



February 2020

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

February 2020

- 2-2 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
- 2-3 Grace Circle 10:00 a.m.
- 2-3 & 4 Pastor Barb at Lutheranch Retreat**
- 2-4 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 2-5 Soup Kitchen Noon
Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
- 2-9 Council Mtg 8:45 a.m.
SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
- 2-11 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
Quilting 10:00 a.m.
- 2-11 Bible Study 6:00 p.m
- 2-14 Valentine's Day
- 2-16 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
Family Day Meal
Mutual Ministry
Newsletter Deadline
- 2-18 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 2-19 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
- 2-23 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.
- 2-25 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
*Fat Tuesday Pancake
Supper 6:00 p.m.*
- 2-26 Oaks Nursing Home
10:30 a.m.
**Ash Wednesday Service
7:00p m.**
- 2-29 **Leap Day! Enjoy a
whole, extra day this
month!**

Leap Year Blessing...

The deer are eating my camellia again. Not just the leaves, but the tender new growth I have been watching so closely. Another branch has fallen off the live oak in the back yard, big enough that we will need to cut it up before dragging it out to the street for city pick-up. The sun has taken a vacation somewhere closer to the equator, and it is so cold that the birdbath is frozen; not a bird in sight. Discouraged, I retreated to the warmth of my kitchen, leaving the gardening for another day.



On the way in, I kicked the bright orange protrusions of a stinkhorn fungus across my lawn. Its most unpleasant odor clung to my shoe and followed me into the house. Leaving my shoes by the door, I went in search of a hot beverage to take the chill away. February is a cruel month. I am always glad it is the shortest, giving way to the much more pleasant month of March in only 28 days. But, this year, it is a Leap Year, and I must endure an additional, dreary day of February.

But, then, I thought about Daylight Savings Time. How that one hour, added or subtracted to my day, takes me a couple of weeks to adjust to! My sleep rhythms get disrupted, and I keep looking at the clock, thinking, "What time is it, *really*?" I think about how much I miss that one hour's worth of sleep in the Spring, and how blessed I feel to have an extra hour in the day come Fall. And, suddenly, February 29th became a *gift*, rather than a *drag*! What will I do with extra 24 hours this month? An *entire, extra day* that belongs to me?

Since Lent begins on February 26th with Ash Wednesday, I think that something contemplative -something quiet and thoughtful - is in order. A day at the beach. Viewing the alligators sunning themselves at Chehaw Animal Park. Maybe I will take up residence in my garden to protect my camelia from the deer! But, what ever it is, I will thank God and be glad for an extra day of living and loving life! Amen!

Happy Leap Day! Pastor Barb <><

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24

Looking Ahead - Holy Week Schedule for 2020 is as follows:

Palm Sunday, April 5th:We gather outside for the Blessing of the Palms and then process into the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th:.. Service with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10th:..... Service of Solemnity at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12th: Joint Easter Sunrise Service- Oglethorpe Cemetery: 7 ish
Joint Easter Breakfast to follow at Oglethorpe United Methodist Church who is leading the Service this year.
Easter Celebration Service at MZSL at 11:00 a.m.

Serving Our Lord in February

Communion Assistant	Tommy Coogle
Ushers	Will Haigler and Duck Koch
Altar Guild	Duck Koch and TBA
Lectors	Katie Felker and Max Wood
Kyrie	Jon Coogle
Acolytes:	Laney Martin

2-16 Family Day: Renee & Tony Collier; Jon & Karen Coogle; Tommy & Gail Coogle; Tommy & Wendi Martin; Celeste Trilla

Coffee Hour:

2-2 Mary Haigler	2-9 Sharon & Bobby Martin
2-16 Gail Coogle	2-23 Arthur Jackson

Flowers:

- 2-2** Diane Cagle in honor of her mother, Myrtle Joiner
- 2-9** Diane Cagle in honor of her mother, Myrtle Joiner and in loving memory of her father, Ralph Joiner and her husband Charles.
- 2-16** Karen Hatten to the Glory of God in memory of Rick Hatten
- 2-23** Max Wood in honor of Brandon and Langdon

Soup Kitchen: Gail Coogle/Mary Jane Ethridge

Sunday School Teachers:

K-5th Grade – Angela Cannon **6th – 12th Grade** – Susan Martin

Adult Class Lingle Room – David Haigler/Jon Coogle

Adult Class Conference Room – Wendi Martin

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2-4 Grady English	2-16 Al Coogle, Sr.
2-8 Wendi Martin	2-18 Grady & Patsy English
2-11 Bobby Martin	2-26 Glenn Brannan



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper February 25th, 6:00 p.m.

As is our tradition, we will start the season of Lent off properly with a ***Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper*** on February 25th, (the night before Ash Wednesday), to use up all your eggs, milk, butter and sugar that you are going to give up for Lent!) At least, that is what the *original* Fat Tuesday was for. These days, more of us *take on* something *extra* for Lent, like keeping the 40 Days of Prayer and attending the Sunday after worship Soup and Small Group sessions for our Congregation Vitality process, or committing to more personal devotion time, rather than giving up chocolate or other sweets. But, it is always nice to have an excuse to enjoy pancakes! And, of course, maybe you will be the lucky one who finds the Baby Jesus in your piece of King's Cake, and gets to be King (or Queen) for the Night! So, mark your calendars, and bring a friend and an appetite! See you there!

Ash Wednesday Service.

This year, the Lenten Season begins on February 26th with our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. with the *Imposition of Ashes*. This is a very meaningful ritual of the Christian faith. The pastor marks a cross on each person's forehead with ashes made from burnt palm fronds as a visible sign of repentance, with the words, "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return." In this way, we remember that God created us from the dust of the earth, forming us in his own hands. We acknowledge that life on this earth is temporary. We vow to follow in the footsteps of Christ as best we can, until the day he draws us to himself, our bodies return to the earth from where we came, and we go to live with God forever.

Soup and Small Group! 40 Days of Prayer for Lent

Mt. Zion – St. Luke has begun a process of self-assessment called 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 them. Vitality is reflected in joyful, Spirit filled worship, in close-knit, varied small groups and in ministries that meet the needs of people and groups in the surrounding neighborhood. The process is based on *Three Listenings*: Listening to God, Listening to each other and Listening to our neighbors. Our first task in the Vitality process is that of *Listening to God*. During Lent, our Vitality Leadership Team will guide us in our efforts to hear what God might be saying to MZSL through a devotion called 40 Days of Prayer. Each of us will be assigned a small group. Each individual in the small group will pray briefly every day from Monday through Saturday on their own using a guided prayer handout, writing down a word or a phrase that they heard from listening to God in their prayer each day. Then, on Sunday, rather than our traditional Wednesday night program, we will all gather in the Lingle Room for a simple soup meal. After eating, each small group will meet together apart from the rest and *Listen to each other*, sharing the insights they have received through their individual prayers. Each group will make notes on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. We will do this for the 5 Sundays in the Lenten cycle: March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. After the 40 days of prayer, we will gather together as a congregation and share common themes that arose from our small group meetings, arriving at 3-5 ways God may be calling us as a church to participate more fully in God's mission to save the world. We will then begin the *third* Listening – *Listening to our neighbors*, to see where we might meet a need in our community and tell the story of Jesus while doing it! More on that when we are ready. Stay tuned! *Pastor Barb and your Congregation Vitality Team.*

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

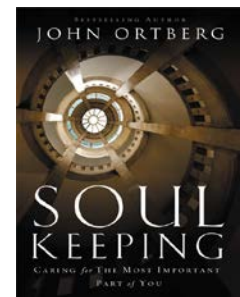
401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

New Bible Study Opportunities That You Won't Want to Miss!

Wendi Martin invites you to join her Sunday Morning Bible Study class Feb. 2nd as they begin a new book study: Max Lucado's *Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name*. Lucado writes in hopes that you come to the "heart-stopping realization that in Him you are a part of something that is ancient, endless, unstoppable and unfathomable." The class starts at 10:00 am. in the Conference Room next to the church office.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study led by Pastor Barb is beginning a new series on February 12th called *Soul Keeping*. Author John Ortberg says "The soul is the coolest, eeriest, most mysterious, evocative, crucial, sacred, eternal life-directing, fragile, indestructible, controversial, expensive dimension of your existence. Jesus said it's worth more than the world. You'd be an idiot not to prize it above all else. Shouldn't you get pretty clear on exactly what it is?" Come, join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Lingle Room as we learn more about our own soul and how to take good care of it!



Please Pray for Members: Jim Arnold, Al Coogle, Tom Coogle, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Mary Hammock, Emily Harvill, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Tricia Trask, Jennifer Walker, 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, Gene Bradley, Trey Chapple, Chic Cole, John "Soup Bone" Corley; Brian Dietz, Karen Drysdale, Chris Fox, Bob Futrell, Allison Greene, Diane Greg; Langdon Harp, Freddie & Linda Hartley, Janice Haugabook, Ricky Haugabook, Joseph Hill, Larry Hobbes, Elizabeth Homer, Bobby Hosley, Connie Johnson, Curtis Johnson, Jenny Joiner, Nancy Joyce, Mary Lamberth, Harris Lott, Marjory McCarty, Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Leigh Powel, Tiffany Richards, Ron Ricklef, Kim Sangster, Douglas Smith, Celeste Trilla and Joanne Waymon.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards



February 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 SS/Worship 11:00 a.m.	3 Grace Circle 10:00 a.m.	4 No Centering Prayer Grady English <i>Pastor Barb on Retreat</i>	5 Soup Kitchen Noon Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	6	7	8 Wendi Martin
9 Council Meeting 8:45 a SS/Worship 11 a.m.	10	11 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. Quilting 10:00 Bobby Martin	12 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
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