



SEPTEMBER 2026

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

September 2026

9-4 Singing @ The Oaks @ 10:30a.m.

**9-6 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option**

9-7 LABOR DAY

9-12 Men's Group in Lingle Room @ 8:00 a.m.

**9-13 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
GOD'S WORK
OUR HANDS
Council Meeting @ 8:45a.m.**

9-16 Lutheran Ladies' Lunch @ Old Mexico 11:30 a.m.

Ladies' Small Group Bible Study 6:30-8:00p.m. in Lingle Room

**9-20 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option
Family Day Meal
Newsletter Deadline**

**9-27 Sunday School @ 10a.m.
Worship Service @ 11a.m
w/ Online Option**

From Pastor Audra:

Dear Siblings in Christ,

September brings us to the beginning of a new season. The days gradually grow shorter, the air begins to change, and the leaves prepare to release what they can no longer hold. Fall reminds us that letting go is part of faithful living. As we enter this season together, we pray that whatever is not of God will fall away—our fear, division, anxiety, and resistance—so that God may strengthen our hearts for the journey ahead.

On September 6, we will observe **Creation in Christ Sunday**, celebrating God's ongoing work of creation through Jesus Christ, who sustains and holds all things together. We will give thanks for the world's beauty and goodness while renewing our calling to care faithfully for all God has made. Creation reminds us that we are connected—to God, to one another, and to the world around us.

The following Sunday, September 13, we will gather for **Rally Day**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Lingle Room with breakfast prepared by Renee and Tony Collier. Rally Day marks the beginning of a new year of faith formation, fellowship, and service. It is an opportunity for people of every age to reconnect, grow in faith, and discover how God is calling us to learn and serve together.

Following worship, we will put our faith into action through **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**. Through acts of service, we will share Christ's love with our neighbors and community. No act of kindness is too small. Like a stone dropped into water, every prayer, meal, blessing bag, encouraging word, and helping hand creates ripples that travel farther than we may ever see. Together, those ripples shine Christ's light into places where hope is needed.

Our upcoming **Men's Group** and **Ladies Small Group Study** will also help guide us through this period of discernment. These gatherings will provide space for Scripture, prayer, honest conversation, fellowship, and reflection as we listen for God's direction. Through these ministries, we will encourage one another and consider how God is shaping us as disciples and as a faith community.

This season of growth and discernment will prepare our hearts for the season of waiting that lies ahead. Before long, Advent will invite us to watch, wait, and prepare once again for Christ's coming. Yet our preparation begins now—in worship, study, fellowship, service, and the daily choices through which we reflect God's grace.

As the leaves begin to fall, may we release whatever keeps us from following Christ fully. May we remain rooted in God's love, strengthened by one another, and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Together, may we continue rippling outward, shining the light of Christ, and sharing God's grace throughout our community.

In Christ,
Pastor Audra

God's work. Our hands.



ADVOCACY IN SERVICE TO OUR NEIGHBOR

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday — September 13

On Sunday, September 13, everyone will have an opportunity to share God’s love through prayer, service, and acts of kindness. Following worship, we will work together on several projects that will bless our neighbors throughout the community.

Prayer Pockets

The prayer pockets will be prepared in advance. If you would like to help make them, please contact Mary Haigler. On September 13, volunteers will pray over the crosses, place them inside the pockets, and coordinate carpools to Montezuma Health and Rehabilitation. The facility now has 75 residents, and we hope to personally give a prayer pocket to each one.

Food and Blessing Bags

Those remaining at the church may help assemble meal kits, pantry donations, blessing bags, and small “pick-me-up” snack bags.

Donations are needed for:

- **Meal kits:** Ingredients for a complete, easy-to-prepare meal. Recipes and shopping lists will be shared in advance.
- **Glenda’s Pantry:** Canned meat, chicken, fish, vegetables and other side dishes, pasta, ramen, rice, soup, cereal, and grits.
- **Blessing and snack bags:** Individually packaged crackers, cookies, nuts, fruit cups, and peanut butter cups.
- **Personal-care items:** Deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, soap, shampoo, wipes, new socks, and other travel-size toiletries.

Family Connection Little Library

Family Connection’s Little Library needs books for young learners, including alphabet and early-reading books, tracing and handwriting books, and other educational books covering writing and math skills.

Outdoor Service

Those participating in outdoor projects should bring a hat, sunscreen, and work gloves. The necessary tools are provided.

Serve Wherever You Are

If you cannot participate in person, you can still be part of this special day by completing a random act of kindness. A list of suggestions will be shared to help everyone find a meaningful way to serve.

Afterward, we will gather for an ice cream social and share how God worked through us—and blessed us—during the day. You may also write your experience on a note and add it to our bulletin board.

Every prayer, donated item, packed bag, shared book, and act of kindness can create a ripple of Christ’s love throughout our community. There is a place for everyone to serve because these are God’s hands—and they are our hands!

🎵 Singing at The Oaks 🎵

Join us on **Friday, September 4**, as we visit our friends at The Oaks for a joyful time of singing, fellowship, and sharing God's love.

You do not need to be a choir member—just bring your voice, your smile, and a willing heart! Together, we can brighten the residents' day through familiar hymns and cherished songs.

Come help us make a joyful noise and remind our neighbors that they are loved and remembered! ❤️



🥳 Rally Day is Coming! 🎉

Join us at **Mt. Zion–St. Luke Lutheran Church** on **Sunday, September 13**, beginning at **9:30 a.m. in the Lingle Room!**

Renee and Tony Collier will prepare a delicious breakfast as we celebrate the beginning of a new year of **faith formation, fellowship, and service.** 🙏❤️👉

📅 Mark your calendar and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

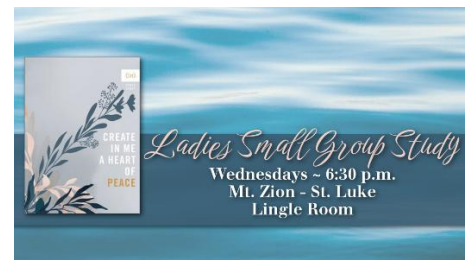
All are welcome! 🏡

🥗 Lutheran Ladies Lunch 🥗

The Lutheran Ladies will gather for lunch at **Old Mexico** on **Wednesday, September 16, at 11:30 a.m.**

Come enjoy delicious food, wonderful conversation, and warm fellowship. All ladies are welcome, so invite a friend and join us around the table!

We look forward to seeing you there! ❤️



Ladies' Small Group Bible Study

Create in Me a Heart of Peace

Prepare your heart for the seasons ahead by joining us on Wednesdays beginning **September 16, from 6:30–8:00 p.m.**, for *Create in Me a Heart of Peace*, a six-week Bible study for women.

Together, we will explore how to:

- Allow God to create within us a heart of peace
- Understand why so many of us struggle with stress and anxiety
- Experience inner calm and strength that are not controlled by our circumstances
- Develop daily practices that connect us more deeply to the peace of Jesus

The peace Jesus gives is more powerful, practical, and lasting than anything the world can offer. Filled with encouragement and relevant biblical teaching, this study will help us receive Christ's peace and carry it into our homes, relationships, workplaces, and daily lives.

Reserve your place and invite a friend to join you! Light refreshments will be served. To register or learn more, contact Pastor Audra at audraelca@gmail.com or the church office at **478-472-6173**.

🔊 Let's Make Some Noise! 🔊

We'll receive our Noisy Offering during worship on the third Sunday of September, **Sunday, September 20**.

Gather your loose change and bring it with you as we joyfully make some noise for ministry! Coins make plenty of noise, but **dollar bills are gladly accepted, too!** 💵

Every coin and every dollar can make a difference for our teachers and students. Let's see—and hear—what we can do together!



🍴 Family Day Meal—Sunday, September 20 🍴

Join us for our Family Day Meal on **Sunday, September 20**, immediately following worship in the Lingle Room!

Come enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and time together as the family of God. Everyone is welcome—bring your appetite and invite a friend or neighbor to join us!

We look forward to gathering around the table with you. ❤️

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 4 - 2:00 p.m. @ Mt. Zion-St. Luke, Oglethorpe, GA



🐾 Blessing of the Pets 🐾

Join us on **Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cross** for Mt. Zion–St. Luke’s annual Blessing of the Pets!

Bring your cats, dogs, horses, birds, and any of God’s creatures you call family. We gather in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, who reminded the church of God’s love for all creation and our call to care tenderly for every living being.

This joyful service celebrates the gift of animals, their faithful companionship, and how they teach us loyalty, trust, and unconditional love.

Martin Luther once wrote, “The dog is the most faithful of animals and would be much esteemed were it not so common. Our Lord God has made his greatest gifts the commonest.”

Bring your furry, feathered, or four-legged companions for a special blessing and a time of thanksgiving. For everyone’s safety, please keep pets properly leashed, crated, or otherwise secured.

Invite your neighbors and friends as we gather to celebrate God’s creatures and share God’s love with our community!



Riverview Senior Center Needs Our Community’s Help

Markel McDonald, manager of the Riverview Senior Center, is reaching out to the Macon County community for help meeting several needs to improve the comfort, safety, and activities for our senior citizens.

The center’s current needs include:

- Ice maker (industrial)
- Refrigerator
- Handrails needing to be installed near the front door
- White, flat-top stove
- Living room suite with firm seating
- Vans for trips and outings
- Wall-mounted or freestanding hand-sanitizer dispenser
- Large display board
- Sewing machine
- Napkin holders—11 needed
- Outdoor fans for the patio area
- Computers and Computer screens

Individuals, congregations, businesses, and community organizations are invited to consider how they might help. Whether by providing an item, sharing the request, or connecting the center with additional resources, every act of support can make a meaningful difference for our seniors.

For more information or to offer assistance, contact:

Markel McDonald

Manager, Riverview Senior Center

Markel@mfcga.org

Help Prepare Macon County Students for the Workforce

Macon County High School is seeking local employers to provide students with valuable workforce experience as part of their coursework.

Businesses and community partners can help students develop practical skills, explore career opportunities, and prepare for successful futures. If you or someone you know can offer an employment opportunity, please contact Macon County High School to connect with the program coordinator.

Together, we can invest in our students and strengthen the future of Macon County!

Social Ministry Needs

Help us share God's love by supporting our community ministry partners. Please place donations in the designated collection area outside the church office.

- Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Share: Nonperishable food items and complete meal kits
- Family Connection: Educational books focusing on the alphabet, writing (print and cursive), and math
- Blessing Bags: Personal hygiene items, new socks, and individually packaged snacks
- The Oaks: Current magazines, large-piece puzzles, and puzzle books

Thank you for helping us care for neighbors of all ages throughout our community!



SAVE THE DATE: Voices from the Grave
Friday & Saturday evenings, October 30–November 7

Floodline Players' Voices from the Grave will bring the history of Montezuma and Macon County to life through the stories of the people who helped shape our community. Audiences will experience local history in a unique theatrical setting as performers portray real individuals from our past and share their stories in Felton Cemetery.

We are especially grateful to Tommy and Mary, who have already been such a tremendous help with family research, uncovering stories, and helping us connect the dots of Montezuma and Macon County's history. Their knowledge and willingness to help have been invaluable!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

Right now, our biggest need is actors and performers! No previous theatre experience is necessary. We would love to get more members of the congregation involved, especially those who enjoy local history, storytelling, or simply want to try something new. Opportunities are available for both younger and older adults, and this is a great way to help tell our community's story.

Serving Our Lord in September

Altar Guild	Bobby Martin & Max Wood
Lectors	Jon Coogle & Karen Coogle
Communion Assistant:	Julia Snipes
Acolyte	Tommy Martin
Ushers:	Arthur Jackson and Jimmy Watson
Sound Technicians:	Bobby Martin, Joy McNutt & Julia Snipes

Family Day:

Jamey & Angela Cannon, Dale Godfrey, Marilyn Dominey, April Martin,
Bobby & Sharon Martin

Coffee Hour:

09-06 Katie Felker	09-20 NO Coffee Hour
09-13 Brenden Fitzgerald	09-27 Angela Cannon

Flowers

09-06 Julia Snipes in honor of our military.
09-13 Jamey and Angela Cannon in honor of Aiden, Kelsi, Haley, Christian,
Aubrey and Landon*
09-20 Jamey and Angela Cannon in memory of our Grandparents and
Charles Cannon
09-27 Grady English in loving memory of his wife, Patsy English.

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. for all ages in the Education Building.

Adults: Jon Coogle and Wendi Martin

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

09-03 Ted & Mary Lynn Robinson	09-22 Judy Shearon
09-10 Aiden Hobbs	09-25 Mack McCarty
09-10 John Hammock	09-26 Riley Marie Coogle
09-13 Bobby Moretz	09-27 Tommy Martin
09-14 Courtney Coogle Reid	
09-16 Scarlet Elizabeth Cazier	

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, 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, Jeannette Beard Family; Robert Burdette, Maritza Rivera Caunt, Randy Carlson, Pam Cole, Kelly Comer, Sally Ann, and Stephanie Jo, Gay, Erin, Travis & Trevor Daily, Roger Ann & Jimmy Davis, Wayne & Rita Dunmon, Carl Ethridge, Debbie Frontz, Elizabeth Gauthier, Jorene Gordon, Joey Goss, Kelvin Hasch, Andy Harvill, Dan Harvill, Jr. Family, Adam Hobbs, John Hudson Family, Daniel Jankowski, Lauren Jankowski, Cussetta Journey, Randy Keene, Kimberly Kieliter, 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), Robert Wardall, Daniel Watson, Peggy H. Williams' Family, Vicki Williams (Susan Martin's Mother), Loralene Williamson, Elaine Woodard, Lamar Yoder, Roy Yoder, Lisa Ann Young (daughter of Carolyn Burdette), our Nation, Ukraine, and the World.