



July 2020

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

July 2020

7-4 Happy Independence Day

7-5 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required
Online Option available
No Coffee Hour or Sunday School

7-7 No Centering Prayer
Social distancing required

7-12 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required
Online Option available
No Coffee Hour or Sunday School

7-14 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
Social distancing required

7-15 Bible Study Begins
7:00 a.m.

7-19 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required
Online Option available
No Coffee Hour or Sunday School **No Family Day Meal Newsletter Deadline**

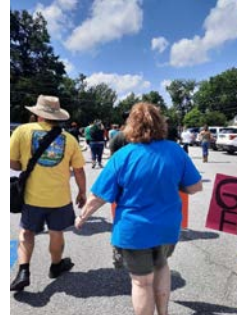
7-21 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.
Social distancing required

7-26 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required
Online Option available
No coffee Hour or Sunday School

7-28 No Centering Prayer
PB on vacation

Heartbreak and Hope...

The sun was gold. The sky was blue. The masks we wore were as varied in color as our skin as we gathered around the steps of City Hall in Montezuma for prayer before beginning our *Day of Unity* march to Charlie Jackson Park downtown. It did my heart good to see about 200 people; African Americans, whites, clergy, police officers and governmental officials all walking peacefully but purposefully together to take a stand for real change in our national systems so that all people might have the same rights and access to resources that we are all *supposed* to have under the law.



For most of my life, I have heard the saying, “We are all created equal, but some of us are more equal than others.” Over the past few months, I have watched the heartbreaking results of that kind of thinking in the form of social unrest across our nation. I think the pain of routinely being treated as less than equal is like a pressure cooker. Sometimes you have to let the steam out or you will explode. And, the rest of us, who have it pretty good most of the time, often cannot see the hurt that has led up to protests. Some of us only see the angry outbursts and shake our heads at such behavior.

But, along with the heartbreak, I am also filled with hope. Because it takes true empathy to be able to look beyond the acting out behavior to the reasons behind it. It takes a loving heart to want to do something to correct the problems and take the pressure off, so there is no need for release. That empathy and love were very evident on that Day of Unity march.

I was part of a group of diverse people all coming together with the same goal – to ask our country to uphold the basic tenets on which it was founded so there truly *is* liberty and justice *for all*. I am hopeful because I see evidence of a growing number of people of all colors that are willing to listen to each other and do the hard work so that real, systemic change happens. As you celebrate Independence Day this year, may you thank God for the freedoms you enjoy, and may you pray and be willing to do the work it takes so that *all* your neighbors can do the same.

Peace, Pastor Barb <><

If the son makes you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

Schedule for Serving Our Lord in July

Ushers	Mack McCarty and Joe McNutt
Altar Guild	Jon Coogle and Angela Cannon
Lectors	Renee Collier and Duck Koch

Family Day: *No Family Day Meal*

Coffee Hour: *No Coffee Hour until further notice*

Flowers:

7-5 George and Helen Smith in honor of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

7-12 Jon and Karen Coogle in honor of their daughter, Callie.

7-19 Bobby Moretz in loving memory of Jan Moretz and honor of Lelan, Ivy, and grandchild, Scarlet Elizabeth.

7-26 Emily Harvill in loving memory of Dan Harvill, Mr. and Mrs. J W Hammock, and Mr. and Mrs. W A Harvill.

7-1 **Soup Kitchen: No Soup Kitchen until further notice**

Sunday School Teachers: No Sunday School until further notice

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

7-1 Sam Choppla	7-12 Tony Collier
7-3 Carla Stuckey	7-15 David Haigler
7-8 Gulshanprem Choppla	7-15 Jennifer Walker
7-8 Carl Ethridge	7-17 Laura Coogle
7-8 Mary Haigler	7-24 Duck Koch
7-11 Henry Kleckley	7-24 Sharon Martin

Phase 1 Guidelines for In-Person Worship to Continue through July 2020

We continue to look to our synod leadership for guidance as to our in-person worship which began 6-7-2020. While we in Oglethorpe have been spared the devastating number of cases of Covid 19 that other, more populated areas of the nation have experienced, the number of cases in Macon county and the state of Georgia as a whole have continued on a slow rise.

Our synod recommends that congregations who have returned to in-person worship continue to follow the Phase I guidelines until the numbers start to go down. We have no reported illnesses in our congregation since we resumed in person worship, and we plan to keep it that way! Your Congregation Council continues to reassess the situation weekly. When the numbers go down, our next step is to make masks voluntary.

So, until we see an improvement in the numbers, we will continue to follow the guidelines below as we gather in our sanctuary for worship. We continue to offer our service online for those who are unable to join us in person at this time, and we are encouraged by the positive response and comments from those who join us to worship as a virtual community.

1. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet in family groups will be required.
2. Hand Sanitizer is at both entrances for your use upon entering the building.
3. Offerings will be placed in the plate at both entrances.
4. Communion will be self-contained individual cups picked up at the entrances.
5. No physical passing of the peace.
6. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet to be kept *after* the service as well.

Speaking for your Council, we thank you for your understanding and the way you have responded to this crisis. We have worked together and been pretty much of one mind as we all wait to learn what is next in these unprecedented times. I, as your pastor, am particularly grateful for your support of me as I learn new ways to stay connected with all of you. As always, I am available by phone or text for any of your pastoral concerns. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. *In Christian love, Pastor Barb <><*

Thanks Again For Your Faithful Stewardship!

We are truly blessed to have such faithful stewards at MZSL! Many of you continue to drop your offerings at the church or mail them in to P.O. Box 187, Oglethorpe, GA, 31068, even if you are unable to attend in person right now. Because of your generosity, we have been able to maintain our staff and care for our building and grounds as well as continue to do ministry in a new environment. Many thanks to Tommy Coogle who covered the cost of Video equipment so we could improve the quality of our recordings and go live with our online worship. Thanks for all scheduled for keeping up with altar flowers and plants, to Bobby Martin for attending to all the little behind the scenes worship needs and our servers each week.

We had a great response to the Drive-in Food Distribution of non-perishables for the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen in June. Karen Hatten reports that 130 bags of food were given out to those in need, so thank you to all who donated food. We were also able to help out a person in need of financial assistance.

Of course, good stewardship is not only about money. It is also a giving of your time and talent to support the work of the church. We thank Jamie and Angela Canon and Aiden Hobbs for fallen tree removal, both at the cemetery and on the church grounds. We thank Chipper Coogle and his crew for cleaning up the cemetery of the larger trunks of that huge tree. We thank our Council and all committee members for taking the extra time it takes to communicate while apart, to address issues as they arise. We thank Max Wood for all the work and time it takes him to do our banking and bill paying. David Haigler reports that he had a six hour Zoom meeting as a member of the synod council, so we thank David for representing us on the synod level! We thank Mary Haigler and Sharon Martin for sewing and donating face masks. And, we thank God for each and every one of you for your prayers and other ways you support MZSL! There isn't enough room in this newsletter to name you all, but we know, and God knows! *Thank you!*

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

Follow our Face Book Group Page *Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends* to worship online live at 11:00 a.m.!

Don't forget that there are sermons from Bishop Strickland and other synod staff persons, Covid 19 information and other resources on our synod website: www.elca-ses.org

Help us keep this Prayer List Current!

Call the Church Office at 478-472-6173 or Pastor Barb at 912-677-7011 to remove or add persons to this list.

Please Pray for Members: Al Coogle; Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr; Emily Harvill; Zach Martin; Joe McNutt; Tricia Trask; Tony Webb; for our college students, and for all the ministries of our church.

In Christian Sympathy: Franchelle Arnold and the family of Jim Arnold who went home to be with his Lord on June 25th. A graveside service at Mt Zion was held on June 27th ; Pastor Barb officiating.

For Friends and Family: James Edmonton; Langdon Harp; Janice Haugabook; Ricky Haugabook; Larry Hobbes; Sandra and John Homer; Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller; Buddy Murph; Charlene Oliver; Charles Oliver; Don Oliver; Leigh Powell; Douglas Smith; and Joanne Waymon.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards



Please Note! All July activities subject to change depending on Covid-19 reports. Check emails regularly for updates.

July 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Sam Choppla	2	3 Carla Stuckey	4 Fourth of July
5 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required	6	7 No Centering Prayer 8:30 a.	8 Gulshanprem Choppla Carl Ethridge Mary Haigler	9	10	11 Henry Kleckley
12 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required Tony Collier	13	14 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	15 Bible Study Begins 7:00 p.m. David Haigler Jennifer Walker	16	17 Laura Coogle	18
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