



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

March 2025

Pastor	Steven Hayden revshayden@gmail.com
Secretary	Marsha Brewster officelolc@gmail.com
Instrumentalist	Dr. Lev Rybanin
Choir Director	Dr. Youngmi Kim

Sunday Service	10:30 a.m.
1 st , 3 rd , & 5 th Sundays	Holy Communion
2 nd & 4 th Sundays	Morning Worship
Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
Choir	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

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the beginning...Once upon a time...It was a dark and stormy night...

Each of our stories has a unique beginning. My story started differently than yours, and yours began differently than everyone else's. But regardless of how our stories began, each of us lives out the story of our life every day.

If you're like me, you don't stop very often to think about "the story of my life." You're too busy living it! But if someone asked you to tell your story, what would you say?

You might start with where you were born and how you were raised. You might describe your favorite teacher, your first crush, your first car. You might include that time you scored the winning touchdown or that other time you threw up right before singing your first solo. If you're married, you might describe how you met your spouse. If you're a parent, you might

scroll through some photos on your phone or tablet and show off your family.

Sure, you haven't been perfect or lived a flawless life, but who has? You've made your share of mistakes. (We all have.) Some decisions you got right, and others... well, let's just say they're not as easy to discuss. Chances are you might have some chapters in your story you'd rather not share with anyone.

Reflection may give you a clearer understanding about which things in your life you can change and which things you can't. And this prayerful reflection can become a guide to making wise and God-honoring decisions as you move forward. But no matter how you describe your story, there's good news. Your story is not over.

Lent and Easter remind us that God has changed our story for us. God, through His grace in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has redeemed you, reclaimed you as His own, and created a new life in you by the Holy Spirit. You have been re-born to live as His child. Paul writes to us in Romans chapter 6, **5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Your story has taken a turn. My story has taken a turn. We are now new born children of God and that is a story worth sharing. Join us during our Lenten services as we share that story again.

Pastor Steve

Upcoming Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 5th Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, March 12th Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Wednesday, March 19th Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, March 26th Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Wednesday, April 2nd Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, April 9th Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 17th Worship with Communion 7 pm

Good Friday, April 18th Worship at 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th Worship at 10:30am with special Easter fellowship following the service.

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 with *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This weekly study will help us discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.

Please join us on for this new study on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am** in the Choir Room.”

Sunday Morning Bible class

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.” John 11:25-26. With these words, Jesus invites us into a faith relationship with Him. In that relationship He gives us forgiveness, hope, joy, comfort, peace and new life through Him.

Join us as we work through the Scriptures to hear and understand who Jesus is and what God does in our life through faith. Join us for What Do We Believe?, our **Sunday morning Bible class in person in the Church at 9am**. You may also follow along on our livestream on Facebook or the church website and Youtube.

Mid-Week Bible Class

Letters make up about one-third of the New Testament. They are important because they contain teachings of the apostles and their associates. The New Testament letters combine information about God and the Christian faith with instruction on life and behavior.

“Jesus Christ Lord!” These three words boldly confess the person and work of God’s only Son. In fact, they could be used to summarize all Christian doctrine and certainly are a summary of Paul’s message to the Colossians and to Philemon.

Join us every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 10:30am for Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.

Our Wednesday morning Zoom Bible class will be on a break and not meeting until Wednesday, March 26th. We will see you then!



For those who may feel cold during services here at Lake Oconee, a limited number of cotton blue blankets are available on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary. Please help yourself. After you use one, please place it in the basket on the floor so that it may be washed.



Choir Notes

The choir meets for rehearsal every **Sunday** at **9 am** in the choir room. You are all invited.

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 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.

\$175

Mark Dentler, our new property chair, is looking for volunteers to serve on a **Property Committee** with him. This group will meet to discuss and plan for improvements as well as planning in response to needs for the Church property. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mark Dentler at spinalsolution@mindspring.com or call 404-277-4174.

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 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.



**American
Red Cross**

Lake Oconee Lutherans next blood drives will be Apr 10th and May 8th. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com

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.

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
February 9, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost followed by a prayer by Pastor Hayden.

All members were present.

The minutes from January 12, 2025, council meeting was approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – Kathie reviewed the January Treasurer's Report. Expenses were over budget due to the Pastor's fourth quarter payroll taxes being paid and transfers from donations to the Bread of Life.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause - The financial report for January was distributed and discussed. Walter noted that donations for January show a decrease of \$24,705 from last year due to an annual donation made last year in the amount of \$35,000 offset by a 2025 donation of \$8,000. Other donations were up \$2,030 due to donations to Bread of Life, Little Free Pantry and the Christmas shoebox ministry.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – None.

Christian Education: Vacant - None.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – Bug House came out and removed a squirrel from the church attic. Mark plans on a facilities work day on March 1 at 9:00 am. He plans to hold a workday quarterly. He installed an automatic closer on the women's bathroom stall and is going to have someone come out and look at the sprinkler system. There appears to be a leak in the system and we have not been able to find it. Mark will follow-up on that. The facilities committee now consists of 7 to 8 volunteers. The back doorbell is failing and we have ordered a new one.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – We are in the process of updating the Elders' list to ensure all new members are included.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – There will be a funeral on Saturday, February 15 where we will provide coffee and record the service. There is a sign-up sheet for Lenten soup suppers. There will be a sign-up for Easter brunch and we will continue with the Easter baskets for foster children this year. We had 39 donations for the blood drive with 13 deferrals.

Pastor's Report: There will be a funeral for Pam Kunz's sister-in-law on Saturday, February 15. Pastor will be gone on vacation the beginning of March. Pastor Ochner will fill in on Sunday, March 2 and Ash Wednesday, March 5. Dr. Artelt will be here on March 9 and 16. The March 12 service at noon is open and pastor will have a lay person lead that service. Pastor will return on March 17. We are alternating Wednesday services between evening and lunch until Holy Week. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be evening services without meals.

We have one Sunday School teacher for several Sundays and we are looking for one more. The circuit pastors will be at our church for their regular meeting on Thursday, February 20. Kayleen will provide snacks and coffee.

Old Business:

Milledgeville – We are still waiting for the builder to provide pricing which will be used to take to the congregation for approval of a mortgage. We will hold an open house prior to any changes being made to the building. The committee will get together and then we will hold a special voters' meeting to approve an application for a mortgage. The mortgage will pay for the renovation costs and the monthly payments will then be paid for from the medical practice rent. We will then put together a call committee to call a church worker for the location.

New Business:

Choir Risers – The Lake Country Chorus has asked if they can rebuild the choir risers to make them lighter and more stackable. It was agreed that they could rebuild the risers, but they will need to store them rather than storing them at the church. If they do not want to store the risers, we will donate them to anyone else who might want them.

Christian Education Position – Bob Elkins has agreed he can no longer serve in this position. Pam and Pastor will be working on appointing someone for this position for the balance of this year. The position will be on the ballot for election next term by the congregation.

Organist – Dave Heimer announced that he will be reducing the number of Sundays he will play organ. Dave does know several organists and we will have him approach them to see whether they would be willing to play at the church and how much it will cost. We could have the organists play on the Sunday's Dave doesn't play to try them out.

Lutheran Social Services Budget Cuts – A question was raised about the accusation in the media by a few people associated with the federal government that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services was laundering federal grant money and that aid should be stopped. This has been strongly denied by the organization and they have pointed out the fact that they have been legally approved by the government for services provided and that they are actually providing the services agreed upon. The supporting Lutheran Synods also deny any criminal or wasteful practices by the service organizations. Here is a portion of President Harrison's (LCMS President) statement.

First, though I do not agree philosophically with every operational aspect of LIRS, if there is something legally amiss, the blame falls squarely upon the federal government. LIRS — and even our own LCMS RSOs — simply does what the government asks and pays for them to do.

During his first term, President Trump and the First Lady visited one of the LCMS RSOs currently under scrutiny. The president wanted to ensure that the institution would be a place to deliver outstanding care to unaccompanied minors. That agency has been quietly doing this work since that visit. They take the work with profound seriousness and love. They did not and do not deserve the broad brush of disdain brought upon them.

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 - January 31, 2025

	Monthly			Y-T-D			Y-T-D			Restricted Fund Balances
	Budget	Activity	Difference	Budget	Activity	Difference	Budget	Activity	Difference	
INCOME										
General Fund	35,590	30,062	5,528	35,590	30,062	5,528	35,590	30,062	5,528	\$478
Debt Reduction	0	795	-795	0	795	-795	0	795	-795	\$5,523
Memorial Fund	0	200	-200	0	200	-200	0	200	-200	\$9,048
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$4,592
Special Fund Income	<u>0</u>	<u>8,289</u>	<u>-8,289</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,289</u>	<u>-8,289</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,289</u>	<u>0</u>	\$7,699
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$35,590	\$39,346	-\$3,756	\$35,590	\$39,346	-\$3,756	\$35,590	\$39,346	-\$3,756	\$387
										\$23,686
										\$190,797
										\$1,450
										\$243,660
EXPENSES										
Pastor Expense	16,042	19,601	-3,559	16,042	19,601	-3,559	16,042	19,601	-3,559	\$5,523
Worship Expense	2,612	2,208	404	2,612	2,208	404	2,612	2,208	404	\$3,007
Property Expense	6,925	4,916	2,009	6,925	4,916	2,009	6,925	4,916	2,009	\$2,516
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,272	2,203	69	2,272	2,203	69	2,272	2,203	69	
Education Expense	142	117	25	142	117	25	142	117	25	
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	271	1,621	1,892	271	1,621	1,892	271	1,621	
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fellowship Expense	175	91	84	175	91	84	175	91	84	
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Expenses	<u>2,617</u>	<u>5,893</u>	<u>-3,276</u>	<u>2,617</u>	<u>5,893</u>	<u>-3,276</u>	<u>2,617</u>	<u>5,893</u>	<u>-3,276</u>	\$100,557.03
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,677	\$35,300	-\$2,623	\$32,677	\$35,300	-\$2,623	\$32,677	\$35,300	-\$2,623	\$156,942.54
										\$754,978.69

TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES \$2,913 4,046 -\$1,133 \$2,913 \$4,046 -\$1,133

Note: Pastor expenses are over budget because he was paid for 4th quarter '24 payroll taxes in January; Other expenses are over due to high Bread of Life donation transfers

A/P:	\$5,523
District	\$3,007
P/R	\$2,516

BANK BALANCES:	
Bank South	\$142,062.40
BS CD	\$108,273.40
Anderson	\$126,156.09
Comm. Ctr.	\$11,341.85
Bread of Life	\$109,645.38
Mortensen	\$100,557.03
Exchange CD	\$156,942.54
TOTAL	\$754,978.69

Treasurer's Report - January 31, 2025

	Monthly			Y-T-D		
	Budget	Activity	Difference	Budget	Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	2,368.55	-1,368.55	1,000.00	2,368.55	-1,368.55
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	2,368.55	-1,368.55	1,000.00	2,368.55	-1,368.55
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Utilities	250.00	376.00	-126.00	250.00	376.00	-126.00
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	525.00	525.00	0.00
Supplies	33.34	42.68	-9.34	33.34	42.68	-9.34
Repair & Mtce.	83.34	19.43	63.91	83.34	19.43	63.91
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	<u>178.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>178.34</u>	<u>178.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>178.34</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,070.02	1,063.11	6.91	1,070.02	1,063.11	6.91
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-70.02	1,305.44	-1,375.46	-70.02	1,305.44	-1,375.46
Bank Balance	\$11,341.85					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Note: Electric bill was high due to repairs done by EMC to flood lights

LOLC - BREAD OF LIFE
Treasurer's Report - January 31, 2025

	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Activity</u>
INCOME		
Donations	\$5,700.00	\$5,700.00
Other Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,700.00	\$5,700.00
EXPENSES		
Groceries	\$5,589.12	\$5,589.12
Administrative	\$69.90	\$69.90
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operating Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Telephone Expenses	\$7.95	\$7.95
Bank Service Charges	\$5.00	\$5.00
Furniture & Fixtures	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,671.97	\$5,671.97
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$28.03	\$28.03

Bank Balance: \$109,617.35

CD Balance: \$100,539.95

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.

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.

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!

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



March Birthdays

- Mar 3 David Plummer
- Mar 3 Grace Raetz
- Mar 7 Michael Joost
- Mar 9 Marcia Elkins
- Mar 10 Suzanne Sponsler
- Mar 15 Marlene Matson
- Mar 17 Sandy Mathson
- Mar 21 Steve Hayden
- Mar 23 Jack Carson
- Mar 26 Dorothy Johnson
- Mar 28 Si-Si Petrea
- Mar 30 Barney Ross

March Anniversaries

- Mar 22 Roger & Elizabeth Fleming
- Mar 26 Don & Pam Menke

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Church Property Workday 9am 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
2 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	3	4 9am Quilt Guild Meeting 10 am Women's Bible Class	5 Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 6pm Lent service 7pm	6 11 Blood Drive	7	8 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
9 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-communion Daylight savings time starts	10	11 10 am Women's Bible Class	12 Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm	13 11 Bread of Life	14	15 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
16 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	17 St Patrick's Day	18 10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm Community Center Meeting	19 Soup Supper 6pm Lent service 7pm	20	21	22 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
23 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	24	25 10 am Women's Bible Class	26 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm	27 11 Bread of Life	28	29 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
30 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	31 Quilts of Valor Bee 10-2					