



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 2025

Pastor	Steven Hayden revshayden@gmail.com
Secretary	Cheri Kitchens 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.
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,

During our worship services in November, Lake Oconee Lutheran will be having a stewardship emphasis titled, Faithful Participants in God's Mission. God gives us the privilege and responsibility to be participants in His mission ***"to seek and save the lost"*** (Luke 19:10). Our heavenly Father does not want anyone to ***"perish, but that all should reach repentance"*** (2 Peter 3:9). As the Apostle Paul wrote, God ***"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"*** (1 Timothy 2:4), and He wants us to be active, involved, and willing participants in His plan of salvation for all people. As participants with the Lord, we become His hands, feet, and mouth through whom He works.

In order to be Faithful Participants in God's Mission, we need the help of the Holy Spirit Who takes from us our hearts of stone and gives us our hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). With these new hearts, we can begin to understand how much God loves us and all people. Through faith, we know that He sent His Son to suffer and die on the cross for our redemption, which prompts us to respond to His love by committing our time, talents, and money to His service. We live lives with a new perspective, meaning, and purpose. Because of God's saving activity, we willingly surrender our lives and become

participants in Jesus' mission to share the life-saving Gospel with all people.

To help us understand what it means to be Faithful Participants in God's Mission, we are focusing on these weekly themes:

Week One: "We Are Ambassadors for Christ" In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul wrote, ***"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God"*** (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Week Two: "We Are God's Fellow Workers" In 1 Corinthians 3:9 we read, ***"For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."***

Week Three: "We Are to Be Generous and Ready to Share" In Paul's letter to Timothy, he wrote, ***"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share"*** (1 Timothy 6:18).

During this time, we will also fill out our annual pledge forms for 2026 and our Time and Talent pledges.

May God bless you as you continue the faithful stewardship of all that He entrusts to you.

Serving Christ together,

Pastor Steve

Announcements



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is thankful for all who donate flowers for our Sunday morning worship. If you would like to give flowers, please remember the following points:

*If you would like the flowers to be listed in the bulletin, please include all the information that you want on the signup sheet: flowers given in memory of..., flowers given in honor of...etc. The signup sheet is located on the blue table in the entry.

*We would ask that you specifically request or include no lilies in the arrangements. We have a church member who is deathly allergic to lilies and cannot remain in the church if they are present.

Thank you for your help.



Lake Oconee Lutheran's next blood drives will be Nov 6. And Dec 4. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com

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. **Please plan on joining us on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the church conference room for the study and the wonderful discussions we always have about how what we learn impacts our lives.**

Sunday Morning Bible class

Sometimes we forget about the relationship between the Passover (in the Old Testament and in Jesus' day) and our celebration of Holy Communion. Passover was so long ago and about different people, what could it teach us? But God is the same and His will is the same, both in Passover and in Communion. As we study of God's Word, we will better appreciate what of Passover is fulfilled in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We will grow by realizing that both meals speak of rescue from slavery, readiness to follow our rescuer God, remembrance of all that He has done for our salvation, and repeated celebrations of God's grace.

Join us for **Passover to Communion, each Sunday morning at 9 am in the church.** **This class will also be live streamed on Facebook and our website.**

Mid-Week Bible Class

God's revelation to John was given to encourage Christians in every age who suffer because of their faith. Through dramatic symbolism, Revelation shows the spiritual conflict that surrounds life in this sinful world. At the center stands Christ, the Lamb of God slain for sinners. With the heavenly Father's blessing, Christ triumphs over Satan and opens the paradise of heaven, the city of God for each of us.

Join us every Wednesday morning

Upcoming Worship Schedule

Every Sunday Bible class at 9 am and Worship at 10:30am

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!

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.

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. In October we collected \$170. 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 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

Operation Christmas Child – 2025

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 9.**

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 \$30 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at: (*Ctrl+ click to follow the link*)

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fe837f0a-eed1-4714-b595-840260b0aa1b>

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 (\$30/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.

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.



Sandwich Ministry: Support for Rock of Ages Lutheran Church

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is once again partnering with the Sandwich Ministry of Stone Mountain Rock of Ages Lutheran Church. This ministry serves the urban community by providing much-needed sandwiches, and our church is helping with the next delivery scheduled for **November 16th**.

How You Can Help

A signup sheet has been posted for volunteers. Each person who signs up is asked to bring prepared sandwiches to church by November 16th. These sandwiches will then be delivered to Rock of Ages Lutheran Church after the service.

Sandwich Preparation Guidelines

- Each sandwich should contain one slice of cheese and one slice of meat. The options for meat are turkey, ham, bologna, or roast beef.
- Do not add any condiments, as sandwiches may be served for up to six days.
- Pack each sandwich individually in a sealed plastic bag. Clearly write the type of meat on each bag.
- Place the smaller bags into a larger bag and write the preparation date on the larger bag.

- One loaf of square sandwich bread makes ten sandwiches.

Additional Needs

- We need more coolers to transport the sandwiches.
- A volunteer is needed to ride along and assist with the delivery on November 16th.

The more volunteers who participate, the fewer sandwiches each individual will need to prepare. If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Kueven.



Doors open and close. New faces come and familiar faces are no longer here. It has been a while since we updated our church photo/address directory, and we are ready to do exactly that. ***New Pictures will be taken after church on 11/16/25 and 11/23/25.*** Please plan on having your picture taken on one of those days so that you might be included in the upcoming directory and so that others can use this resource to put names to faces, reach out to new friends, and celebrate the unity of our congregation.



25th Anniversary Celebration

For the past twenty-five years, the Lord has guided our congregation in obedience to His Word and strengthened us for lives of service in His name. We are grateful for the abundant blessings He has poured out on us, and we give thanks for the bountiful harvest within our community. As we approach our 25th anniversary in February 2026, we reflect on the blessings we have received and look forward to what the future holds.

Commemorative Photo Collection

In honor of this milestone, we are gathering photographs that capture moments from the life of our church. If you have photos you would like to share, please email digital copies to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com or place them in Pam's folder to be scanned and returned. If submitting physical photos, please note your name on the back so the photo can be returned to you.

Connecting with Former Congregants

We are also seeking to reconnect with former members of our congregation who have moved away from the community. If you have any current contact information for these individuals, please share it to help us reach out to them.

Celebration Details

The celebration will be held on **Saturday, February 7**. Further information regarding the anniversary celebration will be provided in the coming months.



Set aside **Saturday, November 1st** and join Lake Oconee Lutheran for a **church BBQ** featuring Chef Jaye. Set up will begin at 12:30, and we plan to eat at 2 pm. You are invited to sign up to bring sides and desserts to share with your friends. The sign-up sheet will be on the blue table in the narthex.



Congregational Voters Meeting

November 16, 2025

After Worship

Our semi-annual Congregational Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16, 2025, immediately following worship. Stay for the meeting and be involved with our congregation. We will be electing the Church Council members and approving the 2026 budget.

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.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



November Birthdays

- 11/7 Janie Fritch
- 11/7 Kurt Huntzinger
- 11/7 Phil Johnson
- 11/11 Gary Roper
- 11/13 Jerry Campbell
- 11/14 Bob Mai
- 11/15 Donna Crouch
- 11/15 Harold Sollenberger
- 11/19 Kent Matson
- 11/20 Gustavo Romero
- 11/21 Max Ringer
- 11/23 William Glenn
- 11/23 Lucille Ringer
- 11/26 Candy McAllister



November Anniversaries

- 11/21 Joe & Dawn Moynihan

**Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
October 12, 2025**

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

Don Menke was absent, and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the September 21, 2025, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – The September Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Year-to-date offerings were \$46,288 less than budget while year-to-date expenses were \$29,375 less than budget for a year-to-date difference of \$16,913. Mission expenses were not paid at the end of September but will be paid in October. Pastor's expenses were up due to the payment of a quarterly tax deposit. We have a total of \$733,731 in our bank balances. The community center has taken in \$14,542 in rental income year-to-date while expenses have totaled \$11,794 for the same period. There is \$12,884 in the community center bank account. Kathie also provided copies of the budget comparison between 2025 and 2026.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause – The financial report for September was distributed and discussed. The report covered one week in August and four weeks in September so it would align with the Treasurer's report. September of 2024 had five Sundays as well. There was a \$300 discrepancy from the treasurer's report due to credit card transactions for missions. There was a \$23,000 difference in other donations as the Davis Mortensen life insurance payment was received in 2024.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – No report.

Christian Education: Margaret Pedersen – No report.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – There was a workday in Milledgeville on October 4 where several people helped complete the clean out of Hope Lutheran church. The remaining furniture is being stored at Mark's facility in Athens. The pressure washing of the church has been completed and the damaged panels replaced. Barney has volunteered to pressure wash the memorial garden and a quote was obtained to pressure wash the siding and second story windows. Weed control was applied to the front of the church and in the islands. Mark met with Piedmont Water about the water bill from the leak we had. As expected, they did not accept responsibility for damage repair or the excessive water usage so we will need to pay the bill. Rather than buy a filter for the water fountain, Mark will reset the timer. We had an electrical outlet problem that Pastor Steve resolved, and another faulty outlet will be replaced next week. We need a new flapper in the women's restroom which Mark will fix. The Bread of Life volunteers took care of moving the tables and chairs in and out for the Upscale Resale sale. Mark obtained a quote for outside janitorial services which came to \$15,600 annually. We will continue to use Sonya to clean the church as the budget for her services is \$8,600 per year. Sonya listed her cleaning duties for Mark, and he will put together a job description based on what she provided.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – Absent. Kathie reported that several new members have been assigned an elder.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – We have money in the Operation Christmas Child fund and we will purchase boxes with those funds. We should meet our goal without any problem.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden – The piano in the conference room was donated. Tomorrow Pastor is driving to Savannah to pick up socks from Bombas. We are receiving 1000 pairs to distribute. He talked with the lay ministry and in January we will form a call committee for the position in Milledgeville. We have received a few volunteers already. In November we will have a stewardship theme for three weeks and we will also have a voters meeting.

Old Business:

Milledgeville Update: We have everything out of the building that we wanted to save. The lease has been signed by both parties. Oconee Valley will get in touch with the builder to solidify the plans and estimate. We are currently paying the utility bill and bill for the yard, but once Oconee Valley secures the loan and takes possession, they will be responsible for the bills.

Carol Dunn Estate – We do have a donation of securities that will be placed into the brokerage account we set up. Once the securities have been sold, we will report the income to Walter.

LOLC 25th Anniversary – Pam is going to put an item in the next bulletin about the anniversary, and she is thinking about a theme for the event. She came up with service, blessings, obedience and opportunity. She will be asking for pictures and contact information for former members. We will make a copy of the original charter. We will hold the event on February 7 and will have a potluck dinner with the main dish being provided by the church.

Congregational Voters Meeting – The meeting is scheduled for November 16 and will also be our council meeting. We will submit the budget and have election of officers.

New Business:

Election of Officers – Margaret Pedersen has agreed to serve as the head of Christian Education for the next term.

Reminders:

We will have the church barbeque on November 1 and in January we will start a call committee. We will have advent soup suppers on Wednesday in December. The 3rd and 17th will be the evening services, and the 10th will be at noon.

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 - September 30, 2025

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME							
General Fund	35,590	21,694	13,896	321,812	229,351	92,461	Organ \$0
Debt Reduction	0	690	-690	0	6,610	-6,610	A/P \$8,794
Memorial Fund	0	200	-200	0	1,900	-1,900	Memorials \$10,359
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$5,742
Special Fund Income	0	2,918	-2,918	0	37,663	-37,663	Little FP \$6,659
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$35,590	\$25,502	\$10,088	\$321,812	\$275,524	\$46,288	M-of-M \$387
							M'ville Min. \$20,260
							DOT Funds \$208,397
							LOYA \$1,450
							TOTAL \$262,048
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	16,042	20,395	-4,353	144,377	151,113	-6,736	A/P: \$8,794
Worship Expense	2,612	2,108	504	23,513	21,451	2,062	District \$6,238
Property Expense	6,925	5,447	1,478	62,325	46,806	15,519	P/R \$2,556
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,272	2,070	202	20,452	19,975	477	BANK BALANCES:
Education Expense	142	0	142	1,275	867	408	Bank South \$118,763.40
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	181	1,711	17,025	2,488	14,537	BS CD \$111,075.65
Stewardship Expense	360	0	360	360	0	360	Anderson \$130,211.29
Fellowship Expense	175	0	175	1,575	780	795	Comm. Ctr. \$12,884.70
Mission Expense (District)	9,900	0	9,900	29,700	16,425	13,275	Bread of Life \$30,943.46
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mortensen \$624.47
Other Expenses	2,617	3,624	-1,007	23,550	34,872	-11,322	Exchange CD \$157,236.28
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,937	\$33,825	\$9,112	\$324,152	\$294,777	\$29,375	B-O-L M/S \$171,991.76
							TOTAL \$733,731.01
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$7,347	-8,323	\$976	-\$2,340	-\$19,253	\$16,913	

Note: Collections included August 31.
Mission Expenses of \$6237.50 for the quarter will be paid in October
Pastor expenses over budget due to payment for tax deposit

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - September 30, 2025

	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>
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	1,855.05	-855.05	9,000.00	14,542.42	-5,542.42
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	1,855.05	-855.05	9,000.00	14,542.42	-5,542.42
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	800.00	-800.00	0.00	3,784.45	-3,784.45
Utilities	250.00	367.00	-117.00	2,250.00	2,996.00	-746.00
Pest Control	0.00	186.00	-186.00	0.00	186.00	-186.00
Yard Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Janitorial	420.00	420.00	0.00	4,095.00	4,095.00	0.00
Supplies	33.33	56.70	-23.37	300.01	392.17	-92.16
Repair & Mtce.	83.33	0.00	83.33	750.01	340.61	409.40
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.33	0.00	178.33	1,605.01	0.00	1,605.01
TOTAL EXPENSES	964.99	1,829.70	-864.71	9,000.03	11,794.23	-2,794.20
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	35.01	2,204.70	-2,169.69	-0.03	2,748.19	-2,748.22
Bank Balance	\$12,884.70					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

November 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Daylight Savings time ends	3 Election Setup - pm	4 10 am Women's Bible Class Election Day	5	6 Blood Drive 11-4	7	8
9 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-Communion	10	11 9 Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class Veterans Day	12 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	13 11 Bread of Life	14	15
16 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion Congregation Voters Mtg Directory Photos taken	17	18 10 am Women's Bible Class	19 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-Communion Directory photos taken	24 10-2 Quilts of Valor Bee	25 10 am Women's Bible Class	26 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion						