



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 2026

Pastor Steven Hayden
revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary Cheri Kitchens
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.
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,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Wow, that never gets old.

And perhaps that is why you are here. You already know the story – just as with Christmas. And yet, here you are. Because this proclamation we just made – it changes everything – and has for centuries.

That is our faith – and it is not an easy leap. It runs counter to our senses. It challenges us to see things in a new way. Because of the empty tomb we can have hope at the foot of the cross. We know that light is always present even in the darkest of nights, even if cannot yet see it. We know that God's love will always overcome hate and sin.

And we know that new life is always present in the face of death. We may be the body of Christ, but even he gathered others around him to

form a faith community. They in turn formed their own, and so on through the centuries to those who founded this very church in which we now worship. What we do here on Sundays – every Sunday, not just Easter – matters. Being physically present here with one another, being nourished in the real presence of Christ in Communion, that is what God gives to us in our Baptism.

So let us, who today sing that Christ is alive, remember that we are sent by that same Jesus to share the good news in word and in deed. Let us, who shout with joy that Christ is risen, return here each week to be nourished by him in the Sacraments. That as the sound of our Alleluias fade into the woodwork and stone of this place this night, the truth of the risen Christ will remain in our lives and in our actions, so that, by our service to him in the world, all may come to know the power of God's great love.

And that, THAT, is truly something that never, ever, gets old. See you in church!

Pastor Steve

Announcements

LOLC offers Bible Study



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 in April, the Women's Bible Study will be studying the book entitled *Heaven* by Jennifer Rothschild. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? How can we know the truth about what comes next? We will be exploring the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective and separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses. Don't just wonder about Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace. **We meet every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the church conference room. We would love to have you join us.**

Sunday Morning Bible class

The study of the Old Testament is nothing less than an exploration into the thoughts and desires of God for ordinary people like you and me. It takes us from this hardened and selfish world into the promise of a world where God's peace, justice, and mercy will be complete. We can view the world as meaningless and without hope. But Jesus Christ came to rescue the world from its quagmire, and His deliverance continues to change our lives.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in person in the church sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook and our website, for "Exploring God's Old Testament".

Wednesday morning Zoom class

On January 21, 1530, Emperor Charles V called for a general assembly—an imperial diet—to be held in Augsburg, Germany. Convened to deal with the threat of the Turks to the empire, the diet would also try to resolve the issues dividing the church at the time, what we call the Reformation.

The Emperor asked the Lutheran princes to identify what they believed and taught based on Scripture at the gathering. The Lutherans prepared a confession of the faith that would be verbally read before the emperor. This document, The Augsburg Confession, would become recognized as the public confession of the Lutheran Church.

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am on Zoom as we look at The Augsburg Confession.

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!



Choir Notes

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.



Flower Donations for Sunday Worship

Thank you to everyone who donates flowers.

- If you'd like your donation mentioned in the bulletin, please fill out the sign-up sheet on the blue table with all desired details (e.g., in memory or honor of someone).
- Please do not include lilies in your arrangements, as a member has severe allergies.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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. March Mites donations were \$203.00

Coffee &

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



Fellowship

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 are thankful for familiar friendliness of our church family.

***We need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.**

Look for the signup sheet in the narthex or register on Sign-Up Genius (see link below under the [Volunteers Needed](#) heading.)

Volunteers Needed!

We need people to sign up to help! We need help in the Little Free Pantry, Coffee fellowship, greeters, ushers and more.

You can sign up for the following Sunday Worship Volunteer Roles online through Sign-up Genius:

- Greeter
- Scripture Reader
- Communion Assistant

- Communion Usher
- Coffee Fellowship

Here is a link to Sign-up Genius (Ctrl + Click to navigate to site.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A4A723A5FBC25-57931584-sunday>

Additional volunteer Roles include:

- ❖ 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' signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ **Sunday School teachers**, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



April Birthdays

- 04/06 Gayle Bradford
- 04/08 Amy Stokes
- 04/10 Andrew Ringer
- 04/11 Larry Davis
- 04/14 Dale Foote
- 04/15 Sharon Ross
- 04/17 Joe Moynihan
- 04/17 Cindy Plummer
- 04/23 Ruth Ringer
- 04/27 Melanie Schultz-Romero

April Anniversaries

- 04/03 Barney & Sharon Ross
- 04/28 Ralph & Audrey Kunz

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 8, 2026**

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

Pam Kunz and Don Menke were absent, and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the February 8, 2026, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – Absent. No report. Pastor commended Pam for her work on the anniversary luncheon, and he thanked her and all who volunteered.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – The February Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. Collections in February were \$32,628 which is \$6,055 below budget and \$18,541 below budget year-to-date. Expenses were \$8,558 below budget year-to-date for a net difference of \$9,983 below year-todate budget.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause – The revised financial report for January and the financial report for February were distributed and discussed. January donations for 2026 were \$8,000 lower than the same period in 2025 primarily due to an \$8,000 donation we received in 2025 which was not repeated in 2026. In other donations we were \$5,500 lower than last year due to lower donations for Bread of Life and the Little Free Pantry. For February, we only had three Sundays due to missing one Sunday for weather, however, we were over by \$7,285 from February 2025 due to several large donations received in February 2026.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – No report.

Christian Education: Margaret Pedersen – No report.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – We received late notification on providing Easter baskets to the children’s home. We will be collecting gift cards or donations this week that they can provide for the older boys. We will have an Easter egg hunt for the children, and the signup sheet is available for the Easter brunch.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – A letter from Fortis was provided to the Council which relieves them of any liability for their work. The letter will be placed in the Church file. Mark provided copies of the septic tank and well locations. The tank next to the building is fine, however, the septic field location is a problem. Mark spoke with the Putnam County health department, and they didn’t have any information about the sewer line that will be put in. He will speak with planning and zoning to see if they have any information on the line. He will investigate an

interim solution for the septic field until we can tap into the sewer line. The deadline is April 1st and Mark will see if a solution can be in place before the deadline. He will keep Pastor and Mike informed on his progress and send an informational e-mail to the Council.

Bug House is coming out March 11 to take care of the squirrels. The sign will be cut off and capped. We will save the actual panels in case we can use them. Mark will get a quote on pressure washing the second story. The playground area used to be a garden, so Mark is thinking about turning it into a garden again. The Sunday school class planted a few plants, and Mark will relocate those to a raised bed he will build.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – Absent. No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden – Mike Joost is going into surgery on Monday, March 9 and we will pray for a safe surgery and recovery. Margaret is at the end of her term and Pastor thanked her and Terry for all their hard work. On Thursday, March 5 Pastor and Mike attended the district meeting. Pastor had a conversation with President Rocky, and we have officially started the call process for Milledgeville. We do have a call committee who will work on this. Pastor Rocky was discussing ways in which the district reaches out to new communities. Mike and Pastor discussed this after the district meeting and asked the Council to pray about how we might reach out to the new communities that are being built around us and how we might welcome them and give them information about our Church. Our Lenten services continue with three more Wednesday services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. We had several new visitors today. Pastor visited Joe and Ashley with their three young children last week and will be visiting Dave and Cheryl in the coming week. Joe and Ashley's youngest son, Benjamin, will be baptized on Mother's Day weekend and Kayleen will order a cake for the event.

Old Business:

Milledgeville Update: Oconee Valley Health Care received a bid for the building, and it came in high, so Oconee Valley and the builder are trying to reframe the bid to come in a little lower. Pastor Steve will be going to Milledgeville to check on the building while Lance Priem is on vacation for two weeks. We received a request from the trailer park behind the property wanting to buy a portion for an exercise trail, however, we had to deny the request as the district will not allow us to sell any of the property for profit.

Carol Dunn Estate – Our stockbroker is still recovering from his shoulder replacement. He is back in the office and trying to catch up so Mike will be meeting with him in a few weeks. Pastor feels the gift from Carol Dunn is God

opening his hand to help us offset the cost of the church worker we will be calling to Milledgeville.

Milledgeville Call Committee – A call committee has been organized and will be starting the call process.

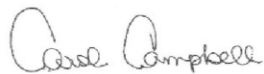
New Business:

Assistants to Treasurer and Financial Secretary – We will be looking for two people to assist Kathie and Walter in their respective roles to help them with their jobs and to also learn the process so they can stand for election next time. Pam has two people in mind and the Council supports this.

Sign Decommissioning – The sign is being decommissioned sooner than Pastor thought, and he will be asking the Council for permission to buy a vinyl sign which will be used until the road is widened and a new sign is purchased to replace the one that is in place today.

The meeting was adjourned followed by a prayer by Pastor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Campbell".

Carol Campbell
Congregational Secretary

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church FEBRUARY 2026

DATE	Member		Capital		TOTALS
	Donations	Memorials	Fund	Other	
2/1/2026	No service due to weather				\$0.00
2/8/2026	\$4,400.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$4,950.00
2/15/2026	\$10,750.00		\$625.00	\$551.00	\$11,926.00
2/22/2026	\$14,410.00	\$200.00	\$45.00	\$650.00	\$15,305.00
					\$0.00
** Includes credit card activity					
FEBRUARY 2026 (4)	\$29,560.00	\$400.00	\$670.00	\$1,551.00	\$32,181.00
FEBRUARY 2025 (4)	\$12,940.00	\$200.00	\$835.00	\$804.00	\$14,779.00
	\$16,620.00	\$200.00	(\$165.00)	\$747.00	\$17,402.00
FEBRUARY 2026 YTD (8)	\$50,290.00	\$400.00	\$1,295.00	\$4,329.94	\$56,314.94
FEBRUARY 2025 YTD (8)	\$43,005.00	\$400.00	\$1,555.00	\$9,154.91	\$54,114.91
Increase/(Decrease)	\$7,285.00	\$0.00	(\$260.00)	(\$4,824.97)	\$2,200.03

(1) Includes Stock Donation

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2026

	Monthly	Period	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Difference	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
	Budget	Activity	Budget	Budget	Activity	Budget	Activity	Budget
INCOME								
General Fund	38,683	30,357	8,326	75,366	51,087	24,279	\$0	Organ
Debt Reduction	0	670	-670	0	1,295	-1,295	\$10,352	A/P
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$11,559	Memorials
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$5,907	OCC Fund
Special Fund Income	0	1,601	-1,601	0	4,443	-4,443	\$8,036	Little FP
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$38,683	\$32,628	\$6,055	\$75,366	\$56,825	\$18,541	\$73,906	M-of-M
							\$219,397	M'ville Min.
							\$1,450	DOT Funds
							\$330,994	LOYA
								TOTAL
EXPENSES								
Pastor Expense	16,726	13,513	3,213	33,451	33,708	-257	\$10,352	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,763	2,347	416	5,526	5,099	427	\$5,024	District
Property Expense	6,981	3,930	3,051	13,962	9,444	4,518	\$5,328	P/R
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,692	2,294	398	5,385	4,935	450		
Education Expense	142	0	142	283	140	143	\$202,278.03	BANK BALANCES:
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	210	1,682	3,783	578	3,205	\$112,738.42	Bank South
Stewardship Expense	30	0	30	60	0	60	\$131,718.32	BS CD
Fellowship Expense	175	0	175	350	19	331	\$13,001.46	Anderson
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$58,865.82	Comm. Ctr.
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$625.19	Bread of Life
Other Expenses	2,616	1,927	689	5,233	5,552	-319	\$157,367.72	Mortensen
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$34,017	\$24,221	\$9,796	\$68,033	\$59,475	\$8,558	\$174,766.34	Exchange CD
							\$851,361.30	B-O-L M/S
								TOTAL
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$4,666	8,407	-\$3,741	\$7,333	-\$2,650	\$9,983		

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - February 28, 2026

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	1508.7	-508.70	2,000.00	2,988.85	-988.85
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
TOTAL INCOME	1,000.00	1,508.70	-508.70	2,000.00	2,988.85	-988.85
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	278.65	-278.65	0.00	682.30	-682.30
Utilities	250.00	406.00	-156.00	500.00	717.00	-217.00
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
Operating Supplies	33.00	0.00	33.00	66.00	44.93	21.07
Repair & Maintenance	83.34	0.00	83.34	166.68	0.00	166.68
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.34	0.00	178.34	356.68	0.00	356.68
TOTAL EXPENSES	964.68	1,104.65	-139.97	2,034.36	2,389.23	-354.87
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	35.32	404.05	-368.73	-34.36	599.62	-633.98
Bank Balance	\$13,001.46					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

April 2026

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

