



January 2019

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

January 2019

- 1-1 **Happy New Year!**
No Activities
Office Closed
- 1-2 Soup Kitchen- Noon
- 1-3 LLL Bingo 10:00 a.
- 1-6 SS/Worship 11:00 a.
Installation of New
Council Members
Chili Cook-Off - noon
Youth Group 5:00 p
- 1-8 Centering Prayer 8:30 a
Quilting 10:00 a.
- 1-9 Bible Study 6:00 p.
- 1-13 SS/Worship 11:00 a.

Youth Group 5:00 p.
- 1-15 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
- 1-16 Bible Study 6:00 p.
- 1-17 Oaks Nursing
Home 10:00 a.m.
- 1-20 SS/Worship 11:00 a.
Family Day Meal
Mutual Ministry
Youth Group 5:00 p.
Newsletter Deadline
- 1-22 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
- 1-23 Bible Study 6:00 p.
- 1-28 Council Mtg 8:45 a.
SS/Worship 11:00 a.
Evangelism Mg. Noon
- 1-29 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
- 1-30 Bible Study 6:00 p.

A New Day Dawning...



It was a clear, cold morning, too early for the sun to be up, but we had an appointment to keep. So, we hopped in the car and began the journey down the backroads toward our destination. In the grey light before the dawn, we could just make out the acres upon acres of cotton plants standing bedraggled and forlorn, stripped now of their precious harvest. The turf at the sod farm lay dormant, the color of baled straw, its brilliant green just a memory. Naked pecan trees stood shivering in long rows, their dead branches strewn about their feet. All was quiet, expectant, waiting for the promise of warmth and light that is held in the dawning of each new day to be fulfilled.

We reached a crossroad, and just as we came to a full stop, the sun spilled over the horizon in a breathtaking display of pink and orange and gold. It was as if the sky was on fire, and all of nature held its breath. Stunned, we sat in the car and drank in the beauty, neither of us saying a word. Suddenly, we, too, were quiet and expectant, filled with anticipation of the good things this new day might hold for us.

I don't really know why we were so taken by surprise. It isn't as if this is a rare occurrence. The sun comes up every day, like clockwork. It's just that, too often, I spend those first glorious minutes of the new day trying to catch the tail-end of a dream before I rise. Or, staring into my coffee cup, thinking about all the things I didn't get done yesterday, and deciding which ones I need to tackle first thing today.

The table where we do our morning devotions faces south, and, while that time together with the Lord each morning is wonderful, it can also be a bit predictable. There we sit in the candlelight with our noses in a book, oblivious to the glorious light show that is so often going on in the East!

And, so, I have a *new* New Year's resolution! In 2019, I resolve to spend more time looking to the East, waiting for the new day to dawn upon me. I will be more intentional about seeking the Lord's presence in the early morning hours, before the demands of the day take over and I forget the promise God makes to us in every sunrise – that warmth and light are ours for the asking, and that every day we wake, we are given a fresh start, a new beginning, another chance at Life. Thanks be to God!

Wishing you and yours a blessed, light-filled, Happy New Year!

Pastor Barb <><

In the morning, while it was still very dark, [Jesus] got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35

Serving Our Lord in January

Communion Assistant

Tommy Martin

Ushers

Brenden Fitzgerald and Ted Robinson

Altar Guild

Bobby Martin and Mary Lynn Robinson

Lectors

Jon Coogle and Wendi Martin

Acolytes:

Christian Head

Family Day Dinner:

Billy and Ginny Martin, Julia Snipes, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jeremy and Susan Martin.

Coffee Hour:

1-6 Ginny Martin

1-13 Tommy and Wendi Martin

1-20 Tricia Trask

1-27 Jenny Brannan

Flowers:

1-6: Jim and Patricia Trask in loving memory of John and Sarah Trask

1-13: Jimmy and Mary Kay Watson in honor of Daniel

1-20: Grady and Patsy English in loving memory of Miss Ruth Kleckley

1-27: David and Mary Haigler in honor of Will and Katie

Soup Kitchen –January 2nd - Gail Coogle

Sunday School Teachers:

K-5th Grade – Angela Cannon

6th – 12th Grade – Katie Felker

Adult Class - Lingle Room – Jon Coogle **Adult Class - Conference Room** – Wendi Martin

Prayer List

Please Pray For Members: Jim Arnold, Al Coogle, Bess Edwards, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Mary Hammock, Mack and Nancy McCarty, Zack Martin, George and Helen Smith, Leigh Powell, The Webb Family, Tricia Trask, Tony Webb, Lucile Williams, for our college students, for all the ministries of our church and for our Military.

For Friends and Family: Matthew Anderson, John Arnold, Donalie Belcher, Trey Chapple, Chic Cole, Brian Dietz, Karen Drysdale, Chris Fox, Trey Futrell, Allison Greene, Langdon Harp, Freddie & Linda Hartley, Joseph Hill, Bobby Hudson, Connie Johnson, Curtis Johnson, Jenny Joiner, Nancy Joyce, Mary Lamberth,, Harris Lott, Crystal Miller, Charlene Oliver, David Peaster, Charles Perry, Tiffany Richards, Ron Ricklef, Kim Sangster, Douglas Smith, Virginia Taylor and Pat Williams.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1-2 D.C. Williams

1-22 Lelan Moretz

1-3 Christian Head

1-27 Freddy Virden

1-9 Angie Collier

1-29 Richard Collier

1-12 Bill & D.C. Williams

1-30 Gulshanprem Choppla

1-19 Jenny Brannon

1-30 Myrtle Joiner

1-19 Aiden Coogle

1-31 Max Wood



January 2019

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|------|--|--|-------------------------------|------|---|
| | | 1 Happy New Year! No Activities | 2 Soup Kitchen Noon | 3 LLL Bingo 10:00 a.m. | 4 | 5 |
| 6 SS/Worship 11 a.m. Installation of New Council Members Chili Cook-Off-Noon | 7 | 8 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. Quilting 10:00 a.m. | 9 Bible Study Resumes 6:00 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 SS/Worship 11 a.m. Youth Group 5:00 p.m. | 14 | 15 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. | 16 Bible Study 6:00p.m. | 17 Oaks Nursing Home 10:00 | 18 | 19 Jenny Pastor Barb out of office, Will return Jan 22, 2019 |
| 20 SS/Worship 11 a.m. Family Day Meal Mutual Ministry Youth Group 5:00 p.m. | 21 | 22 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. | 23 Bible Study 6:00p.m. | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Council Mtg. 8:45 a.m. SS/Worship 11 a.m. Evangelism Mtg. Noon | 28 | 29 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. | 30 Bible Study 6:00p.m. Myrtle Joiner | 31 | | |



From left: Jon Coogle, Tommy Martin, Max Wood, Karen Coogle, Pastor Barb, Katie Felker and Colette Fand on clavanova.

A Musical Nativity

A Blessing to the Community

A big thank you to our choir members who supported this year's Walk Thru Bethlehem presentation of "A Musical Nativity." It was a great way to tell the story of Jesus' birth, and a good decision to hold it inside the gym this year, considering the rain was very loud on the tin roof as we sang! Thanks to Mary Haigler, who was instrumental in organizing this year's event. It is always heartwarming to see the area churches working together to bless our neighbors!

A Great Big Thank You for Your Giving Hearts!

As most of you know, Mt. Zion – St. Luke and the good folks from Montezuma Methodist take turns each year in hosting a Christmas Party for Foster Children in Macon County. This year, it was our turn to host the event, which was held on December 4th. Jenny Brannan and Celeste Trilla did a great job decorating the Lingle room, and Gail Coogle organized the party and the gift buying. Tommy Coogle delivered the gifts, our Youth wrapped them, pizza was ordered, and members of MUMC came and brought drinks and goodies to go along with it. MZSL also had many volunteers who came and helped serve and clean up after the party. Pastor Barb told the Christmas Story using the nativity set, with the help of the excited children. I am sure the shepherd's head can be glued back on. The children enjoyed the food, but, of course, the highlight of the party was the arrival of Santa himself! The children received some very nice gifts that made their eyes light up, along with gift cards to help their foster parents make their Christmas a little bit brighter!

Then, on December 9th, MZSL had its *Annual Christmas Dinner* after church, with donations accepted to pay for the presents after the fact, as is our tradition! The youth were a great help in serving drinks and cleaning up as their monthly service project, as were many other volunteers who brought food and helped make the party a success. We collected \$1500.00 dollars! Together with the donations from the Methodist Church, along with a Thrivent grant, we were able to cover the entire cost, as usual! God is so good! A special thanks also goes to Robbie and Tricia Pinckney, (Grady and Patsy English's daughter and son-in-law) Thrivent Representatives, who designated \$250.00 Thrivent dollars to the event, along with bringing some great Thrivent T-Shirts for the kids! Thanks to all of you who made it happen!



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hope everyone is enjoying a great start to the New Year! I want to thank everyone in the congregation for a very successful year in 2018. We were excited to have six new or returning members. Natalie, Edward and Reese Bradley, Joseph and Joy McNutt and Jennifer Walker. Although attendance is down somewhat, I believe this is a temporary situation, and I would encourage everyone to invite anyone they know to come and join us at Mt. Zion St Luke. It is an uplifting experience for me and I look forward to it every week.

Thanks to the outgoing Council member, Dale Godfrey, for her faithful service. And thanks to Wendi Martin and Renee Collier for agreeing to serve on Council for another term. We welcome our newly elected member, Joseph McNutt. He is going to be a valuable asset, and I am looking forward to his input. They, along with the other Council members, Max Wood, Arthur Jackson, Katie Felker and Mary Lynn Robinson, will be installed during worship on January 6th. We serve an awesome God and he is in total control.

In Christ Alone,

Jon Coogle

A Time To Give...

Advent is the time when The Giver gave the best offering the world has ever seen. We, the church, are so glad that God told Abraham "I got this! You can take Isaac back to the house." The Giver, Lord God Almighty, gave Jesus Christ His only begotten Son to us. He just wants 10% off the top of our first fruits of our time, talents, and money, and what is so hard about that? Hmmm? We must be intentional with the use of our time, talents and money in the service of the Lord. Hold fast and stand firm in our commitment to service our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, because, on the last day, we want to hear these words: "Well done thou good and faithful servant!"

Go with GOD!

Arthur Jackson,
Stewardship Committee

Mark Your Calendars for our Chili Cook-Off – Epiphany, January 6th, after Worship!



The winner will get to wear a King's Crown for a trophy! (Sorry. Our gold, frankincense and myrrh already went to the Baby Jesus!) The heat is on!

This year, Epiphany falls on a Sunday, so we are going to remember the day the Three Wise Kings finally found the Christ Child with a *Chili Cook-Off!* So, cook up your favorite recipe and put it in a crock pot and let it simmer all through worship, and then, we will gather in the Lingle Room to taste all the different kinds of chili and vote for our favorite!

