w



November 15, 2026

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

*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




## *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. Communicants may choose to receive the wine in an individual cup, from the Chalice (the Common Cup) or by immersing the wafer in the Chalice (also called intinction). It is very helpful to keep your empty glass visible so Pastor can see if you desire the Common Cup.*

*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: Ed Fritch*
*Greeters:*
*Scripture Reader: Carol Campbell*
*Communion Assistant: Jaye McCrea*
*Usher: Jerry Campbell & Don Menke*
*Coffee Fellowship: Cindy & Jaye McCrea*
*Sunday Counter(s): Charlie Crouch & Mark Ketchie*

***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**
**Welcome**

**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.

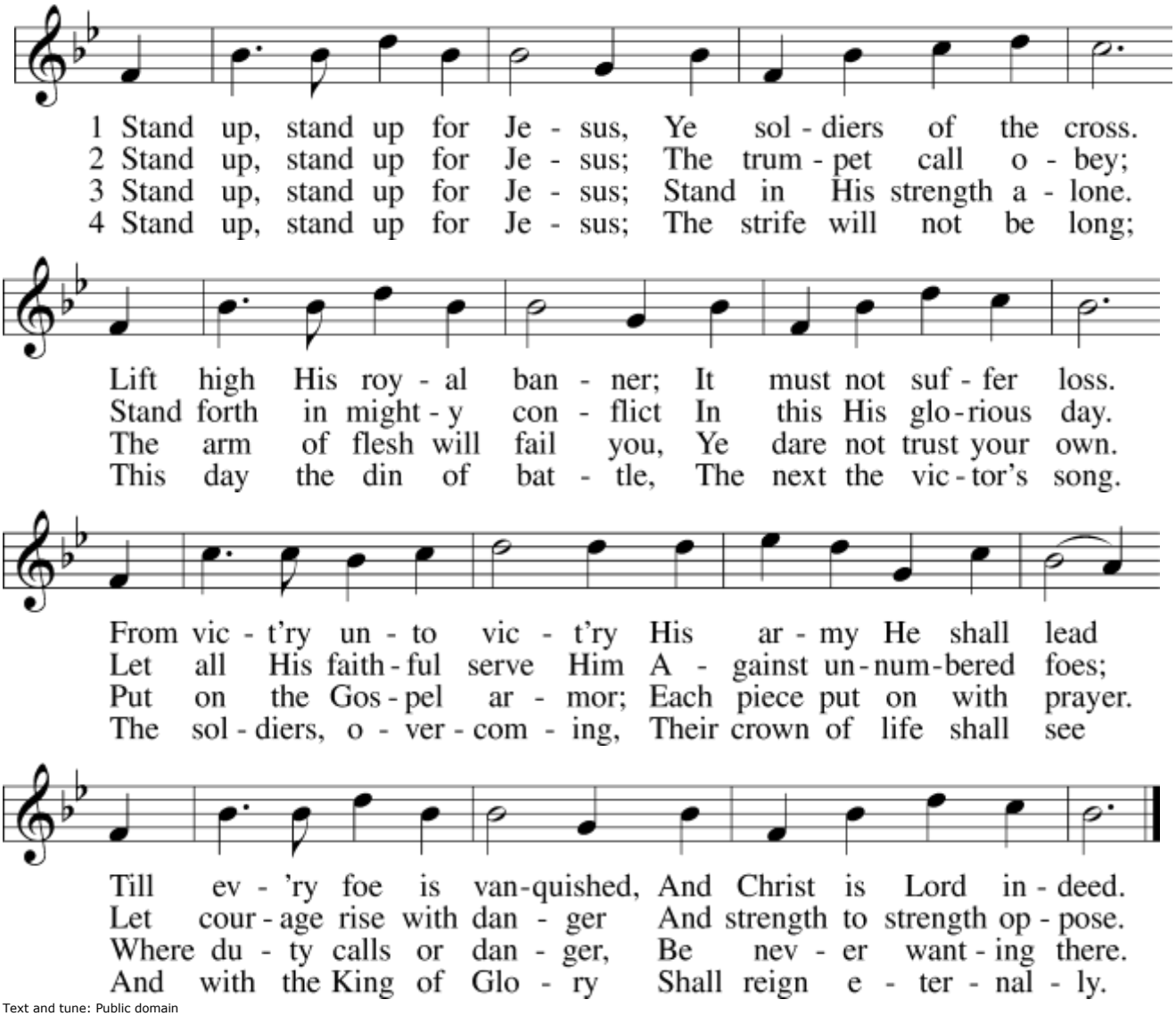
**C**: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your 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 660

### "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"




Text and tune: Public domain

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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: Zephaniah 1:7–16**

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,

they shall not drink wine from them.”
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C**: Thanks be to God**

**The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**
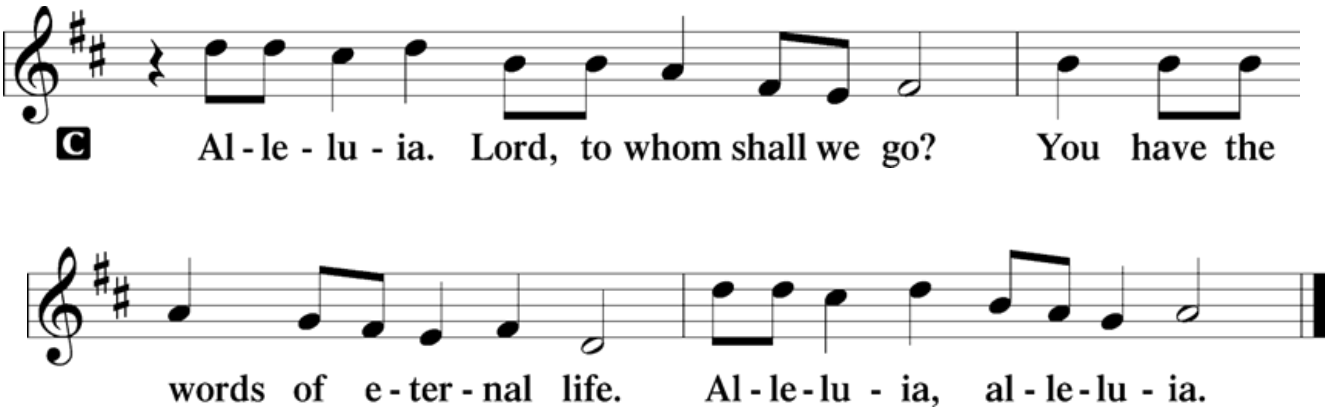
1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not

destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C**: Thanks be to God**

**The Alleluia Verse**




Holy Gospel: **Matthew 25:14–30**

**R**: **The Holy Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 25**

**C**: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[14][Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me
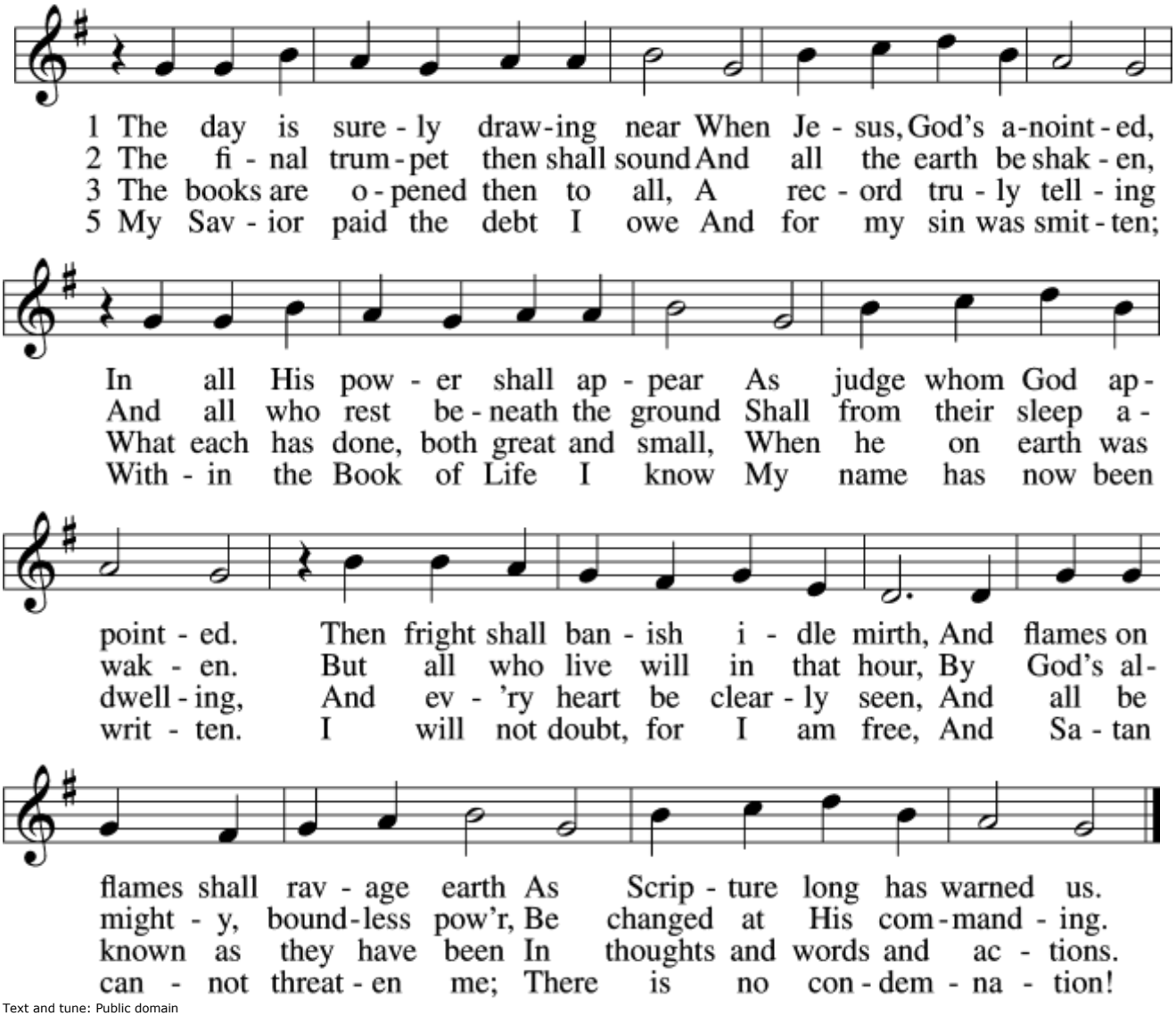
five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ [21]His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little;
I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ [22]And he also
who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to
me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ [23]His master said to
him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a
little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ [24]He also
who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew
you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering
where you scattered no seed, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26]But his master
answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap
where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you
ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I
should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent
from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone
who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the
one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the
worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Sermon Hymn #508 V. 1-3, 5**

## "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"




Text and tune: Public domain

**The Message** **Rev. 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
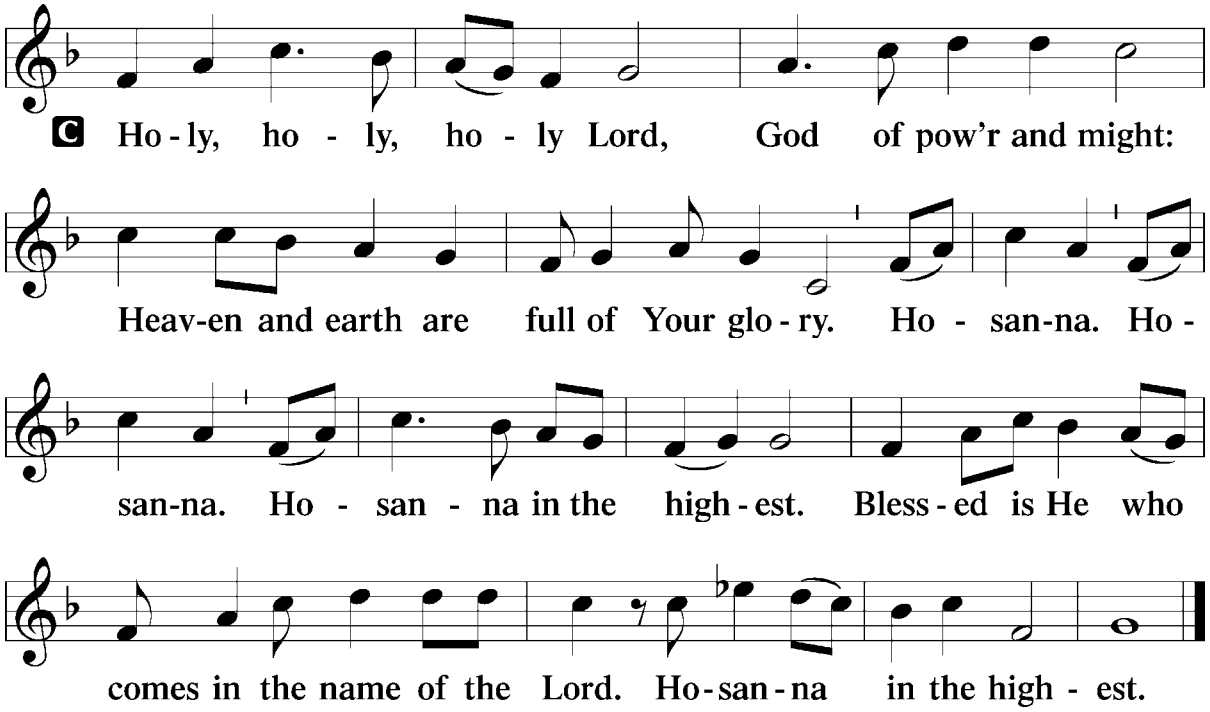
### Preface

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



**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.

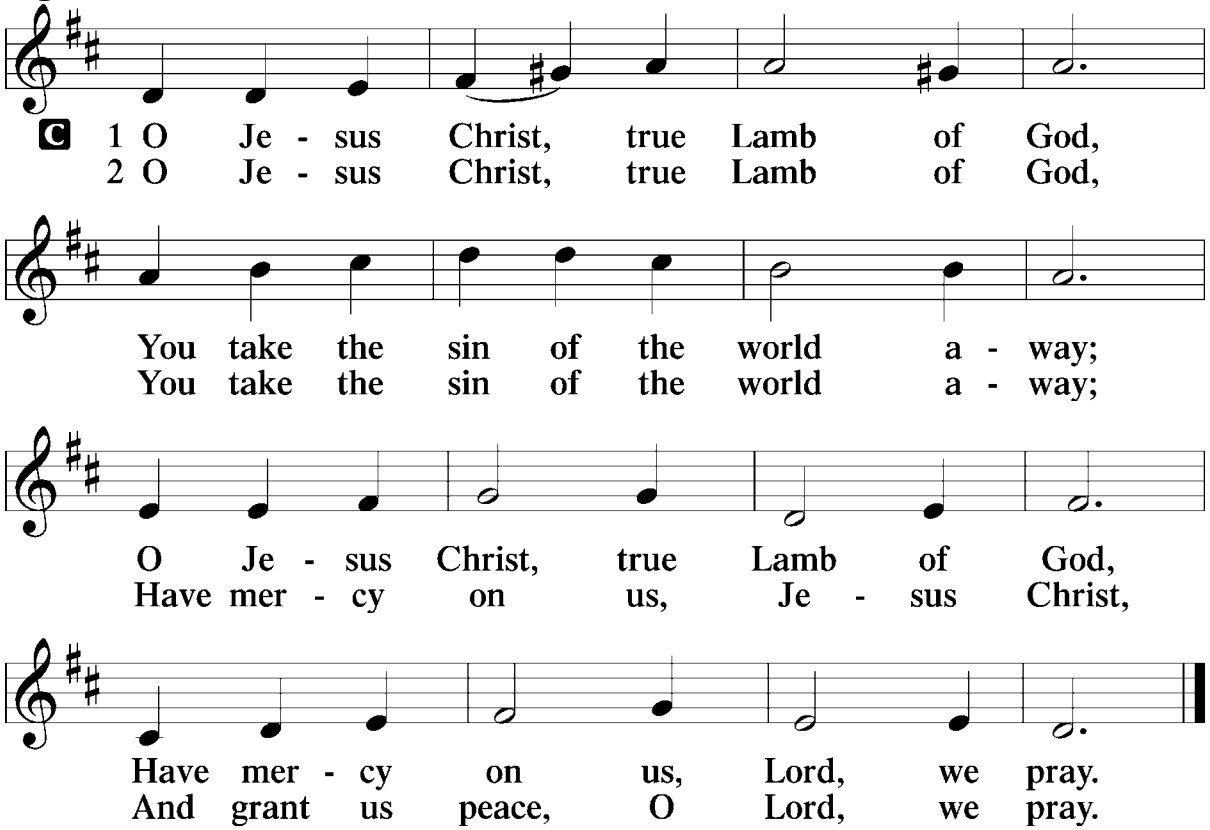
C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pax Domini**

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

C: **Amen.**
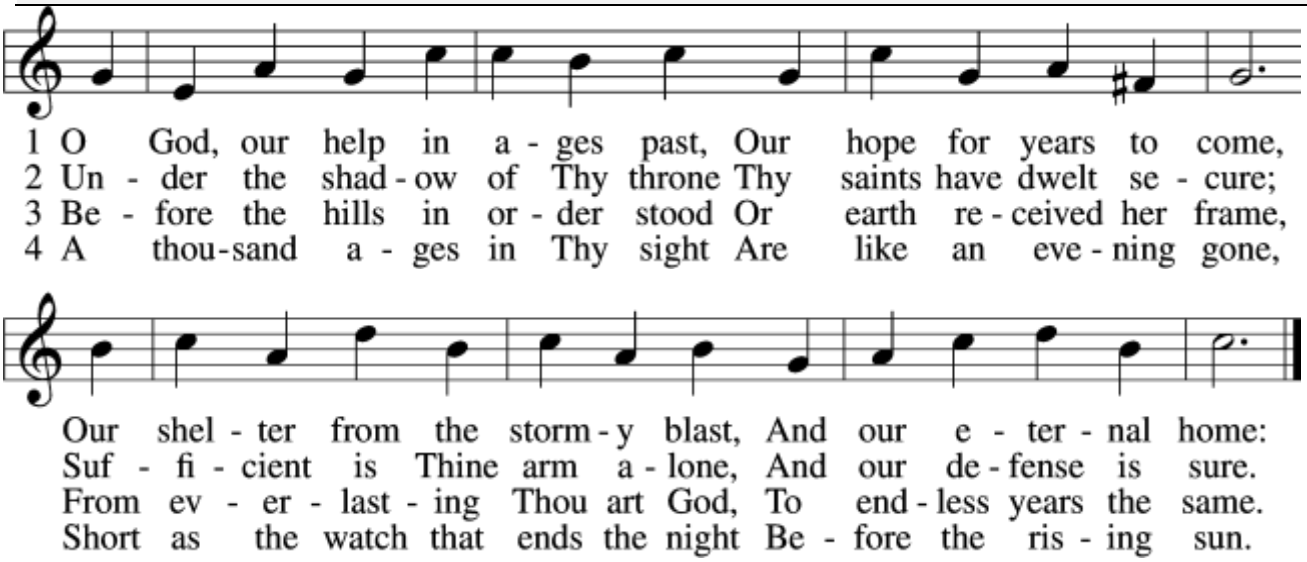
## Agnus Dei




## The Distribution

## Communion Hymn #733

### " O God, Our Help in Ages Past"




5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

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**
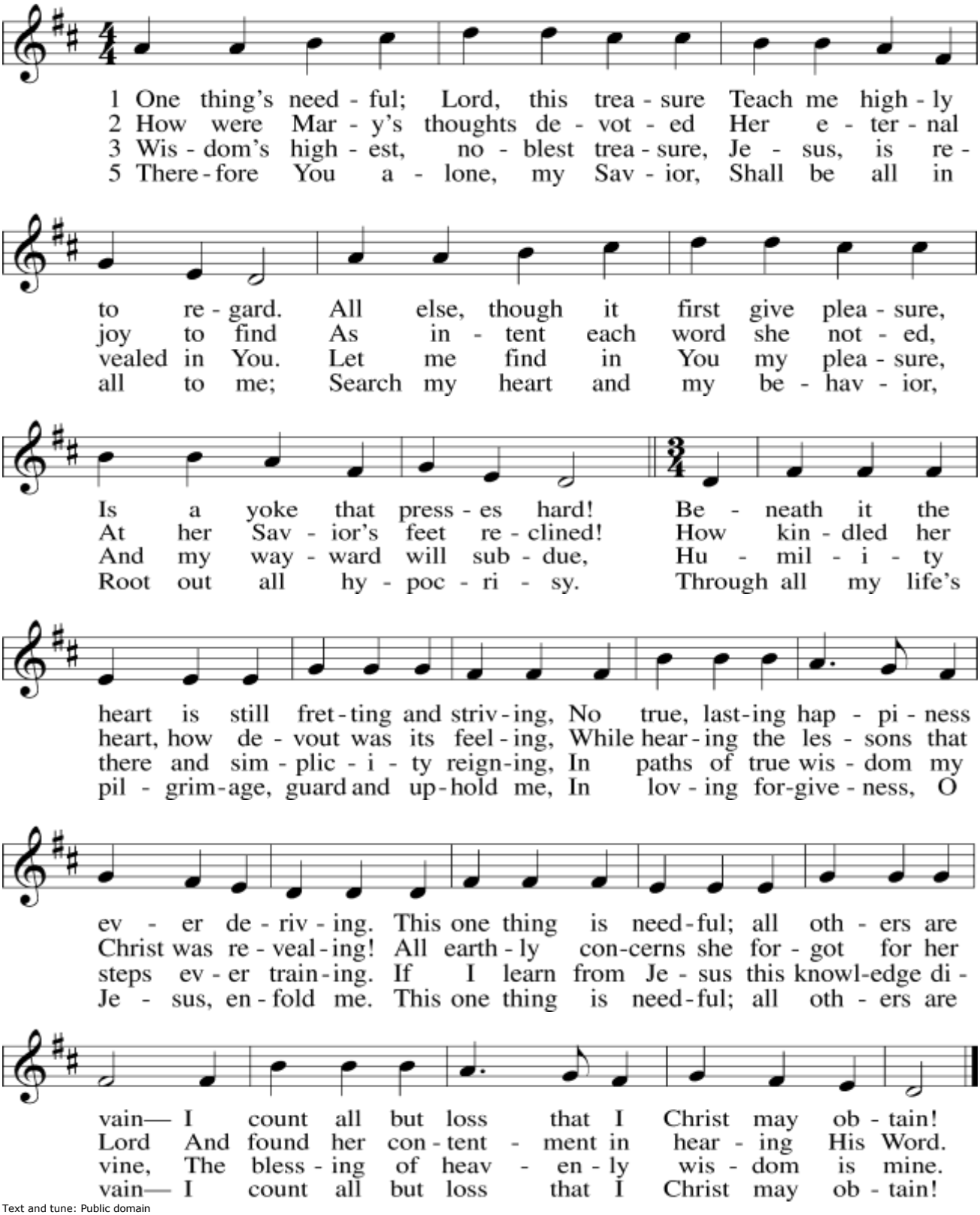
**Benediction**

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 #536 v. 1-3, 5

### "One Thing's Needful"




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 this week.

**Birthdays:**

- 11/15 Donna Crouch
- 11/15 Sandra Kinsella
- 11/25 Harold Sollenberger
- 11/19 Kent Matson
- 11/20 Gustavo Romero
- 11/21 Max Ringer

**Anniversaries:**

- 11/21 Joe & Dawn Moynihan

*Best wishes!*

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Congregational Voters' Meeting | After Worship |
| Tuesday | Women's Bible Class | 10:00 am |
| Wednesday | Zoom Bible Class | 10:30 am |
| Sunday | Choir practice | 9 am |
| Sunday | Children's Bible School | 9 am |
| Sunday | Adult Bible Class | 9 am |
| Sunday | Worship | 10:30 am |
| Sunday | Sandwich Delivery | After Worship |

## Sunday Morning Bible

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 on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for Prayer**

## Women's Bible Study

Join us each **Tuesday at 10:00 AM** in the Conference Room for 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!

**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.

**<u>Upon completion of the transfer process, please inform the church, in writing, of:</u>**

- **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!**

**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.

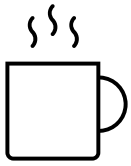
Join me in saying this prayer, or a prayer like this:

> **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.**




**Upcoming Blood Drive dates** are scheduled **Dec 3 and Jan. 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.**

## 🍞 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.

Our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be held
November 25th, 2026 at 7pm.
Hope to see you there!!

*The Church office will be closed for Thanksgiving on 11/26/26.*



Help us beautify our church for the Christmas season! You can purchase a poinsettia plant in honor or memory of a loved one.

- **Cost**: $12 per plant
- **Sign-up**: Please sign up on the blue table.
- **Deadline**: November 24th

Checks payable to Lake Oconee Lutheran Church. *Note **Poinsettia** on memo line.*



### A Morning of Fellowship and Decorating

**Get into the Christmas spirit by joining us for our "Hanging of the Greens."** We will gather at 9 am on Saturday, **December 5th**, to prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many helping hands are needed to bring the festive spirit to life! Come for the fun and stay for the fellowship.

## 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.

## Just a Reminder
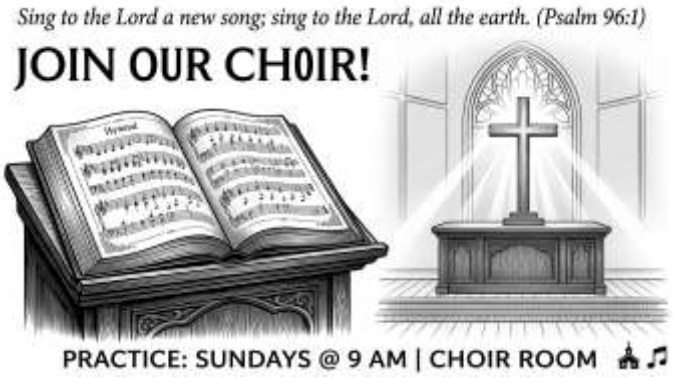


Lake Oconee Lutheran is able to receive gifts by credit card/debit card now. You will find the terminal in the entryway on the shelving near the kitchen. Please be aware that there is a charge to the church for each gift received in this way. **(If you include your name on the form (screen) when it asks, 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.



## Donate Toys

Lake Oconee Lutheran will be joining with the Eatonton Service League to provide toys for local children. The funds and gifts you contribute stay right here in our community. We will provide a box for new toys or senior

gifts. Please place unwrapped items in the box and to be collected by the Service League by **December 8th**. Thank You!




Do you love to sing and praise the Lord? Our Choir is looking for new members to lift their voices in song! No professional experience is necessary—just a heart for worship and fellowship.



**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.

**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.

**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

- Sunday School Teachers

You can call or email the Church Office to 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.




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.

# 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.