



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 2026

Pastor Steven Hayden
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Secretary Cheri Kitchens
officelolc@gmail.com

Instrumentalist Dr. Lev Rybanin

Choir Director Dr. Youngmi Kim

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

Dear Friends,

In the early afternoon of April 10, 1912, more than 2,200 passengers and crew boarded the most luxurious ship in the world ... the *Titanic*. At the time, it was the largest moving object ever built. The *Titanic* was the crown jewel of the Gilded Age — a time when industrial revolution created a world of *nouveau riche*, as well as massive social inequalities.

The top cabins, known as the Millionaires Suites, were going for \$4,350 (about \$145,000 in today's currency). However, for the budget-minded passenger, a third-class ticket was a measly \$40 (\$1,350 today), which allowed you to bunk with nine other passengers. The common bathroom was down the hall.

The ship's voyage was big news, and photographers crowded the red-carpeted First Class gangway to catch a glimpse of some of the world's wealthiest and most influential people.

Once aboard, luxury awaited — a heated saltwater swimming pool, a

Turkish bath, gymnasium with a mechanical horse and camel, a squash court, and staterooms fashioned with Louis XIV, Italian Renaissance, and Queen Anne furnishings. Sixty chefs and staff worked the five kitchens, providing ten course meals.

Prior to the launch, the Titanic's promotional ads claimed the ship was "*designed to be unsinkable.*" Captain Edward John Smith said, "*God himself couldn't sink this ship.*" Yet, five days into the voyage, the unsinkable *Titanic* sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic.

Fast forward to 1997 as the most expensive movie ever made recreated a romantic version of the *Titanic*. The film received fourteen Academy Award nominations, winning eleven. And, with two billion box office dollars, it became the highest grossing film of all time.

Repeated several times in the movie's dialog was the claim of *Titanic's* unsinkability.

There's a technique in movie making called *Dramatic Irony*. Dramatic Irony is when the audience knows critical information that the movie characters don't. This disparity between *what we know* and *what they DON'T know* creates suspense. And the longer this disparity exists, the more tension it builds. Approximately 300 million people worldwide saw *Titanic*. It's safe to say that all 300 million knew exactly how the story would end ... and yet, they came to see it anyway. Dramatic Irony does that.

Easter season — the high point of the church calendar — is just around the corner. Parking lots will be jammed, attendance will be high, and we may see folks who don't often attend.

But why are they coming? It's because they know how the story ends and they want to hear it again.

Easter represents the greatest days in the history of the world — the

death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. These days are great because of what they mean for us, that through these events, "***He made [us] alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled the certificate of debt against us ... and nailed it to the cross***" (Col 2.13-14).

The *Dramatic Irony* of the Easter story shows how ...

- The fickle crowds hailed, "Hosanna to the Son of David," only to shout later, "Crucify Him!" But we know how the story ends.
- The Pharisees plotted against Him, a disciple betrayed Him, soldiers arrested Him, and Pilate sentenced Him. But we know how the story ends.
- Through a sea of mocking onlookers, He carried His own cross ... and, in agony, they nailed Him to it. But we know how the story ends.
- Soldiers were assigned to seal and guard the tomb to ensure He could never rise from the dead. But we know how the story ends.

It's a story we love telling, a story that changes our lives. Join us throughout Lent on our walk toward Easter. Why? Because we know how the story ends.

Pastor Steve

Announcements

LOLC offers Bible Study



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is meeting in the Council or meeting room around the big table with informal sessions and open discussion about the Bible and its impact on our everyday lives.

The Women's Bible group is in a study of the book of Proverbs. *The Way of Wisdom* considers principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence, and more. We will discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world.

Starting in April, the Women's Bible Study will be studying the book entitled *Heaven* by Jennifer Rothschild. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? How can we know the truth about what comes next? We will be exploring the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective and separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses. Don't just wonder about Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace. **We meet every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the church conference room. We would love to have you join us.**

Sunday Morning Bible class

The study of the Old Testament is nothing less than an exploration into the thoughts and desires of God for ordinary people like you and me. It takes us from this hardened and selfish world into the promise of a world where God's peace, justice, and mercy will be complete.

We can view the world as meaningless and without hope. But Jesus

Christ came to rescue the world from its quagmire, and His deliverance continues to change our lives.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in person in the church sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook and our website, for “Exploring God’s Old Testament”.

Wednesday morning Zoom class

On January 21, 1530, Emperor Charles V called for a general assembly—an imperial diet—to be held in Augsburg, Germany. Convened to deal with the threat of the Turks to the empire, the diet would also try to resolve the issues dividing the church at the time, what we call the Reformation.

The Emperor asked the Lutheran princes to identify what they believed and taught based on Scripture at the gathering. The Lutherans prepared a confession of the faith that would be verbally read before the emperor. This document, The Augsburg Confession, would become recognized as the public confession of the Lutheran Church.

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am on Zoom as we look at The Augsburg Confession.

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!



Flower Donations for Sunday Worship

Thank you to everyone who donates flowers.

- If you'd like your donation mentioned in the bulletin, please fill out the sign-up sheet on the blue table with all desired details (e.g., in memory or honor of someone).
- Please do not include lilies in your arrangements, as a member has severe allergies.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

DON'T BE LATE FOR WORSHIP!

SPRING FORWARD! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS.

2:00 AM becomes 3:00 AM

becomes 3:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR

BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT

Choir Notes

Benefits of Singing

- ♪ It makes you happier
- ♪ It reduces stress, anxiety and depression
- ♪ It brings people together
- ♪ It exercises your lungs
- ♪ It improves your posture
- ♪ It shares the love of Jesus

Please come and join our choir as we make “a joyful noise unto the Lord!” **The choir meets** for rehearsal every **Sunday** at **9 am** in the choir room.

Lent Meals & Midweek Services

- March 11, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm
- March 18, 2026: Soup at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm
- March 25, 2026: Soup at noon, Service at 1 pm

If you'd like to contribute soup, bread, or dessert, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the blue table in the narthex. Your help makes these meals a warm and welcoming time of fellowship.

EASTER AT 
Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

 MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2 • 7:00 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 
 GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3 • 7:00 PM	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 
 EASTER WORSHIP APRIL 5	EASTER WORSHIP <i>Immediately following the service</i> 10:30 AM EASTER BRUNCH <i>Celebrate with fellowship and delicious food!</i>

SIGN UP FOR BRUNCH
Please sign up on the **BLUE TABLE** in the Narthex. 

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Order Easter Tulips



Help beautify our Easter service on April 5, 2026, by ordering tulips in honor or memory of loved ones. Sign up on the blue sheet located on the entryway table.

Cost: \$9.00 per tulip

Sign-up deadline: March 16, 2026

Checks payable to Lake Oconee Lutheran Church. Note **Tulip** on *memo line*

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. February Mites donations were \$262.00

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 are thankful for familiar friendliness of our church family.

***We need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving.**

Look for the signup sheet in the narthex or register on Sign-Up Genius (see link below under the [Volunteers Needed](#) heading.)

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.

Volunteers Needed!

We need people to sign up to help! We need help in the Little Free Pantry, Coffee fellowship, greeters, ushers and more.

You can sign up for the following Sunday Worship Volunteer Roles online through Sign-up Genius:

- Greeter
- Scripture Reader
- Communion Assistant
- Communion Usher
- Coffee Fellowship

Here is a link to Sign-up Genius (Ctrl + Click to navigate to site.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A4A723A5FBC25-57931584-sunday>

Additional volunteer Roles include:

- ❖ 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/email the church office.
- ❖ Ushers' signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ **Sunday School teachers**, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



March Birthdays

- 03/03 David Plummer
- 03/03 Grace Raetz
- 03/07 Michael Joost
- 03/09 Marcia Elkins
- 03/10 Suzanne Sponsler
- 03/15 Marlene Matson
- 03/17 Sandy Mathson
- 03/21 Steven Hayden
- 03/23 Jack Carson
- 03/28 Si-Si Petrea
- 03/30 Barney Ross

March Anniversaries

- 03/22 Roger & Elizabeth Fleming
- 03/26 Pamela & Donald Menke

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Agenda
February 8, 2026

God Writes His Word on our Lives, Building us into a Family
Engaged in Spirit-Filled Service

Opening Prayer - Pastor Hayden

Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Council Committee Reports:

- Vice President Personnel: Pam Kunz (First year/Second Term)
- Treasurer: Kathie Kueven (First year/Seventh ten)
- Financial Secretary: Walter Krause (First year/Fifth term)
- Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell (First year/Second ten)
- Christian Education Margaret Pedersen (Second year/First term)
- Church Properties: Mark Dentler (Second year/First term)
- Lay Ministry: Don Menke (First year third term)
- Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer (Second year/First term)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden

Old Business:

- Milledgeville - update
- Carol Dunn estate - Awaiting meeting with Howell Cullens
- LOLC 25th Anniversary
- Organize Milledgeville call committee

New Business:

Adjournment

Closing The Lord's Prayer

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
February 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost. Don Menke led the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Steve, Carol Campbell, Margaret Pedersen, Mark Dentler and Kayleen Ringer were absent, and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the January 11, 2026, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz — No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven — The January Treasurer's Report was reviewed. January we were \$12,000 behind on offerings and a little over \$1,000 on expenses due to a LCEF quarterly payment and Pastor's payroll taxes for the last quarter of the year.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause — The financial reports for January were distributed and discussed. January donations for 2026 were \$11,000 higher than the same period in 2025. In other donations we were \$4,600 lower than last year due to lower donations for Bread of Life and the Little Free Pantry. There was a discrepancy between Walter's total donations of \$41,000 and Kathie's of \$24,000. Don went back and reconciled his numbers, and they totaled \$24,000 vs. the \$41,000 in his report. He will go back and revise the January financial report.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell — Absent. No report.

Christian Education: Margaret Pedersen — Absent. No report.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler — Absent. No report.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke — Due to Pastor's absence, the Elder's meeting is delayed until February 22, 2026. The 2026 schedule for Elder of the Month was distributed.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer — Absent. No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden — Absent. No report.

Old Business:

Milledgeville Update: The first rental check of \$1.00 was received. Dr. Ringer's financial officer will be in contact with Kathie so they can start paying expenses beginning in March. They do have final construction costs from the contractor, and they are in the process of obtaining two more bids. They are also looking at a potential mortgage lender.

Carol Dunn Estate — Mike Joost finally spoke with the financial advisor who oversees our account. They are in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss the bequest from the estate. The financial advisor is not aware of any constraints to the bequest from the estate, but he will reach out to make sure. Mike has also asked him to prepare a short presentation on how to donate equity to the church and the advisor will also provide a short write-up for those who might be interested in this type of donation.

Milledgeville Call Committee — A call committee is being organized by Pastor and if anyone wishes to volunteer please let Pastor know.

LOLC 25th Anniversary — Pam reported that Pastor has a service planned for the February 21 anniversary event that will last approximately 25 minutes. Dave will play the organ. The food will be

catered, and we will have a large cake. There will be a slide show. Pam went through all the saved newspaper articles and pulled out those items that would be relevant for the anniversary. The number of people who have signed up so far is low so Pam will ask Cheri to send out a reminder asking for people to sign up. Pam will also set up a meeting with Kayleen to make sure she has the pictures of all those who were instrumental in starting the church.

The meeting was adjourned followed by a prayer by Kathie Kueven.

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, 2026

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Period <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	Y-T-D <u>Activity</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							\$0
General Fund	36,683	20,730	15,953	36,683	20,730	15,953	A/P \$4,707
Debt Reduction	0	625	-625	0	625	-625	Memorials \$11,159
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$5,807
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	Little FP \$8,472
Special Fund Income	<u>0</u>	<u>2,842</u>	<u>-2,842</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,842</u>	<u>-2,842</u>	M-of-M \$387
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$36,683	\$24,197	\$12,486	\$36,683	\$24,197	\$12,486	M'ville Min. \$74,096
							DOT Funds \$217,197
							LOYA \$1,450
							TOTAL \$323,275
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	16,726	20,195	-3,469	16,726	20,195	-3,469	A/P: \$4,707
Worship Expense	2,763	2,751	12	2,763	2,751	12	District \$2,073
Property Expense	6,981	5,514	1,467	6,981	5,514	1,467	P/R \$2,634
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,692	2,641	51	2,692	2,641	51	
Education Expense	142	140	2	142	140	2	BANK BALANCES:
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	368	1,524	1,892	368	1,524	Bank South \$193,871.22
Stewardship Expense	30	0	30	30	0	30	BS CD \$112,399.53
Fellowship Expense	300	19	281	300	19	281	Anderson \$131,439.24
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Comm. Ctr. \$12,597.41
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Bread of Life \$64,235.53
Other Expenses	<u>2,616</u>	<u>3,625</u>	<u>-1,009</u>	<u>2,616</u>	<u>3,625</u>	<u>-1,009</u>	Mortensen \$625.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$34,142	\$35,253	-\$1,111	\$34,142	\$35,253	-\$1,111	Exchange CD \$157,367.72
							B-O-L M/S \$174,271.77
							TOTAL \$846,807.52
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,542	-11,056	\$13,598	\$2,541	-\$11,056	\$13,597	

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - January 31, 2026

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	1480.15	480.15	1,000.00	1,480.15	-480.15
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
TOTAL INCOME	1,000.00	1,480.15	480.15	1,000.00	1,480.15	-480.15
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	403.65	-403.65	0.00	403.65	-403.65
Utilities	250.00	311.00	-61.00	250.00	311.00	-61.00
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
Operating Supplies	33.00	44.93	-11.93	33.00	44.93	-11.93
Repair & Maintenance	83.34	0.00	83.34	83.34	0.00	83.34
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.34	0.00	178.34	178.34	0.00	178.34
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,069.68	1,284.58	-214.90	1,069.68	1,284.58	-214.90
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-69.68	218.47	375.48	-105.00	2,265.43	-2,370.43
Bank Balance	\$12,597.41					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

12/31/2025

	Period		Year-to-Date		Year-to-Date		Difference
	Activity	Budget	Activity	Budget	Activity	Budget	
Income							
Interest Income	306.28	0.00	4,010.44	0.00	4,010.44	0.00	4,010.44
Total Income:	\$306.28	\$0.00	\$4,010.44	\$0.00	\$4,010.44	\$0.00	\$4,010.44
Expenses							
DCE Salary	0.00	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	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income less Expenses:	\$306.28	\$0.00	\$4,010.44	\$0.00	\$4,010.44	\$0.00	\$4,010.44

Bank Balance: \$131,439.24

LOLC - BREAD OF LIFE
Treasurer's Report - January 31, 2026

	<u>Period</u> <u>Activity</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Activity</u>
INCOME		
Donations	\$1,833.47	\$1,833.47
Other Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,833.47	\$1,833.47
EXPENSES		
Groceries	\$2,870.86	\$2,870.86
Administrative	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Software	\$34.95	\$34.95
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	\$839.07	\$839.07
Other Equipment	\$132.65	\$132.65
Other Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,890.48	\$3,890.48
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$2,057.01	-\$2,057.01

Furniture & Fixtures is for shelving and other equipment is for storage bins

Bank Balance: \$64,235.53

Mortensen Fund Balance (Exchange Bank):): \$157,367.72

Morgan Stanley Fund Balance: \$174,271.77

March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	2	3 9 am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	4 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Noon Soup Supper 1pm Lent service	5 11 Blood Drive	6	7
8 DST Begins! 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Council Meeting	9	10 10 am Women's Bible Class	11 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lent service	12 11 Bread of Life	13	14
15 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	16 Deadline Tulip Order	17 10 am Women's Bible Class Special Election (optional) St. Patrick's Day	18 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Noon Soup Supper 1pm Lent service	19	20 10 BOLI/Golden Harvest Round Table	21 Bread of Life Week Day
22 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion	23	24 10 am Women's Bible Class	25 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lent service	26 11 Bread of Life	27	28
29 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Palm Sunday	30 10 am Quilts of Valor Bee	31 10 am Women's Bible Class				

