



February 2024

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

February 2024

2-4 S.S. 10:00a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option

**2-7 Soup Kitchen @
Noon**

2-11 S.S. 10:00a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option

**2-14 Valentine's Day
Ash Wednesday
Service @ 6:30p.m.
Lutheran Ladies'
Lunch @ Noon @
Old Mexico**

**2-15 Grace Circle
@ 11:00a.m.**

**2-18 Lent 1 Morning
S.S. 10:00 a.m.**
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option
Family Day Meal
Newsletter Deadline

**Lenton Service
@ 5:00p.m.
No Meal**

**2-25 Lent 2 Morning
S.S. 10:00 a.m.**
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option

**Lenton Service
@ 5:00p.m.
No Meal**

As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. (Mark 1:14)

In the gospels, Jesus calls disciples with the simple words, "Follow me." We understand discipleship metaphorically as following Christ's example and teachings, but for the early disciple it meant literally to walk with Jesus. When Jesus called Levi (aka, Matthew), Jesus and his disciples were walking along the shore as Jesus saw Levi. When Jesus called, Levi literally got up and followed him. Jesus, Levi, and the other disciples walked to Levi's house to have a dinner with Levi's tax collecting associates.

For me personally, walking has become one of my core spiritual practices. It is a time for clearing my mind, remembering scripture and talking with God. I also think of my health, especially keeping my blood glucose down and keeping my mood up. I think of old Enoch who "walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him" (Gen 5:24), or Michah who wrote, "we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever" (5:5) and summarized God's path as "to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8). Now that's the way to go!

Recently I walked from Oglethorpe to Montezuma and back. I loved the crisp air and the stark winter beauty of creation. The ponds were frozen over. Not only good for body and soul, I got to meet people along the way and discover things I might not noticed zipping by in my car. One neighbor even slowed down to offer me a ride. I appreciated the gesture, had I been in need. Later I happened upon Pastor Barb and Duck in town. Walking invites us to slow down and connect.

Walking physically may not be your cup of tea, but there are many ways to be active, alive and spiritually present. As my yoga teacher used to say, "Movement is our medicine." As Christ calls us to follow, we will walk in health, beauty and communion with God and our neighbors.

May God bless your journey with Christ.

Grace & Peace,

Minister James



Preparing for LENT

Lent will be here soon. Just like Advent is a time of preparation for the coming Messiah at Christmas, Lent is the 40 days getting our hearts ready for His Easter Resurrection. It is a time of self-examination, alms giving, self-sacrifice, gratitude and, in the darkest part of the year, longing for light, warmth and life that our Savior brings. Ironic that this year Lent falls on Valentine's Day, February 14th. It is a celebration of love, in modern times with chocolates, flowers and goodies, but originally Valentine was a martyr, who, in the 3rd c gave his life for his faith. What greater gift of love could be than God's sending His only son Jesus into the world, to redeem us at the cost of His life- truly the heart of the Father.

God doesn't care when I give up coffee or sweets, but if I can give up stuff like stinginess, apathy, discontent, that would be something to place on the Altar. I don't know if I have mentioned it before, but Lenten reading of a book 40 Days of Decrease by Alicia Britt Cole has been a blessing to me to take advantage of this waiting time. I will be posting again the Lent a Day Devotion on our Facebook page. I hope it will be a blessing to draw us all closer to Him.
Karen Hatten <><

FOUR PART SERIES “Invite Living Faith in Daily Life”

Beginning this Sunday, February 4th @ 10:00a.m., we will have a 4-part series on how to evangelize the Good News?

Come and join us!

Jon Coogle

This is my first opportunity to write to my Church Family as president of the congregation. I appreciate the confidence that our Church Council has placed in me, and I take this responsibility seriously, but I know that I can only be effective with the love and support of everyone in the congregation. With that support, and the grace of God, I pray that our congregation will move forward toward calling a pastor, and in growth in a manner that will be pleasing to God, both in our personal faith and in the growth of our congregation.

Starting off this year, I want to ask you to join me in two activities. First: A few years ago, when our church was going through a pastoral call, Annette Coogle challenged our congregation to pray at a certain time each day, that God would send us the pastor that he wanted us to have. This challenge resulted in the call of a pastor, who was a surprise to many, but who proved to be a much loved and effective pastor for our congregation. I'm confident that God knows better than we do, what is best for us, and that we are most happy when we pray for, discern, and accept his will. When praying before our family's evening meal I plan to ask God to send us a pastor who will provide what He knows is best for our congregation. I challenge each of you to join me in this evening prayer in each of your homes.

Second: In Matthew, Jesus gave the great commission, **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”** We all would like our Church to grow for our own personal reasons, to ensure that we have a church for the future and so that we have sufficient numbers or congregants to engage in activities we want to see. But more importantly, God commanded us to grow his church. Starting on Sunday, February 4th, during the Sunday School hour, the Education and Evangelism Committees will begin a series of classes on Invitation to the Church. Even if you don't normally attend Sunday School, I hope you will be considering participating in this short series of classes, and that together we can work to respond to Jesus' command. I also hope that you will make an intentional effort to invite the unchurched to join us at Mt. Zion – St. Luke. The congregational council had designated each third Sunday as Invitation Sunday, when visitors can join us both for the worship service and family dinner. This is a great time for visitors to get to know us in worship and in a more casual and friendly setting.

It is my prayer that each one in our Church Family and our Congregation will accept the blessings that God has for us.

Tommy Martin, Council President

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., Pastor Steve and Kris Hilgeman, 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.