



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

January 2021

Pastor Steven Hayden
revshayden@gmail.com

DCE Intern Katherine Lutz
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Secretary Sonya Plunkett
officelolc@gmail.com

Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin
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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Holy Communion
2nd & 4th Sundays Morning Worship
Bible Class 9:00 a.m.

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


Visit our web site: www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

One day, as the family drove on vacation, one of the kids, out of the clear blue, said, "When I grow up I'm not going to be one of those 'wish you luck' people."

After a little probing, his meaning became clear. He was actually referring to the people who stood around patting the astronauts on the back, wishing them luck as they climbed aboard the space shuttle. What he meant was, when he grew up, he was not going to be one of those people who wished other people luck, he was going to be one of those people on the space shuttle. None of this sitting around while other people have adventures and make history, he was going to be having the adventures and making the history!

What do you suppose a father should say to his child? "Son, the odds of you ever being an astronaut are, well, astronomical!" Of course not! It is important to encourage and support the dreams and goals of our children. After all, which one of us can say for certain they will not go where no man has gone before?



Who is responsible to encourage and support the dreams and goals of adult children? In other words, who is it that encourages the children of God to move forward with His plan for them, His mission and commission for His people? One thing I can say to you for certain: No one has been assigned the task of discouraging God's children from moving forward!

Did you know that? This job description, or assignment, is not to be found anywhere in God's Word. Rather, God continually challenges us to seek ways, new ways, better ways, to carry His gospel message to the ends of the earth. Instead of limiting, God is always encouraging us to expand our vision, expand our goals, expand our plans, because only in expanding will we begin to see how large God's plan is for us. People seldom think too large. More often, they think far too small.

God says, "Go into the world. . . ." God's people say, "We have never been there before." God says, "Preach the Word to every nation." God's people say, "The door is closed to that nation." God says, "I desire all people to be saved." God's people say, "We are not really sure God wants those people (that person?) in heaven." God is expansive; His people tend to downsize!

The only time God calls upon us to step back and rethink is when our plans are not in accordance with His plans. Yet, even at these times, God does not tell us to stop moving. He tells us to move forward differently.

God's plan for us and His church is bigger than we would like to admit. Bigger is frightening. Bigger means serious commitment. Bigger means out of our control. God's plan is so big we cannot handle it, not to mention carry it out, without His help.

That's part of His plan too!

Pastor Steve

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL WHO SENT US CARDS, GAVE US GIFTS, REMEMBERED US IN YOUR PRAYERS OR OTHERWISE MADE US FEEL LOVED AND CARED FOR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. WE ALWAYS FEEL ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORT BY YOUR LOVE.

PASTOR AND LINDA HAYDEN

Katherine's Chronicles

LOLC Church Family,


Happy New Year! What a blessing it is that we have entered a New Year! I am not sure what a New Year signifies to each of you, but I know that in my life, the end of one year and the beginning of a new year is an opportunity to reflect on all that occurred over the last year. When I think about this last year, I am reminded of one particular moment.



These three sweet friends and I were on Spring Break in California and had just made it to Sequoia National Park. We were nearing the end of our week-long adventure backpacking through southern California and on this day, everything felt perfect. The mountains and trees were beautiful, we had spent time in prayer and devotion as we drove up the mountain, and these people made me feel as if anything was possible when we were together. As we were up on the mountain, my friend Matt said, "I am pretty sure this is it. How does it get any better than this?!" We all laughed, threw snow at one another, sang silly songs about our adventures, and joked with one another and it was so so good.

Just a couple hours later, as we began our descent down the mountain, we received the email. School was shut down for two weeks, there was a virus that we had never heard about that was going to end our semester early. It was the best moment of 2020 and one of the most heartbreaking, all in the quick span of an afternoon.

A few days later I wrote in my journal, "just thinking about how God is still providing for us. Even when it feels like it is just enough, thank you Jesus. I have felt pretty sorry for myself and many others recently but I am realizing that Jesus continues to



be present with all that I need- friends, joy, zoom calls, food, and so so much more. I am reminding myself and others, let's be patient with one another- every one is grieving and is in the midst of loss for so many things all at the same time."

So here is my challenge to you- in the midst of uncertainty in the year to come, sit with this blessing "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

(Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord is with you, in the highest of highs and in the lowest of lows, and will remain with you on the mountaintop moments and in the moments when you feel great sorrow. My prayers are with each of us as we enter 2021. May there be peace, may there be joy, and may we seek Jesus!

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS CHRISTMAS BONUS. I AM BEYOND BLESSED TO KNOW EACH OF YOU AND SO THANKFUL TO BE A PART OF THE LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH FAMILY! BODE GREATLY APPRECIATED EXTRA TREATS OVER OUR CHRISTMAS TRAVELS! THANKS SO MUCH FOR BLESSING US AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR!

Congregational News

Worship Update -- Live streaming

In the past months Lake Oconee Lutheran has pre-recorded our worship service and then posted it online. Now we are attempting to live stream our worship. That means it will be broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship.

If you are unable to be online at 10:30 am, do not worry. The recorded service will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the [@lakeoconeelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lakeoconeelutheranchurch) page on Facebook. The service will also be posted on the church website by Monday or Tuesday of each week. God's blessings to each of you!

LOLC JANUARY'S MISSION OF THE MONTH:



January Mission: Circle of Love

Our mission of the month is The Circle Of Love Center who provides direct and support services to domestic abuse victims and their children through residential (shelter) and non-residential services in our five-county area - Greene, Morgan, Putnam, Baldwin, and Hancock counties. They work to raise community awareness and understanding of domestic violence issues and are committed to making a difference in the lives of families.

Items of need:

Trash Bags

Laundry Detergent

Bleach

Cleaning Supplies

Dish soap & Sponges

Towels & Wash Cloths

Hygiene items

(toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, hand soap, shampoo/ conditioner)



Feel free to drop off items in the green and grey bins outside of the church and inside the foyer. All items due January 31st.

Please contact Katherine if you have any questions-
dcekatherine@gmail.com



Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

Water

Almost every page of the Old Testament is wet. It is amazing to observe how often water finds its way into OT stories, especially stories about how God is at work to bless or save His people. From the opening words of Genesis to the closing words of the prophets, we continually hear about how God joins His Word of Grace to water. He uses it to lift up the ark to carry Noah and his family to safety; He uses it at the Red Sea to rescue His people, Israel, from Pharaoh; He brings it out of a rock in the wilderness to demonstrate to Israel that He is the God who brings life out of death. By the time you get to the New Testament, it comes then as no surprise when God “in the flesh”, Jesus Christ, chooses water as the element of creation by which to save sinners and bring them into His life-giving body. **Join us every Sunday morning at 9 am** as we see how Water washes through the whole Bible. **You may also watch the Bible class live each week on Lake Oconee Lutheran Church’s Facebook page.**

Our Upcoming Sunday Bible Class

“The Red Letter Challenge”

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

Jesus is saying, "If you want your house to stand up, practice what I am preaching. Do what I say." Jesus says in Luke 11:28: " Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." James, the brother of Jesus, says it even more simply in James 1:22: " Do not merely listen to the word, so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

That's the big idea. Taking Jesus' words, the only ones that are written in red letters in your Bibles, and putting them into practice. Literally. That's the very unoriginal yet revolutionary idea that's going to change not just the followers of Jesus but the world in which we live.

The Challenge begins on **February 14th** as we kick off our journey together in Bible Class. Register today to reserve your book!

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

Genesis

The study of the Old Testament is nothing less than an exploration into the thoughts of God and His desires for ordinary people like you and me. And what makes more sense than to "begin at the beginning"? As the history of sinful humanity finds its beginning, so also does the unfolding of God's plan to redeem fallen humanity through the sending of a Savior. **Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom** as we look at old familiar stories and clearly see the new life that God gives to us in Jesus Christ.

WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS In the book of Ruth, we have the opportunity to hear about the Lord's faithfulness both in Ruth and Naomi's relationship but in a grand way as Boaz serves as the Kingsman redeemer for Ruth and Naomi. The Lord is at work in all of their lives and provides abundantly more than they could have imagined. Curious what this is all about and how it impacts your life as well? Join us on Tuesday at 10am in the choir room. If you have any questions, email Katherine at dcekatherine@gmail.com that you would like to join.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson, followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Hayden.

Walter Krause and Barney Ross were not in attendance.

The minutes from the November 15th Council Meeting will be approved at the January meeting.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- The slate of candidates for the December 13th election has been filled.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The November Treasurers reports (LOLC, Community Center, Anderson Fund) were presented. LOLC is in the black by \$27,987 YTD.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The November financial report was presented by Tom. LOLC is ahead of 2019 giving by \$44,345 YTD.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – no report

Lay Ministry: Alan Oberdeck- Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM, Christmas Day service at 10:00 AM. Pastor Hayden will be on vacation on 12/27, Rev. Larry Townsend will be handling the Sunday School and Church Service. Stewardship sermons will begin on 1/24, and end on 2/2.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- no report

Christian Service/Outreach: Laura Ringer- Report will be handled by Katherine.

DCE: Katherine Lutz- The Mission of the Months have been successful, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Children's Sunday School is a "work in progress". The Little Free Pantry is being utilized by the community.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden- Reviewed the positive developments for LOLC in 2020. This included our acquisition of the corner lot, Community Center, DCE Intern, Mission of the Month, and our new Online broadcast services.



Old Business:

1. No old business.

New Business:

1. 2021 Operating Budgets- Kathie Kueven presented in writing and verbally discussed the Anderson Fund, Community Center and the LOLC operating budgets for 2021.

Alan Oberdeck made a motion and was seconded: **I move that we approve the 2021 budgets as presented.** The motion was approved by a voice vote.

2. Election of 2021-22 Officers

The following slate of candidates were presented in writing.

Margaret Pedersen- 2-year Head of Christian Service/Outreach

Joshua Ringer- New 2-year term of Head of Christian Education

Barney Ross – New 2-year term of Head of Church Properties

Joe Peeples- The remaining 1 year of Head of Lay Ministry, and Alan’s Elder term.

Mark Kethchie- The remaining 1 year of Joe Peeples Elder term.

Virginia Daley- New 2 year Elder term

Barney Ross- New 2 year Elder term

Kathie Kueven- New 2 year Elder term

Ed Fritch- New 2 year Elder term

Charlie Helms made a motion and was seconded: **I move that we accept the candidates as presented on the ballot.** The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The installation of officers will be taking place at the January 3rd, 2021 church service.

3. DCE Call- Pastor Hayden presented the role and qualifications of the DCE position and the DCE call process. This included an explanation of the long-term commitment by LOLC to this position. The call to Katherine Lutz would for the position beginning in June of 2021 following completion of the internship.

Carol Campbell made a motion and was seconded: **I move that we call Katherine Lutz for the position of DCE beginning in June 2021.** The motion was approved by paper ballot.

Pastor Hayden closed with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

LOLC Treasurer Reports – December 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - December, 2020

	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Restricted Fund Balances</u>
COME							
General Fund	47,126	28,800	18,326	365,168	330,095	35,073	Anderson \$127,903
Debt Reduction	2,630	3,682	-1,052	40,680	44,186	-3,506	Organ \$478
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	1,417	0	1,417	A/P \$6,038
Special Fund Income	3,112	416	2,696	26,775	4,800	21,975	Sign Fund \$639
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$52,868	\$32,898	\$19,970	\$434,040	\$379,081	\$54,959	TOTAL \$135,052
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	11,438	17,131	-5,693	143,040	158,043	-15,003	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,126	2,010	116	16,250	24,115	-7,865	District \$0
Property Expense	4,083	5,681	-1,598	66,058	68,179	-2,121	P/R \$6,038
Bus. & Administrative Expense	1,555	2,600	-1,045	24,841	31,198	-6,357	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	78	58	20	452	700	-248	\$331,929.69
Evangelism/Outreach Expense	160	607	-447	4,256	7,290	-3,034	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	267	250	17	BankSouth \$124,597.97
Fellowship Expense	20	192	-172	408	2,300	-1,892	LCEF \$101,400.91
Mission Expense (District)	9,691	8,213	1,478	35,756	32,850	2,906	Anderson \$127,903.24
DCE Expenses	1,440	0	1,440	14,584	0	14,584	Comm. Ctr. \$4,606.37
Other Expenses	4,773	4,530	243	74,513	54,355	20,158	TOTAL \$358,508.48
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,364	\$41,022	-\$5,658	\$380,425	\$379,280	\$1,145	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$17,504	-\$8,124	\$25,628	\$53,615	-\$199	\$53,814	

Opportunities to Serve

(During Covid)

Little Free Pantry

Lake Oconee Lutheran has a new 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

In order to keep the pantry full, we will be asking for a volunteer to take a week of time and check the pantry twice throughout the week. The volunteer will add food if the shelf is low and make sure that it is clean and well cared for.

Please contact Katherine if you are willing to sign up for a week!

Email dcekatherine@gmail.com

OUR CHURCH OFFICE HAS A NEW EMAIL We have a new email address in the office at Lake Oconee Lutheran. Emails for the church secretary should now be addressed to officelolc@gmail.com. Pastor and Katherine's email addresses will remain the same.

I wanted to thank everyone for the generous gift this year. I have been so blessed in becoming part of the staff at Lake Oconee Lutheran. I haven't met everyone but I have met a few faces and each one is as welcoming as the last. I wish I could thank each of you in person but since COVID is making sure that can't happen I wanted to thank you all here. Many Blessings to all of you and your families. -Sonya Plunkett (church secretary)



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.



Eatonton Community **Blood Drive**

Sponsored by Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

**Thursday, January 7, 2021
1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

Lake Oconee Lutheran Community Center
1081 Lake Oconee Parkway

To schedule your appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org
and use sponsor code: lolc.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions. This can only be done the day of your donation.

Social distancing will be utilized during the blood drive. Feel free to wear a mask. Do not come to the donation site if you do not feel well or have had exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 28 days.

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

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

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



Choir Notes

(Inactive during COVID19)

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

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 also want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship, so we are asking everyone to help. You can sign up for snacks, drinks and clean up. Tom Uehlin will be providing coffee and ordering kitchen supplies. If you would like to serve and have questions or need assistance, please talk to Barbara Hardesty. *[This will resume after all worship restrictions are removed]*

Recycling Projects



Remember the LOLC paper recycling program only includes weekly bulletins and other white paper products.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Installation of Officers	4 Happy Birthday Lynda Bridwell	5 10 am Women's Bible Class	6 9am Elders Meeting 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class Happy Birthday Donald Kunz	7 1 pm Blood Drive @ community center	8	9
10 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting after Church	11	12 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Sonya Plunkett	13 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class Happy Birthday Pam Kunz	14	15	16
17 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	18	19 10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm community center committee	20 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class	21 Happy Birthday Bill Stokes	22	23
24 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	25 Katherine at Midyear Conference ----- ----- -----	26	27 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class	28	29 Happy Birthday Katherine Lutz Happy Birthday Walter Krause	30 Happy Birthday Dick Schneider Happy Birthday Margaret Ringer
31 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Happy Birthday Greg Hardesty	1	2 10 am Women's Bible Class	3 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class	4	5 Pastor's day off	6