



July 2021

# Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

**July 2021**

**7-4 Independence Day!**

Sunday School 10:00  
Worship 11:00 a.m.

**7-6 Centering Prayer 8:30**

**7-7 Soup Kitchen at noon**  
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**7-11 Sunday School 10:00**  
Worship 11:00 a.m.

**7-13 Centering Prayer**

**7-14 Bible Study 7 p.m.**

**7-18 Sunday School 10:00**  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
***Family Day Dinner***  
***Newsletter Deadline***

**7-20 Centering Prayer**  
8:30 a.m.

**7-21 Bible Study 7 p.m.**

**7-25 Sunday School 10:00**  
Worship 11:00 a.m.

**7-27 Centering Prayer**  
8:30 a.m.

**7-28 Singing at The Oaks**  
10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study 7 p.m.

***Looking Ahead...***



My car has a nice little feature meant to assist me in driving safely. It's a screen on the dash that kicks in the minute I throw the car into reverse. It has little yellow lines to guide me so I don't get too close to objects behind as I back up. It's a great device, and a big improvement over that little rearview mirror I had in my old car. That was about useless, and I always ended up craning my neck to look over my shoulder to make sure I didn't hit anything. Because, even with an assistive device, you just can't see as well when you are looking out the back window.

I always feel a bit relieved when I turn around and look out that big front windshield, put the car in drive and head on down the road. The rearview mirror is then only a tool to be aware of my surroundings. A brief glance backward now and then is sufficient. For, there is always more of a risk of an accident when you are looking behind you than when you are looking ahead.

That's a good analogy for us as a church, as well. We've been idling for a while now, sitting out this pandemic. Out of necessity, our view has been narrow – confined to that little rearview mirror and the things that lay behind us. Seen from that vantage point, the future of the church looks bleak indeed. We look at how it used to be and wonder if we will ever get there again.

It's time now to turn around and adjust our vision to that big window in front of us! It's time to realize that where we *have* been may not be where we want to be, *now*! It's time to decide where we are going and how we are going to get there, using that rearview mirror only as a tool to be aware of our surroundings.

There's a whole, big world out there in front of us! Adventure awaits! God has a vision and a plan for this church, and we have been invited to come along for the ride! I, for one, can't wait to see what God has in mind. It can only be good!

Looking forward to our journey together, ***Pastor Barb <><***

*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...  
to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

## Altar Flowers

Many of our members contribute the beautiful plants and flowers that grace our sanctuary each Sunday. Thank you! Betsy Griffin does a wonderful job creating the fresh flower arrangements. Those flowers can have a second life!

We now have a supply of large glass vases available for you to take your flowers home after the service. These vases have been donated, so it is not necessary to return them. The vases are located in the kitchen over sink #2, closest to the refrigerator. There are also some in the cupboard to the left of the sink. If you will be out of town or you would like for the flowers to be donated to a shut-in or an ill member of the church, please let Pastor Barb or Julia Snipes know.

## Coffee Hour is Back!

Starting on July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will resume Coffee Hour. Refreshments will be available from 9:00 am until 10:00 am. Check for your assigned dates in the 2021 Yearbook.

July 4<sup>th</sup> - Henry Kleckley, July 11<sup>th</sup> - Jon Coogle, July 18<sup>th</sup> – Arthur Jackson, July 25<sup>th</sup> - Mary Jane Ethridge. Set up and cleanup is the responsibility of those assigned coffee Hour.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

On Saturday, June 5, Mary and I attended the 2021 Synod Assembly sitting in our home office in front of our computers. It was Bishop Kevin Stricklands's first time at presiding over the assembly and it was the first ever "digital" assembly. The theme of the assembly was "Equip, Empower and Engage the Beloved Community." A total of 280 voting members were in attendance. The assembly was live-streamed from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atlanta.

Several elections were held during the assembly, including the election of Pastor Randy Jones as Synod Secretary for a second term. Voting members were elected to serve at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to be held in Columbus, Ohio, as well as two at-large members of the Synod Council. Conference representatives, who were elected in a pre-assembly gathering in March, were ratified by the Synod Assembly. That number included me, as I was elected to serve a second two-year term.

The 2022-2023 Ministry Funding Plan was adopted and the 2022 Compensation Guidelines for pastors and other congregational staff were approved. Additionally, several changes to the Synod constitution were approved, including the establishment of a new Mission Endowment Fund.

If it seems that the assembly was all routine business and, well, rather dull, I should point out that the assembly began with some lively music and a very inspirational worship service. It ended with a moving presentation of the 2021 Robert S. and Jean E. Graetz Advocacy Award to Mr. Jerry Weyrauch for his lifetime of work in suicide prevention, including the founding of the Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network. During the breaks, video presentations by the Synod's ministry partners were played (and these are available to congregations).

While it was convenient to "attend" the assembly from home, Mary and I missed some of the perks of an in-person assembly: Visiting with some of our former pastors, participating in the very creative worship services, and enjoying the amenities of downtown Chattanooga. I am pleased to let you know that the 2022 Synod Assembly will be held on June 3, 4, and 5 in Chattanooga. You can read much more about the assembly, and even view some of its segments, by going to the assembly website: [elca-ses.org/assembly](http://elca-ses.org/assembly).  
*In Christ, David Haigler, Council President*

## Serving Our Lord in July

**Altar Guild**

Angela Cannon & Jon Coogle

**Lectors**

Renee Collier & Duck Koch

**Sound Technicians:**

Bobby Martin, Duck Koch, Joy McNutt

**Acolyte**

Sam Choppla

**Family Day:** Ted & Mary Lynn Robinson, Julia Snipes, Brenden Fitzgerald

### **Coffee Hour:**

07-04 Henry Kleckley

07-11 Jon Coogle

07-18 Arthur Jackson

07-25 Mary Jane Ethridge

### **Flowers**

**07-04** Jon and Karen Coogle in honor of their daughter, Callie

**07-11** George and Helen Smith in honor of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

**07-11** Bobby Moretz in loving memory of Jan Moretz and in honor of Lelan, Ivy, Andy, and grandchild, Scarlet Elizabeth

**07-25** Emily Harvill in loving memory of Dan Harvill, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hammock, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harvill

**Soup Kitchen:** *July 7, 2021, at Noon:* Karen Hatten/Jenny Brannan

**Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. for all ages in the Education Building.**

**Youth:** Upstairs - Katie Felker, Angela Hobbs, Renee Collier

**Adult Classes:** *Conference Room* – Wendi Martin

*Lingle Room:* John Coogle and David Haigler

### July Birthdays and Anniversaries

07-01 Sam Choppla

07-12 Tony Collier

07-03 Carla Stuckey

07-15 David Haigler

07-08 Gulshan Choppla

07-15 Jennifer Walker

07-08 Mary Haigler

07-17 Laura Coogle

07-09 Arthur Jackson

07-24 Duck Koch

07-24 Sharon Martin

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

**P.O. Box 187**

**401 Randolph Street**

**Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068**

**No Council Meeting for the month of July!**

**Please help keep this prayer list current. Contact Tracy Choppla to add or remove names. Pray for members:** Franchelle Arnold, Angela Cannon, Al Coogle, Mary Jane Ethridge, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Dan Harvill Jr., Emily Harvill, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Tony Webb, our college students, and for all the ministries of our church.

**For Friends and Family:** Susan Brennen, Janice Haugabook, Ricky Haugabook, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Don Oliver, Leigh Powel, Rob and Judy Stegall, Karen Weathersbee and family, D.C Williams, Marina's friend Chrystal, our nation, and the world.

**Serving Our Nation:** John Edwards.