



August 2026

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

AUGUST 2026

- 8-2 Sunday School @ 10a.m.**
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
Back-to-School Blessing
- 8-3 Quilting Group @ 10:00a.m. in Lingle Room**
- 8-5 Soup Kitchen- @ Noon – Mary Haigler, host**
- 8-7 Singing @ The Oaks @ 10:30a.m.**
- 8-9 Sunday School @ 10a.m.**
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
Council Meeting @ 8:45a.m.
- 8-16 Sunday School @ 10a.m.**
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
Family Day Meal
Newsletter Deadline
- 8-23 Sunday School @ 10a.m.**
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
- 8-30 Sunday School @ 10a.m.**
Worship Service @ 11a.m.
w/Online Option

From Pastor Audra:

Dear Members and Friends of Mt. Zion–St. Luke,

As we begin this new chapter together, I first want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so faithfully to coordinate the reception following my installation. This includes—but is certainly not limited to—our Fellowship Committee and my husband, Jay, who fired up the grill and prepared the brats. The decorations were amazing, the food was spectacular, and the hospitality was overflowing. Everyone who had a hand in the celebration gave new meaning to Lutheran tailgating! Your generosity made the day even more joyful and memorable.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to our Congregation Council and Call Committee for their prayerful work and commitment throughout the process of opening and extending the call for me to serve as your pastor. I am deeply honored to accept this call, and I look forward to the journey ahead as we continue growing together as disciples of Christ.

During the installation service, the Rev. Taylor Edwards Burton, Dean of Conference 2, reminded us of our shared calling as disciples. There are many mustard seeds waiting to be planted within our congregation and throughout the community. Some may appear small, but Jesus reminds us that God can use even the smallest seed of faith to bring about growth beyond anything we might imagine.

As the body of Christ, we will discern our path forward through prayer, worship, Scripture, faith formation, member care, and ministry with our neighbors. Our hands will sometimes become dirty from working the soil. Growth will require faith, patience, commitment, and trust. Yet we can be confident that the Holy Spirit will guide us according to God's will.

With our hearts and minds open, let us take hold of our shared responsibility to recognize and respond to the needs before us. Let us faithfully plant the seeds God has entrusted to us, nurture them together, and trust God to bring the growth.

I am grateful to be your pastor and excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us next.

**In Christ,
 Pastor Audra**



Back-to-School Blessing

Students of all ages, educators, administrators, and school employees are invited to receive a special back-to-school blessing on **Sunday, August 2, during our 11:00 a.m. worship service** at Mt. Zion–St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Bring your backpacks, book bags, laptops, tablets, and other devices as we pray for a safe, meaningful, and joy-filled school year. Whether you are learning, teaching, leading, serving meals, driving a bus, maintaining buildings, or supporting students in any way—this blessing is for you!

Please share this invitation and welcome your family, friends, neighbors, and school colleagues to join us. **All are welcome!**

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Mt. Zion–St. Luke is seeking caring volunteers to assist in the nursery during worship and, when needed, during Sunday School. Volunteers will serve on a rotating schedule.

Your time and care will help us provide a safe, welcoming space for our youngest children and their families. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Audra at audraelca@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us welcome children and families into our church community!



Power Surge in Sunday School During August

During the month of August, our Sunday School discussion will explore Michael W. Foss's book *Power Surge* and the **Six Marks of Discipleship**.

Together, we will consider what it means to grow as disciples—not only inside the church walls, but also in our homes, workplaces, community, and daily lives. You do not need to have finished the book to participate. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation!

Sundays in August **10:00 a.m. in the Lingle Room**

Come and help us imagine how Mt. Zion–St. Luke can continue growing as a community of disciples following Jesus and serving our neighbors.

Join the Worship Committee

We are seeking one or two members of the congregation who are not currently serving in the choir to join the Worship Committee. Your participation will help ensure that the voices and perspectives of the broader congregation are represented as we plan worship at Mt. Zion–St. Luke.

You do not need to be a musician or have experience planning worship—only a love for worship and a willingness to share your ideas and serve alongside others.

If you are interested or would like more information, please speak with Pastor Audra.



MT. ZION-ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 187
OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA 31068



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

Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Jenny Brannan, Rick Coogle, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr., Frank Freshwater, Dale Godfrey, Jeremy Martin, Tommy Martin, Zack Martin, John & Celeste Trilla Simmons, George Smith, Donna Webb, Tony Webb, our college students, and all the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Donna Baxley, Maritza Rivera Caunt, Randy Carlson, Pam Cole, Gay, Erin, Travis & Trevor Daily, Roger Ann and Jimmy Davis, Tosha Downey, Carl Ethridge, Debbie Frontz, Elizabeth Gauthier, Jorene Gordon, Kelvin Hasch, Andy Harvill, Dan Harvill, Jr. Family, Adam Hobbs, Nicole Howell, John Hudson Family, Daniel Jankowski, Lauren Jankowski, Cussetta Journey, Randy Keene, Kimberly Kicliter, Ann Lacey, Ben Leathers, Nelson Lofton (son of Minister Audra & Jay Gehler), Sherry Martin, Bob Melvin, Terry Oglesby, Don Oliver, Lisa Cromer Oliver, Greg & Cathy Law Patterson, Hazel Perry, Dean Prickett, Sr. Family, Johnny Mae Scott (mother of Lindsey Scott), Diane Spradley Smith, Ariel Torres, Helen Veras (Celeste Simmon's sister), Daniel Watson, Vicki Williams (Susan Martin's Mother), Lauralene Williamson, Elaine Woodard, Lamar Yoder, Roy Yoder our Nation, Ukraine, and the World.