



March 2021

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

March 2021

3-2 No Centering Prayer
8:30 PB out of town.

3-3 Wednesday Lenten
Service 6:00 p.m. **Online
Only.**

3-7 Lent 3 Worship
11:00 a.m. **Online Only**

3-9 Centering Prayer 8:30

3-10 Wednesday Lenten
Service 6:00 p.m. **Online
Only.**

3-14 Council Meeting at
9:30 a.m.
Lent 4 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Only

3-16 Centering Prayer
8:30 a.m.

3-17 Wednesday Lenten
Service 6:00 p.m. **Online
Only.**

3-21 Lent 5 Worship
11:00 a.m. **Online Only
Newsletter Deadline**

3-23 Centering Prayer
8:30 a.m.

3-24 Wednesday Lenten
Service 6:00 p.m. **Online
Only.**

3-28 Palm Sunday
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Only

A Spring in Your Step...

The sun was warm. The sky was blue. There was not a cloud in the sky. I knew all this from looking out my window as I worked away at my computer. I had been at it all morning, and the kink in my neck was really starting to bug me. I needed a break! I was thinking of a cup of coffee when my phone began to make that sound that meant I had a text message. Rubbing my neck, I clicked on it. It was from a friend. “Want to take a walk?” she asked. Looking at my schedule, I almost typed, “Sorry, no can do.” But, that little voice in my head stopped me. “Getting outside in my beautiful sunshine will be better than a cup of coffee any day!” “Yes, Lord.” I said, “You are *so* right!” and I texted back, “I’ll be ready in 5!”



There is something about a walk outside with a friend that cements a relationship like no other activity. The beauty of God’s green earth surrounds you both like a bubble, insulating you from the rest of the world. You notice the birds, the trees, the sun sparkling on the water, but your attention is focused more on the person you are with. You talk, you laugh, you listen, you pour out your dreams and share comfortable silences, nothing but the sound of your footsteps as you walk, and before long, you notice a little spring in your step. You are in tune with the world, and peace floods your senses.

Speaking of floods, last week, our Old Testament lesson was about the familiar story of *Noah* and the flood – how God became so fed up with the behavior of the people he had made that he decided to wipe them all off the face of the earth. But there was *one man* who found favor with God. His name was Noah. How did he do it? The Bible says Noah “walked with God.” (Genesis 6:9)

Well, what exactly does that mean? Does that mean to physically get out in nature and walk, hoping God shows up? It *can* happen that way. But walking with God means so much more! It means taking the time each day to give God your undivided attention. It means talking with God in prayer, listening for God’s answer, studying God’s word so you know how to live a Godly life, then trying to do so. Walking with God means you trust that God knows what is best for your life and you do whatever it is he asks of you, even if it doesn’t make sense at the time. As you walk with God, there is a closeness - an intimacy that develops between the two of you that only grows deeper with time. And that is how you find favor in God’s sight.

May your walk with God put a spring in your step as you continue on this journey called Life. And may it be a comfort to know that with God, you will never walk alone.

Blessings, Pastor Barb <>

... What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8



March 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Daniel Watson	2 No Centering prayer. PB will be out of town. Jimmy Watson	3 <i>Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. Online</i> April Martin	4	5	6
7 Worship 11:00 a.m. <i>Online Only</i>	8	9 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	10 <i>Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. Online</i>	11	12	13
14 Council Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. <i>Online Only</i> Winn Martin	15	16 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	17 <i>Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. Online</i>	18 Phillip & Carla Stuckey	19	20
21 Worship 11:00 a.m. <i>Online Only</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	22	23 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. Patsy English	24 <i>Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. Online</i>	25	26	27 Landon Martin
28 Worship 11:00 a.m. <i>Online Only</i>	29 Jamey Cannon Jimmy & Mary Kay Watson	30 Jamey & Angela Cannon	31 Ivy Moretz Cazier	1 Maundy Thursday TBA	2 Good Friday	

Serving Our Lord in March

Ushers	Jamey Cannon and Tommy Coogle
Altar Guild	Gail Coogle and Duck Koch
Lectors	Karen Coogle and Mary Kay Watson

Family Day: *No Family Day Meal until further notice.*

Coffee Hour: *No Coffee Hour until further notice.*

Flowers:

3-07 Jim and Patricia Trask in honor of their children and grandchildren.

3-14 Ann Coogle and Sara H Dawson in loving memory of Annette Coogle and Ed Coogle; Ed Coogle, Jr.

3-21 Jon and Karen Coogle in memory of Barbara and Bill Scovill.

3-28 Joy and Joseph McNutt in memory of Joe's grandmother, Ruth Shields.

Soup Kitchen: *No Soup Kitchen until further notice.*

Sunday School: *No Sunday School until further notice.*

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

3-01 Daniel Watson	3-27 Landon Martin
3-02 Jimmy Watson	3-29 Jamey Cannon
3-03 April Martin	3-29 Jimmy & Mary Kay Watson
3-14 Winn Martin	3-30 Jamey & Angela Cannon
3-18 Phillip & Carla Stuckey	3-31 Ivy Moretz Cazier
3-23 Patsy English	

Lenten Evening Prayer Services

This year, our Lenten observance will be a glimpse into the lives and thoughts of five of our earliest Christian Spiritual Leaders. Each week, we will feature one of our desert fathers and mothers and glean a word of wisdom from his or her walk of faith that we can use to enrich our own prayer lives. We will pray and sing together as we meditate on their writings. The services will be from 15 to 20 minutes long, pre-recorded and offered online at Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends Face Book group page during the day on Wednesday for you to watch at a time of your choosing.



In order to get the most out of the service, you will need to set up a sacred space in your home with a lit candle and a bowl of soil from your yard at center. (See Ash Wednesday posted service for details) Pick a time when you will not be distracted for the entire service and offer this prayer time to the Lord as your Lenten Discipline. The service lends itself well to a family praying together or to individual time alone with God.

Week 1: Wednesday, February 24th: *Julian of Norwich*

Week 2: Wednesday, March 3rd : *Thomas Aquinas*

Week 3: Wednesday, March 10th: *Mechthild of Magdeburg*

Week 4: Wednesday, March 17th : *Francis of Assisi*

Week 5: Wednesday, March 24th : *Hildegard von Bingen*

Looking Ahead to Holy Week 2021

Your Congregation Council is assessing the Covid 19 data weekly to determine when we might return to in-person worship. As of this writing, Macon County continues to be in the Extremely-High risk category along with several of our neighboring counties, so we will continue online only. However, the numbers are going down, and it is our prayer that we will continue with that trend as vaccines become more available. We still need to take precautions, even with vaccines, but we are hopeful that we can resume in-person worship soon.

So, we will remain online only until further notice. Tentatively, our schedule is as follows:

Palm Sunday, March 28th Online service live at 11:00 am.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st ... Online Service posted for viewing by 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2nd Online Service posted for viewing by 6:00 p.m.;

Easter Sunday, April 4th..... Online Service live at 11:00 a.m.; *in-person TBA*. Council, along with Worship and Music, will assess the situation and decide if we will be able to celebrate Easter in person with an online option or online only in time for you to plan.

Please pray for your leadership and for clear guidance from medical professionals in these difficult decisions. Thank you for your understanding and prayers, Pastor Barb and David Haigler.

“Thank You!” from Pulaski’s Women’s Prison

A “Thank You!” letter was received from the Pulaski’s Women’s Prison for our continued support of the prison by supplying shampoos, lotions and other necessities to the women housed in its facility. We will let you know the date for our next drive for items to donate to the women at the prison when it is determined. In the meantime, please pray for the prison and the women within its walls. Thank you for your care and concern for the incarcerated.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A VOTING MEMBER FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY -2021

The Southeastern Synod Assembly for 2021 will be held on Saturday, June 5. As you may remember, the Synod Assembly for 2020 was cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns. This year the assembly will be all digital and last only one day. There will be some business to include the election of at-large members on the Synod Council, voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (2022), and various committees. A worship service will be held and a Bible study will be conducted (both usually excellent).

In addition to Pastor Barb, Mt. Zion-St. Luke will have two voting members, one male and one female. We almost always send a married couple (Mary and I for the last several years), but since this year's assembly will be one day and attended from home, the practical reasons for sending a couple no longer apply. And it may be more convenient than usual for MZSL members to participate. There will be a registration fee (which the church pays), but there will be no travel expense or hotel stay. The congregation council plans to elect our voting members at its next meeting on March 18. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Barb or me know before that time. You don't have to be a voting member to attend the virtual assembly and watch the action. You just won't be able to vote. If you have questions about the assembly, please contact Pastor Barb or me. David Haigler, *Council President*

From Your Stewardship Committee

2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” So, tithing/giving is intended to be a joy and a blessing. That being said, may God bless all of you with many gifts of time, talents and resources during this coming year so you will be a cheerful giver.

The Stewardship Committee is looking for ideas for preserving and protecting God's wonderful earth. In the past, recycling aluminum cans and plastic bags were done to help the environment. If you are interested in recycling aluminum drink cans ONLY, (NO food cans or pie plates) bring and put in bins behind the small storage buildings at the church by the last Wednesday of each month.

Stewardship Committee Members are needed! Please let Diane Cagle know if you are interested in serving on the committee or taking cans to the metal recycle facility in Montezuma. Any other earthkeeping project suggestions are welcome! You can contact me at 229-331-2739 or dcagle@windstream.net).

Thanks, Diane Cagle, Council Member and Stewardship Committee Chair

Women of the Range Retreat - March 5-7, 2021 at Lutheranch, Tallapoosa, Georgia

Do you dream of being a cowgirl? Always wish you'd lived in the Wild West? Dust off your cowboy hat and put on your boots for a true western experience on the ranch. Women of all ages are invited to spend the weekend experiencing life on the range while still living in comfort. Stay in the McKanna- Sandroock Retreat Center, with single or double accommodations. Wake up to the sounds of cattle lowing and donkeys braying in the nearby pastures. Enjoy breakfast and a fresh brewed cup of coffee from the “cowboy kitchen” on the porch, then head over to the barn to saddle up and ride the range. Try your hand at using the forge with our local farrier, make your own horsehair jewelry, and take some time for a little R&R in your room or relaxing in a rocking chair on the porch. End your days with chuckwagon dinners and conversation around the campfire. Bible study will focus on what it means to be “Branded by God” and we'll wrap up the weekend with Cowboy Church at the barn on Sunday morning. Moderate mobility is recommended for this retreat, but no previous horse experience is needed. Cost is \$379 double or \$429 single occupancy.

All precautions taken for Covid 19 safety can be reviewed on our website. You can register or get more info at www.lutheranch.org

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Quilting Ministry on Temporary Hold

Because of precautions due to COVID-19 and the construction going on in the parish house, our quilting group has not met for almost a year. Hopefully, we'll be able to start quilting again soon. The quilts that we make, and others made in congregations across the country, are boxed and delivered to regional in-gatherings that take place once or twice a year. A truck from Lutheran World Relief is waiting at the site to take them to the warehouse where they are sorted and packed for shipping overseas. The last quilts we sent were delivered to an in gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lilburn in August of 2018. Lutheran World Relief makes it possible for the churches to track the quilts they make using a tracking number. We used our number and learned that the nine quilts that we sent in that batch were sent to Iraq on March 1, 2019. Our prayer is that each person who receives a quilt feels not only the warmth of the quilt, but also the warmth of God's love.

Our little quilting group appreciates the support we have received from our congregation. Through your generosity we have had all the fabric and sheets that we need for making the quilts, and the money to buy other supplies. At this time, we have all the supplies we need to keep us busy making quilts for a while. We'll let you know when we need more. Thank you for your support. One thing we can all do at this time is to pray that this ministry continues to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the people we serve all over the world. *Mary Haigler.*

Please help keep this prayer list current. Contact Tracy Choppla to add or remove names.

Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Al Coogle, Mary Jane Ethridge, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Emily Harvill, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Helen Smith, Tricia Trask, Tony Webb, our college students, and for all the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Susan Brennen, Bonnie Goodrich, Janice Haugabook, Ricky Haugabook, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Don Oliver, Charles Perry, Leigh Powel, Karen Weathersbee and family, for Marina's friend Chrystal, for our nation, and the world. ***Serving Our Nation:*** John Edwards