



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

July 2021

Pastor Steven Hayden
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Secretary Sonya Plunkett
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Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin
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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

Dear Friends in Christ,

The trip to Bethlehem has been made. The Child has been born. The night skies that had been made so bright by the angels are again lit up only by the moon and the stars. The shepherds, too, have gone back to their fields, going back to the business of shepherding their flocks. Routine has returned, although, of course, nothing will ever be the same again—certainly not for the shepherds and certainly not for Joseph and Mary.

The new family makes it way to Jerusalem. **“When the time came...according to the Law of Moses, they brought [their newborn baby, Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.” (Luke 2:22)** Holding the Son of God in their arms, they brought their **“sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, a ‘pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons’” (Luke 2:24)** And there in the temple they received God’s blessings. There



waited a **“righteous and devout”** Simeon. He waited because **“it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Luke 2:26)** We all know what happened next. How Simeon took God’s Son in his arms and blessed God with his thanks and praise as he himself is blessed by the fulfillment of God Word to him. And he blesses the holy family as he himself is blessed by the Child. It was blessings all around!

Why are we talking about this in July instead of December? Because the trip to Bethlehem has been made. Because the Child has been born. Because now routine has returned and we have all gone back to the business of everyday life. And yet, nothing will ever be the same for you and for me.

Now is the time of blessing! When we present ourselves to the Lord in His house, we can expect the reception Mary and Joseph received. Like Simeon, we bless God with our songs of praise and thanksgiving and our tithes and offerings. We bless each other by our presence and by our words of encouragement in the faith. The greatest blessings, however, are those God pours out upon us as He showers us with His Law and Gospel, as He seals us as His very own children in the Sacrament of Baptism, and as He gives us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in the Sacrament of the Altar. Don’t let the routine of everyday life be a routine without blessings. Why not make it a priority each week to present yourself to the Lord in His house? Now is the time of blessing!

Living with you in the blessings of God,

Pastor Steve

Mission of the Month

Why are we talking about Christmas already you may ask? Well, we want to make you aware of this year's campaign for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Our goal this year is to pack **150 boxes**, up from the 100 boxes we packed last year. We will be collecting items and donations of money starting in May and going through October focusing on groups of items needed each month. The items for each month will be outlined in an insert in our weekly church bulletin.

Overall, the items we will be collecting are for boys and girls aged 5-9:

Stuffed Animals	Harmonica or woodwind recorder
Comb	Toothbrush
Washcloth	Bar Soap
Lip balm (non-liquid)	Colored pencils
Small pencil sharpener	Small notebooks
Safety (blunt tip) scissors	Glue stick (no liquid glue)
Sunglasses	Stickers
Yo-yo	

We have tried to make it easy this year for everyone to order these items by setting up an Amazon Wish List for Operation Christmas Child. All you need to do is click on the link listed below, purchase your item(s) and they will be shipped directly to the church. Just like a gift registry, you will be able to see how many of each item was purchased and how many are still needed. Takes all the hard work out of shopping! You may also purchase these items in any of our local stores such as Walmart, Dollar Tree, CVS, etc. and drop them off in the bins we will have available in the narthex.

Here is the Amazon wish list

link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AS8LGUZ4XQBM/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

If you need a direct link emailed to you please reach out to the office and we will email the link to you. We plan to pack each box, like we did last year, as a team on November 13th. Stay tuned for additional information on this in the months ahead.

Thanks so much for your kind generosity as we help children in need across the globe.



Worship Update -- Live streaming

Lake Oconee Lutheran is now live streaming our worship. That means it will be broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship.

If you are unable to be online at 10:30 am, do not worry. The recorded service will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the [@lakeoconeelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lakeoconeelutheranchurch) page on Facebook. The service will also be posted on the church website by Monday or Tuesday of each week. God's blessings to each of you!

Our Sunday Morning Bible Class

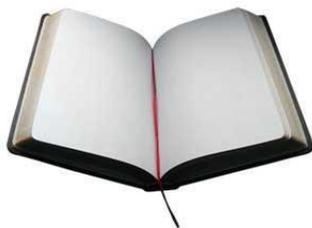
Throughout all of Holy Scripture, there is an overarching theme of death versus life. At times, this is played out in the physical sense. People die and people are given new life, or resurrected. Moreover, the theme of death versus life finds its culmination in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is forsaken by His Father and killed in the body. He is loved by His Father and raised in the body.

However, each instance of death versus life also has a deeper meaning. There is not only a battle between physical death and life, but also between spiritual death and life. Every biblical example of death with an ensuing resurrection serves to remind us of what happens to us and every Christian. We are all spiritually dead, yet in Jesus Christ and through His death and resurrection, we, once dead human beings, are resurrected and made children of God. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am for **Resurrections**.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School classes ended for the summer at the end of May and then they will resume back in the fall.

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.



WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS The devotional Life by Lisa Harper shows us the Gospel is truly Good News for your actual, everyday, sometimes painful or difficult life. It's a reminder that God's faithfulness follows us through the harried, hard and humorous things in life. Join us anytime for this conversational series. Women's Bible Study meets **Tuesdays at 10 am** in the choir room.

Mid - Week Bible

The religious leaders in Judea had questioned the ministry of John the Baptist and worried about his influence. But after they heard Jesus' teaching, they knew they were in for trouble. Jesus taught with great boldness and challenged people's assumptions in simple language. Yet, many of Jesus' sayings invite the deepest reflection because they expound the eternal mysteries of the faith. The central purpose of the Gospel of John is stated by John himself: "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (20:31) **Join us on Zoom every Wednesday at 10:30am** as we read through the **Gospel of John** and see that even now, Jesus--the Word made flesh--is working for your blessing (5:17) and preparing an eternal home for you (14:1-3)

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

June 13th, 2021

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

Kathie Kueven and Pastor Hayden were not in attendance.

The minutes from the May 11th meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- No Report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- Tom distributed the financial reports for May. It was noted that the May 31st offering was not included in the May financials. It was noted that the Community Center has earned \$7,264 in rent through May, versus \$5,000 budgeted.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The May report was presented. LOLC is slightly behind through May in Member donations versus 2020 by \$13,624.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – no report

Lay Ministry: Joe Peeples- A catered church luncheon is being planned for June 27th, details to follow. Discussions continue with “People Like Us”, regarding support for their program.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- no report

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- Blood Drive Coordinator, Pam Kunz, reported that 39 donations were made on May 20th and the next event is on June 24th. The Sandwich ministry at Rock of Ages will be a quarterly project for LOLC, with the help of Barbara Hardesty. Operation Christmas Child is in its 2nd month, headed up by Carol Campbell, Sue Davis, and Cindy Helms. The Little Free Pantry continues to be well used. The post-service Fellowship is being well received.

Pastor’s Report: Steve Hayden- no report

Old Business:

1. Security Camera System for Church (internal)- Mike presented 2 quotes for a security camera system for the church and discussed the reasons and features of this type of system.

Josh made a motion and was seconded. **“I move that we approve the bid from Ken’s and present it to the Congregation for approval at the next meeting.”** The motion passed.

1a. Security Camera System for Community Center- Mike presented a second quote from Ken’s for cameras at the Community Center. A discussion centered on the need for this. It was decided by President Mathson to present this at the Congregational meeting for discussion and consideration.

2. Computer Upgrade for Pastor- Mike said that no decision has been made on a new system.

New Business:

1. New Wireless Microphone for Pastor- Mike reported that the microphone needs replaced.

Margaret made a motion and was seconded: **“I move that we authorize up to \$1000 for a new wireless microphone.”** The motion passed.

2. Microphone for the piano- Mike reported that we need an internal microphone for the piano.

Josh made a motion and was seconded. **“I move that we authorize up to \$750 for a microphone for the piano.”** The motion passed.

3. Highway 44 project- Mike met with the appraiser representing the Georgia DOT to discuss the frontage being lost to the Highway 44 expansion from the wooded lot. He will be meeting on 6/18 with the appraiser to discuss the frontage in front of the Community Center.

4. Access Road repairs- The status of the repair work was discussed. We are still discussing getting the repairs done with the owner of the road, the Presbyterian Church.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

April 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>12.77</u>	<u>-12.77</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>76.44</u>	<u>-76.44</u>
Total Income:	\$0.00	\$12.77	-\$12.77	\$0.00	\$76.44	-\$76.44
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	12.77	-\$12.77	0.00	-1,446.70	\$1,446.70

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - May 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>
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$808.80	\$191.20	\$5,000.00	\$7,264.11	-\$2,264.11
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$808.80	\$191.20	\$5,000.00	\$7,264.11	-\$2,264.11
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$219.60	-\$219.60	\$0.00	\$1,114.20	-\$1,114.20
Utilities	250.00	157.00	93.00	1,250.00	1,010.00	240.00
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	0.00	295.00	295.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	0.00	150.00	750.00	350.00	400.00
Janitorial	83.33	240.00	-156.67	416.69	2,190.00	-1,773.31
Supplies	41.67	0.00	41.67	208.35	0.00	208.35
Repairs & Mtce.	333.33	1,535.23	-1,201.90	1,666.69	1,535.23	131.46
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>82.67</u>	<u>0.15</u>	<u>82.52</u>	<u>413.35</u>	<u>0.15</u>	<u>413.20</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$2,210.98	-\$1,210.98	\$5,000.08	\$6,494.58	-\$1,494.50
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0.00	-\$1,402.18	\$1,402.18	-\$0.08	\$769.53	-\$769.61
Bank Balance	\$6,778.08					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - May 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>	
INCOME							Restricted Fund Balances
General Fund	29,431	21,850	7,581	147,657	134,961	12,696	Anderson 124,290
Debt Reduction	3,685	1,800	1,885	18,423	8,980	9,443	Organ \$478
Memorial Fund	0	125	-125	0	1,820	-1,820	A/P \$6,213
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	43	-43	Sign Fund \$163
Special Fund Income	<u>32</u>	<u>1,415</u>	<u>-1,383</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>6,318</u>	<u>-6,160</u>	Memorials \$2,788
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$33,148	\$25,190	\$7,958	\$166,238	\$152,122	\$14,116	TOTALS \$133,932
EXPENSES							A/P:
Pastor Expense	13,522	16,612	-3,090	67,611	66,060	1,551	District \$6,213
Worship Expense	2,022	1,896	126	10,110	6,251	3,859	P/R \$0
Property Expense	5,483	7,255	-1,772	27,413	25,258	2,155	Mortgage Balance:
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,329	1,564	765	11,646	8,728	2,918	\$319,467.61
Education Expense	142	0	142	708	376	332	
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	825	235	590	4,129	2,018	2,111	BANK BALANCES:
Stewardship Expense	21	0	21	104	0	104	BankSouth \$140,460.25
Fellowship Expense	200	143	57	1,000	722	278	LCEF \$101,484.57
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	8,838	9,955	-1,117	Anderson \$124,290.09
DCE Expenses	1,601	0	1,601	8,004	6,367	1,637	Comm. Ctr. \$5,375.90
Other Expenses	<u>4,101</u>	<u>4,938</u>	<u>-837</u>	<u>20,506</u>	<u>28,724</u>	<u>-8,218</u>	TOTAL \$371,610.81
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,246	\$32,643	-\$2,397	\$160,069	\$154,459	\$5,610	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,902	-\$7,453	\$10,355	\$6,169	-\$2,337	\$8,506	

Note: \$190.00 of memorial fund is designated for food pantry

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.

In light of Covid restrictions being lifted and the church starting more activities and such, we wanted to put a reminder out that if you have anything that needs to be placed in the Sunday bulletin, please submit it to the office by Monday as we generally print the bulletins on Tuesday for the upcoming Sunday.

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 (May) \$140

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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

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 beginning to have 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

(Inactive during COVID19)

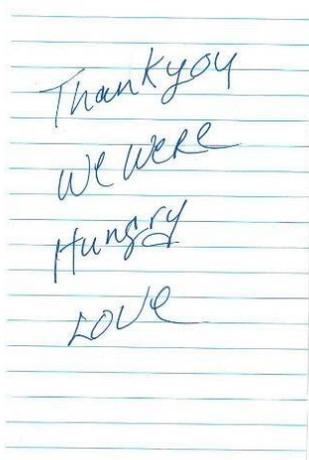


Recycling Projects



Remember the LOLC paper recycling program only includes weekly bulletins and other white paper products.

In case you all have forgotten we still have a collection container for soda can tops for the Ronald McDonald house. The revenue that is received from these donations is used to house families who otherwise cannot afford it while their child is critically ill or injured and receiving treatment. The container is located in the Narthex to the right as you enter the church. Soda can tops and soup can tops are accepted so please remember to bring them in.



I stopped at your pantry, got some peanut butter, Jelly and a few cans of tuna, I just want to say thank you, If you need anyone to help you, Please let me know what I can do, just want to say to helped us so much, My mother in law had a stroke, I quit my job at the Bistro to care for her, Money is tight, But by the Grace God I was blessed today



Have you ever wondered whether you can make a difference? Then read again the two different thank you notes above that the church received through the Little Free Pantry. Your willingness to sign up for a week to check on the pantry 3 times and most of all your donations of food which supply the pantry on an ongoing basis are making a difference in the lives of those around us. On behalf of them, thank you.

Sign up sheets for checking the pantry are on the Mission and Serve Table in the entryway.

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion	28	29 10 am Women's Bible Class	30 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	1	2 Happy Anniversary Dave & Kayleen Ringer	3 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
4 Independence Day 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Happy Anniversary Frank & Joan Whitten	5 Office Closed Happy Birthday Eileen Oberdeck	6 10 am Women's Bible Class	7 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Happy Anniversary Robin & Susan Larson	8	9 Happy Birthday Frank Whitten	10 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
11 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-Communion	12	13 10 am Women's Bible Class	14 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	15 Happy Anniversary Walter & Susan Krause	16	17 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
18 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	19	20 10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm Community Center meeting	21 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Happy Birthday Laura Ringer	22 Happy Birthday Kathryn Noble Ruth Saur	23	24 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
25 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Church Voters Meeting Happy Birthday Reda Joost Kathie Kueven	26 Happy Birthday Brant Moore	27 10 am Women's Bible Class	28 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	29 Happy Birthday Robin Peeples	30	31 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Anniversary Ed & Janie Fritch