



September 2021

# Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

## September 2021

**9-1** No Soup kitchen  
No Bible Study

**9-5** No In Person  
Sunday School  
*till further notice*  
Wendi's class 9a Zoom  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
**Online only**

**9-7** No Centering  
Prayer  
*till further notice*

**9-8** No Bible Study.  
*till further notice*

**9-12** No in Person  
Sunday School  
*till further notice*  
Wendi's class 9a Zoom  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
**Online only**

**9-19** We hope to be  
back In Person this day.  
Please check before  
coming.  
S.S. 10 a.m. TBA  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
**Online or TBA**  
Family Day TBA  
**Newsletter Deadline**

**9-26** We hope to be  
back In Person this day.  
Please check before  
coming.  
S.S. 10 a.m. TBA  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
**Online or TBA**

**9-29** The Oaks TBA

## A Message from Pastor Barb...

Dear Friends, as most of you know by now, having received my email of August 26, 2021, your Congregation Council and I, after much prayerful discernment, have chosen for MZSL to return to online worship only until at least September 19, 2021. We did not make this decision lightly. We know how frustrating and disheartening these decisions can be, and we took it very seriously.

Not everyone on Council agreed to the closing, with a vote of 6 to 2 to close. Those voting to close pointed to the alarming rise in cases in our state and the illness of a member of our congregation, though mild, as enough cause for concern to close for a few weeks. Those who did not want to close felt we were being overly cautious, giving in to fear. I am glad that, while we don't all agree on this, everyone was heard and all opinions respected. It is good that we are able to talk with each other openly and make decisions together without a great deal of conflict. I invite any of you who would like to talk with me about this to contact me. My door is always open.

None of us are happy about this turn of events, and I appeal to you all to be patient with me and with your elected leaders even if you disagree. We are all just trying to do what is best for the congregation. Together as a Council, we will monitor the situation daily and will keep you updated as to when we feel we can return to in person worship again. If any of you have concerns or pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to contact me. I am open to visiting with anyone who wants me to come to your home or will meet with you at the church as well. Also, please keep in contact with each other and if anyone is in need of shopping or transportation or other things where we can help, I encourage you to allow others to assist you.

So, there will be no in person Coffee Hour or Sunday School for Adults and Youth till further notice. Wendi's Sunday School class has elected to meet via Zoom, at 9:00 a.m. or until they change the time. There will be no Centering Prayer or Wednesday Evening Bible Study and no Soup Kitchen or singing at The Oaks Nursing Home until further notice. I direct you to the letter from our synod bishop included in this newsletter and I echo his sentiment: "*so, we do not lose heart!*"

Check out our synod website at [elca-ses.org](http://elca-ses.org) to keep in touch with the larger church and as a gentle reminder that we are not alone in our struggles. We are all in this together.

*Peace be with you all, Pastor Barb <>*

## Pastor's Annual Performance Evaluation

Each year during September the MZSL Personnel Committee conducts a formal evaluation of the pastor's performance over the last year. The performance evaluation provides feedback to the pastor to ensure accountability, enhance effectiveness and improve communication. Part of the evaluation includes information from the entire congregation about the pastor's performance. We gain this information through a narrative evaluation form to be completed by all members of the congregation.

A copy of the narrative evaluation form is included with this newsletter for your use. Since we don't know for sure when we will be returning to in-person worship, the form will not be distributed at a Sunday worship service as in the past. However, forms will be available in each narthex if you would like to pick one up there. Please take a few minutes to complete the form, giving your frank opinions. *Do not put your name on the form.* Then fold and secure it so that the comments cannot be seen and return it to me. It can be placed in my mailbox in the Seiler Room (Parish House), handed to me in person, mailed to me (P.O. Box 273, Oglethorpe 31068, or placed in one of the baskets in the narthex. The deadline for my receiving the completed forms is September 15, 2021.

I know Pastor Barb has been our pastor for several years and you may think she has "heard it all" by now, but congregational feedback is extremely valuable to her and to our congregation. She has told me on many occasions how much she appreciates written feedback from the congregation, even if it suggests some changes in her approach. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me ( [haiglerpecans@yahoo.com](mailto:haiglerpecans@yahoo.com) or 478-244-9727). Thank you. David Haigler, Chairperson. MZSL Personnel Committee

### Two Ministry Opportunities:

1. For our God's Work Our Hands Sunday project, we are collecting the following items through September 12<sup>th</sup>. You may keep them at your home or leave them in the entryway of the church. When we are able to gather in person again, we will meet in the Lingle Room after worship and assemble Give-Away bags for the poor and homeless. We each will then take several of the bags to give away to those in need we meet in our travels.

These are the items that we are collecting:

- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Individual Peanut Butter, Crackers, Raisins, Socks, Wet wipes, Gum, Deodorant, Bible Verses, Chips, Vienna Sausages, Fruit Cups, Soup, Tuna and Mac-n-Cheese
2. We also will be collecting monetary donations to help a friend of MZSL who is in need of financial assistance to make her bathroom handicapped accessible so she can return home after a severe fall. She is presently living with relatives. You may mail your donations to MZSL, P.O. Box 87, Oglethorpe, GA, 31068, marked For Bonnie Woolums. Thank you for caring!



# SEPT. 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 No Soup Kitchen No Bible Study	2	3  Ted & Mary Lynn Robinson	4  Nancy McCarty
5.  Wendi's class on Zoom at 9a Worship 11a.m. <i>Online ONLY</i>	6.	7.  No Centering Prayer	8.	9.  Gray & Kay Blymire	10.  Aiden Hobbs John Hammock	11
12.  Wendi's class on Zoom at 9a Worship 11a.m. <i>Online ONLY</i>	13  Bobby Morteز	14  No Centering Prayer  Courtney Coogle	15  No Bible Study	16  Scarlet Elizabeth Cazier	17	18
19  S.S.TBA Worship 11a.m. TBA or <i>Online</i> <i>Family Day TBA</i>  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20	21  Centering Prayer TBA  Jim & Franchella Arnold	22  Bible Study TBA  Judy Shearon	23	24	25  Mack McCarty
26.  S.S.TBA Worship 11a.m. TBA or <i>Online</i>  Riley Marie Coogle	27  Tommy Martin	28  Centering Prayer TBA	29.  The Oaks TBA Bible Study TBA	30		

## Serving Our Lord in September

**Altar Guild**

Bobby Martin & Max Wood

**Lectors**

Jon Coogle & Katie Felker

**Sound Technicians:**

Bobby Martin & Duck Koch

**Acolyte**

Landon Martin

**Family Day Dinner: TBA – *only if we are back in person***

**Coffee Hour: *None*** on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>; Hopefully we will be back in person for September 19<sup>th</sup>. Please check with the Church Office.

09-05 None

09-19 TBA - Jon Coogle

09-12 None

09-26 TBA - Angela Cannon

### **Flowers**

**09-05** Julia Snipes in honor of our military

**09-12** Jamey and Angela Cannon in honor of Aiden, Kelsi, Haley, Christian, Aubrey, and Landon.

**09-19** Jamey and Angela Cannon in memory of our grandparents.

**09-26** Grady and Patsy in memory of Miss Ruth Kleckley.

### **No Soup Kitchen in September**

**Sunday School: *No In Person Sunday School through September 19<sup>th</sup>*. Wendi's class will meet at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom. We will update you as to when we will return to in person Sunday School.**

### September Birthdays and Anniversaries

09-03 Ted & Mary Lynn Robinson

09-16 Scarlet Elizabeth Cazier

09-04 Nancy McCarty

09-21 Jim & Franchella Arnold

09-09 Gray & Kay Blymire

09-22 Judy Shearon

09-10 John Hammock

09-25 Mack McCarty

09-10 Aiden Hobbs

09-26 Riley Marie Coogle

09-13 Bobby Morteza

09-27 Tommy Martin

09-14 Courtney Coogle

## A Letter from our Bishop Kevin Strickland...

Dear friends in Christ, The writer of second Corinthians states: <sup>16</sup> *So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.* <sup>18</sup> *because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.* (2 Corinthians 4:16,18) So, we do not lose heart! Here we are not a year and a half into this global pandemic of COVID-19. And I don't know about you, but it feels easier to lose heart than not. But we are a people who are reminded that God invites us not to lose heart. Even when all seems wasted away, hard, dark, or lonely. I have been so incredibly proud of each of you and your resiliency, faith, and love for your neighbor throughout this pandemic. But I write to you now, asking that you do not lose heart. Asking that you keep it up now more than ever. We are not out of this pandemic.

The delta variant of the corona virus has rapidly become the dominant strain in the US and is causing the current fifth wave of cases. Unlike the alpha variant, this strain has been demonstrated to be able to be spread by fully immunized individuals who may not have any or just mild symptoms. As of now, out of an abundance of caution and concern for our communities, I have moved our August Candidacy Committee and Synod Council to zoom. The Interim Ministry Retreat and Staff Retreat for September at Lutheranch has been cancelled. The Convocation for October has been cancelled. And there will be no in person meetings at the synod office at this time. Staff will travel only if necessary. We will readdress this again at the end of October. I am also encouraging each of you for God's Work Our Hands Day on September 12<sup>th</sup> that you think of acts and ways of service that would offer aide to our neighbors without gatherings. One of the best ways we may think of this day of service is helping people find COVID testing, getting vaccinated, offering care baskets to those who work in the medical field.

I now urge all congregations to wear masks indoors (whether vaccinated or not), and get vaccinated if you are eligible. Advocate for the science behind the vaccine and its importance. Do not make it about politics, for in doing so, people may choose not to seek to receive this lifesaving vaccine. Instead, follow the CDC guidelines, and think strongly about phasing back to mitigate the risk and spread of this virus within your community. Hospitals in all four of our states in this synod are becoming overwhelmed again; just as they were at the start of this pandemic. We cannot afford to regress. We must all fight to mitigate all risks, fight this virus, and help to ensure all who are able get vaccinated. Please seek guidance from our synod COVID page: <https://www.elca-ses.org/covid> . Please also look at this page for resources from our ecumenical consultation, the CDC, World Health Organization, videos from around our synod, and sites offering vaccines. *Let us pray. Facing the coronavirus, we pray*

for all who mourn their dead	for the thousands who have contracted the virus
for all who are quarantined	for those who are stranded away from home
for those who have lost their employment	for those who fear the present and future
for children who cannot assemble for school	for parents with needs for child care
for physicians, nurses, and home health aides	for hospitals and clinics
for volunteers who are serving their communities	for medical researchers
for the Food shelters and relief organizations. . .	for wise governmental policies. . .
for all the other things we lift now in lament. . .	for those who work tirelessly for a cure.

Journeying Together with you, so we do not lose heart!

In Christ,



+Bishop Kevin Strickland

**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:*** Al Coogle, Mary Jane Ethridge, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Emily Harvill, Joy McNutt, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Marina Pilling and her cousin and his wife and daughter; Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Tony Webb, our college students, and for all the ministries of our church.

***For Friends and Family:*** Susan Brennen, Dan Harvill Jr., Carol Jacobs, Janice Haugabook, Ricky Haugabook, Cleveland Hobbs, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Don Oliver, Leigh Powel, Ann Roberts, Connie Roland, Rob and Judy Stegall, Scott Thomas, Karen Weathersbee and family, D.C. Williams, Marina's friend Chrystal, our nation, and the world.

***Serving our Nation:*** John Edwards.