



January 11, 2026

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Baptism of Our Lord

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Cheri Kitchens, Church Secretary

www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Office email: officelolc@gmail.com

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: revshayden@gmail.com



Elder of the Month: Mark Ketchie

Scripture reader: Sandy Mathson

Coffee & Fellowship:

Greeter(s): Ed Fritch

Sunday Counter(s): Jerry Campbell & Ed Fritch

Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

Instrumental Prelude
Choir Anthem

Dr. Lev Ryabinin
Dr. Youngmi Kim

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn 398

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

1 Hail to the Lord’s a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid’s great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,

Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
From age to age more glo - rious, All bless-ing and all - blest.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;

To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
His king - dom still in - crea - sing, A king - dom with - out end.
His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your

children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1–9

¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;

³a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
 I will take you by the hand and keep you;

I will give you as a covenant for the people,
 a light for the nations,

⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the Lord; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to carved idols.

⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13–17

R: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 406, v1-4

“ To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord”

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him -
3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to

Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
us ex - tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove

Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -

now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,

And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full -
That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find

op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
be - stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
est mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
a dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

The Message

Pastor Steven Hayden

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence
He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

To Our Guests: We do not charge for any of our services. All our services, programs, and expenses are freely supported by the gifts and offerings of our members. As our guests, you have not been invited for what you can give, but for what God can give you. The Offering is collected at the door when you enter.

Installation of the Church Council

Prayer of the Church

* Prayer of The Church

(After the pastor ends each petition with, "Lord in Your Mercy, the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer.")

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the

glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord makes His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn #596, v.1-4

"All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap - tized, Who know the God of
2 You were be - fore your day of birth, In - deed, from your con -
3 But all of that was washed a - way— Im - mersed and drowned for -
4 In Bap - tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful - ly



heav - en, And in whose dai - ly life is prized The name of
cep - tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with -
ev - er. The wa - ter of your Bap-tism day Re - stored a -
cov - ered With all that He once sac - ri - ficed And free - ly



Christ once giv - en: Con - sid - er now what God has done, The
out ex - cep - tion. For like your par - ents' flesh and blood, Turned
gain what-ev - er Old Ad - am and his sin de - stroyed And
for us suf - fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev - 'ry - one Bap-tized in - to Christ Je - sus!
in - ward from the high - est good, You con-stant - ly de - nied Him.
all our sin - ful selves em-ployed Ac - cord-ing to our na - ture.
makes us ho - ly, right, and good Be - fore our heav'n-ly Fa - ther.

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Announcements

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating:**Birthdays**

- 01/13 Pam Kunz

Anniversaries

- None this week

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Study	10:30 am
Sunday	Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

Sunday Morning Bible Class

The study of the Old Testament is nothing less than an exploration into the thoughts and desires of God for ordinary people like you and me. It takes us from this hardened and selfish world into the promise of a world where God's peace, justice, and mercy will be complete.

We can view the world as meaningless and without hope. But Jesus Christ came to rescue the world from its quagmire, and His deliverance continues to change our lives.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in person in the church sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook and our website, for "Exploring God's Old Testament".

Wednesday morning Zoom class

Martin Luther once identified three things that make a good theologian: prayer for the Holy Spirit to understand God's Word; meditation on this Word; and, as the "touchstone," enduring afflictions; afflictions not *even though* we are Christians, but afflictions *because* we are Christians.

Luther noticed a discrepancy in his day: On the one hand, Scripture is filled with passages about the necessary suffering of the saints in the world as they follow their crucified Lord in church, home, work, and state. On the other hand, the teaching and practice of many seemed to be about avoiding this God-sent cross at all costs.

Today being "religious" is widely seen as a path to freedom from pain and suffering. Scripture holds out a different vision, where we are shaped by the cross of Christ.

Join us for **"Cross, Suffering with Jesus"** each **Wednesday morning at 10:30am on Zoom.**

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is meeting in the Council or meeting room around the big table with informal sessions and open discussion about the Bible and its impact on our everyday lives.

The Women's Bible group has launched a study of the book of Proverbs. *The Way of Wisdom* considers principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence, and more. We will discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world. Please plan on joining us on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the church conference room for the study and the wonderful discussions we always have about how what we learn impacts our lives.

Please join The Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Council Room.

Thank you to the congregation for the generous Christmas gift and for your continued kindness. I am grateful to serve alongside such a caring church family.

Cheri Kitchens

If you donated a poinsettia for our holiday services, please feel free to take your plant home with you after the service. We truly appreciate your contribution to beautifying our worship space!



Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled **February 5 and March 5**. We will need volunteers. 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.

Flowers

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is thankful for all who donate flowers for our Sunday morning worship. If you would like to give flowers, please remember the following points:

*If you would like the flowers to be listed in the bulletin, please include all the information that you want on the signup sheet: flowers given in memory of..., flowers given in honor of...etc. The signup sheet is located on the blue table in the entry.

*We would ask that you specifically request or include no lilies in the arrangements. We have a church member who is deathly allergic to lilies and cannot remain in the church if they are present.
Thank you for your help.

Alert! A new series of emails claiming to be from Pastor is out. They are not from him. He will never ask you to respond with gift cards. Please do not reply!

Just a reminder



Lake Oconee Lutheran can receive gifts by credit card/debit card now. You will find the terminal in the entryway on the shelving near the kitchen. Please be aware that there is a charge to the church for each gift received in this way. **(If you include your name on the form (screen) when it asks, the gift will show up on your church statement, but we are unable to do that if you do not input your name).** You may also request a receipt sent to you if desired.

What do you remember about the church your family attended while you were a child? Perhaps you remember the look of the sanctuary. Perhaps you remember a certain pastor. Most likely when you think back you can remember one of your Sunday school teachers. After all, they were the ones who truly showed that they cared about you, and that God cared about you.



We are looking for Children's Sunday school teachers here at Lake Oconee to show our kids that Jesus cares about them. We would like 2 teachers for each Sunday. If you are willing to demonstrate God's love to the kids of our church, please find the signup sheet on the blue table in the entry way. Bible school will be held Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10am.



For a quarter of a century, the Lord has guided us in obedience to His Word and strengthened us for lives of service in His name. He has poured out His abundant blessings, and we give thanks for a bountiful harvest in our community. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary in February 2026, we are looking back at our blessings and forward to our future.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, please **Save the Date for Saturday, February 21, 2026**. We will gather for a noon meal to look back at our blessings and forward to our future.

To help commemorate the occasion, we would like to collect photographs of the life of our church. If you have photos to share, please email digital copies to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com or place them in her folder to be scanned and returned. Be sure to note your name in the back of the photo so it can be returned. We are also looking to connect with former congregants who have left the community. Please

share any current contact information you may have. Details for the celebration will be released in the coming months.



Benefits of Singing

- It makes you happier
- It reduces stress, anxiety and depression
- It brings people together
- It exercises your lungs
- It improves your posture
- It shares the love of Jesus

Please come and join our choir as we make “a joyful noise unto the Lord!” **The choir meets** for rehearsal every **Sunday at 9 am** in the choir room.

Volunteers Needed!

We need people to sign up to help! We need help in the Little Free Pantry, Coffee fellowship, greeters, ushers and more.

You can sign up for the following Sunday Worship Volunteer Roles online through Sign-up Genius:

- Greeter
- Scripture Reader
- Communion Assistant
- Communion Usher
- Coffee Fellowship

You can call or email Cheri in the Church Office to have her send a link to the Sign-Up Genius website or to sign up for you.

Additional volunteer Roles include:

- ❖ Altar Care there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Sunday service camera operator. 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.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ **Sunday School teachers**, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are Built for a Purpose

Built Through Word and Sacrament –

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

Built Through Ongoing Learning –

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

Built For Service –

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

Built For Discipleship –

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

Built For Fellowship –

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.