



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.*

A Church Newsletter

May 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.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever thought how amazing it is that the accounts of Jesus' life in the Gospels do not end with the telling of the Easter story? If this were a movie, or perhaps a novel, the story would end with the great climatic moment when Jesus comes out of the tomb and appears to his disciples, both men and women. That kind of ending is what makes good drama, a good story. What could possibly make a better ending?

Matthew, however, ends his Gospel with these verses:

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *(Matthew 28:16-20)*



Wow! While Christ's resurrection marks the completion of God's plan of salvation for you and me, it turns out that Christ's resurrection is not the end of the story, not the end of God's involvement in our lives. Now that you have heard the Good News, now that you have experienced My love and power in all its glory, God says, I want you to go and share the message with those around you. And He promises to give us the opportunity.

And He does give us that opportunity right now! In some ways, our current situation ought to sound familiar to our ears. On Easter Sunday, the disciples were in the upper room with the door locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus, in His resurrection appearances, tells them to come out of that "safe" mentality and go out sharing His love. At the beginning of this year, we too often looked for the comfortable safety of a room to seemingly wait for Jesus. What happens? We are sent out of that safe mentality and sent out to share His love. Time after time we have been provided the opportunity by God to be His spokesmen, to show His love and care to others, not by sitting in our comfortable spots, but by loving and serving those around us.


Easter Day may be over for another year, but God's story at Lake Oconee Lutheran doesn't end. We exist, the Gospels tell us, not to sit around waiting for the Lord to come to us, but to be the church in action, to be the church in witness, to be the church in love, to look for ways we can live out the rest of God's story in our lives today, and tomorrow.



LOLC WORSHIP UPDATE

When the Church Council last met to discuss whether to discontinue "live" or in person worship, the motion authorized the discontinuation of public worship to the end of April. As that time approached, the council met through email to discuss whether or not to extend that hiatus. We noted that several things that were important to our discussion.

- Governor Kemp's executive order still standing in the State of Georgia declares a State of emergency and bans all non-profits from "gatherings of persons" until May 13, 2020.
-

- 
- Georgia (despite Gov. Kemp's reopening order) still has not met the guidelines necessary to move into phase 1 of Pres. Trump's "Opening Up America Again" plan. The federal plan requires 14 days of declining numbers in new infections and deaths from COVID-19 for a state's entrance into Phase 1 of recovering. However Georgia, according to the CDC, still is experiencing increases in both cases of Covid-19 and deaths as of April 27th.
 - Upon communication with our sister, circuit congregations, we learned that none are planning to resume meeting in person until May 31st or early June in accordance with health concerns within our state.
 - Many in our membership fall into the "at-risk" category due to health concerns.

Having reviewed all of these points, the Church Council voted to continue our practice of distance worship and Bible study through May 30, 2020 to be reviewed at that time based on then current trends. We will not meet in person but will continue to post worship opportunities online through the various platforms. This still leaves open the possibility of our first public worship being May 31st, Pentecost Sunday.

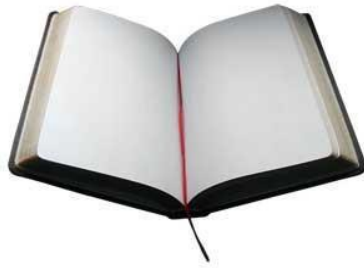
Worship will continue to be posted on Facebook, YouTube and on our website at www.lakeoconeelutheran.org. Please "follow" our Facebook page or "subscribe" to our YouTube channel to receive notifications when new content is published. You may visit the website at any time. We will also continue keeping our members informed through Constant Contact and offering Wednesday Bible Class through Zoom. [Watch for the Email with the link each week and join us.]

Finally please contact Pastor Steve if you have special needs or questions. Thank you.

YOUR CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS: A time like this can truly hurt our congregation financially. While the world shuts down during this crisis, our bills and responsibilities of the Church do not go away. Utilities must be paid, and most importantly, our mission work must continue. As your pastor I ask that you keep your offerings current and mail them to the Church weekly (or on the schedule that you normally keep). You may also be able to add the church to your online banking bill pay app. This is a responsibility that we, the Lord's children, all bear.

Please mail your offerings to the Church Address here:
Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
1089 Lake Oconee Parkway Eatonton, GA 31024

EOEC 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 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.



Mid - Week Bible Class

"Lord's Prayer"

You might not realize it because of its brevity and familiarity, but the Lord's Prayer has a lot to teach us about the Christian faith. One of the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray" and in response to this question Jesus taught them this prayer. The Lord's Prayer is easily the world's favorite prayer, but it is so easy to say it every week and not really get to grips with Jesus's words - to understand the implications of what we are praying.

According to St. Augustine (died. AD430), "Whatever else we say when we pray, if we pray as we should, we are only saying what is already contained in the Lord's Prayer."

Join us on Wednesday mornings on Zoom at 10:30am as we look at the Lord's Prayer for our life today. Look for the email invitation that is sent out weekly from Constant Contact.

If you are already on Zoom, our meeting ID, which stays the same each week, is 831 5261 5962.

Meet Our New DCE Intern – Katherine Lutz

MEET Katherine Lutz



Our new DCE will be arriving in June and we want everyone to feel as if they know her when she arrives.

Katherine was born on January 29 and raised in the Fort Worth area of Texas. She is the oldest child, having a brother and 2 stepsisters who are all younger. Her father currently resides in Fort Worth, Texas and her mother and stepfather reside in Concord, North Carolina (where, incidentally, she

was visiting when I spoke with her).

Katherine states in her message to Pastor Steve that, over the past few years, the Lord has placed a calling on her life to serve His people through simply loving and being in relationship with many people in many places. The past few summers she has lived in Malawi, Louisiana and Kentucky and has also led many visiting short term mission teams. She states these experiences have given her the ability to learn more of the Lord's faithfulness and the beauty of sharing His love.

Katherine's hobbies include being outdoors, low key hiking, playing games and painting (watercolors and oils). We discussed at length ways in which she may be able to incorporate these hobbies into outreach activities for the church. So be sure to keep her hobbies in mind as you think of things to suggest to her for future activities.

Katherine does not have any pets at this time but is hoping to be able to get a dog when she gets to Georgia.

Katherine states she is a definite people person and a sucker for long conversations and a good glass of lemonade (or sweet Georgia tea).

We are thrilled to be having Katherine come and be part of LOLC's community outreach program and I feel certain many of you will have a pitcher of cold tea or lemonade and a rocking chair or 2 on the front porch just waiting for a visit from her.



Furniture for Katherine

Katherine Lutz, our new DCE intern will be joining us sometime in June when she moves here to Lake Oconee. In a conversation with Katherine, I asked her if she needed any furniture in order to furnish her new apartment. Perhaps, I thought, we can help her with this.

There are several items of furniture that Katherine is still looking for. If you have any of the items listed below and would be willing to donate (give) them to Katherine for her new home, please call or email Pastor Steve first. We do not need duplicates of each item, so please be sure to call before you bring anything to church in order to be certain that it is still needed. Any items that you wish to donate should be clean and in good condition to be in her home, and of course, you will not get any items back. If you would like to donate an item, we can make arrangements to pick it up from your home and transport it (after the stay at home order is lifted).

Here is the list of what Katherine is looking for: bed, dresser, nightstand, coffee table, and a small kitchen table and chairs. Thank you.

Meet Our New Members ~ The Matsons

MEET KENT & MARLENE MATSON



The Matsons moved to Georgia from York, Pennsylvania just about a year ago and live in the Twin Bridges area of Lake Sinclair (Putnam County side). They came to Georgia for Kent's job as an electrical engineer for Voith.

Both Marlene and Kent are originally from the York, Pennsylvania area. They met through their jobs (with different companies) and were married in 1992. At the time, Kent was working as an electrical engineer and Marlene was a technical writer and marketing rep for another company. They have 2 sons, both grown and living in Pennsylvania. They have been blessed with 5 beautiful grandchildren who Marlene says it was hard to leave behind.

Their hobbies include travelling and boating. They are currently not pet owners, having recently lost their beloved pet to cancer.

Both Marlene and Kent were ELCA Lutherans before moving to Georgia. We welcome them to our church and look forward to getting to know them better when we are again able to worship together in person.

Submitted by Kathie Kueven

Council Meeting Minutes – Sunday April 14 2020

[Meeting held via ZOOM]

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

Walter Krause was not in attendance.

The minutes from the 3/8/20 Council Meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost - no report

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven - Presented the March and YTD financials. LOLC has a \$56,899 positive cash flow for the 1st quarter ending on March 30th. This was aided by two large donations provided the last week of March totaling \$42K. The LOLC Community Center checking account was established and will be listed with the other bank balances going forward on the treasurer's report. The church building mortgage was paid off. There is \$18,802 remaining in the LCEF account.

A motion was made by Barney and seconded to take \$7,364.38 from the operating fund and move it to the LCEF fund, which is what our April and May mortgage payments would have been. The motion was approved.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause - (presented by Tom Mathson) A donation of \$10K was received for debt reduction on the Church mortgage, which has now been totally paid off.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis - no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross (by Tom Mathson) - The 2 acres that were recently purchased has been 95% cleared of brush, the remainder will be completed when the ground dries. The front door repair has been completed. Barney is looking into an irrigation system.

Lay Ministry: Alan Oberdeck - The Elders have reached out to the congregation and there is not anyone with COVID-19. He had heard feedback that some in the congregation hope that the sermons online will continue after the pandemic.

Christian Education: Joshua Ringer - no report

Christian Service/Outreach: Laura Ringer - no report

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden - The Lenten Services were successfully provided online due to the shelter in place order. A new Wednesday evening Reading and Devotion will be provided on Facebook live on Wednesday evenings beginning on 3/15 during the current separation period. Also Bible Classes via Zoom will be provided on Wednesday morning from 10:30-11:15, beginning on 3/15. Dick Braun has passed away, and Marge will be moving to Oklahoma.



Old Business:

1. **Harmony building purchase** - The purchase will be completed on May 18th.
2. **Music Director Search Committee update** - No news
3. **Harmony building rental committee formation** - LOLC Harmony Management Committee was formed. It consists of the following members: Robin Peebles, Susan Larson, Terry Pedersen, Tom and Sandy Mathson, Kathie Kueven, Alan Oberdeck.

New Business:

1. **Video System Purchase** - A motion was made by Larry and seconded to authorize the Pastor to spend up to \$3K to purchase a video system to capture church services. The motion was approved.
2. **DCE Intern Housing** - A motion was made by Laura and seconded to authorize Pastor Hayden to commit to the 2 bedroom apartment discussed, behind "Sweet Kneads". The motion was approved. Our new intern is planning on arriving around June 1st. Pastor is sending out an email to the congregation stating any furniture/household needs that she may have.
3. **Staff continuation during our current Shelter in Place Mandate** - Our church secretary continues to work from home. Our cleaning lady continues to clean the church. Lev is continuing to be compensated.

The meeting was adjourned.

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

LOLC Treasurer Report – March 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - March 2020

	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Restricted Fund Balances</u>	
INCOME							Anderson	\$136,285
General Fund	65,596	27,800	37,796	110,289	82,399	27,890	Organ	\$478
Debt Reduction	12,300	3,682	8,618	20,305	11,046	9,259	Scholarship	\$2,098
Special Fund Income	<u>657</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>2,304</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,054</u>	A/P	\$10,804
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$78,553	\$31,899	\$46,654	\$132,898	\$94,695	\$38,203	Sign Fund	<u>\$2,500</u>
							TOTAL	\$152,165
EXPENSES							A/P:	
Pastor Expense	16,266	17,132	-866	35,803	39,511	-3,708	District	\$10,804
Worship Expense	1,667	2,010	-343	4,600	6,029	-1,429	P/R	\$0
Property Expense	4,858	5,682	-824	12,959	17,045	-4,086	Mortgage Balance:	
Bus. & Administrative Expense	1,877	2,600	-723	8,181	7,800	381		\$0.00
Education Expense	0	58	-58	19	175	-156	BANK BALANCES:	
Evangelism/Outreach Expense	238	607	-369	1,097	1,823	-726	BankSouth	
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	LCEF	\$18,880.91
Fellowship Expense	173	192	-19	234	575	-341	Anderson	\$136,404.54
Mission Expense (District)	0	8,212	-8,212	0	8,212	-8,212	Comm. Ctr.	<u>\$3,604.44</u>
Other Expenses	<u>10,238</u>	<u>4,530</u>	<u>5,708</u>	<u>13,170</u>	<u>13,589</u>	<u>-419</u>	TOTAL	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,317	\$41,023	-\$5,706	\$76,063	\$94,759	-\$18,696		
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$43,236	-\$9,124	\$52,360	\$56,835	-\$64	\$56,899		

Notes: Debt reduction incime of \$3,650 received on Harmony purchase less \$195.56 expenses (for rental refund and check purchase) was transferred to new Harmony accounty. One time donation of \$10,000 to reduct mortgage payoff was deposited in LCEF account as mortgage had already been paid off when it was received. Quarterly LCMS expense to district, \$10m803 0,803.88 was made on April 2 and will be reflected next month It should be noted, however, that this was \$2,591.88 over budgeted amount, thanks to very generous donations during March. Other expenses includes transfer of funds to Harmony account (\$3,454.44) and \$2,951.03 for additional sound system equipment as well as the regular March mortgage payment.

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 or contact the chair listed.

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 (Feb): \$80.00

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. (Cancelled during COVID19)



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

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30 AM Worship Service - online	27	28	29 10:30 AM The Lord's Prayer ZOOM Bible Class online	30	1 <i>Ann Mara Lipacis' bday</i> Pastor's and secretary's day off	2 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
3 10:30 AM Worship Service - online	4	5 <i>Joshua & Bailey Ringer's anniversary</i> 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Meeting - CANCELLED	6 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 AM The Lord's Prayer ZOOM Bible Class online	7 <i>Larry & Sue Davis' anniversary</i>	8 Pastor's and secretary's day off	9 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
10 <i>John Seglund's bday</i> 10:30 AM Worship Service - online 11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING - on ZOOM 	11	12 <i>Dale Johnson's bday Terry Pedersen's bday</i>	13 10:30 AM The Lord's Prayer ZOOM Bible Class online	14 <i>Tom Saner's bday</i>	15 Pastor's and secretary's day off	16 <i>Dick & Marilyn Schneider's anniversary</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
17 10:30 AM Worship Service - online	18 <i>Andrew & Alison Ringer's anniversary</i>	19 <i>Evelyn Crockett's bday Lucie McNeil's bday</i>	20 10:30 AM The Lord's Prayer ZOOM Bible Class online	21	22 Pastor's and secretary's day off	23 <i>Deb & Steve Krahling's anniversary</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
24 <i>Robin Larson's bday</i> 10:30 AM Worship Service - online	25 <i>Mark & Monica Ketchie's anniversary</i> 	26 <i>Sandy Langan's bday</i>	27 <i>Jim McNeil's bday</i> 10:30 AM The Lord's Prayer ZOOM Bible Class online	28	29 Pastor's and secretary's day off	30 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
31  10:30 AM Worship Service - online	1	2	3 <i>Mary Tober's bday</i> 9:00 AM Elders Meeting	4 <i>Connie Piepenbrink's bday</i>	5 <i>Marlo & Bonnie Neuleib's anniversary</i> Pastor's and secretary's day off	6 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service