



December 2021

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

December 2021

12- 1 Advent Activity &
Meal 6:30 p.m.

12-5 SS 10a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online option

12-7 Centering Prayer 8:30
Foster Children's
Christmas party 5:45p

12- 8 Advent Activity &
Meal 6:30 p.m.

12-12 SS 10 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online option

**Annual Congregation
Meeting follows**

12-14 Centering Prayer 8:30

12- 15 The Oaks, 10:30 a
Advent Activity &
Meal 6:30 p.m.

12-19 SS 10 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Online Option
Brief Council Meeting
Foster Children Fundraiser
Meal, *Confirmation follows*
Newsletter Deadline

12-21 Centering Prayer 8:30

12- 22 Advent Activity &
Meal 6:30 p.m.

12-24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service 7 p.m.

12-25
Happy Birthday, Jesus!

12-26 SS 10 a.m.
Lessons and Carols 11 a.m.
Online Option

The Gift-Giver...

I stood ankle deep in the Gulf and wiggled my toes in the sand with a satisfied sigh. The water was cold, but the sun was hot, and I had hours to leisurely walk the beach. I turned my eyes heavenward and was about to pray the prayer I have always prayed at the beginning of some precious beach time: "Lord, what would you give me today?" I'd pray that prayer, then begin to comb the beach for that *one* treasure, that *gift* from God that would catch my eye; a shell, a sand dollar, a bit of driftwood that stood out above the rest. When I found it, I'd scoop it up with a prayer of thanks, not just for the gift, but for the reassurance that God had heard my prayer and was with me. But, to my surprise, this time, the words did not come. I opened my mouth and then shut it again, realizing with a smile that for the first time at the beach, there was no "thing" I needed or wanted from God. No gift, no boon, no trinket. The sun and the sea and the sound of the waves crashing to shore was proof enough of God's presence, and I was content.



A little shiver of joy ran through me as I began to walk. I felt God walking the shoreline with me more deeply than I'd ever felt it before. And, not searching for that one God-offering to take home with me freed me up to pay more attention to the natural beauty around me. I watched as the sandpipers moved in one, fluid movement away from the water and back; away and back again, like a little wave themselves. Their tiny three-toed feet left hundreds of little imprints of the Trinity – the three-in-one – all over the sand. Everywhere I looked, it was as if God was telling me "I am here!" I marveled at the message that lay all around me, creating a memory better than any souvenir I could have carried off to gather dust on my bookshelf!

What a glad reminder, especially at Christmas, that this life is not about the *gifts*, but about the *Gift-Giver*! It's about a love relationship, above all, with *Emmanuel* - God with us. And that is better than any earthly gift we could possibly receive.

May you feel God's presence with you this Christmas as never before!

Merry Christmas! Pastor Barb <><

**In your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11**

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the Mt. Zion-St. Luke congregation will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 12, 2021. We will hear financial reports, consider a change in the policy governing the Heglar Fund, approve a budget for 2022 and elect council members for the term of 2022-2024. Additionally, congregation members will have the opportunity to bring up other items for discussion. It is important that we have a quorum for the meeting, so please make every effort to attend. *David Haigler, Congregational President*

The Advent Season is Upon Us!



Each Sunday in Advent, one of our confirmation students and their families will lead us in prayer and light one of the four candles on our Advent wreath in the sanctuary. The four candles stand for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, all the gifts our Lord Jesus brings. On Christmas Eve, they light the Christ Candle in the middle of the wreath, in celebration of Christ's first coming to us as a newborn baby.

This year, our Advent Wednesday Evening observation will be an activity and light meal held in the Lingle Room. We will gather at 6:30 on December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd, share a meal together, and then enjoy an activity and/or craft that involves four of our senses, from the viewpoint of the animals that may have surrounded the manger where Jesus was laid. In Critters around the Creche, we will Hear hope, Taste peace, Smell joy and Touch love and explore what that may mean for us all. This will be fun for all ages, so be sure and mark your calendars and bring your family and friends!

Mark your Calendars for the Annual Foster Children's Christmas Party!

This year our Foster Children's Christmas Party will be hosted by the Methodist Church in Montezuma on December 7th. It will again be a drive-thru event. Please be there around 5:45 p.m. to sing Christmas carols as the foster children and their families drive through to receive Santa's gifts. Mt. Zion – St. Luke will have its annual Christmas Party with a full meal to support the Foster Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December the 19th following the church service. Donations will be collected at the Christmas Party, or you may put them in the offering plate, marked for Foster Children. As always, I appreciate the generosity of our church. You always come through in a big way! At this time, we have around 20 children to buy for. Much less than usual, but the money that is collected is used throughout the year as new foster children come into the program. Thank you in advance, and God bless. *Gail coogle*

Christmas Shirts

To share the joy of the Holy Season, the evangelism committee is coordinating getting shirts for the residents of The Oaks Nursing Home for their Christmas. The staff has provided a list with size and gender. If you would like to donate, please contact Karen Hatten at khtten@aol.com, 478-361-2806 or message me. The deadline for us getting them to them is December 13th, and they will wrap them.



DEC. 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thru	Fri.	Sat.
			1. Advent activity 6: 30 pm	2.	3.	4.
5. S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Online Option	6.	7. Centering Prayer 8:30 am Drive – thru Foster Children Party 5:45 pm	8. Advent activity 6: 30 pm	9.	10.	11.
12. S. S 10 a.m. Worship 11 am Annual Congregation Meeting follows Online Option	13.	14. Centering Prayer 8:30 am	15. The Oaks 10:30 a.m. Advent activity 6: 30 pm	16.	17.	18.
19. Council meeting S.S 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Foster Fundraiser Meal Confirmation following meal Online Option Newsletter Deadline	20.	21. Centering Prayer 8:30 am	22. Advent activity 6: 30 pm	23.	24. Christmas Eve service 7 p.m.	25. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
26. S.S 10 a.m. Lessons and Carols 11am Online Option	27. Lingle Room reserved	28. Centering Prayer 8:30 am	29. Bible Study 6 p.m.	30.	31.	

Serving Our Lord in December

Altar Guild

Lectors

Sound Technicians:

Acolyte

Mary Haigler & Wendi Martin

Tommy Martin & Julia Snipes

Bobby Martin & Duck Koch

Winn Martin

No Soup Kitchen in December

Family Day Dinner: Gail Coogle benefit for Foster Children's Christmas Party

Coffee Hour: 12-05 Sharon Martin
12-19 No Coffee Hour

12-12 Ginny Martin
12-26 Brenden Fitzgerald

Flowers

12-05 Tommy and Wendi Martin in honor of Sara Morgan and Winn Martin

12-12 Max Wood to the glory of God

12-19 Poinsettias

12-26 Poinsettias

Youth: Upstairs – Katie Felker, Angela Hobbs, & Renee Collier teaching.

Adult: *Lingle Room* – John Coogle & David Haigler teaching.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

12-01 Trey Coogle

12-11 Ted Robinson

12-07 Chipper Coogle

12-15 Bobby & Sharon Martin

12-10 Helen Smith

12-23 Jim & Tricia Trask

12-11 Alita Godfrey

12-25 Karen Coogle

12-11 Angela Cannon

12-28 Pastor Barb Koch

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Angels we have heard on high!

May the sweet sounds of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with laughter, love, joy, and peace! Thank you for all the ways you have blessed us this year. You are so good to us, and we feel very blessed to serve alongside you at MZSL. We pray that the new year will bring good health, financial stability, the company of good friends and the love of family to you and yours in 2022!

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
from our house to yours! Pastor Barb and Duck***

Please help keep this prayer list current. Contact Tracy Choppla to update list.

Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Al Coogle, Mary Jane & Carl Ethridge, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Emily Harvill, Joy McNutt, Myrtle Joiner, Zack Martin, Helen Smith, Angie and Heather Summer, Tony Webb, our college students, and the ministries of our church.

For Friends and Family: Dan Harvill Jr., Carol Jacobs, Janice Haugabook, Cleveland Hobbs, Bob Melvin, Crystal Miller, Buddy Murph, Charlene Oliver, Fanchone and Leigh Powel, Ann Roberts, Rob and Judy Stegall, Scott Thomas, Karen Weathersbee, D.C. Williams, Marina's friend Chrystal, our nation, and the world.

Serving our nation: John Edward