



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

*God writes His Word on our Lives,
Building us into a Family engaged in Spirit-filled Service.*

Our Church Newsletter

April 2023

Pastor Steven Hayden
revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary Sonya Plunkett
officelolc@gmail.com

Instrumentalist Dr. Lev Rybanin
Choir Director Dr. Youngmi Kim

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Holy Communion
2nd & 4th Sundays Morning Worship
Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10am

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
Church Office 706-485-4600


Visit our web site: www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the same day as the resurrection, Luke tells us that two friends were walking along the road to Emmaus. They didn't know, though, that it was Resurrection Day. That's why they were walking along with downcast faces. Then, along comes Jesus. "Hi," He says, "What's up? What have you been talking about?"

"Don't you know?" they ask incredulously. "Where have you been? Under a rock? We're talking about Jesus of Nazareth. He's dead now, but we were counting on Him for everything. Now our hope is gone. He's dead."

"No, no, no," Jesus responds. "Haven't you read your Bible? Don't you know this was all planned out before the world began?" And He starts at the beginning and patiently explains the prophecies of Scripture and how they have been fulfilled in the past few days. Finally, as they eat together, as Jesus takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and gives it to them, their eyes were opened. It's safe to say that their mouths were probably hanging open too as Jesus disappeared—from their physical sight, but not from their hearts and minds. Immediately they returned to Jerusalem with a new message: ***"The Lord has risen indeed..."*** (Luke 24:34)



We have our opportunities, too, to explain Scripture to the downcast, the bewildered, the confused. We can come alongside of our friends, our families, and maybe even those we do not know, on their “road to Emmaus” and ask, “Hey, what’s up?” Many people, even those who claim to be Christian, still base their beliefs on what they think, on what they believe to be logical, and what others have said. Like Jesus, we can turn their thoughts to Scripture. We can invite them to church where they might receive Christ’s body and blood and have their spiritual eyes opened.

By our actions, through our words, even by the work we do as a congregation in Milledgeville, we come alongside others who need to hear the Good News. During this Easter-time invite someone you know to worship. Help give them an opportunity to be pointed back to Scripture, to hear again how this was all part of God’s plan for them. Let the Spirit send you with this same message: ***“The Lord has risen indeed...”*** (Luke 24:34)

Pastor Steve

LOLC offers Bible Study



Sunday Morning Bible class

The Good Samaritan. The Prodigal Son. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. These stories from Jesus—recorded exclusively by St. Luke—are some of the most beloved in Holy Scripture. But despite the popularity of these passages, many students of Scripture would find it hard to describe what's unique about Luke's account of Jesus' life. They could not tell you what concerns drove Luke to take up his pen and write.

Luke's Gospel is a careful history of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension. But Luke's history, and Jesus' story, does not end with Jesus rising above the clouds. Prior to ascending into heaven, Jesus opened the minds of the apostles so that they could understand the Scriptures. He then commissioned them to preach the Good News about Him to all the nations (Luke 24:45–47). Thus, Christ's work continues today as He applies the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection—through His Word and Sacraments—personally and individually through the ministry of His Church. Luke is indeed a narrative about Christ, but it is even more. Through His means of grace Christ includes our story into His own.

Join us on Sunday mornings @9am for The Gospel of Luke in person at church or live streamed on Facebook

Mid Week Bible Class

The Lord is a promise maker and a promise keeper. The Bible records God's first promise in Genesis in which He promises to crush the head of the serpent-deceiver (Genesis 3:15). It also records His last promise in Revelation, in which the crucified, risen, and reigning Christ promises, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). The Bible is the written record of God's promise making and promise keeping.

The true life of faith is lived trusting in God's promises, which all find their "yes" and "amen" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). Faith clings to God's promises and calls upon them in every facet of life.

Join us every **Wednesday mornings at 10:30 online** on Zoom for **Promise – God Is for Us.**

Women's Bible class

The Women's Bible Study will be taking an in-depth look at what Jesus was trying to communicate to us when we spoke the Lord's Prayer. This eight-week study is designed to help us look carefully at the Lord's Prayer studying it line by line not just to know more about the prayer, but so we can begin to pray as Jesus instructed us to pray and cultivating in us a passion to pray. We meet each week **at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.** We'd love to have you join us.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson followed by a prayer by Pastor Hayden. Don Menke was not in attendance.

The minutes from the February 12th council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The February reports were distributed and discussed. LOLC is showing a positive cash flow YTD of \$23K. The Community Center is showing a positive cash flow of \$3K YTD. There was a discussion regarding paying down the 3.625% variable interest Community Center mortgage with the \$102K in the LCEF savings account which earns .625%. It was also noted that the \$173K checking account is earning less than 1% interest.

A motion was made by Kathie and seconded by Bob. **“I move that we transfer the \$102K in the LCEF savings fund to pay down the mortgage and take \$50K from the BankSouth operating fund and purchase a short-term interest-bearing investment.** The **amended** motion passed. (See below) An amendment to the motion was made by Mike and seconded by Larry. **“I move that we amend Kathie’s motion to use \$100K from the operating fund vs \$50K.”** The amendment passed.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The February report was distributed and reviewed. YTD donations are equal to the 2022 level of approximately \$80K.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – The new emergency lights are operating. Pine straw will be purchased to spruce up the landscape.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke- no report

Christian Education: Bob Elkins- Five children attended Sunday School on March 12th. One additional teacher volunteer is needed.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- The last blood drive met its goal of 34 donations. The next blood drive is on April 6th. The Easter baskets have come in and will be assembled and delivered by the Tuesday Bible Study group. Operation Christmas Child will start after Easter. This year a box with items included can be purchased online for \$25 and donated. Or a box can be physically filled and donated by the individual. The afternoon/evening rotating Lenten lunch and dinners are going well with an average of 30 in attendance. A Congregational BBQ is being planned on September 9th by Jay McCrae.

Pastor’s Report: Steve Hayden- The rotating lunch/dinner Lent services are being well received. Approximately the same numbers are attending but more new faces in the afternoon that were not attending in the evening. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will both be at 7 PM, with Communion on Maundy Thursday, and on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

Old Business:

1. Hope Lutheran Church Committee- The committee has been formed; the first meeting is being scheduled.

2. Sanctuary Lighting/Emergency Lighting- New bulbs with better lighting and dispersion capabilities are replacing the current bulbs for a better overall lighting experience by Mike. This is an ongoing project. The Emergency lights are operational.

New Business:

1. GDOT Counteroffer/Acceptance- GDOT needs .248 acres of Lot 52 (corner lot) as well as .009 acres of easement. They will also pay for costs associated with moving and landscaping our sign on 44. The original proposal was for a total of \$105,100. GDOT agreed with our counteroffer of \$118,900 which includes the land and LOLC estimated costs. GDOT also needs .289 acres of Lot 50 (Community Center lot). They will also pay for costs associated with removing the septic and well, as well as connecting to new water and sewer service. They also provided costs associated with the parking lot and signage. The original offer was for \$181,600 which includes land and LOLC costs. GDOT agreed with the counter of \$190,600.

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Bob. **“I move that the council recommend acceptance of the proposal to the congregation on Lot 50 as stated.”** The motion passed. A motion was made Mike and seconded by Kathie. **“I move that the council recommend acceptance of the proposal to the congregation on Lot 52 as stated.”** The motion passed.

2. Congregation Stats due on 3/31/23- This has been completed by Pastor Hayden. The Congregation grew by a net of 7 members in 2022.

3. Register Congregation Presidential Election Voters (by 3/19/23)- The Synod votes for the national President prior to the national convention. Mike volunteered as the lay person voter. Larry and Margaret volunteered to certify that Mike is the named voter.

4. 2022 Financial Audit- Bob Elkins and Harold Solenberger are the 2-person committee. The audit is in progress.

5. The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer banner permission- The Episcopal Church would like permission to place a vinyl banner near the LOLC sign on 44 weekly from Friday-Sunday announcing their Saturday services.

A motion was made Kathie and seconded by Margaret. **“I move that we give permission to the Episcopal Church to display their banner as described.”** The motion passed.

6. New copier lease agreement- The current 5-year copier lease and service agreement is expiring. Pastor Hayden reviewed the 2 proposals. Pastor Hayden recommends the Konica copier and service from Superior Company based on product features, service, and a lower cost.

A motion was made by Barney and seconded by Mike. **“I move that we accept the proposal for the Konica copier and service from the Superior Company.”** The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

January 31, 2023

	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Period Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Activity</u>		<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income							
Interest Income	66.24	0.00	66.24	66.24		0.00	66.24
Total Income:	\$66.24	\$0.00	\$66.24	\$66.24		\$0.00	\$66.24
Expenses							
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
DCE Rent & Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
DCE Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income Less Expenses:	66.24	0.00	\$66.24	66.24		0.00	\$66.24
Bank Balance: \$124,851.41							

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2023

	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
INCOME							Restricted Fund Balances
General Fund	30,000	16,345	13,655	60,000	97,302	-37,302	Organ
Debt Reduction	3,684	1,660	2,024	7,369	2,260	5,109	A/P
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	Memorials
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund
Special Fund Income	490	822	-332	980	6,538	-5,558	Little FP
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$34,174	\$18,827	\$15,347	\$68,349	\$106,100	-\$37,751	M-of-M
							M'ville Min.
							TOTAL
							A/P:
EXPENSES							District
Pastor Expense	14,787	12,247	2,540	29,573	29,939	-366	P/R
Worship Expense	2,640	3,064	-424	5,280	5,662	-382	
Property Expense	6,130	4,505	1,625	12,260	8,751	3,509	Mortgage Balance:
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,600	1,610	990	5,199	4,214	985	\$207,251.90
Education Expense	158	0	158	317	27	290	
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	767	376	391	1,533	817	716	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	BankSouth
Fellowship Expense	217	0	217	433	0	433	LCEF
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Anderson
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Comm. Ctr.
Other Expenses	4,147	3,684	463	8,294	33,569	-25,275	Mortensen
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,446	\$25,486	\$5,960	\$62,889	\$82,979	-\$20,090	TOTAL
							\$567,725.37
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,728	-\$6,659	\$9,387	\$5,460	\$23,121	-\$17,661	

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - February 2023

	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$2,659.90	-\$1,659.90	\$2,000.00	\$4,451.09	-\$2,451.09
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$2,659.90	-\$1,659.90	\$2,000.00	\$4,451.09	-\$2,451.09
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$144.75	-\$144.75	\$0.00	\$217.12	-\$217.12
Utilities	250.00	261.00	-11.00	500.00	543.00	-43.00
Pest Control	50.00	0.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	0.00	150.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Janitorial	360.00	270.00	90.00	720.00	630.00	90.00
Supplies	29.17	0.00	29.17	58.34	0.00	58.34
Repairs & Mtce.	125.00	0.00	125.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>35.84</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>35.84</u>	<u>71.68</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>-28.32</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.01	\$675.75	\$324.26	\$2,000.02	\$1,490.12	\$509.90
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$0.01	\$1,984.15	-\$1,984.16	-\$0.02	\$2,960.97	-\$2,960.99
Bank Balance	\$17,160.75					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Operation Christmas Child – 2023

This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look a little different. We will have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes** available after Easter. This way you can personalize your shoeboxes and encourage family and friends to participate with you. Include your neighbors, pickleball or tennis team, craft group, or co-workers. Pack a box with your grandchildren. Celebrate your birthday, anniversary, or other special event by packing a shoebox with your family or friends. Feel free to pack multiple boxes. Remember, school supplies go on sale in July! Drop off your filled shoebox gifts throughout the year at the church before **November 10**.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online**. Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places. Online boxes are carefully prepared, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at:

(Ctrl+ click to follow the link)

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fc231373-e88f-419b-94d9-5b8845433e26>

You can also scan this QR code below with your cell phone camera:



Select “**BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE NOW**” and follow instructions. By using this link, we will be able to track our church’s progress toward our shoebox goal.

Our “faith goal” this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Mites

The Widow's mite of Mark 12: 41-44 is the inspiration for the LWML mite boxes.



The Ladies of the Church organize mites' collections on a continuous basis. The third Sunday of each month is the official Mites Sunday after which the monies gathered go to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to support various ministries around the world.

Detailed information is available at www.lwml.org and on Facebook. The third Sunday of the month is designated Mite Sunday, but donations are always welcome.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.

Susan Larson

Coffee & Fellowship



The coffee fellowship that follows the Sunday church service gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors, meet new members and visit with each other. We have missed it, But now it has returned. You may still leave after church if you do not feel comfortable yet with the in-person gathering. We want you to feel free to make the best decisions for your own care. We do want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship, so we are making a few temporary adjustments for the time being.

*We are asking you to give each other lots of room and keep in mind the need for social distancing. We can still talk with one another, just standing further apart.

*We are also need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for one small step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.

Choir Notes



Choir Meets Sunday Morning at 9 am for rehearsal.

Opportunities to Serve

Little Free Pantry

Lake Oconee Lutheran has an opportunity to serve our community on a daily basis. We now have our own Little Free Pantry where members of the community can come and take groceries at any time that they need and leave anything that they do not need. Our mission is to stock up on items so that we can have a supply of Groceries to share!

Items to purchase

Please make sure they are not expired and in good condition

- pasta products/rice/Ramen noodles
- peanut butter/jelly
- canned vegetables/fruit
- pasta sauce
- canned meat

Please NO glass containers

Volunteers

Altar Care there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.

Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and we will provide training on how to manage it.

signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.


Ushers' signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office

Coffee Fellowship signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Blood Drive

The next blood drives are scheduled for, Apr 6, May 11, & June 1. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood go to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC.



Worship Update -- Live streaming

Remember, we are now live streaming our Sunday Bible Class and Worship. This means both services will be broadcast live as they happen on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship. If you are unable to be online while they are live, do not worry. The recorded services will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the @lakeoconeelutheranchurch page on Facebook. God's blessings to each of you!

The Church Council

Council has voted to form a Milledgeville Ministry Task Force to research the possibilities and recommend action in expanding our ministry to Milledgeville in light of the closing of Hope Lutheran Church. Will you be, as Jesus called, *"the light of the world...letting your light shine before others"* (Mt 5:14, 16) and be a part of this group? We need you!! Talk to Pastor Steve.

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	27	28 10 am Women's Bible Class	29 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 6pm	30	31	1 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
2 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	3 Happy Anniversary Barney & Sharon Ross	4 9am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	5 9am Quilt Guild 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	6 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm Happy Birthday Jim Crawford	7 Good Friday Service 7pm	8 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Amy Stokes
9 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service communion Easter Sunday	10 Happy Birthday Andrew Ringer	11 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Larry Davis	12 9am Quilt Guild 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	13 9am Quilt Guild	14	15 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Sharon Ross
16 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	17	18 10 am Women's Bible Class	19 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	20	21	22 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
23 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion Happy Birthday Ann Ruth Ringer	24	25 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Davis Mortensen	26 No Bible Class	27 Happy Birthday Melanie Shultz	28	29 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
30 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	1	2 10 am Women's Bible Class	3 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	4	5	6