



February 2022

# Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

## February 2022

2-1 Centering Prayer  
8:30

2-2 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

2-6 S.S. 10 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
*Online Option*

2-8 Centering Prayer  
8:30

2-9 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

2-13 Council 8:45  
S.S. 10 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
*Online option*

2-15 Centering Prayer  
8:30

2-16 Bible Study 6:00 p

2-20 **Transfiguration**  
S.S 10 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
*Online option*  
Family Day Meal noon  
Confirmation 11:45-1:30  
**Newsletter Deadline**

2-22 **No** Centering Prayer  
PB out of town

2-23 **No** Bible Study 6:00  
PB out of town

2-27 S.S 10 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
*Online Option*

### *Certainty in Uncertain Times...*

I was reading an article in one of my spiritual journals when I came across this quote from Freidrich Von Hugel. “What a happiness, what a joy it is to be quite sure there is a God.” he said. I thought about that. And I recognized that for me, this is a very true statement. Deep within my heart, I know there *is* a God, and this knowledge *does* bring me happiness and joy.

Looking back, it seems as though I have *always* known there was God. I can’t remember a time when I ever doubted God’s existence. I *have* doubted that God *cared* for me. I *have* questioned the way God *did* things and have given God *all kinds* of great advice on how I would have handled a situation differently. I *have* totally misunderstood who God *is*, but I have *never* doubted that God *was*.

This certainty of mine that there is a God was something I used to take for granted. But over the years, I have discovered that there are people who *want* to believe in God, who *yearn* for the certainty that I have, but have been unable to get there. I have felt their spiritual pain and have come to appreciate my certainty for what it is – a gift from God. I especially appreciate this gift in uncertain times like the one we are living in right now. Everywhere I go, people seem to be more anxious about the future than before the pandemic struck. Things have changed so much so fast that people say they feel like they can’t depend on anything anymore! This really isn’t new for us humans. Remember that old saying, “Nothing is certain except death and taxes.”? Well, to that I say the *only* sure thing in this world is that *God is!*

**God Is** in control, even if it doesn’t seem like it at times.

**God Is** invested in us, loves and cares for all people.

**God Is** acting in our lives to bring about what is best for each of us.

**God Is** powerful, willing *and able* to accomplish God’s purposes for the world.

**God Is** with us and will *never* leave us or forsake us.

**God Is** Good, and Good wins out over Evil, every time!

This is the hope that we who believe live in. This is the hope that keeps us putting one foot before the other, no matter what is going on in the world around us. It is what moves us to stay calm and content in a culture that feeds on fear. Von Hugel was right. What a happiness, what a joy it is to be quite certain that *God is!*

So, how do we get to that certainty, if it is something we have not yet been able to grasp? Pray for it! Ask God to give you his gift of faith. Spend time in silence, listening for God to speak to your heart. Take a walk outside and look for God in all things. Read the Bible. Attend a worship service. And, as always, if you are in need of a little spiritual guidance, give me a call. We’ll talk. And, in time, you will begin to know in your heart that **God Is**. I am as certain of that as I am of God’s existence! Because God loves you and is waiting for you to open your heart and let him in.

This spiritual journey we are on is an uphill climb, for sure. But when you get to the top, the view is spectacular! So, don’t quit! **Blessings, Pastor Barb <><**  
*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! Mark 9:24*



## **January 2022 Council Meeting Decisions on Committee Chairpersons and Meeting Time**

The congregation Council held its first meeting of 2022 on Sunday, January 9th. The following congregational officers for 2022 were elected at the December meeting:

President – David Haigler

Vice President – Tommy Martin

Secretary – Julia Snipes

Treasurer – Joseph McNutt.

We are sad to say that we will need to find someone to fill Joseph's position on the council following his untimely death on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Max Wood will continue in his role as Assistant Treasurer and Jim Trask as Financial Secretary, with thanks for their willingness to serve in these capacities.

Standing committee chairpersons were appointed as follows:

Worship and Music – Tommy Martin

Fellowship – Julia Snipes

Education – Angela Cannon

Social Ministry and Evangelism – Karen Hatten

Property – Tommy Martin (Co-chairing with Joseph McNutt)

Stewardship – Diane Cagle

According to the MZSL bylaws, the treasurer serves as chairperson of the Finance Committee and the president serves as chairperson of the Personnel Committee.

The regular monthly meetings of the Council are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month at 8:45 a.m. in the Conference Room or by Zoom when necessary.

*David Haigler, Council President*

### **Congregation Vitality Process to Resume**

If you remember, before the pandemic changed our plans, we had met after church for soup and small groups for several Sundays to discern God's plan for MZSL. We believe it is time to resume that process from where we left off. Pastor Barb will bring us up to speed, sharing all the results and ideas from our small group sessions and we will move forward from there.

So, instead of Wednesday Evening Lenten observance this year, we will gather after the Sunday worship service each Sunday in Lent to enjoy a soup luncheon, have a brief devotion to guide our discussions and then break off into Small Prayer Groups. By the end of Lent, we will have a 3-6 month plan as to our vision and mission for MZSL in 2022. We need the input of every member, so please make every effort to participate in this vital work of our church. Thank you in advance for your prayers as to how we can best be of service and represent Christ as a vital part of Oglethorpe and our surrounding communities.

## Cinquain Poems from our Confirmation Youth

Besides the regular Small Catechism studies which includes learning what the Creeds and the Ten Commandments might mean for them as they mature in their faith, it is important for our Youth to think and pray about their own spirituality. One way we have done that is for each of the students to compose their own poem called a cinquain. The cinquain follows this pattern:

- 1 word as your Subject
- 2 words describing the subject
- 3 words describing the subject's activity
- 4 words describing your feelings about it
- 1 word with the same meaning as the subject.



The assignment was to read the Apostles Creed, pick a word that spoke to them and create the poem from that word as his or her Subject. This exercise helps us think about what we believe, deepening our understanding of the Apostles Creed as a way of expressing our faith. Here are three of our student's poems:

### **Ava Felker**

Spirit  
Mysterious, comforting  
Helps us believe  
It makes me happy  
God

### **Aiden Hobbs**

Spirit  
Peace, hope  
It gives hope  
It gives me hope  
Hope

### **Winn Martin**

Holy Spirit  
Kind, vast  
Present in everyone  
Brings me great joy  
Soul

Be sure and let the students know that you read their poems. You might like to try your hand at writing a cinquain about a word in the Apostle's Creed that spoke to you as well! If you do, turn it in to me, and we will put it in the next newsletter! *Happy Writing! Pastor Barb*

## Looking Ahead to Lent and our Holy Week Schedule for 2022

(subject to change contingent on the virus.)



**Fat Tuesday TBA**

**Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** : Service with imposition of ashes at 6:30 p.m.

**Soup and Small Group after worship:...** Sundays: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Instead of Wednesday Evening Lenten observance this year, we will enjoy a soup luncheon, a brief devotion to discern the future path of MZSL and split off into Small Prayer Groups each Sunday in Lent. By the end of Lent, we will have a 3-6 month plan as to our vision and mission for 2022.*

**Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>:** .....Worship live at 11:00 a.m. with online option

**Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** ..... Worship live at 6:00 p.m. with online option

**Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** ..... Worship live at 6:00 p.m. with online option

**Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** ..... Joint Sunrise Service around 7:00 a.m. at the Oglethorpe Cemetery, led by MZSL. *Breakfast to follow in the Lingle Room.*  
*Easter Sunday Worship Service* live at 11:00 am with online option at MZSL

**Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church**

**P.O. Box 187**

**401 Randolph Street**

**Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068**



***Please help keep this prayer list current. Contact the Church Office to update list.***

***Pray for Members:*** Al Coogle, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Emily Harvill, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Joy McNutt, Nancy and Mac McCarty, Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Tony Webb, our college students, and for all the ministries of our church.

***For Friends and Family:*** Carl Ethridge, Dan Harvill Jr., Carol Jacobs, Janice Haugabook, Cleveland Hobbs, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Myra Odom, Charlene Oliver, Don Oliver, Leigh Powel, Ann Roberts, the family of Larry Smith, Judy Stegal, Marina's friend Chrystal, our nation, and the world.

***Serving our Nation:*** John Edwards