

# 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

March 2020

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

Secretary Deb Krahling  
[lolcsec@plantationcable.net](mailto:lolcsec@plantationcable.net)

Instrumentalist Lev Rybanin  
[lryabinin@gmail.com](mailto:lryabinin@gmail.com)

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

**D**ear Friends in Christ,

I turned on the 6 o'clock news the other night and was almost overwhelmed. There was a story of a 14 year old boy killed in an auto accident. There was another story about the corona virus that is making people afraid and fearful. There were stories about sexual violence and political name calling. Add to this the usual accounts of war, crime, terrorist attacks and homelessness and I felt overwhelmed. How can a loving God allow these things to happen to anyone? And why do they often seem to happen to "innocent victims"?

It is easy at times to find ourselves wondering "Where is God? Why isn't He helping?" Perhaps it's even harder when we see blatant sinners prospering or even profiting from such disasters. Job certainly wrestled with the wicked prospering while his life was falling apart.



As you know, Lake Oconee Lutheran is walking through the Bible in 31 weeks this year using *The Story* as our framework. We started in Genesis, worked our way through the exodus and the judges. We visited with David and Solomon and continued on through the prophets, the exile and the return to Judah. Now, in March, we celebrate (again) the “Good News of great joy for all the people” in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

When you think about it there is something wonderful and helpful about celebrating Christmas in March. We can stand at the manger without worrying about shopping and gift giving. We can watch the angels sing to the shepherds without sending out cards or attending school or community programs. We can see the star over the stable without decorating and lighting our homes or trees. We can focus on the newborn Savior of the world without all the distractions that, as pleasing and fun as they can be, tend to crowd into the scene during the month of December.

Above all we can be reminded that when we begin wondering “Where is God?” we have been given the answer. We are often tempted to think when things go wrong that God is gone and he’s nowhere to be seen. Until now. God’s Word says this, “**The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.**” (John 1:14) This is how much God wants to be with his people. Enough of the separation between God and us. The time of separation is over. And on that Christmas day, God became a man and lives among us.

He has come to us! He has been born in the manger as one of us so that we might know that we are never alone. Despite our sins that separated us from God, God has come into our world, into our lives through the baby born in a manger, to bring us back into His presence. Where is God? He is here, in flesh and blood. He is here in Word and Sacrament, to forgive. He is here to be with you. The baby born in the manger was the same man who was nailed to the tree, that we might know God has not left us, but given Himself for us.

What a wonderful message, what good news, even as I am watching bad news on TV. I guess despite the bad news I hear around me, all I can say is this: “**Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.**” (Luke 2:10).

*Pastor Steve*

---

# LOEC 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

### **"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 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**THANK YOU:** *I want to thank everyone for their prayers. As you noticed the prayers and great doctor seemed to have done a great job. I especially want to give a big hug to the people for the gifts, cards and the friends who time to visit me in the hospital. I am so blessed to have a place in our wonderful church family.*

*— Lynda Bridwell*

# LWML SPRING RALLY INVITATION



## You are invited to the East Central Georgia Zone LWML SPRING RALLY March 21, 2020

Jesus said, "I have said these things to you,  
that in Me you may have peace." --John 16:33a

### CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

208 Langston Road, Perry, Georgia 31069  
Church Secretary, Helga Ackermann (478) 302-6782  
helga.reichenbach@gmail.com

Breakfast & Registration 9:00 to 10 a.m.  
\$10 registration includes a light breakfast and lunch

#### *Gifts from the Heart: Church & Orphanage Mission in La Paz, Honduras*

*Old eyeglasses, children's or adult shoes (no high heels), school supplies*

*Cash or Checks (payable to Christ Lutheran Church)*

#### *Interest Session: Pastor John L. Lehenbauer on our Lutheran Church and Orphanage in Honduras*

*Since you all were here for our last rally, we have a new  
fellowship hall and are excited to have you come!*

Please designate one person from your church to RSVP to  
Helga Ackermann at: phone/text 478-302-6782 or  
helga.reichenbach@gmail.com

Please RSVP by Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Late reservations are always welcome!

*Serve the Lord  
With Gladness*

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
208 Langston Rd • Perry, GA 31069



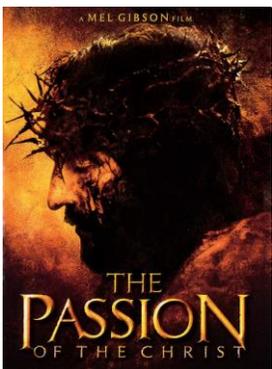
# "EXPERIENCE" GOOD FRIDAY?

How does a Christian Observe GOOD Friday in this day and age? We as a Secular Society have had it placed on most published calendars by the companies who print them. Not because they have any interest in the day, but because it has always been there and it is followed by Easter Holiday. It is just a thing that is there.

Yet when I grew up (75 years ago) Good Friday was generally a day of worshipful remembrance. It was a day when some churches were open at 6:00 a.m. for services for people to attend before going to work. Some churches were open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for people to stop by for a few moments of prayer. Some churches had an afternoon service when a number of ministers would each give a sermon on the words Jesus uttered from the cross. The Public schools even dismissed the students at noon to attend worship. Some school systems had their spring break on Easter week and the students had the whole of Holy Week off! Home on the farm, Good Friday was a day if the weather was good we worked the day with reverence and were sure to get the barn chores done in time to go to church.

At least that was how it was in the small town in Wisconsin where I grew up. We lived in a society where Christians of all denominations observed Good Friday with somber reverence and faith. When I was a student living in Milwaukee, there always was a Lutheran church open for prayer on Good Friday where I could go at 3:00 p.m. to pray. Then I became a part of the working world and the places where I worked over time recognized Good Friday existed, but made no provisions for any of us to take off for any day services, but we still had our evening services.

When I was traveling I wasn't always able to take HOLY WEEK off, but I was usually home on Good Friday, but in all of the years we have lived here in the south, Good Friday has never been observed in the manner it was in the north.



So how does a Christian observe Good Friday? By remembering. This year Lake Oconee Lutheran will be open on Good Friday at 12:00 p.m. for anyone who wishes to stop by for prayer. Then at 1:00 p.m. the Mel Gibson film *The Passion of the Christ* will be shown. Not an easy film to watch, this film is a portrayal of the last hours in the life of Christ in all of its horror. It is a two hour film and will end at about 3:00 p.m. If you wish to have a prayerful Good Friday afternoon I invite you to join us for the showing. Of course, you are always invited to our regular Good Friday worship service as well which begins at 7 pm.

--Alan M Oberdeck, Head Elder

# LOLC'S LENTEN SEASON INTO HOLY WEEK



**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS** will be held each Wednesday starting **March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM** followed by the **LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE @ 7:00PM** until Holy Week.

- ❖ March 4 at 6 p.m.
- ❖ March 11 at 6 p.m.
- ❖ March 18 at 6 p.m.
- ❖ March 25 at 6 p.m.
- ❖ April 1 at 6 p.m.

At the time of this printing, only 1 family has signed up to serve. We need your involvement. We can't have the suppers without you!

**HOLY WEEK**

*Maundy Thursday*  
Thursday, April 9th • 7:00pm  
Worship will be a communion service

*Good Friday*  
Friday, April 10th • 7:00pm  
Church will be open at 12:00pm for prayer  
**THE PASSION of the CHRIST** movie  
will be shown 1:00pm – 3:00pm

*Easter Sunday*  
Sunday, April 12th • 10:30am  
Easter breakfast prior to worship at 9:00 am  
Worship will be a communion service

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church  
1089 Lake Oconee Parkway Eatonton GA 31024

# Council Meeting Minutes – Sunday February 16 2020

**Attendees:** Pastor Steven Hayden, Tom Mathson, Mike Joost, Kathie Kueven, Barney Ross, Alan Oberdeck, Laura Ringer

**Absent:** Larry Davis, Joshua Ringer, Walter Krause

President Tom Mathson called the meeting to order at 11:54am. Pastor Hayden opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The minutes from the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were approved. Alan Oberdeck motioned and Kathie Kueven seconded.

## Council Committee Reports:

**VP, Mike Joost:** No report

**Treasurer, Kathie Kueven:** Copies of January treasurer's report. Money from property donation and purchase not included, it was an \$1866.56 legal transfer. Kathie suggested that we use the LCEF account to pay off the existing mortgage. The new property will be similar mortgage and expenses will depend on rental income. Suggested go-to person or committee for management.

**Financial Secretary, Walter Krause:** Walter left a report for the Council. Jan 2020 was lower than 2019 because stock donation of \$30,000 last year. The donation for the lot in front of the church was put in the "other" section as to not skew the giving report.

**Secretary, Larry Davis:** No report

**Church Property, Barney Ross:** The clearing of the new lot (about 2 acres) was projected to be costly by one company. Another offered \$2,500 flat rate. Also offered to trim trees is needed to see sign better. The side door's lock was fixed for \$75.00. No word on the internal lights right now, the outside lights are coming. Company is delayed. GA DOT is coming to do a soil test at some point, so expect that. Barney motioned to approve the cost to clear the lot, Kathie seconded, motion approved.

**Lay Ministry, Alan Oberdeck:** Meeting next week, so nothing to report right now. Reverend Kruger will be here March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Christian Education, Josh Ringer:** No report

**Outreach, Laura Ringer:** Maintenance for website is confirmed to be in monthly budget. The Easter breakfast will be at 9am and sign-ups will come sooner to the date. The proposed date for the Fish Fry will be April 25<sup>th</sup> and will be confirmed with the cooks before we advertise that date. Church will give small sponsorship of PCO Golf Tournament.

**Pastor's Report, Pastor Steven Hayden:** Ash Wednesday is in a week and a half and Lent is upcoming. Director of DCE Concordia Chicago is coming onsite February 26<sup>th</sup>. End of April will be when we find out about the intern, and supervisors come twice during the year if we do get an intern.



Sound system company recommended wireless speaker rack for better care and keeping of headsets, a separate outlet for speakers to make sound better, and new wireless mics. Pastor provided quote and suggested that we approve all except the new wireless mics at this time. Barney motioned, Mike seconded, approved purchase of wireless speaker rack and new outlet.

**Old Business:**

1. Outreach Coordinator/DCE Update (covered in Pastor's report)
2. Music Director Search Committee update – no news
3. Video System for Services- quote is coming
4. Harmony building progress – lawyers in conversation now

**New Business:**

1. No new business

Motion to adjourn by Barney, seconded by Alan. Meeting adjourned at 12:37pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Laura Ringer, filling in for Larry David, Council Secretary

**NEW LOLC WEBSITE:**

Our new website, [www.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org), is up and running. Please bookmark this new address in your Internet browser for easy access. If you go to the old website by accident, it will forward you to the new website automatically.

The website has a section for Members and Friends of the Congregation. To find it, scroll down to the blue section at the bottom of the page and click "For Members." This section includes our Membership Directory and the current prayer list for you to access. The membership directory portion of the website is locked for privacy. Contact the church office for the password.

Other information including our bulletins and newsletters are under the "what is happening" tab. Please take some time and explore the new website!

---

# 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.

To become:

- an Usher – contact Terry Pedersen
- a greeter – contact Barbara Hardesty
- a communion assistant – contact Deb Krahling
- an Altar care giver – contact Donna Crouch
- a soundboard operator – contact Pastor Steve
- a reader! – contact Peggy Uehlin

To volunteer for the abovementioned opportunities you may: contact the church office; contact the chair listed above 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: \$80.00

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.

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

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Grace Raetz's bday</i>  9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild 1:00 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class  6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Pastor's and secretary's day off	<b>7</b> <i>Mike Joost's bday</i>  3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service  
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service   11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING	<b>9</b> <i>Marcia Elkins' Bday</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Suzanne Sponsler's bday</i>	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class  6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship	<b>12</b> <i>Roger Andersen's bday</i>	<b>13</b> Pastor's and secretary's day off	<b>14</b> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
<b>15</b> <i>Rev. David Raetz's bday</i>  9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Sandy Mathson's bday</i>	<b>18</b> 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class  6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor's and secretary's day off	<b>21</b> <i>Linda Andersen's bday</i> <i>Pastor Steve Hayden's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
<b>22</b> <i>Roger &amp; Elizabeth Fleming's anniversary</i>  9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>23</b> <i>Jack Carson's bday</i>	<b>24</b> ELECTION POLLING   10:00 AM Stephens Ministry Meeting  	<b>25</b> <i>Robert Dukes' bday</i> 10:30 AM ROMANS Bible Class  6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship	<b>26</b> <i>Donald &amp; Pam Menke's anniversary</i> <i>Dorothy Johnson's bday</i>	<b>27</b> Pastor's and secretary's day off	<b>28</b> <i>Si Si Petrea's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>30</b> <i>Barney Ross' bday</i>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <i>Brant &amp; Louise Moore's anniversary</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Barney &amp; Sharon Ross' anniversary</i>	<b>4</b> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service