



June 2026

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

June 2026

- 6-1 Quilting Group @
10:00a.m. in
Lingle Room**
- 6-3 SOUP KITCHEN
@ Noon with hosts
Tricia Trask &
Joy McNutt**
- 6-5 Friday – Singing at
The Oaks @
10:30a.m.**
- 6-7 Sunday School @
10a.m.
Worship Service @
11a.m
w/ Online Option**
- 6-14 Sunday School @
10a.m.
Worship Service @
11a.m
w/ Online Option
Council Meeting @
8:45a.m.**
- 6-21 Sunday School @
10a.m.
Worship Service @
11a.m
w/ Online Option
Newsletter Deadline**
- 6-28 Sunday School @
10a.m.
Worship Service @
11a.m
w/ Online Option**

From Minister Audra:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we move into June and the summer months, many of us look forward to opportunities for travel, rest, and renewal. Summer often provides a chance to slow down, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Yet it is also a season of planning and preparation as we look ahead to a new academic year, upcoming ministries, and congregational events. Even during these quieter months, God continues weaving together the life and mission of the church.

From July 6–9, I will be attending the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year's gathering centers around the theme "**Woven Together**," with each day focusing on a different thread of our shared calling. This time of worship, learning, fellowship, and renewal will provide an opportunity to grow alongside pastors and deacons from across the church and return refreshed for the ministry we share together at Mt. Zion–St. Luke.

Shortly thereafter, I will travel to Savannah for the **Rite of Ordination on Sunday, July 12, at 4:00 p.m.** at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Wilmington Island. This milestone represents years of discernment, study, prayer, candidacy, and support from many faithful people along the journey. I am deeply grateful for your encouragement and partnership throughout this process.

The life of Mt. Zion–St. Luke will also enter a new chapter this summer as I am **installed as your Pastor on Sunday, July 26, at 3:30 p.m.** Thank you to the Call Committee, Church Council and Congregation for extending this call and allowing me to continue serving alongside you in Oglethorpe and throughout Macon County. I look forward to what God has in store for us as we continue to worship, learn, serve, and grow together in faith.

As summer unfolds, may we remember that while schedules may change, God's call remains constant. Whether we are traveling, spending time with family, volunteering, worshiping, or simply enjoying a slower pace, God continues to work through us. Together, we are being woven into Christ's mission—called to share hope, extend grace, and serve our neighbors.

Thank you for all that you do for the life of God's Church and for the ministry we share together.

In Christ,

Minister Audra+

By the time you receive this newsletter, **Jon Coogle, Mary Haigler, and I** will have returned from the **2026 Southeastern Synod Assembly**. The Assembly theme, "**Revive Us, God: Church for the Life of the World,**" reminds us that the Church is called to be:

- **A Vessel of Grace**
- **A Voice of Truth**
- **A Body Moved by Love**
- **Alive with the Spirit for the Life of the World**

Through Bible studies, learning labs, worship, fellowship, and assembly business, we will gather with Lutherans from across the Southeastern Synod seeking God's guidance for the future of the Church. We look forward to sharing highlights and insights from the Assembly with the congregation in the weeks ahead.

I also want to express my gratitude for the generosity of Mt. Zion–St. Luke during the recent donation drive sponsored by the Southeastern Synod Diversity and Justice Task Force. Through your gifts of pillows, pillowcases, blankets, towels, and washcloths, we supported the work of SafeHouse Ministries and Bright Futures of Columbus, a childcare and early learning center serving up to 140 children, including those with special needs, and home to Georgia's only licensed all-day sick childcare facility. Your generosity reflects Christ's love in action and demonstrates how even a small congregation can make a significant impact in the lives of others.

Congratulations to Our 2026 Graduates

This season also marks new beginnings for members of our church family. We celebrate our **2026 graduates, Ava Felker and Dolci Choppla**, as they prepare to begin their college journeys. Ava will be attending Georgia Southern and Dolci will be attending Mercer University. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they navigate these important transitions and embrace the opportunities God places before them.





Woven Together

FORWARD IN FAITH

Through Father's Day, we will be collecting **children's books** to support Macon County's Family Connection *Little Library* 📖

We are especially looking for:

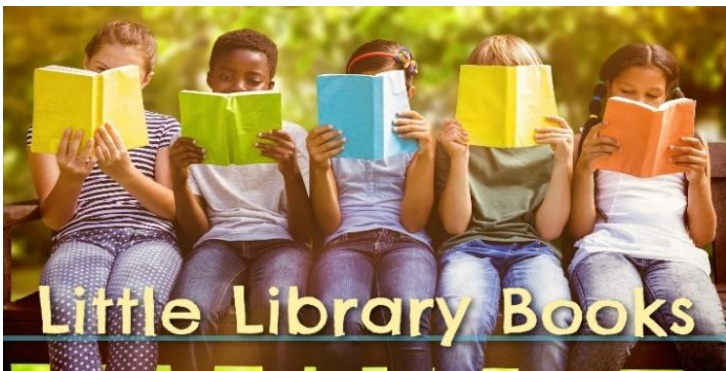
- Phonics books
- Numeracy (early math) books
- Repetition/early reader books
- Character-building stories
- Books on manners
- Coloring books
- Activity books

These resources will be a blessing for our area youth as they prepare for the upcoming school year over the summer months.

A collection basket is located outside the church office, and we invite you to bring donations whenever you are at the church.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invest in the lives of children in our community—helping them grow in confidence, learning, and imagination.

Thank you for continuing to be a church that cares for our neighbors in meaningful ways. ❤️ 📖



Fighting Hunger Together – Glenda’s Pantry

One of the ways Mt. Zion–St. Luke continues to live out Christ’s call to love our neighbors through our support of Glenda’s Pantry. Thanks to your generosity, our congregation has made a meaningful difference by helping provide food for individuals and families in our community facing food insecurity.

We will continue collecting meal kits and food donations throughout the year. Members are welcome to assemble complete meal kits or contribute individual items to fill them. Every donation, no matter the size, helps place food on the tables of our neighbors in need.

To help focus our efforts, we will begin collecting an Item of the Month. In June, we are asking for donations of pasta, rice, side dishes, and macaroni & cheese. These shelf-stable items are easy to prepare, family-friendly, and greatly appreciated by those served by the pantry. Many are on sale at our grocery stores each week.

A copy of the current grocery list is available outside the Church Office for anyone wishing to contribute additional needed items.

Thank you for continuing to be Christ’s hands and feet in our community. Through your generosity and compassion, we are sharing not only food, but also hope, dignity, and God's love with our neighbors.



Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

Blessing Bags



We again have an opportunity to share our blessings the Lord has given us at Mt. Zion-St Luke by again putting together blessing bags.

Some suggested items include:

Crackers, Individual peanut butter cups, raisins, nuts, cookies, Granola bars, fruit cups, soup, tuna, Mac & Cheese, Socks, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Soap, Body wipes

Please grab a blessing bag, not only with those in need, but someone who might need a boost. Having it readily available makes it so easy to share!



Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

Quilting Group Gathering – Monday, June 1

The Quilting Group will meet on **Monday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the Lingle Room** as we gather to regroup, reconnect, and plan for the year ahead.

Whether your passion is creating **quilts for Lutheran World Relief**, sewing **Prayer Pockets**, cutting fabric, or supporting the ministry in other ways, we invite you to join the conversation. We will discuss upcoming projects, opportunities to serve, and ways everyone can share their gifts of time and talent to support this meaningful ministry.

No matter your experience level, there is a place for you. Come learn how you can be part of bringing comfort, care, and Christ's love to others through this ministry.

Most importantly, it will be a wonderful time of **fellowship, creativity, and reconnecting** as we begin another year of serving together.

We hope to see you there! 🗺️ 🇺🇸 🧵



Woven Together

FORWARD IN FAITH

Serving Our Lord in June

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Altar Guild: | Angela Cannon and Bobby Martin |
| Kyrie: | Katie Felker |
| Lectors: | Arthur Jackson and Wendi Martin |
| Alcolyte: | Winn Martin |
| Communion Assistant: | Karen Hatten |
| Ushers: | Tommy Martin and Billy Martin |

NO Family Day in June

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Coffee Hour: | 07 Tommy & Wendi Martin | 14 Sharon & Bobby Martin |
| | 21 NO Coffee Hour | 28 Jay & Audra Gehler |

Flowers

- 6-07 Tommy & Gail Coogle in honor of their children and grandchildren**
- 6-14 Tony & Renee Collier in honor of their children**
- 6-21 Ted and Mary Lynn Robinson to the glory of God**
- 6-28 Joy & Hillary McNutt to the glory of God in memory of Joseph McNutt**

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6-02 Tommy & Gail Coogle | 6-11 Billy & Ginny Martin |
| 6-3 Ginny Martin | 6-13 Blake Coogle |
| 6- 6 Duck & Barb Koch | 6-20 Bill Martin |
| 6-9 Diane Cagle | 6-22 Julia Snipes |

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



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, The Call Committee and for all the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Dot Bentley, Maritza Rivera Caunt, Randy Carlson, Pam Cole, Gay, Erin, Travis & Trevor Daily, Tosha Downey, Carl Ethridge, Shelly Fields, Elizabeth Gauthier, Jorene Gordon, Kelvin Hasch, Andy Harvill, Dan Harvill, Jr. family, Adam Hobbs, Daniel Jankowski, Lauren Jankowski, Randy Keene, Kimberly Kicliter, Ann Lacey, Ben Leathers, David Levie, Nelson Lofton (son of Minister Audra & Jay Gehler), Sherry Martin, Caitlyn McCullers (daughter of Minister Audra & Jay Gehler), Bob Melvin, Terry Oglesby, Don Oliver, Greg & Cathy Law Patterson, Hazel Perry, Dean Prickett, Sr. Family, Diane Spradley Smith, Ariel Torres, Helen Veras (Celeste Simmon's sister), Daniel Watson, Vicki Williams (Susan Martin's Mother), Lamar Yoder, our nation, Ukraine, and the world.