



# 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 2023

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

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

Instrumentalist Dr. Lev Rybanin  
Choir Director Dr. Youngmi Kim

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,

As we come to another New Year celebration, how should we look forward to 2023? It's honestly hard to know what to expect or hope for. With that in mind, let me offer four New Year's wishes for you.

As we hope for a better year, let's also seek after God's power that is made perfect in weakness. Whether life is easy or hard, whether we feel blessed or burdened, it is always God's strength that sustains us. Perseverance comes through the Holy Spirit and may be the most valuable blessing God can provide to get us through daily life in this broken world. We hope 2023 will be a great year filled with good news and sunshine, but if it's not, we can still rejoice knowing God's power never fails.

***[The Lord] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ... That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10***



As we plan for prosperity in the New Year, let's also learn the secret of being content in every situation. How about that for a New Year's resolution? I will learn to be content no matter how the coming days unfold. The secret, of course, is to lean on God's strength and to trust in His provision rather than expecting the things of this world to satisfy our hearts.

***I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:11-13***

As we wish for a "return to normal," let's also ask God for peace that passes understanding. Do you feel anxious about the uncertain future? If so, you are not alone. We face many challenges that could easily derail our lives and send us spinning into despair. But God offers us peace, even in the midst of sorrow or difficulty. We can't fully understand or explain it, but we know it could only come from the God who loves us more than we deserve.

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7***

As we dream about a year filled with happiness, let's also set our minds on things above. God doesn't promise us happiness in this life, but He does promise that our resurrection life will be better in every way. Sometimes making the best of hard circumstances is all we can do, and we should never forget that we are not alone and remember to look up and look ahead. Eternal life with Jesus will be more glorious than we can imagine. That is the future we should set our hearts on.

***Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. – Colossians 3:1-2***

Above all, may your New Year strengthen your faith and trust in God and empower your service and care for others.

*Pastor Steve*

---



# Thank You!

Linda and I thank everyone for the love, cards, gifts and prayers that you have showered upon us this Christmastime. Thank you for the loving words and for your contribution to our congregational gift. We see you not only as friends, but as gifts from God to us!

Thank you for being a blessing to us not just now, but all year long!

Pastor and Linda Hayden

I would like to thank the congregation for their generous gift this Christmas and all the other gifts and goodies I find on my desk occasionally. I have been with LOLC for almost 2.5 years now and I am always greeted with smiles and friendly faces. Everyone has always been warm and welcoming. I truly enjoy working here at LOLC and I hope you all have a blessed and wonderful year in 2023. Thank you so much.

Sonya Plunkett  
Church Secretary

## **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

We all have sung hymns in worship (and often complained about them). But what are they actually? Are they just musical entertainment, breaks where we can whisper to others or go to the restroom, time to stretch or re-arrange? Lutheran hymns are not breaks from worship, but a central part of worship. They concisely teach pure, clear Biblical doctrine in a way that reinforces the theme of the day in worship and teaches us using music. Hymns have always been a part of Lutheran worship beginning with Martin Luther who urged churches to use them as a vehicle for proclaiming the Gospel. He writes, "Next to theology, I accord to music the highest place and greatest honor." **Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am for our Zoom Bible study** as we study the Biblical teaching of the Hymn of the Day which will be sung at the next Sunday Worship service.

## Women's Bible class

The Women's Bible Study group will be reading and discussing the Women of the Bible, at 10:00 am on Tuesdays in the Choir Room. Please join us in fellowship as we learn about the many women in Scripture that the Lord has called upon. They come from all walks of life and stepped up when the Lord made them a part of His plans. The book highlights 12 of these women and the valuable lessons we can learn from their stories, inspiring us to persevere through tough times and listen when He calls us in our hearts.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
December 11, 2022

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

Kathy and Josh were not in attendance.

The minutes from the November 13th council meeting were approved

**Council Committee Reports:**

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

**Treasurer:** Kathie Kueven- No report, November financials will be emailed to the council this week for review.

**Financial Secretary:** Walter Krause- A special gift of \$10K was given to the general fund by a member LOLC above their regular offering. Rent of \$250 was received for the use of the church by the "Save 44" group.

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

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

**Lay Ministry:** Don Menke- The 2023 Elders and groupings have been posted on the bulletin board.

**Christian Education:** Joshua Ringer- no report

**Christian Service/Outreach:** Margaret Pedersen- The last blood drive saw a record of 50 donations.

Operation Christmas Child is complete with a total of 392 boxes donated. The Eatonton Messenger ran a nice article about our work on operation Christmas Child.

The Mission of the Month is the Little Free Pantry. After a post by Pastor Hayden regarding Little Free Pantry being in need, Margaret posted on Next Door. LOLC received a \$2500 donation after a person from Next Door inquired on how he could help. The senior class from Gatewood School also donated food.

**Pastor's Report:** Steve Hayden- A reminder that the Christmas Eve service is at 7 PM, and Christmas Day is at 10 AM. The final Advent service will be an afternoon with a lunch service. If this is popular, we may continue this for some of the Lenten services

Voting took place this year at LOLC for the November election and December run-off.

Ka'Niyah Robertson, a recipient of the Lake Oconee Youth Alliance scholarship with support from LOLC, will be attending our service on Sunday, 12/18, along with the program head, Janice Went.

Youngmi Kim has a music student who is willing to intern during the school year in the choir every Sunday. LOLC would pay the student \$40 per week.

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Walter, **“I move that we hire one student through the end of the academic year to sing in the choir for \$40 per week to be paid by the congregation.”** The motion passed. Mike had previously made a motion to pay personally for half of this cost, however an amendment was made and voted on to have LOLC pay the entire \$40 per week.

The Epiphany Lutheran Church of Jackson, Mississippi the first historically black LCMS church was a victim of arson recently. A donation for the church was suggested by one of our members.

A motion was made by Tom, and seconded by Mike, **“I move that we donate the remainder of the 2022 Benevolent fund up to \$500 to the Epiphany Congregation.”** The motion passed.

Pastor Hayden met with Dr Peter Meyer, Head of Mission for the GA/FL District to discuss the closing of the Hope Lutheran Church in Milledgeville on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The district will be taking ownership of the church assets including the building. The district is inquiring if LOLC would have interest in helping to establish some sort of ministry at the current location. For example, a student ministry, Community Service, a new congregation etc. It was decided to call a special meeting of the Elders and Church Council to discuss ideas and interest on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM.

**Old Business:**

1. Greene County Christian Outreach- The organization has closed.
2. Hope Lutheran Closing- Discussed above

**New Business:**

1. Sanctuary Lighting/Emergency Lighting- Mike and Barney discussed the need to replace/upgrade our current Sanctuary lighting. The Emergency Lighting system is not working, and new batteries are needed as well. After a detailed discussion of the Sanctuary lighting problem, Mike and Barney volunteered to reach out to companies specializing in Church lighting. They will report at a future council meeting on costs and solutions suggested and next steps.
2. Date and Time for removal of Christmas Decorations. - January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Larry Davis  
Congregational Secretary

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - November 30, 2022

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
<b>INCOME</b>							
General Fund	30,778	28,530	2,248	334,152	306,498	27,654	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	3,684	1,765	1,919	40,530	24,070	16,460	A/P \$11,776
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	6,825	-6,825	Memorials \$13,228
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$4,098
Special Fund Income	32	1,251	-1,219	348	22,412	-22,064	Little FP \$216
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>\$34,494</b>	<b>\$31,546</b>	<b>\$2,948</b>	<b>\$375,030</b>	<b>\$359,805</b>	<b>\$15,225</b>	M-of-M \$454
							<b>TOTAL \$30,250</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Pastor Expense	14,067	12,231	1,836	154,732	145,673	9,059	A/P:
Worship Expense	3,065	2,930	135	33,719	20,921	12,798	District \$5,533
Property Expense	5,649	9,100	-3,451	62,143	63,502	-1,359	P/R \$6,243
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,525	2,824	-299	27,770	24,707	3,063	<b>Mortgage Balance:</b>
Education Expense	158	0	158	1,742	350	1,392	\$241,146.74
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	784	215	569	8,626	4,472	4,154	<b>BANK BALANCES:</b>
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	300	333	-33	BankSouth \$136,366.39
Fellowship Expense	200	53	147	2,200	815	1,385	LCEF \$101,792.92
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	24,975	25,093	-118	Anderson \$124,667.74
DCE Expenses	769	0	769	8,456	0	8,456	Comm. Ctr. \$13,488.79
Other Expenses	4,185	8,599	-4,414	46,035	79,138	-33,103	Mortensen \$150,075.05
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$31,402</b>	<b>\$35,952</b>	<b>-\$4,550</b>	<b>\$370,698</b>	<b>\$365,004</b>	<b>\$5,694</b>	<b>TOTAL \$526,390.89</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,092</b>	<b>-\$4,406</b>	<b>\$7,498</b>	<b>\$4,332</b>	<b>-\$5,199</b>	<b>\$9,531</b>	

## LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - November 2022

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
<b>INCOME</b>						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,454.15	-\$454.15	\$11,000.00	\$17,685.67	-\$6,685.67
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,454.15</b>	<b>-\$454.15</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,685.67</b>	<b>-\$6,685.67</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$272.54	-\$272.54	\$0.00	\$2,130.41	-\$2,130.41
Utilities	250.00	196.00	54.00	2,750.00	2,516.00	234.00
Pest Control	59.00	350.00	-291.00	649.00	999.00	-350.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	180.00	-30.00	1,650.00	1,260.00	390.00
Janitorial	250.00	630.00	-380.00	2,750.00	3,375.86	-625.86
Supplies	30.00	39.93	-9.93	330.00	340.28	-10.28
Repairs & Mtce.	186.00	0.00	186.00	2,046.00	494.06	1,551.94
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	611.95	-611.95
Other Expenses	75.00	0.00	75.00	825.00	0.00	825.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,668.47</b>	<b>-\$668.47</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>	<b>\$11,727.56</b>	<b>-\$727.56</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$214.32</b>	<b>\$214.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,958.11</b>	<b>-\$5,958.11</b>

Bank Balance \$13,488.79  
Accounts Payable \$0.00

## TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

Sept. 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>
<b>Income</b>						
Interest Income	<u>52.92</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>52.92</u>	<u>273.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>273.34</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>52.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51.19</b>	<b>220.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>273.34</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
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>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Income Less Expenses:</b>	<b>52.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51.19</b>	<b>220.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>273.34</b>

Bank Balance: \$124,667.74

r



## Welcome to 2023

As we welcome in the new year let's take a moment to introduce you to your fellow church members who give of their time and energy to make sure that things at our church are taken care of and needs are met.

Church Council: These are your fellow members who will tend to the business of "running" the church in 2023. They have been elected to their position at the October 30th church meeting.

**President – Tom Mathson** – oversees overall operations of church

**Vice President – Mike Joost** – in charge of all personnel matters and has been leading the nominating committee (and also provides leadership in electronic matters such as internet, computers, video streaming, lights, and other equipment).

**Financial Secretary – Walter Krause** – Walter handles all incoming monies and keeps confidential records of giving and provides your statements.

**Treasurer – Kathie Kueven** – takes care of paying all the bills and prepares reports to keep everyone informed of our bank balances and how the money received is spent.

**Congregational Secretary – Larry Davis** – keeps records of all board and congregational meetings and keeps congregation informed of what is happening. He works with Mike on the nominating committee.


**Church Properties – Barney Ross** – Barney has a big job; he sees that everything is kept in good repair and up to date. He has a never-ending job just handling routine building repairs, property management (and critters in the attic).

**Lay Ministry – Don Menke** – Don is the head elder and, as such, is the elders' liaison to the board. He also leads the elder meetings, encouraging each elder to keep in contact with his/her responsibility list.

**Christian Education – Bob Elkins** – Bob will help us organize our Sunday School and children's programs.

**Christian Service/Outreach – Margaret Pederson** – Margaret also has a very big job arranging all our outreach and fellowship projects. This includes Little Free Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Mission of the Month projects and all our fellowship dinners and events.

Hopefully, this list will give you a good idea of who to contact if you have questions, suggestions, complaints or want to volunteer to help in any way.



Elders: These are the people who oversee assisting the Pastor in caring for our spiritual life.

Don Menke – Chairperson of Elders  
Virginia Daley  
Barney Ross  
Kathie Kueven  
Mark Ketchie  
Pam Kunz  
Jerry Campbell  
Ed Fritch

There is a picture of each elder, along with the names of the church members who they care for, on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the kitchen. If you are not sure who your elder is, please check the lists.

Elders work to assure that your spiritual needs are being met and are often your voice to the Pastor with cares and concerns. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on your elder to discuss with them so your concerns may be handled in the proper manner. Your elders continue to pray for you and your family and should be kept informed of any special needs you may have. If someone in your family is ill, about to undergo any medical procedures or in the hospital, PLEASE let your elder know about it as soon as you can.

All these people all work very hard “behind the scenes” for you and for our church. Please keep them in your prayers and be sure to thank them from time to time.

---

# 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](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.  
**(Nov \$207)**

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

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 New Year's Day</b> <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Communion	2	3  10 am Women's Bible Class	4  10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Happy Birthday Lynda Bridwell	5	6  Happy Birthday Donald Kunz	7  <b>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</b>
8 <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Council Meeting Non-Communion Happy Birthday Janice Sollenberger	9	10  10 am Women's Bible Class	11  10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	12	13  Happy Birthday Pam Kunz	14  <b>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</b>
15 <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Communion	16	17  10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm Community Center Meeting	18  10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	19	20	21  <b>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</b> Happy Birthday Bill Stokes
22 <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Non-Communion	23	24  10 am Women's Bible Class 2 pm Community center meeting	25  10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	26	27	28  <b>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</b>
29 <b>9:00 AM Adult Bible School</b> 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM Worship Service</b> Communion Happy Birthday Walter Krause	30  Happy Birthday Jaye McCrear Margaret Ringer Dick Schneider	31  10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Greg Hardesty	1  10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	2	3	4  <b>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service</b>