



May 2026

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

May 2026

**5-1 Friday – Singing at
The Oaks @
10:30a.m.**

**5-3 SS 10a.m.
Worship Serv 11a.m.
w/ Online Option**

**5-10 SS 10a.m.
Worship 11:00a.m.
w/Online Option**

**Council Meeting @
8:45a.m.**

**Congregational Meeting
following worship
service**

**5-17 SS 10a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
w/Online Option
GRADUATE
RECOGNITION DAY
FAMILY DAY MEAL
Newsletter Deadline**

**5-20 Lutheran Ladies’
Lunch @ Old Mexico@
11:30a.m.**

**5-24 SS 10a.m.
Worship Serv 11a.m.
w/ Online Option**

**5-31 SS 10a.m.
Worship 11a.m.
w/ Online Option**

From Minister Audra:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

There are moments in life when we can feel the movement of the Holy Spirit so clearly—moments when we pause and recognize that God has been at work all along, guiding, forming, and calling us forward. I am grateful to share one of those moments with you.

On Friday, April 24, I met for my final panel with the Candidacy Team of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Southeastern Synod. I am humbled and overjoyed to share that the vote was unanimous for my approval to be ordained into the Rostered Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

My ordination is scheduled for Sunday, July 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Savannah, Georgia. This milestone is not just my journey—it is ours. You, the people of Mt. Zion–St. Luke, have been part of this calling every step of the way: through your prayers, your encouragement, your patience, and your willingness to walk alongside me in ministry.

Pending approval, I will be issued a Call to serve as Pastor here at Mt. Zion–St. Luke Lutheran Church, with an installation anticipated in August. What a blessing it would be to continue this journey together, looking not only at what has been, but at what God is still unfolding before us.

May always brings with it a sense of transition and new life—fields growing, school years ending, and new chapters beginning. On the third Sunday of May, we will take time during worship to recognize and celebrate our graduates—those completing high school and college. This is a meaningful moment in the life of our congregation as we lift them up in prayer and send them forward into the next steps of their journeys.

I invite you to join us as we celebrate their accomplishments and surround them with the love and support of this faith community. Just as each of us has been called in different seasons of life, we trust that God is calling them into what is next.

As we move through this month together, may we remain attentive to where God is leading us—not only individually, but as a congregation. The road ahead is filled with possibility, and the Spirit continues to gather, guide, and send us for the sake of the Gospel.

With gratitude and hope,

Minister Audra Gehler
Mt. Zion–St. Luke Lutheran Church

thank
you

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the MZSL congregation for all the support, love visits, cards and prayers during these last few years. Mom loved her church family and it saddened her greatly when she could no longer come to church. May God bless each of you and for all the blessings you gave mom.

From the Myrtle Joiner family
(Lamar, Paul and Diane)



We are beginning a simple but meaningful collection to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities ❤️

We are collecting **aluminum can drink tabs** (the small pull tabs from soda cans). These tabs are recycled to help raise funds that support families with children receiving medical care.

A **collection bowl will be placed outside the church office in the seating area**, and we invite you to bring your tabs anytime you are at the church.

It may seem like a small thing—but together, those small tabs add up to something big in the lives of families in need.

Thank you for being a church that continues to care for others in both simple and powerful ways.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.” – Matthew 25:40

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

CONGRATULATIONS! to Minister Audra on the completion of her journey to her clearance for ordination. Her ordination will occur on July 12, 2026, at The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer 51 Wilmington Island Road Savannah, GA 31410. Our call committee has recommended that our church extend a call to Minister Audra to serve our congregation on a permanent basis. Pending approval of the Church Council and other negotiations, a called meeting of the congregation will be held on May 10th to consider issuing a call. In the meantime, please be in prayer for Minister Audra and for our congregation, that God's will may be done for all of us.

Tommy Martin

We have an easy way for you to help support the church **and** care for God's creation at the same time! 🌱

We are collecting **used ink cartridges** to be recycled through Staples. When you return your cartridges, simply use **Mt. Zion–St. Luke's phone number (478-472-6173)** at checkout, and the church will receive **store credit** to help with office supply purchases.

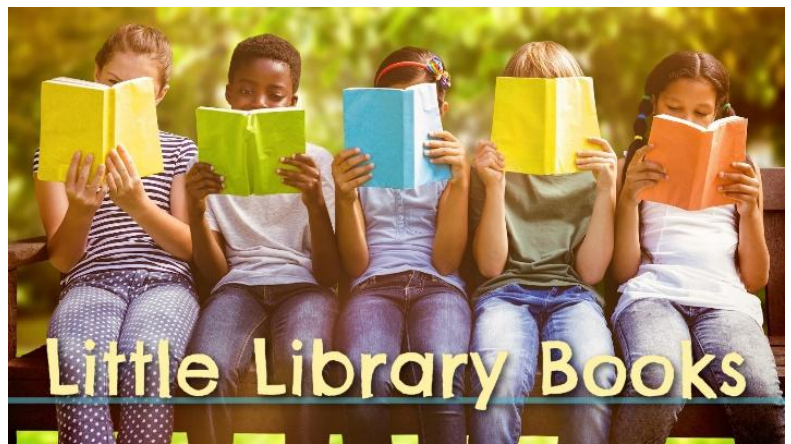
You can:

- Drop off cartridges at Staples when making a purchase
- Or bring them to the church, and we'll take care of it

This simple act not only helps reduce waste and protect the environment, but also supports the ongoing ministry and daily needs of the church.

Small actions can make a big difference—thank you for being good stewards of both our resources and God's creation! ❤️





Here's something you can post on your Facebook page:

From **Mother's Day 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 will be 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. ❤️ 📖

Community Collection Drive to Support Georgia Wildfire Responders

As wildfires continue to impact communities across Georgia, we have an opportunity to come together and support the brave firefighters and frontline workers who are working tirelessly to protect lives and property.

We are currently collecting essential items to help sustain these crews during long and demanding days in the field. Donations of baby wipes, snack bars, bottled water, Gatorade, and white socks are especially needed and greatly appreciated.

Items may be dropped off at either the church office or the church building during regular hours.

Our Property Chair, Jamey Cannon—who also works with the Forestry Commission—will assist in coordinating and distributing these supplies directly to those on the front lines.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting those who are serving our communities in this critical time.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION WILL BE MAY 17, 2026

Serving Our Lord in May

Altar Guild:	Wendi Martin and Julia Snipes
Kyrie:	Tommy Martin
Lectors:	Mary Haigler and Tommy Martin
Alcolyte:	Sam Choppla
Communion Assistant:	Jamey Cannon
Ushers:	Billy Martin and Bobby Martin

Family Day: May 17, 2026 Tommy & Wendi Martin, Mary Haigler,
Tricia Trask, Max Wood, Arthur Jackson

Coffee Hour: 03 Renee Collier	10 Jon Coogle
17 NO COFFEE HOUR	24 Arthur Jackson
	31 Mary Haigler

Flowers

- 5-03** Diane, Paul & Lamar in loving memory of their parents, Ralph & Myrtle Joiner.
- 5-10** Tommy and Wendi Martin in loving memory of William and Virginia Martin.
- 5-17** Mack McCarty in honor of his grandchildren & in loving memory of Nancy McCarty.
- 5-24** Julia Snipes in loving memory of her mother, Louise Snipes.
- 5-31** Jay & Audra Gehler in honor of MZSL family.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

5-02 Dale Godfrey	5-17 Katie Felker
5-03 Tracy Choppla	5-17 Laney Martin
5-13 Trey & Laura Coogle	5-22 Susan Martin



MAY 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Singing @ The Oaks @ 10:30a.m. Dale Godfrey	2 Tracy Choppla
3 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship at 11:00 <i>Online option available</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>W/ Online option</i> COUNCIL MEETING @ 8:45A.M. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	11	12	13 Trey & Laura Coogle	14	15	16
17Invitation-SS 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>Online option</i> GRADUATE Recognition Family Day Dinner Newsletter Deadline Katie Felker Laney Martin	18	19	20 Lutheran Ladies lunch @ Old Mexico @ 11:30A.M.	21	22 Susan Martin	23
24 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 <i>Online option</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30
31SS 10:00a.m. Worship 11:00a.m. w/online option Memorial Day Weekend						

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, 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., Adam Hobbs, Daniel Jankowski, Lauren Jankowski, Ron Johnson aka Papa J, 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.