



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 2025

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,

Every year on the third Monday in April there is a little race held in Massachusetts. The race is called the Boston Marathon. This race, a little longer than 26 miles and the world's oldest annual marathon, attracts 500,000 spectators and over 25,000 participants each year. The route, which is the same every year, is considered one of the world's more difficult marathon courses because of the a series of hills which culminate in Heartbreak Hill between miles 20 and 21. Heartbreak Hill, though relatively small, is positioned at a point on the course where runners typically "*hit the wall*". By the time runners reach this point, the ranks have thinned.

The Bible tells us that Christianity is like a marathon as well; like a long-distance endurance test. The letter of Hebrews tells us, **"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."** (Hebrews 12:1). In order to give a good account of ourselves in this continuing race, we need to keep in mind what is involved. We all know that You can't just show up on the day of the marathon and expect to be successful. Likewise, to be in proper shape for our life of faith, we need training; we need to **"throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles"** (Hebrews 12:1). We get rid of the weight of our sins by confessing them and receiving God's gift of Absolution. We train through time spent in God's Word and in prayer.

Our race of faith calls for perseverance, patience and steady performance. It is not a quick 100-yard dash, but a life-long marathon. Only by steadfastness of purpose can we run our race to the finish. Time after time we may feel as if we are "*hitting the wall*", but the strength to stay in the race

comes from fixing **“our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2)**. He completed the course in our place, reached the finish line at Calvary and, amid all the physical pain, He felt the joy set before Him—the joy of knowing that He was redeeming sinful mankind. Now, no Heartbreak Hill can keep us from advancing toward our heavenly goal. Now we too can experience the victory that Christ gives to us.

Pastor Steve

Announcements



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.



Lake Oconee Lutheran's next blood drives will be Aug 7thth and Sep 4th. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com

Hello from New London, CT!



We are excited to share that all of the Coasties begin our Coast Guard summer 7-week training tomorrow morning (6/30). We will be located in New London, CT for the next 4 years. Here is a photo of DJ, Miles, and I on a quick ice cream run prior to reporting.

As we start the next part of our journey, we think of the support you have all given us, as well as the family you have provided us with!

Attached are the mailbox numbers and street address of the Coast Guard Cadets. We may receive letters and packages at any point during the summer and into the school year. Please send letters with prayers/ encouragement.

Please share this message with the congregation, as we continue to think of you all each and every day. God bless you all!

SWAB Ella Stolarzyk

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Chase Hall Box 7771

New London, CT 06320-8112

Miles Johnson: Box #7343

Malia Sarmac: Box #7661

Darold (DJ) Taylor: Box #7790

Caitlynn Gibson: Box #7243

Hailey Gravitt: Box #7252

Respectfully,
Ella Stolarzyk

LOLC offers Bible Study



Women's Bible class

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting with more informal sessions and open discussion about the Bible and its impact on our everyday lives. It will also begin meeting in the Council or meeting room around the big table. No preparation is needed for you to join us on any Tuesday this summer to discover how God works in our lives and the abundant blessings he bestows upon us. Please join us on for this new study on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am** in the Choir Room.

Sunday Morning Bible class

The Old Testament seems so, well, old and out of date. We know that the Old Testament is God's Word and we have our favorite stories that we learned in Sunday school, but once we get past Genesis and the story of Moses in Exodus, it all seems so old, so strange. During "God, are you talking to Me?" we will be looking at different Old Testament Bible events (some of you think you know and some you may not heard of) and realized that God wrote those down for us. They are not just stories about dusty history but here God is taking to us, about our life in His Old Testament.

Join us every Sunday morning in the church or livestreamed at 9 am and be part of "God, are talking to Me?"

Mid-Week Bible Class

God's revelation to John was given to encourage Christians in every age who suffer because of their faith. Through dramatic symbolism, Revelation shows the spiritual conflict that surrounds life in this sinful world. At the center stands Christ, the Lamb of God slain for sinners. With the heavenly Father's blessing, Christ triumphs over Satan and opens the paradise of heaven, the city of God for each of us.

Join us every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 10:30am for Revelation.

Worship Schedule

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

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

The choir will resume meeting for rehearsal **Sunday September 7th at 9 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. In July we collected \$146.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.

Update

Lake Oconee is no longer receiving empty cereal boxes. You may recycle them at home now. Thank you.



Would you like to be a Greeter or Sub? We certainly want members and guests to feel welcome when they arrive. If so, please sign up on the blue table. A schedule will be emailed to you later. God bless you for your service.



Coffee & Fellowship

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.

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

07/25/2025

Hello LBLC!

Thank you all very much for your wonderful letters and words of encouragement! We have completed 04 weeks of training, with only 03 remaining. The toughest days are behind us and we could not be more hopeful for the future. Our days here include 0530 wakeup calls, sailing, lots of running, drill practices and academic classes. We look forward to sharing photos once training is completed. May God be with you all as the summer continues.

All the best, Ella Stolarzyk ♡

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.

Please bring your supplies by September 7. Thank you for your support of the children of Greene and Putnam counties.

Operation Christmas Child – 2025

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 9**.

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://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fe837f0a-ecd1-4714-b595-840260b0aa1b>

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.

Alert!

A new series of emails claiming to be from Pastor is out. They are not from him. He will never ask you to respond with gift cards. Please do not reply!

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.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



August Birthdays

- Aug 3 John S Spadaro
- Aug 5 Sue Davis
- Aug 5 Roger Fleming
- Aug 6 Mike Langan
- Aug 8 Will Ringer
- Aug 9 Rosemary Bonnough
- Aug 9 Cindy Helms
- Aug 10 Peggy Uehlin
- Aug 11 Charles Helms
- Aug 13 Stephen Bradford
- Aug 15 Linda Hayden
- Aug 17 Kathy Lockwood
- Aug 27 Alba Papit
- Aug 31 Baily Ringer

August Anniversaries

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

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.

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
July 13, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost. Mark Dentler led us in prayer.
Pastor Steve was absent, and all other members were in attendance.
The minutes from the June 8, 2025, council meeting was approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – Pam asked if she oversaw selecting candidates for the Lay Ministry council position and was told that person was nominated by the Elders.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – The June Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Although income was down expenses are still under budget. The year-to-date income was down \$13,690 while expenses were down \$17,822. Kathie asked Council to prepare for the budgeting process for 2026, and she will be getting in touch with everyone to finalize budgets. We also need to decide whether we want to grant a 5% increase in salaries like we have in the past, or 3% for 2026.

A discussion ensued as to whether to have a stewardship appeal to the congregation. It was decided that we should do more to communicate our financial position to the congregation. Perhaps put more information in the bulletin or provide more information when we approve the final budget so people are not only informed but can pray about it.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause – The financial report for June was distributed and discussed. Donations were up \$10,000 due to a few members annual donations that came in June. Last year they came in May. Donations for the year are down \$13,000.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – No report.

Christian Education: Margaret Pedersen – The sign-up sheet for Sunday school teachers is on the blue table. We have the first Sunday covered. Mark will sign up for the 2nd Sunday. Pastor has ordered the materials, and they will be e-mailed to the teachers.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – Mike was on toilet patrol last month and there were no issues. We removed the anchor cross from Hope Lutheran, and it is in Mark's backyard. He is thinking about putting it on a foundation by the lake. We could also put it in the memory garden. It will need to be weather proofed. The chairs were removed as well. The only thing left is to put the office furniture in storage. Kathie mentioned that Lance asked about items in the attic. We will need to wait until it is a little cooler before looking in the attic. Mark wanted to thank Jay and Gustavo for helping with very short notice. Margaret asked about a schedule for cleaning windows at Lake Oconee. Mark will schedule the cleaning during the next workday.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – No report.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – Margaret and Kayleen are working on launching Operation Christmas Child. A discussion ensued about collecting school supplies. Kayleen will talk to Josh and Bailey to see what might be needed in the classroom and will decide about a potential collection. The blood drive was successful. We had 43 donors vs. a goal of 37.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden – Absent – No report.

Old Business:

Milledgeville – We are still waiting for the attorney to prepare the lease agreement.

Carol Dunn Estate – Mike is still waiting to receive information from the executor on the bequest from Carol.

New Business:

Office Coverage – Sherry and Pastor will not be in the office on July 21 and 22. Kayleen thought she could cover the office during those days by bringing in packages and checking the voice mails.

LOLC 25th Anniversary – February 11 is the 25th anniversary of the church. The council discussed having a celebration for the 25th anniversary. We will form an organizing subcommittee led by Pam with Kathie, Kayleen and Carol assisting. We might have a luncheon and invite former parishioners and pastors.

Air Conditioners – Unit 5 has flooded out again and Mike is going to call the air conditioning people to find the root cause for the issue. In the past they have drained the pan, but they need to understand why it isn't draining.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

Carol Campbell
Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - June 30, 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>	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	35,590	33,050	2,540	215,041	166,276	48,765	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	0	690	-690	0	4,475	-4,475	A/P \$11,446
Memorial Fund	0	500	-500	0	1,300	-1,300	Memorials \$9,785
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$5,092
Special Fund Income	0	7,269	-7,269	0	29,300	-29,300	Little FP \$7,441
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$35,590	\$41,509	-\$5,919	\$215,041	\$201,351	\$13,690	M-of-M \$387
							M'ville Min. \$22,350
							DOT Funds \$201,797
							LOYA \$1,450
							TOTAL \$260,226
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	16,042	18,058	-2,016	96,252	102,805	-6,553	A/P: \$11,446
Worship Expense	2,612	1,184	1,428	15,675	16,141	-466	District \$8,887
Property Expense	6,925	3,433	3,492	41,550	32,678	8,872	P/R \$2,559
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,272	2,351	-79	13,635	13,424	211	BANK BALANCES:
Education Expense	142	26	116	850	481	369	Bank South \$141,328.50
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	310	1,582	11,350	1,942	9,408	BS CD \$110,059.99
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	Anderson \$129,231.62
Fellowship Expense	175	107	68	1,050	630	420	Comm. Ctr. \$10,736.93
Mission Expense (District)	9,900	0	9,900	19,800	7,538	12,262	Bread of Life \$110,056.85
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mortensen \$624.36
Other Expenses	2,617	3,665	-1,048	15,700	22,401	-6,701	Exchange CD \$157,137.23
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,577	\$29,134	\$13,443	\$215,862	\$198,040	\$17,822	TOTAL \$659,175.48
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$6,987	12,375	-\$19,362	-\$821	\$3,311	-\$4,132	

Notes: The mission expense (\$8887.20) was paid in July.

Other income includes \$1,950 collected for the scholarship fund; a \$1000 building usage gift from quilt guild;

\$2,950 for Bread of Life and smaller amounts for OCC and Little Free Pantry

\$100,000 was transferred from the Mortensen checking account to a Morgan Stanley account which Beth opened and she will control so it will not show up here.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - June 30, 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	815.70	184.30	6,000.00	7,624.00	-1,624.00
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	815.70	184.30	6,000.00	7,624.00	-1,624.00
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	503.65	-503.65	0.00	1,625.25	-1,625.25
Utilities	250.00	301.00	-51.00	1,500.00	1,892.00	-392.00
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	2,730.00	2,730.00	0.00
Supplies	33.33	115.23	-81.90	200.02	335.47	-135.45
Repair & Mtce.	83.33	0.00	83.33	500.02	340.61	159.41
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>178.33</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>178.33</u>	<u>1,070.02</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,070.02</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	964.99	1,339.88	-374.89	6,000.06	6,923.33	-923.27
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	35.01	-524.18	559.19	-0.06	700.67	-700.73
Bank Balance	\$10,736.93					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
3 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Elders Meeting	4	5 10 am Women's Bible Class	6	7 11 Blood Drive	8	9 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
10 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion Council Meeting	11	12 10 am Women's Bible Class	13 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	14 9 Bread of Life	15	16 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
17 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	18	19 10 am Women's Bible Class	20 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	21	22	23 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
24 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	25 10-2 Quilts of Valor Bee	26 10 am Women's Bible Class	27 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	28 9 Bread of Life	29	30 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
31 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion						