



August 2025

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

August 2025

8-3 SS 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online option
“Back to School Blessing”

8-6 SOUP KITCHEN @
Noon
(Gail Coogle/
Julia Snipes)

8-10 COUNCIL meeting
@ 8:45am
SS 10:00a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online option

8-17 SS 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online option
Family Day Dinner
Newsletter Deadline

8-20 Singing at
The Oaks @
10:30 a.m.

8-24 SS 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online option

8-31 SS 10:00a.m.
Worship 11:00a.m.
Online option

Words from Vicar Audra

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
– Matthew 5:16

Dear Church Family,

As the summer begins to wind down and preparations for the new academic year ramp up, we pause with gratitude for all the ways God is at work in and through our congregation. Thank you for your generous support of PUSH Ministry this season! Your prayers, time, and giving are making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Last week, Karen led a tour of the Bread of Life ministry and shared her story on how they serve the community of Montezuma and its surrounding cities. We can only imagine the possibilities of loving and serving our neighbors who are powerfully impacted by shared meals and faithful companionship. What a blessing it is to serve alongside others who are committed to feeding both body and soul in Christ’s name.

Looking ahead, our annual school supply drive is in progress! Let’s keep supporting local students with the tools they need to succeed. Your donations will help make sure that every child and teacher feels prepared, recognized, and supported throughout the year by their faith community. On Sunday, August 3, all students and teachers will receive a Back to School Blessing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. You are welcome to bring your backpacks, briefcases, and other tools used for a successful school year.

On the horizon is God’s Work. Our Hands on Sunday, September 7. This special day allows us to live out our calling in visible and meaningful ways. Where might God be inviting us to serve this year? How can we shine the light of Christ more brightly across our neighborhood? Let’s pray and dream big together, trusting that when we show up in love, God shows up in power.

As always, thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. May we continue to walk boldly in faith, shining light, and sharing grace wherever we go.

In Christ,
Vicar Audra+

REPORT FROM THE 2025 SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year's Assembly was held at the Convention and Iron Works in Columbus Georgia from Thursday May 29 through Saturday May 31. Over 300 voting members attended with numerous guest speakers. The highlight was the election of the Bishop for our Synod. On the first ballot Thursday Bishop Kevin Strickland was reelected with 224 votes. This of course eliminated any further balloting and Bishop Strickland was honored to serve another term.

I met many of our interim pastors and supply pastors. Pastor Steve was there as he is serving as interim for another congregation. He reports that Chris is doing much better and has been approved to start driving again. He sends his love and blessings to MZSL. I also ran into Vicar James and he and the family are doing well. He also sends blessings to us. I met with Pastor Jonathan Hemphill who was here last month. Pastor Jonathan is our synod liaison for the Call Committee. Pastor Shirley was also there and she loves coming over to worship with us. I met with Bishop Strickland and he said he is going to make a trip down to worship with us hopefully this year. Pastor Michael Jannett was also there and he directs the Affirm program. He also sends his blessings.

Assembly will be in Columbus again next year May 28 through May 30. If you would like further information, just let me know.

Jon

MICHAEL W. SMITH AND THE ALASKA CRUISE

I have shared some of the incredible pictures from our Cruise with Michael to Alaska. We had church every day and a concert in the evening. It was a very spiritually rewarding experience and we met a lot of people. Neatest of all, was on walking down the street in Sitka Alaska, Karen saw a sign “{Sika Lutheran Church). What are the odds? When we walked up to entrance we were greeted by two members of the church who warmly invited us in to tour the church. Interestingly, the church was founded in 1840 by Swedish and Finnish workers who had been hired by the Czar to build the Russian Orthodox Church in Sika. Alaska was a part of the Russian Empire at that time. So, when the Swedish and Finnish workers completed the Russian church, they ask the Czar if they could build a Lutheran Church. The Czar agreed and then granted the Sitka Lutheran Church the site in perpetuity. WOW? Remember Sweden and Finland were part of the Russia Empire in 1840. So, after the tour we got a bag of popcorn and water from the two ladies. What a remarkable experience.

Jon



Glacier Bay



Jon, Karen & Michael W. Smith



Karen @ Sika Lutheran

Back to School Blessing: Students, Teachers, Parents, and Tools

As the new school year begins, we invite all students, teachers, school staff, and parents to join us for a special Back-to-School Blessing during worship on **Sunday, August 3.**

We'll pray for our children and youth as they return to classrooms, for the teachers and staff who guide and inspire them, and for the parents and guardians who support them each day. We'll also bless the tools of learning—backpacks, laptops, notebooks, and more—as symbols of the journey ahead.

Bring your backpacks, tablets, lunch boxes—or whatever helps you learn and grow—as we ask God's blessing on a year full of promise, discovery, and grace.

Let's begin this school year with hope, faith, and the confidence that God goes with us into every classroom, carpool, and conversation.

Vicar Audra+



P.U.S.H.
MINISTRIES

Thank You for Supporting the P.U.S.H. Ministries Crusade

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously contributed hygiene supplies to support the creation of kits for the P.U.S.H. Ministries crusade at Macon State Prison. Your kindness and compassion will touch the lives of the men participating in this ministry outreach. Because of you, we can share God's love in a meaningful, tangible way.

Zikora Okoye sent a message, "We want to thank you so much for the loving support of you and Mt. Zion - St. Luke Lutheran Church! God will certainly reward you all for all you've done! May God bless you all!!!" We look forward to hearing the outcome of the crusade.



Save the Date – God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 7

Mark your calendars for *God's Work. Our Hands.* Sunday on **September 7!** We are in the early stages of planning ministry activities that will take place **following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.**

This is a special opportunity for our congregation to come together in service to our neighbors and community, living out Christ's call to love and serve.

If you have ideas or would like to help with planning, please contact **Karen Hatten** at khtten@aol.com.

Stay tuned for more details—and get ready to roll up your sleeves!

Calling All Prayer Warriors! Join Our Prayer Team

Are you passionate about lifting others up in prayer? Do you feel called to support our church and community through the power of prayer?

Several members of the congregation have shown interest in forming a Prayer Team—a group dedicated to praying regularly for the needs of our congregation, community, and world. Whether you prefer to pray silently, aloud, or from home, your presence and faith are appreciated.

If you'd like to be part of this vital ministry, please get in touch with Vicar Audra at audraelca@gmail.com or Terri at wepray@windstream.net. Let's come together in faith and love to cover our church in prayer!





Vicar Audra has been working with Terri in the Church office to establish a Care Ministry, a way to share love, encouragement and care with our members and friends.

Each Sunday, as needed, cards will be available on the small table near the coffee station. Everyone—members and guests alike, is invited to sign the cards or write a brief message of support. Whether it's to offer sympathy or just let someone know they are being thought of, your words can make a difference.

Let's come together in this simple but meaningful way to be the hands and heart of Christ to one another.

Family Day Dinner

What a wonderful Family Day Dinner we had following worship today! It was truly special to come together in community, sharing good food, laughter, and great company. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who played a part in making it happen—from the setup and cooking to the cleaning. Your hard work and love made this day amazing. Feeling so grateful for this beautiful time together!

“When we serve and love those around us, we can hear God speaking to us”.



Foundation Fund
April-June 2025

Total for the quarter:	Beginning	Ending	Gain (Loss)
Beginning balance	353,546	376,077	22,531

Details:	Beginning	Ending	Gain (Loss)
Morgan Stanley	56,093	64,017	7,924
Edward Jones	235,516	248,498	12,982
investments			
Edward Jones cash	20,334	20,766	432
PNC cash	13,400	14,593	1,193
Truist CD	28,203	28,203	0
	353,546	376,077	22,531

Donations included in PNC	1,590
---------------------------	-------

Purchased acknowledgments	-397
---------------------------	------

Heglar			
checking	25,731	25,769	38
cd first	51,205	51,800	595
cd second	25,936	26,250	314

Submitted by Max Wood, Assistant Treasurer



August 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 S.S. 10a.m. Worship 11a.m. w/ <i>online option</i> “BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING”	4	5	6 SOUP KITCHEN@ NOON – Gail Coogle/Julia Snipes	7 Tony & Renee Collier	8	9 Jeremy & Susan Martin
10 SS 10 a.m. Worship 11a.m. w/ <i>online option</i> COUNCIL MEETING @ 8:45a.m.	11	12 Shane Peaster	13	14 Jessica Coogle	15	16
17 Invitation Sunday SS 10a.m. Worship 11 a.m. w/ <i>online option</i> Family Day Dinner Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 Singing at The Oaks 10:30a.m.	21	22	23 Jennifer K. Hobbs
24 SS10a.m. Worship 11 a.m. w/ <i>online option</i>	25	26 Tommy Coogle	27	28	29 Rainey Elizabeth Collier	30 Luanne Wood
31 SS10a.m. Worship 11a.m. w/ <i>online option</i>						

Serving Our Lord in August

Altar Guild: Julia Snipes & Tommy Martin
Communion Assistant: Gail Coogle
Lectors: Marina Pilling & Max Wood
Sound Technicians: Bobby Martin, Joy McNutt & Julia Snipes
Ushers: Tommy Martin & Bobby Martin
Acolyte: Aiden Hobbs

Family Day:

Dale Godfrey, Jon & Karen Coogle, Tommy & Gail Coogle, John & Celeste Simmons

Coffee Hour:

08-03 Dale Godfrey	08-24 Jon Coogle
08-10 Renee Collier	
8-17 NO Coffee Hour	08-31 Jenny Brannan

Flowers

08-03 Patricia Trask, in honor of her children and grandchildren, Mary Katherine, Maddie, John Henry, Charlie, Ridley and Hunter.
08-10 Jamie and Mary Ellen Peaster, in honor of their grandson, Thompson James Peaster.
08-17 Jimmy and Mary Kay Watson, in loving memory of Mary Kay's parents, Thelma and Maynard Melton.
08-24 Arthur Jackson, in honor of his children, Amanda and Austin.
08-31 Max Wood to the glory of God

Soup Kitchen: August 6, 2025, at Noon, hosted by Gail Coogle & Julia Snipes

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. for all ages in the Education Building.

Youth: Upstairs - Katie Felker, Angela Hobbs, Renee Collier

Adult Classes: Conference Room – Wendi Martin

Lingle Room: Jon Coogle

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

08-07 Tony & Renee Collier	08-26 Tommy Coogle
08-09 Jeremy & Susan Martin	08-29 Rainey Elizabeth Collier
08-12 Shane Peaster	08-30 Luanne Wood
08-14 Jessica Coogle	08-31 Zach Martin
08-23 Jennifer K. Hobbs	

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 187
401 Randolph Street
Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068



Please help keep this prayer list current. Contact the Church Office to update the list.

Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Jenny Brannan, Callie Coogle, Rick Coogle, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr., Dale Godfrey, Emily Harvill family, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Margie McCarty Family, Mary Lynn Robinson, Celeste Trilla Simmons, George & Helen Smith, Jimmy Trask Family, Tony Webb, our college students, The Call Committee and for all the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Sylvia Bergstrom, Maritza Rivera Caunt, Randy Carlson, Pam Cole, Gay, Erin, Travis & Trevor Daily, Tosha Downey, Carl Ethridge, Shelly Fields, Vincent Godfrey family, Jorene Gordon, Melvin Griffin Family, Andy Harvill, Dan Harvill, Jr., Pastor Steve and Kris Hilgeman, Adam Hobbs, Michael Hortman, Daniel Jankowski, Lauren Jankowski, Ann Lacey, Ben Leathers, Tasha McEldowney, Melody Mantooth, Bob Melvin, Patricia Morgan, Brenda Oglesby, Don Oliver, Allison Peaster, Hazel Perry, Robby & Patricia Pinckney, Mark Poole, Ann Roberts, Howard Rumph Family, Ariel Torres, Carl Williams, Lamar Yoder, our nation, Ukraine, and the world.