



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

September 2021

Pastor Steven Hayden
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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.
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,

A while ago, I watched the movie Somm on some streaming service. Somm is a documentary about a group of men trying to attain the level of Master Sommelier — the highest level an expert in wines can achieve. Six wines, unlabeled, were placed in front of the aspiring contestants. They would swirl the glass, immerse their noses completely inside, and take a deep breath. Then they would take a sip, swish the wine in their mouths, and spit it out in a bucket. From this exercise, they had to be able to declare the region, variety, date, body, and tannins of the wine. It was an entirely different world than what I have experienced. I found the descriptions of the flavor to be the most fascinating. The word most often used was hint. A candidate would say, for example, “This wine has a hint of cinnamon, a hint of oak, a hint of licorice, a hint of blueberry, and a hint of earth.”

This may be what Paul had in mind when he gave us the famous list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–24: **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,**



goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

We are called to live as though the virtues of our lives are contained in a glass, so to speak. What flavors or hints do others get from your words or actions? Is the taste left in their mouths sour and spoiled, or are they left with the hint of God’s presence?

Living a life filled with the flavors of Jesus’ love. Our neighbor, husband or wife, or friend picking up our glass and swirling it, immersing their nose inside and sniffing, and then taking a sip, swishing it around to then declare, “This believer carries hints of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I am also picking up hints of hope and humility.”

That is living like Jesus. And living like Jesus is absolutely the best way to live — now and forever.

Pastor Steve

Mission of the Month

Why are we talking about Christmas already you may ask? Well, we want to make you aware of this year's campaign for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local 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 own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Our goal this year is to pack **150 boxes**, up from the 100 boxes we packed last year. We will be collecting items and donations of money starting in May 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.

Overall, the items we will be collecting are for boys and girls aged 5-9:

Stuffed Animals	Harmonica or woodwind recorder
Comb	Toothbrush
Washcloth	Bar Soap
Lip balm (non-liquid)	Colored pencils
Small pencil sharpener	Small notebooks
Safety (blunt tip) scissors	Glue stick (no liquid glue)
Sunglasses	Stickers
Yo-yo	


We have tried to make it easy 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 listed below, 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.

Here is the Amazon wish list

link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AS8LGUZ4XQBM/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

If you need a direct link emailed to you please reach out to the office and we will email the link to you. We plan to pack each box, like we did last year, as a team on November 13th. Stay tuned for additional information on this in the months ahead.

Thanks so much for your kind generosity as we help children in need across the globe.



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!

Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

Have you seen those television specials about Lost Books of the Bible? Ever wondered if some texts were intentionally excluded from the Bible, and if so, why? Can we be sure the correct texts made it into the Bible? Several scholars, books and articles, movies and television specials have raised that question. Why did some ancient writings fail to make the cut for inclusion in our Scriptures? Since God never sent us a specific list of what to include, who exactly decided the Bible should contain the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but not the Gospels of Judas, Thomas and Mary? How does the work of the Holy Spirit factor in?

In **Lost Books?**, The former Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Gregory Seltz will guide us as we explore all of these questions. Can we trust our Bible? Join us for Sunday morning Bible class as we explore “**Lost Books?**” beginning on **Sunday, September 5 at 9 am** in the church Sanctuary or LiveStreamed on our Facebook page.

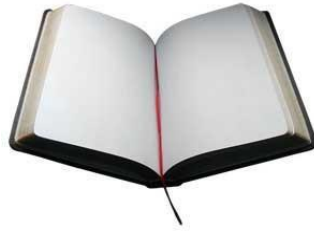
Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School classes ended for the summer at the end of May and then they will resume back in the fall.

Women's Bible Class

Season by Melissa Spoelstra. In this six-week study grounded in 1 and 2 Kings, we will examine the life of the prophet Elijah, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things for God in the midst of the highs and lows of life. Learn some of the spiritual stamina secrets that helped him hold on and persevere in faith, including practical habits related to prayer, choices, soul care, surrender, mentoring and legacy. The Bible class meets each **Tuesday at 10:00 am** in the Choir Room. We would love it if you would join us !

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.



Mid - Week Bible

When you hear the word angel, what image comes to mind? Clarence from the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*? Tess from *Touched by an Angel*? Popular culture formerly portrayed angels as harp-carrying spirits lounging on comfortable white tufts of cloud or as pastel-colored feminine virtues or chubby, winged infants. On the other hand, what comes to mind when you hear the words demon or devil? Hellboy from the comic book series or the movie? Various heinous creatures from *The Lord of the Rings*? Or when you think about angels and demons, do you think of those comical creatures sitting on someone's shoulders—an angel in a white gown and wings on one shoulder and a demon with a pitchfork and pointy tail sitting on the other? For many people, popular films, books, comic books, and other media are their only sources of information about angels and demons—if they believe in these creatures at all. These are inaccurate portrayals of angels and demons. In contrast, we will share the truth about angels and demons using God's errorless Word. What the Bible says about angels, demons, and other related topics is vitally important to Lutherans because what God says about these matters can be trusted. Join us on Wednesday morning Zoom Bible class at 10:30 for **Angels and Demons** starting on **Wednesday, September 8th**
No class Sept 1st.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 8th, 2021

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

Joshua Ringer and Barney Ross were not in attendance.

The minutes from the July 9 Council Meeting and the July 25 Congregational meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- No Report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The three Treasurer's Reports were distributed and discussed. LOLC has a positive cash flow of \$18,815 YTD. The Community Center has a positive cash flow of \$3,263 YTD.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The July Financial report was distributed and discussed. The YTD member donations are behind through July by \$28,172. It is primarily due to large full- year donations being given in early 2020.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – No Report

Lay Ministry: Joe Peeples- Pastor Ron will be guest Pastor on 8/22, and Pastor Dehnke will be guest Pastor on 8/29. Pastor Hayden will be on vacation.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- no report

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- A BBQ/Potluck lunch will be provided on Sunday October 3rd. The BBQ will be provided by our new member Jay McCrae. An in-person trivia event is being considered after review of the calendar.

Pastor's Report: Steve Hayden- Jackie Bircher has joined the church. A paragraph will be provided in an upcoming newsletter with information about our new members. The church office is working on a new updated Directory to be completed in September. Bible Classes continue with good feedback and attendance.

Old Business:

- 1. Security Camera System for Church (internal)-** The new security camera systems are expected to be installed by late September.
- 2. Reduced Restrictions on Communion-** The Pastor and assistants will continue to mask and glove for communion. The Pastor will also announce that individual Communion kits are still available for members to take Communion at their seat location.



New Business:

1. Musical Leader Internship Opportunity- Mike has been in contact with Lev regarding the possibility of employing a Choir Leader intern from the Georgia College. Also discussed was the possibility of employing up to 4 music students to sing in the choir.

Kathie made a motion and was seconded. **“I move that Mike should continue to pursue a Music/Choir Director intern and up to 4 singers from Georgia College. We authorize \$75 per week plus mileage for the Director, and \$30 per week plus mileage for each singer.** The motion passed.

2. DCE/Deaconess/Outreach Consideration- Margaret opened a discussion on if there is any interest in pursuing someone to fill our previous DCE position. It was a discussed that a Deaconess may better suit our needs. Pastor Hayden will research the schools that provide Deaconess intern programs to understand the process and requirements. The council will discuss this at a future meeting, following Pastor Hayden’s research.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:
Larry Davis
Congregational Secretary

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2021

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$2,505.22	-\$1,505.22	\$7,000.00	\$11,326.10	-\$4,326.10
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.00	125.00	-125.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$2,630.22	-\$1,630.22	\$7,000.00	\$11,451.10	-\$4,451.10
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$150.00	-\$150.00	\$0.00	\$1,703.56	-\$1,703.56
Utilities	250.00	184.00	66.00	1,750.00	1,371.00	379.00
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	0.00	413.00	413.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	100.00	50.00	1,050.00	550.00	500.00
Janitorial	83.33	150.00	-66.67	583.35	2,490.00	-1,906.65
Supplies	41.67	0.00	41.67	291.69	0.00	291.69
Repairs & Mtce.	333.33	0.00	333.33	2,333.35	1,535.23	798.12
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>82.67</u>	<u>125.00</u>	<u>-42.33</u>	<u>578.69</u>	<u>125.15</u>	<u>453.54</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$768.00	\$232.00	\$7,000.08	\$8,187.94	-\$1,187.86
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$1,862.22	-\$1,862.22	-\$0.08	\$3,263.16	-\$3,263.24
Bank Balance	\$7,869.53					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

JULY 2021

DATE	Member		Debt		TOTALS
	Donations	Memorials	Reduction	Other	
07/04/2021	\$7,405.00		\$300.00	\$100.00	\$7,805.00
07/11/2021	\$6,615.00	\$1,000.00	\$120.00	\$555.00	\$8,290.00
07/18/2021	\$4,260.00		\$145.00	\$120.00	\$4,525.00
07/25/2021	\$2,275.00		\$750.00		\$3,025.00
					\$0.00
JULY 2021 (4)	\$20,555.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,315.00	\$775.00	\$23,645.00
JULY 2020 (4)	\$25,693.00	\$150.00	\$2,870.00	\$935.00	\$29,648.00
Increase/(Decrease)	(\$5,138.00)	\$850.00	(\$1,555.00)	(\$160.00)	(\$6,003.00)
JULY 2021 YTD (30)	\$199,000.00	\$3,070.00	\$14,795.00	\$10,746.20	\$227,611.20
JULY 2020 YTD (30)	\$227,172.00	\$1,467.00	\$25,605.00	\$440,211.75	\$694,455.75
Increase/(Decrease)	(\$28,172.00)	\$1,603.00	(\$10,810.00)	(\$429,465.55)	(\$466,844.55)

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 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

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.

In light of Covid restrictions being lifted and the church starting more activities and such, we wanted to put a reminder out that if you have anything that needs to be placed in the Sunday bulletin, please submit it to the office by Monday as we generally print the bulletins on Tuesday for the upcoming Sunday.

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 (August) \$165

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

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 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 beginning to have volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.

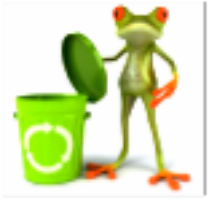
Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for one small step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.

Choir Notes

(Inactive during COVID19)

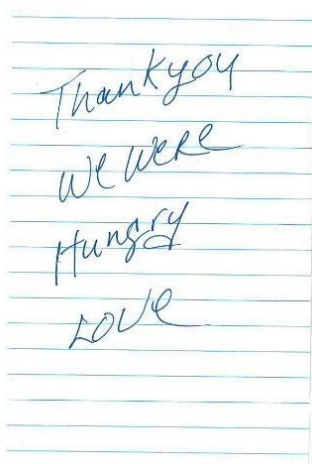


Recycling Projects



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

In case you all have forgotten we still have a collection container for soda can tops for the Ronald McDonald house. The revenue that is received from these donations is used to house families who otherwise cannot afford it while their child is critically ill or injured and receiving treatment. The container is located in the Narthex to the right as you enter the church. Soda can tops and soup can tops are accepted so please remember to bring them in.



I stopped at your pantry, got some peanut butter, Jelly and a few cans of tuna, I just want to say thank you, If you need anyone to help you, Please let me know what I can do, just want to say to helped us so much, My mother in law had a stroke, I quit my job at the Bistro to care for her, Money is tight, But by the Grace God I was blessed today



Have you ever wondered whether you can make a difference? Then read again the two different thank you notes above that the church received through the Little Free Pantry. Your willingness to sign up for a week to check on the pantry 3 times and most of all your donations of food which supply the pantry on an ongoing basis are making a difference in the lives of those around us. On behalf of them, thank you.

Sign up sheets for checking the pantry are on the Mission and Serve Table in the entryway.

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	30	31 10 am Women's Bible Class	1 Happy Anniversary David & Grace Raetz	2 Happy Birthday Marlo Neuleib	3 Happy Birthday Keith Mulford	4 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Anniversary Tom & Sandy Mathson
5 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	6 Office Closed Labor Day Happy Birthday Dave Ringer	7 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	8 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class	9	10 Happy Birthday Linda Horst	11 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Susan Larson
12 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Council Meeting Happy Birthday Tom Mathson	13	14 10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm Community Center Meeting Happy Anniversary Charles & Donna Crouch	15 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class	16 1-6pm Blood Drive Happy Birthday Joyce Huston	17	18 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Anniversary Donald & Pam Kunz
19 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	20	21 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Anniversary Dale & Dorothy Johnson	22 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class 4pm Trivia Night	23	24	25 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
26 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion	27	28 10 am Women's Bible Class	29 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class	30	1	2 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service