



LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Church Newsletter September 2026

GOD WRITES HIS WORD ON OUR LIVES, BUILDING US INTO A FAMILY ENGAGED IN SPIRIT-FILLED SERVICE

Worship Times

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00 AM

Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

1ST, 3RD, AND 5TH Sundays Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sundays Morning Worship

Contact Info

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Phone: 706-485-4600

Website: lakeoconeelutheran.org

Pastor: Steven Hayden

revshayden@gmail.com

Instrumentalist: Dr. Lev Rybanin

Secretary: Cheri Kitchens,

officelolc@gmail.com

Choir Director: Dr. Youngmi Kim

FROM PASTOR STEVE

"Because Christ holds tomorrow, we can live today in hope."

A MESSAGE OF CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

Dear Friends,

"See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day." Matthew 20:18-19

Would you like to know your future? What if you knew what was going to happen tomorrow? Or perhaps you want to know what will happen all next week?

We try to know what is coming. Each of us listens or checks on the weather predictions so that we might know what will be happening; will we be able to get outside? Will our grass and plants get water? Some people check their daily horoscope to find out what they should watch for in the coming days. Often, when we think about it, we only want to know what will happen in the future if it's good news for us. We are in no rush to know that bad things are coming.

But Jesus already knew what was going to happen in the coming days. He had already told His disciples that something big would happen when He took them to Jerusalem. And it certainly didn't sound like good news to them. He said the Son of Man would suffer at the hands of the religious leaders, they would condemn Him to death, but He would be raised again on the third day.

Jesus did not tell His disciples what would happen to them, only what would happen to Himself. Yet, in His death and resurrection, we already know what will happen to us. And it is good news. We already know the future. When we trust in Jesus, our future with God is secure. Regardless of what bad things may happen during our life; we know that we are still in God's hands. We know that God will always love us. We know that we will always be in God's presence.

We know the future and it is Good News!

Pastor Steve

HOW TO GIVE STOCKS, BONDS, OR SECURITIES TO LOLC

If you wish to make a gift to Lake Oconee Lutheran Church from appreciated stocks, bonds, or securities, you may do so without incurring tax liability for capital gains. To begin the transfer, follow these steps:

1. Contact Howell Cullens at Piedmont Financial Partners: 404-660-3636, howell@pfpartners.net, or his office just off Linger Longer Road.
2. Have your account information and the name of the security you wish to transfer available; a copy of your latest statement is helpful.
3. Review, sign, and return the transfer request Howell sends so he can complete the transfer and notify you when it is done.

Please feel free to call or email Howell Cullens with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the transfer process.

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



Choir practice resumes on **Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 AM**. All are welcome to join us as we raise our voices together in joyous song!

BIBLE STUDIES & FELLOWSHIP

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is on Summer Break.

Join us starting **Tuesday, September 8, at 10:00 AM** in the Conference Room for a brand-new Bible study: "Luke: Gut-Level Compassion" by Lisa Harper. Together, we will dive into Luke's Gospel and look at the profound, unconditional love Jesus has for real, messy people. You don't have to have it all together to fit in here—just come as you are!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

What is prayer? It's a simple enough question and a natural place to start. Perhaps just as good a question is "What isn't prayer?" Prayer, quite simply, is speaking to God what is in our hearts. Prayer is not a means through which God speaks to us; God speaks to us through His Word. In prayer, then, we have the privilege of striking up a conversation with our Creator.

Join us on Zoom every **Wednesday morning at 10:30 am** for **Prayer.**

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

The story of the Bible has been called "The Greatest Story Ever Told." But did you ever wonder where the Bible came from? Who wrote it? Why they wrote it? Who decided which books to include? In this study, we will join Dr. Paul Maier as he shares with us "How We Got the Bible."

Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9am** in person and live streamed to learn more about how God gave us His Word.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS



Thank you to everyone who donates flowers for our Sunday worship! If you would like to give flowers, please keep these two important points in mind:

- **Bulletin Dedications:** To have your dedication included in the bulletin (e.g., *in memory of* or *in honor of*), please write the exact wording on the sign-up sheet located on the **blue table in the entry**.
- **Strictly No Lilies:** Please explicitly request **no lilies** in your arrangements. A member of our congregation has a life-threatening allergy to them and cannot be in the building if they are present.

Thank you for your help.

CALL COMMITTEE

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:

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.

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.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP



Do you enjoy our coffee and treats after service during **Coffee Fellowship time**? If so, there are quite a few openings over the next month for you to provide something. Join with a friend or bring a few things to share on your own. Sign up on the **Blue Table** for the week that you are available to host our **Coffee Fellowship Time**.

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 August we collected \$40. We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.

BACK TO SCHOOL



It seems like summer just started, but before we know it, schools will be back in session. Service/Outreach ministry asks for your support of the Greene and Putnam County schools by providing these items:

- ✓ 24 count boxes of crayons,
- ✓ Packs of #2 pencils,
- ✓ Glue sticks,
- ✓ Notebook paper

Look for the bin labeled Back-to-School Supplies in the church entry. **Please bring your supplies by September 6.** Thank you for your support of the children of Greene and Putnam counties.

BLOOD DRIVE



Lake Oconee Lutheran's next blood drives will be **September 3 and October 1**. If you are interested in volunteering a little of your time to help, please reach out to Pam Kunz at kunzpd3@outlook.com

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

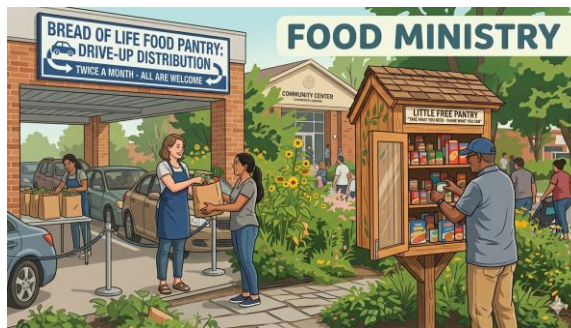
Here is a link to Sign-up Genius (Ctrl + Click to navigate to site.)

<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.

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD MINISTRY



The goal of the Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry is to respond to community needs through food distribution and support, sharing God's love in word and action. Our food ministries serve the community in two distinct ways:

Ministry	Purpose	How to Support (Donations & Time)	Schedule & Details
Bread of Life Food Pantry	Provides equitable access to food and household staples twice per	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations: Cash donations are preferred due to limited storage and specific menu/item requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setup: 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:00 PM (No 4th Wed setup in Nov/Dec)

Ministry	Purpose	How to Support (Donations & Time)	Schedule & Details
	month to community members in need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers: Needed to set up distribution or distribute food. Sign up on the blue table in the narthex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 10:00 AM (<i>No 4th Thu distribution in Nov/Dec</i>) • Golden Harvest Delivery: 3rd Friday at 9:00 AM
Little Free Pantry	Provides emergency food for community members who face sudden food shortages and need immediate help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations: Non-perishable food and/or cash donations (cash is used to purchase short-supply items). Please limit food donations strictly to items on the approved shopping list. • Volunteers: Needed to check on the cabinet and restock supplies when low. Sign up on the blue table in the narthex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing daily maintenance and restocking. • A daily distribution guide and donation shopping list are posted on the doors of the Pantry supply cabinet.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED



Help our kids experience God's love! We are recruiting Children's Sunday school teachers to pour into the next generation. We need two volunteers per **Sunday for our 9:00 – 10:00 AM** Bible study hour starting on September 13. If a childhood Sunday school teacher made a difference in your life, consider stepping into that role for our kids today. Head to the blue table in the entryway to sign up on the sheet! You can also sign up online with Signup Genius.

SUPPORTING PASTOR RON

Pastor Ron and Karen have shared that Karen has **entered hospice care** for her Parkinson's disease, allowing her to receive additional comfort and services. They are reaching out to our church family for help with **respite care**. We are looking for **volunteer women** willing to spend about **2 hours** with Karen occasionally. This will allow Pastor Ron to run errands or take a brief break. They are not seeking a regular commitment, just a little help now and then.

If you can assist, please call **Pastor Ron directly at 706-473-0901**. Please keep their family in your prayers.

CELEBRATIONS

Members of LOLC Celebrating

Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



September Birthdays

- 9/03 Keith Mulford
- 9/06 Dave Ringer
- 9/07 Dawn Moynihan
- 9/11 Barbara Koenck
- 9/11 Susan Larson
- 9/12 Tom Mathson
- 9/15 Elizabeth Ringer
- 9/24 Roy McAllister
- 9/30 Marja Yazbak



September Anniversaries

- 9/04 Tom & Sandy Mathson
- 9/06 Jeffrie & Nola Sayne
- 9/14 Charlies & Donna Crouch
- 9/18 Don & Pam Kunz

COUNCIL NOTES

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 9, 2026

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

Carol Campbell and Pam Kunz were absent and all other council members were in attendance.

The minutes from the July 12, 2026, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven/Scott Manley – The treasurer's report for July was distributed and reviewed. The church is in good shape financially. Mission expenses were reported without a budget number as the budget is calculated every three months. On other expenses we paid \$16,955 to Piedmont Water to start the work to move the community center off the well to city water. That money comes from the DOT funds. It also included the annual scholarship paid to seminary student Matthew Shipman. Scott Manley is going to help Kathie the rest of the year, and he will then take over as treasurer. He will handle the budget this year. Scott explained that he moved the budget to an Excel spreadsheet which he will use going forward. The spreadsheet includes the 2023, 2024 and 2025 budgets with a forecast to the end of the year for the 2026 budget. The council should let Scott know by the end of August if there are any additional expenses to add to next year's budget. There was a question regarding the meaning of the budget account titled "Benevolence". Pastor Steve explained that it was used for special catastrophic events such as a fire or hurricane. There was a question on how salaries were budgeted and Kathie explained that she calculated the costs for a 3-5% increase and provided that to the Board of Elders. The Elders would then make a recommendation for salary increases. The budget is given to the Council in September; the council makes any adjustments and approves the final budget in their October meeting. The budget is published for the congregation to review two weeks before the November's voter meeting where it is voted upon.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause/Don Menke – The financial report for July was distributed and reviewed. Member donations for the month of July were up \$3,500 from last year with the same number of Sundays. There was a donation in the last week of July in the amount of \$3,100 which wasn't given last year, which accounts for the increase. There was a discussion as to the small differences between the treasurer's report and the financial report primarily in the Other category that will be reviewed.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – Absent.

Christian Education: Nola Sayne – Nola is continuing to look for more people to volunteer to teach Sunday school.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – The blood drive was conducted in Pam's absence which was very busy and successful. The ice cream bingo social celebration will be held Saturday, August 22.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – The stop sign is up. The pine straw was put down and looks good. We are still waiting for quotes on pressure washing the upper section of the church building. There is a delay by Piedmont Water on the sewer project because DOT is requiring more permitting. The door to the community center will be looked at on Tuesday morning, August 11.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – Board of Elders discussed how best to recognize new members. It was decided that Jerry and Jay will look at providing coffee cups/mugs with the church emblem on it. For those that have already joined, Pam is looking into finding someone to provide a snapshot of information for new members which can be provided to the congregation via the newsletter.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden – Next Sunday, August 16, Pastor will be on vacation. Pastor Artelt will be leading Sunday school and the worship service. Hannah will be installed as a church worker in Colorado so Linda and Pastor will be going to her installation. He will fly back on the 17th. On September 30, October 1st and 2nd, the district will have the President's Equip Conference in Orlando, FL

where members can attend workshops about outreach and missions along with other topics. The council is invited to attend and should let the pastor know in August if they would like to attend. The church would pay for the registration fee, but attendees would be responsible for housing.

Old Business:

Milledgeville Update - Oconee Valley Health Care is still in the process of obtaining quotes from banks for financing the remodeling of the facility which is taking a while. Oconee Valley Health Care will start taking over the expenses for the building shortly.

Milledgeville Call Committee The committee received eight candidates for Associate Pastor from the district for review. The committee reviewed all the candidate backgrounds and selected four candidates to interview. Out of the four, two declined to interview as they were starting a sabbatical. We have two candidates to interview which will be scheduled near the end of August due to committee member vacations.

Carol Dunn Estate – Mike has asked the financial advisor to move the stocks over to the funds the council selected.

New Business:

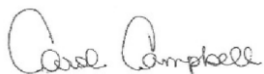
Road Resurfacing/New Sign – There will be resurfacing done from the new subdivision to the church road leading to 44. Mike thought we should replace the blue sign and perhaps put a new double-sided sign in its place, and the expense could come from DOT funds. He asked the council to think about it and to provide Mike with suggested types of signs.

Community Center Driveway – There was discussion about putting a new paved driveway in the community center. There was also a discussion about moving the Bread of Life to the Community Center which would require an additional driveway or a loop around to support the Bread of Life. We would also need some type of portico. Mike is checking on feasibility of these plans and will discuss it with the council once he has received additional information.

Paid Choir Member: We have lost several altos in the choir and there was discussion as to whether we should hire someone from the college for the fall semester. The cost is \$50 per week. The council felt it should be strictly voluntary and not pay someone. Perhaps some of the new members who have joined the church should join the choir. There was a decision to bring this back up once the choir reconvenes to see if this position is still needed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Campbell".

Carol Campbell
Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH						
Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2026						
Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference	Restricted Fund Balances
INCOME						
General Fund	22,621	14,062	258,782	190,048	68,734	Organ \$0
Debt Reduction	650	-650	0	4,785	-4,785	A/P \$7,296
Memorial Fund	200	-200	0	1,450	-1,450	Memorials \$12,459
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund \$5,907
Special Fund Income	5,797	-5,797	0	174,960	-174,960	Little FP \$7,228
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$36,683	\$7,415	\$258,782	\$371,243	-\$112,461	M-of-M \$387
						M'ville Min. \$206,149
						DOT Funds \$213,442
						LOYA \$1,450
						TOTAL \$454,318
TOTAL EXPENSES						
Pastor Expense	9,227	7,499	117,081	114,956	2,125	A/P: \$7,296
Worship Expense	1,865	898	19,340	17,217	2,123	District \$2,119
Property Expense	4,546	2,435	48,867	34,731	14,136	P/R \$5,177
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,389	303	18,845	17,724	1,121	BANK BALANCES:
Education Expense	82	60	993	605	388	Bank South \$177,426.00
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	168	1,724	13,243	2,360	10,883	BS CD \$114,259.42
Stewardship Expense	0	30	210	0	210	Exchange CD \$157,564.02
Fellowship Expense	0	175	1,225	635	590	Comm. Ctr. \$17,743.16
Mission Expense (District)	7,827	-7,827	18,500	16,452	2,048	Anderson \$133,077.16
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	Mortensen \$625.72
Other Expenses	24,540	-21,924	18,314	43,515	-25,201	Bread of Life \$43,176.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$34,017	-\$16,627	\$256,618	\$248,195	\$8,423	B-O-L M/S \$410,044.32
						LCEF CD \$135,000.00
						TOTAL \$1,188,916.47
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,666	\$24,042	\$2,164	\$123,048	-\$120,884	

Notes: Mission Expenses (tithes to district) were budgeted last month but not paid till July

Other expenses includes payment to Piedmont Water (\$16,955.00) to begin connecting to city water. This came out of DOT funds. Other expenses also included \$3,070 paid to Concordia Seminary for Matthew Shipman (special collection).

Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2026

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LOLC - BREAD OF LIFE

Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2026

	Period <u>Activity</u>	Year to Date <u>Activity</u>
INCOME		
Donations	\$1,300.00	\$10,524.47
Other Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,300.00	\$10,524.47
 EXPENSES		
Groceries	\$2,791.44	\$25,805.03
Administrative	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$1,446.59
Software	\$38.18	\$407.72
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operating Supplies	\$129.57	\$129.57
Telephone Expenses	\$7.95	\$244.71
Bank Service Charges	\$5.00	\$35.00
Furniture & Fixtures	\$0.00	\$839.07
Other Equipment	\$0.00	\$132.65
Payroll	\$2,000.00	\$4,400.00
Other Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,972.14	\$33,640.34
 INCOME LESS EXPENSES	 -\$3,672.14	 -\$23,115.87

Bank Balance: \$43,176.67
Mortensen Fund (Exchange Bank) Ba \$625.61
Morgan Stanley Account Balance: \$410,044.32

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2026

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	2,207.30	-1,207.30	7,000.00	14,506.76	-7,506.76
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	2,207.30	-1,207.30	7,000.00	14,506.76	-7,506.76
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	559.15	-559.15	0.00	2,947.14	-2,947.14
Utilities	250.00	380.00	-130.00	1,750.00	2,304.00	-554.00
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	525.00	-105.00	3,150.00	3,150.00	0.00
Operating Supplies	33.00	82.06	-49.06	231.00	164.49	66.51
Repair & Maintenance	83.33	0.00	83.33	583.33	0.00	583.33
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.33	0.00	178.33	1,248.33	0.00	1,248.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	964.66	1,546.21	-581.55	6,962.66	8,565.63	-1,602.97
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	35.34	661.09	-625.75	37.34	5,941.13	-5,903.79
Bank Balance	\$17,743.16					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		9am - Quilt Guild	10:30am - Zoom Bible	11am - Blood Drive @		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion 9am - Bible Study 10:30am - Worship		10am - Women's Bible	10:30am - Zoom Bible	9am - Bread of Life		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am - Bible Study 9am - Children's 9am - Choir Practice 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Council Mtg		10am - Women's Bible	10:30am - Zoom Bible			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Communion 9am - Bible Study 9am - Children's 9am - Choir Practice 10:30am - Worship		10am - Women's Bible	10:30am - Zoom Bible	10:30am - Bread of Life 5pm - Upscale Resale	Upscale Resale Setup Upscale Resale	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9am - Bible Study 9am - Children's 9am - Choir Practice 10:30am - Worship		10am - Women's Bible	10:30am - Zoom Bible			