



October 2020

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

October 2020

10-4 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available
Blessing of the Animals 5:00 p.m.

10-6 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.

10-7 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required

10-11 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available.

10-12 Quilters 10 a.m. *with masks*

10-13 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required

10-14 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required

10-18 Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing Online Option available. No Family Day. Newsletter Deadline

10-20 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required

10-21 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required

10-25 Reformation Celebration
Service 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available.

10-27 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required

10-28 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required

The Man Upstairs...



If you have ever stayed in a cheap hotel where the walls are so thin you can hear the guy next door snoring, you can relate to what it must have been like to live in tenement housing in the early 1900” s.

Imagine: six floors of bedrooms all piled on top of each other, and you could hear every footstep of the people who lived above you.

There is an old vaudeville joke that speaks to that situation. A man comes in late at night to a boarding house, rather worse for the wear. He sits on his bed, drags one shoe off and drops it on the floor with a thump. Guiltily remembering that the people in the apartment below him are trying to sleep, he takes the other shoe off and quietly sets it on the floor. He then finishes undressing and gets into bed. Just as he is drifting off to sleep, a shout comes from the man in the room below: “Well, drop the other one already! I can’t sleep, waiting for you to drop that other shoe!”

As far as anyone can tell, this is where we get the phrase, “I’m waiting for the other shoe to drop.” We say this when we have that eerie feeling that something bad is going to happen, and we are just waiting for it. It’s past midnight, and the kids haven’t come home yet. The economy is tanking, and we are afraid to check our retirement account balance. Someone is very ill, and we are waiting for the phone call that says they tested positive for COVID. It isn’t a good feeling, waiting for the other shoe to drop – expecting the next bad thing.

Some of us think about God like that; like God is the man upstairs holding our fate in his hands, and we are down here below, spending sleepless nights, waiting for that other shoe to hit the floor. But, God says he *delights* in giving *good* gifts to his children! Could it be that the troubles we encounter in life aren’t a punishment for wrong doing or even to teach us a lesson – that maybe the bad things don’t come from God at all? Could it be that God is there, waiting to help us put our lives back together again after *someone else* has dropped that shoe on us? If so, then that opens us up to adopt the *expectant* attitude of faith - not waiting for the next *bad* thing to happen, but waiting with a child’s joyful trust for the next *good* thing God has in store for us.

May you be filled not with dread, but with joyful expectation, trusting that your God will turn all things to good in his good time.

Blessings, Pastor Barb <><

... So, if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him? Matthew 7:11

Schedule for Serving Our Lord in October

Ushers	Duck Koch & Ted Robinson
Altar Guild	Jon Coogle & Tommy Martin
Lectors	Karen Hatten & Wendi Martin

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

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

Flowers:

10-4 Tommy and Gail Coogle in loving memory of their grandparents.

10-11 Arthur Jackson in honor of his children, Amanda, and Austin.

10-19 Bobby and Sharon in memory of Betty Futrell.

10-26 Tony and Renee Collier in honor of Katie, Brett, Angie, and Richard.

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

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

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

10-6 Renee Collier	10-18 Brenden Fitzgerald
10-7 Daniel Coogle	10-25 Callie Ann Coogle
10-7 Jeremy Coogle	10-25 Emily Harvil
10-9 Neelima Oguri Choppla	10-26 Franchelle Arnold
10-10 George & Helen Smith	10-28 Karen Hatten
10-12 George Coogle	10-29 Billy Martin
10-13 Tricia Trask	10-31 Gail Coogle
10-17 George Smith	



Please Note! All August activities subject to change depending on Covid-19 reports. Check emails regularly for updates.

September 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required Blessings of the Animals 5:00 p.m.	5	6 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	7 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	8	9	10
11 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required.	12 Quilting at 10: a.m. Masks required.	13 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	14 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	15	16	17
18 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required Newsletter Deadline	19	20 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	21 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required	26	27 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	28 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	29	30	31

Quilting Note: We appreciate your support of Mission Quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

The quilting group will be resuming the regular quilting schedule on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Lingle Room. We welcome anyone interested in joining the group. It is a fun and easy activity that anyone can do. We will wear masks for everyone's safety. Also, we have a supply of fabric that needs to be cut into either 21-inch or 11-inch squares. We sew these together to make the quilt tops. If anyone is interested in cutting squares at home as you have time, please let Mary Haigler know by calling her at 478-244-9726. She will bring the fabric to you marked and ready to be cut. When you are done, give her a call, and she will pick them up.

Synod Council Basics

As Pastor Barb reported in last month's newsletter, I was elected to the Synod Council in March and installed at the Synod Assembly in 2019. I plan to report to our congregation about activities of the council routinely in our newsletter. For this article, I thought some basic information about the council may be helpful. The Synod Council is to the Southeastern Synod what our congregation council is to MZSL—a decision making body serving as the board of directors for the synod. A total of 17 persons serve on the council—the four officers (bishop, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and 13 elected representatives. Each of our conferences has one representative serving a two-year term with re-election to a second term allowed. Conference elections are staggered so that roughly half the conferences elect their representatives each year. Additionally, at-large members of the council are elected each year during the Synod Assembly. The election process is designed so that there are more lay persons than clergy on the council at any given time. The Synod Council routinely meets three times each year, once in conjunction with the annual Synod Assembly and twice as a stand-alone meeting, usually in the Atlanta area. The meetings typically last about a day and a half, with the Executive Committee meeting about two additional hours before the other meeting. Because of COVID-19 we have had two additional called meetings so far this year and, beginning with our usual June meeting, we have been meeting via ZOOM. The vice president chairs the council, with the bishop participating as a voting member, much like our pastor's role on the congregation council.

I was elected as the representative of Conference 2, the Good N.E.W.S. Conference. My interest in serving on the council is for two main reason. First, at the Synod Assembly year after year I have seen council members installed with rarely, if ever, anyone from a small, rural congregation like ours. And there are many congregations like ours in the synod, so I thought we needed a voice at the table. And second, I have been curious about the workings of the synod council; I'm not presently serving in a leadership role in our congregation; and I'm not getting any younger. So, I thought this was a good time to give it a try. As far as I know, I am the first person from MZSL to serve on the Synod Council, and I want to represent us well, especially as I learn more about the process and people involved with the council. My future articles will address issues discussed by the council and programs sponsored by the synod. In the meantime, you can find information about the Synod Council (members, meeting times and minutes) as well as news of synod events on the synod's website (www.elca-ses.org). *David Haigler*

Our Next Food Drive for the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen

Even though we are unable to serve meals in person at the Soup Kitchen as we have before the COVID-19 crisis, it has been our privilege to continue to serve the hungry in our community. We, along with other local churches, collect non-perishable food items which are taken to the Soup Kitchen, where volunteers bag them. They are then distributed to those in need safely from the back door to their cars. This has worked well so far, and we are now collecting non-perishable food items and sample sized toiletries for the next Drive-Up distribution in October. You may leave your donations in the entranceways of the sanctuary.

Happenings and Resources from the Bishop's Office

1. **An Invitation from Bishop Strickland:** Greetings! This is Bishop Kevin Strickland. I am putting together a synod prayer team. This team will meet with me once a month via zoom to pray. Praying for the needs of ourselves, our neighbors locally and globally, the needs of the church and world, and for what else might be in need that day of prayer.

Please feel free to sign up at any time on our synod website <https://www.elca-ses.org>.

You will then receive the zoom link for the prayer team. We will meet 9:00-10:00am EDT on

October 19th, November 16th and December 14th + *In Christ, Bishop Kevin Strickland*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything make your requests to God...by prayer, (Phil. 4: 6-7)

2. **Faith Formation Days for Laity:** Sunday's in October 2020 - 3:00-4:30pm EDT via Zoom

You may sign up for one or all of these webinars on the synod website, <https://www.elca-ses.org>

October 4 - Worship 101: Why We Do What We Do

October 11 - Say Her Name: Naming the Witness of Nameless Women in the Bible

October 18 - With Glad and Generous Hearts: a Look at Stewardship of Self, Congregation, and Church

October 25 - Telling the Story of Jesus: Evangelism in the 21st Century

Phase 1 Guidelines for In-Person Worship to Continue through October 2020

In assessing the situation for our own community, we are hearing from the medical community that this virus may ramp up as cooler weather sets in, so with that in mind, we will continue to worship in-person using the same guidelines as when we first returned in June. Please do not come to worship if you have lost your sense of smell, have a fever or a cough or have difficulty breathing. Also, please notify Pastor Barb if you have tested positive for Covid 19 and have attended a worship service. We will notify the members who worshiped in person that day without identifying you unless you give us permission, so that they can be tested to be sure they have not contracted the virus as well. We continue to offer our service online for those who are unable to join us in person.

We will continue to use the following precautions as per synod guidelines for our in-person worship:

1. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet in family groups will be required.
2. Hand Sanitizer is at both entrances for your use upon entering the building.
3. Offerings will be placed in the plate at both entrances.
4. Communion will be self-contained individual cups picked up at the entrances.
5. No physical passing of the peace.
6. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet to be kept *after* the service as well.

Thank you for making a difficult situation easier by your constant support and cooperation with your leadership at MZSL. We value your input. We thank God for you! Pray for containment and a vaccine.

THANK YOU!

Just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you! Just let that sink in for a moment. Since March all of our lives have been turned upside down and all around because of COVID-19. BUT GOD! Then, you members of Mt. Zion – St. Luke responded. Thank you for standing in the gap with your time, talents & money to keep this house of GOD alive and well. The word of GOD is still being preached and taught because of you. We are still serving our neighbors in need because of you. Keep up the good work, because we still need you. Thank You! *Arthur Jackson Stewardship Committee*

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Follow our Face Book Group Page *Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends* to worship online live at 11:00 a.m.! Text or comment Pastor Barb with suggestions as to how to make our new “hybrid” worship experience more meaningful. And as always, please pray for your leadership as we all learn new ways to be the Church!

Don’t forget that there are sermons from Bishop Strickland and other synod staff persons, Covid 19 information and other resources on our synod website: www.elca-ses.org

Help us keep this Prayer List Current! Call the Church Office or Pastor Barb to remove or add to this list.

Please Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Al Coogle; Jon Coogle; Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr; Emily Harvill; Myrtle Joiner, Zach Martin; Joe McNutt; Helen Smith, Julia Snipes, Angie Summer, Tricia Trask, Donna Webb, Tony Webb and for our college students.

In Christian Sympathy for Tricia Trask and DC Williams at the death of their brother James “Bubba” Smith.

For Friends and Family: Langdon Harp; Janice Haugabook; Ricky Haugabook; Sandra and John Homer; Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller; Buddy Murph; Charlene Oliver; Charles Oliver; Don Oliver; Leigh Powell; Jerry Riddle; and Douglas Smith.