



September 28th, 2025

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*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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Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

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Elder of the Month: Mark Ketchie

Scripture reader: Marlene Matson

Coffee & Fellowship: Jaye & Cindy McCrea

Greeter(s): Scott Manley & Jean Page

Sunday Counter(s): Jean Page and Don Menke

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

Instrumental Prelude
Choir Anthem

Dr. Lev Ryabinin
Dr. Youngmi Kim

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: Amen.

Hymn # 788 v 1-4

“Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
4 Teach us, O Lord, true thank - ful - ness di - vine,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
That gives as Christ gave, nev - er count - ing cost,



For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,
For Christ Your Son, and for each hu - man face
For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways
That knows no bar - ri - er of “yours” and “mine,”



While of Your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:
That shows Your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:
As - sured that on - ly what's with - held is lost.

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; 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: Amos 6:1-7

¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!

²Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.

Are you better than these kingdoms?

Or is their territory greater than your territory,

³O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?

⁴“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,

⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

⁶who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass
away.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Timothy 6:6–19

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19–31

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 16

¹⁹[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 714

"Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode"



1 Who trusts in God A strong a - bode In heav'n and
2 Though Sa - tan's wrath Be - set our path And world - ly
3 In all the strife Of mor - tal life Our feet will

earth pos - sess - es; Who looks in
scorn as - sail us, While You are
stand se - cure - ly; Temp - ta - tion's

love To Christ a - bove, No fear that heart op -
near, We shall not fear; Your strength will nev - er
hour Will lose its pow'r, For You will guard us

press - es. In You a - lone, Dear Lord, we own Sweet
fail us. Your rod and staff Will keep us safe And
sure - ly. O God, re - new With heav'n - ly dew Our

hope and con - so - la - tion, Our shield from foes, Our balm for
guide our steps for - ev - er; Nor shades of death Nor hell be -
bod - y, soul, and spir - it Un - til we stand At Your right

woes, Our great and sure sal - va - tion.
neath Our lives from You will sev - er.
hand Through Je - sus' sav - ing mer - it.

Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

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

Offering

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

Prayer of the Church

** Prayer of The Church*

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn #664

"Fight the Good Fight"



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less
4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es



strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -
mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing
not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

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 & Anniversaries:

- None this week

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	Congregational Voter's Mtg	After Worship
Monday	Quilt of Valor Bee	10 am – 2 pm
Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Study	10:30 am
Thursday	Blood Drive	11 am – 4 pm
Sunday	Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday	Elders Meeting	After Worship

Sunday Morning Bible Class

On Sunday mornings we are in a series called "Sermon on the Mount"

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.

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

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

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!



Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **October 2nd** and **November 6**. We will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood go to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC.



Flowers

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

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

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

Thank you for your help.

Just a reminder



Lake Oconee Lutheran can receive gifts by credit card/debit card now. You will find the terminal in the entryway on the shelving near the kitchen. Please be aware that there is a charge to the church for each gift received in this way. **(If you**

include your name on the form (screen) when it asks, the gift will show up on your church statement, but we are unable to do that if you do not input your name). You may also request a receipt sent to you if desired.



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

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

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.



Baby Shower Announcement

Celebrating Laura and Isaac Ringer

You're Invited!

We are delighted to announce a baby shower honoring Laura and Isaac Ringer. Please join us in celebrating the upcoming arrival of their little one!

Event Details

- Date: Sunday, October 5
- Time: Immediately following the church service during Coffee/Fellowship

Come Celebrate!

Join us for joy, laughter, and blessings as we shower Laura and Isaac with love and good wishes. All are welcome—bring your smiles, warm hearts, and a spirit of celebration!

Gifts & Wishes

If you would like to contribute a gift or card, a table will be set up in the church. Laura and Isaac are registered at Babylist.com (<https://my.babylist.com/laura-ringer>)

Your thoughtful blessings and prayers for Laura, Isaac, and their growing family are more than welcome.



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.

The Church council has scheduled a Congregational Voter's Meeting for Sunday, September 28th immediately following the service. This Voter's Meeting is to approve the lease agreement with Oconee Valley Healthcare on the Milledgeville campus. Please come and be a part of God's mission in our congregation.



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.