



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 2024

Pastor Steven Hayden
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Secretary Marsha Brewster
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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

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Friends,

Our daughter Kate got married last fall and now she and her husband are looking for a house to purchase. Our son Christian has proposed to his longtime girlfriend, and they are in the midst of planning a wedding. Several loved members of our congregation have passed away this year leaving "holes", not only in our chairs and in our lives, but also in the lives of their families. For each of them (us), this is a time of transition: Something has ended, while something new is just beginning or has not yet begun.




I know that we all are feeling some of the same things I feel when my life is in transition: excitement, anxiety, fear and confusion. But we can also experience something else in these life changes—they offer us unique opportunities to grow closer to God. Meeting God in our lives is nothing new. Most of us have learned to expect to find God in our daily routines, our predictable activities and our special occasions. What we don't always remember is that God is with us in the messy stuff, too, like career changes, household moves, shifting patterns in family life and relationships, future planning and even death.

In the Old Testament, Moses was biding his time, shepherding the flocks of his father-in-law, when God invited him to make a job change. Several books later, Samuel was training for temple service when he received a literal wake-up call from the Lord. On the morning of the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene was steeped in grief when she arrived at Jesus' tomb. And in Acts, a driven Saul was suddenly brought up short (or rather, knocked to the ground) on the threshold of his dramatic conversion into the man we know as St. Paul. They all remind us that sometimes, the prayer we need most is one for courage.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel tells Mary Magdalene and Mary as they look into the empty tomb on the morning of Jesus' resurrection. They respond in the same way most of us do when we are faced with something that rocks us loose from the comfortable, safe moorings of our familiar world: They are afraid.

In the conclusion to Matthew's Gospel, the two Mary's leave the tomb to announce the Resurrection to the other disciples. On the way, Jesus meets them and reminds them once more, “Do not be afraid” (28:10).

Our congregation is in a transition. The proposal to expand the ministry into Milledgeville has been accepted and new tasks, new experiences, new demands will soon come upon us. It would be



natural for us to experience excitement, anxiety, fear and confusion. But the promise remains: this can also offer us unique opportunities to grow closer to God. Transitions are inevitable in our lives. They are also natural. Our challenge as faith-filled Christians is to see God's saving presence in every moment and even perhaps especially in the trying periods of change.

Pastor Steve

Beginning August 11th, Lake Oconee Lutheran Church will be collecting a door offering. Any money received will be designated for our two scholarship recipients. **Ka'Niyah Robertson**, a Putnam graduate, will be a senior at Paine College in Augusta in Criminal Justice. Ka'Niyah has received a scholarship from LOLC for her first three years and this will provide for her senior year of school. We were connected with Ka'Niyah through LOYA. **Matthew Shipman** is a first-year graduate student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in training to be a Lutheran pastor. We hope to assist him throughout his Seminary schooling. Matthew is the younger brother of our member, Laura Ringer.

Our goal for this collection is larger than in the past. We are hoping to receive \$4,000 to be divided between the two students. Thank you for any help that you can give us to reach our goal. You may put your gift in the offering box and mark the envelope with "Scholarship Money".

Rock of Ages Lutheran Church sandwich day is a suburban church serving an urban community. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is helping them again in February by posting a sign up sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church on August 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. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches. Any questions, please contact Barbara Hardesty.

LOLC offers Bible Study



Sunday Morning Bible class

The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, Matthew shows Jesus as the King who desires everyone to be a member of His kingdom.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9 am in the church or live-streamed on Facebook and our website for Matthew.

Mid Week Bible Class

Many people remember David as the Israelite who killed Goliath the giant. Or as the good friend of Jonathan. Or as the king who committed adultery with Bathsheba. However, if we are only remembering isolated events, the presence and mercy of God in David's life is easily distorted. We will study the events of David's life so that our lives can delight in the presence and mercy that God now shows us in the Son of David, Jesus Christ.

Join us on **Wednesdays** at **10:30am** on Zoom for the **Life of David**.

There will be no class on Wednesday, July 31 or Wednesday, August 7th!

Women's Bible class

"Starting June 4 and for the duration of the summer they will meet every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am in the Choir Room for a more informal discussion derived from weekly bible readings. They will start back up in the fall to finish their study of the Book of Romans.

Please feel free to join us on **Tuesday Mornings at 10 am** in the choir room!"

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.
(June \$172)

If you would like a Mite box, they are available in the back of the church at no cost.

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

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 have missed it, But now it has returned. 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 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 the step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.

Choir Notes



Choir will be on break for the summer until Sept 8th.

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 of these 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 of these important ministries.

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/email the church office.

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

Blood Drive

The next blood drives are scheduled for Aug 1st, & Sept 5th & Oct 3rd. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood go to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC.

Back-to-School Support



It seems like summer just started, but before we know it, schools will be back in session. Service/Outreach ministry asks for your support of the Greene and Putnam County schools by providing these items:

24 count boxes of crayons, Packs of #2 pencils, Glue sticks, Notebook paper

Look for the bin labeled Back-to-School Supplies in the church entry. Thank you for your support of the children of Greene and Putnam counties.



Operation Christmas Child – 2024

This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look just like last year. We will have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes**. This way you can personalize your shoeboxes and encourage family and friends to participate with you. Include your family, neighbors, pickleball or tennis team, craft group, or co-workers. Celebrate your birthday, anniversary, or other special event by packing a shoebox with your family or friends. Remember, school supplies go on sale in July! Drop off your filled shoebox gifts **throughout the year at the church before November 10**.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online**. Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places. Online boxes are carefully prepared and sent by OCC, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at: *(Ctrl+ click to follow the link)*

<https://sampur.se/3OZCwKz>

You can also scan this QR code below with your cell phone camera:



Select “**BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE NOW**” and follow instructions. By using this link, we will be able to track our church’s progress toward our shoebox goal. You can also make a monetary contribution to the church, and we will build a shoebox for you (\$25/shoebox).

Our “faith goal” this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



August Birthdays

- Aug 5 Sue Davis
- Aug.5 Roger Fleming
- Aug.6th Mike Langan
- Aug 6th Janis Lipacis
- Aug 8th Will Ringer
- Aug. 9th Rosemary Bonnough
- Aug.9th Cindy Helms
- Aug 10th Peggy Uehlin
- Aug 11th Charlie Helms
- Aug 13th Stephen Bradford
- Aug 15th Linda Hayden
- Aug 17th Kathy Lockwood
- Aug 31st Bailey Ringer

August Anniversaries

- Aug 9th David & Margie Heimer
- Aug 13th Bob & Shirley Mai
- Aug.18th Isaac & Laura Ringer
- Aug. 20th Terry & Margaret Pederson
- Aug 20th Harold & Janice Sollenberger
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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!

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	29	30 10 am Women's Bible Class	31 No Wednesday Bible Class today	1 12:30 Blood Drive	2	3 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
4 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Elders Meeting Communion Guest Pastor – Matthew Boarts	5	6 10 am Women's Bible Class	7 No Wednesday Bible Class today	8 9am Bread of Life	9	10 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
11 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-communion	12	13 10 am Women's Bible Class	14 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	15	16	17 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
18 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	19	20 10 am Women's Bible Class 2 pm Community Center Meeting	21 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	22 9am Bread of Life	23	24 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
25 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	26 10:00 Quilts of Valor	27 10 am Women's Bible Class	28 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	29	30	31 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service