



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 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,

The play is *St. Joan*. The year is 1429. The location is France. The setting is a castle where Charles, King of France, confronts Joan of Arc. The king is standing before the young girl trembling with rage. He can't believe, it seems, that God has had the audacity to select a nobody to become his vehicle for revelation in the land instead of using himself.

Standing before Joan, the king roars out in anger:

"O your voices, your voices. Why don't the voices come to me? I am king, not you!" "They do come to you," replies Joan, "but you do not hear them. You have not sat in the field in the evening listening for them." Finally, the king grits his teeth and clenches his fist.

The year is approximately 1075 BC. The location is Shiloh, a village that is perhaps 20 miles north of Jerusalem. The setting is the meeting place where the Ark of the Covenant is located and an old priest named Eli and a young lad named Samuel are lying



awake. Voices are heard here as well. Finally, after receiving advice from Eli, Samuel responds, *“Speak Lord, for thy servant hears.”* (1 Samuel 3:10).

You are not listening, Joan says to the king. *Speak Lord, I am listening* says Samuel to our God. Which one more resembles us, Charles or Samuel?

It is easy to find ourselves not taking the time out in the middle of our busy lives, our full schedules to listen. It is hard to stop all the demands of the day, all the noise that fills our lives and to listen for God. If we listen to ourselves we may sound like Charles angrily asking “Why isn’t He telling me?” The reality is that God does speak to us and is still speaking to us today.

No, I am not talking about hearing voices like Joan claimed or as Samuel did. However, God does promise to speak to us today through His Word and Sacraments. In Scripture we hear God’s voice assuring us of His care and promising His presence. In the Sacraments we receive His real love and forgiveness for all our sins. In the Word made flesh, whose birth we just celebrated, we receive life and salvation. The question is not “Is God speaking to us?” The question is “Are we listening to Him?”

“Speak Lord, for thy servant hears”. It is the Spirit empowered response of God’s people to His Word. Our worship is centered on Word and Sacrament. In His Word and through His Sacraments God is speaking to us today. The question always is, are we listening?

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!

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. This study will **begin on Tuesday, February 21.** 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

January 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson followed by a prayer by Pastor Hayden.

Larry was not in attendance.

The minutes from the December 11th council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- no report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- A motion was made by Kathie and seconded by Walter. “**I move that we make a principal payment of \$25K to pay down the mortgage.**” The motion passed. The December reports were distributed and discussed. Giving was over budget by \$15K and expenses were under budget by \$9K for 2022.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The report was distributed and reviewed. Three members have prepaid their 2023 offering in December for a total of \$30K. A private donor has given \$2,500, and Tri County EMC has given \$2K to the Little Free Pantry.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – The Emergency light system needs to be replaced. Barney will move forward and replace them. Bughouse is revisiting to address the squirrels and any openings in the roof, at no charge, as per our contract.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke- The first meeting is the first week of February.

Christian Education: Bob Elkins- The classroom is ready to begin childrens classes.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- The next blood drive is on January 12th. The Mission of the Month is supporting the Girl Scout Service Project which is collecting soaps/shampoos and hygiene products for those in need.


January/February.

Dinner Club continues in

We will continue the

Cereal Box ministry to Haiti in 2023.

Pastor’s Report: Steve Hayden- Pastor Hayden thanks the Congregation for the Christmas gift. Also, thanks to everyone who helped at LOLC during the Christmas season. Lent begins on 2/22, Ash Wednesday. There will be 6 Wednesday services during Lent beginning the evening of February 22nd, and Soup will be served. The following service is at noon on March 1st. Each Wednesday will alternate between evening and day services. Soup will be provided in the evening and



Soup and Sandwich during the day services. Margaret will be responsible for picking up sandwich platters.

Coffee and food (TBD) Fellowship will be provided on Easter Sunday. The meeting to discuss Hope Lutheran has been rescheduled to January 30th at 10AM.

Old Business:

1. Sanctuary Lighting/Emergency Lighting- Emergency Lighting discussed above. Continuing to seek additional vendors to discuss Sanctuary Lighting needs.

New Business:

1. Hope Lutheran Donation- Hope Lutheran Church has donated \$5,000 to LOLC, which are assets that that are remaining upon dissolution of the Church. This money will be earmarked for the potential Milledgeville ministry in the future.

Lenten Services (Should we have a soup supper on Ash Wednesday) – Yes, see above.

GDOT Offer to purchase property (Discussion and/or Decision about moving forward)- Mike will set up a meeting soon with Ms. Houston who is representing GDOT to discuss the proposals. Mike will also put together a group of questions submitted by the council.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2022

	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Restricted Fund Balances</u>
INCOME							
General Fund	31,677	52,889	-21,212	365,830	359,387	6,443	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	3,684	6,635	-2,951	44,214	30,705	13,509	A/P \$8,307
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	6,825	-6,825	Memorials \$13,228
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	89	-89	OCC Fund \$2,573
Special Fund Income	<u>32</u>	<u>6,460</u>	<u>-6,428</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>28,783</u>	<u>-28,403</u>	Little FP \$4,816
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$35,393	\$65,984	-\$30,591	\$410,424	\$425,789	-\$15,365	M-of-M \$454
							TOTAL \$29,856
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	14,066	11,776	2,290	168,798	157,449	11,349	A/P:
Worship Expense	3,065	2,927	138	36,784	23,847	12,937	District \$0
Property Expense	5,649	2,718	2,931	67,792	66,221	1,571	P/R \$8,307
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,525	2,122	403	30,295	26,828	3,467	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	158	23	135	1,900	374	1,526	\$238,190.73
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	784	234	550	9,410	4,706	4,704	
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	300	333	-33	BANK BALANCES:
Fellowship Expense	200	195	5	2,400	1,009	1,391	BankSouth \$165,699.34
Mission Expense (District)	8,325	10,788	-2,463	33,300	35,880	-2,580	LCEF \$101,834.75
DCE Expenses	769	0	769	9,225	0	9,225	Anderson \$124,718.97
Other Expenses	<u>4,185</u>	<u>5,870</u>	<u>-1,685</u>	<u>50,220</u>	<u>85,008</u>	<u>-34,788</u>	Comm. Ctr. \$14,199.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,726	\$36,653	\$3,073	\$410,424	\$401,655	\$8,769	Mortensen <u>\$150,087.80</u>
							TOTAL \$556,540.64
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$4,333	\$29,331	-\$33,664	\$0	\$24,134	-\$24,134	

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

Nov. 30, 2022

	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Period</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income						
Interest Income	<u>51.23</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>51.23</u>	<u>324.57</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>324.57</u>
Total Income:	\$51.23	\$0.00	\$51.19	\$324.57	\$0.00	\$324.57
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	<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 Expenses:	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00
Total Income Less Expenses:	51.23	0.00	\$51.19	324.57	0.00	\$324.57

Bank Balance: \$124,718.97

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2022

DATE	Member		Debt		TOTALS
	Donations	Memorials	Reduction	Other	
12/4/2022	\$6,115.00		\$100.00	\$971.00	\$7,186.00
12/11/2022	\$3,980.00		\$4,800.00	\$5,621.00	\$14,401.00
12/18/2022	\$17,865.00		\$85.00	\$0.00	\$17,950.00
12/25/2022	\$21,620.00		\$1,650.00	\$3,164.00	\$26,434.00
					\$0.00
DECEMBER 2022 (4)	\$49,580.00	\$0.00	\$6,635.00	\$9,756.00	\$65,971.00
DECEMBER 2021 (4)	\$50,438.62	\$2,660.00	\$2,535.00	\$4,269.00	\$59,902.62
Increase/(Decrease)	(\$858.62)	(\$2,660.00)	\$4,100.00	\$5,487.00	\$6,068.38
DECEMBER 2022 YTD (51)	\$349,058.00	\$156,825.00	\$30,705.00	\$38,140.31	\$574,728.31
DECEMBER 2021 YTD (52)	\$344,994.62	\$5,750.00	\$25,895.00	\$23,506.12	\$400,145.74
Increase/(Decrease)	\$4,063.38	\$151,075.00	\$4,810.00	\$14,634.19	\$174,582.57

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

2023 Lake Area Easter Basket Project

The Lake Area Easter Basket Project brings great joy through the power of a simple gift to a **child in foster care**. Last year more than 741 baskets were delivered to children in out-of-home placements in Baldwin, Greene, Putnam, Jasper, Jones, newton, Rockdale, Monroe, Hancock, Oconee, Washington and Baldwin counties. The goal is to serve and bless those children who are in out-of-home placements or are economically disadvantaged.

Easter represents a season of rejuvenation, rebirth, and a renewed sense of purpose and faith. With more children living in uncertain and often difficult circumstances, we hope you will consider filling and donating a basket to ensure the foster children in our own lake area get to experience the joy of Easter. Together, let us rejoice in knowing that Christ has risen!

Sign up for a particular age group (boy or girl) on the sign-up sheet on the “blue table”. There will be a sheet of basket filler ideas available for each age/sex of child to help get you started. Be creative! Consider making baskets with your grandchildren, co-workers, tennis/pickle ball team, card/craft group. Use gift bags, plastic totes, or reusable grocery bags or traditional Easter baskets. Tag your basket to indicate Age and Sex of the child. We will have plastic cellophane available at church to wrap your basket, if needed.

For those who are **unable to shop but want to help support the project**, gift cards to Walmart, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, or Hobby Lobby are great options. Students help shop and there is always a need for additional supplies- baskets, ribbon, bags. Place gift cards in the offering box.

LOLC’s goal is to provide 25 baskets for children in foster care. **Return your completed Easter basket to church by Sunday, March 12th.**



Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

2023 Lake Area Easter Basket Project – Basket Filler Ideas

GIRL AGE 5-9

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, doll, stuffed animal, bubbles, sticker book, markers, sidewalk chalk, playdough, jump rope, bubble bath, puzzles...

BOY AGE 5-9

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, toy cars, stuffed animal, ball - soccer/football/kickball, bubbles, sticker book, markers, sidewalk chalk, playdough, jump rope, bubble bath, puzzles...

GIRL AGE 10-14

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, fun socks, lotions/lip balm/bath bombs, art supplies, school supplies, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

BOY AGE 10-14

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, ball cap, mechanical pencils/pens, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

GIRL AGE 15-18

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, fun socks, lotions/lip balm/bath bombs, art supplies, school supplies, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

BOY AGE 15-18

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, ball cap, mechanical pencils/pens, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

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.
(Jan \$90)

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 Feb 9, Mar 9, & Apr 6. 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. **Times will be from 12pm to 5pm.**



Sunday School for our Children

Sunday School will begin next month. We are planning an all-teacher meeting after coffee fellowship on Sunday, February 25th and classes will begin on Sunday, March 5th. There is still room if you would like to volunteer and join us. Talk to Pastor Steve or Marcia Elkins if you have any questions.

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.

Lenten Wednesday Services for this year is:

Ash Wednesday 2/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

3/1 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm,

3/8 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm ,

3/15 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm.

3/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

3/29 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service Communion</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>10 am Women's Bible Class</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:30 ZOOM Bible Class</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Blood Drive 1pm - 6pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Happy Birthday Carol Campbell Kayleen Ringer</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Anniversary Harold & Joyce Huston</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Elders Meeting</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>10 am Women's Bible Class</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:30 ZOOM Bible Class</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Charles Crouch</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-communion Happy Birthday Mark Ketchie</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Happy Birthday Jerry Pailer Happy Anniversary Lance & Jerry Pailer</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p> <p>10 am Women's Bible Class</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>Happy Birthday Connie Saner</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service Communion</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Presidents' Day Happy Birthday Margie Heimer Joan Whitten</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 am Women's Bible Class</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Soup Supper 6pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 6pm Service 7pm</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>Happy Birthday Leroy Horst</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Kathleen Stallings</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion Happy Birthday Al Oberdeck</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>10 am Women's Bible Class</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</p>