

November 8, 2026

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentacost

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

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Eatonton, GA 31024
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Pastor Steven Hayden
Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081
Pastor's email: revshayden@gmail.com



Elder of the Month: Ed Fritch
Scripture reader: Kathie Kueven
Coffee & Fellowship: Sandy Wingard
Greeter(s):
Sunday Counter(s): Jerry Campbell & Ed Fritch.

Lake Oconee Lutheran is blessed to be able to live-stream our worship on Facebook and our website for those unable to be present. Our cameras are directed at the front of the sanctuary, but by entering and by your presence here you consent to be recorded if you appear.

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

Instrumental Prelude **Dr. Lev Ryabinin**
Choir Anthem **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 #490

"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"



Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: Amos 5:18–24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why would you have the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

[14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [15]For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16]For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1–13

R: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6]But

at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet
him.’ [7]Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8]And the
foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.’ [9]But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for
us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ [10]And
while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were
ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.
[11]Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’
[12]But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ [13]Watch
therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn #516 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”



Text and tune: Public domain

The Message **Pastor Steven Hayden**

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 #636 v. 1-2, 5

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"



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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:

Birthdays

- 11/13 Jerry Campbell
- 11/14 Bob Mai

Anniversaries

- 11/04 Joseph & Ashley Henning

Best Wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Quilt Guild	9 am
Tuesday	Women' Bible Study	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Study	No Class
Thursday	Bread of Life	10:30 am
Sunday	Choir Practice	9 am
Sunday	Children's Bible School	9 am
Sunday	Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday	Congregational Voters' Mtg	After Worship

Sunday Morning Bible Class

The study of the New 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, too, 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 in person on **Sunday** mornings for **Exploring the New Testament** in the church at **9 am.** This will also be live-streamed on Facebook and our website.

Wednesday morning Zoom class

What is prayer? It's a simple enough question and a natural place to start. Perhaps just as good a question is "What isn't prayer?" Prayer, quite simply, is speaking to God what is in our hearts. Prayer is not a means through which God speaks to us; God speaks to us through His Word. In prayer, then, we have the privilege of striking up a conversation with our Creator.

Join us on Zoom Wednesday @10:30 am for Prayer

Women's Bible Study

Join us each **Tuesday at 10:00 AM** in the Conference Room for a Bible study: "Luke: Gut-Level Compassion" by Lisa Harper. Together, we will dive into Luke's Gospel and look at the profound, unconditional love Jesus has for real, messy people. You don't have to have it all together to fit in here—just come as you are!

Operation Christmas Child

In the jungles of Peru about 100 miles from the closest town, Operation Christmas Child hosted the first of many outreach events for the children of a community rife with alcohol abuse and ancestor worship. Known as the Chapra, this ethnic group lives isolated from the outside world.

Chapra boys and girls riveted their attention on the colorful posters Samaritan's Purse had brought on the weeklong journey upriver to illustrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ—a message that had only recently reached their region. The team surprised each child with their own shoebox full of toys and other fun items as well as The Greatest Gift Gospel booklet—the first printed resource in their language.

Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with the Good News of Jesus Christ as expressions of God's immense love for a child. You can be involved in this outreach by building a shoebox online. Use the following QR code to get started or go online to https://sampur.se/4iMT6g7. Please join us in serving by November 28th.

How to make a gift of stocks/bonds/securities to LOLC

If you wish to make a gift to Lake Oconee Lutheran Church from an appreciated securities, it is easy to do so without incurring a tax liability for any capital gains. Instead of converting them to cash instead, please follow these three steps:

1. Contact Howell Cullens at Piedmont Financial Partners
    - via telephone at 404-660-3636,
    - via email at howell@pfpartners.net,
    - or at his office just off Linger Longer Road.
2. Please have your account information and the name of the security you wish to transfer. (if possible, it's best to have a copy of your last statement available).
3. Once your account information and the specific security details are identified, he will send a transfer request for your signature & authorization. Once signed and returned, he will send a request for the security transfer from your current account and advise you of completion.

Please feel free to call or email Howell Cullens with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the transfer process.

Upon completion of the transfer process, please inform the church, in writing, of:

- **Your name,**
- **the donation amount,**
- **and whether the donation should be credited to the General Fund or a different designated item.**

This may be dropped into the offering box in the church and will help us credit the donation appropriately. Thank you!

Congregational Voters Meeting

November 15, 2026

After Worship

Our semi-annual Congregational Voter's Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2026**, immediately following worship. Stay for the meeting and be involved with our congregation. We will be electing the Church Council members and approving the 2027 budget.

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.

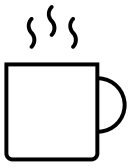
The most important job of this committee, in fact, the most important job for each of us, is to pray. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the pastor who may serve here faithfully and joyfully and be a part of our life in mission and obedience to God's Word.

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.

American Red Cross

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **December 3 and January 7.** 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.



Do you enjoy our coffee and treats after service during **Coffee Fellowship time**? If so, there are quite a few openings over the next month for you to provide something. Join with a friend or bring a few things to share on your own. Sign up on the **Blue Table** for the week that you are available to host our **Coffee Fellowship Time.**



Thank you to everyone who donates flowers for our Sunday worship! If you would like to give flowers, please keep these two important points in mind:

- **Bulletin Dedications:** To have your dedication included in the bulletin (e.g., *in memory of* or *in honor of*), please write the exact wording on the sign-up sheet located on the **blue table in the entry**.
- **Strictly No Lilies:** Please explicitly request **no lilies** in your arrangements. A member of our congregation has a life-threatening allergy to them and cannot be in the building if they are present.



Make a Joyful Noise: Join the Choir!

Do you love to sing? Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or just love singing along to the radio, our Church Choir has a seat waiting for you! There are three great reasons to join us:

1. You have a wonderful voice and want to share it.
2. You have an okay voice and want to improve it.
3. You think you have a terrible voice, and this is your chance to make a joyful noise anyway!

No auditions or professional experience are required—just a heart ready to praise. We practice on **Sunday Morning at 9 am** in the **Choir Room.** We can't wait to sing with you!



Help our kids experience God's love! We are recruiting Children's Sunday school teachers to pour into the next generation. We need two volunteers per **Sunday for our 9:00 – 10:00 AM** Bible Study Hour. If a childhood Sunday school teacher made a difference in your life, consider stepping into that role for our kids today. Head to the blue table in the entryway to sign up on the sheet! You can also sign up online with Signup Genius.

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
- Sunday School teacher

You can call or email the Church Office to have a link sent to you 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.

📦 Bread of Life Ministry: Volunteer Opportunities

Help us feed our community! The Bread of Life food pantry needs volunteers for our monthly schedule. Please note our regular hours and upcoming dates below.

📝 How to Sign Up

- **Sign-up sheets are now available on the BLUE table in the entryway.**
- Please drop by and add your name to the dates you can help.

🗓️ Monthly Volunteer Schedule

- **Food Pantry Setup**
  - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month
  - 1:00 PM
  - *Note: No 4th Wednesday setup in November or December.*
- **Food Pantry Distribution**
  - 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month
  - 10:00 AM
  - *Note: No 4th Thursday distribution in November or December.*
- **Golden Harvest Delivery**
  - 3rd Friday of every month
  - 9:00 AM

November is sandwich month!

On **Sunday, November 22**, we will once again be taking sandwiches to Rock of Ages in Stone Mountain. Please sign up on the blue table if

you can bring sandwiches (no condiments as the sandwiches may be frozen.) Place each sandwich in a baggie marked with the type of meat and place the baggies inside the bread bag. Place the date on the outside of the bread bag. Sandwiches will be delivered following church.

Mark Your Calendar

Our newly formed Singles Social Group will gather on **Tuesday, December 15, at 11:30 a.m.** for a cookie exchange and a special outreach project for our shut-ins. Lunch will be provided. Please bring two dozen of your favorite homemade or store-bought cookies—one dozen to exchange with fellow attendees and one dozen to help create cookie trays for our shut-ins. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the blue table so we can prepare enough lunch for everyone.

Be a Pantry Partner!

Our Little Free Pantry needs weekly volunteers to help keep this ministry thriving. If you're able to serve, please stop by the **Blue Table** and choose a week to stock the pantry.

All pantry items are stored in the choir room — simply select your week, gather the food, and fill the pantry for our neighbors in need. Your contribution blesses our community in a meaningful way.

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.