



May 3, 2026

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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



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In Preparation of Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

For further study, see **Matthew 5:23f, 10:32f, 18:15-35, 26:26-29, 1 Cor. 11:17-34**

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all Christians who are baptized, who have communed in a Christian church, and who share our understanding that, along with the bread and wine, we receive the very body and blood of our living Lord Jesus—for the strengthening of our faith and witness.

The glasses in the very center of each tray contain non-alcoholic wine for the use of those receiving communion who are unable to drink alcohol.

Children who do not commune are invited to come to the rail for a blessing.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

Before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord Amen

Elder of the Month: Jerry Campbell

Greeter: Ed Fritch

Scripture Reader: Sandy Mathson

Communion Assistant: Thomas Mathson

Usher: Don Menke

Coffee Fellowship:

Sunday Counter(s): Sandy Mathson & Cindy or Charlie Helms

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

Instrumental Prelude
Choir Anthem
Welcome

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

Congregational Hymn 861

“Christ Be My Leader”



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The First Lesson: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore,

brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were

stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

The Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Alleluia Verse

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: John 14:1–14

R: The Holy Gospel according to John Chapter 14

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own

authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn #633 v.1-4, 8

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Message

Pastor Steven Hayden

Nicene Creed

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The 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

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

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

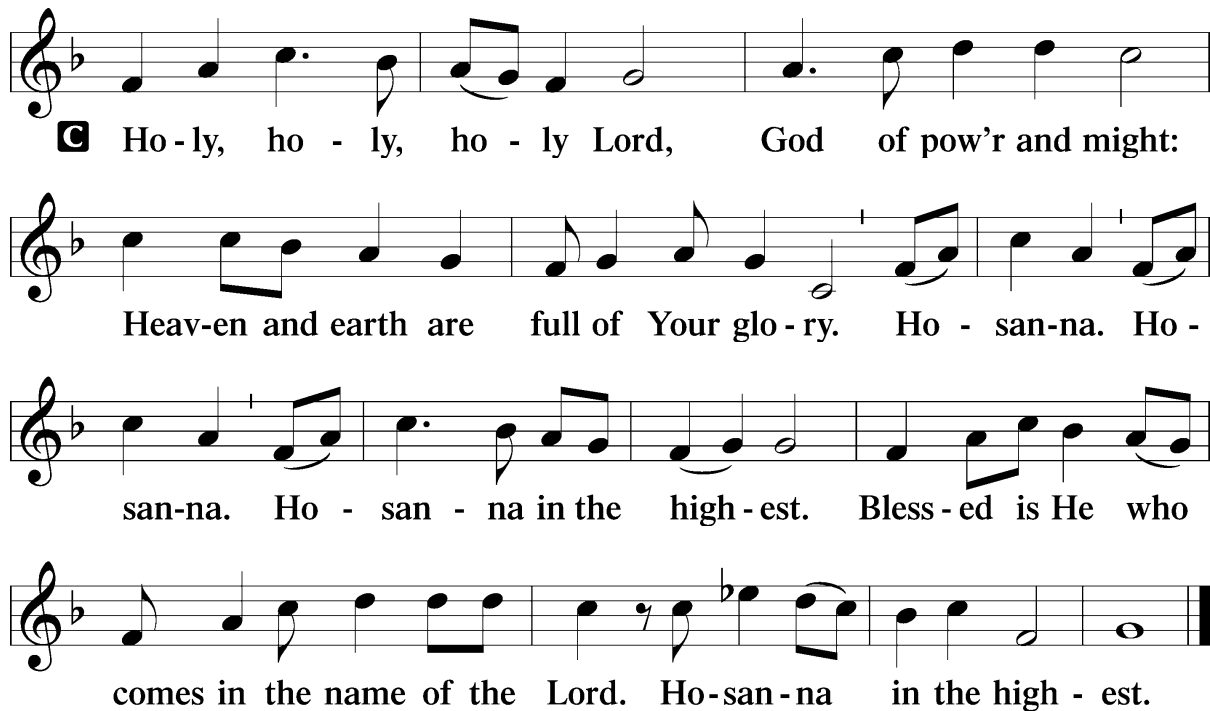
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pax Domini


P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

Communion 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 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

Post-Communion Collect

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn #584

"Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the



Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,



Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,



Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our



thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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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 this week

Birthdays:

None this week

Anniversaries:

- 5/5 Joshua & Baily Ringer
- 5/7 Larry & Sue Davis

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday	Quilt Guild	9 am
Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30 am
Thursday	Blood Drive	11 am – 4 pm
Sunday	Choir	9 am
Sunday	Adult Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship	10:30 am
Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship

Sunday Morning Bible

“I’m a spiritual person, but I’m not religious.” Have you ever heard someone say something like this? Today, many people feel that no organized religion empowers them to be healthy, renewed, or growing human beings—or even Christians! To them, rituals and organizations found in churches are mere empty shells.

Jesus says: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Lutherans confess that a true Church is not measured by “my taste” or “my sincerest spirituality”; rather, the Church is where our crucified and risen Lord Jesus lives and gives His abundant gifts.

**Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am, in person or live-streamed, for
“What is the Church?”**

Wednesday morning Zoom class

On January 21, 1530, Emperor Charles V called for a general assembly—an imperial diet—to be held in Augsburg, Germany. Convened to deal with the threat of the Turks to the empire, the diet would also try to resolve the issues dividing the church at the time, what we call the Reformation.

The Emperor asked the Lutheran princes to identify what they believed and taught based on Scripture at the gathering. The Lutherans prepared a confession of the faith that would be verbally read before the emperor. This document, The Augsburg Confession, would become recognized as the public confession of the Lutheran Church.

Join us on Wednesday morning at 10:30am on Zoom as we look at The Augsburg Confession.

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 Study is studying the book entitled *Heaven* by Jennifer Rothschild. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? How can we know the truth about what comes next? We are exploring the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective and separate what’s true about Heaven from what’s based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses. Don't just wonder about Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace.

We meet every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the church conference room. We would love to have you join us.

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 **May 17, 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 May 17th delivery.

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

All-Congregation Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, May 31, there will be an all-congregational Voters' Meeting after worship.



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.



**American
Red Cross**

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **May 7 and June 4.**

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.

Lake Oconee Lutheran has activated a call committee. The committee's job will be to develop a list of pastor candidates to present to the Voter's Assembly out of which the Voters may select one to call to serve our church along with Pastor Steve and to serve the mission in Milledgeville.

The most important job of this committee, in fact, the most important job for each of us, is to pray. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the pastor who

may serve here faithfully and joyfully and be a part of our life in mission and obedience to God's Word.

Join me in saying this prayer, or a prayer like this:

Almighty God, since You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself, grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive new life. May Your Holy Spirit lead and guide us in calling a pastor to serve among us according to Your will and proclaim Your saving Gospel to us and to our communities. And may that same Spirit help the one called to recognize Your presence among us and, if it be Your will, to accept the call as Pastor here. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church appreciates flower donations for Sunday worship.

- To have flowers listed in the bulletin, provide all desired details (e.g., "in memory of," "in honor of") on the signup sheet located on the blue table at the entrance.
- Please do not include lilies in any arrangements, as a church member has severe allergies.

Thank you for your help.

Just a Reminder



Lake Oconee Lutheran is able to 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.



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 or on the clipboard on the blue table:

- 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.