



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.*

Our Church Newsletter

AUGUST 2020

Pastor Steven Hayden  
[revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)

DCE Intern Katherine Lutz  
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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

**D**ear Friends in Christ,

**Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Does this verse sound familiar? Perhaps because it was one of the Bible readings in church from the last Sunday in July and served as the text for the message So why talk about it again? Because it is a verse that we need to hear it again... and again. These days we've all had to experience some type of disconnect from people and places.



Whether it's a separation from the normal routines of our day or from friends and family, it's been an ordeal, to say the least. For many there's been the very difficult situation of being apart from loved ones who are sick. We've likely all seen the poignant images of individuals keeping their distance and looking in on a family member or friend through a window – so as not to potentially spread any disease or get it from someone else.

For believers, separation from others in the family of faith has its own difficulties, too. We draw special strength from gathering together in the Name of Jesus (see 1 Thessalonians 5:10-11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16). In the *Apostles' Creed*, we speak of "the holy Christian church, the communion of saints," which gives us spiritual uplift and fellowship with one another. And you may have noticed in your own life how the recent suspension of church services or your inability to be there in person impacted your faith in some ways.

So at the very time when it seems as if this virus has come between us and our normal life, how good it is to know that there is nothing that can come between Jesus and us in His love. Whatever life brings our way – trials, persecution, a worldwide virus – we are secure in God's embracing and unchangeable love for His creatures. He has made that plainly known to us by sending His Son to save us from our sins. Jesus came specifically to *bridge* the distance that separated us from God. Having taken on our flesh and blood, **God entered our world for the sole purpose of bringing us back to Him** so that, never again, will we be separated from Him. God is for us!

As you continue to deal with the persistent threat of this virus, lay hold of the riches God has given to us. He has reconciled us to Himself (see 2 Corinthians 5:18); He has given us all things we need to live a godly life (see 2 Peter 1:3); and He promises to be with us always (see Hebrews 13:5). These are the things He has done for us, His children, people who can in no way be separated from the God who loves them, even now. After all, God is for us!

Pastor Steve

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## *Katherine's Chronicles*

Lake Oconee Lutheran Family,  
Blessings to you in these toasty weeks of August! I am so grateful for the community that has surrounded me here at Lake Oconee Lutheran over the past six weeks. I am blessed beyond any expectation or dream that I could have ever had for my internship year.

When I found out that I was going to be serving in a service and outreach role at LOLC, I was overwhelmed with excitement because what greater job is there than the opportunity to serve one another while sharing who Jesus is and the transformative power that comes from knowing Him. The Great Commission spoken over us by Jesus has always been a scripture that I hold near to me and is a verse that I pray is one that we live out every day, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) It is safe to say as I am settling into the Lake Oconee area, I am just as excited and fueled by your love for one another and your passion to make Jesus's name known in this community. I am constantly encouraged by your willingness to share resources and time and I have great expectation for a wonderful year to come.

Over the last month, we have begun the Mission of the Month initiative. The Mission of the Month will be an opportunity for members and friends of Lake Oconee Lutheran to serve and bless the community that we are in. I have had the opportunity to learn a little bit about our surrounding community and am very excited for the partnerships and places that sharing our time and gifts will take us.



In July, we had the opportunity to collect items for the Little Food Pantry located outside of the Oconee Valley Healthcare offices in Greensboro. These items will be available to anyone in the community and will be a blessing to those who may have needs in this area. I am amazed and reminded of the beauty of what happens when we come together as a church to serve those around us. While one of us may be able to collect 5 or 10 items, when we partner together, we are able to share hundreds of items. Thank you so much

for your generosity as many many goods were collected!

Looking ahead, in August we will have the opportunity to support both students and teachers at Greensboro Elementary and Putnam Elementary school. We will be collecting items for students and through donations for teacher care kits will be blessing over 140 teachers in these schools. If you would like to make a donation to the supplies or teacher support, feel free to email me at [dcekatherine@gmail.com](mailto:dcekatherine@gmail.com)!

Thanks so much for your kindness and generosity, Katherine

# Congregational News

## Worship Update -- Live streaming

In the past months Lake Oconee Lutheran has pre-recorded our worship service and then posted it online. Now we are attempting to live stream our worship. That means it will be broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship.

If you are unable to be online at 10:30 am, do not worry. The recorded service will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the [@lakeoconeelutheranchurch](#) page on Facebook. The service will also be posted on the church website by Monday or Tuesday of each week. God's blessings to each of you!

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## LOLC AUGUST'S MISSION OF THE MONTH: BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We will be taking monetary donations and material donations to purchase supplies for over 900 Elementary students at the Putnam and Greene County elementary schools.

Items to bring:



24 packs of Crayola Crayons    Boxes of #2 Pencils    Plastic folders with prongs

Donations can be placed in the grey and green bins in the entryway and the breezeway.

Our goal is to collect donations to give each of the 140 public Elementary teachers in Putnam County and Greene County a back to school care kit. This will include a note, snacks and other fun supplies to encourage the teachers.

We will take a collection of cash gifts at both doors every Sunday in August for the purchase of additional school supplies and support presents. Contact Katherine at [dcekatherine@gmail.com](mailto:dcekatherine@gmail.com) with any questions.

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# EOEC 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

### “The Apostles’ Creed”

What is a creed? A creed is a statement of what we believe, teach and confess. One of the creeds that we use regularly in worship is The Apostles' Creed. It is called this, not because it was written by the apostles themselves, but because it states briefly the doctrine or teaching which God has given to us through the apostles in the Bible.

**On Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am, join us on Zoom for a Bible study where we are examining the Apostles' Creed, and through it, our faith itself.**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Want to get connected with a group of ladies and find out more about how the Lord is present in hardships and through our doubts?

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. In [James: Mercy Triumphs](#), by Beth Moore, we will see how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. All women are invited to do the study starting August 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Bible study will take place on Zoom and is open to anyone! To reserve a Bible study book, email Katherine at [dcekatherine@gmail.com](mailto:dcekatherine@gmail.com) that you would like to join. A freewill offering can be given to Katherine to cover the cost of the Bible study book.

## A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTINUES

*“Harmony Building News Release”*



The Harmony Volunteer Fire Fighter’s Association (HVFFA) was formed in 1983 as an auxiliary to the Harmony Fire Department. Its purpose was to raise money to support the volunteers and buy firefighting equipment. Events such as turkey shoots, cake raffles, fish fries, and much more, were used to support their efforts.

Shortly thereafter, the HVFFA membership constructed a multi-use Fire Department support building on the back of the property. For many years the facility was used to house fire department equipment, training, HVFFA meetings and community outreach. This is the building people have come to know as the Harmony Community Association meeting hall.

In 1996 Putnam County opened Station 3 at its present location on Old Phoenix Road and Putnam County began purchasing firefighting equipment and hiring professionals to operate the facility. As a result, the mission of the HVFFA evolved into support for local charities and a new organization was created – the Harmony Community Association (HCA).

For the past 25 years the HCA membership has gathered each month for a fellowship dinner and to organize fund raising for local charities. Beneficiaries have included Putnam Christian Outreach, Circle of Love, Oconee Regional Humane Society, Phoenix Homemakers Secret Santa Program, scholarships for exceptional area students and aid to many other local charitable organizations.

The Harmony Community Association Mission Statement:

“The Harmony Community Association is made up of local area residents who want to make the community a safer, cleaner, better place to live by community involvement and support of local charities”.

In 2019 the membership agreed the HCA needed to consider ways to expand the scope of our charitable program and a number of ideas were discussed. One idea was to offer the HCA building for sale, with 100% of the proceeds being used to fund charities. The only drawbacks were the potential loss of a meeting place for the HCA and denying the general public a reasonable rental option for community events.

It was decided to approach our neighbor, the Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, to determine if there was interest in acquiring the HCA property. Thankfully, and with heartfelt appreciation to the Lutheran Church, an agreement was reached benefitting the Church, the HCA and local charities.



Earlier this year the Lake Oconee Lutheran Church acquired the HCA Community Center and continues to offer the facility for family friendly community events. In addition, the Church is allowing the HCA to continue using the meeting hall for our meetings.

The new message on the sign says it all, "Built for a Purpose".

## **Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday July 21 2020**

### **[Meeting held via ZOOM]**

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

Walter Krause and Barney Ross were not in attendance.

The minutes from the 6/16/20 Council Meeting were approved.

#### **Council Committee Reports:**

**VP/Personnel: Mike Joost-** The analysis is complete of the current state of WIFI and computers/software in the church. Recommendations will be provided in new business.

**Treasurer: Kathie Kueven-** Presented the June report for LOLC as well as the Community Center. The Community Center brought in \$1200 in rental income, with costs of \$1965. Many costs were one time startup costs. LOLC showed a positive cash flow of \$15,914 for the month. LOLC has a positive cash flow of \$42,916 for the year.

A motion was made by Alan and seconded by Larry:

**"I move to transfer \$75,000 from the Bank South Operating account to the LCEF account for the purpose of earning interest."** The motion passed.

**Financial Secretary: Walter Krause-** There were no questions regarding the June written report. It was noted that receipts are up YTD by \$41,442 over 2019.

**Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis-** no report

**Church Properties: Barney Ross** – Tom had spoken to Barney and passed on the following: The sprinkler system has been shut off, due to a water leak that he has not been able to locate yet. A water bill from Piedmont water was received for \$857 for the month which is much higher than normal. It was suggested to have Barney contact Piedmont Water to ask for a reduction in the bill.


The HVAC system drains were plugged and were opened by technicians and the excess water drained.

**Lay Ministry: Alan Oberdeck-** No report

**Christian Education: Joshua Ringer-** No report

**Christian Service/Outreach: Laura Ringer-** We will be replacing the Bloomfield Coffee pot that is no longer working.





**DCE: Katherine Lutz-** The mission for the month, “Little Free Pantry Restock”, is going well. In August we will be partnering with the local schools in Greene and Putnam Counties, details announced on Sunday, 7/26. Also working on a Women’s Bible Study program. Tom announced to Katherine that the Church would be using our Scholarship budget fund to provide \$1,000 per semester for her next school year.

**Pastor’s Report: Pastor Hayden-** The live video feed of the services is going well with improvement in the technical presentation. Katherine has been helpful in handling the technical side of the Live video service. We will continue our live services in the same fashion for the next month, as we continue in phase 1 return.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Community Center-** Tom discussed that the rentals for the Community Center are going well, and additional rentals are on the books. The new door decals have been installed. Special thanks to Terry Pedersen for his work in acquiring the signage and coordinating the rental calendar and moving tables. Small repair/improvement projects are ongoing. The former owners, Harmony Community Association, wrote an article in the Eatonton Messenger announcing the sale of the property to LOLC. That article will be posted in the newsletter.

**New Business:**

- 1. Computer System Upgrade-** Mike Joost presented the recommendation for the upgrade to the computers and software and new WIFI in the sanctuary. This upgrade could be completed in 4-5 weeks. A motion was made by Kathie and seconded by Alan:  
**“I move to follow the recommendations and authorize the purchase of one new laptop, 3 monitors, 2 Office 365 software programs and the Wi-Fi upgrade described, with the cost being approximately \$2200.”** The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.  
Pastor Hayden closed with a prayer

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Larry Davis  
Congregational Secretary

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# LOLC Treasurer Reports – June 2020

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - June 30, 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>	<u>Restricted Fund Balances:</u>	
<b>INCOME</b>							Anderson	\$136,570
General Fund	41,302	27,300	14,002	203,555	164,298	39,257	Organ	\$478
Debt Reduction	3,195	3,682	-487	26,405	22,093	4,312	Scholarship	\$2,098
Memorial Fund	250	0	250	1,417	0	1,417	A/P	\$11,305
Special Fund Income	<u>1,273</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>4,231</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,731</u>	Sign Fund	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>\$46,020</b>	<b>\$31,399</b>	<b>\$14,621</b>	<b>\$235,608</b>	<b>\$188,891</b>	<b>\$46,717</b>	Special Funds	<u>\$1,417</u>
							<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$154,368</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							<b>A/P:</b>	
Pastor Expense	14,208	17,131	-2,923	71,516	79,022	-7,506	P/R	\$1,981
Worship Expense	1,763	2,010	-247	6,952	12,058	-5,106	District	\$9,324
Property Expense	5,628	5,681	-53	29,805	34,090	-4,285	<b>Mortgage Bal.</b>	<b>\$346,587.93</b>
Bus. & Administrative Expense	2,523	2,600	-77	14,888	15,599	-711	<b>BANK BALANCES:</b>	
Education Expense	19	58	-39	123	350	-227	BankSouth	\$207,675.10
Evangelism/Outreach Expense	423	607	-184	1,943	3,645	-1,702	LCEF	\$26,273.99
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	Anderson	\$136,569.51
Fellowship Expense	0	192	-192	248	1,150	-902	Comm. Ctr.	\$3,039.45
Mission Expense (District)	0	8,213	-8,213	16,425	10,804	5,621	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$373,558.05</b>
DCE Expenses	1,440	0	1,440	1,790	0	1,790		
Other Expenses	<u>4,102</u>	<u>4,530</u>	<u>-428</u>	<u>44,007</u>	<u>27,178</u>	<u>16,829</u>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$30,106</b>	<b>\$41,022</b>	<b>-\$10,916</b>	<b>\$187,697</b>	<b>\$183,896</b>	<b>\$3,801</b>		
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,914</b>	<b>-\$9,623</b>	<b>\$25,537</b>	<b>\$47,911</b>	<b>\$4,995</b>	<b>\$42,916</b>		

Notes: Income includes 5/31 offerings

**LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Community Center**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Jun-20**

	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Year to Date Activity</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Rental Income	1,200	1,200
Donations	200	200
Other Income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rental Refunds	375	375
Yard Maintenance	0	0
Building Repairs & Mtce.	301	301
Janitorial	0	0
Electric	102	102
Operating Supplies	0	0
Equipment	892	892
Pest Control	295	295
Garbage Service	0	0
Other Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,965</b>	<b>\$1,965</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$565</b>	<b>-\$565</b>

Notes: Repairs includes new code lock; equipment is for sign;  
pest control is for initial service

**LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**EVANGELISM/OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Jun-20**

	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Year to Date Activity</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest Income	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$81</b>	<b>\$81</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
DCE Salary & Taxes	438	438
DCE Rent	0	0
DCE Internet	0	0
DCE Travel	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$438</b>	<b>\$438</b>

# Opportunities to Serve

(After COVID)

## 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 (JULY): \$111.00

Detailed information is available at [www.lwml.org](http://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. *[This will resume after all worship restrictions are removed]*

## Recycling Projects



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

## Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Event Calendar

### AUGUST 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <i>Brant Moore's bday</i> 10:30 AM Worship Service - LIVE STREAM on Facebook	27	28	29 <i>Robin Peeples bday</i> 10:30 AM Bible Class on ZOOM	30	31 <i>Ed &amp; Janie Fritch's anniversary</i> OFFICE CLOSED	1 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
2 10:30 AM Worship Service - LIVE STREAM on Facebook	3	4	5 <i>Roger Fleming's bday</i> <i>Sue Davis' bday</i> 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 AM Bible Class on ZOOM	6 <i>Janis Lipacis' bday</i> <i>Mike Langan's bday</i>	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 <i>Marilyn Schneider's bday</i> <i>Will Ringer's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
9 <i>Cindy Helms' bday</i> <i>Dave &amp; Margie Heimer's anniversary</i> <i>Rosemary Bonnough's bday</i> 10:30 AM Worship Service - LIVE STREAM on Facebook	10 <i>Peggy Uehlin's bday</i>	11 <i>Charlie Helms' bday</i>	12 10:30 AM Bible Class on ZOOM	13 <i>Bob &amp; Shirley Mai's anniversary</i>	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 <i>Linda Hayden's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
16 10:30 AM Worship Service - LIVE STREAM on Facebook	17	18 <i>Isaac &amp; Laura Ringer's anniversary</i> 7:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING - on ZOOM	19 10:30 AM Bible Class on ZOOM	20 <i>Terry &amp; Margaret Pedersen's anniversary</i>	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
23 10:30 AM Worship Service - LIVE STREAM on Facebook	24	25 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study: James - Mercy Triumphs	26 10:30 AM Bible Class on ZOOM	27 <i>Jim Kueven's bday</i>	28 <i>Marilyn Smolinski's bday</i> OFFICE CLOSED	29 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
30 10:30 AM Worship Service - LIVE STREAM on Facebook	31 <i>Bailey Ringer's bday</i> <i>Louise Moore's bday</i>					

#### New Addresses for Marge Braun & Donna Hansen

**Marge Braun**  
2450 N Stone Ridge Dr  
# 1203  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

**Donna Hansen**  
2881 Monroe Highway Bldg 300  
Bogart, GA 30622