

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Our vision is to become an expanding community of faith, growing in the Holy Spirit and practicing before the world a Christ-centered life. Lord willing, we will do this with Outreach that is inviting, interesting, and inclusive; while serving the people of our large area and with Worship that goes beyond Sunday morning.

A Monthly Newsletter

June 2017

Secretary **Deb Krahling**
lolcsec@plantationcable.net

Choir Director **Art Hargrove**
art.hargrove@gmail.com

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
Church Office 706-485-4600

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Holy Communion
2nd & 4th Morning Prayer
Church School 9:00 a.m.

Visit our web site: www.lolc.info

“Comfort in the Spirit of Our Spirits”

John 14: 15-21 sermon excerpt

Don't you love shopping for gadgets? You know, when I was young, I really enjoyed a stroll through a Best Buy or even a Sam's Club to see what the next gadget was, the next appliance, the next stereo system. Every appliance has one thing in common, they cannot run without a source of power. Well today's message is a power source message and

it's so much more important than merely plugging in the TV. This is about plugging your life into the power source of God's spirit by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

When I was young, I had one of those electric cars that could only go in two directions backwards and forwards. Sometimes, life is like that, isn't it? Other people say it this way, "In life, you're either growing or you're dying." But here's the thing. If we really take an honest look at our life,

we're very often like that battery-powered car. Either forward or backward, but never able to turn another way, go another path. All of us worry and flounder through life at times, struggling with our old habits, finding no enjoyment in what we do, literally going backward and forward and digging a rut with no direction or purpose.

That's the disciples in our lesson today. They were worried about that as followers of Jesus. They were

terrified, if you really want to know the truth. So let me set the stage. Our reading today from John 14 says some incredible and some confusing things. Jesus speaks to His disciples on the night before He's going to die on the cross. He's talking about leaving them. He knows he's gonna die soon, but the disciples, have no idea. Jesus promises them that He will not leave them as orphans.

They were worried because for years they always had Jesus there to ask questions. But now Jesus says that He will leave them for a time. When the disciples heard that I'm sure that they were feeling like we often do. Without Christ, we feel lost. We feel like we have no purpose. But thank God, even when we were confused, even when we're unsure, even when we feel like we're only in a rut unable to get out, Jesus knew what his disciples of all time would need. Jesus himself promises to send a helper, a comforter, an advocate. Because of Jesus' work on our behalf, there is a Holy Spirit that He will send as His gift to strengthen and empower and to guide our spirits as

well. Let me say that again, because of Jesus' work on our behalf, there is a Holy Spirit that He will send as his gift to strengthen, empower, and to guide you.

Comfort in His spirit for our spirits as well. That's a gift that will see us through all the way to eternity. His Holy Spirit enables us to change the direction of our life.

With the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can break out of the rut we've dug and when we are at our wit's end, hopeless in the midst of even our best efforts, experience the comfort then the hope and the power that He promises. How? By His Spirit.

Feeling alone can happen to all of us at many times and in many ways throughout our lives. We all need love. We need support daily. Well, lack of real love or companionship is terrifying because God created us to be in fellowship with people, whether you are an introvert or an extrovert, you need companionship. We want friends and family around us and community in which we can live.

Though the time being alone might sound like a good idea, but a life of real,

enduring loneliness, aloneness is torture. In fact, it's death. Even more terrifying than a life without people is a life without God. God is the one who provides for all of our needs. He cares for you and me. He provides people for us in our lives. He gives us all that we have. We know that the things that truly matter are the gifts of love and fellowship.

Like all the appliances that we have in our homes, we are not created to run on our own power. When life becomes difficult, when depression sets in, when we want to throw up our hands in despair, and difficulties at work, we quickly realize that we have run out of power. It's then we need to check if we're plugged into the power that God created us to use. It's time to plug into God's Word and hear Jesus say, "I will not leave you as orphans. I will send you the Holy Spirit and He will comfort you, He will empower you, His Spirit will lift your spirit. With Him, you will see Jesus more clearly and you will realize that with Jesus, all things work together for good for those who love Him."

GREGORY SELTZ // May 21,
2017 // THE LUTHERAN HOUR

EOEC offers Bible Study and Ministry

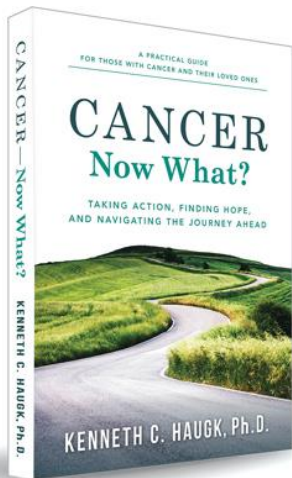


Adult Class Corner

Bible reading centered on the Scripture Lessons of the day: Sundays 9 a.m.

Weekly scheduled Scripture readers are encouraged to attend and receive a preview of their worship service reading. Watch this corner in the future.

Stephen's Ministry



The Stephen Ministers' have a guidance book focusing on Cancer [CANCER, Now What?] available for check out.

The book itself and a sign out sheet reside on the book shelf across from the church secretary's desk. Please sign out the book & return it promptly after reading so others may also benefit from the readings.

Lake Oconee Memorial Garden Beautification Project

On Saturday, June 10, we had 23 volunteers come to church for the Memorial Garden Beautification project. These volunteers put in over 60 hours of work in the garden. They trimmed bushes and trees, hedged all the edges, cleared up leaves and fallen branches, and cleaned the walkways. Weeds and overgrowth were pulled up, especially from around the cross in the garden. New flowers were planted in front of the two crosses, in the planters, and by the cross in the front of the church as well. The children's playground area was also spruced up. With so much support, we were able to get it all cleaned up and looking beautiful again in one morning! Please go and take a walk through the garden to look at all the hard work the volunteers put in to fixing it up. Thank you again to the volunteers who served that morning!



Council Minutes - May 2017

President Dave Ringer called the meeting to order at 11:55am.

Linda Jorgensen opened the meeting with prayer.

Reports

Vice President, Ed Fritch

Ed, co-chair of the Call Committee, reported that eight pastors have been submitted to the District as possible candidates for a Call to LOLC. The Call Committee is now waiting for a response from the District.

Ed Fritch posted a Newsletter from Pastor Naumann who visited LOLC in January. He and his wife obtained the funding for their missionary work and will be going to the Dominican Republic soon.

Church Property, Andrew Ringer

To resolve the issue of false alarms and make it easier for members to enter the church, the external door near the choir room now has a push button lock. Members just need to enter the door code to enter the building and then the door will relock. The new conference room table and chairs mentioned last month were delivered and used for this meeting.

Lay Ministry, Linda Jorgensen

Linda reported that Elders discussed the need for more visible advertisements about LOLC to get our name in front of more people.

Christian Education, Josh Ringer

Josh noted new education programs will await the arrival of a new pastor, but there were actions be taken to have a class on Lutheranism.

Christian Outreach, Laura Shipman

Laura reported on plans from the Outreach Committee meeting: Memorial Garden beautification project June 10, 8:00am until finished, Rummage sale and cookout Sept 23 open to the public, 500th Anniversary Reformation planning location, food, attendees considering Oconee Brewing Co, set up new email accounts for LOLC and new advertising plan.

New Business

Chamber of Commerce

Robin Larson has been attending Chamber of Commerce "Meet and Greet" evening events representing LOLC. He reported on a recent CoC event and suggested others on the Council may want to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Larson
Council Secretary

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church Financial Report

May 2017

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH										
Treasurer's Report - May, 2017										
	Period	Monthly		Y-T-D	Y-T-D		Restricted Fund Balance			
	Activity	Budget	Difference	Balance	Budget	Difference				
General Fund	15,075	19,667	-4,592	85,369	98,334	-12,965	W-F Acct.			\$80,084
Debt Reduction	2,790	3,682	-892	19,839	18,411	1,428	Debt Red.			\$35,902
Special Fund Income	778	83	695	6,273	416	5,857	LOLC Car			\$22,500
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$18,643	\$23,432	-\$4,789	\$111,481	\$117,161	-\$5,680	Contingency			\$39,009
							Organ			\$478
							A/P			\$3,790
							Scholarship			\$2,098
							TOTAL			\$183,861
EXPENSES							A/P:			
Pastor Expense	1,498	6,642	-5,144	38,920	33,212	5,708	District			\$3,790
Worship Expense	1,667	2,330	-663	10,995	11,651	-656	Payroll			\$0
Property Expense	5,427	3,580	1,847	17,334	17,903	-569	Mortgage balance			\$254,253.40
Business & Administrative Expense	1,757	2,350	-593	10,517	11,749	-1,232				
Education Expense	0	42	-42	37	208	-171	BANK BALANCES:			
Evangelism/Outreach Expense	144	500	-356	2,523	2,500	23	BankSouth			\$154,931.50
Stewardship Expense	230	21	209	230	104	126	LCEF			\$104,942.60
Fellowship Expense	0	192	-192	302	959	-657	W-Fargo			\$80,083.76
Mission Expense (District)	0	1,967	-1,967	5,130	9,834	-4,704	TOTAL			\$339,957.86
Other Expense	7,364	4,516	2,848	22,093	22,578	-\$485				
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,087	\$22,140	-\$4,053	\$108,081	\$110,698	-\$2,617				
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$556	\$1,292	-\$736	\$3,400	\$6,463	-\$3,063				

Note: Mortgage was deducted 3/1 & 3/31

Haitian Cardboard Project



I just sent out our sixth box of cardboard. Each box contains at least \$2000 worth of income for artists in Haiti. Keep the cardboard coming!

--Susan Larson

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.



Just stop at the ReStore at 1027 Lake Oconee Parkway. Everyone in the store is a volunteer and always happy to share information.

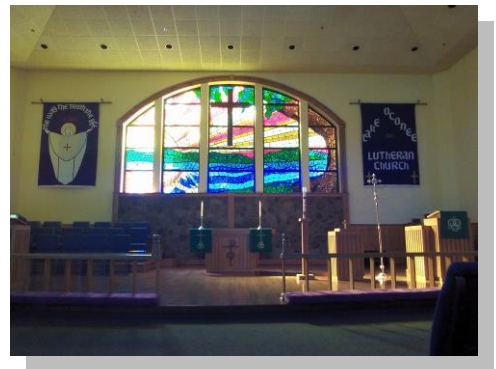
Help us to spread the word to anyone else—friend or family—who might be a willing volunteer. For even more first-hand information, talk to Janis after church or contact him at 706-484-0543.

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
- Or a reader!



Contact Peggy Uehlin to sign up as reader; the church office for communion assistants and/or you can sign up yourself on designated sheets the round table.

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: \$80.00

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



Members Wanted -- Join Us Now

- No Auditions
- Warm Up and Vocal Coaching

Contact: Art Hargrove 706-473-1290

When the choir returns from the Summer break, practice will be on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

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 round table at the back of the church.

Recycling Projects

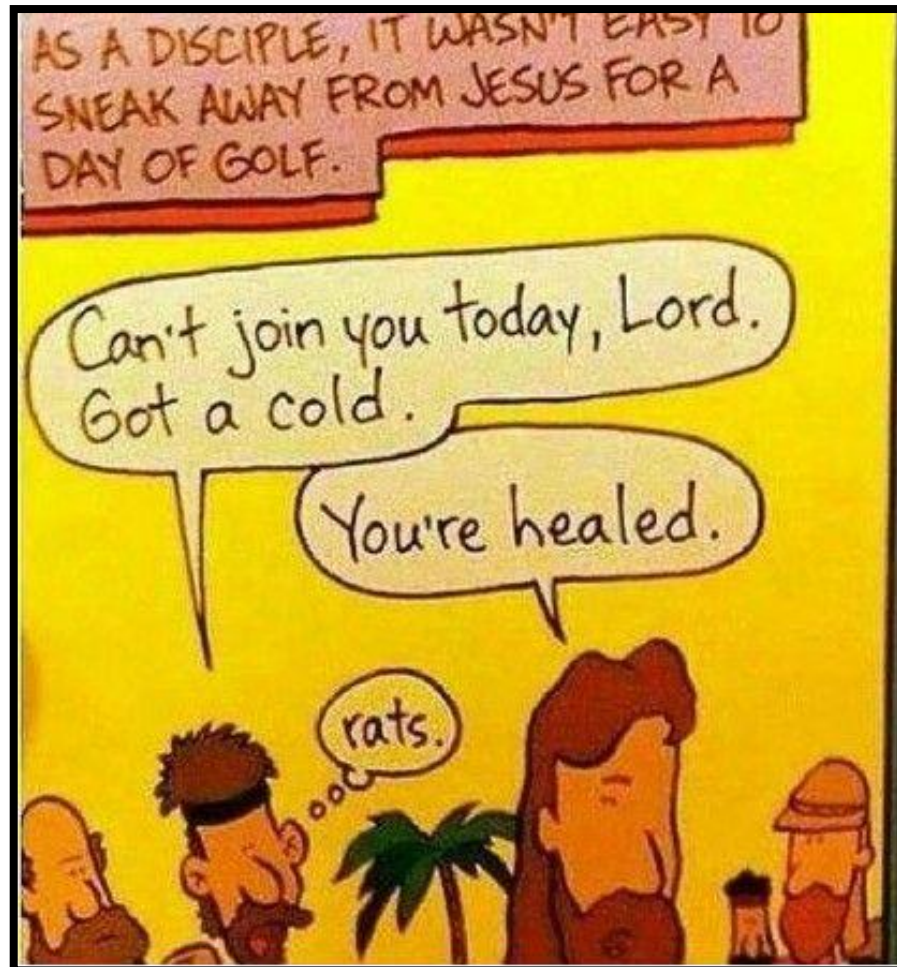
Remember the LOLC paper recycling program to include extra copies of the weekly bulletins and other White paper products. All collected paper goes to the recycling center.



We are also collecting aluminum cans for Amber Bailey, the person who does such a great job keeping our church clean.



Lutheran Laughter & Wisdom



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Church secretary, Deb Krahlng

lolcsec@plantationcable.net

Music Director, Art Hargrove

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