

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

JULY 2026



Top Five Reasons Why I Don't Tithe Enough 2 Chronicles 36:1-10

I don't tithe enough. There I said it. I am a minister of the gospel and I think the believer's relationship to money is important in the Kingdom of God...and I don't think I tithe enough. I don't mean to imply that the Herridge family doesn't tithe and give to those in need, we do...but I am not sure we do it enough.

However, in truth, when we tally up how much we tithed and gave in one year, it was larger than I thought...but that doesn't squelch the nagging feeling in my soul that our family does not give/ tithe enough.

Decades ago, the famous British writer and theologian was asked to speak on the subject of Christian stewardship. He began by saying, *"ON the whole, God's love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for him."*

When I really think about it, I am reminded of the Scottish preacher whose congregant was complaining to him about the constant calls for stewardship in the church, he said, *"I'm tired of this Christianity. All the church asks me to do is Give, Give Give."* To which the wise rector replied, *"I can't think of a better definition of Christianity than that - Give Give Give."*

We can decide to not talk about money and the Kingdom of God...we can choose to skirt the issue...but the fact remains that our relationship to money is one of the ways we define our faith and make it personal.

I am not sure why I don't. I am a pretty genuine guy...I am trying really hard to honestly follow Christ and admit when I fall short. But I don't give as much as I should...I don't give to the Kingdom of God like Jesus taught his followers to give.

And I wonder if (deep down) you have ever felt that same way...? Like you don't give as much as you should...even though you give a lot? So, I did some soul searching this past week....and I figured out the honest to goodness top five reasons why I don't tithe or give to the Kingdom of God the way I should.

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I wonder if any of these will resonate with you? Lets see...

Number 5 — I Don't tithe enough because I am stuck on the idea that giving ought to be useful. The problem is, I don't get to decide how the money is used in the KOG...I don't get to decide if it is useful or not...that is not for me to decide. That is for God to decide. This reminds me of a group of ministers who were gathered from various denominations to talk about money and giving. The conference speaker, to prove a point, took out a hundred dollars bill and said he was going to give this money to God and then he lit it on fire....

Some of the attenders were very disturbed because it was not used properly for God...it wasn't used well. But, like the woman who poured a bottle of expensive perfume on Jesus feet, it was used on God. We are called to give, not because our giving can be useful...but because we love the one to whom we give. God will decide if it is useful, not us. True Generosity cannot be reduced to a matter of being useful.

Number 4— I don't tithe enough because I keep forgetting that my entire life is a gift from God. If I am honest, I will admit that I think some things in my life come from God....and everything else is earned by my own efforts. But that isn't how the Bible see it...Everything, scripture says, is a gift from God. He is the author of every good, honest, true gift. We owe him everything.

In 2 Chronicles 36, the Israelites gave their best ten percent. They brought their crops and their farm animals and their apples and can of cream corn. They offered the best food and produce they could produce...and they gave these things, not because they had cash value (which they did) but because they were an essential part of everyday life.

They gave away practical everyday things...and the absence of those things...negatively affected their lives. It hurt...to give...it was a sacrifice. And they were okay with that...because they understood their entire lives to be a gift from God.

But Christians these days have more in common with Jack Benny. They can't distinguish between what they have done and what God has done and given them. Do you remember Jack Benny, he was an funny comedian long ago. A robber came up to Jack on the street one day and say, "Your money or your life!" Mr. Benny stood there motionless. Again, the robber repeated, "Your Money or your life!" Mr. Benny replied, "I am thinking. I am thinking."

Number 3 — I don't tithe enough because I like to control who I am giving my money to. I do...I just do. I like to give my money to good people in need because of no fault of their own...I like to give money to my friends who have had a bad month...or my nephew who lost his job.

I don't like handing my hard earned money out to people who are going to use it to by drugs or alcohol or waste it.

I don't like giving my money to churches sometimes who do stuff that I don't like with that money. The problem is — there is no command in scripture that says "give only when you approve of where you money is going". The command is to just give.

Number 2 – I don't tithe enough because I want a bigger cup. You know what I am talking about right? The idea that we keep trading our cups for bigger cups. We could be content if we just kept the same cup our entire lives...in fact, our cup would be overflowing. And isn't that how we want to live life...with a cup overflowing with good things?

Instead, we see our cup getting full of "things" and we decide to get a bigger cup. We get a bigger cup and we put all our time into seeing if we can fill that cup up...and when we do, we get a bigger cup...and the cycle repeats itself over and over and over.

The Israelites had already tried that "bigger cup" thing...they tried keeping up with other cultures and their religions. They liked what they saw...with those other cultures. They liked their wealth and their money and their royalty. They liked the palaces and the finer things.

And so, little by little, they stopped giving their time and talents and money to the Lord and started committing it to the "finer things" and to other gods. And after a few decades, they realized there is more to life than passionately focusing on getting a bigger cup. They realized they had spent so much time trying to get a bigger cup they forget about the one who made the cup...

What about you....have you realized that yet?

Number 1 – The number one reason why I don't tithe or give enough...Because I am afraid. If I tithe like I should, if I give like I know Jesus did....will God make sure I am okay? Will me and my family face financial ruin and destruction? That is fear isn't it?

Fear is the issue here. If I give to the Kingdom like I should, will God make sure I don't come to ruin...will God catch me...like a financial safety net?

I guess I just don't trust him with my money....at least not enough to give to his kingdom like I should.

Sometimes, I wish I was like the struggling Christian Chinese Farmer....

A husband and wife were on a one in a life-time trip to the Great Wall of China. While there, they partnered with a young Chinese national, a Christian, who acted as their tour guide.

One day, the wife noticed a boy pulling a crude plow in the field, while an old man held the low handles and directed it through the rice paddy. The husband, a tourist through and through, was amused and took a picture of the scene. The tour guide told them, "That is the family of Chi Noui. When their church was being built far in the country away from the government's prying eyes, they were eager to give something to it...but they had no money...so they sold the only ox they had and gave the money to the church. This spring, they are pulling the plow themselves."

The husband and wife fell silent watching the boy carry the plow in place of the ox. "Wow", the husband said, "That is real sacrifice."

"They didn't think so." The Christian tour guide said, "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

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Lord...give me and my family...give Ocker the courage and gratitude needed to give so much to the Kingdom that it forces me to change the way I live.

I will see you at church on Sunday...It is shaping up to be a great day....I will save a seat for you.
Humbled to be your pastor,

Brad

SUNDAY SCHOOL/C.E.C. NEWS:

The CEC will be meeting on Sunday, July 26 immediately after worship. If you are a current SS teacher or have an interest in teaching or assisting, we hope you can make the meeting. Our meetings are open to everyone who has an interest in Sunday School programs.

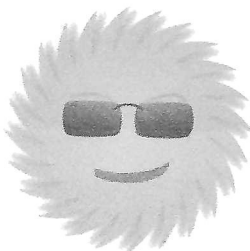
A big "thank you" to Jeremy Wentreck for leading the youth Sunday School class this summer. We appreciate you!

Reminders:

- * July breakfast is POTLUCK so everyone bring something to share. August first Sunday breakfast will be provided by the CEC. A new list will be posted in August for future first Sundays.
- * A confirmation class will begin in August for incoming 8th & 9th graders. Bro. Brad will be teaching this class over the Catechism and church beliefs.
- * There will continue to be a High School youth class for grades 10, 11, & 12. There will also be a Middle School class for grades 6 & 7.
- * VBS is scheduled for Sunday through Tuesday, August 2, 3, & 4. A meal will be provided for families beginning at 5:30pm. VBS will end at 8 each evening. See more information about VBS in the Youth and children's page.
- * Back to School Party will be Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 pm. A meal will be provided followed by an Ice Cream Bar, Fun and Games!

Please direct any questions or comments to our SS Superintendent, Tracie Malovets.

We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Again, our next CEC meeting is Sunday, July 26 immediately following worship.



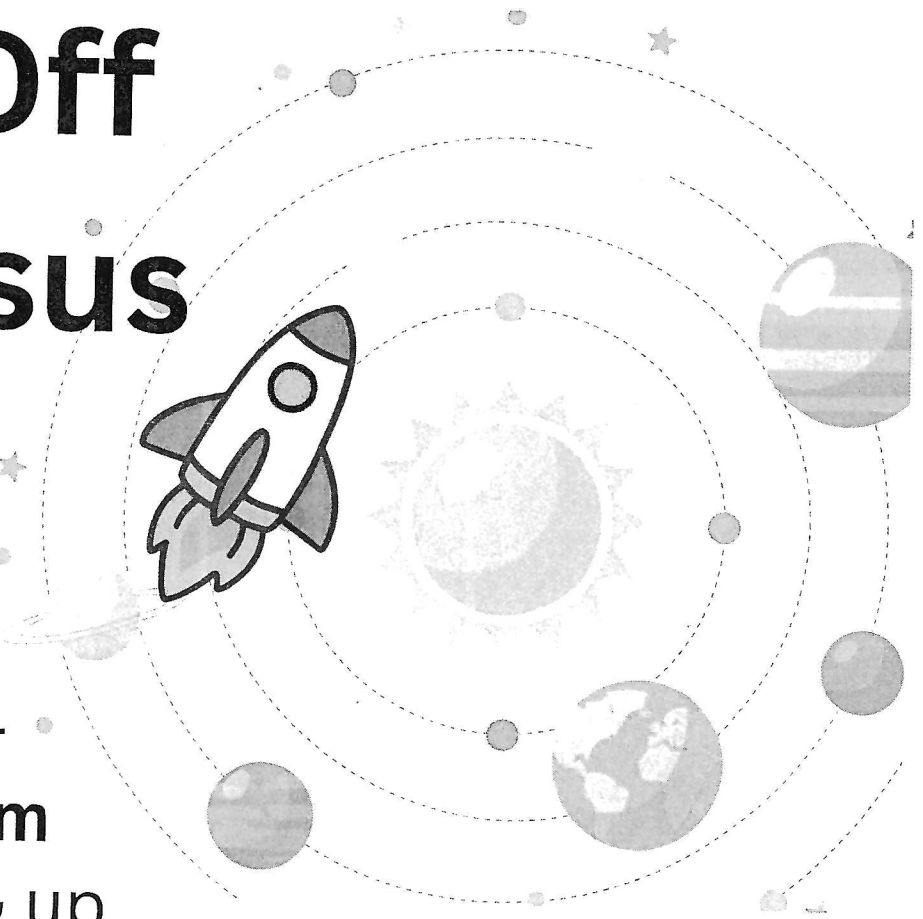
Blast Off with Jesus VBS

Sun. Aug. 2-

Tues. Aug. 4

5:30-8:00pm

Ages 3 & up



- 5:30 Family Dinner
- 6:15 Opening
- 8:15 Closing

Helpers needed for:

Kitchen - see Dianne Psencik
Bible Story- see Jenn Chervenka
Music- see Joanna Chervenka
Craft- leader and helpers needed

Food needs:

Fruit and Veggie Trays
Cookies, Brownies, Cupcakes
Monetary Donations for VBS expense
(Give to Tracie Malovets or Jenn Chervenka)

VBS Set-up and decorating:

Wednesday, July 29, 5-9pm, Dinner Provided

Sunday, August 2, after worship, Lunch Provided

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday, August 23
Youth Led Worship Service
and
Fundraiser Luncheon

Don't forget July 18-19 retreat.
Youth Bible Study will resume in
August.

See Jennifer for details and
more info. (254) 913-1244

Ocker Brethren Church
17454 State Hwy 53
Temple, TX 76501

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 806
Rogers, TX 76569

Phone 254.985.2240

E-mail

ockerbrethrenchurch
@gmail.com

PASTOR:

Dr. Brad Herridge

Phone:

254.716.2578

Email:

bradherridge@gmail.com

Board of Elders Pres.

John Brinkley

Phone: 254.721.3196

E-mail:

wphalia@yahoo.com

Youth Director:

Jennifer Chervenka

Phone: 254.913.1244

Email:

jenn.chervenka@gmail.com

Sunday School Supt.

Tracie Malovets

Phone:

254.780.8969

E-mail:

tmalovets@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

Stacie Sebek

Phone:

254.718.5608

Email: ockerbrethrenchurch
@gmail.com

Christian Sisters

Hospitality Coordinator:

Deanna Naivar

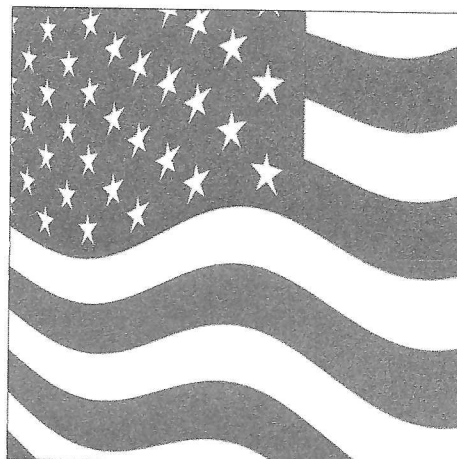
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JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Maggie Imhoff
- 3 – Trevor Glaser
Troy Glaser
- 6 – Ryan Zdroik
- 7 – Sharon Marek
- 8 – David Williamson
- 11 – Pavel Kozak
- 12 – Abbeye Zavodny
Ella Washam
Boedy Martin
- 13 – Mary Jeseke
- 14 – Dalton Krcha
Jackson Erskine
- 15 – Carson Erskine
- 16 – Graycee Sebek
- 18 – John Krcha
- 21 – Maycee Phillips
Amy Cummings
Vivian Fojtasek
- 22 – Raegan Daskocil
- 23 – Randy Hoelscher
Karen Bethke
Lawrence Psencik
- 28 – Phyllis Ruffino
Stacie Sebek
Tracie Malovets
- 31 – Micah Malovets

July Anniversaries

- 2 – Aaron & Kirstin Marten
- 11 – Dillon & Jordan Barbisch
- 12 – Brian & Donna Lawless
- 13 – Jerry & Gabbey Dillard
- 15 – Gene & Carmen Sosa
- 19 – Mickey & Karen Tomlin
- 22 – Darrell & Shannon Glaser
- 26 – Pavel & Stania Kozak
- 27 – John & Brittini Krcha



Did you know?

Ocker Brethren Church celebrates Holy Communion on July 5 in honor of John Hus (Jan Hus). John Hus was a pastor and church reformer born into poverty in Southern Bohemia in 1372. Inspired by the writings of John Wycliff, Hus used his role as the pastor of Bethlehem Chapel in Prague to promote the centrality of the Bible in Christian life and to argue against the unmitigated corruption in the Catholic Church. As a result, he was excommunicated four times and was burned at the stake by the Church in 1415. The Unity of the Brethren denomination claims John Hus as its reformer and promotes his ideas on the authority of scripture and personal morality as vital to our understanding of Christianity.

We're on the Web!

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JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	2 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	3	4 
5 First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am	6	7	9 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	13	14	15 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	16 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	17 QUARTERLY CRAFT RETREAT	18
19 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	20	21	22 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am C.E.C. Meeting following Worship	27 Girlfriends & God Noon - 1 pm	28	29 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm			