



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

January 2022

Pastor Steven Hayden
revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary Sonya Plunkett
officelolc@gmail.com

Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin
lryabinin@gmail.com

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Holy Communion
2nd & 4th 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


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ear Friends in Christ,

It's a new year! Not only do we turn over a page on the calendar, but we also begin a whole new calendar. For many, a new year brings promise of a new start, with all the excitement that brings. However, we also know that sometimes it's hard to have such an optimistic view.

The bills from over-spending at Christmas are starting to come in, and there's no more money now than there was a month ago. That person that you have conflicted with is still the same old hard-to-get-along-with person he/she was before. The news is still full of the ongoing existence of a virus that threatens not only our health, but our economy. Then there's the problem of the extra ten pounds you put on due to all the goodies you consumed. None of this is new. The calendar may say January 2022, but only the date is new.

Even the Preacher of Ecclesiastes moaned that there's nothing new.



“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Jeremiah, the “Weeping Prophet” had his troubles too. He wrote,

“I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.” (Lamentations 3:19-20).

But Jeremiah had another perspective, one that we should adopt as well. He follows those words with these.

“Yet this will I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:21-23)

Instead of looking around us at our own circumstances or inside ourselves where there is no hope or inspiration, let us look at God’s unfailing compassion and His blessings which He pours out on us daily. Let us spend our prayer time in thanks for all He has done for us and provided for us, rather than in lamenting our sorry state. Let us look to His wisdom to manage His gifts to us in a wiser manner so that we might please Him and be of service in His Kingdom. Especially let us thank Him for the gift of forgiveness and the new start He gives to us minute by minute.

Pastor Steve

Thank you very much to all who sent us cards, gave us gifts, remembered us in your prayers or otherwise made us feel loved and cared for this Christmas season and at the passing of Pastor's father. We always feel encouraged and supported by your love.

Pastor and Linda Hayden

Welcome to 2022

As we welcome in the new year let's take a moment to introduce you to your fellow church members who give of their time and energy to make sure that things at our church are taken care of and needs are met.

Church Council: These are your fellow members who will tend to the business of "running" the church in 2022. They have been elected to their position at the December church meeting.

President – Tom Mathson – oversees overall operations of church

Vice President – Mike Joost – in charge of all personnel matters (and also provides leadership in electronic matters such as internet, computers, video streaming, lights, equipment, etc.).

Financial Secretary – Walter Krause – Walter handles all incoming monies and keeps confidential records of giving.

Treasurer – Kathie Kueven – takes care of paying all the bills and prepares reports to keep everyone informed of our bank balances and how the money received is spent.

Congregational Secretary – Larry Davis – keeps records of all board and congregational meetings and keeps congregation informed of what is happening.


Church Properties – Barney Ross – Barney has a big job; he sees that everything is kept in good repair and up to date. He has a never-ending job just handling routine building repairs, property management (and critters in the attic).

Lay Ministry – Joe Peeples – Joe is the head elder and, as such, is the elders' Liaison to the board. Joe also contacts pastors to fill in when Pastor Steve is absent.

Christian Education – Joshua Ringer – Josh is in charge of our Sunday School and children's programs.

Christian Service/Outreach – Margaret Pederson – Margaret also has a very big job arranging all our outreach and fellowship projects. This includes Little Free Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Mission of the Month projects and all our fellowship dinners and events.

Hopefully, this list will give you a good idea of who to contact if you have questions, suggestions, complaints or want to volunteer to help in any way.



Elders: These are the people who oversee assisting the Pastor in caring for our spiritual life.

Joseph Peeples – Chairperson of Elders
Virginia Daley
Barney Ross
Kathie Kueven
Mark Ketchie
Don Menke
Ed Fritch

There is a picture of each elder, along with the names of the church members who they care for, on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the kitchen. If you are not sure who your elder is, please check the lists.

Elders work to assure that your spiritual needs are being met and are often your voice to the Pastor with cares and concerns. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on your elder to discuss with them confidentially so your concerns may be handled in the proper manner. Your elders continue to pray for you and your family and should be kept informed of any special needs you may have. If someone in your family is ill, about to undergo any medical procedures or in the hospital, PLEASE let your elder know about it as soon as you can.

All these people all work very hard “behind the scenes” for you and for our church. Please keep them in your prayers and be sure to thank them from time to time.



LOLC,

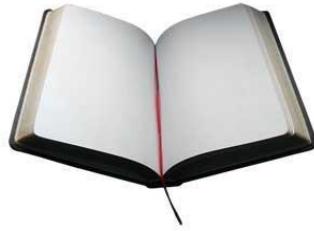
I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your generous gifts this Christmas. It makes my day that much brighter coming in and finding small gifts on my desk in the morning. In the past 14 or so months I have been with LOLC I have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you face to face or have talked to you on the phone, and some I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, but you have all made me feel loved and welcomed. I am so delighted that I have found a home here within your congregation. I wish you all a wonderful, healthy, and prosperous 2022.

Sincerely,
Sonya Plunkett
Church Secretary

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. 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. God's blessings to each of you!

LOLC offers Bible Study and Ministry



Stephen's Ministry

Class

Stephen Ministers are members of Lake Oconee Lutheran church who have been extensive training and provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists.

If you or someone you know of are hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Virginia Daley, 706-485-3564. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.



Mid - Week Bible

A psalm is a song or poem distinguished by its devotional character and deep piety. It is the faith of the Old Testament set to music, a poem springing from an encounter with God. It is worship literature. The book of Psalms, as we know it, was not made-it grew, just as our hymnals were not made but grew as person after person through the centuries expressed deep spiritual experiences in poetic form.

Christ loved the psalms. Raised as a Jewish boy, He was nourished on the psalms of His people. The psalms were read and sung in His home. He heard them in the synagogue. Later, at His Baptism, His vocation as Messiah was affirmed with Ps. 2:7, "You are My Son." In the night in which He was betrayed, after Jesus instituted the Last Supper, He and the eleven sang a hymn before going to the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30). On the cross, when His agony was greatest, Jesus used the words of David (Ps. 22:1) to express the horror of forsakenness. On Easter evening, when Jesus startled the eleven by His sudden appearance, He declared that everything written about Him in the psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44).

Most people who know anything about the Bible know a few "literary gems" from the Psalms. But if you are not satisfied with a few oft-quoted verses, then come to a full banquet. You are invited to sit down at the table and enjoy the spiritual food found in the Psalms. Real people, who had real problems and joys, wrote the Psalms. Just as God spoke to the writers of the Psalms, so He speaks to you today.

Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom for our Bible study on the Book of Psalms – Conversations with God. **No class until Jan 26th.**



Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

The Book of Esther is a wonderful, true story of God watching over His people and delivering them from certain death. It tells the tale of the young, beautiful Jewish girl, who by God's gracious providence became queen of Persia. With Mordecai, her protective and loving cousin, Esther saves her people by exposing a cruel plot to exterminate the Jews remaining in Persia, who chose not to return to the Promised Land.

Although God is never mentioned in the book, He is not hard to find in the many “coincidences,” ironic twists, and reversals recorded therein. Some interpreters have gone so far as to say that God, even in His apparent absence, is the book’s main character. Working behind the scenes, God inspires faith in His gracious promises and enables His children to accomplish extraordinary things on behalf of their neighbor.

The Book of Esther is a powerful reminder that God is faithful to His promises and raises up deliverers for His people. **Join us every Sunday morning at 9 am**, either in person in the Sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook, for [Esther, For Such a Time as This](#).

Women’s Bible Class

Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply: Receive God's Overflowing Gifts, from best-selling author Deb Burma, is a celebration of the camaraderie, companionship, and comfort found in getting coffee with a friend. It's about more than just the warm beverage; it's about spending quality time together.

This Bible study is designed to draw women closer to their Savior. Each session is based off a coffee-themed item, such as latte, java, or mocha, and contains a coffee shop recipe, discussion questions, and group activities. Women will learn to savor the sweetness of Jesus' abundant gifts for them.

Children’s Sunday School

TBD. Still looking for volunteers

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson, followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Hayden.

President Tom Mathson opened with an update on the camera security system and new lighting system for the livestream Facebook production. The security cameras are now working in the church and community center. The new lighting to enhance the livestream production is working, eliminating the need for cords in the front of the church.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- no report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven-It was noted that the monthly treasurers report is published in the weekly newsletter for review. Giving is behind budget YTD, however expenses are below budget YTD, providing a positive cashflow of \$9K.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- no report

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report **Church Properties:** Barney Ross -- The lights in the parking lot have been replaced with brighter LED lights. In 2022, we are looking into replacing the bushes in the front of the church, and the steeple needs cleaned.

Lay Ministry: Joe Peeples- no report

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- Looking for volunteers to help with Childrens Sunday School. Speak with Josh or Pastor to volunteer.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen-Provided an update on Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to all who donated and volunteered for the packing party and the eight people who traveled to the Duluth Processing Center which processed 1.2 million boxes. The 150 boxes from LOLC were sent to Western Africa,

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden- Thanked the congregation for the care and concern shown to the Hayden's regarding the illness and passing of Pastor Hayden's father. Pastor Hayden reported that Sonya, the church secretary continues to do an excellent job. Pastor Hayden also thanked the congregation in 2021 for taking on the responsibilities of our

DCE, Katherine, who left last year. Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM, Christmas Day at 10:00 AM, and Sunday service on 12/26, will be at 10:30.

Old Business:

1. No old business.

New Business:

1..2022 Operating Budgets- Pastor Hayden explained that a Deaconess position was included in the budget, however, after consulting with the Lutheran Church, we will not be able to obtain a Deaconess in 2022. Also, Music interns are in the budget, but will not be hired in 2022 however a choir director is still being pursued. Kathie Kueven announced that the bank balances for the LOLC Operating fund- \$131,544, LCEF Savings Fund- \$101,547, Anderson Fund- \$124,367, and Community Center account \$7398. The mortgage balance is \$303,421. The 2022 budget was presented with no questions.

Dr Ringer made a motion and was seconded: "**I move that we approve the 2022 budget as presented.**" The motion was approved by a voice vote.

2. Election of 2022-23 Officers

The following slate of candidates were presented.

President- Tom Mathson
Vice President/Personnel- Mike Joost
Treasurer- Kathie Kueven
Financial Secretary- Walter Krause
Congregational Secretary- Larry Davis
Elder- Mark Ketchie
Elder-Don Menke
Head Elder- Joe Peeples

The entire slate of candidates was accepted by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Hayden closed with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2021

	<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>	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	30,931	50,854	-19,923	355,676	349,088	6,588	Organ \$478
Debt Reduction	3,685	2,535	1,150	44,214	25,895	18,319	A/P \$0
Memorial Fund	0	2,660	-2,660	0	5,750	-5,750	Memorials \$6,403
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	43	-43	OCC Fund \$764
Special Fund Income	<u>32</u>	<u>3,890</u>	<u>-3,858</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>19,688</u>	<u>-19,308</u>	Little FP \$100
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$34,648	\$59,939	-\$25,291	\$400,270	\$400,464	-\$194	M-of-M \$454
							TOTAL \$8,199
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	13,522	20,118	-6,596	162,265	154,217	8,048	A/P:
Worship Expense	2,022	2,076	-54	24,264	16,091	8,173	District \$0
Property Expense	5,483	5,789	-306	65,792	58,993	6,799	P/R \$0
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,329	1,967	362	27,950	23,067	4,883	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	142	85	57	1,700	554	1,146	\$300,716.74
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	826	212	614	9,910	5,933	3,977	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	21	0	21	250	288	-38	BankSouth \$141,565.41
Fellowship Expense	200	152	48	2,400	1,621	779	LCEF \$101,558.96
Mission Expense (District)	8,837	10,503	-1,666	35,350	36,121	-771	Anderson \$124,381.20
DCE Expenses	2,048	0	2,048	21,175	6,367	14,808	Comm. Ctr. \$7,530.68
Other Expenses	<u>4,101</u>	<u>9,016</u>	<u>-4,915</u>	<u>49,214</u>	<u>73,246</u>	<u>-24,032</u>	TOTAL \$375,036.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,531	\$49,918	-\$10,387	\$400,270	\$376,498	\$23,772	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$4,883	\$10,021	-\$14,904	\$0	\$23,966	-\$23,966	

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

Nov. 30, 2021

	<u>Period Budget</u>	<u>Period Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income						
Interest Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13.63</u>	<u>-13.63</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>167.55</u>	<u>-167.55</u>
Total Income:	\$0.00	\$13.63	-\$13.63	\$0.00	\$167.55	-\$167.55
Expenses						
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,076.50	-1,076.50
DCE Rent & Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCE Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	0.00	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>446.64</u>	<u>-446.64</u>
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	1,523.14	-1,523.14
Total Income Less Expenses:	0.00	13.63	-\$13.63	0.00	-1,355.59	\$1,355.59
Bank Balance: \$124,381.20						

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - December 2021

	<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>
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,496.45	-\$496.45	\$12,000.00	\$19,357.29	-\$7,357.29
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	-125.00
Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$1,496.45	-\$496.45	\$12,000.00	\$19,482.29	-\$7,482.29
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$666.98	-\$244.60	\$0.00	\$3,415.91	-\$3,415.91
Utilities	250.00	188.00	58.00	3,000.00	2,333.00	667.00
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	-59.00	708.00	708.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	100.00	50.00	1,800.00	2,526.91	-726.91
Janitorial	83.33	250.00	-166.67	1,000.00	3,540.00	-2,540.00
Supplies	41.66	0.00	41.66	500.00	42.78	457.22
Repairs & Mtce.	333.33	0.00	333.33	4,000.00	1,716.23	2,283.77
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>82.66</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>82.66</u>	<u>992.00</u>	<u>2,275.15</u>	<u>-1,283.15</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$999.98	\$1,363.98	-\$364.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,557.98	-\$4,557.98
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0.02	\$132.47	-\$132.45	\$0.00	\$2,924.31	-\$2,924.31
Bank Balance	\$7,530.68					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Oct. other expenses is for annual payment made towards mortgage balance.

Opportunities to Serve

Little Free Pantry

Lake Oconee Lutheran has an opportunity to serve our community on a daily basis. We now have our own Little Free Pantry where members of the community can come and take groceries at anytime that they need and leave anything that they do not need. Our mission is to stock up on items so that we can have a supply of Groceries to share!

Items to purchase

please make sure they are not expired and in good condition

- pasta products/rice/Ramen noodles
- peanut butter/jelly
- canned vegetables/fruit
 - pasta sauce
 - canned meat

Please NO glass containers

Volunteers

Altar Care there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.

Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and 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

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.

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.

Recent mites' collections (December) \$115

Detailed information is available at 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.

Susan Larson

Coffee & Fellowship



The coffee fellowship that follows the Sunday church service gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors, meet new members and visit with each other. We have missed it, But now it has returned. You may still leave after church if you do not feel comfortable yet with the in-person gathering. We want you to feel free to make the best decisions for your own care. We do want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship, so we are making a few temporary adjustments for the time being.

*We are asking you to give each other lots of room and keep in mind the need for social distancing. We can still talk with one another, just standing further apart.

*Wearing a mask is now optional.

*We are also need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.

Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for one small step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.

Choir Notes



Choir has resumed rehearsing. Rehearsals are currently held on Sunday mornings at 9:00am during adult bible class. If you are interested in joining, please attend rehearsal.

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	27	28 10 am Women's Bible Class	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 New Years Day 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
2 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	3	4 9 am Quilters Guild Meeting 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Lynda Bridwell	5 Quilters Guild Workshop	6 Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5 Happy Birthday Donald Kunz	7	8 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
9 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-communion	10	11 10 am Women's Bible Class	12	13 Happy Birthday Pam Kunz	14	15 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
16 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	17	18 10 am Women's Bible Class	19	20	21 Happy Birthday Bill Stokes	22 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
23 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	24	25 10 am Women's Bible Class 2 pm Community center meeting	26 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	27	28	29 Happy Birthday Walter Krause 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
30 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Happy Birthday Jaye McCrea Margaret Ringer Dick Schneider	31 Happy Birthday Greg Hardesty	1 10 am Women's Bible Class	2 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	3	4	5