



December 2023

# Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

## December 2023

12-3 SS 10a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

*Online option*

12-5 Foster Children's  
Christmas party -

at The Methodist  
Church in Mtz. @  
6:00p.m.

12- 6 Advent 2 Prayer Svc  
6:00 p.m.

12-10 SS 10 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

*Online option*

**Annual Congregational  
Meeting follows  
CONFIRMATION CLASS**  
12:30-3:00P.M.

12- 13 Advent 3 Prayer Svc  
6:00 pm

12-17 SS 10 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

*Online Option*

**Foster Children  
Fundraiser Meal to follow  
Council Meeting @ Noon**  
*Newsletter Deadline*

12- 20 The Oaks 10:30a.m.  
Advent 4 Prayer Svc  
6:00p.m.

12-24 Worship 11:00a.m.  
*Online Option*

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service 6pm  
Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

12-31 SS 10 a.m.

Worship 11:00a.m.

*Online option*

### Pastor's Newsletter Article

#### December 2023

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."*

Luke 2:15

The heavenly host who appeared to the shepherds in the field instructed the shepherds to travel to Bethlehem to witness the arrival of the newborn Savior. You'll notice that upon their leaving, the angels did not have to give the shepherds a reminder. There is no scripture that indicates that the shepherds needed a follow-up email or text message. We have no biblical account stating that the angels placed a Post-It Note© on their heavenly refrigerator with the message "Call shepherds tomorrow morning with reminder to go to Bethlehem." No. As the hymn suggests, the angels trusted that all the shepherds needed was one instruction: "Come to Bethlehem and see."

With all the hustle and bustle associated with the Christmas season – shopping, cooking, baking, visiting, traveling, and then, of course, more shopping – what do you say that we become laser-focused upon one instruction from God? "Come to Bethlehem and see." What do you say that we get out our calendars right now and set aside BOTH the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM for regular worship AND the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for Christmas Eve worship? What do you say to getting together twice that day? Once to hold our standard Word and Sacrament honor and praise worship of God, and then a second time to "Come to Bethlehem and see."

Oh, and if you happen to know a fellow shepherd – a family member or neighbor who hasn't been visited by an angel lately – how about inviting them to "Come to Bethlehem and see," too? Who knows? You could be the very "angel" they have been needing...

To God be the Glory for all God has done,  
Pastor Steve

## Annual Congregational Meeting—December 10

The annual meeting of the Mt. Zion-St. Luke congregation will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 10, 2023. We will hear reports on our finances and the Call Committee, consider approval of the amended constitution and bylaws, approve a budget for 2023 and elect council members for the term of 2024-2026. Additionally, congregation members will have the opportunity to bring up other items for discussion. It is important that we have a quorum for the meeting, so please make every effort to attend. A copy of the proposed budget for 2024 and the minutes from our 2022 annual meeting and our called meeting on August 27 are being distributed with this newsletter.

*David Haigler, Congregational President*

## The Annual Foster Children's Christmas Party Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> & Fundraiser Dinner Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> !

This year our *Foster Children's Christmas Party* that we share with The Methodist Church in Montezuma will be hosted by The Methodist Church, **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** We are happy to be able to gather to share a pizza meal and watch the delight on the children's faces as they open their Christmas gifts from Santa! After they eat, the children have the opportunity to meet with Santa. All are welcome to come and share in the fun!

MZSL will hold its annual *Fundraiser Dinner* to support the Foster Children's Christmas Party on **Sunday, December the 17<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service. This will be in place of our regular Family Day Meal. I will provide the ham and potatoes, and you all may bring a cover dish of your choice. Donations will be collected at the Christmas Party, or you may put them in the offering plate, marked for Foster Children. As always, I appreciate the generosity of our church. You always come through in a big way! Thank you in advance, and God bless. *Gail Coogle*

*Thank you!*

### Wednesday Night Advent Worship

**6:00 – 6:30 PM**

Sermon Series: The Candles of Advent

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Hope

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Love

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Joy

December 20<sup>th</sup> – Peace

**The Foundation ending balance for the third quarter is \$297,240.**

**We had net loss for the investments 4,534**

**We had donations in the quarter 1,635**

**Max Wood**

## Serving Our Lord in December

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Haigler & Wendi Martin
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Mary Haigler
<b>Kyrie</b>	Wendi Martin
<b>Lectors</b>	Tommy Martin & Julia Snipes
<b>Sound Technicians</b>	Bobby Martin & Joy McNutt
<b>Ushers</b>	Henry Kleckley & Jimmy Watson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Winn Martin

### **Soup Kitchen – hosted by Gail Coogle**

**Family Day Dinner: December 17th:** Benefit for Foster Children's Christmas Party.  
Gail Coogle will supply the ham and potatoes and asks others to bring a cover dish.

<b>Coffee Hour:</b> 12-03 Sharon Martin	12-10 Ginny Martin
12-17 No Coffee Hour	12-24 Brenden Fitzgerald
	12-31 Jon Coogle

### **Flowers**

**12-03** Tommy and Wendi Martin in honor of Sara Morgan & Luke Walton and Winn Martin

**12-10** Max Wood to the glory of God

**12-18 Poinsettias** given by the church members

**12-24 Poinsettias** given by the church members

**12-31** Henry Kleckley in honor of Sara Kate.

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

12-01 Trey Coogle	12-11 Ted Robinson
12-07 Chipper Coogle	12-15 Bobby & Sharon Martin
12-10 Helen Smith	12-23 Jim & Tricia Trask
12-11 Alita Godfrey	12-25 Karen Coogle
12-11 Angela Cannon	12-28 Barbara Koch

**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, Debra Coogle & Family, Rick Coogle, Grady English & Family, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Dale Godfrey, David Haigler, Emily Harvill, Don Joiner Family, Myrtle Joiner, Nancy & Mack McCarty & Family, Billy Martin, Bobby Martin, Sharon Martin, Tommy Martin, Zack Martin, George & Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Tony Webb, our college students, The Call Committee and for all the ministries of our church.

***For Friends and Family:*** Sylvia Bergstrom, Pam Cole, Marvin Duke, Carl Ethridge, Shelly Fields, Jorene Gordon, Andy Harvill, Dan Harvill, Jr., Adam Hobbs, Michael Hortman, Bob Melvin, Elaine Middlebrooks & Family, Patricia Morgan, Brenda Oglesby, Don Oliver, Helen Peaster Family, Leigh Powell, Jerry Riddle Family, Van Riddle Family, Vi Roach Family, Ann Roberts, Leyon Roberts, John Simmon, Lamar Yoder, our nation, Ukraine, and the world.

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