



February 4, 2024

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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



LAKE OCONEE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*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: Kathy Kueven*

*Scripture Reader: Sandy Mathson*

*Communion Assistant: Kathie Kueven*

*Ushers: Don Menke & Jaye McCrea*

*Coffee Fellowship: Jaye & Cindy McCrea*

*Sunday Counters: Bob Elkins & Jean Page*

*Flowers: In Memory of Roger Martinson*

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

**Instrumental Prelude**

**Dr. Lev Ryabinin**

**Choir Anthem**

**Dr. Youngmi Kim Director**

**Welcome**

**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 # 820

## “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me  
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and  
3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his  
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of  
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His  
chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All  
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose  
yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we  
who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our  
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



mee - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry  
mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite  
pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the  
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and  
spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as  
flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but  
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who  
heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So  
through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We  
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.  
far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.  
with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.  
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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: Isaiah 40:21-31**

R: <sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

R: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27**

R: <sup>16</sup>If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. <sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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: Mark 1:29-39

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Mark chapter 1

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

R: <sup>29</sup>Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup>and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

R: This is the word of the Lord

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

## Sermon 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 - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.  
His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text and tune: Public domain

### The Message

Pastor Steve Hayden

### 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



## **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.

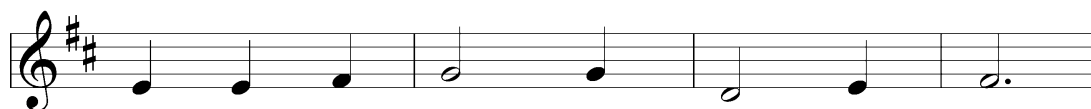
## Agnus Dei



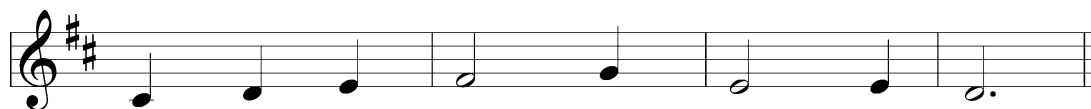
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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 # 684

### "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!  
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!  
O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!  
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace,  
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;  
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;  
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.  
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.  
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.  
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

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 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 # 849

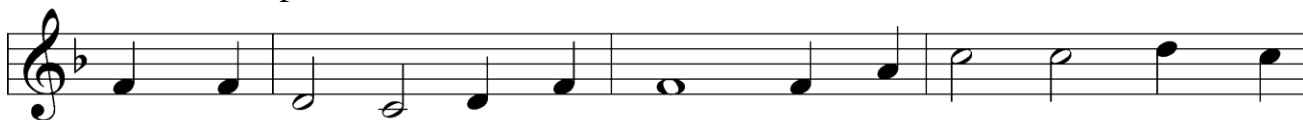
### "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

## 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 birthdays this week:

- No Birthdays this week

### and anniversaries:

- February 4      Harold & Joyce Huston

Best wishes!

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Tuesday	Quilt Guild	9 am
Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Tuesday	Community Center Meeting	2pm
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30 am
Thursday	Bread of Life Distribution	11 am
Thursday	Blood Drive	12:30 pm
Saturday	Episcopal Worship Service	5 pm
Sunday	Adult Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship	10:30 am
Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship

**Sunday Morning Bible** Many people who are great by the world's standards expect to be served by others. Not our Lord Jesus. Jesus took on the lowly form of a man to serve humanity and to sacrifice His life to ransom us from sin, death, and the devil. In his Gospel, Mark speaks to us today about the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection for us and His call to follow Him in a life of servanthood and sacrifice.

Join us each Sunday in the Sanctuary or Live on Facebook during Bible class beginning at **9 am for Mark**.

**Wednesday Bible Class** In the letter to the Philippians, Paul describes the Christian life in this way: joy, no matter what the circumstances. For you and me, this almost goes beyond our understanding. How can we be joyful when bad things happen? But Paul knows the secret...trust in Christ alone to meet all our physical and spiritual needs according to His glorious riches. Join us as we read and learn this secret from Paul on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom for Philippians**.

**Women's Bible Study** Starting Tuesday, February 6, 2024, the Women's Bible Study will be studying the Lutheran catechism for adults presented by Pastor Steve. This study will take between 6-8 weeks and we will see the importance of the truths from God's Word for our lives and will grow in our deep appreciation for all that Jesus Christ has done as our Savior. Because we think this session will be of interest to all our parishioners, it will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Until then please join us for a less informal study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.

**We have all read the stories** and heard the lessons in church, but what if we could stand in those very spots today? In October 2024 Pastor and Linda will be leading a tour to "**Walk in the Footsteps of Paul**". Experience with them the Bible coming to life as we follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and walk through the Bible lands ourselves. This 10 day tour will take us to many of the places Paul visited and which we have heard about: Thessaloniki (Thessalonians), Philippi (Philippians), Ephesus (Ephesians), Corinth (Corinthians), Crete (where Paul left Titus to serve as pastor), and Athens. We will also visit the island of Patmos where the Apostle John experienced the Revelation and more. In the midst of the trip we will board a ship for a three day Mediterranean cruise.

Talk to Pastor Steve for an itinerary, pricing, more information or if you have any questions.

**Upcoming Blood Drive dates are** scheduled for **Feb 8th & March 7th**. 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.



**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church 2024 Lake Area Easter Basket Project** Sign up for a particular age group (boy or girl) on the sign-up sheet on the “blue table”. There will be a sheet of basket filler ideas available for each age/sex of child to help get you started. Be creative! Consider making baskets with your grandchildren, co-workers, tennis/pickle ball team, card/craft group. Use gift bags, plastic totes, or reusable grocery bags or traditional Easter baskets. **Tag your basket to indicate Age and Sex of the child.** We will have plastic cellophane available at church to wrap your basket, if needed. For those who are **unable to shop but want to help support the project**, gift cards to Dollar Tree, or Hobby Lobby are appreciated. Place gift cards in the offering box. LOLC’s goal is to provide 32 baskets for children in foster care. **Return your completed Easter basket to church by Sunday, February 25th.**

**Rock of Ages Lutheran Church** is a suburban church serving an urban community. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is helping them again in February by posting a sign up sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church on **February 18th**, 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. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches.

## **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.