

August 31, 2025

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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



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In Preparation of Holy Communion

<u>The Lord's Supper</u> 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: Barney Ross

Greeters: Barbara Koenck and Dick Schneider

Scripture Reader: Jaye McCrea Communion Assistant: Tom Mathson

Coffee Fellowship: Peggy Uehlin

Ushers: Jaye McCrea

Sunday Counter(s): Walter Krause

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

Instrumental Prelude

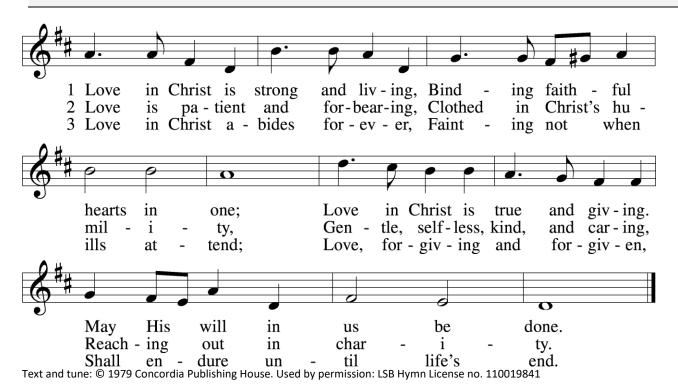
Dr. Lev Ryabinin

Choir Anthem The choir is currently on Summer Break.

Welcome

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

Congregational Hymn # 706 Love in Christ is Strong and Living



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



Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; 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: Proverbs 25:2-10

R: ²It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

⁴Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;

⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

⁸do not hastily bring into court,

for what will you do in the end,

when your neighbor puts you to shame?

⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret,

¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 13:1–17

R: ¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

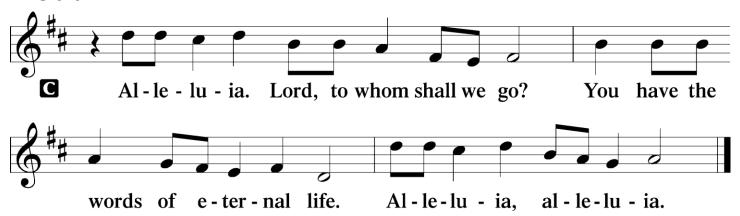
⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1-14

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke chapter 14

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: ¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by

him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn # 842 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"



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.

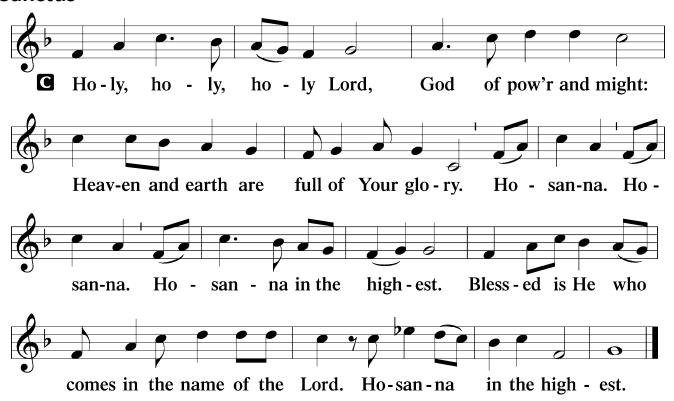
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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."

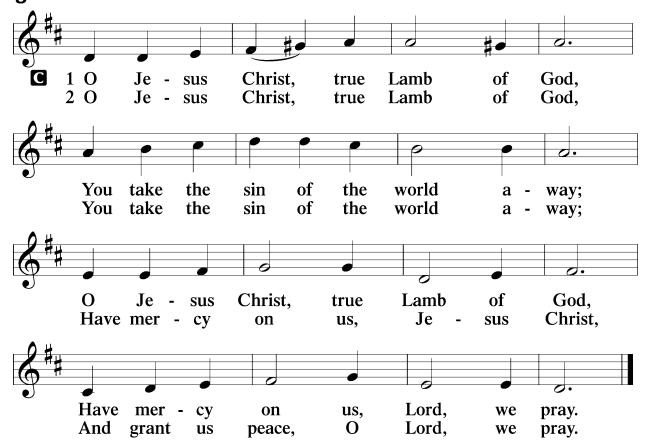
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei



The Distribution

Communion Hymn # 625 "Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread"



"Thank the Lord"



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



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



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



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

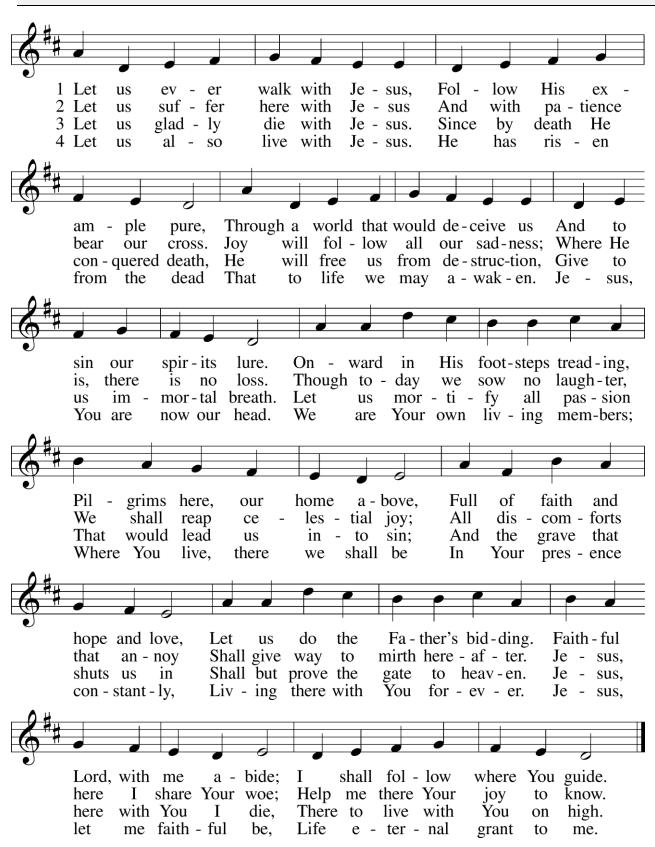
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.

Let us Ever Walk with Jesus



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Announcements

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

+ <u>Post-service Music</u> +

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

August 31 Bailey Ringer
 September 3 Keith Mulford
 September 6 Dave Ringer

and Anniversaries

September 4 Tom & Sandy Mathson
 September 6 Jeffrie & Nola Sayne

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday **Labor Day Office Closed** Tuesday **Quilt Guild** 9 am Tuesday Women's Bible study 10:00 am Wednesday Zoom Bible study 10:30 am **Thursday Blood Drive** 11 am - 4 pm Sunday Choir / Bible Class 9 am Sunday **Worship Service** 10:30 am

Sunday Morning Bible

On Sunday mornings we are in a series called <u>"Sermon on the Mount"</u>

Theologian Martin Franzmann says this about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "The Sermon on the Mount is the record of how Jesus moulds the will of His disciple, leading the disciple to live a life wholly drawn from God the King as He is revealed in these last days in His Son" As we

understand it we recognize that Jesus' teaching is radically different from the world around us.

As we look again at Matthew 5-7, Jesus will challenge us about what it means to be righteous and faithful.

Join us every Sunday morning in person or live-streamed and be a part of "Sermon on the Mount". Our class will begin at 9 am.

Wednesday morning Zoom class

God's revelation to John was given to encourage Christians in every age who suffer because of their faith. Through dramatic symbolism, Revelation shows the spiritual conflict that surrounds life in this sinful world. At the center stands Christ, the Lamb of God slain for sinners. With the heavenly Father's blessing, Christ triumphs over Satan and opens the paradise of heaven, the city of God for each of us.

Join us every Wednesday on Zoom at 10:30 am for Revelation. 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 Tuesday, September 9, the Women's Bible group will be launching 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.

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



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 <u>specifically request or include no lilies</u> 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.



Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **September 4**th **and October 2nd.** 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.

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!



Would you like to be a Greeter or Sub? We certainly want members and guests to feel welcome when they arrive. If so, please sign up on the blue table. A schedule will be emailed to you later. God bless you for your service.



It seems like summer just started, but before we know it, schools will be back in session. Service/Outreach ministry asks for your support of the Greene and Putnam County schools by providing these items:

- √ 24 count boxes of crayons,
- ✓ Packs of #2 pencils,
- ✓ Glue sticks,
- ✓ Notebook paper

Look for the bin labeled Back-to-School Supplies in the church entry. **Please** bring your supplies by September 7. Thank you for your support of the children of Greene and Putnam counties.

Operation Christmas Child – 2025

This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look just like last year. We will have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes**. This way you can personalize your shoeboxes and encourage family and friends to participate with you. Include your family, neighbors, pickleball or tennis team, craft group, or co-workers. Celebrate your birthday,

anniversary, or other special event by packing a shoebox with your family or friends. Remember, school supplies go on sale in July! Drop off your filled shoebox gifts throughout the year at the church before November 9.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online.** Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places. Online boxes are carefully prepared and sent by OCC, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox.

You can scan this link with your cellphone camera.



Select "BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE NOW" and follow instructions. By using this link, we will be able to track our church's progress toward our shoebox goal. You can also make a monetary contribution to the church, and we will build a shoebox for you (\$25/shoebox).

Our "faith goal" this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



The choir will resume meeting for rehearsal Sunday September 7th at 9 am in the choir room.



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.

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.