

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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

A Church Newsletter

February 2020

Pastor Steven Hayden
revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary Deb Krahling
lolcsec@plantationcable.net

Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin
lryabinin@gmail.com

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

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
Church Office 706-485-4600

Visit our web site: www.lolc.info

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the early formation of our nation George Washington had the opportunity to become king of the burgeoning nation. But given the young nation's experience with England and because he had a robust prayer life he knew there was only one King, so he declined the offer.

The people of the land apparently knew the same. "In a 1774 report to King George, the Governor of Boston noted: "If you ask an American, who is his master? He will tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ." The pre-war Colonial Committees of Correspondence soon made this the American motto: "No King but King Jesus."

The story of God's chosen people might have gone very differently had they chanted the same motto. Instead, they wanted a king. Over the period of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah there were thirty-eight kings. Only five of them were good. Of the others a refrain heard throughout the Old Testament goes like this: "They did evil in the eyes of the Lord."

Prophets appeared exhorting the people to turn back to God. God spoke through one prophet—Isaiah—to tell the people of Judah that they would be captured and deported to Babylon but afterward he would bring them back home. The purpose? “Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed. Then the whole human race will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob” (Isaiah 49:23).

In Isaiah 53 the prophet depicts the coming Messiah. The description doesn’t sound like a king even to us today. “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain” (Isaiah 53: 2, 3). God did not want the people to miss him. But they did. And often still do.

Our nation would have gone a much different route had Washington agreed to be king. But he seemed to know what many others didn’t. When we displace God on the throne of our lives, the outcome will go horribly wrong. But when God is on the throne in our lives, when we recognize “No King but King Jesus” then we are in the best possible position for godly success.

Maybe our American ancestors knew the best way to start a revolution. Adopt the motto “No King but King Jesus” in your life. See what changes that ignites in your life!

Join us every Sunday as we continue The Story recognizing that God’s story is also our story! Also join us this month as we begin our Wednesday evening Lenten worship services. Every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 26th with Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Steve



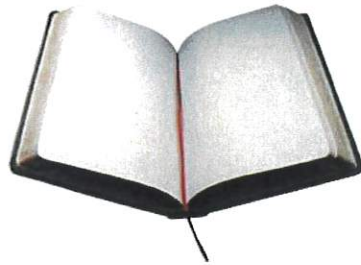
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE will be held on Wednesday February 26th at 7:00 p.m. (no supper).



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP SERVICE will be held each Wednesday during the month of March, starting on March 4th.
The Soup Supper begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. Signup sheets are on the sanctuary back wall.

PASTOR'S VACATION: Pastor Steve will be at a Circuit meeting and then on vacation with Linda from Monday, February 3rd through Tuesday, February 11th. Rev. Dr. David Kruger will preach in his absence. If you are in need of counselling, please contact your Elder.

LCEC offers Bible Study and Ministry



Stephen's Ministry

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 know of someone you is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Ministers: Virginia Daley. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.

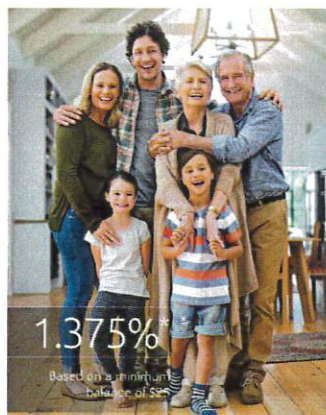
Mid- Week Bible Class

"MIRACLES of Jesus"

"It's a miracle!" These words mean many things to different people. Some use them to describe any surprising or unexpected event. Some limit these words to events that seem humanly impossible.

Many don't know what miracles really are or question whether they exist. Miracles are an important part of Jesus' ministry, and we can benefit from studying them. But what are they? Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus doing many different miracles. These miracles reveal our Savior to us. We see Him as God in human flesh who cares for His people in all of their needs. His miracles demonstrate His love.

**Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in Bible class through February 26th.
[CANCELLED Wednesday February 5th & 12th]**



 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
where investments build ministry

Family Emergency StewardAccount®

You can feel good partnering with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) because your investment not only earns a competitive interest rate, but helps support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) mission to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

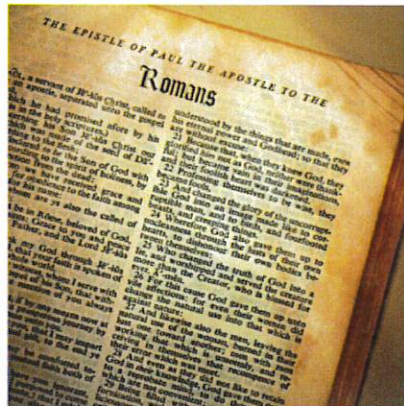
The Family Emergency StewardAccount helps you prepare for those moments when you need funds not allocated in your monthly budget.

Jay Wendland | District Vice President
407-857-5556 | Jay.Wendland@lcef.org

*Rates as of September 2019. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization, therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. The Family Emergency StewardAccount is known as the Family StewardAccount in the state of Ohio.

NEW WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS - ROMANS



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 Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as we read the Letter to the Romans beginning on March 4th.

LOLC SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is celebrated in different way at Putnam Christian Outreach. They already have plenty of soup, but they'd love some hearty sides to go with the soup. Let's team up and kick off February with donations of biscuit mix, cornbread mix and crackers. Please place them in the baskets with all other PCO donations.

GREENE COUNTY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH THANK YOU



P. O. BOX 1312 - 402 W. BROAD STREET
GREENSBORO, GEORGIA 30642
(706) 454-0250

January 10, 2020

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, GA 31024

Greensboro, GA 30642

Dear Pastor Haydon & Lake Oconee Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your recent donation of \$924.00 for the year 2019. Your willingness to donate to GCO will make a difference in the lives of the people we serve and provide essential financial assistance to families in the Greene County community. Generous donations from people like you enable us to accomplish our mission and continue the work we have begun.

Thank you for your continued support and may you find solace in knowing that your generosity is truly a blessing to those experiencing financial crises.

Please keep this written acknowledgment of your donation for your tax records. Greene County Christian Outreach is a 501c3 organization. We recognize and acknowledge that no goods or services of any value were or will be transferred to you in connection with your gift.

Sincerely,

Elaine Wright, Director

GREENE COUNTY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (501c3)

Council Meeting Minutes – Sunday January 19 2020

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

Mike Joost was not in attendance.

The minutes from the 1/12/20 Congregational Meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- no report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- LOLC showed a loss of \$5,885 for the year, which was attributed to paying for the unbudgeted sound system in 2019. The current mortgage balance for the church is \$101,768. The detailed fiscal 2019 report was distributed to the council, without discussion.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- Member donations for 2019 was \$308,742, which is an increase over 2018 of \$52,276. When Memorials, Debt Reduction and other categories are considered, 2019 total was \$374,568, an increase of \$60,753 over 2018. The increase was attributed to more members and more giving per members. The Mortensen donation will be categorized under "other" for 2020.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross- Outdoor overhead lights are replaced due to vandalism, from bb guns. Continuing to search for replacement bulbs for our current 250-watt light fixtures inside the church. The 400-watt steeple light fixture needs a new ballast which will cost \$62. Yellowstone Landscaping is providing a quote to replace the bushes in the front. They have also offered to thin the new property purchased for \$50 per hour. It was suggested to get an idea of the amount of time that it would require. A door repair technician has been contacted to assess and repair all the outside doors. An electrician suggested that outdoor lights set in the church eaves could project light in the evening into the parking lot and walkways.

Lay Ministry: Alan Oberdeck- A handout was distributed with all details. Pastor Hayden will be attending the Circuit Convocation in Savannah on 2/2-5, followed by vacation. Reverend David Kruger will be leading the service on 2/9. Kathie Kueven is the Elder in charge for February. Ash Wednesday is February 26th. Soup Supper at 6:00 on March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and April 1st. Service will follow at 7:00 PM on those days. Maundy Thursday, 4/9, and Good Friday, 4/10 will have service at 7:00 PM. "The Passion of Christ" Movie will be shown at the Church at 1:00 PM on Good Friday. Easter Service is at 10:30 on April 12th. There was discussion regarding having a breakfast prior to church.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer- Reviewing the current materials that we have on hand for our new Children's Sunday School Program. If needed, we will purchase new materials. Proposed time for the new children's program would be from 10:00-10:30 on Sunday. It will be announced at the January 26th service that we are looking for volunteers for the program.

Christian Service/Outreach: Laura Ringer- Will take charge of setting up the Easter breakfast, and there will be no adult Bible School on Easter Sunday.


Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden- The DCE Intern application has been submitted for an intern from the Concordia-Chicago program. Pastor Hayden has had success and familiarity with the Chicago program. There will be a visit from the head of the program to LOLC prior to the decision. The decision is expected by the end of April. If LOLC is chosen, Pastor Hayden will meet with the intern in Chicago in May. An estimated cost of the program for the year was distributed by Pastor Hayden, the total cost is \$39,600 for the year.

Old Business:

1. DCE Intern Update- This was discussed by Pastor Hayden in the Pastor's Report.
2. Music Director Search Committee Update- No new candidates identified.
3. Video System for services- No new update
4. Church Lights- Discussed fully in the Properties report

New Business:

1. **Harmony Community Association building offer and congregational proposal-**
Kathie Kueven presented the research done from the financial aspect and provided handouts. LOLC would not need to pay any property tax for the Harmony property. There are many options for a mortgage with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The rate is currently 4.5% which can change quarterly. The current mortgage could be rolled into the new loan, with no down payment needed. Another option is that the church has enough in savings to pay off the current mortgage of \$101,768. It was estimated that depending on the option, that our current monthly payment would be similar to our current monthly payment. Rental income for 2019 was \$11,522, and the cost to maintain the property was \$7,090. There was discussion that Silver Moon has expressed interest in purchasing some of the property from LOLC following the purchase. The council was not interested in that idea. It was discussed that the Harmony Community Association Building will provide more room for church activities and a location for our new proposed outreach/community service activities. It was also discussed that the property would provide more exposure to Hwy 44 traffic to the church. A motion was made by Alan to purchase the property and seconded by Laura. It passed by voice vote. A document titled "Recommendation of the Board of Directors LOLC" was signed/initialed by the board. This document, as well as, supporting documents from the meeting will be presented at the congregational meeting on 1/26/20, for a vote by the congregation to purchase the property. An email to the congregation, announcing the congregational meeting will be sent out on 1/20/20.



The meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Hayden led the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

UPDATE on Harmony Community Association land purchase

On Sunday, January 26, 2020 Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, during a congregational meeting, voted to purchase the Harmony Community Association land and building that borders GA 44 and our east parking lot for \$349,000. We will be applying for a mortgage for the purchase.

Lake Oconee Lutheran is planning on using the facility as a base for community outreach, to further our mission of being a "Family of Spirit filled Servants". We believe that this additional land will not just increase our physical footprint in terms of lot size, but that God will use it to increase His spiritual presence and footprint on our community.

If you desire and are able to make an "over and above" contribution toward this purchase and mission, please write out a check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church to the attention of Financial Secretary. On the memo line please write Harmony land purchase. Any special gifts received will go to decreasing our mortgage.

May God bless us as we follow Him in serving those around us.

Opportunities to Serve

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Two of our LOLC members, Janis & Mara Lipacis, are faithful volunteers for Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, a vital organization that does much to benefit our community. According to Janis, the Habitat Furniture ReStore affiliate is in dire need of more volunteers.

Please consider that the amount of time you donate is flexible and at your convenience plus you can meet new people. In addition, the variety of things you can volunteer for is tremendous. The organization especially needs:

- Thursday afternoon cashiers;
- Mentors who give support and friendship to families selected to be homeowners and keep a record of their sweat equity hours;
- Friday and Saturday volunteers at the store;
- Construction team members;
- Help with pickup of donations that includes driving the truck; and
- A secretary to the board.



Help us to spread the word to anyone else—friend or family—who might be a willing volunteer. For even more first-hand information, talk to Janis after church or contact him at 706-484-0543.

Worship Service

You can become a vital part of the Sunday Worship service.

Become an

- usher,
- a greeter,
- a communion assistant
- an Altar care giver
- soundboard operator
- or a reader!



Contact Peggy Uehlin to sign up as a reader. To volunteer for the other opportunities contact the church office or sign up on the designated sheet on the sanctuary back wall.

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: \$100.00

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

Choir Notes



Choir meets for practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

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 also want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship so we are asking everyone to help. You can sign up for snacks, drinks and clean up. Tom Uehlin will be providing coffee and ordering kitchen supplies. If you would like to serve and have questions or need assistance please talk to Barbara Hardesty.


Recycling Projects

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



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Event Calendar

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM VOTERS MEETING	27	28	29 Walter Krause's bday 10:30 AM MIRACLE Bible Class	30 Dick Schneider's bday Margaret Ringer's bday	31 Greg Hardesty's bday Pastor's and secretary's day off	1 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
2 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	3 Carol Campbell's bday Kayleen Ringer's bday PASTOR AT CIRCUIT MEETING	4 Joyce & Harold Huston's anniversary PASTOR AT CIRCUIT MEETING 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild 1:00 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Meeting	5 PASTOR AT CIRCUIT MEETING	6 Pastor on vacation Robert & Kathy Dukes' anniversary	7 Pastor on vacation Pastor's and secretary's day off	8 Pastor on vacation 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
9 Pastor on vacation 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service - Dr. Kruger preaching	10 Pastor on vacation	11 Charles Crouch's bday Pastor on vacation	12 Mark Ketchie bday	13 Jerry Pailer's Bday Lance & Jerry Pailer's anniversary	14 Pastor's and secretary's day off	15 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
16 Connie Saner's bday 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING	17	18	19 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 AM MIRACLE Bible Class	20 Margie Heimer bday	21 Pastor's and secretary's day off	22 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
23 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	24 Leroy Horst's bday	25 Kathleen Stallings' bday	26 Alan Oberdeck's bday 10:30 AM MIRACLE Bible Class  ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service	27	28 Pastor's and secretary's day off	29 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service