



# 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 2025

Pastor Steven Hayden  
[revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)

Secretary Cheri Kitchens  
[officelolc@gmail.com](mailto:officelolc@gmail.com)

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 in Christ,

Every year we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter. This year that date was June 8th. But we don't always understand it. Pentecost seems to be a strange story, with the crowded room, the rushing wind, the tongues of fire, people from many nations hearing the disciples speak in their native languages. No wonder that it is hard to know what Pentecost means to us today. Christmas, you know why it is important. Easter, yes, its significance is obvious. But Pentecost??

Jesus' words give meaning to the event: "You will be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8). Since Jesus will soon ascend into heaven, He intends for the apostles to proclaim the Good News in word and deed. They are to bear witness to the ends of the earth. Challenging doesn't begin to describe the task Jesus gives them. No wonder that the disciples stand there at His ascension confused, weak, afraid—wavering in their witness.

But this same purpose of Pentecost remains for us, this is what Pentecost means for us today as well. We are His witnesses in our own homes, next door, at work, in our community, and throughout the world. What a task! Does it seem overwhelming? You bet! And we hesitate, rationalize, stumble, fear—wavering in our witness.

It is for that reason God makes available to us the power of Pentecost. The disciples were afraid, uneducated, sinful but the Holy Spirit transforms them into unashamed

witnesses who cannot but speak of the things that they have heard and seen—in the temple, before the council, in the synagogues. It was Pentecost power in the Word of God.

Wavering in our witness today, we too receive God's Pentecost power in His Word. We too are given the strength to speak of what we have seen and heard—in our neighborhood, in the grocery stores, at the doctor's office, on the golf courses and pickleball courts, wherever we come into contact with people. Peter points us to the crucified and risen One, Jesus Christ on that first Pentecost. And he shows us what happens when we too receive the power from on high to be His witnesses today. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we are forgiven our sins and we receive the Spirit of Pentecost. We cannot help but speak and live the things that we have heard and seen through God's Word. Pentecost is our story after all!

Pastor Steve

## Announcements



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is thankful for all who donate flowers for our Sunday morning worship. If you would like to give flowers, please remember the following points:

\*If you would like the flowers to be listed in the bulletin, please include all the information that you want on the signup sheet: flowers given in memory of..., flowers given in honor of...etc. The signup sheet is located on the blue table in the entry.

\*We would ask that you specifically request or include no lilies in the arrangements. We have a church member who is deathly allergic to lilies and cannot remain in the church if they are present.

Thank you for your help.



Lake Oconee Lutheran's next blood drives will be July 10<sup>th</sup> and Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at [kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:kunzpd3@outlook.com)

## Hello from New London, CT!



We are excited to share that all of the Coasties begin our Coast Guard summer 7-week training tomorrow morning (6/30). We will be located in New London, CT for the next 4 years. Here is a photo of DJ, Miles, and I on a quick ice cream run prior to reporting.

As we start the next part of our journey, we think of the support you have all given us, as well as the family you have provided us with!

Attached are the mailbox numbers and street address of the Coast Guard Cadets. We may receive letters and packages at any point during the summer and into the school year. Please send letters with prayers/ encouragement.

Please share this message with the congregation, as we continue to think of you all each and every day. God bless you all!

SWAB Ella Stolarzyk

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Chase Hall Box 7771

New London, CT 06320-8112

Miles Johnson: Box #7343

Malia Sarmac: Box #7661

Darold (DJ) Taylor: Box #7790

Caitlynn Gibson: Box #7243

Hailey Gravitt: Box #7252

Respectfully,  
Ella Stolarzyk

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

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

## LOLC offers Bible Study



### **Women's Bible class**

**The Women's Bible Study** will be meeting with more informal sessions and open discussion about the Bible and its impact on our everyday lives. It will also begin meeting in the Council or meeting room around the big table. No preparation is needed for you to join us on any Tuesday this summer to discover how God works in our lives and the abundant blessings he bestows upon us. Please join us on for this new study on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am** in the Choir Room.

### **Sunday Morning Bible class**

The Old Testament seems so, well, old and out of date. We know that the Old Testament is God's Word and we have our favorite stories that we learned in Sunday school, but once we get past Genesis and the story of Moses in Exodus, it all seems so old, so strange. During "God, are you talking to Me?" we will be looking at different Old Testament Bible events (some of you think you know and some you may not heard of) and realized that God wrote those down for us. They are not just stories about dusty history but here God is taking to us, about our life in His Old Testament.

**Join us every Sunday morning in the church or livestreamed at 9 am** and be part of "God, are talking to Me?"

### **Mid-Week Bible Class**

God's revelation to John was given to encourage Christians in every age who suffer because of their faith. Through dramatic symbolism, Revelation shows the spiritual conflict that surrounds life in this sinful world. At the center stands Christ, the Lamb of God slain for sinners. With the heavenly Father's blessing, Christ triumphs over Satan and opens the paradise of heaven, the city of God for each of us.

**Join us every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 10:30am for Revelation.**

# Choir Notes

The choir is on Summer Break until September.

## 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. In June we collected \$57.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.

## Coffee & Fellowship



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

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

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

## **Alert!**

A new series of emails claiming to be from Pastor is out. They are not from him. He will never ask you to respond with gift cards. Please do not reply!

## **Update**

Lake Oconee is no longer receiving empty cereal boxes. You may recycle them at home now. Thank you.

## **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.

## **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!

## Volunteers

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



# Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



## June Birthdays

- June 2 Lane Dugan
- June 4 Connie Piepenbrink
- June 8 Donna Hansen
- June 11 Ed Fritch
- June 12 Donald Menke
- June 13 David Heimer
- June 15 Scott Manley
- June 17 Joan Lucas
- June 20 Elizabeth Fleming
- June 23 Monica Ketchie
- June 23 Joseph Peeples
- June 24 Karen Schornhorst
- June 25 Kathryn Roper

## July Birthdays

- July 2 Julie Manley
- July 4 Isla Dugan
- July 4 Vera Dugan
- July 5 Eileen Oberdeck
- July 9 Frank Whitten
- July 21 Laura Ringer
- July 25 Kathie Kueven
- July 28 Reda Joost
- July 29 Robin Peeples
- July 31 Alison Vancott-Goodwin

## June Anniversaries

- June 7 Ron & Karen Schornhorst
- June 8 Gary & Kathryn Roper
- June 9 Stephen & Gayle Bradford
- June 12 Steve & Linda Hayden
- June 12 Tom & Connie Saner
- June 13 Roy & Cindy McAllister
- June 19 Kurt & Christine Huntzinger
- June 23 Alan & Eileen Oberdeck
- June 29 Robert & Marcia Elkins

## July Anniversaries

- July 2 Dave & Kayleen Ringer
- July 4 Frank & Joan Whitten
- July 15 Walter & Susan Krause
- July 21 Jaye & Cindy McCrea
- July 24 Kent & Marlene Matson
- July 31 Ed & Janie Fritch

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting**

**June 8, 2025**

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

Kathie Kueven and Walter Krause were absent, and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the May 18, 2025, council meeting was approved.

**Council Committee Reports:**

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

**Treasurer:** Kathie Kueven – The May Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Although income was down significantly expenses are still under budget. Year-to-date income was down over \$34,000. Kathie asked Council to think about the budgeting process for 2026 and where we can cut expenses.

**Financial Secretary:** Walter Krause – There was a \$30 difference between Kathie's report and Walter's due to a \$30 credit card donation. The financial report for May was distributed and discussed. May activity was down over \$13,000 and year-to-date down over \$23,000.

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

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

**Church Properties:** Mark Dentler – Absent – Kathie Kueven reported that the facilities workday was successful. A lot of work was completed from the original checklist. They tore down all the play equipment, cleaned the ovens and refrigerators and reorganized the cabinets.

**Lay Ministry:** Don Menke – Ed is the elder this month followed by Don and Barney.

**Christian Service/Outreach:** Kayleen Ringer – Absent - Margaret reported that Bread of Life received \$6,200 from Del Webb's 100 Who Care.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Hayden – Pastor and Dave Ringer attended the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Florida Georgia District Convention last week. President Harrison attended and gave an update on the state of the synod. We also received an update on the district and that they turned over Milledgeville to us. There was a sense of harmony and sharing of the Word of God. Elections were held and President Rocky was reelected for a second term. The District is involved in disaster relief, youth and schools and how they help congregations and missions. There will be another President's Equip conference in Orlando September 2026 for church workers and any interested congregation member. More information will follow. They held an ingathering for donations to the Lutheran Church in Uganda. We donated hymnals, bibles, altar paraments, and vestments. We had over eight boxes of donations. A grant was received to pay for the shipment of items to Uganda.

Our new church secretary is doing well and after the 120-day probationary period we will increase her salary if her performance warrants.

**Old Business:**

**Milledgeville** – We cleaned out the property and will continue sorting through it. The lawyer now has the new lease agreement and is in the process of reviewing it. It is a 20 year lease. At the end of 20 years, we will need to renegotiate the lease. We will lease the building for a nominal amount to Oconee Valley Health Care, and they will take out a tenant mortgage to pay for the entire building. They will also pay for the upkeep and utilities. There will be no cost to Lake Oconee Lutheran, and they will have full access to the non-medical portions of the building. Once the lease is finished, it will come to the council, and we will set up a voter's meeting. Oconee Valley is hoping to be in early 2026. We will have a ministry coach come in from the District to work with Pastor and the Milledgeville Committee. We will then need to organize a call committee to call either a pastor or DCE to the site. The Anderson Fund will cover a portion of that expense, but when the funds are depleted LOC will need to cover the costs. We will need to budget this in the fall. It will take a while to call someone given the shortage of pastors if we decide a pastor is needed. The call will be from and by Lake Oconee Lutheran and the Milledgeville site will be considered a second location for the church.

**Carol Dunn Estate** – Mike has not been able to determine whether a stock account exists, so he is setting up a new broker account. Once it is set up, we should notify the congregation that it is available if they wish to donate stock. He will continue to explore whether another account exists.

**Milledgeville Clear Out Date** –We were able to donate quite a few items to the low-income housing behind the Milledgeville

site. We have a date set to move out chairs, desks and other items in June which will be announced. It should take about ½ day.

**New Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Campbell".

Carol Campbell  
Congregational Secretary

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - May 31, 2025

|                        | Monthly<br>Budget | Period<br>Activity | Difference      | Y-T-D<br>Budget  | Y-T-D<br>Activity | Difference      | Restricted Fund Balances |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>          |                   |                    |                 |                  |                   |                 |                          |
| General Fund           | 35,590            | 13,600             | 21,990          | 179,451          | 119,657           | 59,794          | Organ \$478              |
| Debt Reduction         | 0                 | 170                | -170            | 0                | 3,615             | -3,615          | A/P \$5,115              |
| Memorial Fund          | 0                 | 0                  | 0               | 0                | 800               | -800            | Memorials \$9,648        |
| Sunday School          | 0                 | 0                  | 0               | 0                | 0                 | 0               | OCC Fund \$4,892         |
| Special Fund Income    | 0                 | 1,302              | -1,302          | 0                | 20,729            | -20,729         | Little FP \$7,341        |
| <b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b> | <b>\$35,590</b>   | <b>\$15,072</b>    | <b>\$20,518</b> | <b>\$179,451</b> | <b>\$144,801</b>  | <b>\$34,650</b> | M-of-M \$387             |
|                        |                   |                    |                 |                  |                   |                 | M'ville Min. \$22,724    |
|                        |                   |                    |                 |                  |                   |                 | DOT Funds \$199,597      |
|                        |                   |                    |                 |                  |                   |                 | LOYA \$1,450             |
|                        |                   |                    |                 |                  |                   |                 | <b>TOTAL \$251,632</b>   |

|                            |                 |                 |                |                  |                  |                |                            |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| <b>EXPENSES</b>            |                 |                 |                |                  |                  |                |                            |
| Pastor Expense             | 16,042          | 13,025          | 3,017          | 80,210           | 84,747           | -4,537         | A/P: \$5,115               |
| Worship Expense            | 2,612           | 2,928           | -316           | 13,063           | 14,957           | -1,894         | District \$582             |
| Property Expense           | 6,925           | 10,221          | -3,296         | 34,625           | 29,245           | 5,380          | P/R \$4,533                |
| Bus. & Admin. Expense      | 2,272           | 1,588           | 684            | 11,362           | 11,072           | 290            |                            |
| Education Expense          | 142             | 0               | 142            | 708              | 455              | 253            | <b>BANK BALANCES:</b>      |
| Evangelism/Outreach Exp.   | 1,892           | 448             | 1,444          | 9,458            | 1,632            | 7,826          | Bank South \$128,953.45    |
| Stewardship Expense        | 0               | 0               | 0              | 0                | 0                | 0              | BS CD \$109,719.86         |
| Fellowship Expense         | 175             | 0               | 175            | 875              | 524              | 351            | Anderson \$128,586.12      |
| Mission Expense (District) | 0               | 0               | 0              | 9,900            | 7,538            | 2,362          | Comm. Ctr. \$11,261.11     |
| DCE Expenses               | 0               | 0               | 0              | 0                | 0                | 0              | Bread of Life \$103,877.92 |
| Other Expenses             | 2,617           | 1,155           | 1,462          | 13,084           | 18,736           | -5,652         | Mortensen \$100,623.17     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>      | <b>\$32,677</b> | <b>\$29,365</b> | <b>\$3,312</b> | <b>\$173,285</b> | <b>\$168,906</b> | <b>\$4,379</b> | Exchange CD \$157,041.47   |
|                            |                 |                 |                |                  |                  |                | <b>TOTAL \$740,063.10</b>  |

|                                   |                |                |                 |                |                  |                 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$2,913</b> | <b>-14,293</b> | <b>\$17,206</b> | <b>\$6,166</b> | <b>-\$24,105</b> | <b>\$30,271</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|

Notes: Pastor expenses includes first quarter payment for taxes withheld and SECA

Mission Expenses are 1st quarter tithes to district - budgeted in March but not paid till April 5.

Offerings included a large donation (maybe annual) made on April 6

# COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - May 31, 2025

|                                   | Monthly<br>Budget | Period<br>Activity | Difference     | Y-T-D<br>Budget | Y-T-D<br>Activity | Difference      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                     |                   |                    |                |                 |                   |                 |
| Rental Income                     | 1,000.00          | 1,251.25           | -251.25        | 5,000.00        | 3,621.70          | 1,378.30        |
| 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            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>               | <b>1,000.00</b>   | <b>1,251.25</b>    | <b>-251.25</b> | <b>5,000.00</b> | <b>3,621.70</b>   | <b>1,378.30</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                   |                   |                    |                |                 |                   |                 |
| Rental Refunds                    | 0.00              | 300.00             | -300.00        | 0.00            | 1,121.60          | -1,121.60       |
| Utilities                         | 250.00            | 271.00             | -21.00         | 1,250.00        | 1,591.00          | -341.00         |
| Pest Control                      | 0.00              | 0.00               | 0.00           | 0.00            | 0.00              | 0.00            |
| Yard Maintenance                  | 0.00              | 0.00               | 0.00           | 0.00            | 0.00              | 0.00            |
| Janitorial                        | 525.00            | 525.00             | 0.00           | 2,310.00        | 2,310.00          | 0.00            |
| Supplies                          | 33.33             | 131.75             | -98.42         | 166.69          | 220.24            | -53.55          |
| Repair & Mtce.                    | 83.33             | 0.00               | 83.33          | 416.69          | 340.61            | 76.08           |
| Equipment                         | 0.00              | 0.00               | 0.00           | 0.00            | 0.00              | 0.00            |
| Other Expenses                    | <u>178.33</u>     | <u>0.00</u>        | <u>178.33</u>  | <u>891.69</u>   | <u>0.00</u>       | <u>891.69</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>             | <b>1,069.99</b>   | <b>1,227.75</b>    | <b>-157.76</b> | <b>5,035.07</b> | <b>5,583.45</b>   | <b>-548.38</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b> | <b>-69.99</b>     | <b>23.50</b>       | <b>-93.49</b>  | <b>-35.07</b>   | <b>-1,961.75</b>  | <b>1,926.68</b> |
| Bank Balance                      | \$11,261.11       |                    |                |                 |                   |                 |
| Accounts Payable                  | \$0.00            |                    |                |                 |                   |                 |

# 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.

# July 2025



| Sunday   | Monday                         | Tuesday                         | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                                | Friday                       | Saturday                               |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|
|  |                                | 1<br>10 am Women's Bible Class  | 2<br>10:30 ZOOM Bible Class                  | 3                                       | 4<br><b>Independence Day</b> | 5<br>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service  |
| 6<br>9:00 AM Adult Bible School<br>10:30 AM Worship Service<br>Communion                         | 7                              | 8 10 am Women's Bible Class     | 9<br>10:30 ZOOM Bible Class                  | 10<br>9 Bread of Life<br>11 Blood Drive | 11                           | 12<br>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service |
| 13<br>9:00 AM Adult Bible School<br>10:30 AM Worship Service<br>Non-communion<br>Council Meeting | 14                             | 15<br>10 am Women's Bible Class | 16<br>11:00 Quilts of Valor<br>No Wed. Class | 17                                      | 18                           | 19<br>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service |
| 20<br>9:00 AM Adult Bible School<br>10:30 AM Worship Service<br>Communion                        | 21                             | 22<br>10 am Women's Bible Class | 23<br>No Wed. Class                          | 24<br>9 Bread of Life                   | 25                           | 26<br>5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service |
| 27<br>9:00 AM Adult Bible School<br>10:30 AM Worship Service<br>Non-communion                    | 28<br>10-2 Quilts of Valor Bee | 29<br>10 am Women's Bible Class | 30<br>10:30 ZOOM Bible Class                 | 31                                      |                              |  |