



February 23, 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Story – Chapter 21
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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

Pastor:..... Steven Hayden
Instrumentalist:.....Lev Ryabinin
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Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are
available from the ushers



WE OFFER NURSERY & CHILDCARE

*If you need childcare, please see one of the ushers
and we will happily accommodate you.*

Elder of the Month: Kathie Kueven

Ushers: Janis Lipacis & Steve Wiker

Greeters: Kayleen Ringer & Joan Lucas

Altar Care: Donna Crouch & Donna Hansen

*Ana Marie Lipacis & Shirley Mai wish to invite you for refreshments
after the worship service*

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

Instrumental Prelude

Lev Ryabinin

Welcome

Please Stand

(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)

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.

Please be seated

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 589 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten
3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,
to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,
spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward
Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with
Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who
light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!
feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.
sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with

the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; 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 Old Testament Lesson: Nehemiah 1:1-9 **Reader: Peggy Uehlin**

R: **1** The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislew, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the capital, **2** that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. **3** And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." **4** As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. **5** And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **6** let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. **7** We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. **8** Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, **9** but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.'

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-14 **Reader: Peggy Uehlin**

R: **8** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** But the

day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please Stand

Common Alleluia and 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: Mark 1:1-8

Reader: Peggy Uehlin

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, the first chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me

comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 645 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Built on the Rock



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His



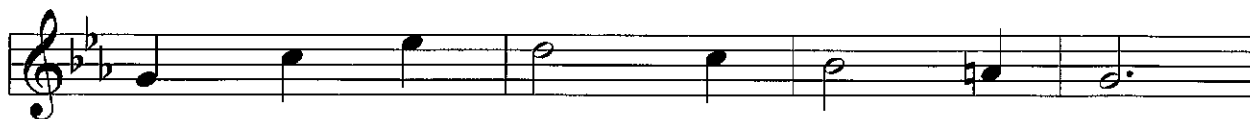
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.

The Message

Pastor Steve Hayden

Please Stand

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.

Please be seated

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.

Instrumental Anthem:

Lev Ryabinin

Please stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

The image shows musical notation for the hymn 'Create in Me'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -' are placed below the treble staff. A square box containing the letter 'C' is positioned at the beginning of the first line of music.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Our Offering Pledge

C: We pause in our worship, to rededicate ourselves, our time, talents, and treasure, to the service of Christ our Savior. We remember also our responsibility of friendliness to and concern for our fellow-worshippers, for those who are absent, and for our unchurched friends and neighbors. May the Holy Spirit help us to witness for Christ, in whatever way He directs us during the coming days.

Celebration of Charter of Lake Oconee Lutheran Church- Feb. 11, 2001

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 make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 644 in the Lutheran Service Book)

The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.

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Announcements Birthdays & Anniversaries

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 this week:

- Monday, February 24th – Leroy Horst
- Tuesday, February 25th – Kathy Stallings
- Wednesday, February 26th – Alan Oberdeck

and anniversaries - No anniversaries to report this week

Best wishes!

ALTAR CARE: We are approaching the season of the church year with many important services. Please consider that it is during this time we especially need help. Take a look at the sign-up sheet on the back wall of the church and fill in a blank space to help. Thanks to all of you who have helped in the past year, you have made our worship to God beautiful and meaningful. – *Donna Crouch*

THE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP committee thanks everyone who served snacks after church in January and February. Kathy Stallings will serve as coordinator for March and Peggy Uehlin will serve as coordinator for April. Please sign up if you can serve snacks in March or April. It is easier if we have 2 servers each week.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday	“MIRACLES of Jesus” Bible class Onsite visit of Intern Supervisor Ash Wednesday Service	10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	ECR Bible Study ECR Service	3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Adult Bible Class Choir Practice Worship Service	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.



MIRACLES BIBLE CLASS: “It’s a miracle!” Many don’t know what miracles really are or question whether they exist. Miracles are an important part of Jesus’ ministry, and we can benefit from studying them. But what are they? These miracles reveal our Savior to us. We see Him as God in human flesh who cares for His people in all of their needs. His miracles demonstrate His love. Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30am in Bible class.

HISTORIC PEWS & PULPITS RAMBLE: Join in a scenic bus tour through rural east Georgia. The tour will visit historic churches tucked away but not forgotten (see their website and/or bulletin board flyer for specific churches/counties). Snacks & lunch are included. Tickets for the March 21, 2020 ARE ON SALE NOW. You can purchase tickets by calling 1-800-838-3006 or online at this link: <https://pewsandpulpits.bpt.me/>.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held on Wednesday February 26th at 7:00 p.m. (no supper).



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & SERVICE will be held each Wednesday starting the week on March 4th. The Soup Supper begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m. Signup sheets are on the sanctuary back wall.



HARMONY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND On Sunday, January 26, 2020 Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, during a congregational meeting, voted to purchase the Harmony Community Association land and building that borders GA 44 and our east parking lot for \$349,000. We will be applying for a

mortgage for the purchase. Lake Oconee Lutheran is planning on using the facility as a base for community outreach, to further our mission of being a "Family of Spirit filled Servants". We believe that this additional land will not just increase our physical footprint in terms of lot size, but that God will use it to increase His spiritual presence and footprint on our community. If you desire and are able to make an "over and above" contribution toward this purchase and mission, please write out a check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church to the attention of Financial Secretary. On the memo line please write Harmony land purchase. Any special gifts received will go to decreasing our mortgage. May God bless us as we follow Him in serving those around us.

SOUPER BOWL MONTH is celebrated in different way at Putnam Christian Outreach. They already have plenty of soup, but they'd love some hearty sides to go with the soup. Let's end February with large donations of biscuit mix, cornbread mix and crackers. Please place them in the baskets with all other PCO donations.



NEW LOLC WEBSITE: Our new website, www.lakeoconeelutheran.org, is up and running. Please bookmark this new address in your Internet browser for easy access. If you go to the old website by accident, it will forward you to the new website automatically.

The website has a section for Members and Friends of the Congregation. To find it, scroll down to the blue section at the bottom of the page and click "For Members." This section includes our Membership Directory and the current prayer list for you to access. The membership directory portion of the website is locked for privacy. Contact the church office for the password.

Other information including our bulletins and newsletters are under the "what is happening" tab. Please take some time and explore the new website!

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.



Chapter 21

The Story: Rebuilding the Walls

“The Story” Chapter 21; Malachi 3:6-17

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.

“On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. Malachi 3:17

Adult and teen small group discussion points

1. What’s the most extensive remodeling or construction project you have been involved in?
2. Ezra was “well versed” and “learned” (pp. 291-292) in God’s Word. Share with your group who has been your most influential Bible teacher and why.
3. Ezra had devoted himself to studying God’s Word and following what it teaches (Ezra 7:1-10; “The Story,” pp. 291-292). How did Ezra’s commitment to God’s Word shape his life and ministry? Why is it so important that we do more than just know the content of the Bible but actually obey what it teaches?
4. God worked through King Artaxerxes to send the exiles back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and reestablish worship (Ezra 7:11-28; “The Story,” pp. 293-294). How have you seen God use surprising people and circumstances to accomplish his will in this world?
5. Nehemiah was a man of prayer (Nehemiah 1,4,6; “The Story,” pp. 294-299). What situations led Nehemiah to pray and what do we learn from his example?
6. Nehemiah’s enemies tried to use the false prophet Shemaiah to distract him from the rebuilding project. How do you determine if a message is from God or another source?
7. Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. He challenged the people to give God their first and best, not their last and leftovers (Mal. 1:6-10, 3:6-12; “The Story,” pp. 302-304). What are some ways we give God our leftovers rather than our first and best?
8. The prophet Malachi was sent to correct the priests and the people (p. 301- 303). What were they doing that dishonored God?
9. When the people of God heard the Word of God read, and had it explained, they moved into action. In this case, they reestablished the Feast of Tabernacles. Tell of a time you read the Bible or heard a message that you were moved to action because of what God taught you.

Close in prayer.

Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse: *Don’t be afraid of your enemies. Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful.—Nehemiah 4:141.*

1. When the walls around Jerusalem were completed, the people celebrated. Ezra read God’s law to them from sunrise to noon (Nehemiah 8:3). Why do you think he did that?
2. What’s the longest you’ve ever been in church? What did you do?
3. After Ezra spoke, the people went away and celebrated with great joy, because they now understood God’s Word. Why did they react this way?
4. Do you think knowing God’s Word better, would help you (like it did for the people in Ezra’s time?) How can you learn God’s Word?

Family Activity: When Nehemiah learned that God’s people were in great trouble and disgraced, he wept. He didn’t want God’s people to suffer. He wanted them to be safe and protected.

Sit down with your family and brainstorm ideas on what you could do to make God’s people safer in your area. You could:

Extend a hand to a friend in trouble

Find a project to work on at school, church or in your neighborhood

There are tons of other ideas. Concentrate on ideas that will keep God's people safe, and then ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to make these ideas a reality. You may need to include another family from church or the whole congregation.

Dream big. Nehemiah did, and God helped him accomplish his goal quickly.

Pray together: Lord, help us to remember that you are on our side, and that you proved it by sending Jesus to die and rise for us. Fill us with your Spirit, and lead us to your Word. Amen.

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: Luke 1:38

Day 1 – Chapter 22 of "The Story"

Day 2 – Luke 1 & Matthew 1

Day 3 – Luke 2

Day 4 – Matthew 2

Day 5 – John 1:1-14

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



God Writes His Word on our Lives, Building Us into a Family Engaged in Spirit-filled Service

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Eatonton, GA