

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

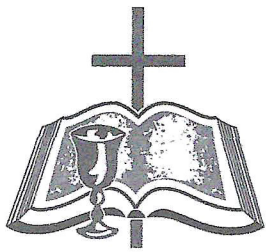
Serving Christ, Serving Our Community
AUGUST 2025

Board of Elders Meeting

Wednesday
AUGUST 13

6:30 pm

Meetings are
always open to all.



CHRISTIAN SISTERS NEWS

The monthly meeting
of the Christian Sisters
will be Tuesday August
19th
at 11:30 am.

Mark your calendars
and join us for lunch, a
devotional and to learn
exactly what the group
does within the church.

We welcome you and
would love to see your
smiling face!

This month's "From the Pastor...." Is a repeat article from August 2022.

My article this month is a return back to the subject of the disciples....and what happened to them after Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

Drawing heavily on the work of other scholars, especially Hulitt Gloer...The disciple, Andrew, will be our focus this month.

Andrew is a Greek name (even though he was Jewish) meaning *manly*.

Andrew has the honor of being the disciple with the title, *protokletos* — the first called.

Andrew was from the city of Bethsaida, a village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee where he and his more famous brother, Peter, ran the family fishing business.

While Andrew might have been Jesus' first disciple, he had been a disciple of somebody else before he committed to Jesus. Scripture notes that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, which meant that he was somebody who longed for the coming of the promised Messiah.

We first meet Andrew as he is experiencing (for the first time) the truth that Jesus is the Messiah he has been praying for. When Andrew understands this truth, the first thing he does is go back to his friends and take them to Jesus. In fact, that seems to be what Andrew is literally always doing every time we see him in the gospels...he is bringing people to Jesus.

I love that about Andrew...but that isn't my favorite thing about him. What I love the most about Andrew is his servant heart. Andrew was willing to serve Christ without attention or fanfare. Andrew's brother, Peter seemed to always want to be out in front....but Andrew was okay serving God in the shadows...when nobody was looking. Most of the gospels list Andrew as "the brother of Simon Peter." But that didn't seem to matter to Andrew...as long as the king and the kingdom were served. Andrew must have understood what Jesus meant when he said, "In my Father's Kingdom, whoever wants to be first must be last and a servant of all."

Hulitt Gloer notes, "Andrew's story is the story of all persons who labor in quiet humility, all of those whose concern is not the accolades of other people but accomplishing the will of God." I like that about Andrew most of all.

According to early Christian tradition, after the ascension of Jesus, Andrew was allotted the ancient territory of Scythia (a region in modern-day Russia). But the Scythians were feared in the ancient world for their fierce barbarity. Josephus (the great Jewish historian) said they were little different from wild beasts. But Andrew persisted...and came to be the patron Saint of Russia.



A late second-century writing tells of Andrew's ministry in Russia and his eventual martyrdom in Greece. The following is a quote finishing the story:

"According to the Acts of Andrew....Andrew was condemned to death by the governor, Aegeates who was enraged at the conversion of his wife. He ordered Andrew to be crucified, but in order to prolong his suffering the governor ordered he be tied to the cross and not nailed (forcing him to die of hunger and thirst). As Andrew approached the cross he prayed, 'Hail precious cross! Thou hast been consecrated by the body of my Lord and adored with his limbs as rich jewels. I come to the exulting and glad. Receive me with joy into thy arms.'"

If I could take one quality from any disciple that I thought was most like Jesus....it would be Andrew and his servant heart. It reminds me of the old song that we sing but don't really mean:

Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be...Make me a servant, Lord make me a servant today.

August & September Fellowship



Girlfriends & God Day Trip....



A full day of

*shopping &
lunch*

*14 spots are available to
ride on the church bus
First come, first serve
Text Chelsey @ 254-718-2847*



******* SUNDAY SCHOOL / CEC NEWS *******

The CEC met on Saturday, July 19 at 9am. A number of items were discussed in preparation of the new Sunday School year beginning in August. **Promotions will occur the first Sunday to coincide with the school year for our students.**

It was decided that a gift card would be provided to the teachers of our children's classes to purchase classroom supplies that are generally needed for the students. This may include pencils, pens, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, construction paper, art supplies, among other things taught with the Sunday School lessons.

Upcoming Sunday School classes offered for Youth at this time include:

Nursery/Cradle Roll - ages 0-2yrs

Pre K- Kindergarten - ages 3 a Kinder

Primary - - Grades 1, 2, and 3

Middles/Juniors - Grades 4, 5, and 6

Pre-Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8

High School - Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Upcoming Sunday School classes for Adults offered at this time include:

Standard Bible Study • Books of the Bible • Life Applications

A substitute list is being developed for individuals who would like to volunteer on Sundays that the regular Sunday School teacher is not available. Please see Tracie Malovets to add your name to the List.

Attendance books for Sunday School classes have been ordered and received and will be given to each classroom in an effort to assist with record keeping in Sunday School.

1st Sunday breakfasts will continue with our regular rotation as follows:

August - CEC Provided - you won't want to miss it!

September - Standard Class

October - Life Applications Class

November - Books of the Bible Class

December - POTLUCK - everyone bring

January - Standard Class

February - Life Applications Class

March - Books of the Bible Class

April - POTLUCK- everyone bring

May - CEC Provides - Muffins for Moms

June - CEC provides - Donuts for Dads

July - POTLUCK - everyone bring

Thanks you for supporting our Sunday School. If you have any questions or comments, please see one of our officers:

Tracie Malovets - Superintendent

Dianne Psencik - Assistant Superintendent

Lisa Sebek - Secretary

Lynn Cassens - Treasurer

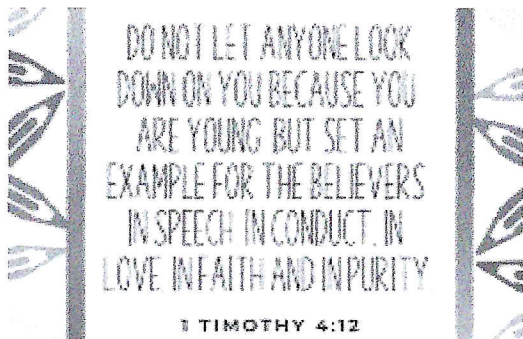
YOUTH-LED WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, August 13 & 20, 6-8pm. Dinner provided. This for 6th grade and up.

YOUTH SPAGHETTI MEAL FUNDRAISER

Sunday, September 14, after worship. A signup will be posted on group me.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WHEN

August 4-6; 5:45-8:00

Dinner for the WHOLE family 5:45pm.

Music · Bible Lessons · Crafts · FUN!!!!

AGES: 3 & UP (2YR OLD W/PARENT)



FINGER-FOOD TYPE DESSERTS NEEDED AS WELL AS FRUIT. PLEASE LET DIANNE PSENCIK OR JENN CHERVENKA KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BE BRINGING NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 SO THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE. THANKS!

DECORATING ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 & SUNDAY, AUGUST 3. HELP NEEDED. THANKS!

FALL YOUTH RETREAT AT HUS CAMP

**Saturday, September 6-Sunday,
September 7**

Bus will leave at 7:45am on Saturday and return at 2pm on Sunday. Last day to let Jenn know you're going is Sunday, August 17. Registration forms at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org.

FALL KID'S RALLY AT HUS CAMP

**Saturday, September 20
9:00am-4:00pm**

This is for kiddos ages 3&up. All attendees and volunteers must register and pay fees by August 31. Registration forms at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org.

PRIMETIMER'S FELLOWSHIP AT HUS CAMP

Saturday, October 4; 8:30am

Ages 50+ invited to a fun day of fellowship at the Hus Encampment in Caldwell. Bus will leave at 7:30am and return at 5:30pm. Continental breakfast and lunch provided. A free will offering is collected to offset expenses. Let Jenn know you're going no later than Sunday, September 28.

Need more information?

Jenn Chervenka

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Christian Sisters

Hospitality Coordinator:

Deanna Naivar

Phone: 254.931.5720

We're on the Web!

www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

Twitter: @ockerchurch

&

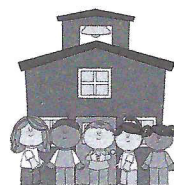
Facebook!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 – Travis Glaser
Candice Henderson
2 – Emily Doney
Jason Parker
4 – Hayden English
6 – Ryder Kleypas
Cory Pierce
8 – Jaylea Elkins
9 – Jean Coufal
Ian Ranley
10 – Sara Wolf
12 – Andrew English
Matthew Wilfert
13 – Gabbey Dillard
15 – Marcia Snyder
Emma Ranley
16 – Cil Krcha
18 – Landon Kleypas
19 – Grace Tawney
20 – Chris Tucker
John Brinkley
21 – Karley Stephens
23 – Janet Hoelscher
24 – Jeannette Glaser
28 – Laela Sebek
29 – Stephanie Phillips
31 – Shirley Marek
Mike Beimer

August Anniversaries

6 – John & Kim Dillard
12 – Jordan & Emily Sebek
18 – Jodie & Abbey Zavodny
23 – Brent & Brittney Harper
26 – Barton & Tammy Pierce



Tables & Chairs

On occasion members have requested to borrow a few tables and chairs for special personal events. If you have borrowed any tables or chairs, please return them as soon as possible following your special occasion. The church uses these for many events and we must insure that we have enough for church use. We appreciate you and thank you for assisting in this effort!

Bible Study – Book of John

HELLO ALL!

Maggie's Bible Study on the Book of John will continue through the summer. We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm for fellowship and study. Even if you have not been a part of this study, I encourage you to bring your Bible and spend the evening with us. This is a time in our church life where we all need to be in the company of our church family.

Hope to see you there! Shalom, Maggie

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| 3 First Sunday Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 4 | 5 | 6 Book of John Bible Study 6:30 pm | 7 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm | 1 | 2 |
| 10 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 11 | 12 | 13 Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm <i>Youth Bible Study</i> 6 – 8 pm Book of John Bible Study 6:30 pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 18 | 19 Christian Sisters 11:30 am | 20 <i>Youth Bible Study</i> 6 – 8 pm Book of John Bible Study 6:30pm | 21 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 25 | 26 | 27 <i>Youth Bible Study</i> 6 – 8 pm Book of John Bible Study 6:30pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:45 pm - 8 pm