



January 2022

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

January 2022

Happy New Year!

- 1-2 Epiphany Observed**
Sunday School 10 am
Worship 11:00am with
**Installation of 2022
Council Members**
Online Option available
- 1-4** Centering Prayer 8:30a
- 1-5** *New Bible Study* 6 p.m.
- 1-9** Council Mtg 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10 am
Worship 11:00am
Online Option available
- 1-11** Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
- 1-12** Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
- 1-16** Sunday School 10 am
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option available
Family Day Meal after
Confirmation 12:30-1:30p
Newsletter Deadline
- 1-18** Centering Prayer 8:30
- 1-19** Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
- 1-23** Sunday School 10 am
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option available
- 1-25** Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
- 1-26** Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
- 1-30** Sunday School 10 am
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option available



A Note from the Pastor...

Dear Friends, Here we are at the start of another new year! It's hard to believe that I have been here *six years*, sharing ministry with you all. It is also hard to believe that we have basically been in a *holding* pattern for the last *two years*! Just before the pandemic struck early in 2020, we were at the critical stage of our Vision and Mission Planning process called Congregation Vitality.

If you remember, we had been meeting for 5 weeks in Soup and Small Group prayer sessions, listening to God, listening to each other, and listening to our community in order to discern how we as a church might best serve God and our neighbor. We were just about to come together as a congregation to pool our ideas, thoughts and insights from our small group prayer sessions when the virus put a screeching halt to our ability to meet together! All of our hard work got put on the back burner, where it has been simmering all this time!

But, nothing has been lost! What we have now is a good, basic stock to which we can add all the ingredients we need to wind up with a Vision and Mission Plan that will feed our souls and strengthen us for ministry in ways we might not have realized if not for this down time. For, you can be sure, the Holy Spirit has not been resting while we were forced to put a lot of our ministries on hold.

We are preparing now to come together and stir the soup! Council will meet on January 9th and make recommendations as to our next step as a congregation in the process of discernment. Together, we will decide how we can best hear God's voice as to which of our current ministries we want to keep, which ones we want to let go of, and what new ministry opportunities God might be offering us in the coming year.

This is an exciting time to be Church! And, *I* am excited to see where God will lead us in 2022! I ask you to pray for me and your 2022 Congregation Council as we strive to be faithful leaders and for Mt. Zion – St. Luke as a whole, as together, we lean into what promises to be a most fulfilling year. **God bless us, Everyone! Pastor Barb <><**

*And let us not grow weary while doing good,
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.* ^{NKJ} Galatians 6:9



January 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Epiphany Observed S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Installation of New Council Members D.C. Williams	3	4 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	5 New Bible Study Begins 6:00 pm	6	7	8
9 Council Meeting 8:45a.m. S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Angie Collier	10	11 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	12 Bible Study 6:00p.m. DC Williams & Bill Williams	13	14	15
16 S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Family Day Meal Confirmation Newsletter Deadline	17	18 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	19 Bible Study 6:00p.m. Jenny Brannon Aiden Coogle	20	21	22 Lelan Moretz
23 S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Angie Summer	24	25 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	26 Bible Study 6:00p.m.	27 Freddy Virden	28	29 Richard Collier
30 S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Gulshan & Neelima Choppla Myrtle Joiner	31 Max Wood					

A Big Thank You from our Foster Children

On Tuesday, December 7th, we gathered with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Montezuma United Methodist Church for our annual Foster Children's Christmas Gift Giving. This year, we took the same precautions as last year and had a *Drive-Through* Gift Giving and Carol Sing!

We gathered outside and sang carols as the cars drove through. Santa wished the children a Merry Christmas and put their gifts and Goodie Bags into each trunk. This year, we brightened the lives of at least 20 Foster Children. A special thank you goes out to Chez and Charlene from DEFAC as well, for coordinated with us and the Foster parents so we knew what to get for whom! A good time was had by all!

On December 19, 2021, we at MZSL gathered after worship for a delicious covered dish meal, with ham and potatoes provided by Gail Coogle. The meal was our annual fundraiser to cover our half of the gifts for the foster children. Gail reported that, as usual, God came through, and we received enough in donations to not only cover the cost of the 20 gifts given at the Drive-Through, but to just cover the 5 children that came into the system shortly after, so we could help brighten *their* Christmas as well! "God never ceases to amaze me." said Gail. Thank you all for being willing channels of God's blessings to those in our community who need a little help, especially at this time of the year.

The Day of Epiphany – Installation of 2022 Congregation Council

This year, the Day of Epiphany will be observed on January 2, 2022. This is the day we remember that the Wise Men followed the star and finally found the Baby Jesus they were seeking. The star stopped over the place where he lay, and they worshipped him and brought him gifts. We, too, offer our gifts to Jesus, the King of our hearts. With that in mind we give thanks for the folks who have offered the gift of their time and talent to the Lord by serving on our church's governing board, ***Congregation Council***. We will install them during the worship service on January 2nd. The Council members for 2022 are:

***Diane Cagle, Angela Cannon, David Haigler, Karen Hatten,
Joseph McNutt, Tommy Martin, and Julia Snipes.***

We give thanks to Wendi Martin, our outgoing Council member for serving us well through two consecutive terms on Council. Having completed his term in 2021, Joseph McNutt has accepted the call to serve for another three-year term. We are grateful that Max Wood has agreed to continue as our Assistant Treasurer. The *Executive Committee* for 2022 is:

President: David Haigler; Vice-President: Tommy Martin;
Treasurer: Joseph McNutt Secretary: *Julia Snipes*.

Be sure and thank these folks personally for serving MZSL and pray for the Spirit's guidance as we move forward into the New Year as part of Christ's Church.

Synod Abundance Appeal

In late 2020 the Southeastern Synod developed a plan, called the Abundance Appeal, to encourage additional financial support for future ministries of the synod in order to avert a potential short fall in funding. In 2020 MZSL donated the funds that had been set aside for the Synod Assemble (which was cancelled that year) to the appeal. The Abundance Appeal has been very successful but is still short of its goal. So, the Abundance Team has asked congregations and individuals to consider making further contributions to the appeal. This year our congregation council has decided not to make a donation from our congregation, but rather to give individuals in the congregation the opportunity to donate. Funds raised in the appeal support the many ministries of camps, seminaries, colleges and global partners.

If you would like to contribute to the appeal, send a check payable to the ELCA Southeastern Synod, P.O. Box 400, Decatur, GA 30031 and mark the check “Abundance Appeal.” If you have questions, contact David Haigler or Pastor Barb.

Disaster Relief Volunteer Opportunity

The tornadoes that went through Kentucky and Tennessee on December 10 – 11 were devastating. There was tremendous loss of property and life by these horrible storms, and people are hurting. Right now, Disaster Relief folks in both states are organizing to provide help for the survivors. *They need your help!*

There are several volunteer opportunities. You can be on phone duty to organize and support people from your own home if you can't go there directly. You can go onsite to muck out homes, clear away debris and do VBS-like activities to help children grieve. And, always, there is the need for funds. Please continue to pray for all who are living in the aftermath of this disaster.

And, if you can help in any of these ways, please contact Pastor Morgan Gordy at pmgordy@elca-ses.org, 615-483-3060. *Thank you for caring!*

Adopt-A-Highway Litter Pick-up

Our next Adopt-A-Highway litter pick-up will be held on Saturday, January 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mt. Zion site on Highway 26. We welcome all who would like to participate. If you have questions, please contact David Haigler.

Thank You for your Gifts to the Residents of The Oaks Nursing Home!

We were blessed this year to help the residents of the Oaks Nursing Home have a Merry Christmas by gifting them with 70 pairs of sleep shirts and pajamas! The pajamas and gowns will be very useful for the residents. It is a blessing to be able to give gifts and care for others who are in need in such hard times. Thanks to everyone who made donations for the gifts and to Karen Hatten, chair of the Evangelism/Social Ministry committee for coordinating the effort, purchasing, and delivering the gifts.

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

Please help keep this prayer list current. Contact Tracy Choppla to update list.

Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Al Coogle, Karen Coogle, Mary Jane & Carl Ethridge, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Emily Harvill, Joy McNutt, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Jim Trask, Tony Webb, our college students, and the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Dan Harvill Jr., Carol Jacobs, Janice Haugabook, Cleveland Hobbs, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Fanchone and Leigh Powel, Ann Roberts, Judy Segal, Karen Weathersbee, D.C. Williams, Marina's friend Chrystal, our nation, and the world

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards