



February 8, 2026

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Cheri Kitchens, Church Secretary

www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Office email: officelolc@gmail.com

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: revshayden@gmail.com



Elder of the Month: Kathie Kueven

Scripture reader: Sandy Mathson

Coffee & Fellowship:

Greeter(s): Ed Fritch

Sunday Counter(s): Terry Pedersen & Charlie Crouch

Flowers provided by Jerry Pailer's family in honor of her birthday

Thank you to Pastor John Lehenbauer for leading our Worship while Pastor Steve and Linda are away.

Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

Instrumental Prelude
Choir Anthem

Dr. Lev Ryabinin
Dr. Youngmi Kim

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn 650

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's

realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,

O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,

ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -

life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.
praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by

Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

 Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,

 and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

 and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

 will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

 a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

 and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

 and a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

 to loose the bonds of wickedness,

 to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

 and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

 and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

 and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

 and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

 the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,

that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13–20

R: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your

light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn 578 v. 1-4

“Thy Strong Word”

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

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The Message

Pastor John Lehenbauer

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

To Our Guests: We do not charge for any of our services. All our services, programs, and expenses are freely supported by the gifts and offerings of our members. As our guests, you have not been invited for what you can give, but for what God can give you. The Offering is collected at the door when you enter.

Prayer of the Church

* Prayer of The Church

(After the pastor ends each petition with, "Lord in Your Mercy, the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer.")

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

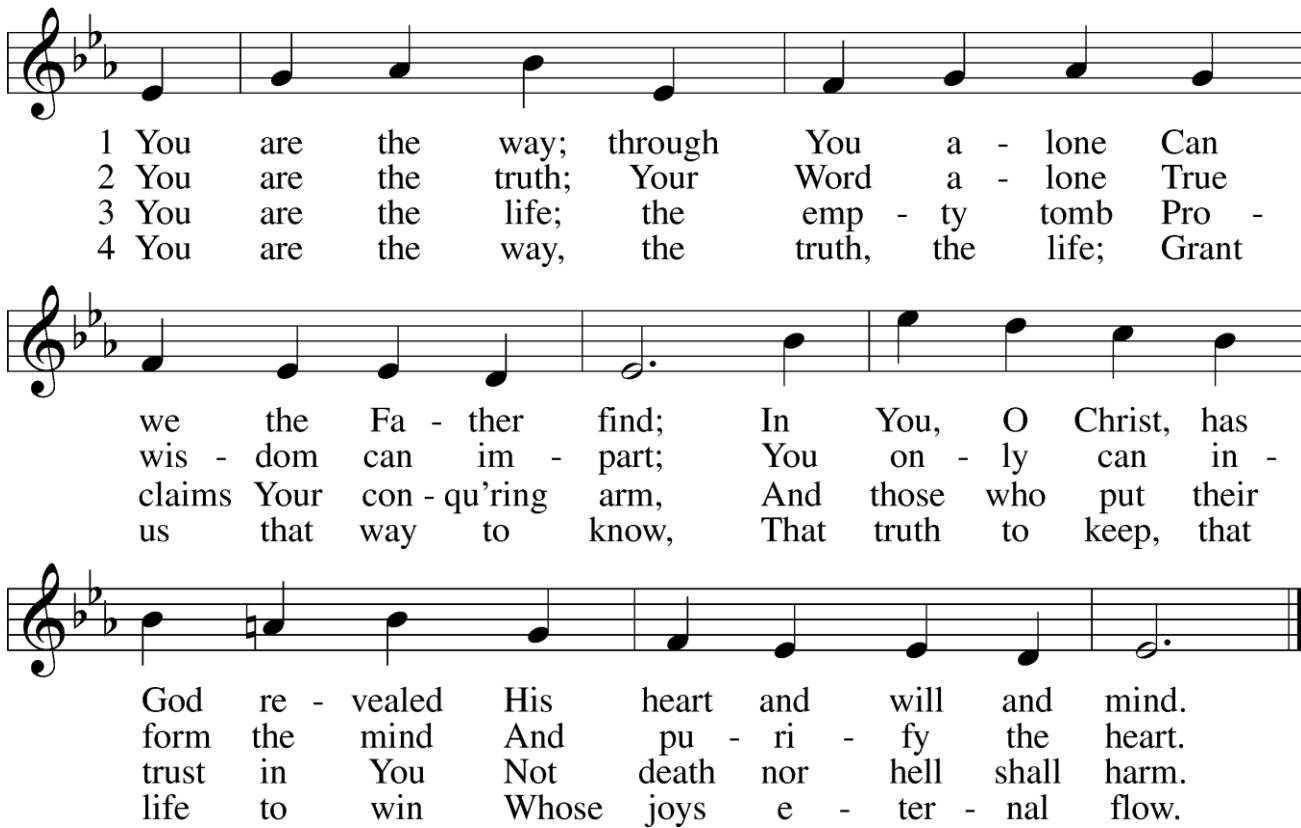
The Lord makes His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn #526

"You Are the Way; through You Alone"



1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can.
2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True.
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro - .
4 You are the way, the truth, the the life; Grant.

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has.
wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in - .
claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their.
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that.

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God

+

Post-service Music

+

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating:

Birthdays

- 02/11 Charles Crouch
- 02/12 Mark Ketchie
- 02/12 Angelique Spadaro
- 02/13 Jerry Pailer

Anniversaries

- None this week

Best Wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Study	Cancelled
Sunday	Choir practice	9 am
Sunday	Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

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

Martin Luther once identified three things that make a good theologian: prayer for the Holy Spirit to understand God's Word; meditation on this Word; and, as the "touchstone," enduring afflictions; afflictions not *even though* we are Christians, but afflictions *because* we are Christians.

Luther noticed a discrepancy in his day: On the one hand, Scripture is filled with passages about the necessary suffering of the saints in the world as they follow their crucified Lord in church, home, work, and state. On the other hand, the teaching and practice of many seemed to be about avoiding this God-sent cross at all costs.

Today being "religious" is widely seen as a path to freedom from pain and suffering. Scripture holds out a different vision, where we are shaped by the cross of Christ.

Wednesday Bible Study is cancelled. Please join us when our Zoom Meetings resume on Wednesday, February 25 @10:30 am.

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.

The Women's Bible group has launched a study of the book of Proverbs. *The Way of Wisdom* considers principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence, and more. We will discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world. Please plan on joining us on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the church conference room for the study and the wonderful discussions we always have about how what we learn impacts our lives.

Please join The Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Council Room.

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!



Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **March 5 and April 9**. We will need volunteers. 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.

Flowers

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.

Lent Meals & Midweek Services

Our Lenten Wednesdays begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continue each week through March 25.

- February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- February 25, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm
- March 4, 2026: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- March 11, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm
- March 18, 2026: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- March 25, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm

If you'd like to contribute soup, bread, or dessert, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the blue table in the narthex. Your help makes these meals a warm and welcoming time of fellowship.

The Sandwich Ministry of Stone Mountain at [Rock of Ages Lutheran Church](#), a suburban church supporting an urban ministry, is currently seeking volunteers for our next delivery on **February 15, 2026**. [Lake Oconee Lutheran Church](#) invites all members to **sign up now** to help provide meals for this urban community.

Preparation Requirements:

- **Assembly:** Each sandwich should consist of one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, bologna, or roast beef).
- **No Condiments:** Do not add mayo or mustard, as sandwiches must stay fresh for up to six days.
- **Individual Packaging:** Place each sandwich in a sealed plastic bag and clearly label it with the type of meat.
- **Bulk Labeling:** Group individual sandwiches into a larger bag and write the **preparation date** on the outside.

How to Support:

- **Quantities:** One loaf of square sandwich bread typically yields 10 sandwiches.
- **Donations Needed:** We need additional coolers for transport.
- **Volunteer Opportunity:** We are seeking a ride-along volunteer to assist with the February 15 delivery.

The sign-up sheet is on the blue table in the entryway. If you have questions, please contact **Kathie Kueven**.

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.



What do you remember about the church your family attended while you were a child? Perhaps you remember the look of the sanctuary. Perhaps you remember a certain pastor. Most likely when you think back you can remember one of your Sunday school teachers. After all, they were the ones who truly showed that they cared about you, and that God cared about you.

We are looking for Children's Sunday school teachers here at Lake Oconee to show our kids that Jesus cares about them. We would like 2 teachers for each Sunday. If you are willing to demonstrate God's love to the kids of our church, please find the signup sheet on the blue table in the entry way. Bible school will be held Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10am.



For a quarter of a century, the Lord has guided us in obedience to His Word and strengthened us for lives of service in His name. He has poured out His abundant blessings, and we give thanks for a bountiful harvest in our community.

To help commemorate the occasion, we would like to collect photographs of the life of our church. You can also share a favorite memory or testimonial with your photos. Please email digital copies to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com or place them in her folder to be scanned and returned. Be sure to note your name on the back of the photo so it can be returned. We are also looking to connect with former congregants who have left the community. Please share any current contact information you may have.

25th Anniversary Celebration Lunch

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a special luncheon on **Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 12:00 PM**. The meal will be catered.

Please RSVP:

- Sign up on the blue table in the entryway
- Email the church office at officelolc@gmail.com
- Call the church office at 706-485-4600

When signing up, please provide the number of people in your party so we can plan accordingly. Let's join together in gratitude and fellowship as we celebrate 25 years of blessings and service.



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.

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

You can call or email Cheri in the Church Office to have her send a link to the Sign-Up Genius website or to sign up for you.

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.
- ❖ 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.

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are Built for a Purpose

Built Through Word and Sacrament –

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

Built Through Ongoing Learning –

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

Built For Service –

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

Built For Discipleship –

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

Built For Fellowship –

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.