



July 2018

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

July 2018

- 7-1 SS/Worship
- 7-2 Grace Circle 10:00 a.m
- 7-3 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 7-4 4th of July Holiday:
No Soup Kitchen
No Bible Study
- 7-8 SS/Worship
- 7-10 Centering Prayer 8:30
Quilting 10:00 a.m.
- 7-11 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 7-15 SS/Worship
Family Day
Mutual Ministry
Newsletter Deadline!
- 7-17 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 7-18 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 7-19 Oaks Nursing Home
10:00 a.m.
- 7-22 Council Mtg. 8:45 a.m.
SS/Worship
Evangelism Mtg.
- 7-24 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 7-25 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 7-27 VBS 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- 7-28 VBS 9:00 a.m.-noon
- 7-29 SS/Worship
- 7-31 Centering Prayer 8:30



The Day of Deliverance...

I love the 4th of July! Next to Easter, it’s my favorite holiday! I love the parades, and the picnics, and the watermelon, and the national anthem, (even when it is sung bad!). I love to feel the “Boom!” echo in your chest when you are just beneath

the fireworks when they burst into showers of light. They are great to look at from a distance, but in order to really appreciate fireworks, you have to get close enough to feel them explode, and get ashes in your hair. I love to watch the children, when that tell-tale “Phiitt!” sounds, and they know the next big boom is coming. All activity stops, faces turn up to the blue-black sky, and little mouths make a round “Ooooh!” at the awesome display. John Adams surely had the right idea when he turned to his wife, Abigail, in July of 1776 and said:

“I am apt to believe that the day will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.”

And that is what I love best about the 4th of July celebration – the deep and solemn meaning behind the observance of the day. It is the day we North Americans rejoice and revel in our most precious gift – our freedom. On this day, we remember how fortunate we are to live in the USA, where we have freedoms that other peoples only dream about. The freedom to speak our minds. The freedom to vote our conscience. The freedom to demand justice when we have been wronged, and to be heard when we do. The freedom to move from one place to another for work, for family, or even just for the weather! The freedom to worship our God in the way that is meaningful to us.

The 4th of July is doubly meaningful for we who follow Christ. For, while we celebrate our national heritage, we also celebrate that God has freed us beyond all political considerations, making us *truly* free in Christ. Because of Jesus, the 4th of July is a celebration of our *true* independence - our deliverance day from sin and death and all that is wrong in this broken world. It is a day that, in addition to the food and fun and fireworks, ought indeed to be spent with solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty, in whom our freedom is assured.

So, get out the games, the sports, the bells, the bonfires and the illuminations, and let’s celebrate our day of deliverance from one end of this beautiful continent to the other, until the end of time! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Blessings on your Independence Day celebration, Pastor Barb <><

For freedom Christ has set us free.

Galatians 5:1

Serving Our Lord in July

Communion Assistant	Bobby Martin
Ushers	Karen Hatten and Mack McCarty
Altar Guild	Jon Coogle and Wendi Martin
Lectors	Bob Koch and Tricia Trask
Acolytes:	Sam Choppla

Family Day Dinner:

Coffee Hour:

7-1 Ginny Martin	7-8 Jon Coogle
7-15 Arthur Jackson	7-22 Mary Jane Ethridge
7-29 Angela Cannon	

Flowers:

7-1	George and Helen Smith in honor of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
7-8	Jon and Karen Coogle in honor of their daughter, Callie
7-15	Bobby and Sharon Martin in loving memory of Betty Futrell
7-22	Bobby Moretz in loving memory of Jan Moretz and honor of Lelan, Ivy, Andy and grandchild, Scarlet Elizabeth
7-29	Emily Harvill in loving memory of Dan Harvill, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hammock, and Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Harvill.

Soup Kitchen: No Soup Kitchen, July 4th

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

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

7-1 Sam Choppla	7-12 Tony Collier
7-4 Carla Stuckey	7-15 David Haigler
7-8 Carl Ethridge	7-17 Laura Coogle
7-8 Mary Haigler	7-24 Bob Koch
7-9 Arthur Jackson	7-24 Sharon Martin

STARTING POINTS FOR STEWARDSHIP

In his article for Luther Seminary's stewardship newsletter, John Indermark discusses what he calls *Starting Points for Stewardship*, or what came across to me as *reasons for giving*. As you read these descriptions, consider which you think apply to yourself in your own personal giving as well as to our congregation in our giving as a whole.

1. Stewardship as an Investment. This is the thought that if you give, then God will bless you. This is a common thought, and we see many famous evangelists who make small fortunes from promoting this type of faith and giving. While we certainly believe there are riches awaiting those who are faithful, this thought as a starting point or reason for giving doesn't seem to hold up. If we believe we are blessed in accordance to our giving, how does that make us feel if a family member falls ill or we lose our jobs or we encounter some other form of deprivation? And if we are only giving in order to receive, where does that get us?

2. Stewardship as Crisis Management. I want us as a congregation to really reflect on this one. People who use this reason for giving tend to wait around until there is a desperate need. Maybe the church needs a new air conditioner or our weekly giving compared to budget has dipped to dangerous levels. Again, this starting point isn't all bad, and it definitely falls in line with our human urge to fix a problem or respond to a need., Indermark says, "If this is the starting point for stewardship, what happens to giving when the crisis is met? When the bills are paid and the balance is growing (or at least not declining), what will inspire next year's giving? If crisis management is the basis of Christian stewardship, does that mean the church must go through a yearly process of finding something new to push the panic button?"

3. Stewardship as an Obligation. Now, this one doesn't sound good right from the title, but if you think about it I believe this is how many of us were introduced to giving. This is the thought that it is *our duty* to give to the church. While disciplined giving can certainly be a good thing, the thought of giving as an obligation leaves out a very basic cornerstone to our faith: *grace*. Indermark says, "The coming of grace in Jesus Christ does not mean anything goes. Grace broadens our responsibilities - except now, they are responsibilities received by invitation rather than imposition. In Christian stewardship, the motive of duty proves insufficient."

4. Stewardship as Selfless Thanksgiving. Consider these two verses of scripture back-to-back; Psalm 24:1 followed by the ever-popular John 3:16. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Not only does everything we have belong to God, but God also loves us to an unbelievable degree - a love that demonstrates for us the act of *selfless giving*. Stewardship then is our *gracious response* to God's love through an act of love from us - the giving of ourselves and the giving back a portion of what really belongs to God in the first place.

Comparing Stewardship as Selfless Thanksgiving to the previous three reasons for giving, the author states that Stewardship as *selfless thanksgiving* celebrates and responds to God's favor so freely given, recognizes giving as a steady act of faith, whatever the circumstances, and moves us to giving as an *act of love*. "Duty can be commanded" Indermark says, "but *only love* can be offered. The gift of Jesus did not originate in an act of God's *duty* but through incarnation that embodied God's *love*. A sense of *duty* prompts us to meet minimal standards. *Love* beckons us to reach our full potential."

In which of the four points do you see your *own* reason for giving? Do you think MZSL has reached its potential of giving as an *act of love*?

Katie Felker, Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – COMING SOON TO MZSL!

We had such a *blast* last year with our Friday evening and Saturday morning VBS that we decided to do it again this year! So, grab a friend, and come on over to MZSL on Friday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m. for this year's *Polar Blast!* Sled into an ice way to spend the ultimate summer weekend! We will learn some cool new songs, have a bonfire, a craft project and learn from God's Word! Then, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, come hungry! Breakfast will be ready when you get here, and we will sing and finish our lesson and craft and have a great time until we wrap it up at noon! Come chill with friends, and warm up to Jesus, the coolest friend of all! If you have any questions, contact Renee Collier, Katie Felker, Susan Martin or Wendi Martin.

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

LOCAL DROP-OFF SITES
for LWR Quilt & Kit donations



Our Quilters have been busy all year getting ready for this day! On **August 24 and 25, 2018**, the ladies of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA will have 7 InGathering locations to collect this year's Quilts & Kits for Lutheran World Relief. They have wonderful site coordinators and volunteers that count, weigh, and tally everything that goes into the trucks. In addition to churches in the SES, they collect donations from churches in the Florida Panhandle, and South Carolina. We also collect from some Missouri Synod churches. Last year they exceeded their collection goal with a total of 38,812 pounds-that's over 19 TONS! They collected over 4,000 quilts, as well as 4,000 school kits and 3,649 Personal Care Kits! After consolidating their loads, they fully packed 3 tractor trailers plus an overflow truck to get all of this to the LWR warehouse in Maryland!

We at MZSL thank our Quilters for their leadership and hard work, so we as a congregation can be a part of this important ministry! Thank you, Quilters! (pictures to come in September after the InGathering.)

Prayer List

Please Pray For Members: Jim Arnold, Al Coogle, Bess Edwards, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Mary Hammock, Mack McCarty, Nancy McCarty, Tommy Martin, Zack Martin, George & Helen Smith, Leigh Powell, Tricia Trask, Tony Webb, the Webb Family, Lucile Williams, 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, Joann Edwards, Eloise Fagan, Chris Fox, Trey Futrell, Allison Greene, Langdon Harp, Freddie & Linda Hartley, Dale Holloway, Curtis Johnson, Jenny Joiner, Nancy Joyce, Mary Lamberth, Andy & Brenda Law Harris Lott, Charlene Oliver, David Peaster, Charles Perry, Tiffany Richards, Ron Ricklef, Kim Sangster, Virginia Taylor and Pat Williams.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards