



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

May 2026

Pastor

Steven Hayden

revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary

Cheri Kitchens

officelclc@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,

This month we celebrate Memorial Day and remember the men and women who served in our Armed Forces, including General Douglas MacArthur. In 1942 the Japanese were winning stunning victories in the Pacific. The Americans in the Philippines were forced to leave the country. At that dark moment, General Douglas MacArthur firmly made a promise to the Philippine people, "I shall return."

Two years later, in October 1944, MacArthur's voice came via radio to the people of the Philippines with the electrifying news, "We have returned." The promise had been kept. A beachhead had been established in the Gulf of Leyte, and the Philippines would soon be liberated. MacArthur made good on his promise.

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus gathers His disciples for some final words about waiting for the Holy Spirit and witnessing to the world. **"⁶ So when they had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And**

when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

Then comes a word of promise. “¹⁰ **And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,** ¹¹ **and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”** Acts 1:6-11. In effect, Jesus is making a promise to them, to us, saying to all, “I shall return!”

We live in the period between the ascension of Jesus and His return at the Last Day. Even as the disciples received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we, too, through the Word of God, know that the Holy Spirit has brought us to faith. Jesus has already won the victory over sin, death, and Satan. He is with us through Word and sacraments.

While we do struggle under the occupation forces of evil as Satan continues to attack the church, we already know that Jesus will keep His promise. We already live with the promise that Jesus, who won the victory, will return to liberate us forever. He will not fail us. One day, we can be certain, Jesus will announce, “I have returned!”

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 Study is 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

"I'm a spiritual person, but I'm not religious." Have you ever heard someone say something like this? Today, many people feel that no organized religion empowers them to be healthy, renewed, or growing human beings—or even Christians! To them, rituals and organizations found in churches are mere empty shells.

Jesus says: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Lutherans confess that a true Church is not measured by "my taste" or "my sincerest spirituality";

rather, the Church is where our crucified and risen Lord Jesus lives and gives His abundant gifts.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am, in person or live-streamed, for “What is the Church?”

Wednesday morning Zoom class

Mid-Week Bible Class Update

No class on May 6 or May 13.

We'll be back on **Zoom May 20 at 10:30 a.m.** with a **brand new topic**—stay tuned for details!

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!

Lake Oconee Lutheran has activated a call committee. The committee's job will be to develop a list of pastor candidates to present to the Voter's Assembly out of which the Voters may

select one to call to serve our church along with Pastor Steve and to serve the mission in Milledgeville.

The most important job of this committee, in fact, the most important job for each of us, is to pray. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the pastor who may serve here faithfully and joyfully and be a part of our life in mission and obedience to God's Word.

Join me in saying this prayer, or a prayer like this:

The most important job of this committee, in fact, the most important job for each of us, is to pray. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the pastor who may serve here faithfully and joyfully and be a part of our life in mission and obedience to God's Word.

Almighty God, since You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself, grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive new life. May Your Holy Spirit lead and guide us in calling a pastor to serve among us according to Your will and proclaim Your saving Gospel to us and to our communities. And may that same Spirit help the one called to recognize Your presence among us and, if it be Your will, to accept the call as Pastor here. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Sandwich Ministry of Stone Mountain at [Rock of Ages Lutheran Church](#), a suburban church supporting an urban ministry, is currently seeking volunteers for our next delivery on **May 17, 2026**. [Lake Oconee Lutheran Church](#) invites all members to **sign up now** to help provide meals for this urban community.

Preparation Requirements:

- **Assembly:** Each sandwich should consist of one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, bologna, or roast beef).
- **No Condiments:** Do not add mayo or mustard, as sandwiches must stay fresh for up to six days.
- **Individual Packaging:** Place each sandwich in a sealed plastic bag and clearly label it with the type of meat.
- **Bulk Labeling:** Group individual sandwiches into a larger bag and write the **preparation date** on the outside.

How to Support:

- **Quantities:** One loaf of square sandwich bread typically yields 10 sandwiches.
- **Donations Needed:** We are in need of additional coolers for transport.
- **Volunteer Opportunity:** We are seeking a ride-along volunteer to assist with the May 17th delivery.

The sign-up sheet is on the blue table in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact **Kathie Kueven**.

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.



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.

All-Congregation Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, May 31, there will be an all-congregational Voters' Meeting after worship.

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. April Mites donations were \$147



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.)

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!



May Birthdays

- 5/01 Mara Lipacis
- 5/12 Dale Johnson
- 5/12 Terry Pedersen
- 5/14 Tom Saner
- 5/19 Evelyn Crockett
- 5/19 Mary Helen Ringer
- 5/26 Sandy Langan
- 5/26 Bruce Pungler
- 5/29 Cindy McCrea

May Anniversaries

- 5/05 Joshua & Bailey Ringer
- 5/07 Larry & Sue Davis
- 5/18 Andrew & Alison Ringer
- 5/23 Mark & Konni Dentler
- 5/25 Mark & Monica Ketchie

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
April 12, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost. Pastor Steve led us in prayer.

All council members were in attendance.

The minutes from the March 8, 2026, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – The March Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed.

Collections were \$36,330 which is \$353 below budget and \$13,894 below budget year-to-date. Expenses were \$4,756 below budget year-to-date for a net difference of \$9,138 below budget. Pastor's expenses were a little higher than budget due to his taxes being paid and the district's mission expenses were paid. All our bank balances are strong.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause – The financial report for March was distributed and reviewed.

Walter calculated we had \$35,985 in member offerings vs. \$31,082 in the Treasurer's Report. Walter will work with Kathie to uncover the discrepancy. Other donations in March were \$3,327 lower than last year primarily due to a donation given to Bread of Life from the Florida Georgia District in 2025. Total donations year-to-date are \$449.18 higher than last year.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – No report.

Christian Education: Vacant – The children in Sunday school made replicated manna today in class.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – The children's easter egg hunt and the Easter brunch were successful. There were approximately 13 children who participated in the easter egg hunt. We collected quite a bit of money for the easter basket project. There was a nice luncheon after Gary Roper's memorial.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – We received information from JC Site works who let us know there is a sewer line out on the road and Piedmont has given us verbal approval for the community center to tap into it. Piedmont will make an appointment to meet Mark at the church as they need to run the tap to a certain point and determine whether it will be a pump or gravity feed. We would then tap into the line. JC Site works will then remove the septic tank. Mark is obtaining quotes on the cost. Mike Joost asked Mark to get the well water at the community center tested. There was discussion as to whether we should keep the well or tap into Piedmont water at the community center. Once Mark obtains the quote on the sewer line and removal of septic tank, he will circulate it for council approval.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – An Elder's meeting is scheduled after church on Sunday, April 19.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden – Pastor thanked everyone who volunteered to help with Easter and Holy Week services. We had a large Easter Sunday attendance with a lot of visitors. We still have tulips left over if anyone wants them. On Saturday, April 11, Pastor performed a burial service in Union Point for a Lutheran family who lives in Dallas, Texas, who wanted the burial there.

Old Business:

Milledgeville Update: Oconee Valley Health Care is still waiting for a revised bid. We will have a groundbreaking service before the work begins.

Carol Dunn Estate – We have a meeting set up with Howell Cullens on April 22 at 4:00 pm at the church. There will be two separate recordings. The first will be information on the bequest and his recommendation on how we should handle the investments. The second recording will be information the congregation can use if they want to set up a bequest of securities to the church.

Milledgeville Call Committee – The call committee had their first meeting with President Rocky this past week via Zoom who outlined the call process. The committee will define the skills and qualities they are

looking for as we enter into the call process. This will take several weeks and will involve the congregation who will also outline the skills they believe we need. We have decided to call a pastor in that role as of now. The call needs to come through the congregation via a Voter's Meeting. The call committee will shepherd the process and provide two to three candidates for the congregation to consider. The congregation led by the Holy Spirit will determine who to call to Lake Oconee Church. The pastor's job will be to oversee Milledgeville as well as a few duties at Lake Oconee. In the end, it will be one congregation with two sites. In the future, if God blesses a congregation that grows in Milledgeville and they become independent that would be wonderful.

Sign Decommissioning – The sign has been cut off and capped. The sign and message board will no longer be lit up. Since we are entering into summer, we will leave it unlit.

Assistants to Treasurer and Financial Secretary – Don Menke will be working with Walter and Scott Manley will be working with Kathie to assist them with their roles. Scott will retire in June and is ready to step in right afterward.

New Business:

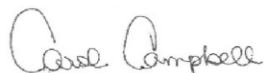
Christian Education Position – Nola Sayne has agreed to complete Margaret's term as Christian Education chair. We will hold a new election for the position in the fall. A motion was made, seconded and approved for Nola to complete Margaret's term.

Bequest from Dunn Estate – We had discussed setting aside the bequest from the Dunn estate to pay for the pastor's salary in Milledgeville. A motion was made, seconded and approved to set aside the bequest to pay for the new pastor's salary and expenses. We will inform the congregation about the bequest and its approved use at the next Voter's meeting.

Next Voter's Meeting – A motion was made, seconded and approved to schedule the next voter's meeting on Sunday, May 31. At the meeting, we will share information on the Dunn estate bequest, how we want to use the bequest, the call process and obtaining congregation approval to change Pastor Steve's title to Senior Pastor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Carol Campbell
Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - March 31, 2026

Corrected

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Y-T-D Budget	Difference	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	36,683	35,985	112,050	698	86,275	25,775	Organ \$0
Debt Reduction	0	710	0	-710	2,005	-2,005	A/P \$0
Memorial Fund	0	200	0	-200	900	-900	Memorials \$11,759
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$5,907
Special Fund Income	0	4,338	0	-4,338	8,781	-8,781	Little FP \$8,391
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$36,683	\$41,233	\$112,050	-\$4,550	\$97,961	\$14,089	M-of-M \$387
							M'ville Min. \$73,223
							DOT Funds \$221,597
							LOYA \$1,450
							TOTAL \$322,714
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	16,726	22,768	50,177	-6,042	56,476	-6,299	A/P: \$0
Worship Expense	2,763	3,346	8,288	-583	8,445	-157	District \$0
Property Expense	6,981	3,688	20,943	3,293	13,131	7,812	P/R \$0
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,692	2,732	8,077	-40	7,667	410	
Education Expense	142	236	425	-94	376	49	BANK BALANCES:
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	168	5,675	1,724	746	4,929	Bank South \$196,539.25
Stewardship Expense	30	0	90	30	0	90	BS CD \$113,045.44
Fellowship Expense	175	55	525	120	75	450	Anderson \$131,970.93
Mission Expense (District)	9,250	8,626	9,250	624	8,625	625	Comm. Ctr. \$13,882.68
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Bread of Life \$59,992.97
Other Expenses	2,616	5,451	7,850	-2,835	11,003	-3,153	Mortensen \$625.30
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$43,267	\$47,070	\$111,300	-\$3,803	\$106,544	\$4,756	Exchange CD \$157,464.76
							B-O-L M/S \$175,261.80
							TOTAL \$848,783.13
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$6,584	-5,837	\$750	-\$747	-\$8,583	\$9,333	

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

MARCH 2026

DATE	Member		Capital		TOTALS
	Donations	Memorials	Fund	Other	
3/1/2026	\$4,045.00		\$0.00	\$32.00	\$4,077.00
3/8/2026	\$4,255.00		\$625.00	\$2,091.00	\$6,971.00
3/15/2026	\$2,060.00		\$25.00	\$1,012.15	\$3,097.15
3/22/2026 **	\$15,485.00	\$200.00	\$25.00	\$818.00	\$16,528.00
3/29/2026	\$10,140.00		\$35.00	\$39.00	\$10,214.00
** Includes credit card activity					
MARCH 2026 (5)	\$35,985.00	\$200.00	\$710.00	\$3,992.15	\$40,887.15
MARCH 2025 (5)	\$34,373.00	\$200.00	\$745.00	\$7,320.00	\$42,638.00
	\$1,612.00	\$0.00	(\$35.00)	(\$3,327.85)	(\$1,750.85)
MARCH 2026 YTD (13)	\$86,275.00	\$600.00	\$2,005.00	\$8,322.09	\$97,202.09
MARCH 2025 YTD (13)	\$77,378.00	\$600.00	\$2,300.00	\$16,474.91	\$96,752.91
Increase/(Decrease)	\$8,897.00	\$0.00	(\$295.00)	(\$8,152.82)	\$449.18

2026 Audit (6cc) (3000.-)

(1) Includes Stock Donation

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - March 31, 2026

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	2142.05	-1,142.05	3,000.00	5,130.90	-2,130.90
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	2,142.05	-1,142.05	3,000.00	5,130.90	-2,130.90
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	553.65	-553.65	0.00	1,235.95	-1,235.95
Utilities	250.00	287.00	-37.00	750.00	1,004.00	-254.00
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	420.00	420.00	0.00	1,365.00	1,365.00	0.00
Operating Supplies	33.00	0.00	33.00	99.00	44.93	54.07
Repair & Maintenance	83.34	0.00	83.34	250.02	0.00	250.02
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.34	0.00	178.34	535.02	0.00	535.02
TOTAL EXPENSES	964.68	1,260.65	-295.97	2,034.36	3,649.88	-1,615.52
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	35.32	881.40	-846.08	965.64	1,481.02	-515.38
Bank Balance	\$13,882.80					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	4	5 9am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	6 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	7 11-4 Blood Drive	8	9
10 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Council Meeting	11	12 10 am Women's Bible Class	13 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	14 9 Bread of Life	15	16
17 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	18	19 10 am Women's Bible Class Election Mid-term Primary	20 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion	25 Memorial Day	26 10 am Women's Bible Class 10 Quilt of Valor Bee	27 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	28 9 Bread of Life	29	30
31 All Congregation voters' meeting						