



March 29, 2026

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Palm Sunday

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



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Eatonton, GA 31024

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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. Communicants may choose to receive the wine in an individual cup, from the Chalice (the Common Cup) or by immersing the wafer in the Chalice (also called intinction). It is very helpful to keep your empty glass visible so Pastor can see if you desire the Common Cup.

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: Jaye McCrea

Greeters: Scott Manley

Scripture Reader: Sandy Mathson

Communion Assistant: Thomas Mathson

Coffee Fellowship: Marcia Elkins & Evelyn Crockett

Ushers: Jerry Campbell & Don Menke

Sunday Counter(s): Walter Krause

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

Welcome

(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace.)

Congregational Hymn #443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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.

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

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.

Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

This Is the Feast is not sung during Lent

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and

patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; 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 50:4–9a**

R: ⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:5–11

R: ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Verse for Lent



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 27:27-61

R: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew chapter 27

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour ⁴⁵there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

“This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn# 442 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"



2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,

3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;

4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;

5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.

And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.

Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.

To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.

O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

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.

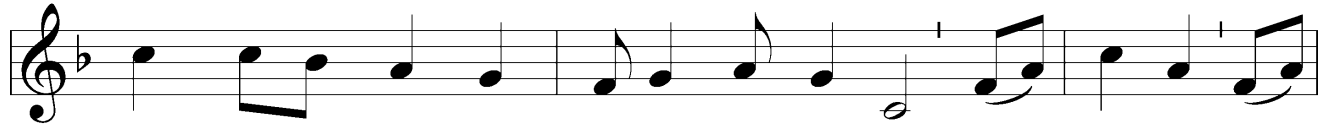
Proper Preface

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



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.

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."

Pax Domini

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

C: **Amen.**

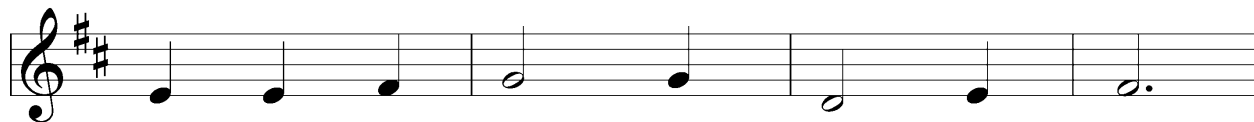
Agnus Dei



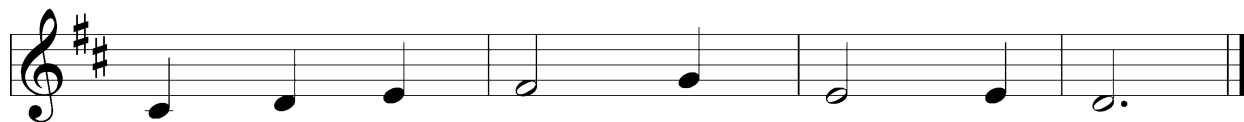
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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 #428 "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,



Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,



Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,



Per - fect God on thee has bled!
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
All the suf - fer - ings of time!
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

“Thank the Lord”



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

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 #685

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Announcements

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

+

Post-service Music

+

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:

- 03/30 Barney Ross

and Anniversaries

- 04/03 Barney & Sharon Ross

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	Quilts of Valor	10 am – 2 pm
Tuesday	Women's Bible study	10:00 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible study	No class this week
Thursday	Maundy Thursday	7 pm
Friday	Good Friday Service	7 pm
Sunday	Easter Egg Hunt	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday	Easter Brunch	After Worship

Sunday Morning Bible

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

On January 21, 1530, Emperor Charles V called for a general assembly—an imperial diet—to be held in Augsburg, Germany. Convened to deal with the threat of the Turks to the empire, the diet would also try to resolve the issues dividing the church at the time, what we call the Reformation.

The Emperor asked the Lutheran princes to identify what they believed and taught based on Scripture at the gathering. The Lutherans prepared a confession of the faith that would be verbally read before the emperor. This document, The Augsburg Confession, would become recognized as the public confession of the Lutheran Church.

There will not be a class on Wednesday April 1, 2026.

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.

Starting in April, the Women’s Bible Study will be studying the book entitled *Heaven* by Jennifer Rothschild. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? How can we know the truth about what comes next? We will be exploring the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective and separate what’s true about Heaven from what’s based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses. Don't just wonder about

Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace.

We meet every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the church conference room. We would love to have you join us.

Please help support the Ronald McDonald House by bringing your pull tabs to church. There is a basket on the shelf in the foyer.



Flower Donations for Sunday Worship

Thank you to everyone who donates flowers.

- If you'd like your donation mentioned in the bulletin, please fill out the sign-up sheet on the blue table with all desired details (e.g., in memory or honor of someone).
- Please do not include lilies in your arrangements, as a member has severe allergies.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



American Red Cross

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **April 9 and May 7**. 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.



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.



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.



EASTER SERVICES

at Our Church



Maundy Thursday
Service | April 2 | 7:00 pm





Easter Brunch
| April 5 |
After Worship Service



Good Friday
Service | April 3 | 7:00 pm

Sign up for
Brunch on the
★ Blue  table



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.

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!



Volunteers are 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, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Scripture readers, you can contact the office for Cheri to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Communion assistants, you can contact the office for Cheri to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Greeters, there is a signup sheet 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.