

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

December 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.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Holy Communion
2nd & 4th 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,

What have you had to give up in order to be a Christian? Have you lost any friends because you're a believer? What about your job? Are your children barred from getting an education because your family goes to church regularly? Have your parents disowned you because you follow Christ?

These are odd questions for the month of December. During December we are much more accustomed to talking about what we hope to get, what we have gotten than about what we have had to give up. But not everywhere.

A wealthy native of India came to faith in Christ. Almost immediately after becoming a Christian, all that he owned was taken from him and his wife and children would no longer have anything to do with him. He was asked how he could bear these losses. He replied that many people had asked him that question, but that *none had asked how he could bear his joys.*



Certainly, this man found his joy in Christ and found reason to be thankful. He recognized that God's gifts were not limited to the type that we can put wrapping paper and bows on. The most important of all is the joy of the knowledge and presence of God in our lives every day.

The Apostle Paul talks about the attitude we should have *"as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved."* He encourages us to be compassionate and humble, to be kind and patient, and to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Most of all, He tells us to let Christ's peace reign in our heart *"and to be thankful."* (Colossians 3:12-15)

Too often, when we pray we put an agenda, a want list before God. We tell Him what we want Him to take care of: find that person a job, heal that other person, solve our money problems and keep our kids safe. We add our thanks as an afterthought. But that's not God's way. He tells us that we can even thank Him for the adversity He sends into our lives, for, as believers, we know that He uses all things for His glory and for our good (Romans 8:28). In fact, the Bible tells us, *"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18).*

This month in The Story we will read about people who have borne losses and people who have borne joys. As we celebrate Christmas this month, join me as we once again marvel at the wonder of God's love and grace for each of us shown in the manger at Bethlehem. This Christmas acknowledge again all that we are and all that we have is a gift to us from our heavenly Father. This Christmas, let us learn anew what it means to bear our joys; sharing God's Word of love and forgiveness by inviting a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker to worship here at Lake Oconee. Bring someone to church with you and receive the greatest gift of all – the joy of the Lord.

Frank Steve

LCEC offers Bible Study and Ministry



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.

Mid-Week Bible Class

“MIRACLES of Jesus”

“It’s a miracle!” These words mean many things to different people. Some use them to describe any surprising or unexpected event. Some limit these words to events that seem humanly impossible. Many don’t know what miracles really are or question whether they exist. Miracles are an important part of Jesus’ ministry, and we can benefit from studying them. But what are they? Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus doing many different miracles. These miracles reveal our Savior to us. We see Him as God in human flesh who cares for His people in all of their needs. His miracles demonstrate His love.

Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30am in Bible class as we take a closer look at the Miracles of Jesus.



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You can feel good partnering with Lutheran Church Extension Fund because your investment not only earns a competitive interest rate, but helps support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) mission to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

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Jay Wendland | District Vice President
407-857-5556 | Jay.Wendland@lcef.org

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Approaching the Holidays...

As we gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving this year we certainly thanked God for all His blessings on us personally and on our congregation, Lake Oconee Lutheran Church. During Thanksgiving it is easy to focus on what we have received, but it is also a good time to be thankful for the opportunities to share God's blessings with others.

Over the last few months, we have been blessed with opportunities to share God's gifts with others through special door offerings. We are thankful that God used us to provide:

- \$3,335 to the Lutheran Church in the Bahamas for hurricane relief.
- \$1,260 to a mission endowment of the Florida Georgia District in thanksgiving for their 70th Anniversary to be used to plant and support new outreaches.
- And \$854 to Green County Christian Outreach to be used to help people and families in need in our own community.
- As a congregation we also packed 36 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you for faithfully supporting, not only our own congregation, but these other ministry opportunities with your gifts.

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11



Hanging of the Greens: we decorate the church for Christmas Saturday, December 7th at 9AM. See you there!

The Advent Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday December 4th at 5:30pm with the service at 7:00pm (*NOTE start time change*). The suppers will continue the next two Wednesdays, December 11th & 18th. The sign-up is on the back sanctuary wall for bringing soup



Our Christmas Services...



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – no communion, Tuesday December 24, at 7pm



Christmas Day –communion, Wednesday December 25th at 10am

Thank You for the Bombas socks...



Dear LOLC,

Thank you for choosing Circle of Love to be the recipient of the Bombas socks. As a domestic violence shelter we have an ongoing need for socks for the women and children who reside here.

This special donation is very much appreciated.

Thanks again for the support.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Bennett



WWW.ATLASMINISTRY.ORG | 706-453-0581

Dear LOLC,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to our kids and families. They were all very excited about the socks you provided for them. My God bless you for your kindness.

--- Angel

Meet Our New Members!

MEET Roger & Linda Andersen



We welcome Linda and Roger to LOLC. They are residents of the Del Webb community, having moved here from a Del Webb community in Las Vegas, Nevada. Roger is retired from the Air Force (21 years of service) and they moved here to be (1) close to a military base, (2) in a mild climate, (3) close to good medical facilities and (4) to be closer to their son who lives in Atlanta.

Linda, too, is retired, having worked many years in customer service for a sales office. Their blended family includes 1 daughter, 3 sons and 10 grandchildren.

Originally from Wisconsin (Roger) and Iowa (Linda), these lifelong Lutherans met while both were singing in the choir at the Lutheran church in Las Vegas and have been married for 6 years.

While they both love to travel, Linda also likes to play a variety of cards and belongs to several Del Webb card groups and Roger likes to play pickleball. He is also a member of the men's group and a veteran's group at Del Webb.

We are so glad the Andersen's have joined us and look forward to getting to know them better in the future.

MEET Donald & Pamela Kunz



Better be on our best behavior when around our newest members, Pam and Donald are both retired police officers!

Pam and Donald were both born into "traveling" families due to their father's jobs but both grew up mostly in Dekalb County, GA. They have a son, Nathan, who is a student at Georgia Southern University.

Pam and Donald met when both were working as police officers in Dekalb County – Pam admits, though, that Donald had a higher rank – and have been married for 20 years.

It seems Donald has been coming to Lake Oconee to fish for many years and always dreamed of living on the lake so when both retired they worked hard to make their dream come true. When not fishing or enjoying their dog, Duncan, they love travelling. Very avid cruisers, they have done 5 Alaskan cruises, 3 New England cruises, Cuba, numerous Caribbean and, most recently, the Panama Canal.

We have a lot of "cruisers" at LOLC and I urge you to get to know Pam and Don and share your travel stories.

Congregational Meeting Minutes – Sunday November 10 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Ringer

Pastor Hayden opened with prayer

Secretary was not in attendance so no previous minutes were presented. Kayleen Ringer was asked to take minutes for this meeting.

Council Committee Reports

- ✧ **Vice President:** Tom Mathson: no report
- ✧ **Financial Secretary:** Walter Krause: No report
- ✧ **Treasurer:** Kathie Kueven: Presented projected 2020 Budget with the suggestion of the possibility of paying off the mortgage next year. Call for questions: none
- ✧ **Church Property:** Barney Ross: 75% of new sound system is in place. Other minor issues are all under control.
- ✧ **Lay Ministry/Elder's report:** Alan Oberdeck: Bob Elkins and Keith Mulford are retiring their service as elders and the congregation thanks them. Keith and Joan Mulford have been in service doing coffee fellowship for many years. Keith was thanked by the congregation for this service. A new person is needed to fill this responsibility. Speak to Alan or Church secretary, Deb.
- ✧ **Christian Education:** Josh Ringer: no report
- ✧ **Christian Service/Outreach:** Laura Ringer: Operation Christmas child Shoeboxes are being collected. Other business will be in Pastor's report
- ✧ **Pastor's report:** Steve Hayden: Review of holiday schedule.
 - Reiterated request for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child
 - Explained the gift of 2000 free socks from Bombas. 1000 have already been disbursed. 500 to Circle of Love Ministry and 500 to Atlas Ministry. The remainder of the socks will be given to other charities in Putnam county, the shoe box Ministry or other Ministry.
 - Pastor thanked Barney Ross and the congregation for the new sound system.
 - Membership report: January-November 2019
 - 23 new members
 - 12 members released
 - 1 received into heaven
 - Attendance Average: 2018: 70.5
 - 2019: 84.75
 - 3 New Logo options were presented and congregation asked to offer Pastor their views individually
 - A door offering will be taken for the next few weeks for Greene County Christian Outreach

- Anderson fund was explained and discussed. These monies are to be used for Outreach. The Pastor and council suggest getting a DCE intern to focus on service and missions. The salary would come from the Anderson fund initially, then God willing, monies that previously were used for the mortgage could cover the cost. A DCE has a 12 month intern program so it would be a one year commitment. The church then has the opportunity to extend a call or not. A Decision will be needed by the end of January. If everything worked out, a DCE could be placed by Jun-Aug. LOLC must provide housing. Pastor asked that we begin praying about it now and we will meet again to follow protocol.
- Music director: there are 2 possible candidates to follow up on.

New Business:

Kathie Kueven: proposed a budget increase of \$3000 to include a 5% increase for Pastor and a 3% increase for church secretary. Also an increase to a weekly salary of \$150 for the pianist. Pastor prayed about the budget. A motion was given and seconded and all were in favor. Motion to approve the budget passed.

Nominations Committee: Alan Oberdeck: President: Tom Mathson

Vice President: Mike Joost

Secretary: Larry Davis

Elders: Donald Menke, Joseph Peeples

There was a call for nominations from the floor but none were given. Roger Martinson motioned that the requested election slate be accepted by acclimation. Keith Mulford seconded and it was unanimously approved.

The Davis Mortensen family has donated money to purchase the vacant land in front of the church. The land will be cleared to provide better visibility of the church.

The Presbyterian Church would like for LOLC to purchase a slice of property between our two churches. This property borders our drive from the corner where the blue sign is to the corner opposite our entrance. This will be taken under review.

Motion given to adjourn.

Meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kayleen Ringer

LOLC Treasurer Report – October 2019

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report - October , 2019

	Period <u>Activity</u>	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Y-T-D <u>Activity</u>	Y-T-D <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Restricted Fund Balances
General Fund	18,729	27,391	-8,662	254,247	274,514	-20,267	Anderson \$135,731
Debt Reduction	1,685	3,682	-1,997	24,255	36,822	-12,567	Organ \$478
Special Fund Income	<u>772</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>21,815</u>	<u>667</u>	<u>21,148</u>	Scholarship \$2,098
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$21,186	\$31,140	-\$9,954	\$300,317	\$312,003	-\$11,686	A/P \$3,803
							Sign Fund \$2,500
							TOTAL \$144,610
EXPENSES							A/P:
Pastor Expense	10,806	12,535	-1,729	123,663	125,351	-1,688	District \$1,873
Worship Expense	945	2,951	-2,006	21,425	29,511	-8,086	P/R \$1,930
Property Expense	4,737	5,900	-1,163	46,280	59,004	-12,724	
Bus. & Administrative Expense	3,187	2,316	871	23,108	23,163	-55	Mortgage Balance:
Education Expense	0	58	-58	111	583	-472	\$108,354.45
Evangelism/Outreach Expense	478	630	-152	4,256	6,300	-2,044	
Stewardship Expense	253	21	232	253	208	45	BANK BALANCES:
Fellowship Expense	230	192	38	1,287	1,917	-630	BankSouth \$163,807.30
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	16,057	24,750	-8,693	LCEF \$107,099.94
Other Expenses	<u>33,512</u>	<u>3,995</u>	<u>29,517</u>	<u>72,574</u>	<u>39,949</u>	<u>32,625</u>	Anderson <u>\$135,730.99</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$54,148	\$28,598	\$25,550	\$309,014	\$310,736	-\$1,722	TOTAL \$406,638.23
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$32,962	\$2,542	-\$35,504	-\$8,697	\$1,267	-\$9,964	

NOTES: Mission payment of \$7,564 and flood relief payments of \$3,295 made Oct. 4.

2 mortgage payments were deducted in Oct.; we paid \$15,000 deposit on sound system and \$1000 deposit on new webpage.

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:
\$130.00

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 meets for practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.



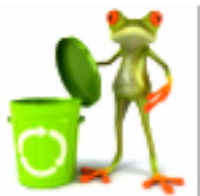
Coffee after Church

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.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!








Recycling Projects

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



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Event Calendar

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent  <i>Amy Orr & Bill Stokes' anniversary</i> <i>Joshua Ringer's bday</i> 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	2 9:00 AM LOQG setup for Luncheon	3 <i>Pastor Ron Schornhorst's bday</i> <i>Virginia Daley's bday</i> 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Luncheon	4 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 AM MIRACLE Bible Class  5:30 PM Advent Soup Suppers 7:00 PM Advent Service	5	6 Pastor's and secretary's day off	7 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens  3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
8 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45am COUNCIL MEETING	9	10 <i>Jim & Lucie McNeil's anniversary</i>	11 <i>Isaac Ringer's bday</i> 10:30 AM MIRACLE Bible Class  5:30 PM Advent Soup Suppers 7:00 PM Advent Service	12	13 Pastor's and secretary's day off	14 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
15 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	16 <i>Shirley Mai's bday</i>	17 <i>Janie Seglund's bday</i> <i>Joseph & Robin Peeples anniversary</i>	18 10:30 AM MIRACLE Bible Class  5:30 PM Advent Soup Suppers 7:00 PM Advent Service	19	20 Pastor's and secretary's day off	21 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
22 <i>Carol Dunn's bday</i> First Day of Winter 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	23 <i>Lance Pailer's bday</i>	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service  OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 Pastor's and secretary's day off OFFICE CLOSED	28 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
29 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service	30 <i>Alison Ringer's bday</i>	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 <i>Lynda Bridwell bday</i>	3 Pastor's and secretary's day off	4 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service