

# Augustinian

## Augustus Lutheran Church

### An Historic Church for Today's People

MAY 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

We live in strange times. We do not know when we may again gather together at Augustus for worship. We do not know when things will return to normal, nor even what normal will look and feel like.

The Covid-19 virus has changed the way we live and do ministry. Starting on Palm Sunday, we have posted the service for each Sunday on our web site and on our parish Facebook page, along with a complete worship bulletin so people can participate fully in the prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. The feedback we have received about this resource has been gratifying and humbling.

Each pre-recorded service requires the work of many dedicated people whose jobs were made more difficult by need for social distancing. Jeannie and Ed Funk ran the cameras, Tyler Funk ran the audio, and Jonathan Mueller did the post-production editing. (He did the same task for his father's parish, too.) Laurie Mueller provided the music for the services. Pastor Kochenderfer, who had committed months ago to preach on Palm Sunday, agreed to preach for the online service. Karen McClain assembled the first drafts of the bulletins weeks in advance. Alan Shunk and Jamie Roach Shields provided musical support for a number of the services. Thank you to all of you for your dedication. Your ministries have been a blessing to all who have participated in online worship.

The campus is locked down and the office is closed to all visitors. The staff continues to work from home and at Augustus, carefully observing social distancing guidelines. Dave Ward continues to wash and wipe surfaces at Augustus over and over again. This May edition of the *Augustinian*, like the April edition, is significantly reduced in size so that Karen McClain can produce it herself without the assistance of the loyal people who usually assist her in this task. Thank you to Scott Detwiler who completes the paperwork and delivers the completed newsletters to the post office for mailing.



We have all been gratified by the faithfulness of our members and friends who have continued to mail their offerings to Augustus. Thank you. If you are financially able, please continue to send in your offerings. Our ongoing expenses, while reduced, continue to accumulate. For example, without money to pay the electric bill, we cannot record services to be posted online, since we need to use the lights and the organ.

It is my hope that I will be able to see you at Augustus sometime in May. You all remain in my prayers. Please stay well and be healthy.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

## 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.

## From the Bench

May 2020

This time of quarantine is so strange. I am happy to be able to be home with my family, and I pray for those who are all alone. There's so much more time

to practice – but less music to need to practice. It's strange to have my Thursday nights “free” and not to see the bell choir and singers. Although we are finding ways to continue our worship services digitally, I find that the process of videotaping the church services takes longer than performing them live. And it doesn't “feel” like worship when we're recording. It's strange to play hymns on our wonderful organ with only 4 people singing. I want to thank Jeannie, Ed, and Tyler Funk who have been videotaping and audiotaping our services, and Jonathan Mueller who has been editing the videos. But I definitely look forward to worshipping “live” again, with the choirs and you.

I haven't seen the Sunday School children in over a month! They began holding Zoom meetings a few weeks ago, but it's very difficult to sing together on Zoom. I do hope to join them this week just to see some familiar faces.

Here are some musical things you can do, as we continue to isolate:

If you have kids, or are a kid at heart, listen to David Walliams' *Marvelous Musical Podcast*. It features interesting stories about many classical composers, and can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/classicalpodcast>

If you prefer more grown up music, Andrew Lloyd Webber is making several of his Broadway shows available to view for free – one new one every Friday at 2:00 PM for 48 hours. As I write this, the musical this week is *Phantom of the Opera*. You can watch these excellent musicals at <https://www.andrewlloydwebber.com/the-shows-must-go-on/>

In some ways, I have enjoyed this time “alone.” But I remember it says in Genesis, God said it was NOT good for the man to be alone. We all need each other. And the world needs us! I hope you find ways to connect with people as we hopefully finish isolating soon. If you are alone and need anything, even just someone to talk to, I hope you will call the church office. Karen can connect you with a volunteer who can help. If you can offer help, call the church office and let Karen know you're willing to volunteer! I'll conclude by sharing a favorite saying of my husband: Trust God. Take care of yourself. Love your neighbor.

I pray we can make music together again soon!

~Laurie Mueller



Proverbs 3:5



## Our Church Family Is Here for You!

We have volunteers at the ready! Several of our church family members have contacted the church to offer their assistance to parishioners who might not be able to get out, or may be isolated from friends, family or other helpers during the quarantine.

**Please call the church office if you need help!** Karen can put you in touch with someone who can assist you—and is happy to do it. 610-489-9625

Also, **our church services are online** at least through Mid-March. go to [www.augustrap.org](http://www.augustrap.org) for the service and an accompanying bulletin.

You can also **check out our Facebook page** for glimpses of what is going on at church while you are safe at home.



# Sharing God's Bounty

## God's Draft Choices

Two of the most highly watched sporting events on television are not when teams or athletes are competing against each other; rather they involve the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL) and National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. For many hours, fans of professional sports will watch intently to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

Most of us won't be drafted by professional football or basketball teams, but, as Christians, we receive a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's draft choices. *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"* (John 15:16). God has made us a part of his team. We are not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, great athletes, or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things ... and the things that are not ... to nullify the things that are"* (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on his life-saving work. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us"* (2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us ... clay jars ... with this treasure ... the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry his message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He transforms and molds us. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God who does the drafting and the changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that he calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do very athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive large compensation, but our benefits are out of this world! Therefore, we are eager to use our lives and resources in God's service for his glory. Paul wrote, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). What a privilege it is to be part of and serving on God's winning team!



*If Jesus walked up to you and said: "Come follow me ... I have a lot of work to do and I really need your help," would you tell him to get lost because you are just too busy in your pursuit of personal possessions and worldly comfort? Every day is a time to reflect on all that God has given you and a time to share and care about others. Have you given any consideration to helping Jesus carry out his works in your own church?*



## Coordinator of Faith Development

I've been very thankful for technology lately! Although we are not able to physically gather, our Sunday school students have been meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings (many thanks to Rebecca Catagnus for initiating this). The company that publishes our Sunday school curriculum (Spark House) has provided family Sunday school lessons that can be downloaded and used at home. And our Sunday school families have been communicating with each other through our Facebook group. It makes me wonder what folks did in 1918 during the influenza pandemic.

I have also been enjoying worshipping with Augustus through YouTube over the past couple of weeks. It is wonderful to carve out holy time to listen to Pastor's sermon and music from our talented musicians. I know that this is made possible by our technologically gifted volunteers and that it takes hours of their time. Much gratitude to all involved.

I was disappointed that we were unable to present Stations of the Cross to the church this year. Our confirmation students practiced hard for two weeks before the shut-down and I am very proud of them. We have a group of 12 students who will be confirmed this year, joining adults and the senior high students in the ministries of the church. They have been and will be a gift to Augustus.

I continue to pray for our leaders in church and government who are guiding us through this crisis. I pray for all health care workers, retail staff, and those who are still providing food in our community. I pray for all of you as we navigate challenges today and, in the months to come. I am living in hope for a treatment, a cure or a vaccine and that we will learn all the lessons that can be learned from this experience and come out on the other end more like Jesus and less like our old selves. After "the Lentiest Lent we ever Lented," I pray that we are all resurrected into a glorious Easter.

Grace & peace

Sonya Sowards

Coordinator of Faith Development

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Janet Lauman	2
3 Brittany Cornish John Niskala	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 Dawn Schmitt Terri Yetter	14 Emma Raupp	15 Dylan Funk Jessica Krauter Walter Mills	16 Daniel Garton Garrett Halteman
17 William O'Boyle	18 Eilene Althouse Sam Gabel Faye Jenkins Dianne Scelza Luke Schwirian	19 Lindsey Allebach Jeffrey Althouse Tyler Schwirian	20 Colby Davis	21 Denise Althouse	22 John Robinson III Peyton Shaffer R. Walter Slauch	23 Dennis DeWane III Scott Halteman
24 Cooper Demark	25 Jaime Nelson Riley Smith	26 Dylan Crothers Lucy Olsen Charlie Richvalsky Ryan Sellman	27	28 Gus Frisco Jennifer Kuklantz Mya Schiller Riley Schmidt	29 	30 Anita Halteman Dustin Keim
31 James DeNucci Ethelyn Perkins	<h2>May Birthdays</h2>					

## THE NEVER-ENDING CELEBRATION

Have you ever had so much fun doing something that you wished the day would never end? Maybe you had a wonderful birthday celebration, or you had fun singing songs around a toasty campfire. Wouldn't it be great if times like these could last longer? Celebrations can last a long time, and that's exactly what happens at Easter. Easter is so important that it lasts longer than one day. In fact, it lasts fifty days! There are seven Sundays in those fifty days. If you look around your church during the seven Sundays of Easter you will see and hear things that tell you the celebration is still happening.

Easter music is different from Lenten music. We sing loud, joyful songs about Jesus' resurrection. You may see lots of flowers. If your church has a big candle near the baptismal font—the place where people are baptized—that candle is lighted. In fact, candles are always lighted at special times. The big candle by the font is called the paschal candle, and it's different from all the candles in church. It's lighted during the Easter season and for baptisms and funerals. When this candle is lighted it is a reminder that nothing can stop Jesus' love for us—not even death! In church the Easter celebration lasts all the way until Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit visited Jesus' friends. But a little bit of Easter is always with us, every day of our lives. That's how important Easter is!

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In 1 Corinthians 12:12 Paul describes how we are all members of the body of Christ. You are not alone, nor is anyone in your family. Each of us is a member of the body of Christ—the worldwide community of believers. Each of us is important to God. Use the following craft and language activities from India to help your family experience the joy of belonging to God's family.

Begin by showing the phrase “Nennu Devuni oka pillani,” meaning “I am a child of God” in Telugu. Telugu is the language of Andhra Pradesh, a state in India where many Christian congregations are located. Show and tell others about being in God's family. On plastic sun visors (available at craft shops), use bright colored texture paints (in small bottles with writing tips) to print “Nennu Devuni oka pillani.” Add a cross, butterfly, or other faith symbol. Or

print the letters and symbols on tee-shirts. When others ask, explain what the words mean.

The peacock is the national bird of India. But the peacock also has special meaning to Indian Christians as a symbol of Jesus' resurrection. Locate a picture of a peacock to make “Faith Sun Catchers.” Provide two 5” x 8” index cards for each person. Cut out the center of each card, leaving a 1” border all around. Cut or tear 5” x 8” (or slightly smaller) squares of colored plastic wrap. On each square, draw a peacock with texture paints. (Be sure to leave a one inch border.) When dry, carefully insert the plastic into the frame and staple or glue the edges together. Hang in a sunny window.

Make a “Family of God” mobile. Collect pictures of your family members. On a paper plate, print “Nennu Devuni oka pillani.” On the another plate print, “We are members of God's family.” Staple the plates to either side of a coat hanger. Punch holes along the bottom of the plate and the pictures you have collected. Using yarn or string, hang one picture from each hole. Every member of the family could make his or her own mobile. Encourage older children to help younger ones.

Learn to sing “God Is So Good” in the Telugu language (each syllable receives the same stress):

Manchi devudu (mahn-chee day-voo-doo)

Manchi devudu (mahn-chee day-voo-doo)

Manchi devudu (mahn-chee day-voo-doo)

Devudu naaku (day-voo-doo nah-ah-koo)

Pray this English adaptation of a Telugu prayer: For food and drink, for all kinds of blessings, for gifts of the Spirit, dear God, we praise you. Amen.

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# Money Matters

## *Personal Financial Stewardship*

### Living Within Your Income

Since it is unlikely that you have an unlimited income, you will need to adjust your spending habits so you can give generously, save aggressively, and still live comfortably. Spending is easy, whereas giving and saving require self-discipline. Your ability to give and save is made possible by your willingness to say “no” to your spending. To live on the portion of your income that you have left after giving and saving, you need to control your spending. Improper spending habits are the biggest hindrances to living successfully within your income.

Investments	15.00	100.00	300
Housing	100.00	100.00	300
Mortgage	150.00	100.00	300
Taxes	750.00	860.00	300
Food	112.00	215	300
Utilities	50.00	215	300
Power	30.00	47.00	230
Water	115.00	22.00	230
Heating	40.00	109.00	230
Telephone	38.00	86.00	214
Insurance	92.00	199	199
Home	64.00	315.00	347
Car	230.00	72.00	72
Personal	100.00	51.00	51
Transportation	120.00	20.00	20
Gas for Car	48.00	48.00	48
Repairs & Tires	51.00	51.00	51
Clothing & Shoes	120.00	120	120
Entertainment	48.00	48.00	48
Satellite	51.00	51.00	51
Internet	20.00	20.00	20
Books	20.00	20.00	20
TOTALS	\$2,455.00	114	2,323.00

The concept of “self-limitation” is new to many people. When you intentionally buy fewer things than you can afford, you are choosing to limit your lifestyle. “Self-limitation” decisions are based not on the premise of what you can afford, but rather on what you need. You must ask, “Do I need this certain thing or does God have need of my money to help others and his Church?” When your income rises and your lifestyle doesn’t reflect your increased buying capability, you are choosing to limit yourself, which frees up more for giving and saving.



What lifestyle does the Bible suggest? Are you pleasing God by living in substandard housing, driving broken down used cars, wearing cheap clothes, and not satisfying any of your desires? Is God happy if you have an abundance of new things? Living comfortably is not a sin. God does not condemn being rich, but he speaks against the self-centered attitude wealth can cause. Living in opulence without any regard for others does not please the Lord. However, if you love the Lord and serve him and others with your money and time, you are free to live in comfort. Jesus said “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). Certainly, there is a tremendous amount of diversity among Christians and what they

own, but your lifestyle should reflect your relationship with Jesus.

According to Russ Crosson in his book *A Life Well Spent*, we have increased our standard of living at the expense of our lifestyles. “We have increased our lifestyles, but in the process haven’t we also lost our ability to really live? We have amassed wealth, not wisdom. We have given our children toys, not time. We have children who have been taught to consume rather than work; we have fathers who don’t know their children, and marriages that do not work or last. We have been in a rush to run a race without understanding the finish line. Could it be that we are being robbed of our very lives because we are not thinking correctly about why we have money and what we are to do with it?” Our culture promotes monetary wealth. You need to be careful not to become a victim of the foolish desires money can create.