



February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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



1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Marsha Brewster Church Secretary

[www.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

Office email: [officelolc@gmail.com](mailto:officelolc@gmail.com)

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: [revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)



*In Preparation of Holy Communion*

***The Lord's Supper*** is celebrated at this congregation in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

For further study, see **Matthew 5:23f, 10:32f, 18:15-35, 26:26-29, 1 Cor. 11:17-34**

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all Christians who are baptized, who have communed in a Christian church, and who share our understanding that, along with the bread and wine, we receive the very body and blood of our living Lord Jesus—for the strengthening of our faith and witness.

The glasses in the very center of each tray contain non-alcoholic wine for the use of those receiving communion who are unable to drink alcohol.

Children who do not commune are invited to come to the rail for a blessing.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

*Before Communing*

**Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord Amen**

*Elder of the Month: Kathie Kueven*

*Scripture Reader: Sandy Mathson*

*Communion Assistant: Peggy Uehlin*

*Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Reda Joost*

*Usher: Don Menke*

*Greeter: Jack Carson, Keith Mulford*

*Sunday Counter(s): Jerry Campbell & Alison Van Cott*

*The flowers on the Altar today are given by:*

*In Memory of Roger Martinsen*

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

**Instrumental Prelude**  
**Choir Anthem**  
**Welcome**

**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**

## Congregational Hymn # 729

### "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79  
Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4–10**

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;  
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,  
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
declares the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup>See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to break down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:31b—13:13

I will show you a still more excellent way.

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia

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: Luke 4:31–44**

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke chapter 4

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, <sup>32</sup>and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. <sup>33</sup>And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup>“Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>35</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. <sup>36</sup>And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” <sup>37</sup>And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

<sup>38</sup>And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. <sup>39</sup>And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

<sup>40</sup>Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup>And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

<sup>42</sup>And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, <sup>43</sup>but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” <sup>44</sup>And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

# Sermon Hymn # 842

## “Son of God, Eternal Savior”



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.

Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contredansen, c. 1710, Amsterdam

Text and tune: Public domain



**Nicene Creed**

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The 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.*

## Prayer of the Church

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

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

#### Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

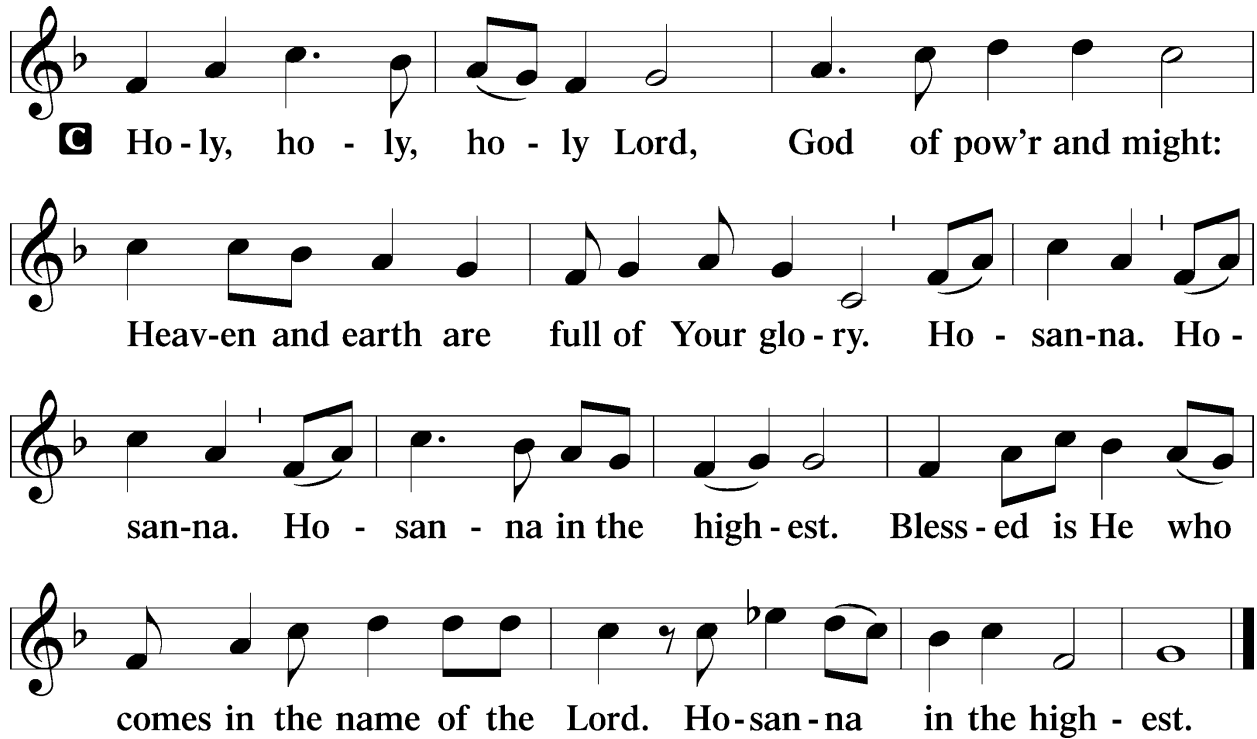
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

#### Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei



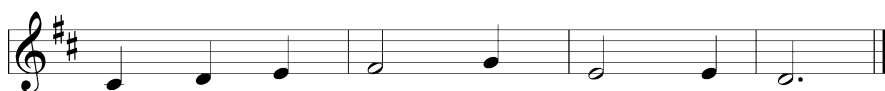
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

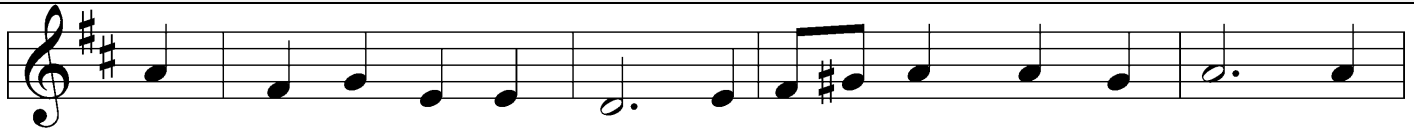


Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

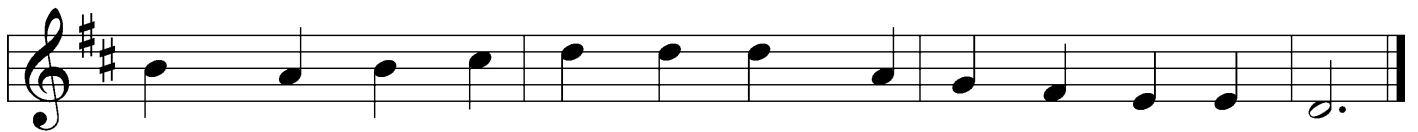
## The Distribution

### Communion Hymn # 535

#### "How Wide the Love of Christ"



1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But  
2 How long the love of Christ! Its pa - tience will not cease Un -  
3 How high the love of Christ! Be - yond all thought it soars, And  
4 How deep the love of Christ, De - scend - ing to a cross! He  
5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height, Whose



holds our one hu - man - i - ty With - in its broad em - brace.  
til this bro - ken world is bound In ev - er - last - ing peace.  
yet up - on our pass - ing lives Un - mea - sured mer - cy pours.  
bears with - in His wound - ed hands All hu - man pain and loss.  
length and breadth fill time and space With end - less life and light!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: Johann M. Spiess, 1715–72

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841

Tune: Public domain

## Post-Communion Collect

**P:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

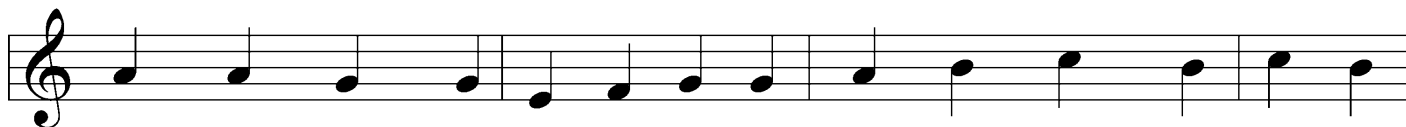
**C: Amen.**

## Congregational Hymn# 538

### "Praise Be to Christ"



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the  
2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -  
3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and  
a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our  
God-head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,  
world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,  
man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and  
Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born  
Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.  
from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.  
sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: Johann Störls . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841 Tune: Public domain

## Announcements

### The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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### Post-service Music

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**GOD'S BLESSINGS** to all those celebrating this week

#### Birthdays:

- Feb 1      Ralph Kunz
- Feb 3      Carol Campbell
- Feb 3      Kayleen Ringer

#### Anniversaries:

- None this week

#### Best wishes!

#### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

|           |                           |               |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Tuesday   | Women's Bible Class       | 10:00 am      |
| Wednesday | Zoom Bible Study          | 10:30 pm      |
| Thursday  | Blood Drive               | 11:00 am      |
| Saturday  | Episcopal Worship Service | 5:00 pm       |
| Sunday    | Choir / Adult Bible Class | 9:00 am       |
| Sunday    | Worship                   | 10:30 am      |
| Sunday    | Council Meeting           | after service |

**Sunday Morning Bible class** - “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believe I Me will never die.” John 11:25-26. With these words, Jesus invites us into a faith relationship with Him. In that relationship He gives us forgiveness, hope, joy, comfort, peace and new life through Him. Join us as we work through the Scriptures to hear and understand who Jesus is and what God does in our life through faith. Join us for **What Do We Believe?**, our Sunday morning Bible class in person in the Church at 9 am. You may also follow along on our live stream on Facebook or the church website and YouTube.

**Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in church or on Facebook for What do We Believe?**

### **Wednesday Bible class - Myth or Faith?**

- The New Testament is more important than the Old Testament.
- Our love for God is the motive for all we do in our lives.
- Prayer changes things.
- We go to church primarily because we get something out of it.

What do we really believe? Better yet, what does the Bible really teach? Join us on Wednesday morning Bible class as we use God’s Word to root out myths that often lead to confusion and disagreement in the Church. Join us for **Myth or Faith?**

**Every Wednesday on Zoom at 10:30 am.**

**“The Women’s Bible Study** with *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This weekly study will help us discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.

**Please join us on for this new study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.”**

**The choir meets** for rehearsal every Sunday at **9 am in the choir room.**  
You are all invited.





## **Do you want to be loved?**

Would you like to be greeted with a hug every Sunday?

You have a chance now to sign up as a **Sunday school teacher** here at Lake Oconee and you will be loved on by our kids.

We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday. Sign up by Sunday for any Sunday that you are available.

Sunday school starts every Sunday, at 10:00 am and runs to 10:20 am. All materials are provided. See the signup sheet on the blue table.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Upcoming Blood Drive dates** are scheduled for **Feb 6<sup>th</sup>** and **March 6<sup>th</sup>**.

We will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at [Kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:Kunzpd3@outlook.com). To sign up to donate blood go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use code LOLC.

Mark Dentler, our new property chair, is looking for volunteers to serve on a **Property Committee** with him. This group will meet to discuss and plan for improvements as well as planning in response to needs for the Church property. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mark Dentler at [spinalsolution@mindspring.com](mailto:spinalsolution@mindspring.com) or call 404-277-4174. Our next volunteer work day is Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am.

## **We need new Greeters**



Sign-up sheets are on the blue table of the Narthex. Please help us Welcome new visitors to our Services.

### **SANDWICH MINISTRY OF STONE MOUNTAIN ROCK OF AGES**

Lutheran Church is a suburban church serving an urban community. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is helping them again on **February 16<sup>th</sup>** by posting a signup sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church by February 16th, and the sandwiches will be delivered to Rock of Ages following the church service.

Each sandwich will contain one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, bologna or roast beef). Do not put any condiments on the bread because sandwiches are served for up to 6 days. Pack each individual sandwich in a sealed plastic bag. Write the type of meat on each bag. Place small bags in a larger bag and write the prep date on the larger bag. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches.

**We are in need of more coolers for February 16th.**

Any questions, please contact Kathy Kueven.



For those who may feel **cold during services** here at Lake Oconee, a limited number of cotton, blue blankets are available on the usher's table in the back of the sanctuary. Please help yourself. After you use one, please place it in the basket on the floor so that it may be washed.

### Just a Reminder



Lake Oconee Lutheran is able to 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.

### Volunteers needed for:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 Marsha to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Communion assistants you can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list.
- ❖ 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.