

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



OCTOBER 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This fall holds the promise of some exciting improvements. The pin oak trees close to the parking spots have been trimmed, removing the loose branches. A new church web site is in process. A new church photo directory is being organized. All this is happening while the core of our ministry, making disciples of Jesus and helping our neighbors in need, continues with renewed vigor.

A special highlight of October is always the celebration of Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of the month. On that day, we recall the faithful witness of the earliest Lutherans, who stood up for the truth of the Gospel and put their lives on the line for that truth. Why not join your fellow worshippers in wearing red that day to commemorate God's work through Lutheran hands.

At Augustus we often take for granted the beauty and faithfulness of our worship. The Lutheran foundational documents that confess our faith correctly describe what Lutheran worship looks like. Lutheran worship always follows the order of worship of the western Church. We enrich that worship with beautiful music. We hear God's Word and celebrate the sacraments with reverence. Why not invite someone you know who needs a church home to join you for worship this Sunday? It will be a blessing to you both.

Have you ever wondered why Lutherans begin worship with confession and forgiveness (absolution)? One of the best answers I have heard was spoken by Pope Benedict XVI to a group of children who were receiving their First Holy Communion:

"It is very helpful to confess [your sins] with a certain regularity.
It is true: our sins are always the same,
but we clean our homes, our rooms, at least once a week,
even if the dirt is always the same,
in order to live in cleanliness,
in order to start again.
Otherwise, the dirt might not be seen, but it builds up.
Something similar can be said about the soul."

May God, the Father of glory,
Jesus Christ, the name above all names,
and the Holy Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you on Sunday!



"A generation which ignores history has no past and no future."

Robert Heinlein, American author (1907-1988)

If you would like to learn more about the history of Augustus Lutheran Church, there are several books that you can borrow from the Church library.

See Mildred Stuffie, our librarian, for more information.

Awakening Faith Adult Religious Studies

The Augustus Adult Bible Class invites you join us as we begin our study of "THE NEW TESTAMENT YOU NEVER KNEW" based on the work of renowned Biblical Scholar Professors' N.T. Wright and Michael Bird.

Through short videos, home Bible Studies, and lively Class discussion we begin to see the meanings of the 27 books of the New Testament which these scholars bring to life: The Books of the New Testament; The World of Jesus and the Apostles; The Life and Death of Jesus; The Resurrection of Jesus; The Ministry of the Apostle Paul; The Early Christians and the Church and The Creation of the New Testament.

PLEASE join with our Class as the Stories of the New Testament come alive as we share in these new experiences. Sunday Mornings at 9 am in the lower Church Library.



AWAKENING FAITH

WITH REV. HOWARD KRIEBEL

9:00 AM SUNDAY

STARTS SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

WELCOME TO THE DISCOVERY, JOIN IN THE JOURNEY!

N.T. WRIGHT
MICHAEL F BIRD

THE NEW TESTAMENT
YOU NEVER KNEW

EXPLORING THE CONTEXT, PURPOSE, AND
MEANING OF THE STORY OF GOD

art design Brian O'Hara © 2025

All Saints Sunday is November 2

On the first Sunday in November, All Saints Sunday, we remember friends and family members who have passed away in the past year and are now in the company of the Saints.

If you would like someone mentioned during the services that day, please contact the Church office by Tuesday, October 28th and Karen would be happy to include them on the list. 610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org.



90th Birthday Celebration

Dorothy Rieger, a longtime member of Augustus Lutheran Church and a very active member of Augustus' Women of the ELCA, will be turning 90 years young on October 21. Among her many talents that she contributed to Augustus' culture, her legacy consists of being the first co-chair of our Annual Turkey Dinner when this event started 29 years ago!!! Although she has since moved away to Florida, she still is a member of Augustus. Let's help her celebrate this milestone birthday by showering her with cards & photos to show her that we still remember and appreciate her in a way that only Augustus can provide. Her daughter Sharon is asking that all cards and photos be sent to Sharon so that she can bundle & present them all together. Sharon Rieger Winterton's address is as follows:

Dorothy Rieger
c/o Sharon Rieger Winterton
2051 Warwick Drive
Oldsmar, Florida 34677

We hope that you will prayerfully consider sending her thoughtful birthday wishes for this monumental achievement on behalf of the Augustus Family.



THANK YOU, STAFF!

Rev. G. Warren Weleck
Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer
Rev. Howard L. Kriebel
Rev. Martha B. Kriebel
Dr. Darryl Roland
Matthew Boatman
Sonya Sowards
Karen McClain
David Ward

**Pastor & Staff
APPRECIATION
DAY !!!**

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brian.chara24@gmail.com

**RECEPTION TO
FOLLOW THE SERVICE**

**October, 12
8:00 & 10:30 AM**

October 12th, is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Day. At Augustus, we are blessed to have a fantastic and talented staff of four dedicated pastors (Pastor Weleck, Pastor Kochenderfer, Pastor Martha Kriebel, and Pastor Howard Kriebel), a Director of Music, Organist, Director of Christian Education, a Parish Administrator, and a Sexton on staff. In honor of our pastors and staff, and in celebration of this national event, WELCA and the Outreach committee will be hosting a coffee hour after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services. On behalf of Augustus, each of our staff will receive a personal invitation to invite them to the reception. Please be sure to stop by for a quick bite and for this opportunity to express to them your appreciation for all they do, both at Augustus and as community leaders.



Feast of St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

Join us as we give thanks for our pets, celebrate creation, and remember the ministry of St. Francis. Bring your pet, favorite stuffed animal, or picture for a special blessing.

Christian Education

Augustus is off and running in the new program year! Sunday school began with a bang on September 14th, and we rejoiced in welcoming Dr. Darryl Roland to lead us in music every Sunday—he's already a hit with the kids! After church, we all enjoyed a delicious cook-out provided by the Senior High Youth Group, who returned on the 21st to give us a report on their mission trip to upstate New York. I always love hearing their stories.

Pastor Weleck and I have begun teaching confirmation classes and getting to know our newest confirmands as we welcome back those in their last year of confirmation.

We'll begin October with the Blessing of the Animals and finish it off with Trunk or Treat. October is a great month at Augustus!

Blessings to all—Sonya Sowards, Director of Christian Education.



Whether you are looking for a family fun activity for the kids or having inspiration to make your car trunk a Halloween paradise, this event is for you. Children and community car-decorating volunteers are invited to join the Augustus Senior High Youth Group sponsored rain or shine event. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held indoors and decorators should be prepared to set up on a table. If you can contribute a decorated car trunk, please contact gtwess@comcast.net. Costumes are encouraged!

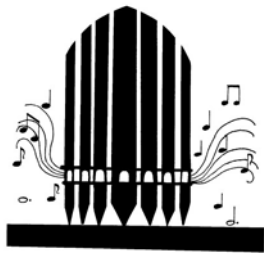
From the Bench

October 2025

By now, rehearsals are in full swing! I'm enjoying working with our singers and ringers. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented musicians in our midst. I'm also enjoying working with Sonya Sowards in our Sunday School department. It's a joy to see so many young, enthusiastic boys and girls on Sunday morning. Most recently, I introduced some Kodály solfège syllables for sight singing. By the way, solfège consists of the "do, re, mi" syllables that you've heard in "The Sound of Music." We had several students who raised their hands and said they did solfège in school. So, they led the class in singing "See saw, high and low." Again, I would like to thank you so very much for making Matt and me feel so welcome at Augustus. We look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming months!

Darryl Roland, DMA

Director of Music/Organist



Support Christian education at Augustus
by:

- ✓ Teaching Sunday school
- ✓ Bringing your children to Sunday school
- ✓ Bringing your middle-school kids to confirmation classes
- ✓ Bringing your high-school kids to Senior High Youth Group
- ✓ Joining the adult Sunday school class
- ✓ Donating pre-packaged, peanut-free snacks and drinks for Sunday school
- ✓ Serving on the Christian Education Committee
- ✓ Praying for our children and youth

Christian education—it's the Lutheran way!

Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on
Monday, October 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry Room.

We will discuss Here's to Us
by Elin Hilderbrand

Want more info? Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustustrappe.org

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.



2025 Augustus Lutheran Church Directory (first since 2009)

Dates: November 10th and 11th, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Sign Up: Beginning September 14th, after each service

If you are unable to sign up in person, please contact
Tracy Wessner (484-955-8059 / Tracyrinslandwessner@gmail.com)

Or

Linda Romano (215-498-5600 / Linda.L.Romano@gmail.com)

*Dear Church family,
It's time for a New Directory!*



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church
If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.



Graceful Generosity

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

Make Your Choice

Joshua had faithfully served the nation Israel after the death of Moses. He was faithful both to his God and to his people. At the end of his life, as the nation is taking its place in the Promised Land, he offers them a choice:

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness... But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served ... or the gods of the Amorites... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15).

As Christian stewards, we, too, have a choice to make. Maybe we're not tempted to serve the gods of the Amorites, but there is another god that vies for our worship: the god of wealth. That god promises that, if we put our trust in him, he will make us powerful, envied by others, satisfied by all the possessions he can obtain for us, and bring us status and prestige among our peers. This god, of course, is just as false as the idol the Amorites worshiped. He may bring temporary good fortune, but we find no lasting value, only disappointment and disillusionment, in following him.

The Israelites' answer to Joshua was, *"We will serve the Lord"* (Joshua 24:21). Let us "serve the Lord" as he has enabled us to do.

The Garden

There once was a woman who longed to have a flower garden. Each year she would visit her neighbor, who had the most beautiful garden she had ever seen, and he would give her cuttings and seeds for her garden.

But when she would return home, she would change her mind at the last minute saying: "But my neighbor's garden is so much lovelier than anything I could hope to grow. And he knows so

much more about gardening ... I could never hope to grow a garden half so lovely as that. Why should I even try?"

One day her neighbor stopped by her home and saw that she had not one flower growing anywhere around her house.

"I've provided you with so much," he said, "and yet you have done nothing at all with what I have given you!"

And so it is with each of us. The Lord gives us talents and expects us to develop them. We cannot judge our worth by comparing ourselves to others but must bloom and grow the best we can with what we have been given.



On the Lighter Side

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. You've really had an exciting life!" "So tell me," said the twenty, "Where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one-dollar bill replied, "Oh I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church..."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupted. "What's a church?"

Christ's Ambassadors

"... God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ ... has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Being an ambassador is a badge of honor and a great responsibility as well. Often the opinions held about a country are those formed by what is known about its ambassador. How critical, then, is our "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). As ambassadors, we are not presenting ourselves; we are making Christ known.

The first sight of Christ that some may get is their view of Christ in us. We are called to let the light of his love, faith, and forgiveness shine in our lives that others might see and give glory to God (Matthew 5:16). As stewards of the Gospel, compelled by compassion for the lost, we desire to carry out our ministry of reconciliation. As ambassadors representing the one who has sent us, we declare to the world how God has reconciled us to himself through his Son. God makes his appeal to the unbeliever

through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we, as stewards of the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth, preach and teach that word of God. We choose to be among those workers in the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38) who share our testimonies of faith, always pointing others to Christ and his Gospel.

God Works through Us

J. Hudson Taylor wrote, "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." The message from this statement is that God has given his people all the material and spiritual resources needed to accomplish his purposes. When we do God's will, he will supply, through us, all the resources that are needed for his church (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). He wants us to be his channels through which the gifts needed for his work will flow. By God's grace, we can be faithful stewards who willingly share our gifts for God's work.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Climbing Higher

In a unique way, the author Max Lucado offers an interesting perspective regarding the life of Christians and the branches of a tree. According to his tree analogy, most Christians sit comfortably on low-lying thick branches. Life for Christians next to the trunk of the tree is steady and predictable. There are higher branches, but they appear risky and a lot less comfortable. In our humanity, we desire to stay where it is safe and easy. We become branch-sitters.

Again considering the analogy of the tree, we can say that Jesus calls each of us to climb higher in our prayer life, in our worship, in reading his Word, and in our generosity. As we climb, the branches will be thinner and less steady, but Christ will support us. The world tells us to stay put on our secure big branches, but the one who loves us is quietly nudging us to go higher. Jesus wants us to depend on and trust in him. He promises that he will never leave us.

One climb that we may resist the most is in the area of giving. The average Christian household gives approximately 2.7 percent of their income to their church, so most of us are sitting securely on some rather low branches. Our heavenly Father wants us to climb higher in the area of our giving. *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (1 Corinthians 16:2). We are to climb so that we regularly give a portion of our income. As we climb in our giving, we show our gratitude and thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. When we climb toward the branch that says "tithe" and go beyond that branch to the one marked "sacrificial giving," we hear God's Words, *"Well done, good and faithful servants"* (Matthew 25:21).

Our prayer is that Christians will take God at his Word, his promise to take care of us and provide for our needs and follow the Holy Spirit as he leads us to higher and higher branches. After all, God knows better than anyone the cost of hanging on a tree.

HISTORIC TRAPPE

historictrappe.org

Check out the Historic Trappe web site for great fall activities like this:

Tombstone Tales: The Untold Tales of Soldiers and Women

Saturdays, October 18 and 25 2 pm and 4 pm

<https://historictrappe.org/tombstone-tales-tours/>

Take a guided tour through St. Luke's Cemetery and learn about some of the historical figures resting there. Highlights include the graves of Agnes Ewald, one of Trappe's earliest female residents, and Civil War soldiers James MacMullin and Abraham Koons, both killed in action.

Parking for Tombstone Tales ticket holders will be at Ranieri Flooring, 325 W. Main Street. After parking, please come to the Dewees Tavern to check-in for your tour. Cost: \$20 Non-Members, \$15 Members, \$5 Students (18 and under). Tickets include admission to Dewees Tavern. Tours are limited to 10 people per tour. No walk-ins.



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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

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) - is a national women's organization that supports the church in a variety of ways and through a plethora of activities. Some of their events include quilting for Lutheran World Relief, leading the church in the support of mission work, Bible Studies, knitting and crocheting group, provide receptions for various church activities, supply coffee hours, social events, and "Ladies Night Out" events. They are also open to new programs. If you are interested in joining WELCA, they meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at Augustus Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM or Contact Dale O'Hara oharadvd@aol.com or 610-489-0417 for more details. WELCA is open to all women of all ages of Augustus Lutheran Church.

Girls' Night Out

Please join us on Friday, Oct. 3, 7:30 pm to see Harvey at Ursinus College. Purchase your ticket online (general admission \$9.16, seniors \$5.49) and then let Deb Scholl know by Sept. 28th that you are coming (schollde@aol.com). Those who are interested will also meet for dinner before the show (details tbd). Sponsored by WELCA and open to all.

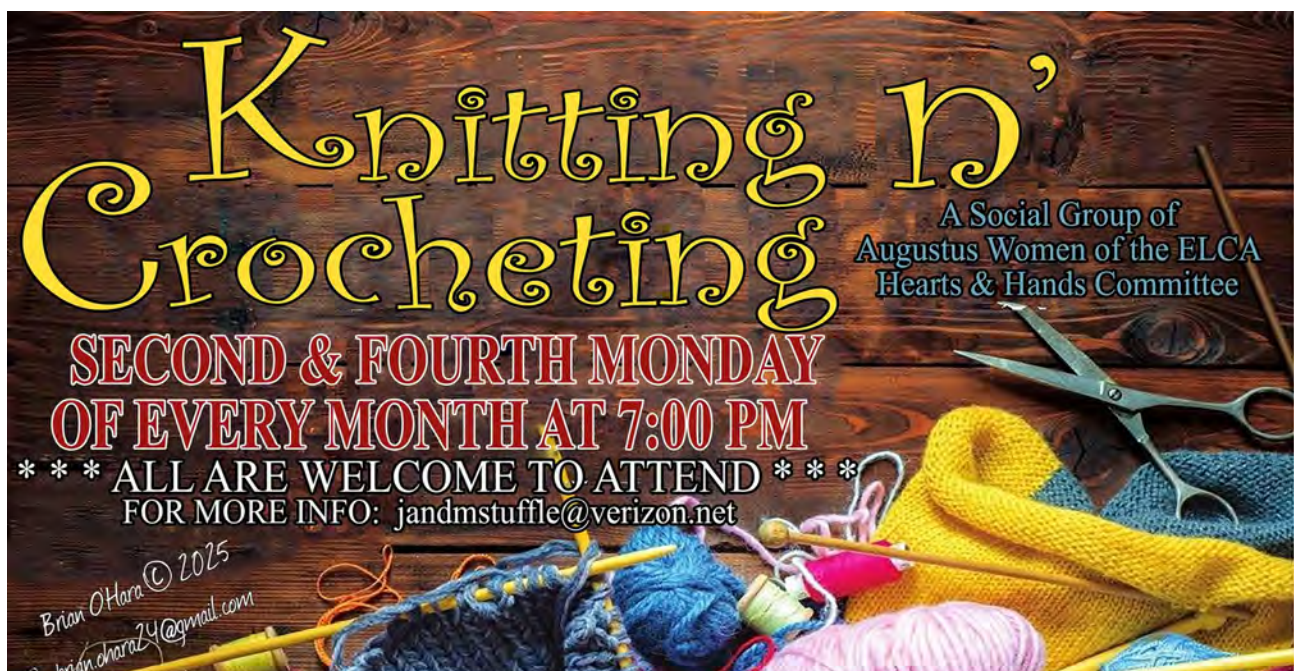
For more info about Harvey:

<https://www.collegevilleddevelopment.org/dinner-show-theater-harvey/>

To purchase your ticket:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/events/ursinus>





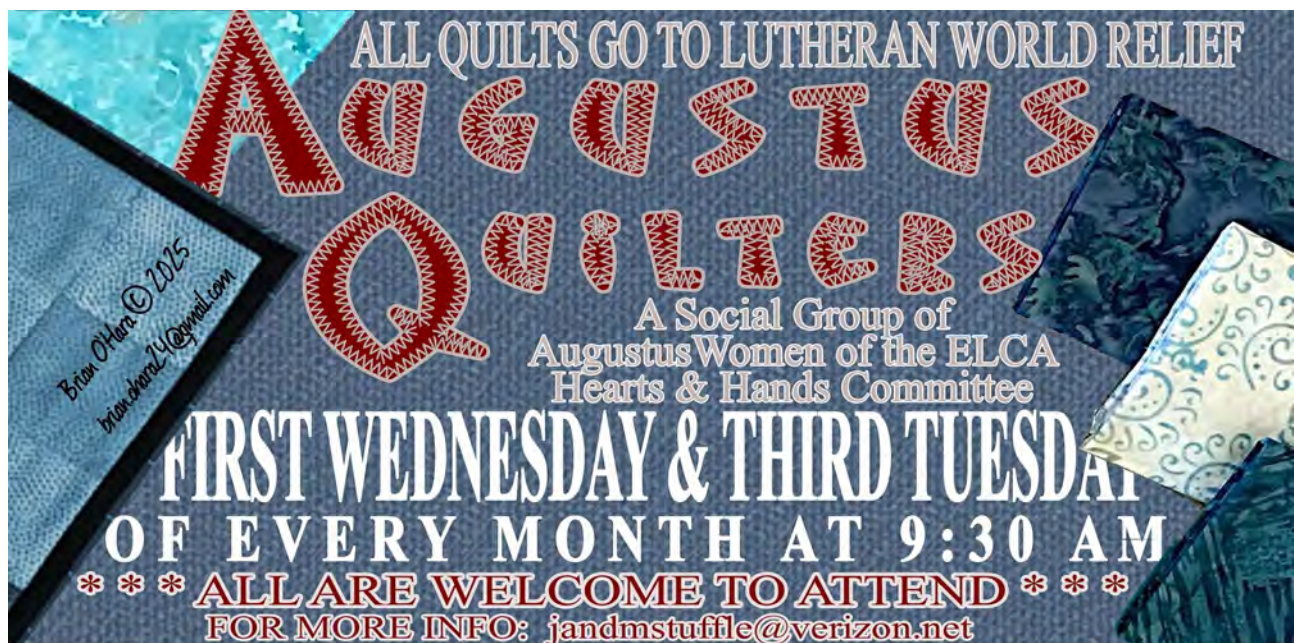
Knitting n' Crocheting

A Social Group of
Augustus Women of the ELCA
Hearts & Hands Committee

**SECOND & FOURTH MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM**

***** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND *****
FOR MORE INFO: jandmstuffle@verizon.net

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brian.ohara24@gmail.com*



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

*Brian O'Hara © 2025
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2025 Vestry		
Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	President/Property	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary	alisonhfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life	John.kochel@thrivent.com
Karl Stefan	Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	selison76@gmail.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church Committee	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery Committee	Matthew_vera@verizon.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1>October</h1>			1 9:30 am Quilting 2:00 pm Staff Meeting	2 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir	3	4 11:00 pm Private event
5 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Blessing of the Animals 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	6	7 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Dance Class	8 6:00 pm 3-in-1 9:30 am Soup Kitchen	9 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir	10	11
12 Staff Appreciation Sunday 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	13 7:00 pm Knitting	14 7:00 pm Community Club 7:00 pm Dance Class	15 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	16 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir	17	18
19 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	20 7:00 pm Book Club	21 9:30 am Quilting 7:00 pm CC Board Mtg 7:00 pm Dance Class	22 6:00 pm 3-in-1	23 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir	24	25 4:00 pm Trunk or Treat
26 Reformation Sunday 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	27 7:00 pm Knitting	28 7:00 pm Committee Night 7:00 pm Dance Class	29 6:00 pm 3-in-1	30	31	

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
October Birthdays			1 Alicia Allebach Scott Detwiler Ronald Oelschlager Megan Schaffer	2 Janet Rhoads	3 Robert Imes Bryce Ziegler Tye Ziegler	4 Wayne Williams			
			5	6 Savannah Kitchens	7 Marsha Franz Dawn Halteman Brooke Perkins	8 Dawn Kutteroff	9 Eric Hart Leo North Deborah Riegner	10 Elle Ralph	11
			12	13 Ted Lewis Lizabeth Niskala	14 Paul Gallagher Tammi King Cheryl MacMullen Tony Mancuso Ike Matoney	15 Molly Hynes Stephanie Lash	16 Cormac Miller	17 Eugene Frank	18 Andrew Fisher Cheryl Imes Michael Wells
			19 Tami Firth	20	21 Michael Krasley Dorothy Rieger	22 Allie Branch Evan Griggs Mildred Stuffle	23 Kelsie Mourar Amy Wells	24 Curt Allen	25 Gavin Strasinski
			26 Abigail Catagnus	27 Jennifer Beattie Addison Smith	28 Bryan Fishell Jonathan Lumley	29 Kathryn Bubeck Nicholas Lari Robert Slauch	30 Dale O'Hara Abraham Van Alstine	31 Alfred Dubeck Phil Lehman Alfred Stuffle Douglas Sweeney	

