

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter November 2024

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.

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Holy Communion

2nd & 4th 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,

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." So writes the psalmist in Psalm 107:1, and he goes on to list specific acts of God for which he gives thanks. David, in Psalm 103 writes, "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name...and forget not all His benefits..." and he, too, recounts the wonders of the Lord. It is a common occurrence in the psalms of David that, although he may express anguish and despair, he always ends his psalms on a note of confidence, for he know his life is in God's almighty hands.

It's Thanksgiving time this month. Perhaps this year it's harder than ever to feel thankful. After all, it's easy to be unsure of the economy. The stock market has gone up and down in value. With the high price of gas, you have been spending much more to drive your cars and to keep your homes warm. Maybe you have suffered the loss of someone you hold dear or seen your own health deteriorate. Remember however what the prophet Habakkuk had to say about feelings and circumstances: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there

are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (Habakkuk 3:17-18). "yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior". What a message of faith and trust. Therefore, with hearts filled with thanksgiving, we can respond in words and acts of compassion and encouragement to those around us no matter what else is happening. Thanksgiving is not just a feeling we have or a response to a specific blessing. Thanksgiving is our faithful response to God's presence and His promises; blessings which are ours regardless of what else is happening in our lives. "Give thanks to the Lord, for His is good..." Join us as we thank God together every Sunday morning in worship. Join us at our Thanksgiving Worship on Wednesday, November 27th and most of all know that your presence here is one of those specific acts of God that I am thankful for!

Pastor Steve

1 John 4:19-21

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

What a blessing that God has given to us! We could have simply been called to follow Him, alone and by ourselves. Yet, He has not only blessed us with His Grace and Forgiveness, but He has also given us one another to strengthen, encourage, love and support each other in our walks of faith. For He knew that we would need each other during our own hard times.

Linda and I are thankful for the loving, caring people in our lives, and this includes Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, loving us even as God has loved us. Thank you to the members (our brothers and sisters in Christ) who individually reached out by card or personal greeting to us at the death of my mother.

Thank you for the

plant and Your sympathy and kindness which mean a great deal to us. Thank you for being the love of God in the flesh to care for us during this time. Pastor Steve and Linda Hayden

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Council Meeting October 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost who led us in prayer. Pastor Steve, Barney Ross, Don Menke and Bob Elkins were absent from the meeting. All the other members were present. The minutes of September 9, 2024, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – Pam reported that Kayleen Ringer has agreed to replace Margaret as head of Christian Service/Outreach. She has asked many parishioners but does not yet have anyone to lead Church Properties. She will continue to look for volunteers and if none is found we will open it up to nominations at the November 10th voters' meeting.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven - The September financial reports were distributed and discussed. The Anderson Fund finances are now up to date as Kathie has received all their statements. We are still waiting on pastor's credit card bill; it is paid but listed under other expenses until Kathie can reconcile it next month. We received \$23,000 from the Mortensen life insurance policy and need to decide on which fund it should be placed. A decision was made to keep discussion until the December meeting when more council members are present. In the meantime, it will stay in other income. Mike requested that Kathie set up another restricted fund that he will fund and use to pay for the devotionals that are placed in the Little Free Pantry.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause - The financial report from September was distributed and discussed. Walter noted the \$23,000 he placed in memorials from the Mortenson life insurance policy. Under other, we are below last year by \$6,300 due to a donation toward the replacement of the water fountain and the overpayment of the LCEF mortgage. Walter and Kathie will meet to ensure that the income on Kathie's reports match Walter's report.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – No report.

Christian Education: Bob Elkins – Absent. No report.

Church Properties: Barney Ross – Absent. Motion detectors were placed in the bathrooms. The alarm sensor was replaced, however, the master key to turn off the alarm was disconnected when the new sensor was installed. We will have Netplicity come out and reprogram it this week.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – No report.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen – Operation Christmas Child has collected 101 boxes. We are still collecting for hurricane relief. The church barbeque will be held on November 16 at noon. The Bread of Life provided food to 88 people at their October 10th distribution. October 24 is the next distribution. We have one distribution scheduled in November and December.

Pastor's Report: Absent. No report.

Old Business: Mike and Dave Ringer attended the Rural Health Innovation Center Meeting on Faith in Health Care. This program which is at Mercer is state funded focusing on rural health. The School of Medicine and the Divinity School have partnered together to encourage churches to get involved in health care in rural areas. We informed the Center what we were doing, and the Director of the Center is interested in attending the opening of Center for Hope. Kathie brought up information on an organization called Milledgeville Cares which is an organization that provides information to those in need about all the resources they have at their disposal. She has a pamphlet providing them with a list of these services. She is someone we might want to partner with in the future. We will hold a voters meeting on November 10. The Knox boxes are installed at church and the community center. The Fire Department will come and lock them up when we are finished reprogramming the alarm system.

New Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully Submitted by: Carol Campbell Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCHTreasurer's Report - September, 2024

TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	Mission Expense (District) DCE Expenses Other Expenses TOTAL EXPENSES	Evangelism/Outreach Exp Stewardship Expense Fellowship Expense	Property Expense Bus. & Admin. Expense	Pastor Expense Worship Expense	EXPENSES	Sunday School Special Fund Income TOTAL OFFERINGS	Debt Reduction Memorial Fund	INCOME General Fund
ENSES -\$4,974	8,500 0 2,783 \$39,209		5,62 2,89	15,63 2,73		5 <u>568</u> \$ 34,235	2,50	Budget 31,167
74 5,867	00 6,249 0 0 0 2,791 09 \$42,139					0 0 0 <u>36,532</u> 55 \$48,006		
-\$10,841	ı.	515 0 127				0 - <u>25,964</u> - \$13,771		ID.
\$2,663	25,500 0 0 25,050 \$306,753					5,116 \$309,416		<u>B</u> u
3 -\$20,191	0 17,244 0 0 0 0 94,875 3 \$343,169					40	0 12,665 0 3,890	A
)1 \$22,854	\$\⊥	4,033 0 0 0 0 269				0 0 1 -56,435 8 -\$13,562	5 9,835 0 -3,890	<u>Difference</u> 2 36,928
		BS CD Anderson Comm. Ctr.				Little FP M-of-M M'ville Min.		Restricted Fund Balances Organ A/P
	\$42,551.87 \$100,489.28 \$154,757.90 \$637,887.88	\$98,150.00 \$106,677.80 \$126,156.09 \$9,104.94		\$7,024 \$2,322	\$181,997 \$4,550 \$221,003 \$9,346	\$6,505 \$387 \$4,700	\$8,248 \$4,792	d Balances \$478 \$9,346

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER
Treasurer's Report - September, 2024

Bank Balance Accounts Payable	TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	Rental Income Donations Other Income TOTAL INCOME EXPENSES Rental Refunds Utilities Pest Control Yard Maintenance Janitorial Supplies Repair & Mtce. Equipment Other Expenses TOTAL EXPENSES	INCOME
\$9,104.94 \$0.00	33.34	1,250.00 0.00 1,250.00 1,250.00 0.00 250.00 0.00 400.00 30.00 150.00 0.00 386.66 1,216.66	Monthly Budget
	352.36	1,377.27 0.00 0.00 1,377.27 303.65 282.00 0.00 400.00 0.00 39.26 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	Period Activity
	-319.02	-127.27 0.00 0.00 -127.27 -303.65 -32.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 30.00 110.74 0.00 386.66 191.75	Difference
	-0.02	11,250.00 0.00 11,250.00 11,250.00 0.00 2,250.00 0.00 3,900.00 270.00 1,350.00 0.00 3,480.02 11,250.02	Y-T-D Budget
	552.86	11,660.29 0.00 0.00 11,660.29 3,573.65 2,263.00 0.00 3,800.00 3,26.55 634.26 409.97 100.00 11,107.43	Y-T-D Activity
	-552.88	-410.29 0.00 0.00 -410.29 -3,573.65 -13.00 0.00 0.00 100.00 -56.55 715.74 -409.97 3,380.02 142.59	Difference

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

8/31/2024

Total Income less Expenses:	Expenses DCE Salary DCE Rent & Utilities DCE Internet Evangelism Supplies Other Expenses Total Expenses	Income Interest Income Total Income:	
\$66.74	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 \$0.00	<u>66.74</u> \$66.74	Period Activity
\$0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 \$0.00	<u>0.00</u> \$0.00	Period Budget
\$66.74	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 \$0.00	<u>66.74</u> \$66.74	Difference
\$524.18	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 \$0.00	<u>524.18</u> \$524.18	Year-to-Date Activity
\$0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 \$0.00	<u>0.00</u> \$0.00	Year-to-Date Budget
\$524.18	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 \$0.00	<u>524.18</u> \$524.18	Difference

Bank Balance: \$126091.49

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

9/30/2024

	Period Activity	Period Budget	Difference	Year-to-Date Activity	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference
Income						
Interest Income Total Income:	<u>64.60</u> \$64.60	<u>0.00</u> \$0.00	<u>64.60</u> \$64.60	<u>588.78</u> \$588.78	<u>0.00</u> \$0.00	<u>588.78</u> \$588.78
Expenses						
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCE Rent & Utilities	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
Evangelism Supplies	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
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income less Expenses:	\$64.60	\$0.00	\$64.60	\$588.78	\$0.00	\$588.78
Bank Balance: \$126.156.09						

Bank Balance: \$126,156.09

LOLC - BREAD OF LIFE Treasurer's Report - September 30, 2024

	Period <u>Activity</u>	Year to Date <u>Activity</u>
INCOME		
Donations	\$1,045.49	\$23,914.87
Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,045.49	\$23,914.87
EXPENSES		
Groceries	\$3,437.67	\$39,825.88
Administrative	\$0.00	\$165.94
	\$0.00	\$175.56
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$122.11
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$501.07
Operating Supplies	\$0.00	\$240.23
Telephone Expenses		
Bank Service Charges	\$5.00	\$45.00
Furniture & Fixtures	\$0.00	\$136.04
Other Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,442.67	\$41,211.83
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$2,397.18	-\$17,296.96

Bank Balance: \$42551.87 CD Balance: \$100,489.28

LOLC offers Bible Study



Sunday Morning Bible class

The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophesies, Matthew shows Jesus as the King who desires everyone to be a member of His kingdom.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in the church or on Facebook for Matthew.

Mid-Week Bible Class

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is about the church and about the fellowship of believers who make up the church. It is about us, for by faith we are the church in our time and place. We, by God's grace, are a part of God's family—a family united in Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Join us on Wednesdays at 10:30am on Zoom for the Ephesians.

Our Wednesday morning Zoom
Bible class is on a break and will not
be meeting until Wednesday,
November 13th. We will see you
then!

Women's Bible class

"The Women's' Bible Study will continue with their study of the Gospel in Romans with the book *In View of God's Mercies* on Tuesday, September 10 at 10:00 am in the Choir Room. If you are intrigued by Paul's personal letter to a group of new Christians in the Roman empire which helps them (and us) know how amazing and all-encompassing the gospel actual is — that it's powerful, planned, eternal and free — please join us! We would love to have you.

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.



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.



Choir Notes

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

Do you want to be loved?

Would you like to be greeted with a hug every Sunday?

You have a chance now to sign up as a **Sunday school teacher** here at Lake Oconee and you will be loved on by our kids.

We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday. Sign up by Sunday for any Sunday that you are available.

Sunday school starts in September, every Sunday, at 10:00 am and runs to 10:20 am. All materials are provided. See the sign up sheet on the blue table.



Save the Date: BBQ & Potluck on November 16th at 12:00.

More information to come...

SANDWICH MINISTRY OF STONE MOUNTAIN

Stone Mountain, Georgia is home to a remarkably diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious gathering of people from around the world. It is also "home" for an increasingly large homeless and transient community of folk, many of whom can be found each day and night somewhere along a 3-4 mile stretch on Memorial Drive. Six days per week, Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Stone Mountain serves bag lunches for up to 300 people.

Last year they (and partners) provided almost 19,000 meals.

ROCK OF AGES Lutheran Church is a suburban church serving an urban community. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is helping them again in November by posting a signup sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church by November 17th, and the sandwiches will be delivered to Rock of Ages following the church service. Each sandwich will contain one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, bologna or roast beef). Do not put any condiments on the bread because sandwiches are served for up to 6 days. Pack each individual sandwich in a sealed plastic bag. Write the type of meat on each bag. Place small bags in a larger bag and write the prep date on the larger bag. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches.

Day 29 of the Red-Letter Challenge refers us to Matthew 26:35, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink." And Matthew 26:40 concludes, "The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Any questions, please contact Barbara Hardesty.

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.

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.

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. <u>The Bread of Life Food Pantry</u> provides equitable access to food and staples twice per month to those in need in the community.
- 2. <u>The Little Free Pantry provides emergency food for community members who</u> 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.



Lake Oconee Lutherans next blood drives will be Nov 7th and Dec 5th. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com

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!

Operation Christmas Child – 2024

This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look just like last year. We will have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes**. This way you can personalize your shoeboxes and encourage family and friends to participate with you. Include your family, neighbors, pickleball or tennis team, craft group, or co-workers. Celebrate your birthday, anniversary, or other special event by packing a shoebox with your family or friends. Remember, school supplies go on sale in July! Drop off your filled shoebox gifts **throughout the year at the church before November 10**.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online.** Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places. Online boxes are carefully prepared and sent by OCC, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at: (*Ctrl+ click to follow the link*)

https://sampur.se/3OZCwKz

You can also scan this QR code below with your cell phone camera:



Select "BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE NOW" and follow instructions. By using this link, we will be able to track our church's progress toward our shoebox goal. You can also make a monetary contribution to the church, and we will build a shoebox for you (\$25/shoebox).

Our "faith goal" this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



November Birthdays

•	Nov 7	Janie Fritch
•	Nov 7	Phil Johnson
•	Nov 7	Kurt Huntzinger
•	Nov 11	Gary Roper
•	Nov 13	Jerry Campbell
•	Nov 14	Bob Mai
•	Nov 15	Donna Crouch
•	Nov 15	Harold Sollenberger
•	Nov 19	Kent Matson
•	Nov 20	Gustavo Romero
•	Nov 21	Max Ringer
•	Nov 23	Lucille Ringer
•	Nov 23	William Glenn

Candy McAllister

Nov 26



November Anniversaries

- Nov 7 Greg & Barbara Hardesty
 Nov 20 Research Minds Andrews
 - Nov 29 Roger & Linda Andersen

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship Service 10:30am	28 Quilts of Valor Bee 10 – 2 pm	29 Women's Bible Class 10am	30	31 Halloween	1	2 Episcopal Church Service 5pm
Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship Service 10:30am Communion Daylight Savings time ends	4 Election Setup after 4pm	5 Election Day (Voting here) Women's Bible Class 10am	6	7 Bread of Life 11 – 1:00 Blood Drive 12:30	8	9 Episcopal Church Service 5pm
10 Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship Service 10:30am Congregation Voters meeting after service	11 Veterans Day	Quilt Guild 9am Women's Bible Class 10am Community Center Meeting 2pm	13 ZOOM Bible Class 10:30	14	15	16 Episcopal Church Service 5pm BBQ & Potluck 12:00
17 Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship Service 10:30am Communion	18	19 Women's Bible Class 10am	ZOOM Bible Class 10:30	21	22	23 Episcopal Church Service 5pm
24 Adult Bible School 9am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship Service 10:30am	25 Quilts of Valor Bee 10 -2pm	26 Women's Bible Class 10am	ZOOM Bible Class 10:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm	28 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED	29	30 Episcopal Church Service 5pm