



July 2023

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

July 2023

7-2 Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service
11:00a.m.w/*online option*

7-3 Bible Study @ 6:00p.m.
in Lingle Room

7-4 Independence Day!
Office closed!

7-5 Soup Kitchen @ Noon

7-9 Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service
11:00 am w/*online option*
Council Meeting@
12:15p.m.

7-10 Bible Study @
6:00p.m. in Lingle Room

7-16 Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service
11:00 a.m.w/*online option*
Family Day Dinner
Newsletter Deadline
Call Committee @ Noon

7-17 Bible Study @
6:00p.m. in Lingle Room

7-19 Singing @ The Oaks
10:30a.m.

7-23 Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service
11:00 am.w/*online option*
Confirmation Class
Noon – 3p.m.

7-24 Bible Study @
6:00p.m. in Lingle Room

7-30 Sunday School 10am
Worship Service
11:00a.m.w/ *online option*

7-31 Bible Study@6:00p.m. in
Lingle Room

Pastor's Article – July 2023 Newsletter

We are called to seek out and invite all our neighbors to experience the love of God and the joy of Christian fellowship.

What is the source of these words? Are they the words of Jesus? Did St. Paul state these to the Romans? Well, yes and no. These words form the adopted Mission Statement of *Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church*. (Hint: check the cover of your bulletin this coming Sunday morning.)

Our mission statement is one of reaching into the world by inviting our neighbors to receive the One True God who is reaching out to them through the Power of the Holy Spirit. Then, through that experience they may know God's love. Then, through that experience they may know what it means to be part of the Christian family. Our responsibility to our neighbors is clear: we are to invite them.

Of course, Jesus defines for us who our "neighbor" is; our neighbor is everyone. Our neighbor is that family member who has yet to step foot inside a church. Our neighbor is that co-worker or fellow student who is searching for answers to life's struggles. Our neighbor is that stranger at the grocery store who is visibly frustrated as she fumbles through her purse, searching for that coupon that will save her fifteen cents on a loaf of bread. Yes, all are our neighbors.

It is clear from the results of the Strategic Planning Questionnaire that many of you want a spiritually healthy congregation that is growing in faith AND in number. Traditional teaching instructs us to be an inviting congregation if we want to grow; therefore, it is exciting to see from the questionnaire that so many of you want to be more confident in sharing your story with others, to be more inviting. So, with God's help, we will make that happen!

Are you ready to invite your neighbors to experience the love of God and the joy of Christian fellowship? Saddle up, because here comes the Holy Spirit!

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



Cottage Meeting for Strategic Planning Opportunities

Several members have volunteered to host a cottage meeting. The dates, times and place are as follows:

Sunday, July 2, 2023 @ Noon in Lingle Room hosted by: Katie Felker

Sunday, July 9, 2023 @ 12:30p.m. at home of Jon/Karen Coogle hosted by: Jon Coogle

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 @ 6:00p.m. in the Lingle Room hosted by: Karen Hatten

We need to know if you plan to attend one or more of the meetings, please call the **office (478-472-6173)** and **leave a message for your date and time** you'd like to attend or email wepray@windstream.net

Based upon the results of the Strategic Planning questionnaire, The Call Committee has drafted four potential goals for the new plan. The committee has since divided up the goals and is crafting potential objectives for each goal. We will further discuss the formation of the plan at the cottage meetings, along with our discussion about our hopes and dreams for a new pastor.

Synod Assembly 2023

As many of you know, Mary and I did not attend the Synod Assembly as planned due to mobility issues and a terrible cough for me. There were no momentous decisions or controversial issues at this year's assembly, but there were several elections of officers and Synod Council members. The most significant of these was the election of Phyllis Solgere as Vice President, to complete the remainder of the term of Imran Siddiqui, who was elected Vice President of the ELCA. I was particularly pleased with the election of Phyllis, having served with her on the Synod Council for the last few years. The main role of the vice president is to chair the Synod Council, the "board of directors" for the synod.

If you are interested in learning more about the 2023 Synod Assembly, you will find detailed information about all the decisions and activities by visiting the synod's website: elca-ses.org. There is a link called Synod Assembly Wrap Up. The 2024 Synod Assembly will be held at the Columbus Trade and Convention Center in Columbus, Georgia May 31-June 2. With the assembly so close by, I hope some of our congregation members will be interested in attending all or parts of the assembly.

David Haigler
Council President

Serving Our Lord in July

Lectors:	Renee Collier & Mary Haigler
Alter Guild:	Jon Coogle & Angela Cannon
Acolyte:	Sam Choppla
Communion Assistant:	Wendi Martin
Ushers:	Andy Harvill & Brendon Fitzgerald
Sound Technician:	Bobby Martin & Joy McNutt

Family Day: Ted & Mary Lynn Robinson, Julia Snipes, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jimmy & Mary Kay Watson

Coffee Hour:

07-02 Karen Hatten
07-09 John Coogle
07-16 **NO** Coffee Hour
07-23 Arthur Jackson
07-30 Jenny Brannan

Flowers

07-02 George and Helen Smith in honor of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
07-09 Jon and Karen Coogle in honor of their daughter, Callie.
07-16 Bobby Moretz in loving memory of Jan Moretz and in honor of Lelan, Ivy, Andy, and grandchild, Scarlet Elizabeth
07-23 Emily Harvill in loving memory of Dan Harvill, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hammock, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harvill
07-30 Ted and Mary Lynn Robinson in honor of their grandsons.

Soup Kitchen: *July 5, 2023 at Noon:* Karen Hatten/Jenny Brannan

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

07-01 Sam Choppla	07-12 Tony Collier
07-03 Carla Stuckey	07-15 David Haigler
07-08 Gulshan Choppla	07-15 Jennifer Walker
07-08 Mary Haigler	07-17 Laura Coogle
07-09 Arthur Jackson	07-24 Duck Koch
07-11 Henry Kleckley	07-24 Sharon Martin

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



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

Pray for Members: Callie Coogle, Debra Coogle & Family, Rick Coogle, Grady English & Family, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, David Haigler, Emily Harvill, Myrtle Joiner, Billy Martin, Tommy Martin, Zack Martin, George & Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Tony Webb, our college students, and for all the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Pam Cole, Carl Ethridge, Dan Harvill Jr., Carol Jacobs, Bob Melvin, Patricia Morgan, Buddy Murph, Brenda Oglesby, Don Oliver, Leigh Powell, Jerry Riddle, Ann Roberts, Judy Stegall, Lamar Yoder, our nation, Ukraine, and the world.

Serving our Nation: John Edwards