



# Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

February 2026

Pastor	Steven Hayden <a href="mailto:revshayden@gmail.com">revshayden@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Cheri Kitchens <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.  
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,

On Sunday mornings our Adult Bible class has been Exploring the Old Testament. The study of the Old 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.

It is easy to 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.

So, I would like to continue in that theme through our Lenten Wednesday worship. Most of us know that Jesus is the King of kings. But there are other kings we read about in the Scriptures. The Books of Chronicles are focused on the kings from the line of David. The goal of Chronicles is to illustrate, through the kings of Judah, the rule of the coming King—the Christ, who will sit on the throne of his father David forever. In other words, we see put the kingdom of Christ into clearer focus through the lens of the good kings (mostly) of Judah as they are portrayed in the Chronicles. Join us as we learn how each king is a shadow of the one true King, Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of the promise, which each king was unable to realize.

Join us on Wednesdays every Wednesday during Lent for **Chronicles of the King** and our Lenten worship and meals.

Our Lenten Wednesdays begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continue each week through March 25.

- February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- February 25, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm
- March 4, 2026: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- March 11, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm
- March 18, 2026: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- March 25, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm

If you'd like to contribute soup, bread, or dessert, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the blue table in the narthex. Your help makes these meals a warm and welcoming time of fellowship.

Pastor Steve

*Pastor Steve*

## Announcements

# LOLC offers Bible Study



### 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 group is in a study of the book of Proverbs. *The Way of Wisdom* considers principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence, and more. We will discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world.

**All women are invited to join Women's Bible Study each Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Council Room.**

### Sunday Morning Bible class

The study of the Old 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 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 every Sunday morning at 9am in person in the church sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook and our website, for "Exploring God's Old Testament".**

## **Mid-Week Bible Class**

Zoom Bible Study classes are set to resume on **February 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM**. We're looking forward to starting a new lesson and welcome everyone to join us online for learning and connection. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate!



## **Flower Donations for Sunday Worship**

Thank you to everyone who donates flowers.

- If you'd like your donation mentioned in the bulletin, please fill out the sign-up sheet on the blue table with all desired details (e.g., in memory or honor of someone).
- Please do not include lilies in your arrangements, as a member has a severe allergy.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

## **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!

# Choir Notes

## 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.

# 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. Due to the weather we did not have a Mites collection in January.



# 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 are thankful for familiar friendliness of our church family.

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

Look for the signup sheet in the narthex or register on Sign-Up Genius (see link below under the [Volunteers Needed](#) heading.)

### **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.

### **Sandwich Ministry**

**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 **February 15, 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 February 15 delivery.

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

## 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

Here is a link to Sign-up Genius (Ctrl + Click to navigate to site.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A4A723A5FBC25-57931584-sunday>

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.
- ❖ Ushers' 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.



## **25th Anniversary Celebration**

For the past twenty-five years, the Lord has guided our congregation in obedience to His Word and strengthened us for lives of service in His name. We are grateful for the abundant blessings He has poured out on us, and we give thanks for the bountiful harvest within our community. As we approach our 25th anniversary in February 2026, we reflect on the blessings we have received and look forward to what the future holds.

### **Commemorative Photo Collection**

In honor of this milestone, we are gathering photographs that capture moments from the life of our church. If you have photos you would like to share, please email digital copies to Pam Kunz at [kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:kunzpd3@outlook.com) or place them in Pam's folder to be scanned and returned. If submitting physical photos, please note your name on the back so the photo can be returned to you.

### **Connecting with Former Congregants**

We are also seeking to reconnect with former members of our congregation who have moved away from the community. If you have any current contact information for these individuals, please share it to help us reach out to them.

## **25th Anniversary Celebration Lunch**

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a special luncheon on **Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 12:00 PM**. The meal will be catered.

## Please RSVP:

- Sign up on the blue table in the entryway
- Email the church office at [officelolc@gmail.com](mailto:officelolc@gmail.com)
- Call the church office at 706-485-4600

When signing up, please provide the number of people in your party so we can plan accordingly. Let's join together in gratitude and fellowship as we celebrate 25 years of blessings and service.

## 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.

# Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



## February Birthdays

- 02/01 Ralph Kunz
- 02/03 Carol Campbell
- 02/03 Kayleen Ringer
- 02/11 Charles Crouch
- 02/12 Mark Ketchie
- 02/12 Angelique Sporado
- 02/13 Jerry Pailer
- 02/16 Connie Saner
- 02/20 Margie Heimer
- 02/24 Jimmy Etheridge
- 02/25 Kathleen Stallings
- 02/26 Alan Oberdeck

## February Anniversaries

- None this month

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting**  
**January 11, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost. Pastor Steve led us in prayer.

Margaret Pedersen was absent and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the December 12, 2025, council meeting were approved.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**VP/Personnel:** Pam Kunz – No report.

**Treasurer:** Kathie Kueven – The December Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Year-to-date income was up \$87,065 due to a strong December while year-to-date expenses were \$20,154 higher than budget for a year-to-date budget surplus of \$66,911. A prayer of thanksgiving was given by Pastor Steve. Pastor Steve pointed out that \$15,000 from the 2025 Evangelism budget should have been transferred to the Milledgeville ministry. This was not done. Pastor asked for a motion to move \$50,000 of the year-to-date surplus, which includes the \$15,000 from the budget, to the Milledgeville Ministry account. This was tabled until after Mike Joost gave an update later in the meeting.

**Financial Secretary:** Walter Krause – The financial reports for December were distributed and discussed. Year-to-date December donations were up \$34,351 due to higher member gifts. Total Other contributions were down \$5,866 due to the difference in Bread of Life and Milledgeville contributions which were \$66,745 in 2024 versus \$22,000 in 2025.

**Congregation Secretary:** Carol Campbell – No report.

**Christian Education:** Margaret Pedersen – Absent. No report.

**Church Properties:** Mark Dentler – We put new bulbs in the outdoor sign. A group of volunteers took down the Christmas decorations. Mike, Barney and Mark met with Chris Adams from Fortis Site Works who is doing the sewer line from the new subdivision to Highway 44. They want to use a six-foot easement from the church property (running alongside the entry street in the vacant lot of trees opposite Sherwin Williams) to run the water and sewer line and need our approval to do so. No trees need to be removed to do this and there will be no cost to the church. In exchange for this easement, we have asked Fortis to help us with the community center connection to the water and sewer line. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow Fortis to run a water and sewer line along Thunder Road to Highway 44 using a six-foot easement from the church.

**Lay Ministry:** Don Menke – No report.

**Christian Service/Outreach:** Kayleen Ringer – We will provide easter baskets for those children in foster care again this year. The blood drive did not reach its goal this month. We had 34 donations this month.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Hayden – Pastor will be on vacation February 1-13. Pastor Artelt will fill in on the two Sundays he is gone. Lent starts on February 18, and we will be organizing soup suppers for Lenten services. Pastor also thanked all who helped in Christmas services and in the decorating and undecorating of the church.

**Old Business:**

**Milledgeville Update:** Dr. Ringer has worked with the contractor to finalize the costs for the renovation and will be moving forward to seek financing.

**Carol Dunn Estate** – Mike Joost received the financial bequest information from the Carol Dunn estate. The estate bequeathed stock and equity in many companies to the church. Mike will call the financial advisor who set up our new equity account to determine how best to move forward with either liquidating or holding on to the equity. A motion was made, seconded and approved to move \$50,000 from the 2025 operating budget surplus to the Milledgeville ministry account as discussed under the

Treasurer's Report.

**LOLC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Pam is still working on plans for the luncheon to be held on February 21. We will have an event at 12 noon, which will include a small thanksgiving devotional service, a meal, and time to see the memorabilia and pictures from our congregational history.

**New Business:**

**Milledgeville Call Committee** – A call committee is being organized, and we currently have 4 people who have volunteered to serve on the committee. Carol Campbell volunteered to serve on the committee.

**Photo of LOLC Council and Elders for Website** – A photo of the council and board of elders was taken after the church service.

The meeting was adjourned followed by a special prayer by Pastor Steve and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Carol Campbell  
Congregational Secretary

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2025

	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Restricted Fund Balances</u>
<b>INCOME</b>							
General Fund	38,590	99,858	-61,268	432,082	413,423	18,659	A/P
Debt Reduction	0	770	-770	0	8,790	-8,790	Memorials
Memorial Fund	0	200	-200	0	2,700	-2,700	OCC Fund
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	Little FP
Special Fund Income	0	29,376	-29,376	0	94,234	-94,234	M-of-M
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>\$38,590</b>	<b>\$130,204</b>	<b>-\$91,614</b>	<b>\$432,082</b>	<b>\$519,147</b>	<b>-\$87,065</b>	<b>Mville Min.</b>
							DOT Funds
							LOYA
							TOTAL
							\$1,450
							\$276,880
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Pastor Expense	16,042	16,481	-439	192,503	194,791	-2,288	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,612	3,091	-479	31,350	29,852	1,498	District
Property Expense	6,925	5,588	1,337	83,100	69,223	13,877	P/R
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,272	2,054	218	27,269	26,969	300	BANK BALANCES:
Education Expense	142	94	48	1,700	961	739	Bank South
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	424	1,468	22,700	3,290	19,410	BS CD
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	360	358	2	Anderson
Fellowship Expense	175	85	90	2,100	1,291	809	Comm. Ctr.
Mission Expense (District)	9,900	18,635	-8,735	39,600	41,298	-1,698	Bread of Life
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mortensen
Other Expenses	2,617	26,137	-23,520	31,400	84,203	-52,803	Exchange CD
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$42,577</b>	<b>\$72,589</b>	<b>-\$30,012</b>	<b>\$432,082</b>	<b>\$452,236</b>	<b>-\$20,154</b>	<b>B-O-L M/S</b>
							TOTAL
							\$858,532.13
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$3,987</b>	<b>57,615</b>	<b>-\$61,602</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$66,911</b>	<b>-\$66,911</b>	

**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2025

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Activity	Y-T-D Difference
<b>INCOME</b>						
Rental Income	1,000.00	1279.47	279.47	12,000.00	17,034.34	-5034.34
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,279.47</b>	<b>279.47</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>17,034.34</b>	<b>-5034.34</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Rental Refunds	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.00	4,871.13	-4,871.13
Utilities	250.00	141.00	109.00	3,000.00	3,729.00	-729.00
Pest Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	186.00	-186.00
Yard Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Janitorial	420.00	420.00	0.00	5,565.00	5,250.00	315.00
Operating Supplies	33.33	0.00	33.33	400.00	392.17	7.83
Repair & Maintenance	83.33	0.00	83.33	1,000.00	340.61	659.39
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.33	0.00	178.33	2,140.00	0.00	2,140.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>964.99</b>	<b>1,061.00</b>	<b>-96.01</b>	<b>12,105.00</b>	<b>14,768.91</b>	<b>-2,663.91</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>35.01</b>	<b>218.47</b>	<b>375.48</b>	<b>-105.00</b>	<b>2,265.43</b>	<b>-2,370.43</b>
Bank Balance	<b>\$12,401.84</b>					
Accounts Payable	<b>\$0.00</b>					

**TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND**  
 11/30/25

	<u>Period</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Income</b>					
Interest Income	<u>295.73</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>295.73</u>	<u>3,704.16</u>	<u>3,704.16</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$295.73</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$295.73</b>	<b>\$3,704.16</b>	<b>\$3,704.16</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCE Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Income less Expenses:</b>	<b>\$295.73</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$295.73</b>	<b>\$3,704.16</b>	<b>\$3,704.16</b>
<b>Bank Balance:</b>	<b>\$130,837.23</b>				

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	2	3 10 am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	4	5 11 Blood Drive	6	7
8 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Council Meeting	9	10 9am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	11	12 11 Bread of Life	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	16	17 10 am Women's Bible Class President's Day	18 Ash Wednesday 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Lent Service	19	20	21 Noon 26 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Lunch
22 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Elders Meeting	23	24 10 am Women's Bible Class	25 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Noon Soup Lunch 1 pm Lent Service	26	27	28