



August 2020

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

August 2020

8-2 Worship only 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required Online Option available
11:45 a.m. Called Meeting in parking lot following worship

8-4 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required

8-9 Worship only 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available.
Pastor Barb on vacation.
Call Jon Coogle with pastoral concerns – 478-952-0295

8-11 No Centering Prayer

8-16 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available.
Pastor Barb on vacation.
Call Jon Coogle with pastoral concerns – 478-952-0295
No Family Day Meal.
Newsletter Deadline

8-18 Centering Prayer 8:30 am.
Social distancing required

8-23 Worship only 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required
Online Option available

8-25 Centering Prayer 8:30 am.
Social distancing required

8-30 Worship only 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required Online Option available

Good Fruit...



“The Elbertas are in! Hurry, now! They won’t last long!” the message on Face Book urged. And I, who have been waiting for that word since I opened my last jar of peaches from last year’s canning season, hopped in my car and sped over to Brown’s Farm Market to be sure I got some before they were all gone. I was in luck. I had the pick of several boxes, and happily drove home, visions of glistening jars of good fruit lined up in my cupboard making me smile all the way.

When I got home, I carefully hauled the box of peaches into my kitchen and gently set it on the counter. I picked one up and held it in my hand, feeling the weight of it, admiring its warm color, and breathing in the sweet fragrance. I thought about the bright, red raspberries and the deep purple blackberries we had enjoyed in a salad the night before; and the crisp ears of corn, the crunchy snap beans and tomatoes fresh off the vine that have graced our table all summer.

To my mind, there is little in life as satisfying as the taste of fresh summer produce and good, ripe fruit. It is pleasing to all of our senses; good for the body and good for the soul. As I looked with pleasure at that box overflowing with good fruit, a verse from Psalm 67 popped into my head: *The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God has blessed us.* And, I whispered a little prayer of thanks and praise to God for his bounty to us.

Being created in God’s image, I can’t help but think that Our Creator God, the first tiller of the earth’s soil, must take the same pleasure in seeing the good results of *his* labor as we do in *ours*. Might God also hold *us* in the palm of his hand, admiring each of us for the way *we* have grown? Might he also take pleasure in the good fruit *we* produce - the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? And that, thought, too, makes me smile.

May the blessings of God’s goodness be yours, even as you pass those blessings on to others. **Peace, Pastor Barb <><**

*May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.
Psalm 67:7*

Schedule for Serving Our Lord in August

Lectors David Haigler and Max Wood
Altar Guild Duck Koch and Tommy Martin

Family Day: *No Family Day Meal until further notice.*

Coffee Hour: *No Coffee Hour until further notice.*

Flowers:

- 8-2** Jim and Patricia Trask in honor of their children and grandchildren, Mary Catherine, Mattie, John Henry, Charley, and Riley.
- 8-9** Jamey and Mary Ellen Peaster in loving memory of Teresa Childs and Billy Peaster.
- 8-16** Jimmy and Mary Kay Watson in loving memory of her parents, Thelma, and Maynard Melton.
- 8-23** Arthur Jackson in honor of his children Amanda and Austin.
- 8-30** Ted and Mary Lynn Robinson.

Soup Kitchen: *No Soup Kitchen until further notice.*

Sunday School Teachers: *No Sunday School until further notice.*

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8-7 Tony and Renee Collier | 8-23 Jennifer Kleckley |
| 8-9 Jeremy and Susan Martin | 8-26 Tommy Coogle |
| 8-11 David and Mary Haigler | 8-29 Rainey Elizabeth Collier |
| 8-12 Shane Peaster | 8-31 Zach Martin |
| 8-14 Jessica Coogle | |
| 8-21 Jim Trask | |

Called Congregation Meeting after Worship, on August 2, 2020 in the Church Parking Lot.

Dear Members of MZSL, the following article is a *repeat* of an email you should have received on 7-14-2020 concerning the August 2nd Called Congregational Meeting, to insure that all members have been notified of the meeting in writing. We will hold the brief meeting in the church parking lot following worship (around 11:45) on August 2nd for those who may not be comfortable being inside the church building at this time. You can stay in your car and observe social distance, but still vote. Please make every effort to be there, as we will need a quorum to hold the meeting. Please review the purpose of the meeting and the information below to inform your vote:

Please note this official notice of a called Congregation Meeting from our Council President, Jon Coogle.

THERE WILL BE A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE RENOVATION OF PART OF THE PARISHHOUSE FROM A PROPOSAL FROM LUKE YODER CONSTRUCTION. MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AUGUST 2, 2020. LUKE YODER'S ESTIMATE WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR IF YOU NEED IT MAILED CONTACT PASTOR BARB. JON COOGLE

Please review the summary below from our property Chair, Joseph McNutt, prior to the meeting.

The summary of the work we are presenting is as follows:

- Replace and upgrade bathrooms to ADA accessible. New fixtures and finish for both bathrooms
- Install 2 handicap parking spots along with a sidewalk from Sanctuary ramp to other building with new ramp
- Repair/fix AC unit for the common area and new bathrooms. This will also require rewire of existing AC/heat unit for the main room
- New water lines from the meter to all fixtures with point of use hot water heaters
- New carpet and paint throughout the Lingel building
- Repair corners and ceiling(where leaking) in sanctuary
- Install Life safety signage and appliances
- Repaint doors and foundation of the Sanctuary
- Other small items with electrical

The bid is to do this as a cost plus 12% due to the contractor not knowing what is inside the walls and floors until the work begins. A high level view of this states that it will be somewhere around \$108,000. This will depend also on the finish that will be selected for fixtures and floor coverings to be decided by a small committee(To be formed). This bid is for all of the work outlined and the contractor will not reduce scope since it will not be a value project for them. Project is expected to complete by end of year.

Council has approved with a vote of 6 to 1 with one abstain to present to congregation to vote on whether to use funding to do this or not.

Any other comments/recommendations are welcomed in order to ensure our congregation is informed and able to make a decision.

Of course, if anyone has questions they can reach out to me for clarification.

Joseph McNutt- Strategic Program Manager/IT PMO - 678-421-5106 – office; 478-973-1472- cell

The vote will be to approve the above list of work to be done and to approve covering the cost by a withdrawal from the Hagler Endowment Fund that was a gift to MZSL years ago.

Thank you for your participation in this important vote. Pastor Barb

Prayer for the Month

Blessed are they who fall in the mud, who jump with gusto and rip the pants, who skin the elbows, and bruise the ego, for they shall know the sweetness of risk.

Blessed are they who make giant mistakes, whose intentions are good but impact has injured, who know the hot sense of regret and ask for mercy, for their hearts will know the gift of forgiveness.

Blessed are they who have seen a D or an F or C or any letter less than perfect, who are painfully familiar with the red pen and the labels as "less than," for they know the wisdom in the imperfect.

Blessed are they who try again, who dust off, who wash up, who extend the wish for peace, who return to sites of failure, who are dogged in their pursuit, for they will discover the secret to dreams.

Blessed are they who refuse to listen to the naysayers, for their hearts will be houses for hope.

Blessed are they who see beyond the surface of another, for they will be able to delight in the gift of compassion.

Blessed are they who stop running the race to help a fellow traveler, who pick up the fallen, who stop for injured life, for they shall know the kindness of strangers.

Blessed are they who wildly, boldly abandon winning, for they shall know the path of justice.

- A Blessing for Risk-Takers and Failures By Robin Tanner

COVID – 19 VS GOD’S PEOPLE

If a tiny virus can do this much damage, imagine what a mustard seed of faith can do! As we say in the south “that will preach.” Is God saying to you “Let’s take a walk on the wild side with our time, talents & treasure.”? Just look around the city, state, the country and the world. People are in need. A lot of times we are troubled with so many problems of our own we can’t see helping others at that time. This is the time to step out in faith and help others. Then, God will do a great work in and through our lives. It’s time to get your hands dirty (but remember to wash them for 20 seconds afterwards!) God is calling each of us to action. My question to you is, “Will you answer the call?” Ready, set, go!

Arthur Jackson, Stewardship Committee

Phase 1 Guidelines for In-Person Worship to Continue through August 2020

Your Congregation Council has been meeting by Zoom and having email conversations throughout this pandemic and we continue to assess the situation for our in-person worship at MZSL on a regular basis. In looking at the numbers, we considered closing again, but with an average of 20 persons in worship, all observing the precautions as posted on the doors to the sanctuary, and with no one ill from our congregation and immediate vicinity that we know of to date, we decided to continue with in-person worship at this time. We will continue to be vigilante in our precautions as well as in assessing the risks, and make decisions as circumstances dictate. We continue to offer our service online for those who are unable to join us in person.

We will use the following precautions as per synod guidelines for our in-person worship:

1. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet in family groups will be required.
2. Hand Sanitizer is at both entrances for your use upon entering the building.
3. Offerings will be placed in the plate at both entrances.
4. Communion will be self-contained individual cups picked up at the entrances.
5. No physical passing of the peace.
6. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet to be kept *after* the service as well.

Thank you for making a difficult situation easier by your constant support and cooperation with your leadership at MZSL. We value your input. We thank God for you!

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

Pastor Barb will be on vacation from August 3 to August 18, 2020.

Please call *Jon Coogle* with pastoral concerns – 478-952-0295.

Thank you!

Follow our Face Book Group Page *Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends* to worship online live at 11:00 a.m.!

Don't forget that there are sermons from Bishop Strickland and other synod staff persons, Covid 19 information and other resources on our synod website: www.elca-ses.org

Help us keep this Prayer List Current! Call the Church Office or Pastor Barb to remove or add to this list.

Please Pray for Members: Al Coogle; Jon coogle; Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr; Emily Harvill; Myrtle Joiner, Zach Martin; Joe McNutt; Tricia Trask; Donna Webb, Tony Webb and for our college students.

In Christian Sympathy for Arthur Jackson in the loss of his friend and Kairos colleague, Pastor David Grantham.

For Friends and Family: James Edmonton; Langdon Harp; Janice Haugabook; Ricky Haugabook; Larry Hobbes; Sandra and John Homer; Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller; Buddy Murph; Charlene Oliver; Charles Oliver; Don Oliver; Leigh Powell; Douglas Smith; and Joanne Waymon.