



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 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,

Time flies! I cannot believe that it is August already. The summer, my favorite season and the one which I look forward to each year, will be coming to an end before I know it and autumn will be upon us. Even if summer is not your favorite season, you may agree with me when I say that "time flies". A common complaint is, "There just aren't enough hours in the day!" While that may feel true to each of us, it is also true that we all receive the same 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week. The difference is due to how we spend our time. It is not the lack of time that is the problem but rather how we spend it. In order to use the time God gives us faithfully and wisely, we must be careful in what we do with the time God gives to us. It is our responsibility not to waste time and to use it for God-pleasing purposes.

Time is one of God's most precious gifts to us. Our time comes from God. Psalm 31:15 says, "My times are in Your hand". Are you using your time wisely? We cannot add years to our lives, but we are, for the most part, in control of what we do with the



time God gives us. The key to controlling time is deciding on priorities. If we do not plan wisely, we will ask the question, “Where did the time go?”.

How we spend our time shows what is important to us. Whatever we enjoy and value as important will take up our time. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) Examining your calendar will demonstrate what you value the most. So, where does God fit into your calendar? Are we valuing Him by spending time in worship, reading the Bible or devotions? Are we putting Him first in our lives, not just in theory or words, but in the use of our time as well? What we do with our time speaks volumes about what we view as important. The good news is it is not too late. There is still time.

May we use the time God gives to us this month in worship, prayer and service. I pray that your calendar and mine will demonstrate our love and service for God, today and every day.

Pastor Steve

Mission of the Month

Why are we talking about Christmas already you may ask? Well, we want to make you aware of this year's campaign for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Our goal this year is to pack **150 boxes**, up from the 100 boxes we packed last year. We will be collecting items and donations of money starting in May and going through October focusing on groups of items needed each month. The items for each month will be outlined in an insert in our weekly church bulletin.

Overall, the items we will be collecting are for boys and girls aged 5-9:

Stuffed Animals	Harmonica or woodwind recorder
Comb	Toothbrush
Washcloth	Bar Soap
Lip balm (non-liquid)	Colored pencils
Small pencil sharpener	Small notebooks
Safety (blunt tip) scissors	Glue stick (no liquid glue)
Sunglasses	Stickers
Yo-yo	


We have tried to make it easy this year for everyone to order these items by setting up an Amazon Wish List for Operation Christmas Child. All you need to do is click on the link listed below, purchase your item(s) and they will be shipped directly to the church. Just like a gift registry, you will be able to see how many of each item was purchased and how many are still needed. Takes all the hard work out of shopping! You may also purchase these items in any of our local stores such as Walmart, Dollar Tree, CVS, etc. and drop them off in the bins we will have available in the narthex.

Here is the Amazon wish list

link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AS8LGUZ4XQBM/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

If you need a direct link emailed to you please reach out to the office and we will email the link to you. We plan to pack each box, like we did last year, as a team on November 13th. Stay tuned for additional information on this in the months ahead.

Thanks so much for your kind generosity as we help children in need across the globe.



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. 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. God's blessings to each of you!

Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

Throughout all of Holy Scripture, there is an overarching theme of death versus life. At times, this is played out in the physical sense. People die and people are given new life, or resurrected. Moreover, the theme of death versus life finds its culmination in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is forsaken by His Father and killed in the body. He is loved by His Father and raised in the body.

However, each instance of death versus life also has a deeper meaning. There is not only a battle between physical death and life, but also between spiritual death and life. Every biblical example of death with an ensuing resurrection serves to remind us of what happens to us and every Christian. We are all spiritually dead, yet in Jesus Christ and through His death and resurrection, we, once dead human beings, are resurrected and made children of God. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am for **Resurrections**.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School classes ended for the summer at the end of May and then they will resume back in the fall.

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 devotional Life by Lisa Harper shows us the Gospel is truly Good News for your actual, everyday, sometimes painful or difficult life. It's a reminder that God's faithfulness follows us through the harried, hard and humorous things in life. Join us anytime for this conversational series. Women's Bible Study meets **Tuesdays at 10 am** in the choir room.

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
July 11th, 2021

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

Joshua Ringer was not in attendance.

The minutes from the June 13th meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- No Report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The three Treasurer's Reports were distributed. LOLC has a positive cash flow of \$15,927 YTD.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The Financial Report for June was distributed. We are behind in "Member Donations" YTD by \$23,034 versus 2020. That is attributed to a large one time donation given early last year that is now being given monthly this year.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – Discussed a future project of replacing mature bushes, as well as repairing the irrigation system.

Lay Ministry: Joe Peeples- Pastor Ron will be guest Pastor on 8/22, and Pastor Garcia will be guest Pastor on 8/29. Pastor Hayden will be on vacation.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- no report

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- The June 24th Blood Drive had 42 donations. The next blood drive event is on July 15th. The sandwich ministry donation was July 11th and will be a quarterly event going forward. The Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. A "Back to School" support program has been initiated to provide Greene and Putnam school students school supplies. Operation Christmas Child continues in its 3rd month. The June 27th church luncheon was a success.

Pastor's Report: Steve Hayden- The church seating has been returned to the pre-pandemic setting. Jaye and Cindy McCrae have joined the church. A large number of visitors have attended the church the past few weeks. Pastor has been approached by members requesting donations be made to Putnam Christian Outreach and Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Kathie made a motion and was seconded. **"I move that we provide Putnam Christian Outreach and Greene Christian Outreach a \$500 donation each. Also have a congregation door offering for the Lutheran Hour Ministry."** The motion passed.



Old Business:

- 1. Security Camera System for Church (internal)-** Tom will present the camera system for LOLC and the camera system for the Community Center separately at the congregational meeting on July 25th for approval.
- 2. Computer Upgrade for Pastor-** Pastor Hayden has upgraded to the Samsung Galaxy Laptop.
- 3. Microphone Upgrades-** Pastor Hayden's wireless microphone has been replaced. The piano microphone will be replaced this week.
- 4. Highway 44 Project-** The appraiser contracted by the DOT visited with Mike regarding the Community Center property. Approximately 80' of land from the current road is being considered for acquisition by the DOT.

New Business:

- 1. Voters Meeting 7/25/21-** Discussed above
- 2. Lighting and Camera Needs for Church Service Video-** Mike is researching lighting options to enhance the video quality production.
- 3. Musical Leader Internship Opportunity-** Mike spoke to Lev regarding students from Milledgeville who have a need to complete Music Program internships. Discussions with the School faculty will continue to decide if that is an opportunity for the students and LOLC music program.

The meeting was adjourned and followed by the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Larry Davis
Congregational Secretary

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - June 30, 2021

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,556.77	-\$556.77	\$6,000.00	\$8,820.88	-\$2,820.88
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	\$1,556.77	-\$556.77	\$6,000.00	\$8,820.88	-\$2,820.88
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$439.36	-\$439.36	\$0.00	\$1,553.56	-\$1,553.56
Utilities	250.00	177.00	73.00	1,500.00	1,187.00	313.00
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	0.00	354.00	354.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	100.00	50.00	900.00	450.00	450.00
Janitorial	83.33	150.00	-66.67	500.02	2,340.00	-1,839.98
Supplies	41.67	0.00	41.67	250.02	0.00	250.02
Repairs & Mtce.	333.33	0.00	333.33	2,000.02	1,535.23	464.79
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>82.67</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>82.67</u>	<u>496.02</u>	<u>0.15</u>	<u>495.87</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$925.36	\$74.64	\$6,000.08	\$7,419.94	-\$1,419.86
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$631.41	-\$631.41	-\$0.08	\$1,400.94	-\$1,401.02
Bank Balance	\$6,007.31					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - June 30, 2021

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	29,431	23,016	6,415	177,088	179,827	-2,739	Anderson \$124,302
Debt Reduction	3,685	2,700	985	22,107	13,480	8,627	Organ \$478
Memorial Fund	0	125	-125	0	1,755	-1,755	A/P \$0
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	43	-43	Sign Fund \$163
Special Fund Income	<u>32</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>-979</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>6,988</u>	<u>-6,798</u>	Memorials <u>\$2,723</u>
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$33,148	\$26,852	\$6,296	\$199,385	\$202,093	-\$2,708	TOTALS \$127,666
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	13,522	10,465	3,057	81,133	76,525	4,608	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,022	1,069	953	12,132	7,320	4,812	District \$0
Property Expense	5,483	4,799	684	32,896	30,057	2,839	P/R \$0
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,329	2,523	-194	13,975	11,252	2,723	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	142	20	122	850	396	454	\$316,814.75
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	825	188	637	4,955	2,206	2,749	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	21	0	21	125	0	125	BankSouth \$135,597.21
Fellowship Expense	200	443	-243	1,200	1,165	35	LCEF \$101,494.30
Mission Expense (District)	8,838	8,515	323	17,675	18,470	-795	Anderson \$124,302.01
DCE Expenses	881	0	881	8,885	6,367	2,518	Comm. Ctr. \$6,007.31
Other Expenses	<u>4,101</u>	<u>3,684</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>24,607</u>	<u>32,408</u>	<u>-7,801</u>	TOTAL \$367,400.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$38,364	\$31,706	\$6,658	\$198,433	\$186,166	\$12,267	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$5,216	-\$4,854	-\$362	\$952	\$15,927	-\$14,975	

Note: \$190.00 of memorial fund is designated for food pantry
May 30 collections included in this month

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

May 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	0.00	11.92	-11.92	0.00	88.36	-88.36
Total Income:	\$0.00	\$11.92	-\$11.92	\$0.00	\$88.36	-\$88.36
Expenses						
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.64	-446.64
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	1,523.14	-1,523.14
Total Income Less Expenses:	0.00	11.92	-\$11.92	0.00	-1,434.78	-\$1,611.50

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

Volunteers

Altar Care there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.

Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and 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.

In light of Covid restrictions being lifted and the church starting more activities and such, we wanted to put a reminder out that if you have anything that needs to be placed in the Sunday bulletin, please submit it to the office by Monday as we generally print the bulletins on Tuesday for the upcoming Sunday.

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) \$61

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, 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 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.

*Wearing a mask is now optional.

*We are also beginning to have volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.

Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for one small step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.

Choir Notes

(Inactive during COVID19)

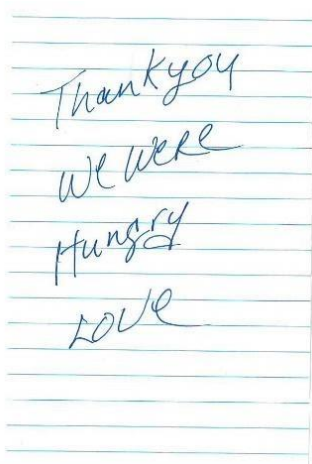


Recycling Projects



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

In case you all have forgotten we still have a collection container for soda can tops for the Ronald McDonald house. The revenue that is received from these donations is used to house families who otherwise cannot afford it while their child is critically ill or injured and receiving treatment. The container is located in the Narthex to the right as you enter the church. Soda can tops and soup can tops are accepted so please remember to bring them in.



I stopped at your pantry, got some peanut butter, Jelly and a few cans of tuna, I just want to say thank you, If you need anyone to help you, Please let me know what I can do, just want to say to helped us so much, My mother in law had a stroke, I quit my job at the Bistro to care for her, Money is tight, But by the Grace God I was blessed today



Have you ever wondered whether you can make a difference? Then read again the two different thank you notes above that the church received through the Little Free Pantry. Your willingness to sign up for a week to check on the pantry 3 times and most of all your donations of food which supply the pantry on an ongoing basis are making a difference in the lives of those around us. On behalf of them, thank you.

Sign up sheets for checking the pantry are on the Mission and Serve Table in the entryway.

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Elders Meeting	2	3 10 am Women's Bible Class	4 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class	5 Happy Birthday Sue Davis Roger Fleming	6 Happy Birthday Mike Langan Janis Lipacis	7 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
8 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Council Meeting Happy Birthday Will Ringer	9 Happy Birthday Rosemary Bonnough Cindy Helms Happy Anniversary David & Margie Heimer	10 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Peggy Uehlin	11 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class Happy Birthday Charlie Helms	12	13 Happy Anniversary Bob & Shirley Mai	14 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
15 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Happy Birthday Linda Hayden	16	17 10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm Community Center Meeting Happy Birthday Kathy Lockwood	18 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class Happy Annivesary Isaac & Laura Ringer	19	20 Happy Anniversary Terry & Margaret Pedersen	21 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
22 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion	23	24 10 am Women's Bible Class	25 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class	26 1-6pm Blood Drive	27 Happy Birthday Jim Kueven	28 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
29 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	30	31 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Louise Moore Bailey Ringer	1 10:30 am ZOOM Bible Class	2	3	4 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service