



December 2019

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

December 2019

- 12-1 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
Youth Group 5:00 p.m.
- 12-2 Grace Circle 10:00
- 12-3 Centering Prayer 8:30a
- 12-4 Soup Kitchen Noon
Advent 1 Eve. Meal 6:30p
- 12-5 Musical Nativity 7p
- 12-6 Lutheran Ladies Lunch
11:00 a.m. Lingle Rm
Christmas Tree Lighting 7p
- 12-8 *Council Meeting 8:45*
SS/Worship 11:00a/ **Annual
Congregation Mtg after**
Youth Group 5:00 p.m.
- 12-10 Centering Prayer 8:30
Quilting 10:00 a.m.
Foster Children's Christmas
Party MUMC 6p
- 12-11 Advent 2 meal 6:30p
- 12-15 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
**Christmas Fund Raiser
Dinner to benefit Foster
Children after worship**
Newsletter Deadline
Youth Group 5 p.m.
- 12-17 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 12-18 Advent 3 meal 6:30p
- 12-20 Oaks Hymn Sing 10:30
- 12-22 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
Youth Group 5:00 p.m.
- 12-24 No Centering Prayer
Christmas Eve Service 6:00p
- 12-25 **Christmas Day**
No worship service
Office Closed Dec. 25-26
- 12-29 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
Lessons and Carols
Pastor Barb on vacation
- 12-31 No Centering Prayer
Office Closed Jan. 1-2

The Great Giver...

It was Christmas Eve. The tree had been up for a week, its lights softly lighting up the living room as night fell and the winter darkness wrapped itself around our home like a thick blanket. The children lay in their beds, eyes closed, but wide awake with excitement. You could tell by their breathing that they weren't asleep yet, and we couldn't put the gifts under the tree until they were. "Go to sleep, now, or Santa won't come!" we repeated for the 5th time. "I AM asleep!" said Sara. "I'm *trying!*" Robert whispered. "But, my brain's talking too loud!" And, tired as I was, I had to laugh. I remembered what it was like to be their age; when the waiting for Christmas morning to come was almost painful! The thought of what Santa would bring me made sleep nearly impossible! When you are a small child, Christmas is all about what *you* want and what *you* will get. But, somewhere along the line, you start to grow up, and you lay awake at night, feigning sleep; thinking not about what *you* will get, but about what you can *give to the people you love*. And the pleasure and excitement of Christmas turns into watching the way your loved one's eyes light up when they open that package and discover what you hope is the perfect gift. As we grow, we learn the joy of giving not only to the people we know and love, but to some we have never met! And the greatest teacher of selfless giving is, of course, *God himself*, who gave us the best, the greatest, the most *perfect* Christmas gift of all - his own Son, Jesus - the gift that keeps on giving! May this Christmas be your *best one yet*, as you celebrate the *greatest gift you will ever receive* by sharing Jesus with others! **Merry Christmas! Pastor Barb <><**



...It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

Congregation Vitality

On Sunday, November 17th, we were happy to welcome Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Patti Axel, who installed our Vitality Leadership and Prayer Teams during the worship service, as we begin the Congregation Vitality Process. In this process, we will learn what we need to know about our congregation to ensure that Mt. Zion – St. Luke is and remains a vital congregation. What are the marks of a Vital Congregation? It goes beyond simple attendance and giving records. A *vital* congregation is one in which the people are deeply connected with God, with each other and with the community around it. Vitality is reflected in our worship, in our small groups and in our ministries outside our walls. The process is based on Three Listenings: Listening to God, Listening to each other and listening to our neighbors. The Vitality Leadership Team will guide us through these three listenings and the Prayer Team will pray us through them to be sure we hear where God may be calling us in order that we may participate more fully in his mission to save the world. It will be an interesting, challenging and life-giving process for our church! More later! *Pastor Barb and your Congregation Council*

Serving Our Lord in December

Communion Assistant	Mary Haigler
Ushers	David Haigler and Mack McCarty
Altar Guild	Mary Haigler and Tommy Martin
Lectors	Tommy Martin and Julia Snipes
Kyrie	Wendi Martin
Acolytes:	Winn Martin

12-15: Christmas Dinner Fund Raiser to benefit Foster Children's Christmas Party immediately following worship (in place of the regular Family Day Meal.)

Coffee Hour:

12-1 Sharon Martin	12-8 Ginny Martin	12-15 Brenden Fitzgerald
12-22 NO COFFEE HOUR		12-29 Dale Godfrey

Flowers:

12-1 Tommy & Wendi Martin in honor of Sara Morgan and Winn Martin
12-8 Max Wood to the glory of God
12-15 Poinsettias
12-22 Poinsettias
12-29 Poinsettias

Soup Kitchen: December 4th, Gail Coogle & Mary Jane Ethridge

Sunday School Teachers:

K-5th Grade – Angela Cannon **6th – 12th Grade** – Renee Collier

Adult Class Lingle Room – David Haigler/Jon Coogle

Adult Class Conference Room – Wendi Martin

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

12-1 Trey Coogle	12-15 Bobby & Sharon Martin
12-7 Chipper Coogle	12-19 Jim Arnold
12-10 Helen Smith	12-23 Jim & Patricia Trask
12-11 Alita Godfrey	12-25 Karen Coogle
12-11 Angela Cannon	12-28 Pastor Barb Koch
12-12 Ted Robinson	



Unwrapping the Names of Jesus!

December 1st begins a new Church Year, with the season of Advent. Advent means ‘coming.’ It is the season in which we remember that we are waiting with anticipation for the day when the Lord will come again in all his glory, to take us to live with him in heaven, forever.

This year, for our Wednesday evening observance of Advent, we will gather in the Lingle Room at 6:30 on December 4th, 11th and 18th for a simple meal, followed by an activity program called **Unwrapping the Names of Jesus, led by Pastor Barb**. Together, we will explore several of the Biblical names we have for Jesus and learn what they might mean for us as we await his second coming. Be sure to mark your calendars and bring your family and friends to this *fun-for-all-ages* activity program!

Walk Thru Bethlehem presents “A Musical Nativity”

Last year’s *Musical Nativity* was well received, and The Walk Thru Bethlehem group is making plans to do it again this year! The musical will be held on Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at the Preston Williams Center in Montezuma. Mt. Zion – St. Luke will participate again this year in this excellent outreach ministry, telling the story of Jesus’ birth through song. Light refreshments will be served following the storytelling. Come, bring your family and friends, especially those who have no church home, so they may hear about Jesus, the greatest gift on earth!

Mark your Calendars for the Annual Foster Children’s Christmas Party!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Once again, Santa is getting ready to bring gifts to all the girls and boys in the Foster Children’s program in Macon County. He takes turns each year bringing the gifts to our own MZSL or to Montezuma Methodist on N. Dooly Street. This year, the party will be held at the Methodist Church on December 10th at 6:00 p.m. All you need do is show up and visit with the children as they eat and visit with Santa and receive their gifts. See you there!



It’s Time for Our Annual Christmas Dinner!

Our half of the gifts for the Foster Children’s Christmas Party as mentioned above will be purchased from the funds raised by our *Annual Christmas Dinner*, held at our own MZSL on December 15th after worship, in place of our usual 3rd Sunday Family Day Meal. Gail Coogle will provide the ham, the potatoes and the pineapple for the dinner, and we ask that along with your donation, you bring a covered dish if you are able. This is such a worthy cause, and it is a delight to see the children’s faces light up when they receive the nice gifts Santa brings them, thanks to your generosity!

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Gail Coogle at 478-957-6385

SPIRITUAL BROKENESS

In today’s culture of addiction to drugs and alcohol and the rise in suicide and mass shootings, it stands to reason that God’s voice is often drowned out in these life styles. On the other hand, being Christian is a life style in which God’s voice can be heard. How can we, the church, help people in crisis to hear God calling their names and turn to him? I’m glad you asked. Jesus is calling us to action. That’s faith with legs! It’s time to stand up and speak up for Jesus. Pray and seek opportunities to share your faith with people you do not know. It starts with just a kind word of encouragement. Yes! Your words have power to move people to God! An old country pastor once said “Each one reach one.” Just be willing to be used by God. Make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ. It’s well within your reach. The power of the tongue! WOW! God is waiting for you to use those gifts He has given each of us. *Arthur Jackson, Stewardship Committee*

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

Annual Congregation Meeting

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held immediately following worship on December 8th. Among the things we will discuss is a withdrawal from the Foundation Fund to cover property expenses, the Congregation Vitality Process and Council Elections. Please make every effort to be present for this brief but important time together as members of MZSL.

Tree Lighting Ceremony in Oglethorpe

Be sure and join us at City Hall in Downtown Oglethorpe for our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on the evening of Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. There will be Christmas music and a sing-a-long of Christmas Carols led by area church choirs, a chance to visit with Santa, and of course, cocoa and cookies! So, come on out and have some fun while you support your community!

Please Pray for Members: Jim Arnold, Glen Brennan, Al Coogle, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Mary Hammock, Emily Harvill, Sharon Martin; Zack Martin, Tricia Trask, Tony Webb, for our college students, for all the ministries of our church and for our Military.

For Friends and Family: Matthew Anderson, John Arnold, Cuyler Barr, Charles Cannon, Trey Chapple, Chic Cole, John “Soup Bone” Corley; Brian Dietz, Karen Drysdale, Allison Greene, Diane Greg; Langdon Harp, Freddie & Linda Hartley, Joseph Hill, Larry Hobbes, Ty Hobbes, Elizabeth Homer, Bobby Hosley, Connie Johnson, Curtis Johnson, Jenny Joiner, Nancy Joyce, Greg Kirk, Mary Lamberth, Harris Lott, Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller, Charlene Oliver, Leigh Powel, Tiffany Richards, Ron Ricklef, Kim Sangster, Douglas Smith, Celeste Trilla and Jacob Vickers.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards.



December 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						Trey Coogle
1 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. SS/Worship 11 a.m. Live Nativity rehearsal 3:00p, PrestonWilliams Center Montezuma Youth Group 5:00 p.m.	2	3 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. Grace Circle 10:00 a.m.	4 Soup Kitchen Noon 1st Advent Activity and meal 6:30	5 Musical Nativity 7:00 p.m PrestonWilliams Center Montezuma	6 Chipper Coogle	7
8 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. SS/Worship 11 a.m. Annual Congregation Meeting Noon Youth Group 5:00 p.m.	9 Helen Smith	10 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. Quilting 10:00 a.m. Angela Cannon Alita Godfrey Ted Robinson	11 2nd Advent Activity and meal 6:30	12	13	14 Bobby & Sharon Martin
15 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. SS/Worship 11 a.m. Church Christmas Party to Benefit Foster kids Youth Group 5:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	18 3rd Advent Activity and meal 6:30 Jim Arnold	19	20 Oaks Nursing Home 10:00	21
22 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. SS/Worship 11 a.m. Evangelism Mtg. Noon Youth Group 5:00 p.m. Jim & Tricia Trask	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 p.m. Karen Coogle	25 Christmas Day No service	26	27	28
29 SS/Worship 11 a.m. Lessons and Carols <i>Pastor Barb on Vacation</i>	30 Office open Caroline in	31 Office open New Year's Eve	January 1 Office closed New Year's Day	January 2 Office closed	Office Closed for Christmas →	