



*June 2023*

# Good News

**Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran**

## June 2023

6-4 SS 10:00a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00a.m.  
*w/online option*

6-5 **NO** Bible Study

6-7 Soup Kitchen Noon  
(Dale Godfrey & Mary Lynn  
Robinson)  
Quilting 10:00a.m.

6-11 SS 10:00a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00a.m.  
*w/ online option*  
**Council Meeting 12:15p.m.**

6-12 Bible Study 6:00p.m.  
in Lingle Room

6-18 SS 10:00a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00a.m.  
*w/online option*  
**No Family Day**  
**Newsletter Deadline**  
Father's Day

6 19 Bible Study 6:00p.m.  
in Lingle Room

6-21 Singing @  
The Oaks Nursing Home  
10:30 a.m.

6-25 SS 10:00a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00a.m.  
*w/online option*

6-26 Bible Study 6:00p.m.  
in Lingle Room

## **Pastor's Newsletter Article**

**June 2023**

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed Jesus.*

Matthew 9:9

I've always been amazed at how some people will believe anything and everything they hear, or they will believe anything and everything they read. One of my favorite memes on Facebook says: "Everything on the internet is true." And it is signed "Abraham Lincoln." While I'm sure no one would believe that the 16<sup>th</sup> POTUS was accurately quoted here, I'm still surprised at how some people believe so much of what cannot possibly be true.

Yet...

Yet, Matthew and many of the other disciples followed Jesus because of two simple words: "Follow me." What did these disciples believe was going to happen? Surely Jesus was a well-known, well-established rabbi at the time and his reputation clearly preceded him. Yet, would I be that trusting – naïve even – if Jesus came up to me today while I was working at my job and said, "Follow me." I just don't know.

Perhaps we have become a skeptical people due to the bad press that Christianity receives today. Perhaps the stories of the pastors who embezzle from their own churches have tainted our trust. Perhaps the tales of religious leaders and their illicit exploits have wrinkled our capacity to believe in the goodness of Christians everywhere. These are the very reasons why so many have turned away from the Cross, and why so many more refuse to even turn toward the Cross for the first time.

Yet...

Yet, the Gospel is as strong as it ever has been and today the Gospel is needed more than ever before. This is where a well-developed, congregation-approved Strategic Plan will help us. Early indications are that the majority of the *MZSL* family wants to experience a spiritual awakening such that the natural outcome is more confidence in sharing our faith stories with others. This is SO exciting!

Yet... Hey! No more "Yets!" We are about to embark on a thrilling time of spiritual growth as the people of God.

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

## Serving Our Lord in June

<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Karen Hatten
<b>Ushers</b>	Tommy Martin and Billy Martin
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Angela Cannon and Bobby Martin
<b>Lectors</b>	Arthur Jackson and Wendi Martin
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Winn Martin

**Family Day Dinner: No Family Day in Month of June**

### **Coffee Hour:**

**6-4** Tommy & Wendi Martin

**6-11** Bobby & Sharon Martin

**6-18** NO Coffee Hour

**6-25** Jenny Brannan

### **Flowers:**

**6-4** Tommy and Gail Coogle in honor of their children and grandchildren

**6-11** Tony and Renee Collier in honor of their children

**6-18** Henry Kleckley in honor of his children and granddaughter, Sara Kate

**6-25** George and Helen Smith in memory of their daughter, Linda Rogers

**Soup Kitchen:** Soup Kitchen: June 7th, Noon: Dale Godfrey & Mary Lynn Robinson

**Quilting:** June 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00a.m. in quilting room

**Bible Study in Lingle Room at 6:00p.m. on Mondays 6-12, 6-19 and 6-26**

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

**6-2** Tommy & Gail Coogle

**6-3** Ginny Martin

**6-6** Duck & Barb Koch

**6-9** Diane Cagle

**6-11** Billy & Ginny Martin

**6-13** Blake Coogle

**6-19** Mary Virden

**6-20** Billy Martin

**6-22** Julia Snipes

## Call Committee

As the Call Committee continues to develop the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for submission to the ELCA, the committee has also taken on the responsibility of drafting the new Strategic Plan. The first questionnaire was distributed in May, and at this writing the results are being tabulated. Next on the agenda: Pastor Steve will attend some cottage meetings (about one hour long) to gather more information about what members are looking for in this plan and in their new pastor.

The Strategic Plan will be up for congregational vote at the end of August. There is no set timeline for the approval of the MSP yet. If you are interested in hosting a cottage meeting (no more than 10 people per meeting), please contact Pastor Steve.

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### Kairos Prison Ministry, Another Covid Fatality?

For many years our church has supported the Kairos Prison Ministry. Arthur Jackson with Bible in hand entered the prison with a team of lay leaders to spread the word and offer hope to the men incarcerated. We prayed for them, made cookies, bought drinks and provided monetary support.

Over the many months of the Covid Epidemic, there has been no opportunity for the Kairos teams to continue its ministry. I recently asked Arthur about the future of the Kairos Prison Ministry. During these past many months, new regulations and guidelines have been put in place. There are new classes, new requirements, and more paperwork that are now required before lay ministers can return to the prisons. After 21 years serving in this ministry, Arthur said the men he has served with are tired and don't feel compelled to go thru the new approval process.

So where does that leave Kairos? Just like many religious institutions after the Shut Down, they will have to start over. Is it still needed? Of course! What can we do to help? We can pray for those in prison and for those servants who want to minister to them.

Arthur always returned from the Kairos weekends uplifted and sharing stories of changed hearts. He said he got as much from ministering to the men as they got for participating. A servant's heart is a beautiful gift.

Julia Snipes

**Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church**

**P.O. Box 187**

**401 Randolph Street**

**Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068**



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**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, 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