



*June 2018*

# Good News

**Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran**

## June 2018

- 6-3 SS/Worship
- 6-4 Grace Circle 10:00 a.m.
- 6-5 Centering Prayer 8:30 a
- 6-6 Soup Kitchen Noon  
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 6-7 LLL Bingo 10a
- 6-10 SS/Worship,
- 6-12 Centering Prayer 8:30a  
Quilting 10:00 a.m.
- 6-13 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 6-17 SS/Worship,  
No Family Day  
No Mutual Ministry  
**News Letter Deadline**  
Father's Day
- 6 19 Centering Prayer 8:30a
- 6-20 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 6-21 Oaks Nursing Home  
10:00 a.m.
- 6-24 Council Meets 8:45 a.  
SS/Worship  
Evangelism Mtg.  
Ice Cream Social/  
Hopes and Dreams 5:00 p.m.
- 6-26 Centering Prayer 8:30a
- 6-27 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

## *Holy Fire...*

We sat around a bonfire under the clear night sky. Stars winked at us through the leafy canopy of vines and mossy trees as we watched the flames dancing in the circle of stones. We thought about the marvel of fire, and how dependent on it we humans are, for warmth, for light, for cooking. We remarked on how important an invention was the match - portable fire - and regretted that none of us knew the art of how to create fire from scratch, with flint and steel. "How will we survive when the oil runs out without that basic skill?" we mused. But, that reality seemed far away. And we had each other, after all.

There is something about a bonfire that brings people closer together. Gathered in a circle of light, you feel safer, less vulnerable to the darkness at your back. The flames are hypnotizing. Fire touches something deep within you. Your breath comes out in long, soft sighs. Your head feels heavy on your neck. You can feel the stress leave your body, draining out through your fingertips, to sink away into the warm, dark earth.

The reason we connect so easily with fire is that we have a fire within - the Holy Spirit - *Holy Fire that* burns deep within our souls. We are part of a greater reality that we recognize in the blaze of a bonfire on a star-lit night. The fire within meets the fire without, and for a time, we feel complete, relaxed, and whole. Caught in the moment, the firelight reflected in the eyes of a friend can cause something to break open in your soul. The heat of it turns your thoughts into molten words that well up inside you like lava from a volcano about to erupt. You open your mouth, and your life pours out; hopes and dreams, disappointments and regrets all mingled together. You didn't mean to disclose so much. You wonder if he will laugh. But, remarkably, your friend merely nods, and says, "Yep. I've felt that way myself."

The companionable silence that follows such a revelation is a revelation in itself. How awesome to find that you are not as alone in your thoughts and feelings as you thought you were; that others share your experiences, or at least, can relate. You sit back in your chair and watch the flames turn from red-gold to green to blue. A smile of contentment settles in the corners of your mouth. It's good to have someone who knows so much about you, understands and loves you, no matter what. With a friend like that, you could get through anything, couldn't you

You *have* a friend like that! One who understands you like no one else can, because he can look through the windows of your eyes, beyond the curtains you have drawn so tightly, and see into every corner of your soul. He knows all about you, understands and loves you, no matter what. His name is Jesus. Come. Join us in the circle. Let the holy fire of his love dance in your own eyes. Learn with us what it means that Jesus calls you friend.

***Blessings on your summer , Pastor Barb <><***

*What could be sweeter than to have a friend with whom,  
as with yourself, you can discuss all that is in your heart?*

*Meister Eckhart*

## Serving Our Lord in June

<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Bob Koch
<b>Ushers</b>	Tommy Martin and Tony Webb
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Angela Cannon and Bobby Martin
<b>Lectors</b>	Arthur Jackson and Mary Haigler
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Winn Martin

**Family Day Dinner: No Family Day in Month of June**

### **Coffee Hour:**

<b>6-3</b>	<b>6-10</b> Sharon Martin
<b>6-17</b> Tricia Trask	<b>6-24</b> Jenny Brannan

### **Flowers:**

<b>6-3</b>	Tommy and Gail Coogle in honor of their children and grandchildren
<b>6-10</b>	To the glory of God with thanks for 27 happy years of marriage, by Pastor Barb and Duck Koch
<b>6-17</b>	Mary Jane and Carl Ethridge in honor of their sons, Aaron and Brian and their families
<b>6-24</b>	George and Helen Smith in memory of their daughter, Linda Rogers

**Soup Kitchen:** Soup Kitchen: June 6th, Noon: Dale Godfrey & Mary Lynn Robinson

### **Sunday School Teachers:**

<b>K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Angela Cannon	<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Renee Collier
<b>Adult Class Lingle Room</b> – Sharon Martin	<b>Adult Class Conference Room</b> – Wendi Martin

### **June Birthdays and Anniversaries**

6-3 Ginny Martin	6-19 Mary Virden
6-6 Pastor Barb & Duck Koch	6-20 Billy Martin
6-9 Diane Cagle	6-22 Julia Snipes
6-11 Billy & Ginny Martin	6-22 Mary Jane Ethridge
6-13 Blake Coogle	

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a word we hear mentioned in the congregation from time to time, particularly when we are preparing our budget for the next year. But stewardship is about much more than balancing the books and keeping the church's lights on. Stewardship is accountability for deciding how best to spend the time, talents and possessions God has given to us. In an article entitled "The Starting Point of Stewardship" posted in the Luther Seminary's stewardship newsletter, John Indermark describes stewardship as an act of "selfless thanksgiving" for the love that God has demonstrated for us. Psalm 24, verse 1 states, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." Faithful stewardship begins with the affirmation that everything belongs to God--all we have and all we are. We are merely stewards or managers of all things given out of God's great love for us. In the familiar John 3:16 we read, "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." We give of our time, talent and treasures in response to God's gifts to us and great love for us. And we make every effort to be faithful stewards of all the resources God has provided—the earth, our skills and abilities, our income and other material possessions.

Several years ago we revised our congregation's bylaws to separate the former Stewardship and Finance Committee into two committees, one managing the finances of the congregation and the other for stewardship. This was done to help us focus on a broader approach to stewardship. In addition to its leadership in the year-round concern for our regular offerings, the role of the committee includes conducting surveys of our congregation members' willingness to share their time and talents for the benefit of God's work in the congregation. The committee is also charged with providing information to the congregation about the many programs of the synod and ELCA and making recommendations as to how we can most effectively support the programs. Additionally, the committee oversees activities that protect and preserve God's creation and offers education about the importance of these activities. Our aluminum can recycling project and the Adopt-A-Highway litter pickups fall into this category.

At the first meeting of the Stewardship Committee this year we decided that committee members would write articles for our monthly newsletter to better inform the congregation about stewardship. Some of the articles will focus on the more Biblical or theological foundations of stewardship, some will describe opportunities for us to support the programs of the synod and ELCA, and others will give information about current or potential stewardship projects of our own congregation. We hope you will find these articles informative, educational and inspirational in your own stewardship journey.

David Haigler, Stewardship Committee Member

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### Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, we were blessed to welcome two new members into our faith community: **Joy and Joseph McNutt**. Joy is a Legal Assistant and Joseph is a Program Manager for a large corporation. They have one grown daughter; Hillary. Joy and Joseph moved to Oglethorpe a few months ago from Kathleen, GA, looking for a more "small town" atmosphere. and we are happy that they decided to join our church family. Joy was received through the Rite of Holy Baptism, and Joseph, by Affirmation of his baptism. Please seek Joy and Joseph out and welcome them personally, if you haven't done so already. Welcome, Joy and Joseph! We look forward to doing God's work together with you here at Mt. Zion – St. Luke!

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### Ice Cream Social and Sharing of Hopes and Dreams for the Future – Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

In preparing for our 180<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Ministry and Homecoming, we will hold an *Ice Cream Social* fund raiser on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at MZSL. We will have an *Ice Cream Freeze-Off*, with a trophy for the Best All-Around Ice Cream of the day. Anyone can enter. Just bring your favorite homemade ice cream, and the group will do a taste test, with the trophy going to the entry with the most votes! After the Freeze-Off, Pastor Barb will lead us in a conversation about our hopes and dreams for the future direction of MZSL – a most timely topic as we celebrate 180 years of ministry!

Donations will gladly be accepted for the 180<sup>th</sup> Celebration during this event.

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

**P.O. Box 187**

**401 Randolph Street**

**Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

This year, we are happy to announce that we will be celebrating 180 years of ministry with a Homecoming/ Celebration Service on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. with coffee and baked goods at the Mt. Zion Cemetery on HWY 26. When all have gathered, we will hear a brief history of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, then take a Cemetery Walk, where we will meet some of our most illustrious late members as they tell you their life story. We will then proceed to Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church for a celebratory worship service with Bishop Julian Gordy of our Southeastern Synod presiding, and former pastor Rev. John Lingle preaching. The worship service will be followed by a BBQ dinner. Please mark your calendars and look for updates in the days ahead.

### **Centering Prayer Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Would you like to deepen your prayer life? Have you felt a desire to be closer to God but are not sure how to begin? Then Centering Prayer may be the answer. Centering Prayer is a way of quieting your soul to rest in God's presence. It is a different way of meeting God, and drawing closer in your relationship with God. We meet each Tuesday in the sanctuary at 8:30 am. We light a candle, have a short devotion, then sit in silence together for 20 minutes. After closing with the Lord's Prayer, we go out to meet the challenges of the day. If you would like more information, or if mornings are not good for you and you would like to start a second group in the afternoon, please talk with Pastor Barb.

### **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, 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, Harris Lott, Charlene Oliver, David Peaster, Charles Perry, Ron Ricklef, Kim Sangster, and Virginia Taylor.

***Serving Our Nation:*** John Edwards