



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

February 2022

Pastor Steven Hayden  
[revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)

Secretary Sonya Plunkett  
[officelolc@gmail.com](mailto:officelolc@gmail.com)

Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin  
[lryabinin@gmail.com](mailto:lryabinin@gmail.com)

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays Holy Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

## D

ear Friends in Christ,

Pastor Zach Zehnder tells us a story about Matthew Emmons. He was an American sharpshooter in the 2004 Athens Olympics—and he was far and away the best sharpshooter in the world. That year the question wasn't who is going to win the gold, but who would take the other medals. Everyone knew that Matthew Emmons was going to win the gold.

Going into his final shot, Emmons was in first place by a mile, and all he needed to do to win the gold was hit the target—anywhere on the target. He took aim, fired, and hit the bullseye. It sounds great, except for one small fact: he actually shot at the wrong target, one lane over. The mistake is known as a “crossfire”, and Matthew got a score of 0. He dropped from first to eighth and didn't medal.

Why does Pastor Zehnder bring this up now? Because, he says, people need clear targets. As Christians we can have the best intentions in the world, but if we are succeeding at things that don't actually matter, we can do more harm than good.



So what are the right targets for a disciple of Jesus?

Last year, Lake Oconee walked through Lent studying the Red Letter Challenge, focusing on 5 targets to shoot for as a disciple of Jesus. Do you remember them?

- Being
- Forgiving
- Serving
- Giving
- Going

But though all of these targets are important, perhaps the most important is BEING in a relationship with Jesus. It's at the center of all the others and if we don't hit this one, we won't succeed at any of the others.

This year, during Lent, join us for another challenge from Pastor Zehnder; the Being Challenge. We will focus on the ways in which Jesus spent time being in a relationship with God to help us be in a close relationship with God. During this challenge, we will focus on 5 key habits that Jesus practiced in His relationship with God and see how they can help shape our lives as well.

Join me during this season of Lent in worship, in Bible class, and in daily devotions for the Being Challenge, daily devotions that will lead us to a deeper relationship with God and help us make a big difference in the world.

Our challenge at LOLC begins on **Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** and continues through **Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Would you like to buy the book by Pastor Zehnder to follow along with the daily devotions? Pastor Steve has copies available. The price for "Being Challenge" is \$15 per copy.

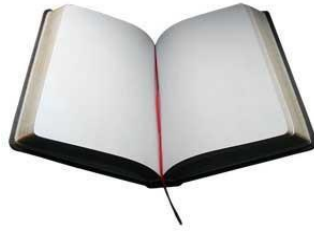
Pastor Steve

### **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!

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# LOLC offers Bible Study and Ministry



## Stephen's Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of Lake Oconee Lutheran church who have been extensive training and provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists.

If you or someone you know of are hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Virginia Daley, 706-485-3564. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.



## Mid - Week Bible Class

A psalm is a song or poem distinguished by its devotional character and deep piety. It is the faith of the Old Testament set to music, a poem springing from an encounter with God. It is worship literature. The book of Psalms, as we know it, was not made-it grew, just as our hymnals were not made but grew as person after person through the centuries expressed deep spiritual experiences in poetic form.

Christ loved the psalms. Raised as a Jewish boy, He was nourished on the psalms of His people. The psalms were read and sung in His home. He heard them in the synagogue. Later, at His Baptism, His vocation as Messiah was affirmed with Ps. 2:7, "You are My Son." In the night in which He was betrayed, after Jesus instituted the Last Supper, He and the eleven sang a hymn before going to the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30). On the cross, when His agony was greatest, Jesus used the words of David (Ps. 22:1) to express the horror of forsakenness. On Easter evening, when Jesus startled the eleven by His sudden appearance, He declared that everything written about Him in the psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44).

Most people who know anything about the Bible know a few "literary gems" from the Psalms. But if you are not satisfied with a few oft-quoted verses, then come to a full banquet. You are invited to sit down at the table and enjoy the spiritual food found in the Psalms. Real people, who had real problems and joys, wrote the Psalms. Just as God spoke to the writers of the Psalms, so He speaks to you today.

**Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom** for our Bible study on the Book of Psalms – Conversations with God.



## Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

The Book of Esther is a wonderful, true story of God watching over His people and delivering them from certain death. It tells the tale of the young, beautiful Jewish girl, who by God's gracious providence became queen of Persia. With Mordecai, her protective and loving cousin, Esther saves her people by exposing a cruel plot to exterminate the Jews remaining in Persia, who chose not to return to the Promised Land.

Although God is never mentioned in the book, He is not hard to find in the many “coincidences,” ironic twists, and reversals recorded therein. Some interpreters have gone so far as to say that God, even in His apparent absence, is the book’s main character. Working behind the scenes, God inspires faith in His gracious promises and enables His children to accomplish extraordinary things on behalf of their neighbor.

The Book of Esther is a powerful reminder that God is faithful to His promises and raises up deliverers for His people. **Join us every Sunday morning at 9 am**, either in person in the Sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook, for [Esther, For Such a Time as This](#).

## Women’s Bible Class

Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply: Receive God's Overflowing Gifts, from best-selling author Deb Burma, is a celebration of the camaraderie, companionship, and comfort found in getting coffee with a friend. It's about more than just the warm beverage; it's about spending quality time together.

This Bible study is designed to draw women closer to their Savior. Each session is based off a coffee-themed item, such as latte, java, or mocha, and contains a coffee shop recipe, discussion questions, and group activities. Women will learn to savor the sweetness of Jesus' abundant gifts for them.

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## Operation Christmas Child in 2021

Operation Christmas Child asks us to join them in praising God for **10,505,155** shoebox gifts packed and donated worldwide! This represents 10,505,155 children and Gospel opportunities that you made possible. Millions of these children will go on to complete The Greatest Journey discipleship program, in which they will learn more about following Christ.

Out of his worldwide number, **9,127,591** were shoeboxes donated in the U.S. In the midst of another challenging year, you trusted God and continued working faithfully. God has blessed your efforts. Lake Oconee Lutheran will continue receiving and packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in 2022 again. We hope that you will be a part of our effort.

Please continue to pray with Operation Christmas Child. They are asking God to prepare the hearts of children and their families to receive the Gospel. Pray also for the Ministry Partners who are taking these gifts to children all over the world and leading The Greatest Journey.

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21*

## February Mission of the Month Food for Neighbors in Need

Let's rally together to show love to our neighbors in need, both near and far, by stocking our **Little Free Pantry** with much needed food. Let's score over 300 food items by Super Bowl Sunday on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Also, on February 20<sup>th</sup> let's reach a goal of 300 sandwiches for the Rock of Ages Lutheran Church's **Sandwich Ministry** in Stone Mountain, GA on Sunday. **Go team LOLC!!**

**Sandwich Ministry:** Each sandwich should contain one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, or bologna). Please do not add any condiments to the bread. Pack each sandwich in an individual zip-lock bag and mark with type of meat.

# Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting

### January 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson, and Pastor Hayden opened with a prayer.

Larry Davis and Josh Ringer were not in attendance.

The minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting were approved by council.

#### **Council Committee Reports:**

**VP/Personnel:** Mike Joost- No report

**Treasurer:** Kathie Kueven- The three Treasurer's Reports were distributed and reviewed. LOLC was \$23,966 in the black for 2021. The mortgage balance is at \$300K. Historically LOLC has sent additional funds to pay down the mortgage in years with a budget surplus.

Kathie made a motion and was seconded. **"I move to authorize the Treasurer to pay down \$25K of the mortgage."** The motion passed.

Kathie reported that a gift has been received to establish the **Ann Mortensen Memorial Fund**. Kathie will be establishing a new bank account to accept the funds. Details to follow on the plans for the Ann Mortensen Memorial Fund.

**Financial Secretary:** Walter Krause- The 2021 report was distributed and discussed. LOLC was behind in donations versus 2020. There was a large lump donation in 2020 of \$30K which made for a larger donation year in 2020 than 2021.

**Congregational Secretary:** Larry Davis- no report

**Church Properties:** Barney Ross – no report

**Lay Ministry:** Joe Peeples- Pastor Tom Martel will be our visiting Pastor on 1/16.


**Christian Education:** Joshua Ringer- No Report

**Christian Service/Outreach:** Margaret Pedersen- The blood drive on January 6<sup>th</sup> received thirty-nine donations.

**Pastor's Report:** Steve Hayden- Pastor gave thanks and prayed that LOLC has been blessed to be able to paydown our mortgage to below \$300K. He and Linda also thanked the congregation for their Christmas gifts. Pastor Hayden will be gone for the service on 1/16 to attend his father's memorial service. January 30<sup>th</sup> is the date for the installation of the church officers during worship service.

**Old Business:** No Old Business

**New Business:**

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- 1. Lay Delegate to the District Convention-** The District Convention is being held in St. Augustine, Florida on June 16-18, 2022. LOLC will send Pastor Hayden and a Lay representative. Kathie volunteered as the Lay Delegate, and Mike will be the alternate if Kathie cannot attend.
  - 2. Girl Scout Troop Sleepover-** Sonya, our church secretary, started a Girl Scout troop with ten members including her daughter. She has requested the use of the church on a Friday night in March for a sleepover for the troop and 4-6 parent chaperones. There were no objections to this.
  - 3. Lake Country Chorus Concert-** The Lake Country Chorus Concert that is being held at LOLC has been rescheduled from 3/31/22 to 3/29/22.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Larry Davis  
Congregational Secretary

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**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church**  
**DECEMBER 2021**

DATE	Member		Debt	Other	TOTALS
	Donations	Memorials	Reduction		
12/5/2021	\$19,067.00		\$120.00	\$2,728.00	\$21,915.00
12/12/2021	\$7,857.00		\$345.00	\$414.00	\$8,616.00
12/19/2021	\$8,802.62		\$745.00	\$85.00	\$9,632.62
12/26/2021	\$14,712.00	\$2,660.00	\$1,325.00	\$1,042.00	\$19,739.00
					\$0.00
DECEMBER 2021 (4)	\$50,438.62	\$2,660.00	\$2,535.00	\$4,269.00	\$59,902.62
DECEMBER 2020 (4)	\$46,990.01	\$0.00	\$2,630.00	\$3,195.89	\$52,815.90
<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	\$3,448.61	\$2,660.00	<b>(\$95.00)</b>	\$1,073.11	\$7,086.72
DECEMBER 2021 YTD (52)	\$344,994.62	\$5,750.00	\$25,895.00	\$23,506.12	\$400,145.74
DECEMBER 2020 YTD (52)	\$360,379.31	\$1,467.00	\$37,555.00	\$452,817.64	\$852,218.95
<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>(\$15,384.69)</b>	\$4,283.00	<b>(\$11,660.00)</b>	<b>(\$429,311.52)</b>	<b>(\$452,073.21)</b>

**LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2021

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Period <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Restricted Fund Balances
<b>INCOME</b>							
General Fund	30,931	50,854	-19,923	355,676	349,088	6,588	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	3,685	2,535	1,150	44,214	25,895	18,319	A/P \$0
Memorial Fund	0	2,660	-2,660	0	5,750	-5,750	Memorials \$6,403
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	43	-43	OCC Fund \$764
Special Fund Income	32	3,890	-3,858	380	19,688	-19,308	Little FP \$100
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>\$34,648</b>	<b>\$59,939</b>	<b>-\$25,291</b>	<b>\$400,270</b>	<b>\$400,464</b>	<b>-\$194</b>	M-of-M \$454
							<b>TOTAL \$8,199</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Pastor Expense	13,522	20,118	-6,596	162,265	154,217	8,048	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,022	2,076	-54	24,264	16,091	8,173	District \$0
Property Expense	5,483	5,789	-306	65,792	58,993	6,799	P/R \$0
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,329	1,967	362	27,950	23,067	4,883	<b>Mortgage Balance:</b>
Education Expense	142	85	57	1,700	554	1,146	\$300,716.74
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	826	212	614	9,910	5,933	3,977	<b>BANK BALANCES:</b>
Stewardship Expense	21	0	21	250	288	-38	BankSouth \$141,565.41
Fellowship Expense	200	152	48	2,400	1,621	779	LCEF \$101,558.96
Mission Expense (District)	8,837	10,503	-1,666	35,350	36,121	-771	Anderson \$124,381.20
DCE Expenses	2,048	0	2,048	21,175	6,367	14,808	Comm. Ctr. \$7,530.68
Other Expenses	4,101	9,016	-4,915	49,214	73,246	-24,032	<b>TOTAL \$375,036.25</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$39,531</b>	<b>\$49,918</b>	<b>-\$10,387</b>	<b>\$400,270</b>	<b>\$376,498</b>	<b>\$23,772</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$4,883</b>	<b>\$10,021</b>	<b>-\$14,904</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$23,966</b>	<b>-\$23,966</b>	



## LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

### Treasurer's Report - December 2021

	<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>
<b>INCOME</b>						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,496.45	-\$496.45	\$12,000.00	\$19,357.29	-\$7,357.29
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	-125.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,496.45</b>	<b>-\$496.45</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$19,482.29</b>	<b>-\$7,482.29</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$666.98	-\$244.60	\$0.00	\$3,415.91	-\$3,415.91
Utilities	250.00	188.00	58.00	3,000.00	2,333.00	667.00
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	-59.00	708.00	708.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	100.00	50.00	1,800.00	2,526.91	-726.91
Janitorial	83.33	250.00	-166.67	1,000.00	3,540.00	-2,540.00
Supplies	41.66	0.00	41.66	500.00	42.78	457.22
Repairs & Mtce.	333.33	0.00	333.33	4,000.00	1,716.23	2,283.77
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	82.66	100.00	82.66	992.00	2,275.15	-1,283.15
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$999.98</b>	<b>\$1,363.98</b>	<b>-\$364.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$16,557.98</b>	<b>-\$4,557.98</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0.02</b>	<b>\$132.47</b>	<b>-\$132.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,924.31</b>	<b>-\$2,924.31</b>
Bank Balance	\$7,530.68					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Oct. other expenses is for annual payment made towards mortgage balance.

## TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

Nov. 30, 2021

	<u>Period Budget</u>	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Income</b>						
Interest Income	0.00	13.63	-13.63	0.00	167.55	-167.55
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13.63</b>	<b>-\$13.63</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$167.55</b>	<b>-\$167.55</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,076.50	-1,076.50
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	446.64	-446.64
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>1,523.14</b>	<b>-1,523.14</b>
<b>Total Income Less Expenses:</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13.63</b>	<b>-\$13.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1,355.59</b>	<b>\$1,355.59</b>
<b>Bank Balance: \$124,381.20</b>						

# 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 anytime 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

We have several blood drives scheduled for the next few months and need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at [Kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:Kunzpd3@outlook.com). To sign up to donate blood go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use code LOLC. The blood drive dates are as follows **Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Times will be from 1pm to 6pm.

# 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.

Recent mites' collections (Jan) \$

Detailed information is available at [www.lwml.org](http://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.

\*Wearing a mask is now optional.

\*We are also need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.

Look for the sign up 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 has resumed rehearsing. Rehearsals are currently held on Sunday mornings at 9:00am during adult bible class. If you are interested in joining, please attend rehearsal.*

# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Communion	31	<b>1</b> 9 am Quilters Guild meeting 10 am Women's Bible Class	<b>2</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	<b>3</b> Blood Drive 1pm - 6pm Happy Birthday Carol Campbell Kayleen Ringer	<b>4</b> Happy Anniversary Harold & Joyce Huston	<b>5</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service
<b>6</b> <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Communion Elders Meeting	7	<b>8</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class	<b>9</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Happy Birthday Charles Crouch	<b>12</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Mark Ketchie
<b>13</b> <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Council Meeting Non-Communion Happy Birthday Jerry Pailer Happy Anniversary Lance & Jerry Pailer	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class 2 pm Community Center Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Happy Birthday Connie Saner	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service
<b>20</b> <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Communion Happy Birthday Margie Heimer Joan Whitten	<b>21</b> Presidents' Day	<b>22</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class	<b>23</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	<b>24</b> Happy Birthday Leroy Horst	<b>25</b> Happy Birthday Kathleen Stallings	<b>26</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Alan Oberdeck
<b>27</b> <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Non-Communion	28	<b>1</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class	<b>2</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service