



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

A Church Newsletter

April 2020

Pastor **Steven Hayden**
revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary **Deb Krahling**
lolcsec@plantationcable.net

Instrumentalist **Lev Rybanin**
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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Holy Communion
2nd & 4th Morning
Prayer Bible Class 9:00 a.m.

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
Church Office 706-485-4600


Visit our web site: www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus, speaking to His disciples, says, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."* (John 13:35).

"A new command." Yet it is an old one. It was Moses, way back in the book of Leviticus, directed by God to speak His commands to His people, who said *"Do not seek revenge...but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."* (Leviticus 19:18)

Jesus amplified His command, however. We are to love, He said, *"as I have loved you."* How did Christ love us? At the time the disciples did not know the depth of Christ's love. They hadn't yet heard the story of the birth in Bethlehem announced by the angels. They had not yet been to Calvary and couldn't comprehend Jesus' references to His coming death. They had no idea that the Resurrection, Ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost were ahead.



We do have that knowledge. We have gathered together as God's people in His church to celebrate the love made flesh in the manger at Bethlehem. This month, in spirit through the internet, we will gather again in sorrow as we watch God die, not because of His actions, but because of our sins. But we will also come together with joy, hope and faith on our walk to the empty tomb at Easter. Now, we hear those words that were spoken to us, *"Why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here. He has risen!"* (Luke 24:6)

We understand what Jesus is talking about for we know how He has loved us. He has loved us enough to leave the glories of Heaven. He has loved us more than earthly power and status and honor. He has loved us more than He loved His own life.

Jesus further said that love for one another would be the mark of members of the Family of God. Just as He gave sight to the blind, made the lame man walk, and healed the sick, so did His followers. Today it is just as important that we walk with Christ's love among those around us. With the love of Christ in us, we visit the lonely, provide food for the hungry, and share our financial resources in order that the Word of God might be preached and bring many others into God's family. Loving others as Christ has loved us means that we can be willing to give all things on their behalf.

Sinful beings that we are, we are not prone to love others as Christ has loved us on our own. The apostle John tells us how it is possible: *"Dear Friends,"* he writes in 1 John 4:7, *"let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."* We are born of God, and, by His grace, we can carry out His command to love one another through all the opportunities He gives us with all the gifts He gives us.

What does this look like in the time of Covid-19? It means phoning or checking on those around you to be sure that they are safe. It means shopping with the knowledge that others have needs as well, not hoarding what we find, but buying what we need and sharing the resource. It means asking others, especially those at risk, if there is something we could pick up for them. It means staying home so that we do not become the spread agent of more illness. It means kind words, strong patience, and prayer to God on behalf of others.

And may the love of God shown on Easter fill you with all peace, joy, and love for others.

Foster Steve

LOEC offers Bible Study and Ministry



Stephen's Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of Lake Oconee Lutheran church who have been extensive training and provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists.

If you or someone you know of are hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Virginia Daley, 706-485-3564. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.



Mid-Week Bible Class

“Romans”

St. Paul's letter to the Romans is the first epistle in the New Testament because it is the longest, but it could also occupy that position because of its importance. It has always played an important role in the church because it summarizes so well the essential emphases of the apostle's theology. Throughout the letter Paul emphasizes that God's mercy comes to undeserving people who stand under the Law. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God freely gives righteousness through faith alone, not on the basis of their own accomplishments. This unconditional promise is the sole basis of people's relationship with God.

Martin Luther wrote, “This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and it is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day...we can never read it or ponder over it too much.”

This class has been suspended and is not meeting until we can gather together in person again.

LOLC NEWS UPDATE

WORSHIP DURING COVID-19: Lake Oconee Lutheran Church will be posting the weekly Wednesday night Lenten and Sunday Worship Services videos on our website (lakeoconeelutheran.org) and our Facebook page. The Wednesday service will always be available by Wednesday evening. We will be attempting to have the Sunday service online by Saturday evening, but it will be available no later than Monday morning.

As you have heard on the news, the White House and the Covid Task Force are now advising that the practice of social distancing be extended until April 30th for protection of ourselves and for the protection of others in our communities. The Church Council, in following the guidelines encouraged by State and National leaders, has determined that Lake Oconee Lutheran will not meet together, for worship or other purposes, in person but will continue on-line worship through the month of April. This will, of course, be subject to change depending on the direction of our medical leaders. This is disappointing for many of us who really desire to worship together, but we remember Christ's words, "Lo, I am with you always". Matthew 28:20. Remember that you can find recordings of a worship service as listed above.

Watch live-streams from our sister churches online.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Augusta, Ga is at www.ordcaugusta.com

Christ Lutheran Church in Perry, GA is at <https://christlutheranmidga.org/>

YOUR CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS: A time like this can truly hurt our congregation financially. While the world shuts down during this crisis, our bills and responsibilities of the Church do not go away. Utilities must be paid, and most importantly, our mission work must continue. As your pastor I ask that you keep your offerings current and mail them to the Church weekly (or on the schedule that you normally keep). You may also be able to add the church to your online banking bill pay app. This is a responsibility that we, the Lord's children, all bear.

Please mail your offerings to the Church Address here:

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway Eatonton, GA 31024

Meet Our New Members!

MEET Brant & Louise Moore



While both Louise and Brant hail originally from New Jersey, they met while both were living in the Milwaukee area of Wisconsin. They met through a dating service (pre-internet) and have been married for 20 years.

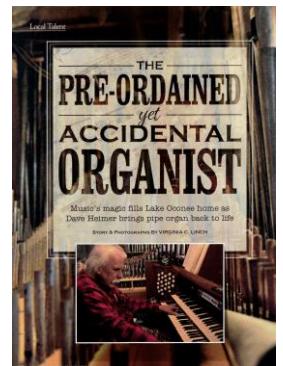
When Louise, who was a computer analyst, and Brant, who was a financial consultant, both retired, they resettled in North Carolina. They soon decided they wanted somewhere a little warmer and decided on Greensboro to also be a little closer to their son and his family in Atlanta. They also have sons living in Wisconsin and Minnesota. They are proud grandparents to 4.

Both Louise and Brant are avid golfers – seems they are in the right area for that – and while Brant names most sports as his “hobby”, Louise prefers cooking. We will certainly give her enough opportunities to share her hobby with us.

They also like enjoying time with their Cavalier spaniel, Kensi.

We welcome the Moores to LOLC and look forward to getting them involved in our congregation.

Check out the March/April 2020 edition of Lakelife, Volume 14, Issue 2, the free magazine that is sent with some newspaper subscriptions and is also available in the exit area of Publix. This publication which has Jack Nicklaus on the cover also has a long article on another famous and accomplished individual, our own Dave Heimer. The article on Dave begins on page 116.



Council Meeting Minutes – Sunday March 8 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson, followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Hayden.

Absent: Mike Joost, Barney Ross, Joshua Ringer, Laura Ringer

The minutes from the 2/16/20 Council Meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- no report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven-Presented the February financial documents. The old mortgage will be paid off from the LCEF funds. The new mortgage will be set up when we receive the final closing amount. \$3,650 has been received for debt reduction for the Harmony property. Donations are down by \$8,452 versus the YTD budget, expenses are down by \$9,989 vs the budget, showing a \$1,537 positive cash flow YTD.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- LOLC is behind in giving YTD vs 2019, but that was due to an unusually large onetime gift given last January 2019. Also, a member notified Walter before the meeting that they would be providing a \$10,000 gift to be used to pay down the old mortgage, prior to paying it off.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross (by Tom Mathson) - Large lights in the front and back of the church have been replaced with LED lights. Tri-county EMC has been contacted to request lighting be added to the poles on the road that leads to the church. 8 new chairs have been received, which are similar, but not exactly like our current chairs. The current style is not available.

Lay Ministry: Alan Oberdeck - Barney Ross is looking into Audio/Video recording of Pastor's sermons to add to the website. The elder for April is Don Menke. Kent and Marlene Matson, and Grant and Louise Moore are joining the church. Pastor Kruger will be filling in for Pastor Hayden on 3/22, as he will be on vacation.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer-no report

Christian Service/Outreach: Laura Ringer- no report

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden - Discussed the time and talent sheets for the council. Atlas Ministries would like to present to the congregation. It was decided to provide them time after an upcoming non-communion Sunday Service. Pastor Hayden will coordinate the date with them. On March 31st, the supervisor for the Intern program will be visiting the church and meeting with Pastor Hayden, and those associated with our program.



Old Business:

1. **Outreach Coordinator/DCE update-** see above
2. **Music Director Search Committee update-** No news
3. **Harmony property update-** The contract is at our attorney's office, working out any final details. Dr Ringer continues to represent LOLC with this project.

New Business:

1. **Harmony Building/Property Management-** Tom Mathson will put together a committee of 3 or 5 members to discuss the management for the Harmony rental property acquisition. Alan and Kathie both volunteered to serve. Also, LOLC will begin advertising within the congregation for an individual who may be interested in managing the rental property. It was also discussed that sometime in the future, we will consider forming a group to study a site plan for the 2 new acquired properties.

The meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Hayden led the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

LOLC Treasurer Report – February 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - February 2020

	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Restricted Fund Balances
General Fund	20,089	27,300	-7,211	44,693	54,600	-9,907	Anderson \$136,181
Debt Reduction	5,655	3,682	1,973	8,005	7,364	641	Organ \$478
Special Fund Income	<u>1,020</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>1,647</u>	<u>833</u>	<u>814</u>	Scholarship \$2,098
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$26,764	\$31,399	-\$4,635	\$54,345	\$62,797	-\$8,452	A/P \$4,041
							Sign Fund <u>\$2,500</u>
							TOTAL \$145,183
EXPENSES							A/P:
Pastor Expense	10,778	11,190	-412	19,537	22,379	-2,842	District \$4,468
Worship Expense	1,879	2,010	-131	2,933	4,019	-1,086	P/R \$3,965
Property Expense	4,195	5,682	-1,487	8,101	11,363	-3,262	
Bus. & Administrative Expense	2,720	2,600	120	6,304	5,200	1,104	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	18	58	-40	19	117	-98	\$98,457.04
Evangelism/Outreach Expense	629	607	22	860	1,215	-355	
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	BANK BALANCES:
Fellowship Expense	14	192	-178	60	383	-323	BankSouth \$170,565.45
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	LCEF \$107,461.06
Other Expenses	<u>5,932</u>	<u>4,530</u>	<u>1,402</u>	<u>5,932</u>	<u>9,059</u>	<u>-3,127</u>	Anderson <u>\$136,181.20</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,165	\$26,869	-\$704	\$43,746	\$53,735	-\$9,989	TOTAL \$414,207.71
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$599	\$4,530	-\$3,931	\$10,599	\$9,062	\$1,537	

Notes: The debt reduction figures include \$1,500 given to reduce Harmony mortgage in Feb.; year to date includes this plus \$2,000 given in January for Harmony mortgage. Other Other expenses includes the mortgage payment plus \$2,250 balance on the new website development.

Opportunities to Serve

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Two of our LOLC members, Janis & Mara Lipacis, are faithful volunteers for Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, a vital organization that does much to benefit our community. According to Janis, the Habitat Furniture ReStore affiliate is in dire need of more volunteers.

Please consider that the amount of time you donate is flexible and at your convenience plus you can meet new people. In addition, the variety of things you can volunteer for is tremendous. The organization especially needs:

- Thursday afternoon cashiers;
- Mentors who give support and friendship to families selected to be homeowners and keep a record of their sweat equity hours;
- Friday and Saturday volunteers at the store;
- Construction team members;
- Help with pickup of donations that includes driving the truck; and
- A secretary to the board.



Help us to spread the word to anyone else—friend or family—who might be a willing volunteer. For even more first-hand information, talk to Janis after church or contact him at 706-484-0543.

Worship Service

You can become a vital part of the Sunday Worship service.

To become:

- an Usher – contact Terry Pedersen
- a greeter – contact Barbara Hardesty
- a communion assistant – contact Deb Krahling
- an Altar care giver – contact Donna Crouch
- a soundboard operator – contact Pastor Steve
- a reader! – contact Peggy Uehlin



To volunteer for the abovementioned opportunities you may: contact the church office or contact the chair listed.

Mites

The Widow's mite of Mark 12: 41-44 is the inspiration for the LWML mite boxes.



The Ladies of the Church organize mites' collections on a continuous basis. The third Sunday of each month is the official Mites Sunday after which the monies gathered go to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to support various ministries around the world.

Recent mites' collections (Feb): \$80.00

Detailed information is available at www.lwml.org and on Facebook. The third Sunday of the month is designated Mite Sunday, but donations are always welcome.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.

Susan Larson

Choir Notes



Choir meets for practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (Cancelled during COVID19)



Coffee & Fellowship

The coffee fellowship that follows the Sunday church service gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors, meet new members and visit with each other. We also want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship so we are asking everyone to help. You can sign up for snacks, drinks and clean up. Tom Uehlin will be providing coffee and ordering kitchen supplies. If you would like to serve and have questions or need assistance please talk to Barbara Hardesty.

Recycling Projects

Remember the LOLC paper recycling program only includes weekly bulletins and other white paper products.



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Event Calendar

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class - CANCELLED 9:00 AM Choir Practice - CANCELLED 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM Children's Sunday School - CANCELLED 10:30 AM Worship Service – watch online	30 <i>Barney Ross' bday</i>	31	1 <i>Brant & Louise Moore's anniversary</i> Watch Lenten Service online	2	3 <i>Barney & Sharon Ross' anniversary</i> <i>Pastor's and secretary's day off</i>	4 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study - CANCELLED 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service - CANCELLED
5 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class - CANCELLED 9:00 AM Choir Practice - CANCELLED 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM Children's Sunday School - CANCELLED 10:30 AM Worship Service – watch online	6 <i>Jim Crawford's bday</i>	7 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Meeting - CANCELLED 1:00 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Meeting - CANCELLED	8 <i>Amy Orr-Stokes' bday</i> 9:00 AM Elders Meeting - cancelled	9 <i>Steve Krahling's bday</i> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday with communion Service - CANCELLED	10 <i>Andrew Ringer & Bruce Tober's bday</i> <i>Pastor's and secretary's day off</i> 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST movie - CANCELLED 7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY Service - CANCELLED	11 <i>Larry Davis' bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study - CANCELLED 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service - CANCELLED
12 9:00 AM EASTER breakfast - CANCELLED 10:30 AM EASTER Worship watch online	13 <i>Jim & Barbara Hersh's anniversary</i>	14	15 <i>Sharon Ross' bday</i> 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class - CANCELLED	16	17 <i>Pastor's and secretary's day off</i>	18 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study - CANCELLED 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service - CANCELLED
19 10:30 AM Worship Service – watch online 11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING - CANCELLED	20	21	22 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class - CANCELLED	23 <i>Anna Ruth Ringer's bday</i>	24 <i>Pastor's and secretary's day off</i>	25 <i>Davis Mortensen's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study - CANCELLED 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service - CANCELLED
26 10:30 AM Worship Service – watch online	27	28	29 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class Class - CANCELLED	30	1 <i>Ann Mara Lipacis' bday</i> <i>Pastor's and secretary's day off</i>	2 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service