



May 2021

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

May 2021

- 5-1 Clean Up of Parish Hall: 9:00 a.m.
Bring tools!
- 5-2 Wendi’s Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- 5-4 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 5-5 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 5-9 Council Meets: 9 a.m.
Wendi’s Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
- 5-11 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 5-12 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 5-16 Wendi’s Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Family Day Dinner provided after worship!
- 5-18 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 5-19 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 5-23 Wendi’s Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
- 5-25 Centering Prayer 8:30
- 5-26 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 5-30 Wendi’s Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

Friends – a Gift from God...

“Can we talk?” she asked. “Of course!” I said. “I’ll meet you in the carport in an hour.” How good it was to meet and talk with my friend and share our thoughts. I guess that is one good thing to have come out of this pandemic. After being apart for so long, and depending on technology to try to stay connected, I have a new appreciation for how important the love and support of a friend is to my sense of well-being.

When it comes to defining friendship, this poem by George Eliot has long been a favorite of mine. It reads:

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort
of feeling safe with a person;
having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words,
but to pour them all out, just as they are,
chaff and grain together,
knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them,
keep what is worth keeping, and then,
with a breath of kindness, blow the rest away.

This is the kind of friend God has been for us human beings since the Creation, when God got up from his knees, dusted off his hands and said, “Can we talk?” And in the cool of the evening, God walked and talked with his people. We were friends. We were *safe* with each other. After we messed it up, God, like a true friend, never gave up on us. He longed to make things right between us. So, he came down in the form of Jesus to be one of us. Through him, God opened the door so that we could talk together as friends again.

How good it to know that, with God, we need neither weigh our thoughts nor measure our words, but can confidently pour them all out, knowing that God, who knows our hearts, will sort it all out and keep only what is worthy of us. That is the gift that Jesus has given us. He has made us friends with God. And, as his Church, we are connected to one another in the same way. Better still, it is a gift that will never end. We are Best Friends Forever! We will never be alone. Amen to that!

Thanking God for all of you, My Friends, Pastor Barb <><

*No longer do I call you servants...
I have called you friends. John 15:15*

Best 
Friends
Forever!

Clean up Session, Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00 a.m. till?

“Many hands make light work!” That is our hope for when we all come out to work together to clean up the Parish Hall following our renovations. Much of the sorting out of boxes and cleaning of the kitchen area has already been done, thanks to many industrious folks. Now it’s time for the final organizing and moving and cleaning to put everything back in order so some of our activities can resume. So, bring your drills and tools and willing hands on Saturday May 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and we will get ‘er done! Thanks! *The Facilities Committee*

Mark Your Calendars for May 16th when Family Day Dinner Resumes!

We are happy to report that our monthly Family Day Dinner will start back again on May 16th, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service! With our renovations complete and cleanup of the Parish Hall almost complete, Council approved the continuation of Family Day Dinner. Safety protocols will be implemented. With that in mind, the meal will be provided, so you don’t have to bring a thing! Everyone is invited to just come and relax and enjoy the fellowship we all have been missing! Hope to see you there! *The Fellowship Committee.*

Worship continues with Precautions in Place until Further Notice.

Your Council continues to assess the data and keep up to date with the recommendations from the CDC as to our response to the Covid 19. We will let you know when any changes to our current policy of following precautions changes. Guidelines are in each weekly bulletin.

***Liking Jesus* – A New Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

On Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., the Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group led by Pastor Barb, will begin a new video series called *Liking Jesus*. The series looks at the benefits of technology that we all love but addresses that sometimes negative consequences of that technology that can affect us unknowingly. We all can relate to the fact that the more we interact online the more we crave face-to-face intimacy; the more we compare ourselves to others, the less satisfied we are, and the more filtered our lives become, the more challenging it is to be authentic. Over the five-week study, we will rediscover our understanding of the Biblical principles of life with Christ: *Recovering Contentment, Restoring Intimacy, Revealing Authenticity, Resurrecting Compassion, and Replenishing Rest*. The series also encourages deeper reflection on your own with a study guide for personal reflection outside of class. Let Pastor Barb know if you would like to participate in this important study for our times so she can order a study guide for you.

A Thank You to Our Congregation from Our Synod

At the end of 2020, we at MZSL answered an appeal from our synod for mission support in order to cover a shortfall in donations, partly caused by the pandemic, but also due to a decrease in overall giving Churchwide. We responded by sending an extra \$1000 beyond our regular mission support sent monthly to the synod so it can carry on its ministries in our name. We received a thank you letter from Bishop Kevin Strickland stating that because of our generosity and God’s blessings on our financial support, mission trips, youth programs, disaster relief and many more ministries of the synod were able to proceed. He closed with a prayer that God continue to bless us to be a blessing to others. Thank you for your support of our synod. Together, we can do so much more than on our own!

Serving Our Lord in May

Altar Guild

Wendi Martin and Duck Koch

Lectors

Mary Haigler and Tommy Martin

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

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

Flowers

5-02 Myrtle Joiner in loving memory of Ralph and Josh Joiner

5-09 Tommy and Wendi Martin in memory of William and Virginia Martin

5-16 Mack and Nancy McCarty in honor of their grandchildren

5-23 Julia Snipes in memory of her mother, Louise Snipes

5-30 Tony and Renee Collier in honor of their children

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

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

Adult Class *Conference Room* – Wendi Martin

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

5-02 Dale Godfrey

5-17 Katie Felker

5-03 Tracy Choppla

5-17 Laney Martin

5-13 Trey & Laura Coogle

5-22 Susan Martin



MAY 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 Clean up session 9 am
2 Wendi's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship at 11:00 <i>Online option available</i> Dale Godfrey	3 Tracy Choppla	4 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	5 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	6	7	8
9 Council Meeting at 9:00 a.m. Wendi's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>Online option available</i>	10	11 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	12 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	13 Trey & Laura Coogle	14	15
16 Wendi's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>Online option available</i> Family Dinner	17 Katie Felker Laney Martin	18 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	19 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	20	21	22 Susan Martin
23 Wendi's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>Online option available</i>	24	25 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.	26 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	27	28	29
30 Wendi's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>Online option available</i>	31					

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

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, Carl Ethridge, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Emily Harvill, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Helen Smith, Angie Summer, 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, Sara Koch, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Don Oliver, Leigh Powel, Rob and Judy Stegall, Heather Summer, Karen Weathersbee and family, D.C. Williams, Marina's friend Chrystal, our nation, and the world.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards