



July 2026

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

July 2026

7-2 Singing at The Oaks @ 10:30am

7-4 Independence Day

**7-5 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option**

7-6 Quilting Group @ 10:00a.m. in Lingle Room

**7-12 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
Council Meeting @ 8:45a.m.**

**7-19 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
Newsletter Deadline**

**7-26 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option**

**Installation of
Pastor Audra Gehler
@ 3:30p.m.**

From Pastor Audra:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

July is a month that invites us to pause, celebrate, and look forward with hope.

As our nation marks the **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**, we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy while remembering that our greatest freedom is found in Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are called to use that freedom not only for ourselves, but in service to our neighbors and for the sake of the Gospel.

These words from **The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**, from his message "*All Together in One Place*," speak powerfully to our life together:

"The Holy Spirit continues to gather God's people across differences, calling us into one body for the sake of God's mission in the world."

Those words beautifully describe the ministry of Mt. Zion–St. Luke. Every worship service, every shared meal, every prayer, every visit to The Oaks, every act of service through Bread of Life Soup Kitchen, Neighbor Helping Neighbor (Glenda's Pantry), our developing prayer ministry, Christian education, quilting, and the many unseen acts of kindness remind us that the Holy Spirit is still gathering people together—one congregation, one community, one mission.

Personally, July will forever hold a special place in my heart. On **Sunday, July 12**, I will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving in the Southeastern Synod. Then, on **Sunday, July 26**, I look forward to celebrating my **Rite of Installation** as your pastor here at Mt. Zion–St. Luke. I remain deeply grateful for your encouragement, your prayers, your partnership in ministry, and the warm welcome you have extended to me. These celebrations are not simply milestones for one pastor; they are reminders of God's continuing work through this congregation and the calling we share together.

Even as we celebrate these joyful occasions, our eyes are already looking toward the months ahead. Summer offers opportunities for rest, but it is also a season of preparation. Committees are planning, ministry leaders are organizing, and we are preparing for another exciting year of worship, faith formation, outreach, and community engagement. Together, we continue planting seeds today that, by God's grace, will bear fruit for generations to come.

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As July draws to a close, we will also **bookend the month** by celebrating the **Blessing of Students, Teachers, School Staff, and School Administrators** during worship on **Sunday, July 26**. As a congregation, we pray for everyone beginning another academic year—students entering new classrooms, teachers preparing lessons, support staff caring for schools, college students returning to campus, homeschool families, and all who dedicate themselves to learning. May they begin the year surrounded by God's wisdom, protection, and peace.

Thank you for being a congregation that continues to live out Christ's love in visible and invisible ways. Whether through a prayer, a visit, a donation, a conversation, or simply showing up to worship together, each of you helps make Mt. Zion–St. Luke a place where Christ is known and neighbors are loved.

As many of us travel during this season—whether celebrating Independence Day, visiting family, enjoying a vacation, or simply taking time for renewal—may God watch over every journey.

Travel Blessing

Gracious God, watch over all who travel this month. Keep them safe on every road, in every sky, and upon every sea. Bless family gatherings with joy, vacations with renewal, and every homecoming with thanksgiving. Wherever our journeys take us, remind us that You go before us, walk beside us, and welcome us home. May Your holy angels guard our paths until we gather together again in worship. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God's peace, joy, and abundant blessings be with you throughout July.

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Audra Gehler

Pastor

Mt. Zion–St. Luke Lutheran Church



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You are invited to the

RITE OF INSTALLATION

— + —

for

The Rev. Audra Gehler

as pastor of

Mt. Zion - St. Luke
Lutheran Church

— + —

Sunday, July 26, 2026
3:30 p.m.

— + —

Mt. Zion - St. Luke
Lutheran Church
401 Randolph Street
Oglethorpe, Georgia

— + —

*Rostered Ministers
invited to vest*

— + —

Color of the day is Green.

— + —

*A reception will follow
in the Lingle Room.*

— + —

Foundation Fund Jan-Mar 2026

Total for the quarter:	Beginning	Ending	Gain (Loss)
Beginning balance	400,019	400,019	0
Details:	Beginning	Ending	Gain (Loss)
Morgan Stanley	69,663	69,663	0
Edward Jones			
investments	261,478	261,478	0
Edward Jones cash	21,191	21,191	0
PNC cash	19,484	19,484	0
Truist CD	28,203	28,203	0
	400,019	400,019	0
Donations included in PNC		0	
Purchased acknowledgments		0	
Heglar			
checking	25,847	25,847	0
cd first	53,418	53,418	0
cd second	26,904	26,904	0
	106,169	106,169	0

Submitted by Max Wood, Assistant Treasurer

*By the Grace of God
and with the affirmation of the people
The Reverend Doctor Kevin Lyle Strickland
the Fourth Bishop of the Southeastern Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

will celebrate the Eucharist

with the rite of Ordination of

Audra Nelson Gehler

*to the
Ministry of Word and Sacrament in
Christ's one holy, catholic and apostolic Church
on Sunday, the 12th of July
two thousand and twenty-six
at four o'clock in the afternoon, Eastern*

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

[51 Wilmington Island Rd](#)

[Savannah, GA 31410](#)

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process.

The liturgical color of the day is red.

*Audra Nelson Gehler has been called to serve as Pastor of
Mt. Zion-St. Luke Lutheran Church
Oglethorpe, GA*

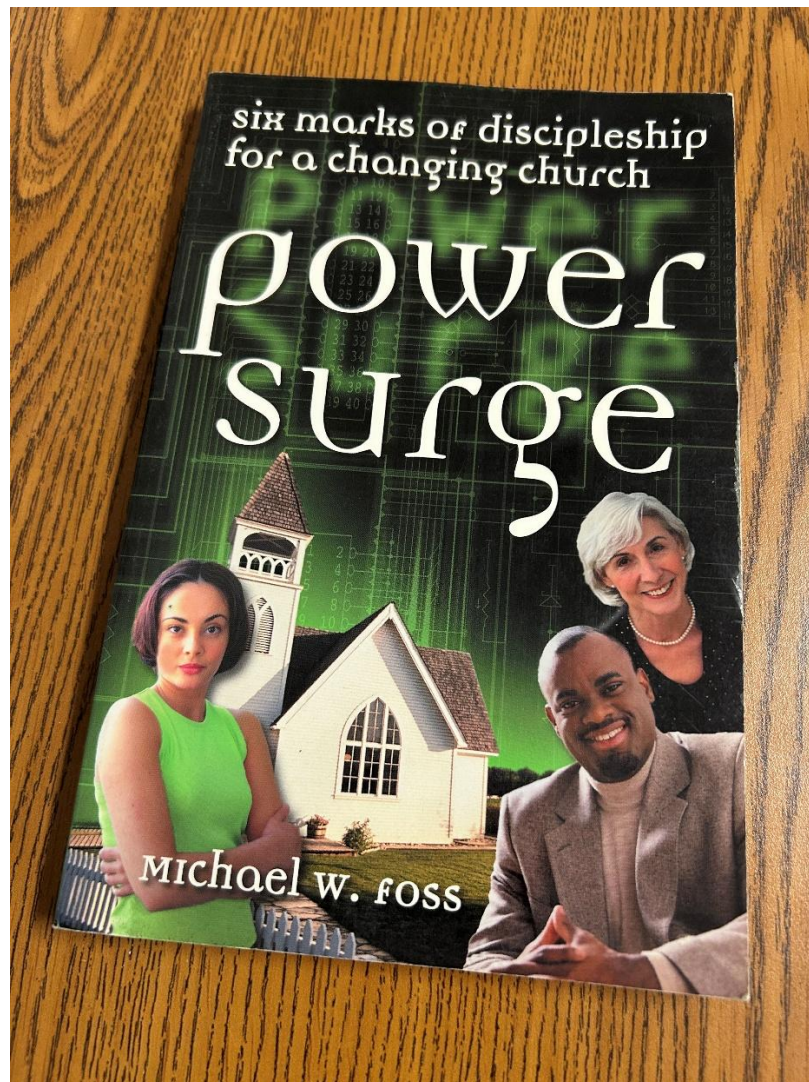
Congregational Reading Opportunity: *Power Surge*

As many of you know, our congregation has been exploring the **Six Marks of Discipleship** as a guide for growing deeper in faith and living more intentionally as followers of Christ. To help us continue that journey, copies of *Power Surge* are currently circulating among members of the Church Council and Call Committee.

I encourage everyone in the congregation to take the opportunity to read this inspiring book as copies become available. *Power Surge* offers practical insights into cultivating a vibrant faith community by focusing on the Six Marks of Discipleship: **Worship, Scripture, Spiritual Relationships, Service, Giving, and Sharing the Good News.**

Whether you are new to Mt. Zion–St. Luke or have been part of our church family for many years, this book provides encouragement and practical ideas for growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. As we continue discerning where God is leading our congregation, may this shared reading help us discover new ways to strengthen our faith, serve our neighbors, and live out Christ's mission together.

If you would like to borrow a copy when one becomes available, please let Pastor Audra know.





July 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Sam Choppla	2 Singing at The Oaks @ 10:30a.m.	3 Carla Stuckey	4 
5 SS 10 a.m. Worship Svc. 11a.m. <i>w/online option</i>	6 Quilting Group @ 10:00a.m. in Lingle Room	7	8 Mary Haigler Gulshan Prem Choppla	9 Arthur Jackson	10	11 Henry Kleckley
12 SS Worship 11 a.m./ <i>online op. Council Meeting</i> @ 8:45a.m. Tony Collier	13	14	15	16	17 Laura Coogle	18
19 SS10a.m. Worship 11a.m. <i>w/online option</i> Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24 Duck Koch Sharon Martin	25
26 SS 10a.m. Worship 11a.m. <i>w/online option</i> 3:30p.m. Installation of Pastor Audra Reception in Lingle Room	27	28	29	30	31	

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



**SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 13TH-RALLY DAY
GOD'S Work
OUR Hands**

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

Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Jenny Brannan, Renee Collier, Rick Coogle, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr., Frank Freshwater, Dale Godfrey, Myrtle Joiner family, 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, Kelly Comer, Sally Ann, and Stephanie Jo, Gay, Erin, Travis & Trevor Daily, Tosha Downey, Carl Ethridge, Debbie Frontz, Elizabeth Gauthier, Jorene Gordon, Kelvin Hasch, Andy Harvill, Dan Harvill, Jr. Family, Adam Hobbs, 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, 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), Loralene Williamson, Elaine Woodard, Lamar Yoder, our nation, Ukraine, and the world.