



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

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

Our Church Newsletter

September 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.

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

Throughout the Genesis account of the life of Joseph, one sentence keeps recurring: *"The Lord was with Joseph"*.

Joseph enjoyed many times of success and happiness. He also endured years of being forgotten and unjustly punished. In all these circumstances, God was with him and Joseph knew it.

Another Biblical character whose life consisted of ups and downs was David. One moment his brothers are making fun of him and the next, he's their hero and everyone else's, as he slays the giant Goliath. One minute he's King Saul's favorite servant, the next he's being hunted down by the same man. Like Joseph, David knew that God was with him. In his psalms, David pours out his heart to God. He holds nothing back as he tells God he is set upon on all sides by his enemies and feels deserted by God, but he always ends on a note of faith, thanking God for His presence and His eventual deliverance. David knew that God was with him.

Joseph and David remind us that God is faithful, even when we are not. His ways are so far above ours that we cannot comprehend them, even when we think that we should be able to understand. We cannot imagine what He has in store for us, but we can be sure it is all for our good. **"As the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts"** (Isaiah 55:9).

There will be (already are for many of us) times in our lives when we will feel like Joseph and David. Not the victorious winners, but the Joseph and David who feel forgotten and overwhelmed. When times are hard and you wonder where God is, remember this: You are not alone. God is faithful. There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from His love in Christ Jesus. May God help you to give thanks in all circumstances and may He use you to give encouragement to those around you as well. Join us for Sunday services each week and be reminded that God always loves you!

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 Sep 4 and Oct 6. 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.

Starting Tuesday, September 9, the Women's Bible group will be launching 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

On Sunday mornings we are in a series called "Sermon on the Mount" Theologian Martin Franzmann says this about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "The Sermon on the Mount is the record of how Jesus moulds the will of His disciple, leading the disciple to live a life wholly drawn from God the King as He is revealed in these last days in His Son" As we understand it we recognize that Jesus' teaching is radically different from the world around us.

As we look again at Matthew 5-7, Jesus will challenge us about what it means to be righteous and faithful.

Join us every Sunday morning in person or live-streamed and be a part of "Sermon on the Mount". Our class will begin at 9 am.

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 on Zoom at 10:30am for Revelation.

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

The choir will resume meeting for rehearsal **Sunday September 7th 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 August we collected \$61.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity.



Would you like to be a Greeter or Sub? We certainly want members and guests to feel welcome when they arrive. If so, please sign up on the blue table. A schedule will be emailed to you later. God bless you for your service.



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.

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 \$25 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at: *(Ctrl+ click to follow the link)*

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fe837f0a-ecd1-4714-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 (\$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.

Alert!

A new series of emails claiming to be from Pastor is out. They are not from him He will never ask you to respond with gift cards. Please do not reply!

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 Cheri to put you on the email list
- **Communion assistants** you can contact the office for Cheri to put you on the email list
- **Sunday School teachers**, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.
- **Greeters'** signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Members of LOLC Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this month!



September Birthdays

- Keith Mulford 9/3
- Dave Ringer 9/6
- Dawn Moynihan 9/7
- Barbara Koenck 9/11
- Susan Larson 9/11
- Tom Mathson 9/12
- Roy McAllister 9/24
- Marja Yazbak 9/30

September Anniversaries

- Tom & Sandy Mathson 9/4
- Jeffrie & Nola Sayne 9/6
- Charles & Donna Crouch 9/17
- Donald & Pam Kunz 9/18

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.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Joost. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. Carol Campbell, Don Menke and Kayleen Ringer were absent, and all other members were in attendance.

The minutes from the July 13, 2025, council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Pam Kunz – No report.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven – The July Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Kathie is still working on the budget and waiting on salary information which will be discussed at the next Elder's meeting. The year-to-date income versus expenses was down \$9,500. The fund balances have decreased due to a quarterly tithe of \$8,887 and \$100,000 taken from the Mortensen funds for Bread of Life to be invested in a long-term interest-bearing account. Currently the fund balance for this account is not reported in the financials as Beth controls the account. Kathy will ask her to provide fund balances so they can be reported in the Bread of Life financials going forward.

A question was raised as to where the DOT funds sit. Kathie explained that they are included in the CD's at Bank South and Exchange Bank. Another question was raised about the purpose of the Anderson Fund. Kathie explained that money was intended for missions. We will be using that fund when we call a church worker to Milledgeville. We made a \$3,000 profit in July from the Community Center when generally we make approximately \$1,000.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause – The financial report for July was distributed and discussed. Donations were down approximately \$22,000 year-to-date due to a decrease in our annual donations. Donations for Other were down as last year we had \$5,380 in donations, \$3,900 of which were memorials for Dave Mortensen Bread of Life vs. \$2,475 this month.

Congregation Secretary: Carol Campbell – Absent. No report.

Christian Education: Margaret Pedersen – Sunday school starts next week. We have teachers covered for the month of September, but there are still a lot of openings for the other months. We plan on holding a baby shower for Laura Ringer as part of our weekly fellowship on one of the last two Sundays in September.

Church Properties: Mark Dentler – There was another dead squirrel in the attic and Gustavo removed it. There was a fly problem which seems to have been resolved. Mark plans on holding another workday sometime in September. The chairs were cleared out in Milledgeville and Mark is storing them in his facility in Athens so the church doesn't need to rent storage space. Mark will also look at removing the weeds in the front of the church and planting some type of flowers/ground cover around the cross at Lake Oconee church.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke – The Elders did not meet in July, but plan to hold a meeting the end of August to finalize the salaries for the budget in time for the Council meeting in September.

Christian Service/Outreach: Kayleen Ringer – The school supply drive is going well. The drive will end on September 7. The Operation Christmas Child on-line account is up and running. The blood drive was highly successful. Our goal was 35 donors, and we had 48. We had 10 people who did not show up for their appointments and five people rejected medically so we could have had 15 more. The next blood drive is September 4.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hayden – We had the security company out and they replaced the power supply for the video cameras. Bug House was here to address the fly problem. Although it is covered under our contract, they didn't do much when they were here.

The Concordia Publishing Company puts out a series of children's books called the Arch Books. Pastor

has arranged to receive a variety of their books to give out to the Bread of Life recipients. In this way we can meet their spiritual as well as their physical needs. We can also provide any extra copies of the books to the Little Free Pantry.

On August 9 we had the funeral for Joan Whitton, Frank's wife, who has suffered with Alzheimer's for quite a few years. On Saturday, the 16th, at 10:30 am we will have a funeral for Elmer Davis. Elmer is the father of Larry Davis. Elmer and his wife, Alice, lived at the Glenn. Pastor spoke with Sue and Larry and they do not need any food or coffee service as they will be going to a restaurant after the service. The service is anticipated to be small with primarily family in attendance.

Old Business:

Milledgeville – We have finally received the written lease agreement between Lake Oconee Lutheran and Oconee Valley Health Care as tenant of the building. Pastor has read through the lease and made a few requested changes to some of the boilerplate language. The lease is \$1.00 per year for a twenty-year period. Oconee Valley will take out the mortgage on the property and make all the tenant improvements for the entire building. They will also be responsible for the operating costs such as insurance, lawn care, utilities, maintenance, and cleaning. Lake Oconee Lutheran will have access to the public portions of the building. We will not have access to the sensitive areas such as the pharmacy. Oconee Valley will use the building as collateral for the mortgage. The nine acres of property is unencumbered so if we choose to build something else on the site, we can do that without permission. There is language that spells out what happens if either party breaks the lease. They will provide us with a specific survey and we have requested a larger survey of the whole property that we can share with the congregation.

We will call for a congregational meeting sometime in the next month to month and a half to approve the lease. Oconee Valley also needs board approval of the lease, and they can then start the financing and construction.

Milledgeville Clear Out Date – The building is clear, but we still have the furniture in the pastor's office, a TV, a lectern and a few chairs in the church. The attic is filled with junk items, however, Pastor will go up one more time and make sure that those items can be demolished during construction. Mark will add a clear out as an item for the September workday. We will store the furniture as it will be used by the church worker we call.

Carol Dunn Estate – We are still waiting for Carol Dunn's estate to be probated. In the meantime, we have set up a securities account. The brokerage would be willing to come to the church and explain how you can give a gift of securities if we are interested in having a seminar on it.

LOLC 25th Anniversary – Pam is going to put an item in the bulletin about the anniversary asking anyone who has photographs to provide them so Pam can scan them and work on a video for the event. Pam then needs to sit down with Kayleen to let her know what we will need for the event. Pastor has some high points of the church history written down. There is also a collage in the hallway we can disassemble and use. There is an album somewhere in the storage area that provides information on the garden. We are in the early planning of the event.

New Business:

HVAC Unit 5 Choir Room – The unit has been failing every six weeks and the contractor thought he needed to put in a sump pump to help it drain. Upon further inspection it turns out the unit was slanted away from the drain. Luckily the overflow switch was in the low corner, and it shut it down. The contractor leveled off the air conditioning unit and hopefully this solves the problem. This work is covered under our warranty.

- **Fire Alarm Netplicity** - Our alarm system has a battery backup, and the battery recharge board has failed. The contractor found that the battery recharge board needs to be replaced, and an animal chewed through some wires that had to be repaired. They gave us an estimate of \$603 to replace the

board. A motion was made and seconded to replace the recharge board. Motion was unanimously approved

- **Budget** – Kathy will be gone for the regularly scheduled council meeting so we will move the meeting to September 21 where she will present the budget. We can also review the final Milledgeville lease at that time. We can then hold a congregational voters' meeting the following Sunday, September 28. If we don't receive the final lease in time, we will just postpone the congregational voters' meeting.
- **Worn Communion Kneeler Cushions** – We have been receiving a few complaints about the condition of the kneeler cushions. Pastor and Mike inspected them, and we have one cushion that is missing a button. Mike will take a button from the underside of one cushion and sew it on to the top where one is missing.
- **Greeters** – It was suggested that we use Sign-up Genius to schedule greeters each Sunday as we do not have a consistency with our volunteers. Mike and Pastor will ask Cheri to utilize this software for greeters and ensure it goes out to everyone with an e-mail address. We will then remove the sign-up sheet from the blue table.

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Carol Campbell
Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2025

	Monthly		Period		Y-T-D		Y-T-D		Y-T-D		Y-T-D	
	Budget	Activity	Budget	Activity	Difference	Budget	Activity	Difference	Activity	Budget	Activity	Difference
INCOME												
General Fund	35,590	20,140	15,450	186,416	64,215	250,631	186,416	64,215	Organ			\$478
Debt Reduction	0	715	-715	5,190	-5,190	0	5,190	-5,190	A/P			\$7,132
Memorial Fund	0	200	-200	1,500	-1,500	0	1,500	-1,500	Memorials			\$9,985
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCC Fund			\$5,092
Special Fund Income	0	2,658	-2,658	31,959	-31,959	0	31,959	-31,959	Little FP			\$6,934
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$35,590	\$23,713	\$11,877	\$225,065	\$25,566	\$250,631	\$225,065	\$25,566	M-of-M			\$387
									M'ville Min.			\$21,447
									DOT Funds			\$203,997
									LOYA			\$1,450
									TOTAL			\$256,902

EXPENSES												
Pastor Expense	16,042	15,865	177	112,293	-6,376	112,293	118,669	-6,376	A/P:			\$7,132
Worship Expense	2,612	1,406	1,206	18,287	740	18,287	17,547	740	District			\$2,014
Property Expense	6,925	3,731	3,194	48,475	12,066	48,475	36,409	12,066	P/R			\$5,118
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,272	2,737	-465	15,907	-254	15,907	16,161	-254	BANK BALANCES:			
Education Expense	142	318	-176	992	193	992	799	193	Bank South			\$128,472.61
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	1,892	168	1,724	13,242	11,131	13,242	2,111	11,131	BS CD			\$110,390.17
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Anderson			\$129,550.27
Fellowship Expense	175	185	-10	1,225	410	1,225	815	410	Comm. Ctr.			\$13,041.63
Mission Expense (District)	0	8,887	-8,887	19,800	3,375	19,800	16,425	3,375	Bread of Life			\$37,554.39
DCE Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mortensen			\$624.47
Other Expenses	2,617	3,271	-654	18,317	-7,356	18,317	25,673	-7,356	Exchange CD			\$157,137.23
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,677	\$36,568	-\$3,891	\$248,538	\$13,929	\$248,538	\$234,609	\$13,929	TOTAL			\$576,770.77
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$2,913	-12,855	\$15,768	\$2,093	-\$9,544	\$2,093	-\$9,544	\$11,637				

Notes: Mission expense paid in July was budgeted in June.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2025

	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	1,000.00	3,731.25	-2,731.25	7,000.00	11,355.00	-4,355.00
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	3,731.25	-2,731.25	7,000.00	11,355.00	-4,355.00
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	0.00	755.55	-755.55	0.00	2,380.80	-2,380.80
Utilities	250.00	351.00	-101.00	1,750.00	2,243.00	-493.00
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	3,150.00	3,150.00	0.00
Supplies	33.33	0.00	33.33	233.35	335.47	-102.12
Repair & Mtce.	83.33	0.00	83.33	583.35	340.61	242.74
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	178.33	0.00	178.33	1,248.35	0.00	1,248.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	964.99	1,526.55	-561.56	6,965.05	8,449.88	-1,484.83
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	35.01	2,204.70	-2,169.69	34.95	2,905.12	-2,870.17
Bank Balance	\$13,041.63					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00					

September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 9am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	3 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	4 11-4 Blood Drive	5	6
7 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	8	9 9:30 am Quilt Guild 10 am Women's Bible Class	10 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	11 9 Bread of Life	12	13
14 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion Council Meeting	15 Election set-up - pm	16 10 am Women's Bible Class Election	17 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	18	19	20
21 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	22	23 10 am Women's Bible Class	24 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class	25 9 Bread of Life Upscale set-up - pm	26 Upscale set-up	27 Upscale/resale sale 10:00
28 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	29 10-2 Quilts of Valor Bee	30 10 am Women's Bible Class				