



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

April 2021

Pastor Steven Hayden
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Secretary Sonya Plunkett
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Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin
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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

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ear 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. We gathered again in sorrow as we watch God die, not because of His actions, but because of our sins. But we



will also came 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. So we walk with Christ’s love today. 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.

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

Pastor Steve

April Mission of the Month

Stone Mountain, Georgia is home to a remarkably diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious gathering of people from around the world. It is also “home” for an increasingly large homeless and transient community of folk, many of whom can be found each day and night somewhere along a 3-4 mile stretch of Memorial Drive. Six days per week Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Stone Mountain serves bag lunches for up to 300 people. Last year they (and partners) provided almost 19,000 meals.

From noon until 1pm every day except Saturday, an emergency meal is served. An “emergency” meal is one that does not require any cooking or refrigeration. It is basic nourishment for those who otherwise might not have anything to eat. A meal often consists of a sandwich, crackers, chips, granola bar, oatmeal pie, banana, and water. Once a week and on holidays, a hot meal is served. There are no “requirements” placed on those seeking food. All who come are fed.

Rock of Ages Lutheran Church is a suburban church serving an urban community. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church will help them in April by posting a sign up sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church on April 25th, and the sandwiches will be delivered to Rock of Ages following the church service.

Each sandwich will contain one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, bologna or roast beef). Do not put any condiments on the bread because sandwiches are served for up to 6 days. Pack each individual sandwich in a sealed plastic bag and mark the bag with a date and type of meat. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches.

Day 29 of the Red Letter Challenge refers us to Matthew 26:35, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” And Matthew 26:40 concludes, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Texas Door Donation

I would like to thank you for the manner in which you stepped forward to help our brothers and sisters in Texas respond to the damaging winter storm that hit them. Through our door offerings we are sending to the Texas District \$4520 for help to congregations and church workers. Thank you very much. Pastor Steve

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 live streaming 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!

LOLC APRIL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH:



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Each Sandwich should contain

- one slice of cheese
- one slice of meat (turkey, ham, Bologna)

Please do not add any condiments to the bread due to the sandwiches are served up to 6 days.

Each Sandwich should be packed in an individual Plastic bag and sealed. Then mark the bag with the date and type of meat.



Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

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.

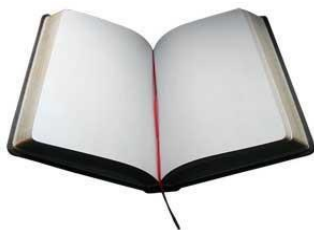
Martin Luther wrote, "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and it is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day...we can never read it or ponder over it too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

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am beginning April 11th as we read the Letter to the Romans.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school meets Sunday mornings at 10am in the children's Sunday school room.

LOLC offers Bible Study and Ministry



Stephen's Ministry

Class

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.



WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS The Last Women's Bible Class will be on **April 6th**. They will take the summer off from meeting and plan to resume in the fall.

Mid - Week Bible

The religious leaders in Judea had questioned the ministry of John the Baptist and worried about his influence. But after they heard Jesus' teaching, they knew they were in for trouble. Jesus taught with great boldness and challenged people's assumptions in simple language. Yet, many of Jesus' sayings invite the deepest reflection because they expound the eternal mysteries of the faith. The central purpose of the Gospel of John is stated by John himself: "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (20:31) **Join us on Zoom every Wednesday at 10:30am** as we read through the **Gospel of John** and see that even now, Jesus--the Word made flesh--is working for your blessing (5:17) and preparing an eternal home for you (14:1-3)

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 21, 2021

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

Walter Krause, Joe Peeples and Joshua Ringer were not in attendance.

The minutes from the February 14th Meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- A report was given on the status of our security camera system. The current system is obsolete with only 1 camera functional. A goal of a system of 10-12 cameras is preferred, to capture the important areas of the church. After discussion, Pastor Hayden will obtain commercial bids, to compare that cost to a self-installed system. It was also discussed that Mike from Ken's Stereo Junction in Macon, focuses on the audio/video needs of local churches. Pastor Hayden will meet with him to discuss other capabilities beyond the security system.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The February treasurer reports were distributed for LOLC, Community Center and Anderson Fund. LOLC is \$26,938 in the black YTD through February. The Community Center is \$454 in the black through February.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The February report was distributed.


Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – An update was provided on the cause and repair of the water leak. Also, Davis Mortensen rented a woodchipper on 3/20, and Barney coordinated volunteers to chip the fallen trees on the corner lot.

Lay Ministry: Joe Peeples- Tom reported that Joe told him that Maundy Thursday will be an in-person service with Communion. The Good Friday service will also be in-person without Communion.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- Pastor Hayden reported that Children's Sunday School is going well and that we have been blessed by volunteers.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- 6 larges bins of snacks and sundries were delivered to the Putnam County Fire and Police for the February Mission. The March mission will be for Greene County Fire and Police. 48 volunteers gave blood on 2/16 for our



blood drive. 38 are signed up for the 3/24 blood drive. In April, LOLC will be supporting the Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Stone Mountain, for their sandwich ministry for the homeless. Pastor Hayden will be providing details on this to the congregation at the 4/11 and 4/18 service, for donations on 4/25. The Little Pantry is successful, and Pastor Hayden has applied for a grant from the Synod. The coffee maker has been replaced. A discussion ensued on restarting post service Fellowship time.

Barney made a motion and was seconded: **“I move that we restart Fellowship time following the service on May 2nd, with store bought snacks provided.** The motion passed.

Pastor’s Report: The Red-Letter Challenge has one week to go, with positive comments on the program. An email was sent to the congregation to opt into a text program that would allow LOLC to send out special notice texts, such as our cancellation of church for the water leak. The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer will be beginning services at LOLC on 3/27. We will not be charging rent immediately; resumption of rent will be determined. They had paid rent in 2020 without being able to hold services.

Old Business:

1. **Apartment Furnishings-** The furnishings are still being stored at the church. They will be offered to anyone in the congregation. If no one is interested they will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.
2. **Security Cameras-** Discussed in VP report.
3. **AED System-** The new system has been purchased and installed.

New Business:

1. **Passwords-** It was suggested that the Council President should have all passwords for all the relevant sites, so that there is a backup in case any passwords are lost or personnel leave. Pastor Hayden and Tom were supportive of that idea.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Larry Davis
Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Community Center - Treasurer's Report

	Feb-21						
	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	
INCOME							
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,215.12	-\$215.12	\$2,000.00	\$2,331.82	-\$331.82	Bank Balance \$5,060.59
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Accts. Payable \$0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$1,215.12	-\$215.12	\$2,000.00	\$2,331.82	-\$331.82	
EXPENSES							
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$294.60	-\$294.60	\$0.00	\$369.60	-\$369.60	
Utilities	250.00	241.00	9.00	500.00	490.00	10.00	
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	0.00	118.00	118.00	0.00	
Yard Maintenance	150.00	0.00	150.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	
Janitorial	83.34	900.00	-816.66	166.68	900.00	-733.32	
Supplies	41.67	0.00	41.67	83.34	0.00	83.34	
Repairs & Mtce.	333.34	0.00	333.34	666.68	0.00	666.68	
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Other Expenses	82.67	0.00	82.67	165.34	0.00	165.34	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.02	\$1,494.60	-\$494.58	\$2,000.04	\$1,877.60	\$122.44	
TOTAL INC. LESS EXPENSES	-\$0.02	-\$279.48	\$279.46	-\$0.04	\$454.22	-\$454.26	

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - February 2021

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	
INCOME							
General Fund	29,631	23,638	5,993	59,062	74,236	-15,174	Restricted Fund Balances
Debt Reduction	3,685	1,325	2,360	7,369	2,755	4,614	Anderson \$124,239
Memorial Fund	0	720	-720	0	775	-775	Organ \$478
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	43	-43	A/P \$11,477
Special Fund Income	32	421	-389	63	1,261	-1,198	Sign Fund \$433
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$33,348	\$26,104	\$7,244	\$66,494	\$79,070	-\$12,576	Memorials <u>\$2,192</u>
							TOTALS \$138,819
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	13,522	10,831	2,691	27,044	21,829	5,215	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,022	1,218	804	4,044	2,278	1,766	District \$7,416
Property Expense	5,483	4,686	797	10,965	8,242	2,723	P/R \$4,061
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,329	1,686	643	4,658	3,567	1,091	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	142	10	132	283	339	-56	\$326,972.05
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	825	395	430	1,652	1,085	567	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	21	0	21	42	0	42	BankSouth \$144,579.06
Fellowship Expense	200	13	187	400	13	387	LCEF \$101,442.53
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Anderson \$124,238.54
DCE Expenses	1,601	1,572	29	3,202	3,486	-284	Comm. Ctr. \$5,060.59
Other Expenses	4,101	4,008	93	8,202	11,293	-3,091	TOTAL \$375,320.72
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,246	\$24,419	\$5,827	\$60,492	\$52,132	\$8,360	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$3,102	\$1,685	\$1,417	\$6,002	\$26,938	-\$20,936	

Note: Jan. 31 giving is included in this report but Feb. 28 is not & will be included in March

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND
January 31, 2021

	<u>Period Budget</u>	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income						
Interest Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>24.89</u>	<u>-24.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>24.89</u>	<u>-24.89</u>
Total income:	\$0.00	\$24.89	-\$24.89	\$0.00	\$24.89	-\$24.89
Expenses						
DCE Salary	0.00	1,076.50	-1,076.50	0.00	1,076.50	-1,076.50
DCE Rent & Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCE Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>446.64</u>	<u>-446.64</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>446.64</u>	<u>-446.64</u>
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	1,523.14	-1,523.14	\$0.00	1,523.14	-1,523.14
Total Income Less Expenses:	0.00	-1,498.25	\$1,498.25	0.00	-1,498.25	\$1,498.25

Note: Other expenses include meals and housing for return to Chicago for mid-year review

Opportunities to Serve

Little Free Pantry

Lake Oconee Lutheran has an opportunity to serve our community on a daily basis. We now have our own Little Free Pantry where members of the community can come and take groceries at anytime that they need and leave anything that they do not need. Our mission is to stock up on items so that we can have a supply of Groceries to share!

Items to purchase

please make sure they are not expired and in good condition

- pasta products/rice/Ramen noodles
- peanut butter/jelly
- canned vegetables/fruit
 - pasta sauce
 - canned meat

Please NO glass containers

Blood Drive

Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for **April 21, 2021**. We are looking for volunteers to help during the drive. Please email Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com If you would like to sign up to donate please do so by visiting redcrossblood.org and make sure to use code **lolc**.

Altar Care there is a sign up sheet at the front of the sanctuary on the table next to the pantry as you exit the sanctuary.

Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and we will provide training on how to manage it.

Sign up sheet can be found in the sanctuary or you can call/email the church office.

Sunday school teacher volunteers. There will be 2 teachers in the classroom every Sunday. You will be asked to volunteer for a 2-week shift. Contact Pastor Steve if you would be interested or have any questions.

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 (March) \$50

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

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 with each other. We have missed it. **At their March meeting the Church Council voted to resume offering our coffee fellowship time starting after service on May 2nd.** You may still leave after church if you do not feel comfortable yet with the in-person gathering. We want you to feel free to make the best decisions for your own care. We do want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship, so we are making a few temporary adjustments for the time being.

*We are asking you to give each other lots of room and keep in mind the need for social distancing. We can still talk with one another, just standing further apart.

*We will be beginning our fellowship with store-bought treats for now. Hopefully in the future we can return to the delicious treats we have had in the past.

*Please continue to keep your mask handy for when you are not eating or drinking. We still want to care for one another.

We will let you know when we can return to having volunteers signing up for snacks and serving. In the meantime, we are thankful for one small step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.

Choir Notes



(Inactive during COVID19)

Recycling Projects



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

March's Mission of the Month

During the month of March Lake Oconee Lutheran Church collected items to be delivered to the Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Greene County Fire Department as a thank you for their service. On March 30th, the Women's Bible Study sorted, packed and delivered the items received. They were appreciated. Thank you for your participation in this event.



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	29	30 10 am Women's Bible Study	31 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class	1 MAUNDY THURSDAY	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Anniversary Barney & Sharon Ross
4 EASTER 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	5	6 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Birthday Jim Crawford	7 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class	8 Happy Birthday Amy Orr-stokes	9	10 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Andrew Ringer
11 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Happy Birthday Larry Davis	12	13 Happy Anniversary Jim & Barbara Hersh	14	15 Happy Birthday Sharon Ross	16	17 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
18 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	19	20 2pm Community Center Meeting	21 10:30 am Zoom Bible Class 1pm- 6pm Blood Drive	22	23 Happy Birthday Anna Ruth Ringer	24 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
25 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Happy Birthday Davis Mortensen	26	27	28	29	30	1 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service