

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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

A Church Newsletter

August 2019

Pastor	Steven Hayden revshayden@gmail.com
Secretary	Deb Krahling lolcsec@plantationcable.net
Instrumentalist	Lev Rybanin lryabinin@gmail.com

Sunday Service	10:30 a.m.
1 st , 3 rd , & 5 th	Holy Communion
2 nd & 4 th	Morning Prayer
Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
1089 Lake Oconee Parkway Eatonton, Georgia 31024 Church Office 706-485-4600	
Visit our web site: www.lolc.info	

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, Linda and I took some time away during July. We spent time with two of our children, with Linda's sister and her family, and with one another. We did have a wonderful time. I realized, however, that while different vacations require different preparations, it seems that all trips demand at least 2 things; clothes and money—and plenty of both.

Jesus was not on vacation as He traveled through Galilee. He was working; proclaiming repentance and the presence of God's kingdom. All the while He was also preparing those who traveled with Him to do the same. On two different occasions Jesus sent out His workers two by two (Luke 10:1 and Mark 6:7). For these journeys they were instructed to take along nothing except a staff—no bread, no bag of clothes, no money. They were to trust that God would provide food and lodging.

Maybe this is a good reminder that our life as a believer is not intended to be a vacation. We have work to do while we are in this world, God's message of love and forgiveness to share with those who are around us. For Christians, life's journey is not a sight-seeing trip, but a mission trip, for we are Christ's witnesses in the world. For this trip, every Christian does well to travel light, unencumbered by cares, pleasures, and greed. Peter remarked that he had no silver or gold; he had something better to offer—healing of body and soul.



Today, Jesus sends you and me out, not on a vacation, but on a mission. And He sends us out with a call to trust Him for all that we need. We may not always feel comfortable with Christ's call, we may not always feel prepared for the trip we are taking, but we always have God's promise to be with us and to supply all that we need to work in His name. And God will make it possible for you to have a good trip!

Go... in peace!

Pastor Steve

SAVE THE DATE: Church Picnic October 6th after worship



LOEC offers Bible Study and Ministry



Mid-Week Bible Class

There is a mid-week Bible Study here at Lake Oconee Lutheran. We are meeting at the church every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. We are talking about "God, are You talking to Me?"

During "God, are You talking to Me?" we will be looking at 13 different New Testament Bible events and realize that God wrote those down for us. They are not just stories about dusty history but here God is talking to us, about our life, in His New Testament.

Join us every Wednesday and be a part of "God, are You talking to Me?" Our class will begin at 10:30 am in the Choir Room.

Stephen's Ministry

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless life challenges? Our Stephen Ministers can provide them with focused care, encouragement, and the support they need to make it through the crisis.

If you know of someone who is hurting or you would like someone to talk with, please let Pastor Steve know and one of our Stephen ministers will contact you.


Life of Jesus Bible Class



Wouldn't it be great to just hear Jesus Himself preach a sermon? What if we were there, along with the disciples, hearing the words directly from Jesus' mouth; imagine how that would change our understanding.

Well, we do have that opportunity. The Adult Bible study on **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** called "*Life of Jesus*" where we will spend time digging into Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Now we can get "up close and personal" and hear directly from Jesus Himself. As we spend time looking at Jesus' words in Matthew 5-7, we will quickly become aware that Jesus' teaching is dynamically different from the world's teachings. In fact, Jesus will challenge us again about what it means to live a life of faith.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the church for "*Life of Jesus*"



Lake Oconee Lutheran and the future...

Three laborers were making bricks in the hot desert sun. Someone came by and asked them what they were doing. The first answered, "Can't you see that I'm making bricks?" The second one said, "I am building an important wall." The third one paused, looked out into the distance and replied, "I am building a beautiful cathedral. And it's going to be one of the most beautiful cathedrals of all time."

All three laborers were doing the same thing. Each, however, looked at their job from a different point of view. Only the last saw the big picture. Here at Lake Oconee Lutheran Church we have been involved in discussions to help us see the big picture of why we are here. Christian author Will Mancini writes, *"The church of God does not have a mission, the mission of God has a church."* So what is the mission of God for us here in the Lakes area?

We have now held 2 congregational planning meetings. I appreciate those of you who took time out to be a part of planning for our future. As a result of those meetings, we have adopted the following mission statement.

God Writes His Word on our Lives, Building Us into a Family Engaged in Spirit-filled Service

Lake Oconee Lutheran is "Built for a Purpose"

Now comes the fun! It is said that vision is about the picture of your church's future. The vision answers the question "where is God taking us?" We have addressed that by confirming that we believe God, through His Word in our lives, is building us into a family engaged in Spirit-filled service. If that is our vision, now it is time to set a plan. A plan is the steps we need to take to reach our vision. Our plan will answer the question "what are the things we need to accomplish in the next year to reach our vision for LOLC?" We began this work at our last meeting and will continue working on it through the Council.

Where do you see God taking us as a church in 3 years? What do you dream of that is keeping within the vision that God has given to us? What do you think we need to do next? Talk to me. I will be happy to hear from you. We are a family.

This is more than just making bricks. By the power of the Spirit, we are building a beautiful church here at the Lakes. I am excited for the journey.

Pastor Steve

Helping the flood victims in Nebraska



The Nebraska District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Nebraska District LCMS
PO Box 407
152 S. Columbia Avenue
Seward, NE 68434
888-643-2961
www.ndlcms.org

June 26, 2019

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church
1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, GA 31024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support of disaster relief in the Nebraska District. By sharing the blessings God has provided to you, you are helping those who have been affected by the flooding in Nebraska. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.

In the midst of the spring flooding, St. John Lutheran Church and School in Battle Creek opened their gym to the community as a clean, dry place for families to relax. St. John collected and dispersed nearly \$35,000 in aid to local families, unaware that groundwater was seeping into and warping their gymnasium floor. A grant from gifts like yours helps reduce the portion of the repair costs this congregation will need to pay. St. John has also received funds to help meet the needs of families in their community.

Camp Luther of Nebraska in Schuyler was able to make repairs to their lake facilities and road in time to serve their spring and summer campers. Camp Restore, established by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fremont, received grant money to help them in their goal of hosting and sending teams who will help communities in the surrounding area with repairs in the months to come. Disaster relief funds have also been granted to congregations in Cairo, Osmond, Verdigre, Columbus, Fremont, Stanton, and St. Edward so they can assist families, individuals, and businesses in their communities. Even more funds will be awarded in the weeks to come. Read more about these grants on our website at <https://www.ndlcms.org/flood-grants/>.

Please find enclosed a receipt summarizing your restricted gift. If your records of District support do not agree with the information as indicated, please contact our office at 402-643-2961.

You are indeed a very special blessing from our God and we thank Him for you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Paul S. Pettit
District Treasurer

Enclosed

Opportunities to Serve

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Two of our LOLC members, Janis & Mara Lipacis, are faithful volunteers for Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, a vital organization that does much to benefit our community. According to Janis, the Habitat Furniture ReStore affiliate is in dire need of more volunteers.

Please consider that the amount of time you donate is flexible and at your convenience plus you can meet new people. In addition, the variety of things you can volunteer for is tremendous. The organization especially needs:

- Thursday afternoon cashiers;
- Mentors who give support and friendship to families selected to be homeowners and keep a record of their sweat equity hours;
- Friday and Saturday volunteers at the store;
- Construction team members;
- Help with pickup of donations that includes driving the truck; and
- A secretary to the board.



Help us to spread the word to anyone else—friend or family—who might be a willing volunteer. For even more first-hand information, talk to Janis after church or contact him at 706-484-0543.

Worship Service

You can become a vital part of the Sunday Worship service.

Become an

- usher,
- a greeter,
- a communion assistant
- an Altar care giver
- soundboard operator
- or a reader!



Contact Peggy Uehlin to sign up as a reader. To volunteer for the other opportunities contact the church office or sign up on the designated sheet on the sanctuary back wall.

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.

Recent mites' - collections last month:
\$50.00

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.

Susan Larson

Choir Notes



Choir is on sabbatical during the summer.

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!

Coffee after Church

Check your calendars and sign up for a turn preparing coffee and light refreshments for Coffee Hour after service each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the sanctuary wall at the back of the church.

Recycling Projects

Remember the LOLC paper recycling program only includes weekly bulletins and other white paper products.



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Event Calendar

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28  <i>Reda Joost's bday</i> 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING	29 <i>Robin Peebles bday</i>	30	31 <i>Ed & Janie Fritch's anniversary</i> 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me bible class	1	2 Pastor's and secretary's day off	3 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
4 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	5 <i>Roger Fleming's bday</i> <i>Sue Davis' bday</i>	6 <i>Janis Lipacis' bday</i> <i>Mike Langan's bday</i>	7  Elders Meeting Elders Meeting 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me bible class	8 <i>Marilyn Schneider's bday</i> <i>Will Ringer's bday</i>	9 <i>Cindy Helms' bday</i> <i>Dave & Margie Heimer's anniversary</i> Pastor's and secretary's day off <i>Rosemary Bonnough's bday</i>	10 <i>Peggy Uehlin's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
11 <i>Charlie Helms' bday</i> 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	12	13 <i>Bob & Shirley Mai's anniversary</i> <i>Kathy Dukes' bday</i>	14 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me bible class	15 <i>Linda Hayden's bday</i>	16 Pastor's and secretary's day off	17 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
18  <i>Isaac & Laura Ringer's anniversary</i> 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service - Jay Wendland special guest LCEF SUNDAY 11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING	19	20 <i>Terry & Margaret Pedersen's anniversary</i>	21 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me bible class	22	23 Pastor's and secretary's day off	24 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
25 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 10:30 AM Worship Service	26	27 <i>Jim Kueven's bday</i>	28 <i>Marilyn Smolinski's bday</i> 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me bible class	29	30 Pastor's and secretary's day off	31 <i>Bailey Ringer's bday</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service