



May 2020

# Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

## May 2020

5-3 Online Worship 11a  
MZSL Lutheran Friends  
Face Book Page

5-10 Online Worship 11a  
MZSL Lutheran Friends  
Face Book Page  
*Mother's Day*

5-17 Online Worship 11a  
MZSL Lutheran Friends  
Face Book Page  
*Newsletter Deadline*

*If all goes as planned, on site  
worship will resume 5-24*

5-24 Sunday School *TBA*  
Worship Service 11:00 a

5-25 *Memorial Day*

5-26 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.

5-27 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

5-31 Sunday School *TBA*  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
Worship Service 11:00 a

### *SERENITY*

My Aunt Annette had this prayer embroidered and it hung at the fireplace in the den and for some reason I was reminded of it.

*“God, give me grace to accept with serenity  
The things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things which should be changed,  
And the Wisdom to distinguish one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardships as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
But trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I but surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.”*

*The Serenity Prayer, Reinhold Niebuhr*

Niebuhr was a 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian and this prayer was originally written in 1931 at the beginning of The Great Depression, but I think it is appropriate as we face this pandemic of COVID 19. It is easy to let this thing overtake our lives and we seem helpless to do anything about it (except for social distancing, masks and gloves). Amidst all of the stress and indeed loneliness we are reminded that it is only through God's grace on the Cross that we are redeemed and made whole and nothing can separate us from the love of God.

I think living one day at a time is the only way I know how to get through regular weeks and it is especially important to look around and see spring bursting forth all around us. As the ad says on TV soon, we will be watching or attending (hopefully) college football games, plays at the Fox, or sitting around the table with our families. As Paul says persevere and God is in control and is watching over us—in Him and Him alone do we place our trust.

*Jon Coogle*

## Tentative Schedule for Serving Our Lord May 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

<b>Communion Assistant</b>	None needed – PB only to distribute
<b>Ushers – <i>physical distance practiced</i></b>	Bobby Martin and Joe McNutt
<b>Altar Guild – <i>may not be needed</i></b>	Wendi Martin and Mary Lynn Robinson
<b>Lectors</b>	Mary Haigler and Tommy Martin
<b>Kyrie</b>	Karen Coogle
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Alita Godfrey

**Family Day: *No Family Day Meal till further notice***

**Coffee Hour: *No Coffee Hour till further notice***

### **Flowers:**

**5-24** Julia Snipes in loving memory of her mother, Louise Snipes.

**5-31** Tony and Renee Collier in honor of their children.

*We are sorry for those of you who were not able to arrange for flowers as planned on your week. If you would like another kind of tribute to your loved one, please consider a monetary donation in their name to the General Fund and we will announce it in the bulletin. Please let Caroline in the Church Office know. Thank you.*

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

**Sunday School Teachers: *Sunday School start date TBA***

**K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Angela Cannon                      **6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Susan Martin

**Adult Class Lingle Room** – David Haigler/Jon Coogle

**Adult Class Conference Room** – Wendi Martin

### **May Birthdays and Anniversaries**

5-2 Dale Godfrey	5-17 Katie Felker
5-3 Tracy Choppla	5-17 Laney Martin
5-13 Trey & Laura Coogle	5-22 Susan Martin

## ***An Update from Pastor Barb...***

*Dear Friends in Christ*, your Congregation Council has been watching the news, listening to the experts and praying for this virus to be contained, wondering when we can safely resume worship services and other activities of our life together as Church. After much prayer and a strong recommendation from our synod bishop, we have decided we will continue to worship by *Face Book post only* May 3, May 10 and May 17, then reassess our readiness to return to our building, hopefully on May 24th. We will use the time till then to prepare well for a safe return to our building. We are told this virus may linger longer than we had hoped, so, in order to avoid a next wave, we will need to adapt our worship practices somewhat, much like we did when we last met together on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Council will meet by Zoom to work up a plan as to the things we will need to do to keep everyone safe. We also will continue to post our worship services online for those who cannot attend in person, so need time to set up our technology for that. As of this writing, we have not discussed when our Sunday School and Bible Studies will be able to resume, but that will be on the agenda for our planning session. We will keep you updated by email, FB, text and phone as things progress. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we continue to keep everyone's health as our top priority.

In the meantime, we appreciate your faithfulness in sending in your offerings so the church business can continue. Colette, Caroline and I have been so grateful that we have been able to continue to work and receive our pay when so many people have lost their jobs. So, speaking for us all, let me pass on our heartfelt thanks, to you and to God, that we have been so well provided for. We are blessed indeed!

***Be safe. Be well. Be blessed, while we wait to worship together in person again! Pastor Barb <><***

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5,6***

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## **A Big Thank You for Food and Gift Bags from the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen**

Due to the pandemic, the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen in Montezuma had to close its doors until it is safe for people to gather again. In an effort to meet the need of some of the people experiencing food shortages, the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen organized a food drive, calling on local churches to contribute non-perishable food items to make up food bags. The food was distributed on the morning of Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. All necessary precautions were taken in keeping with local physical distancing protocols to distribute the food safely. Thanks to Karen Hatten for organizing the food drive, and to Celeste Trilla, one of the limited number of volunteers who helped get the food out. The Grace Circle of MZSL had asked us to donate sample size toiletries to make gift bags to give to the people who come to eat at the Soup Kitchen, which we did. But the order to close came before the items could be given out. The items you donated were distributed along with the food and were much appreciated by the recipients. A big ***Thank You*** comes from *Grace Circle* for helping them help others, as well as from the Soup Kitchen, who was glad to be able to add these items to the food bags. We look forward to when the Soup Kitchen can resume operations and we can serve a hot meal to folks in need again.

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## **Soup and Small Group**

In mid- March, we were in the middle of our Lenten Discipline called **The 40 Days of Prayer** when the shelter at home order was given and we had to postpone all activities of the church. We were to continue our prayers till April 9<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday, and then come together as a congregation to discuss the themes that arose from our small group meetings, but we were unable to carry on our meetings. We have kept in touch with each other as best we could throughout this pandemic, and some groups have met online by Zoom, but we will have to wait until it is safe for us all to gather as a church family before we can continue with the process for Congregation Vitality. At this time, we are unsure of when we can safely gather and share a meal. But, as with worship, we will be trying new ways of staying connected and doing the business of the church, so stay tuned! We have been listening to ourselves and listening to God in our prayers, and it will be exciting to move into the next phase and discover what God has to say to us in all this! Till then, keep praying and reach out and share your insights with someone in your small group!

*Pastor Barb for the Congregation Vitality Team.*

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

**P.O. Box 187**

**401 Randolph Street**

**Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068**

**A Special “Thank You!” to our Servers for our Online Worship Services**

What a joy it has been to plan and post an online worship service on our Face Book page! (Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends) I have so enjoyed reading the comments and suggestions from all of you who joined us for worship. It has been a blessing to stay connected with you all through technology, and we look forward to continuing to offer the services live stream after we return, so those who can't physically be with us can still worship with us in Spirit! Colette Fand played piano and organ, Duck Koch was our reader and served as Acolyte and Joy McNutt was our recording technician. Thank you all for being willing to help this come together! (Don't forget to check out [www.elca-ses.org](http://www.elca-ses.org) for more spiritual resources)

***Please Pray for Members:*** Jim Arnold, Al Coogle, James Edmonton, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Mary Hammock, Emily Harvill, Zack Martin, Joe McNutt, Tricia Trask, Tony Webb, for our college students, for all the ministries of our church for our Military, for our synod bishop and staff and for those recovering from tornadoes in Tennessee.

***In Christian Sympathy*** for the Family and Friends of Will Lucas.

***For Friends and Family:*** Langdon Harp, Janice Haugabook, Ricky Haugabook, Larry Hobbes, Sandra Homer, Curtis Johnson; Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Don Oliver, Leigh Powel, Douglas Smith, Joanne Waymon and any who are ill or suffering loss of loved ones due to the Covid19 virus around the world.

*Serving Our Nation:* John Edwards



**Please Note! All April activities subject to change depending on Covid-19 virus containment!**

**Check our webpage often for updates at [www.mzsl.org](http://www.mzsl.org)**

## MAY 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
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