



# Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

December 2024

Pastor	Steven Hayden <a href="mailto:revshayden@gmail.com">revshayden@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Marsha Brewster <a href="mailto:officelolc@gmail.com">officelolc@gmail.com</a>
Instrumentalist	Dr. Lev Rybanin
Choir Director	Dr. Youngmi Kim

Sunday Service	10:30 a.m.
1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Morning Worship
Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
Choir	9:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School	10am

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway  
Eatonton, Georgia 31024  
Church Office 706-485-4600

Visit our web site: [www.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we think of the Christmas story, we usually think of a little stable in Bethlehem with a child lying in the manger. We think of shepherds in the fields gazing with jaw-dropping amazement at the sight of angels filling the sky praising and glorifying God. We think of Magi bringing in royal gifts and bowing before the child speaking of a star they have followed. Sometimes we forget that the Christmas story really begins months earlier in a small Galilean village called Nazareth when an angel named Gabriel appeared to a young, unmarried girl and told her that she was pregnant, and not just with any child but with the Son of God!

“How can this be” Mary stutters and stammers in response, “since I am a virgin?” Then Gabriel speaks one of the most amazing and wonderful lines in the entire Christmas story—and one of the most overlooked. **“For nothing is impossible with God.”** (Luke 1:37).

***“Nothing is impossible with God!”*** Think of what this means. It is not some seasonal wish of snowflakes and Happy Holidays which melts away at the first sign of heat. It is a promise and guarantee that changes our lives year around.

***“Nothing is impossible with God!”*** Think of what this means. No matter how dark the night or how impossible the situation seems, we can have hope. Our church, worrying about its future or the mission in Milledgeville, you may be worrying about your health or about your family, we are all wondering what next year will look like. We can have hope!

***“Nothing is impossible with God!”*** If God chooses to intervene in our lives, nothing will stop that intervention. God formed the world by a word. God parted the Red Sea. Jesus turned water into wine and healed the blind, the lame, and the sick. The Spirit empowered Peter and the disciples to speak up for God and brings comfort to those in pain.

We have limitations. God does not! ***“Nothing is impossible with God!”*** This knowledge and confidence is a Christmas gift that lasts all year long.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Steve

### **Upcoming Worship Schedule**

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

Wednesday, Dec 4 Advent Dinner at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, Dec 11 Advent Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1pm

Wednesday, Dec 18 Advent Dinner at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 7pm

Christmas Day Worship with Communion 10am

# LOLC offers Bible Study



## Sunday Morning Bible class

The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, Matthew shows Jesus as the King who desires everyone to be a member of His kingdom.

**Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in the church or on Facebook for Matthew.**

## Mid-Week Bible Class

### **Myth or Faith?**

- The New Testament is more important than the Old Testament.
- Our love for God is the motive for all we do in our lives.
- Prayer changes things.
- We go to church primarily because we get something out of it.

What do we really believe? Better yet, what does the Bible really teach? Join us on Wednesday morning Bible class as we use God's Word to root out myths that often lead to confusion and disagreement in the Church. Join us for **Myth or Faith?** Every Wednesday on Zoom.

## Women's Bible class

"The Women's Bible Study will conclude their study on the Book of Romans, *In View of God's Mercies*, on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, with *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This weekly study will help us discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.

Please join us on for this new study on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am** in the Choir

# Mites

*The Widow's mite of Mark 12: 41-44 is the inspiration for the LWML mite boxes.*



The Ladies of the Church organize mites' collections on a continuous basis. The third Sunday of each

month is the official Mites Sunday after which the monies gathered go to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to support various ministries around the world.

Detailed information is available at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and on Facebook. The third Sunday of the month is designated Mite Sunday, but donations are always welcome.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.

**\$166**

## Coffee & Fellowship



The coffee fellowship that follows the Sunday church service gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors, meet new members and visit each other.

\*We need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.

Look for the signup sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for familiar friendliness of our church family.



## Choir Notes

**The choir meets** for rehearsal every **Sunday at 9 am** in the choir room. You are all invited.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Glenn & Alba Papit who joined our Church on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1000 Shady Dale Way, Greensboro, GA 30642

Glenn – [pipiczinc@gmail.com](mailto:pipiczinc@gmail.com)

Alba – [alp278@outlook.com](mailto:alp278@outlook.com)

## **Volunteers**

- **Altar Care** there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- **Sunday service camera operator.** We will provide training on how to manage it.  
Signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call and/or email.
- **Ushers'** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- **Coffee Fellowship** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- **Little Free Pantry** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- **Scripture readers** You can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list
- **Communion assistants** you can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list
- **Sunday School teachers,** 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.

### **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.

# Opportunities to Serve

## Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Food Ministry

**The goal of The Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry is to respond to the needs of our community through food distribution and support by sharing God's love in Word and action with those most in need.**

We do this in two separate ways:

1. The Bread of Life Food Pantry provides equitable access to food and staples twice per month to those in need in the community.
2. The Little Free Pantry provides emergency food for community members who might have run out of food and have no other means in which to feed themselves or their family.

We also have two different mechanisms by which LOLC members can provide either their time or their donations to help us sustain both important ministries.

- For the Bread of Life Food Pantry cash donations are the best way to support this ministry. We need a certain number of specific items for each distribution and limited storage. You can volunteer your time on the second and fourth Wednesday and Thursdays of the month to either set up the food distribution or distribute the food to those in need.
- For the Little Free Pantry, food and/or cash donations are needed. The food you provide goes directly into the pantry and any cash you provide is used to fill in supplies where we might be running short. You can volunteer your time by checking on the cabinet and filling it up when food supplies run low.

Volunteers may sign up for either or both pantries by signing the sheets provided on the blue table in the narthex.

Because the Little Free Pantry is to be used to fill in what is needed on an emergency basis, we thought it would be helpful to provide a shopping list for those who choose to donate food and a daily distribution list for those who fill up the Little Free Pantry. You will find a handy guide to help you with these important tasks posted on the doors where we keep the Pantry food. Please limit food donations to the items on this list. It can help you when you shop for the pantry or when you fill the pantry with supplies.

As always, we thank you so much for the wondrous gifts you provide for both important ministries.



## American Red Cross

Lake Oconee Lutherans next blood drives will be Dec 5th. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at [kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:kunzpd3@outlook.com)

### Worship Update -- Live streaming

Remember, we are now live streaming our Sunday Bible Class and Worship. This means both services will be broadcast live as they happen on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Facebook or by clicking the button on our website homepage. Join us as we all come together in worship. If you are unable to be online while they are live, do not worry. The recorded services will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the @lakeoconeelutheranchurch page on Facebook or the website. God's blessings to each of you!

## Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



### December Birthdays

- Dec 1 Joshua Ringer
- Dec 3 Virginia Daley
- Dec 3 Ron Schornhorst
- Dec 11 Isaac Ringer
- Dec 12 Jean Page
- Dec 16 Shirley Mai
- Dec 23 Lance Pailer
- Dec 25 Glenn Papit
- Dec 28 Audrey Kunz
- Dec 30 Alison Ringer



### December Anniversaries

- Dec 1 Bill & Amy Stokes
- Dec 24 Glenn & Alba Papit
- Dec 27 Jean & Pat Page
- Dec 28 David & Cindy Plummer

# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service Communion	2	<b>3</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class  Quilt guild 9am	<b>4</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class  Advent soup Service 6:00 - 7:00pm	5	6	<b>7</b> Hanging of the Greens 9am  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service
<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service Council Meeting Non-Communion	9	<b>10</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class	<b>11</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class  Advent soup Service 12:00 – 1:00	<b>12</b> Bread of Life 11:00 am	13	<b>14</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service
<b>15</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service Communion	16	<b>17</b> 10 am Women's Bible Class	<b>18</b> 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class  Advent soup Service 6 -7:00 pm	19	20	<b>21</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service
<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service Non-Communion	23	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service 7pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day Service 10:00</b>	26	27	28
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service Communion	<b>30</b> Quilt of Valor Bee 10am	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>1</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	2	3	<b>4</b> Removal of the greens  <b>5:00 PM</b> Episcopal Church Service