

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

September 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,

In the ESV Bible translation, the word “joy” or “rejoice” is used 57 times. As Christians, joy ought to be a characteristic of our lives. The Lutheran Study Bible notes, “Joy is not the ephemeral happiness that worldly pleasures bring, but the deep and abiding joy of being loved by God through Jesus Christ. It is an emotional appreciation for good things received. A result of God’s grace toward believers.” In this definition, we understand that joy is not based on circumstances. It is more than happiness that we can experience from positive situations and activities in life. **Joy comes from recognizing that God is in control and that He loves us, even when we don’t feel happy.** When we look at what God has done for us, we respond with gratitude and joy.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Each of the nine different fruit that are identified in the book of Galatians is given to us by God’s grace. Joy is a grace bestowed on us by God. Someone once said, “The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.” Jesus tells

us, *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy be in you, and that your joy may be full”* (John 15:11). When we abide in Jesus, we will have the fullness of His joy.

By God’s grace, joy is part of our lives. Knowing who we are and whose we are, we are empowered to live lives filled with joy. When we abide in Jesus and live in obedience to Him our joy is made complete. We feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, entertain the strangers, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and the prisoners (Matthew 25:37-39), all in the name of Jesus. Jesus tells us that when we love and serve others in His name, we are serving Him. God’s Word directs us to use our time, talents, and money in ways that help others and extend His kingdom. When we use our blessings in obedience to God’s will, we will experience even more joy.

Jesus said, *“My joy be in you.”* That joy was manifested when, *“for the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:2). His joy was to bring us to heaven by the way of the cross. To fill us with joy, He was shamed and died. As we abide in Him and bear the fruit of faith, our joy is made full.

During our worship in September we will learn more about the joy that comes from abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit as we **Discover the Joy in Sharing God’s Blessings**.

At the end of our emphasis, you will have the opportunity to submit a Time and Talent sheet and a Promise (Pledge) form in your service to God here at Lake Oconee. God will equip us to use our blessings in ways that give Him honor. God fills our hearts with love for Him and His Church, so we are energized to share our blessings with others. God gives true joy!

Our emphasis will start on September 1 in worship. May you know the joy of God.

Pastor Steve

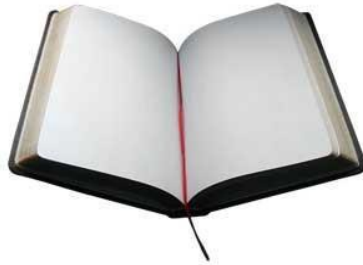
SAVE THE DATE: Church Picnic October 6th after worship



Plan now to join your church family at Lake Oconee Lutheran on October 6th for our church picnic. We will stay here at church following our worship service. The church will provide the meats/buns to be grilled and we are asking our families to bring a side or dessert to share.

Enjoy a great picnic lunch and time to visit with your family of faith. Plan now to join us!

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*"

October 6th we'll be starting...

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY



The Story is a book of selections from the Bible, arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. During this unique 31-week experience, every member of the family reads *The Story*.

Each Sunday, the sermon and the Sunday Classes are on the same chapter of *The Story*. Literally, everyone will be on the same page.

**Do you find the Bible confusing?
...intimidating in size and complexity?
...too much to even consider approaching?**

Maybe you know lots of the individual accounts: Noah's Ark, David & Goliath, Moses & 10 Commandments, Jesus on the Cross
...**Ever wonder how it all fits together?**



Come discover together with us how OUR STORY is found in GOD'S STORY!

For the next several weeks we will have hard copy books for sale on a table in the narthex. Each copy is \$5. Every week you will be asked to read one chapter (about 10-12 pages) before Sunday. That chapter will then be the basis for Bible class and worship. There are also schedules on the table which list the Bible chapters for each week. You may follow along without the purchase of the book by reading the listed chapters.

Meet Our New Members!

MEET Pastor David & Grace Raetz



Pastor and Mrs. Raetz have recently joined LOLC by transfer of membership. They come to us from Bushnell, Florida, and are currently residing in an “in-law” suite at the home of their daughter and son-in-law on Lake Sinclair.

David is a retired Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor, having served a number of congregations in various states beginning in Lawrenceville, Illinois, and continuing to a number of cities in Wisconsin, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Pastor David permanently retired in Inverness, Florida in 2017 when failing eyesight made it necessary. One of their Georgia assignments included a 5 year pastorship at our sister church, Hope Lutheran, in Milledgeville.

David and Grace met on a blind date arranged by a mutual friend shortly after David’s discharge from the Air Force. After a short courtship, they married in 1963 and David began his studies at the seminary. They have 2 daughters, Becky Reid, who lives in McDonough, GA., and Mary Beth Atkinson in Eatonton. They have 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

When his vision allows it, Pastor David likes to build balsa wood airplanes and he is also a ham radio operator, building his own equipment. Grace is a retired medical technologist and considers her primary hobby “looking after David”.

We are pleased to have the Raetz family as members of our LOLC family and look forward to getting to know them better.

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



Here are a few of the Bible passages that your family here at Lake Oconee Lutheran have shared to remind you that you are

“Built for a Purpose”.

Psalm 46:10 ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Philippians 3:13-14 ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 9.13 [Jesus said] ¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Have you written down your Bible verse on the framework reminding us of our purpose at the front of the church yet? Please share a verse that is meaningful to you and your faith life.

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:
\$161.00

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 practice is starting Sunday, September 8th 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

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Service	2 Labor Day <i>Marlo Neuleib's bday</i> OFFICE CLOSED	3 <i>Keith Mulford's bday</i> <i>Nick Horst's bday</i> 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild 1:00 PM Lake Oconee Quilters Guild Meeting	4 <i>Tom & Sandy Mathson's anniversary</i> 9:00 AM Elders Meeting 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me Bible Class	5 <i>Roger Fleming's bday</i>	6 <i>Dave Ringer's bday</i> <i>Janis Lipacis' bday</i> <i>Mike Langan's bday</i> Pastor's and secretary's day off	7 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	9	10	11 <i>Susan Larson's bday</i> 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me Bible Class	12 <i>Tom Mathson's bday</i>	13 Pastor's and secretary's day off	14 <i>Brian & Mary Tober's anniversary</i> <i>Charlie & Donna Crouch's anniversary</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
15 <i>Tonda Wiker's bday</i> 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM COUNCIL MEETING	16 <i>Joyce Huston's bday</i>	17 <i>Marge Braun's bday</i>	18 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me Bible Class	19	20 Pastor's and secretary's day off	21 <i>Dale & Dorothy Johnson's anniversary</i> 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
22 <i>Pastor Steve at Pastoral conference</i> 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service - Dr. Albert Garcia preaching	23 First Day of Autumn <i>Pastor Steve at Pastoral conference</i>	24 <i>Pastor Steve at Pastoral conference</i>	25 <i>Steve Wiker's bday</i> 10:30 AM God, are You talking to Me Bible Class	26	27 Pastor's and secretary's day off	28 3:30 PM Episcopal Church Bible Study 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
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