gary Wessner	20 Kara Camuso Alice Franks Brielle Pribbernow Janet Stokes	21 Jason Mulle Evan Napier Olivia Perkins Samantha Swan Liz Wentworth Carter Wickersham	29 Deb Scholl	30 Michael DeNucci Frank DePaul Kevin Hynes	
25 David Halteman Jon Lewis Bernard Wagenseller Sherry Wagenseller	26 Linda Schweitzer	27 Paula Garton Maria Kochel Alice Rodenberger Grace Schlegel	28 Erick Lyaro			



Mighty Miti Work

Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commands us to tell others the good news. Many Papua New Guineans became Christians through the witness and evangelism of persons from neighboring tribes. Often, these tribes had formerly been enemy tribes. Evangelist families travel long distances and settle in totally unfamiliar areas to help spread the gospel there. This is known as “miti” work. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC/PNG) has sent missionaries to Australia and a number of pastors have served congregations in the United States.

Invite your family to consider how they could do “miti” work in their daily lives, such as: at school, at work, or on a sports team. (Suggestions include inviting someone to vacation Bible school, Sunday school, or youth group; sharing toys; taking turns, and so forth.) Join with your family to make a “Miti Cross” as a way to witness to others. Collect shells, stones, pine cones, or whatever forms of nature you find in your area. Glue these materials to a wooden cross. Give the cross to another family.

Exotic flowers such as frangipani and orchids flourish throughout Papua New Guinea. Glue silk flowers to a large piece of construction paper. Print: “Christians, listen together and hear the good news of Jesus.” Display the poster, using this time as an opportunity to do “miti” work by telling about Jesus.

Puppets are a fun way to share the good news and tell Bible stories. Make “Proclamation Puppets” from dish washing or laundry detergent bottles that have handles. Rinse out the bottles. Place a paper towel tube over the pour spout of each bottle and fasten it with silver duct tape. Draw a face on the bottom of the bottle with permanent markers and turn the bottle upside down so the handle is the nose. Glue felt, yarn, or buttons in place for other facial features and hair. Cut a 12” square of cloth. Cut an “X” in the center of it. Slide the tube through the “X” and tape the fabric around the tube. Choose a favorite Bible story and tell it using the puppet.

Pray for courage to tell others about Jesus’ love and for guidance in how to best to do this. (Quieter family members might feel comfortable sharing prayers through the use of their puppets.)

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Sharing God's Bounty

What's Your Gift?

Perhaps you haven't spent much time, if any, pondering that question. God has given each of us at least one gift, though, and if even one of us does not use that gift, the Body of Christ suffers. Paul, in Ephesians 4:16 writes, *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Christian stewards tend to have a lower opinion of themselves than they ought, denigrating their abilities and talents and even their financial capabilities. When we keep in mind that it is God himself who has chosen our gifts and blessed us materially, we realize that to belittle these gifts is to question God's wisdom and generosity. Again we read Paul's words, now from Romans 12:5, *"... in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* He goes on to say that whatever our gifts are, we are to use them as effectively as we can.

Yes, it is the pastor's job to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, but we, as stewards who have received the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20, are to be obedient also to Jesus' command to tell the Good News to the whole world.

Yes, there are those in your parish who seem to have more abilities and talents than you, and there may be members who have more money than you ... perhaps may even be very wealthy. Does that exempt you from the responsibility to serve or to give? By no means! In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we're commanded, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Each one is to give and to give cheerfully ... of their time, talents, and treasures. God looks at the size of the heart of the giver rather than at the size of his gift. *"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have"* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

If you are not using your gifts, if you are not giving your money, if you are not sharing your time, the Body of Christ suffers. We need each other and our individual gifts in order that we might carry out our responsibilities as stewards to the end that the name of Christ might be made known.



Monetary gifts to God teach us patience and prudence. We learn how to control our inordinate wishing for many things that we buy. This discipline of our will makes it easier for us to live God's law. Therefore giving definitely helps us to do God's will.

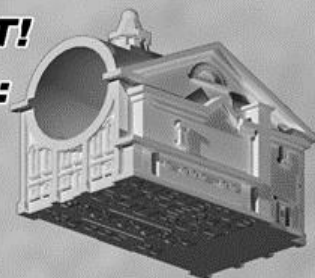
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PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHURCH OUTREACH

 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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