



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

March 2021

Pastor Steven Hayden
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Secretary Sonya Plunkett
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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.
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,

Habits play a very important part of our lives and often they unintentionally spill over into other areas of our lives. Physical examples are the habits of making your bed, flossing your teeth, and exercising regularly. These habits can influence your mood, make you feel and look healthier and increase your energy.

But I believe that no habits create a greater domino effect in our lives than spiritual habits. Ultimately all of our doing in this world should effectively come out of our being in relationship with God. If that's true, then our major focus in life should always be in growing in our relationship with God.

How do we grow in our relationship with God? Look to Jesus. He is the only perfect person who has ever existed in perfect relationship with God. He is the perfect person we look to as our example in this world.

Even Jesus tells us this: Matthew 11:29: Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.



Jesus is inviting us into a way of life where He leads and we follow Him. The more we sit at his feet and learn from Him, the more we become like Him. The more His habits become our habits. And the more these habits will begin to feel like unforced rhythms of grace in our lives.

Listen to how Eugene Peterson summarizes Paul's word to Timothy in 1 Peter 4:7-8: Exercise daily in God – no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever.

So what habits did Jesus have in his life? To find out, Lake Oconee Lutheran has kicked off this "Red Letter Challenge" (RLC), a 40-day challenge where we as brothers and sisters in Christ are challenged to read the words of Jesus for 40 days straight. We are doing this by reading daily devotionals, attending a Bible study that goes along with what we are learning, listening to sermons and by being challenged in our walk with Jesus each of those 40 days.

This study causes us to take a closer look at the words of Jesus... and then challenges us to actually live out Jesus' words in our lives, to develop habits like Jesus! You may have noticed that in many Bibles, the words of Jesus are printed in red letters. That's where this study gets its name. But when you combine a sermon series with Bible study and a personal workbook, all focused on putting those red letters into practice, you don't just have an all-church Bible study ... you have an all-church CHALLENGE!

Join us every Sunday (and every day in your own devotion) for the Red Letter Challenge. It's not too late!!

Pastor Steve



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 live streaming 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](#) 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 MARCH'S MISSION OF THE MONTH:



March Mission: Care Baskets

In the month of March, we want to share love with those who care for us! Lets show our appreciation to our first responders. The Women's Bible Study group is sponsoring this months mission and is collecting items for the Greene County Sheriffs office and Fire Dept. In total we are aiming to collect items for over 75 men and women who serve the community.

Types of items to bring:

Individually Packed nuts, chips, cookies
Beef jerky/ Beef sticks
Packs of gum
Canned sodas/ Energy drinks/ Gatorade
Granola Bars
Candy Bars/ Hard Candy
Lotion
Chapstick
Car Air Fresheners

Feel free to drop off items in the green and grey bins outside the church or in the baskets inside the Sanctuary.

All items are due March 28th



Our Sunday Morning 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

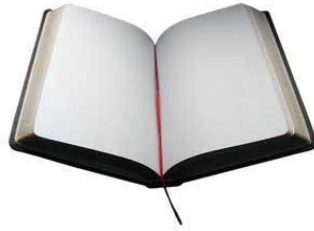
Jesus is saying, "If you want your house to stand up, practice what I am preaching. Do what I say." Jesus says in Luke 11:28: " Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." James, the brother of Jesus, says it even more simply in James 1:22: " Do not merely listen to the word, so deceive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

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school meets Sunday mornings at 10am in the children's Sunday school room.

LOLC offers Bible Study and Ministry



Stephen's Ministry

Class

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.



WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS Many women know Psalm 23 by heart but haven't experienced its power in their lives. This beloved psalm can breathe new life into women who are weary and unsure of their next steps. It's more than a psalm that comforts in death; it gives confidence in life. In this 7-session study by Jennifer Rothschild, gain fresh insight and encouragement from Psalm 23. Explore the depths of God's compassionate care while debunking the self-reliance myth. Learn how your vulnerability is not a liability because you can trust the Shepherd's goodness throughout each season of life. **Join us on Tuesdays at 10am** in the choir room.

Mid - Week Bible

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.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
February 14th, 2021

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

Walter Krause, Larry Davis, and Barney Ross were not in attendance.

The minutes from the January 10th Council Meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- No report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The January treasurer reports were distributed, LOLC, Community Center and Anderson Fund. It was noted that the General Fund donations for January were \$50K, which is \$21K over the amount budgeted. The walkway for the Community Center came in under budget, so a replacement for the window to the Kitchen in the Community Center and Handrails for the 3 outside walkways are being considered.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The January report was distributed. It was mentioned that there was an annual gift given in its entirety in January for \$30K.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – no report

Lay Ministry: Joe Peeples- no report

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- The Childrens Sunday School Schedule/work schedule will need to be reevaluated going forward. Joshua will be discussing this with Pastor Hayden via phone.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- Met with Pastor Hayden to discuss the state of our Service and Outreach programs. The Zoom Trivia night was a success. The February mission of the month, Care Baskets for Police and Fire in Putnam County, is getting help from the Tuesday Ladies Bible Study Group. The March Mission will be the same mission except for Greene County. The 2/16 blood drive has 49 of the 52 slots filled.


Linda Hayden and Kayleen Ringer have taken over responsibility for the Little Pantry. The coffee pot in the kitchen is being replaced.

Pastor's Report: Our Lenten season begin next week. Ash Wednesday is the only live service, all others will be online. The sign of the cross marking in ash will not be administered this year by the pastor due to the pandemic.

Old Business:

1. Apartment Furnishings- The items that were donated for the DCE apartment are being stored at the church and will need to find a home soon through donation.

New Business:



Episcopal Church Rental Agreement- The church has not met in person in our church since last March and have continued to pay rent. They are asking that we suspend their rent payments until they can return.

Mike made a motion and was seconded: **I move that we suspend rent payments, and welcome their return when they are prepared to, as well as refund the January 2021 payment already made.** The motion passed.

Security Camera System for Church- The current camera system which shows the doors and Pastor's office is only showing the front door now. Mike will investigate the system to see if he can bring it back to functionality. He will also investigate other alternatives.

Sanctuary Lights to enhance video feeds- Lights in the front to enhance the video feed have been bright and distracting to the Pastor. The addition of tissue paper has seemed to minimize the glare. We will continue with that solution for the near future.

Replace AED (Automated External Defibrillator)- The current AED has a recall notice. A 3rd party distributor is offering to replace the current AED with the same brand for \$700 with trade in. The council agreed for the Pastor to spend for this non-budgeted item.

Vanco Electronic Payment System- Allows for links to be used to provide donations to the church electronically. Pastor will work with Kathie to make this service available to the congregation.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Larry Davis
Congregational Secretary

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 are now 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.

Blood Drive

Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for March 24th, 2021. We are looking for volunteers to help during the drive. Please email Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com If you would like to sign up to donate please do so by visiting redcrossblood.org and make sure to use code lolc.

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 (Feb) \$70

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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

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.

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday school 10:30 AM Worship Service	1	2 10 am Women's Bible Study	3 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class Happy Birthday Grace Raetz	4	5	6
7 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday school 10:30 AM Worship Service Elders Meeting Happy Birthday Mike Joost	8	9 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Birthday Marcia Elkins	10 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class Happy Birthday Suzanne Sponsler	11	12 Happy Birthday Roger Andersen	13
14 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday school 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting	15 Happy Birthday Rev. David Raetz Marlene Matson	16 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Community Center Committee	17 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class Happy Birthday Sandy Mathson	18	19	20
21 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday school 10:30 AM Worship Service Happy Birthday Linda Andersen Pastor Steve Hayden	22 Happy Anniversary Roger & Elizabeth Fleming	23 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Birthday Jack Carson	24 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class Blood Drive 1-6 pm	25 Happy Birthday Robert Dukes	26 Happy Birthday Dorothy Johnson Happy Anniversary Don & Pam Menke	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday school 10:30 AM Worship Service Happy Birthday Si-Si Petrea	29	30 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Birthday Barney Ross	31 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class	1	2	3