



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

April 2025

Pastor Steven Hayden
revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary Marsha Brewster
officelolc@gmail.com

Instrumentalist Dr. Lev Rybanin

Choir Director Dr. Youngmi Kim

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sundays Morning Worship

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.

Choir 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 10am

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

Visit our web site: www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. She turned to face them and said, "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus.'

Waiting. It isn't easy, especially when we are waiting on God. Scripture is filled with the stories of men and women who experienced agonizing periods of waiting on the Lord. Abram and Sarai waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise that someday they would have a child. When Isaac was born, they were old enough to be great-grandparents! The Israelites suffered for more than 400 years in Egyptian slavery, waiting for God to deliver them. After Samuel had anointed him king of Israel, David waited years to assume the throne that was rightfully his. For three long days Jesus' followers waited for hope to break through their darkest despair as His battered body lay in the tomb.

Jesus did rise from the dead and returned to His Father in Heaven to prepare a home for us, and we who call Him Savior and Lord have been waiting more than two thousand years for Him to return.

The difficult work of waiting is a part of our relationship with God. There is no doubt that His timing is different than ours. The apostle Peter writes, **“Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” (2 Peter 3:8)**

As we wait through the cold of winter for the sun-warmed breath of Spring, as we wait through the solemn time of Lent for the joy of Easter, as we wait through the troubles and trials of our lives for God’s answer to our prayers, it can seem as if God has forgotten us, or even as if God is not there at all. But we are not discouraged. We continue to remember the love of God who has already called you to be His own and promises to always be with you. Join the psalmist who writes, **“I will wait for You; You will answer, Lord my God.”** Psalm 38:15. Or again, **“We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.”** Psalm 33:20

Lent and Easter remind us that our waiting is not in vain, God has not forgotten us. God, through His grace in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has redeemed you, reclaimed you as His own, and created a new life in you by the Holy Spirit. Join us as we wait on the Lord during our Wednesday Lenten services and our Holy Week services. Most of all, join us on Easter Sunday, April 20th, when the Resurrection reminds us that we do not have to wait for God at all...He is already among us.

Pastor Steve

Announcements

Upcoming Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday, April 2nd Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, April 9th Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 17th Worship with Communion 7 pm

Good Friday, April 18th Worship at 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th Worship at 10:30am with special Easter fellowship following the service.



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.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

Every Sunday Bible class at 9 am and Worship at 10:30am

LOLC offers Bible Study



Women's Bible class

“The Women's Bible Study with *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This weekly study will help us discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.

Please join us on for this new study on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am** in the Choir Room.”

Sunday Morning Bible class

A psalm is a song or poem distinguished by its devotional character and deep piety. It is the faith of the Old Testament set to music, a poem springing from an encounter with God. It is worship literature. Most people who know anything about the Bible know a few “literary gems” from the Psalms. But if you are not satisfied with a few oft-quoted verses, then come to a full banquet. You are invited to sit down at the table and enjoy the spiritual food found in the Psalms. Real people, who had real problems and joys, wrote the Psalms. Just as God spoke to the writers of the Psalms, so He speaks to you today.

Join us every Sunday morning in the church or livestreamed at 9 am for our Bible study on the Book of Psalms – Conversations with God.

Mid-Week Bible Class

Letters make up about one-third of the New Testament. They are important because they contain teachings of the apostles and their associates. The New Testament letters combine information about God and the Christian faith with instruction on life and behavior.

“Jesus Christ Lord!” These three words boldly confess the person and work of God's only Son. In fact, they could be used to summarize all Christian doctrine and certainly are a summary of Paul's message to the Colossians and to Philemon.

Join us every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 10:30am for Paul's Letter to the Colossians.



Choir Notes

The choir meets for rehearsal every **Sunday** at **9 am** in the choir room. You are all invited.

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. 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.

Coffee & Fellowship

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

The coffee fellowship that follows the Sunday church service gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors, meet new members and visit each other.

*We need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for familiar friendliness of our church family.



American Red Cross

Lake Oconee Lutherans next blood drives will be Apr 10th and May 8th.
If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com

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.

EASTER BRUNCH

Please join us 4/20/25 for Easter Brunch after service.

There is a pink signup sheet on the blue table in the Narthex.

Dear saints in Christ at Lake Oconee,

Thank you for your gift that you sent me back in December in support of my studies at the seminary. It has been a blessing to have your support and prayer as I go about my task of preparing for the ministry, and I am very thankful to have so many brothers and sisters standing behind me as I work and study and learn there.

This semester has begun well, if busily; for classes, I have started my first homiletics course in preparation for beginning to preach, which has probably been my most formative, challenging, and ultimately enjoyable class, as I have learned more deeply what it means to proclaim the Word of God. I am also finishing up my Hebrew language instruction and beginning to move into more Bible courses focused on interpretation with the original languages, which have been helpful, as well as continuing my systematic and historical theology training. It has also been a new challenge and joy this semester as my fieldwork congregation has been changed, but my new church (Chapel of the Cross) is very welcoming and has been a good place for me to continue to learn, serve, and see how the pastoral office is lived out in the daily life of a congregation.

Thank you again for your support, and God's blessings as you journey to Jerusalem and to the cross this Lenten season, and celebrate our Lord's victory over sin, death, and the grave which He won there.

**In Christ,
Matthew Shipman**

Matthew is a student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and is the brother of Laura Ringer. Lake Oconee Lutheran is supporting Matthew's education to become a Pastor with a scholarship.

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 9, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost who led us in prayer.

Kayleen Ringer was absent, and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the February 9, 2025, council meeting was approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – Pam announced Margaret Pedersen has accepted the nomination to fill the Christian Education position for the balance of this year.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – Kathie reviewed the February Treasurer's Report. The monthly giving for February was down \$21,034 to budget with a year-to-date difference of \$17,278. Expenses were below budget in the amount of \$17,495 with a year-to-date difference of \$16,241. The Bread of Life Food Pantry is doing very well with a bank balance of \$107,629 and a CD balance of \$157,041. For perspective, Davis originally donated \$150,000 to start the food pantry and we put \$50,000 into a checking and \$100,000 into a savings account. The CD is now worth \$157,000 and the bank balance is at \$107,000 after all of the expenses.

Mike announced that the Bread of Life is now accepted into the Golden Harvest program which means we can purchase food at greatly reduced prices. They will deliver what we order. We also have access to free produce as part of the program. The program will start sometime after training at the end of the month.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause - The financial report for February was distributed and discussed. Walter noted that donations for February show a decrease of \$6,324 and a year-to-date decrease of \$31,029. He is not exactly sure what accounts for the decrease but speculates that several higher dollar donors have passed away. We also have a few donors who did not make their donations in February and perhaps we will see something in March.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – None.

Christian Education: Vacant – Mark discussed perhaps starting a vacation bible school in the summer to perhaps draw in other children from the community. We could hold it in the community center perhaps for a day rather than a whole week. Mike mentioned that they had started clearing the road for the new subdivision behind the church. That could be an avenue to bring in new members and perhaps children to attend a bible school.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – Mark was pleased with the work the Church Properties working group accomplished on March 1. The tasks that were completed were:

- Approximately 175 bales of pine straw laid around the Church (Cost \$700)
 - 3 folding tables repaired
 - All chairs in sanctuary repaired and screws tightened
 - Florescent light fixture lenses cleaned
 - All weeds around Church sprayed with Roundup
-

- Sprinkler system inspected ... leak found near bridge and will be repaired this month. The indoor controller was found to be defective and needs to be replaced. The only areas that potentially need water (if flowers are planted) is the front of the Church around the cross and possibly the Memorial area
- Refrigerator inspected by a contractor and found to need a part. Part has been ordered. The contractor suggested an annual maintenance agreement, and this will be considered once quote is received.

The working group also did an inspection and came up with a list of items in the church that need to be addressed:

- Several ceiling tiles have water spots/damage and need to be replaced
- Sink cabinet doors in nursery need adjustment
- Sheetrock in Beth's office needs repair
- Dishwasher needs to be replaced - not working properly
- Storage room needs reorganizing - cleaning
- Cracks in tiles in kitchen and men's bathroom
- Kick-plate under kitchen counter needs to be re-attached
- Intake vents need cleaning in kitchen
- Various carpet stains
- Some mold on gutters and repairs needed
- The playground needs to be removed ... current equipment unsafe and in poor condition
- Picnic tables / benches need repair and maintenance
- Fountain in Memorial area needs repair / maintenance
- Drain culvert has shifted about 2-3 inches and should be looked at by qualified technicians perhaps from the county

Mike Joost shared that we do not need a new dishwasher, but an individual heater for the commercial grade dishwasher that will bring the temperature of the water up to the correct level. The cost of that heater could be around \$2,000. He also offered to provide a less expensive contractor to replace the defective controller. The pine straw cost \$700 and Mark submitted an invoice for reimbursement. Mike also shared that the side doorbell had been repaired.

Mark said they plan to replace the ceiling lights with LED lights in the fixtures outside the sanctuary that have not yet been converted. Mark also mentioned that the south side of the church sign was not operational. He is looking at a few solutions to either repair it, shut it off or perhaps put a banner over it. He will continue to explore options.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – The Elders' list has been updated and is now posted. We have a parishioner who is allergic to lilies. Margaret called her this morning and left a message on her voice mail to warn her that we could have lilies at our Easter service. Margaret will contact Deer Run to ask them not to include lilies in any of the arrangements they prepare for the church. Kathie informed us that Lance Pailor was put on hospice care.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – Absent. Margaret shared that we were currently collecting Easter baskets and that the deadline for collection was March 23. Pam shared that the blood drive on March 6 was a huge success. Our goal was 36 and we collected 44 donations.

Old Business:

Milledgeville – Kathie shared that we have received pricing for the remodeling of the building and Dave Ringer is currently going over the numbers. Pam mentioned that she was speaking with Pastor Ochner who indicated that he might be interested in coming back into the ministry from retirement on a part time basis. Pam thought he could be a potential called worker for the Milledgeville position. He lives in Augusta, but might be willing to commute part time. Mike also said we need to be sure that we have a called person there so that we don't lose our church property status if it is viewed as a medical center rather part of the ministry. Margaret brought up perhaps adding prayers for the Milledgeville ministry each Sunday.

New Business:

Christian Education Position – A motion to approve Margaret Pedersen as the head of Christian Education for the balance of the year was made and approved.

Carol Dunn Estate – We were contacted two weeks ago that Carol Dunn's estate left the church some stock in her will. The church does not maintain an investment portfolio. The estate would have to pay taxes if they liquidated the stock and provided the proceeds to the church. Instead, they can gift the stock to a church securities account, we would sell the stock and place the proceeds in the brokerage account. Carol will prepare a resolution authorizing Kathie Kueven and Mike Joost to set up such an account. A motion was made to set up the securities account to accept the donated securities so we can liquidate them, but we will want to maintain that account going forward. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Carol Campbell
Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2025

	Monthly			Y-T-D			Y-T-D			Restricted Fund Balances
	Budget	Activity	Difference	Budget	Activity	Difference	Budget	Activity	Difference	
INCOME										
General Fund	36,090	12,940	23,150	71,680	43,002	28,678	Organ		\$478	
Debt Reduction	0	835	-835	0	1,630	-1,630	A/P		\$9,170	
Memorial Fund	0	200	-200	0	400	-400	Memorials		\$9,248	
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund		\$4,592	
Special Fund Income	<u>0</u>	<u>1,081</u>	<u>-1,081</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,370</u>	<u>-9,370</u>	Little FP		\$7,666	
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$36,090	\$15,056	\$21,034	\$71,680	\$54,402	\$17,278	M-of-M		\$387	
							Mville Min.		\$23,586	
							DOT Funds		\$192,997	
							LOYA		<u>\$1,450</u>	
							TOTAL		\$249,574	
EXPENSES							A/P:		\$9,170	
Pastor Expense	16,042	17,701	-1,659	32,084	37,180	-5,096	District		\$4,301	
Worship Expense	2,612	2,152	460	5,225	4,361	864	P/R		\$4,869	
Property Expense	6,925	5,293	1,632	13,850	10,208	3,642				
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,272	2,013	259	4,545	4,217	328	BANK BALANCES:			
Education Expense	142	122	20	283	239	44	Bank South		\$128,101.87	
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	210	1,682	3,783	481	3,302	BS CD		\$108,682.61	
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	Anderson		\$127,835.52	
Fellowship Expense	175	0	175	350	91	259	Comm. Ctr.		\$11,473.97	
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Bread of Life		\$107,629.47	
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mortensen		\$100,572.45	
Other Expenses	<u>2,617</u>	<u>1,647</u>	<u>970</u>	<u>5,234</u>	<u>7,540</u>	<u>-2,306</u>	Exchange CD		\$157,041.47	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,677	\$29,138	\$3,539	\$65,354	\$64,317	\$1,037	TOTAL		\$741,337.36	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$3,413	-14,082	\$17,495	\$6,326	-\$9,915	\$16,241				

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2025

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Period <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	1,253.15	-253.15	2,000.00	3,621.70	-1,621.70
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	1,000.00	1,253.15	-253.15	2,000.00	3,621.70	-1,621.70
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	107.15	-107.15	0.00	207.15	-207.15
Utilities	250.00	364.00	-114.00	500.00	740.00	-240.00
Pest Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Janitorial	420.00	420.00	0.00	945.00	945.00	0.00
Supplies	33.34	0.00	33.34	66.68	42.68	24.00
Repair & Mtce.	83.34	229.88	-146.54	166.68	249.31	-82.63
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>178.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>178.34</u>	<u>356.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>356.68</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	965.02	1,121.03	-156.01	2,035.04	2,184.14	-149.10
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	34.98	132.12	-97.14	-35.04	1,437.56	-1,472.60
Bank Balance	\$11,473.97					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Note: Electric bill was high due to repairs done by EMC to flood lights
 R&M included items charged on LOLC credit card and paid by transfer of funds
 Repairs included new doorbell & new cleaning machine

Volunteers

- **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 and/or email.
- **Ushers'** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- **Coffee Fellowship** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- **Little Free Pantry** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- **Scripture readers** You can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list
- **Communion assistants** you can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list
- **Sunday School teachers**, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.
- **Greeters'** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Worship Update -- Live streaming

Remember, we are now live streaming our Sunday Bible Class and Worship. This means both services will be broadcast live as they happen on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Facebook **or** by clicking the button on our website homepage. Join us as we all come together in worship. If you are unable to be online while they are live, do not worry. The recorded services will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the @lakeoconeelutheranchurch page on Facebook or the website. God's blessings to each of you!

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



April Birthdays

- Apr 6 Gayle Bradford
- Apr 8 Amy Stokes
- Apr 10 Andrew Ringer
- Apr 11 Larry Davis
- Apr 15 Sharon Ross
- Apr 17 Cindy Plummer
- Apr 23 Ann Ruth Ringer
- Apr 27 Melanie Schultz-Romero

April Anniversaries

- Apr 3 Barney & Sharon Ross
- Apr 4 Jimmy & Beth Etheridge
- Apr 28 Ralph & Audrey Kunz

Opportunities to Serve

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Food Ministry

The goal of The Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry is to respond to the needs of our community through food distribution and support by sharing God's love in Word and action with those most in need.

We do this in two separate ways:

1. The Bread of Life Food Pantry provides equitable access to food and staples twice per month to those in need in the community.
2. The Little Free Pantry provides emergency food for community members who might have run out of food and have no other means in which to feed themselves or their family.

We also have two different mechanisms by which LOLC members can provide either their time or their donations to help us sustain both important ministries.

- For the Bread of Life Food Pantry cash donations are the best way to support this ministry. We need a certain number of specific items for each distribution and limited storage. You can volunteer your time on the second and fourth Wednesday and Thursdays of the month to either set up the food distribution or distribute the food to those in need.
- For the Little Free Pantry, food and/or cash donations are needed. The food you provide goes directly into the pantry and any cash you provide is used to fill in supplies where we might be running short. You can volunteer your time by checking on the cabinet and filling it up when food supplies run low.

Volunteers may sign up for either or both pantries by signing the sheets provided on the blue table in the narthex.

Because the Little Free Pantry is to be used to fill in what is needed on an emergency basis, we thought it would be helpful to provide a shopping list for those who choose to donate food and a daily distribution list for those who fill up the Little Free Pantry. You will find a handy guide to help you with these important tasks posted on the doors where we keep the Pantry food. Please limit food donations to the items on this list. It can help you when you shop for the pantry or when you fill the pantry with supplies. As always, we thank you so much for the wondrous gifts you provide for both important ministries.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am Quilt Guild	2 9 Quilt Guild class 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 6pm Lent service 7pm	3	4	5 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
6 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Elders Meeting	7	8 10 am Women's Bible Class	9 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm	10 9 Bread of Life 11 Blood Drive	11	12 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
13 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion Council meeting	14	15 10 am Women's Bible Class	16 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	17 7pm Maundy Thursday	18 7pm Good Friday	19 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
20 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Easter	21	22 10 am Women's Bible Class	23 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	24 9 Bread of Life	25	26 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
27 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	28 Quilts of Valor Bee 10-2	29 10 am Women's Bible Class	30 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class			