



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

May 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,

Many people in our ages will remember Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story" on the radio. During these broadcasts, Mr. Harvey would tell his audience a story that was followed by his saying, "Stay tuned for the rest of the story". Following a commercial break, his story would be embellished by some previously unknown information or facts that brought new meaning or significance to the story.

I doubt that Mr. Harvey ever used the Bible to find his stories, but we can see how he could have used Joseph of Arimathea as a story. In Matthew 27:57-60 we read, "***When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb which he had cut in the rock.***"

In Scripture there are many examples of people who gave generously to the Lord from their hearts. Whether Joseph had carved the tomb himself, or had hired someone else to do it, the grave would have come at great expense. As those remaining of Jesus' family



and followers realized that there was no tomb to respectfully bury Jesus in following his death, Joseph stepped in and offered his own tomb. In fact, this great act of love, faith and generosity probably placed Joseph's life in danger, because the Jews wanted not only Jesus dead, but also wanted to eliminate his followers. As a member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph was possibly at greater risk than other less important followers of Jesus.

But now *The Rest of the Story*...If he had considered the story of Joseph of Arimathea, Paul Harvey would have had a great rest of the story. Within three days, Jesus returned Joseph's burial plot! After his resurrection, Jesus had no need for a tomb. Joseph gave out of love, and God, in His love and mercy, not only blessed Joseph by returning his tomb, but He also used that gift to be a blessing to all.

God blesses you and me with many gifts, talents and blessings that we can use to further His kingdom and to help others. When we give to God, God not only blesses us, but uses our gifts to be a blessing to all around us. May God grant us the same faith He gave to Joseph of Arimathea, so that we can serve and give faithfully and generously.

Pastor Steve

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 opening words of Ruth reveal that this story took place during the time when God provided judges to bring justice to Israel and to call God's people to repentance and faith. During these historically evil days, an Israelite woman named Naomi and her family journeyed to Moab, a land filled with idol worshipers. There God brought into her family a young Moabite woman named Ruth.

God drew Ruth to Himself in love, kindling a relationship that one day prompted her to speak these words to Naomi: **“Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”** (Ruth 1:16). Not surprisingly, we see in the story of Ruth that God's mercy extends to the Gentiles, that is, to you and me.

Join us as we look at the book of Ruth in our **Wednesday morning Bible class on Zoom beginning at 10:30am.**

Women's Bible class

The next study will be on Acts, the Power of the Holy Spirit by Brian Simmons. This 12 week study picks up where Jesus' story left off in the gospel of Luke by exploring the continuing presence of Christ on earth: the church. This inspired account of church history will awaken your soul with transforming power and give you courage to be a witness for Christ wherever he sends you. We will begin this study on **Tuesday, May 2, 2023**, in the Choir Room beginning at **10:00 am**. Please plan to join us as we explore the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

Feb. 28, 2023

	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Period Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Activity</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income						
Interest Income	<u>59.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>59.86</u>	<u>126.10</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>126.10</u>
Total Income:	\$59.86	\$0.00	\$59.86	\$126.10	\$0.00	\$126.10
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:	59.86	0.00	\$59.86	126.10	0.00	\$126.10

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LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - March 31, 2023

	<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>	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	30,300	24,372	5,928	90,300	106,529	-16,229	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	3,685	1,475	2,210	11,054	3,690	7,364	A/P \$10,399
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	Memorials \$13,228
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$2,723
Special Fund Income	<u>490</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>-297</u>	<u>1,471</u>	<u>7,325</u>	<u>-5,854</u>	Little FP \$4,595
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$34,475	\$26,634	\$7,841	\$102,825	\$117,544	-\$14,719	M-of-M \$387
							M'ville Min. <u>\$5,000</u>
							TOTAL \$36,810
EXPENSES							A/P:
Pastor Expense	14,788	19,034	-4,246	44,361	48,972	-4,611	District \$10,399
Worship Expense	2,640	3,009	-369	7,920	8,672	-752	P/R \$0
Property Expense	6,305	5,944	361	18,565	14,695	3,870	Mortgage Balance:
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,600	2,627	-27	7,799	6,841	958	\$102,099.79
Education Expense	158	379	-221	475	406	69	
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	767	280	487	2,300	1,097	1,203	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	BankSouth \$73,630.54
Fellowship Expense	217	294	-77	650	294	356	CD \$100,000.00
Mission Expense (District)	8,250	0	8,250	8,250	0	8,250	Anderson \$124,911.27
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Comm. Ctr. \$18,220.72
Other Expenses	<u>4,147</u>	<u>104,306</u>	<u>-100,159</u>	<u>12,441</u>	<u>137,875</u>	<u>-125,434</u>	Mortensen <u>\$150,165.28</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,872	\$135,873	-\$96,001	\$102,761	\$218,852	-\$116,091	TOTAL \$466,927.81
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$5,397	-109,239	\$103,842	\$64	-\$101,308	\$101,372	

Notes: Other expenses includes \$100,000 transferred from operating account to a 6 month CD
 Pastor expenses were high for month but not Y-T-D because quarterly payroll taxes were paid to him
 Mission expenses of \$10,399 will be paid April 3; higher than budgeted which is good.

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - March 2023

	<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>
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,903.88	-\$903.88	\$3,000.00	\$6,354.97	-\$3,354.97
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	<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 INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$1,903.88	-\$903.88	\$3,000.00	\$6,354.97	-\$3,354.97
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$147.37	-\$147.37	\$0.00	\$364.49	-\$364.49
Utilities	250.00	192.00	58.00	750.00	735.00	15.00
Pest Control	50.00	0.00	50.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	0.00	150.00	450.00	0.00	450.00
Janitorial	360.00	450.00	-90.00	1,080.00	1,080.00	0.00
Supplies	29.17	54.54	-25.37	87.51	54.54	32.97
Repairs & Mtce.	125.00	0.00	125.00	375.00	0.00	375.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>35.84</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>35.84</u>	<u>107.52</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>7.52</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.01	\$843.91	\$156.10	\$3,000.03	\$2,334.03	\$666.00
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$0.01	\$1,059.97	-\$1,059.98	-\$0.03	\$4,020.94	-\$4,020.97
Bank Balance	\$18,220.72					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

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!

Operation Christmas Child – 2023

This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look a little different. We will have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes** available after Easter. This way you can personalize your shoeboxes and encourage family and friends to participate with you. Include your neighbors, pickleball or tennis team, craft group, or co-workers. Pack a box with your grandchildren. Celebrate your birthday, anniversary, or other special event by packing a shoebox with your family or friends. Feel free to pack multiple boxes. Remember, school supplies go on sale in July! Drop off your filled shoebox gifts throughout the year at the church before **November 10**.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online**. Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places. Online boxes are carefully prepared, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at:

(Ctrl+ click to follow the link)

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fc231373-e88f-419b-94d9-5b8845433e26>

You can also scan this QR code below with your cell phone camera:



Select “**BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE NOW**” and follow instructions. By using this link, we will be able to track our church’s progress toward our shoebox goal.

Our “faith goal” this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

Scripture readers You can contact the office for Sonya to put you on the email list

Communion assistants you can contact the office for Sonya to put you on the email list

Blood Drive

The next blood drives are scheduled for May 11, June 1, & July 13. 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.

Dear Lake Oconee Lutheran Church,

HAPPY EASTER!

Thank you for demonstrating the love of our Heavenly Father by participating in the Lake Area Easter Basket Project. Each child who received a basket is vulnerable in some way. Many in circumstances out of their control.

This year, with your help, the project served 591 local children. Children in eleven surrounding counties were the recipients of baskets - Putnam, Greene, Morgan, Jasper, Jones, Baldwin, Oconee, Newton, Rockdale, Hancock, and Washington.

The great majority went to children in foster care. This year we were also able to serve the children in the residential and nonresidential programs through Circle of Love women's shelter, the Boys and Girls Club in Greensboro, Putnam County Elementary School children (identified as at risk), and our local Cami (and her brother) who is undergoing radiation treatment.

We have no doubt that it was a glorious morning as each child received their basket. Together, let us rejoice in knowing Christ has risen.

Sending best wishes for a blessed and joyous Easter! Let's continue to intentionally invest in our community!

Shannon Daniel, 2023 Coordinator

Jayden Daniel, Founder (2020)

Lake Area Easter Basket Project



