



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

October 2022

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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


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Eatonton, Georgia 31024
Church Office 706-485-4600

Visit our web site: www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

You've heard about Moses and Joshua, Abraham and Isaac, David and Jonathan. Have you ever heard about Bezalel and Oholiab? It's not even easy to pronounce their names, much less remember who they are. You can read about them in the book of Exodus.

You may remember that most of the book of Exodus is about how God used His servant Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt; some two million of them. Now God gave them another task: the building of a tabernacle, the place where He would live and be with them. God Himself gave the instructions as to how the tabernacle was to be built. Those chapters in the latter part of Exodus may not be nail-biters, but they are proof that God cares how things are done and that He is a God of order and beauty. Moses had the directions, but God gives him something else as well. He gave him people with special talents to do each job. Two people God chose to work on the tabernacle were Bezalel and Oholiab: **"See, I have chosen Bezalel...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill,**



ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab...to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you” (Exodus 31:1-6)

Is it surprising that when there is work to be done, God gives his people the talents necessary to accomplish it? It shouldn't be! We have a God who cares even about the smallest details and decisions-and provides all that we need. Lake Oconee Lutheran has been charged with accomplishing God's will in our midst, in our community. There is work to be done, God's work, and it should not come as a surprise that God has given us special people with special talents to do each job. **He has given us you!**

God has given you talents! He has given you your interests and abilities to do His work. He has promised to equip you to use them for His glory in the building up of His people and in reaching out to those who don't yet know His Son. He just wants you to say yes and know that He will show you and help you to do whatever He puts before you. If you ask God to show you how, you can be His steward, like Bezalel and Oholiab were. Are you willing to trust His promise?

Would you be willing to serve on the Church Council as director of Education if God promised to help you? Would you be willing to serve as a Sunday School teacher if God promised to be with you and give you the strength and wisdom that you feel you would need? Would you say yes to serving as a worship assistant on the camera, an usher, reader, greeter or communion assistant if you knew that God would give you the skill necessary? To all of these and more, God gives us His YES. You may not feel as though you have the skill of Oholiab or the knowledge of Bezalel, but God has promised you that He will give you the skill, ability and knowledge that you need to accomplish His will, His charge to you in your life. When there is a task to be done, God is the One Who ensures that it will get done. We don't have to worry. All we have to do is answer positively if God taps us on our shoulders. Check out the opportunities available on the blue table or talk to our nominating committee of Mike Joost or Larry Davis for your opportunity to be a part of our service. Will you trust God's promise?

Pastor Steve

LOLC offers Bible Study



Sunday Morning Bible class

The Christians in Corinth faced many of the conflicts that Christians today encounter as we seek to live out our faith in a culture that contradicts Christian beliefs and principles. At the same time 1Corinthians is a document of hope for our times. In trying to hold the Corinthians to the Word of God, Paul found it necessary to state both their human faults and their proper goals. In his epistle, Paul shows them...and us...the way of error and the way of truth. His letter contains God's answers and counsel.

Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9am** in the Sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook for **1 Corinthians**.

Mid Week Bible Class

Since the Reformation, we have generally agreed that the doctrine of justification is “the article on which the church stands or falls.” That is, justification is the foundation and cornerstone of the Christian Church and its faith. What we have not so often understood is what does this mean? Very closely related to this question, is the definition of sanctification and how this also takes place. **Join us on Wednesday mornings on Zoom at 10:30am** as we see just what Justification and Sanctification are and how intimately they are related.

Women’s Bible class

Jeremiah offers women hope for living in an uncertain world by learning to navigate the challenges and circumstances of their lives. This six-week study examines God’s words of instruction to His wayward people through the prophet Jeremiah, and provides women six guidelines for intentional living to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as they surrender their wills to God’s and put their hope in Him alone. **Women’s Bible class meets every Tuesday @ 10 am in the choir room.**

Operation Christmas Child 2022

Please continue to pray to God to prepare the hearts of children and their families to receive the Gospel and the Ministry Partners who are taking the 2021 shoebox gifts to children all over the world. Over 10.5 million shoeboxes were packed and donated worldwide in 2021. This number includes over 9.1 million boxes donated in the U.S. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church contributed 150 shoeboxes and received 415 shoeboxes during National Collection Week. LOLC's shoeboxes went to Burkina Faso, Republic of the Congo, Angola, and a "Hard-to-Reach" Area (difficult to access due to customs, cultural, or religious reasons). Thank you for your support and prayers.


We now prepare to begin our 2022 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) journey. OCC is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local Ministry Partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The shoebox gifts are shipped outside the US to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

Our goal is to pack **150 boxes** for children ages 10 to 14 years old. We will be collecting items and donations of money starting in March and going through October focusing on groups of items needed each month. The items for each month will be outlined in an insert in our weekly church bulletin and email.

Overall, the items we will be collecting are:

Sewing kits	Deodorant	Recorder/ Harmonica
Fishing kits	Bar Soap	Water bottles
Reusable cloth menstrual pads	Nail clippers	Bandanas
String backpacks	Jump ropes	Underwear
Flip flops	Playing cards	Socks
Toothbrushes	School supplies	Postage
	Hats	

We have tried to make it easy again this year for everyone to order these items by setting up an Amazon Wish List for Operation Christmas Child. All you need to do is click on the link provided each month, purchase your item(s) and they will be shipped directly to the church. Just like a gift registry, you will be able to see how many of each item was purchased and how many are still needed. Takes all the hard work out of shopping! You may also purchase these items in any of our local stores such as



Walmart, Dollar Tree, CVS, etc. and drop them off in the bins we will have available in the narthex.

SAVE THE DATES: We plan have a Packing Party to pack each box, like we did last year, as a team on **November 5th**. National Collection Week is **November 14 – 21, 2022**.

Thank you so much for your kind generosity as we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need across the globe.

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.”

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!

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN C. JRCH

Treasurer's Report - August 31, 2022

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	30,278	22,713	7,565	242,820	225,017	17,803	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	3,684	1,930	1,754	29,476	16,495	12,981	A/P \$8,424
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	5,050	-5,050	Memorials \$11,453
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$2,912
Special Fund Income	32	1,377	-1,345	253	13,664	-13,411	Little FP \$360
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$33,994	\$26,020	\$7,974	\$272,549	\$260,226	\$12,323	M-of-M \$454
							TOTAL \$24,081
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	14,067	8,450	5,617	112,532	104,967	7,565	A/P: District \$4,267
Worship Expense	3,065	1,623	1,442	24,523	13,030	11,493	P/R \$4,157
Property Expense	5,649	4,007	1,642	45,195	40,802	4,393	Mortgage Balance:
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,525	2,562	-37	20,197	17,924	2,273	\$249,961.45
Education Expense	158	0	158	1,267	178	1,089	
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	784	248	536	6,273	2,825	3,448	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	300	0	300	300	0	300	BankSouth \$142,066.68
Fellowship Expense	200	117	83	1,600	704	896	LCEF \$101,673.44
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	16,650	18,298	-1,648	Anderson \$124,521.41
DCE Expenses	769	0	769	6,150	0	6,150	Comm. Ctr. \$11,969.28
Other Expenses	4,185	3,684	501	33,480	61,067	-27,587	Mortensen \$150,030.41
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,702	\$20,691	\$11,011	\$268,167	\$259,795	\$8,372	TOTAL \$530,261.22
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,292	\$5,329	-\$3,037	\$4,382	\$431	\$3,951	

Notes: 7/31 collections included this month

Mission expenses higher than budget due to higher donations (good thing)

Other expenses over budget due to 1 time extra mortgage payment of \$25,000 (good thing)

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - August 30, 2022

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,675.18	-\$675.18	\$8,000.00	\$12,802.45	-\$4,802.45
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
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$1,675.18	-\$675.18	\$8,000.00	\$12,802.45	-\$4,802.45
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$348.41	-\$348.41	\$0.00	\$1,488.11	-\$1,488.11
Utilities	250.00	313.00	-63.00	2,000.00	1,849.00	151.00
Pest Control	59.00	0.00	59.00	472.00	590.00	-118.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	240.00	-90.00	1,200.00	840.00	360.00
Janitorial	250.00	720.00	-470.00	2,000.00	2,385.86	-385.86
Supplies	30.00	100.12	-70.12	240.00	214.99	25.01
Repairs & Mtce.	186.00	0.00	186.00	1,488.00	383.94	1,104.06
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	611.95	-611.95
Other Expenses	75.00	0.00	75.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$1,721.53	-\$721.53	\$8,000.00	\$8,363.85	-\$363.85
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0.00	-\$46.35	\$46.35	\$0.00	\$4,438.60	-\$4,438.60

Bank Balance \$11,969.28

Accounts Payable \$0.00

Notes: Double bills received this month from both Pro-Mow and Cleaning Service

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

31-Jul-22

	<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>37.09</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>37.09</u>	<u>127.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>127.01</u>
Total Income:	\$37.09	\$0.00	\$37.09	\$127.01	\$0.00	\$127.01
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:	37.09	0.00	\$37.09	127.01	0.00	\$127.01
Bank Balance: \$124,521.41						

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.
(Sept \$110)

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.

*Wearing a mask is now optional.

*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.

Sunday School

We are looking for children's Sunday school teachers, we will need 2 teachers per Sunday. It will be held from 9:30am-10 am. Sign up sheet is on the blue table in the entryway.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive is scheduled for Oct 6,& Nov 17. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood got to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC. **Times will be from 1pm to 6pm.**

“DON’T BE AFRAID”

On August 7, Pastor Hayden preached a wonderful sermon on not being afraid. This is something we should all think about as we pass the “blue table” in the narthex on our way into and out of church. Don’t be afraid to sign up to volunteer for something.

I want to address, in particular, the Sunday morning fellowship time. We have heard that some of our members are afraid to sign up because they are intimidated by the goodies provided by some of our great cooks/bakers. It was suggested that instead of our normal goodies we simply place a standing order for donuts from Publix each week. We asked the members to offer their opinions to our church council members and elders and, boy, did you respond.

After careful consideration and discussion, the board of elders made a compromise recommendation to the church council and it was approved by the council. To lighten the demand on our members, beginning October 1, we will have store purchased treats on communion Sundays and continue to have the other goodies on the non-communion Sundays.

If you would like to help but you don’t wish to prepare home-made goodies, simply sign up for a communion Sunday. For example, Wal-Mart has an excellent selection of boxed mini-donut varieties, cookies or coffee cakes. Six or so boxes, depending on the content, and a half-gallon of either apple or orange juice or lemonade and you are all set. Coffee is always prepared ahead of time and all cups, napkins and plates are provided. You don’t even need to put the treats on plates – simply remove the lids and put a mini-tong in each box. What could be simpler? If you need financial assistance, simply give your receipt to Kathie Kueven and she will reimburse you from our kitchen fund up to a maximum of \$25 per Sunday. Of course, you may also sign up to work with one of those great bakers on a non-communion Sunday. Either way, we would ask you to continue to sign up so that we know a Sunday is covered. By signing up you will also be agreeing to pick up the treats, place them out, and clean up the fellowship table afterward.

Our fellowship time is a great opportunity to speak with those we don’t see during the week and to welcome visitors and new members. We don’t want this time to become so “routine” that people don’t want to stay. Please consider carefully how you can help and sign up. God bless you for your service.

The Board of Elders and the Church Council

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	26	27 10 am Women's Bible Class	28 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	29	30	1 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
2 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Elders Meeting	3	4 10 am Women's Bible Class	5 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	6 Blood Drive Happy Birthday Robert Elkins Happy Anniversary Mike & Reda Joost	7 Happy Birthday Barbara Smolinski	8 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
9 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-communion Happy Birthday Susan Krause Pam Menke	10	11 10 am Women's Bible Class	12 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Happy Anniversary Jerry & Carol Campbell	13 Happy Birthday Roger Martinson Jackie Birtcher	14 Happy Birthday Ed Blosser Henry Ringer Happy Anniversary Richard & Kathryn Noble	15 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Margaret Pedersen Jean Steinberg
16 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	17	18 10 am Women's Bible Class 2 pm Community Center Meeting Happy Birthday Harold Huston	19 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	20	21 Happy Birthday Barbara Hardesty Abigail Ringer	22 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
23 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	24	25 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Noel Schornhorst	26 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Happy Anniversary Charlie & Cindy Helms	27 Happy Anniversary Mike & Sandy Lagan	28	29 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Raymond Hilpipre
30 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	31	1 10 am Women's Bible Class	2 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	3	4	5 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service