



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

June 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

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ear Friends in Christ,

A few weeks ago, I spent time visiting my parents at their home. It was good to be back together after the forced separation of the pandemic. While I was there I helped with some light maintenance projects and my dad mentioned that he needed to schedule a service on his whole home generator.

Purchased years ago, his generator is wired into the house and set to automatically kick on whenever the regular power fails. It will keep everything in the house running until the main power is restored. That is good news because in today's world losing power is a problem. If the power fails it becomes hard to keep the temperature comfortable, hard to keep stored food safe, hard to keep the lights on. And nobody likes it when the lights are out.

There is one light, however, that never goes out—the light of God's love that shines through us. The Bible tells us that Christians are the "light of the world." Jesus says,

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in



the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may praise Your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

Sin throws darkness over the world, but God showed us the brightness of His love through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Now God’s power, love and brightness live in our lives, not just on Christmas or Easter, but every day. God’s light shines through our words and actions. By the power of the Spirit they splash light on everyone who is around us.

Storms may still blow through our lives with “sound and fury” as the old saying goes, but isn’t it nice to know that now the lights can never go out. Every day is a new chance to share this light with those all around us.

Dear Lord, thank You for shining the light of Your love through the darkness of sin. Please use me today to shine Your love on others. Amen.

Living in the light with you,

Pastor Steve



The Church Council at their May meeting approved several changes to our way of Worship together. These changes will take effect **beginning Sunday, June 6th.**

- **Beginning June 6th, mask wearing will be optional during Worship and Bible class time.** You may choose whether you would like to continue to wear your mask throughout the service, or not to wear one. As the percentage of complete vaccinations increases and with the introduction of coffee hour, the Council felt this was appropriate. We continue to encourage you to allow room for social distancing.

- **Beginning June 6th, we will resume serving communion at the railing with some modifications.**

1. There will be fewer people ushered to the railing each time, so we ask you to leave space between households.

2. We are asking you not to kneel and remain standing for communion. This will avoid the spread of germs through the communion rail.

3. The common cup will still not be used, only the individual cups will be offered.

4. The self-contained communion cups and wafers that we have been using will continue to be available. If you desire to receive communion at your seat and not come forward, you may continue that practice.

5. Pastor and the communion assistant will be masked during the distribution.

Above all, we encourage you, in love, to be patient as we navigate these changes and iron out any unforeseen difficulties that we encounter. You may help us in this transition by signing up to serve as ushers for communion Sundays. If you have any questions, you are always invited to speak with Pastor Steve, Joe Peebles (Chair of the Board of Elders) or Tom Mathson (Congregational President). Thank you.

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

St. Paul's letter to the Romans is the first epistle in the New Testament because it is the longest, but it could also occupy that position because of its importance. It has always played an important role in the church because it summarizes so well the essential emphases of the apostle's theology. Throughout the letter Paul emphasizes that God's mercy comes to undeserving people who stand under the Law. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God freely gives righteousness through faith alone, not on the basis of their own accomplishments. This unconditional promise is the sole basis of people's relationship with God.

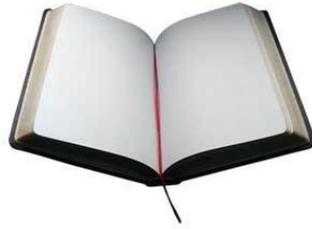
Martin Luther wrote, "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and it is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day...we can never read it or ponder over it too much."

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am as we read the Letter to the Romans.

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 via Zoom
May 11, 2021

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

Walter Krause, Joshua Ringer and Margaret Pedersen were not in attendance.

The minutes from the April 11th meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- No Report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The LOLC, Community Center and Anderson Fund Reports were presented. LOLC is ahead by \$52K YTD in Giving and \$60K YTD in positive cash flow. It was discussed that the road to the church owned by the Presbyterian church needs repair. A member of LOLC is contributing for the cost of the temporary repairs.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The April report was presented and discussed.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – The Pest control company will be visiting the church next week, to assess the success of the squirrel traps in the attic. Barney and Mike will work together to determine if the Pastor’s microphone can be repaired.

Lay Ministry: Joe Peoples- Lay Ministry discussed going back to Communion at the rail. The council discussed the merits of going mask-optional at worship services going forward.

Kathie made a motion and was seconded: **“I move that beginning on June 6th that worship service will be mask-optional.”** The motion passed.

Joe made a motion and was seconded: **“I move that we resume Communion at the railing beginning at the June 6th service, while also continuing to offer Communion in the seats.”** The motion passed.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- Pastor Hayden communicated that Children’s Sunday School will go on break for the Summer beginning in June and will resume in the Fall. Adult Sunday School will continue through the Summer.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- Tom communicated Margaret’s report. Blood Drive Coordinator, Pam Kunz reported that 36 donations were made on April 21 and the next event is on May 20th. The Sandwich ministry at Rock of Ages was provided 350 sandwiches which were delivered by Barbara Hardesty on April 25th.

Operation Christmas Child is coordinated by Carol Campbell, Sue Davis, and Cindy Helms, and are



collecting monthly designated items from May-October. The Packing party for the items will be on November 13th. Kayleen Ringer and Linda Hayden reported that the Little Free Pantry continues to be well used, and many volunteers have signed up to donate and stock the pantry. The Fellowship hour resumed on May 2nd. Homemade snacks will also be provided going forward.

Pastor's Report: Steve Hayden- Two items were purchased from funds from Memorial gifts. A silver Lectern and a Floor stand offering box. Pastor Hayden will be on vacation at the end of May, which will include the May 23rd, and May 30th services. Pastor Ron (5/23) and Pastor Larry Townsend (5/30) will be serving those Sundays for Bible Study and the Worship Service. Pastor Hayden will begin recruiting ushers for Communion, with an announcement at the 5/16 service.

Old Business:

1. **Security Cameras-** Pastor Hayden has received one bid and will receive a second bid on April 19th, which will be discussed at the next council meeting.

New Business:

1. **Computer upgrade for Pastor-** Due to extra needs of videoing of the services, a more sophisticated computer is anticipated in the future.

Barney made a motion and was seconded: **“I move that we authorize up to \$1500 to upgrade to a new computer for Pastor Hayden.”** The motion passed.

2. **Return to more normal Communion Format-** Discussed and handled earlier in the meeting.
3. **Support for “People Like Us” area ministry-** Joe presented a request of support from the “People Like Us” new halfway house for men in Union Point. The organization needs a new HVAC system. Joe will be meeting with the head of the organization on May 14th to better understand the goals of the program and their needs. He will report back at the next council meeting.

The next council meeting will be held in person on June 13th.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Larry Davis
Congregational Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

March 31, 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	0.00	14.90	-14.90	0.00	63.67	-63.67
Total Income:	\$0.00	\$14.90	-\$14.90	\$0.00	\$63.67	-\$63.67
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.64	-446.64
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	1,523.14	-1,523.14
Total Income Less Expenses:	0.00	14.90	-\$14.90	0.00	-1,474.37	-\$1,474.37

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - April 30, 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	35,330	-5,899	88,493	134,961	-46,468	Anderson \$124,277
Debt Reduction	3,685	1,950	1,735	11,054	8,980	2,074	Organ \$478
Memorial Fund	0	1,045	-1,045	0	1,820	-1,820	A/P \$6,060
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	43	-43	Sign Fund \$343
Special Fund Income	32	133	-101	95	6,318	-6,223	Memorials \$3,237
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$33,148	\$38,458	-\$5,310	\$99,642	\$152,122	-\$52,480	TOTALS \$134,395
EXPENSES							A/P:
Pastor Expense	13,522	11,039	2,483	54,088	49,448	4,640	District \$4,028
Worship Expense	2,022	775	1,247	8,088	4,355	3,733	P/R \$2,032
Property Expense	5,483	4,911	572	21,930	18,003	3,927	Mortgage Balance:
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,329	1,685	644	9,317	7,164	2,153	\$321,978.20
Education Expense	142	25	117	567	376	191	BANK BALANCES:
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	825	388	437	3,303	1,783	1,520	BankSouth \$147,913.81
Stewardship Expense	21	0	21	83	0	83	LCEF \$101,474.14
Fellowship Expense	200	0	200	800	580	220	Anderson \$124,277.32
Mission Expense (District)	0	9,955	-9,955	8,838	9,955	-1,117	Comm. Ctr. \$6,778.08
DCE Expenses	1,601	0	1,601	6,404	6,367	37	TOTAL \$380,443.35
Other Expenses	4,101	4,161	-60	16,405	23,785	-7,380	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,246	\$32,939	-\$2,693	\$129,823	\$121,816	\$8,007	
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,902	\$5,519	-\$2,617	-\$30,181	\$30,306	-\$60,487	

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

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER
Treasurer's Report - April 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	\$2,485.15	-\$1,485.15	\$4,000.00	\$6,455.31	-\$2,455.31
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	\$2,485.15	-\$1,485.15	\$4,000.00	\$6,455.31	-\$2,455.31
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$225.00	-\$225.00	\$0.00	\$894.60	-\$894.60
Utilities	250.00	154.00	96.00	1,000.00	853.00	147.00
Pest Control	59.00	59.00	0.00	236.00	236.00	0.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	350.00	-200.00	600.00	350.00	250.00
Janitorial	83.34	900.00	-816.66	333.36	1,950.00	-1,616.64
Supplies	41.67	0.00	41.67	166.68	0.00	166.68
Repairs & Mtce.	333.34	0.00	333.34	1,333.36	0.00	1,333.36
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>82.67</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>82.67</u>	<u>330.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>330.68</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.02	\$1,688.00	-\$687.98	\$4,000.08	\$4,283.60	-\$283.52
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$0.02	\$797.15	-\$797.17	-\$0.08	\$2,171.71	-\$2,171.79
Bank Balance	\$6,778.08					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

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

Blood Drive

Our June Blood drive will be held on the 24th. If you are interested in volunteering for that even for a couple hours, please contact Pam Kunz @ kundpd3@outlook.com. If you would like to donate to give blood please sign up at redcrossblood.org and use code lolc.

Volunteers

Altar Care there is a sign up sheet at the front of the sanctuary on the table next to the pantry as you exit the sanctuary.

Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and we will provide training on how to manage it.

Sign up sheets can be found on the table outside the sanctuary near the side exit or you can call/email the church office.

Ushers sign up sheets are on the table outside the sanctuary near the side exit or you can call/email the church office

Coffee Fellowship sign up sheets are in the kitchen on the island

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) \$40

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 kitchen 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.

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	31 Memorial Day Office Closed	1 10 am Women's Bible Study	2	3	4 Happy Birthday Connie Piepenbrink	5 Happy Anniversary Marlo & Bonnie Neuleib 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
6 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	7 Happy Anniversary Jack & Rosalyn Carson Ron & Karen Schornhorst	8 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Birthday Donna Hansen Happy Anniversary Gary & Kathryn Roper	9 10:30 Am ZOOM Bible Class	10	11 Happy Birthday Ed Fritch Happy Anniversary Jim & Kathie Kueven	12 Happy Birthday Rosalyn Carson Donald Menke Happy Anniversary Steven & Linda Hayden Tom & Connie Saner 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
13 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting After Worship Happy Birthday David Heimer	14 Happy Anniversary Ed & Lillian Blosser	15 10 am Women's Bible Study 2pm Community Center Comm. Meeting	16 10:30 Am ZOOM Bible Class	17 Happy Birthday Joan Lucas	18	19 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
20 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service Happy Birthday Liz Flemming	21	22 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Anniversary Tom & Peggy Uehlin	23 10:30 Am ZOOM Bible Class Happy Birthday Monica Ketchie Joe Peeples Happy Birthday Alan & Eileen Oberdeck	24 1-6 pm Blood Drive Happy Birthday Karen Schornhorst Happy Anniversary Leroy & Linda Horst	25 Happy Birthday Kathryn Roper	26 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
27 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	28	29 10 am Women's Bible Study Happy Anniversary Robert & Marcia Elkins	30 10:30 Am ZOOM Bible Class	1	2	3 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service