

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

AUGUST 2023



It is so hard for me to “get my head around” the fact that I am writing a “back to school” article for August...but, school is starting soon for so many of our kids...and it is — that time of year again. For our family...summer means a break in the routine...normal schedules (like school and sports and work) are not as consistent, giving way to vacations and weekend trips. How does the song go, “Summer Days, make me feel fine.” But, summer days slowly give way to new routines waiting around the corner.

One of the challenges of going back to school is getting back into a routine! And it is a challenge for the entire family.

Getting up early for the practices, doing homework, getting to bed at a decent hour. The primary component of a good primary and high school education is that it teaches people how to handle deadlines and expectations — you have to get into a routine. Everybody does.

BUT!

That isn't the only thing you have to get into a routine with....a routine is required with anything that is important to you. If it is important to you — You need to get into a spiritual routine for your personal walk with the Lord.

Runners have a routine! Athletes have a routine! Soldiers have a routine! Farmers have a routine! Teachers have a routine! Since Christians are likened to all of these persons, then we must also have a routine!

Unfortunately, too many Christians are stuck in a summer vacation! Sometimes we allow the “things” of this life to interfere with our Christian lives and we lose the “routine” that we once had. Sometimes we slip into a summer vacation (spiritually).

Well...if you have slipped into your spiritual summer break — this article is your wake up call. Get back into your spiritual routine. Spend time with the savior...Get back on track.

BOARD OF
ELDERS
WILL MEET
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 9
@ 6:30 PM



Here is my prayer and blessing for all those going back to school and starting new routines in the church and in our community:

Active and All Knowing God, we be with the children and this church as we start a new routines learn new things and grow in faith.

Be with our students as they begin a new school year, learning and growing, and be with our children's and youth leaders as they guide, serve, and grow with our young ones throughout this school year ahead. Help them all remember that — "God is with you as you serve, may you grow in grace and wisdom."

Bless our children's ministry leaders, volunteers, staff and families, that they may be adults who are filled with grace, joy, and passion for the work they do and the children they serve.

In the Sunday school rooms, nursery, sanctuary, and hallways, may the relationships they build and the lessons they teach create safe space for children's growth, care, and hope in You and in this community.

May they inspire faith and make church fun for all who join us in children's ministry! May they all remember that - "God is with you as you serve, may you grow in grace and wisdom."

Bless our youth ministry leaders, volunteers, staff, and families, that they may be adults who are filled with grace, joy, and passion for the work they do and the youth they serve.

May they fill the youth rooms, classroom, sanctuary and hallways with laughter and deep conversation, faith formation and fun, as they lead our youth in becoming the faithful disciples you call us all to be.

*May they inspire faith and make church fun for all who join us in youth ministry!
"God is with you as you serve, may you grow in grace and wisdom."*

As our new year begins, give our children's and youth leaders all that they need to plan, prepare and participate in the ministry that our young people need. Give them patience and peace when they face a new challenge. Give them grace and adaptability in moments of change. Give them vision and wisdom to see the big picture of your love for all. Give them diligence and hope as they meet the real needs of our young people and guide them to be your disciples. May they remember that — "God is with you as you serve, may you grow in grace and wisdom."

As this new school year begins, O God, help our whole church to look for the ways that you are calling us to be your disciples and to support and serve these faithful leaders of our children's and youth ministries. Remind us that you are with us as a church family and that you are calling is always to "Let the little children come to me."

I will see you on Sunday, it looks like it is shaping up to be a great day!

Brad

The Pastor's Book Club

Raft of Stars

By Andrew J. Graff
Sunday, August 20 at 6:30 pm
In the Conference Room



CHRISTIAN SISTERS NEWS

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 11:30 am. We welcome all ladies to join us and share lunch.

●CHOIR●

Beginning in September, the Sanctuary Choir will present the Call to Worship and a Special hymn once a month. Tentative Sundays that we will sing are September 24, October 22 and November 26. Practice will be in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am on the dates listed. If you enjoy singing, please join us - the more the better! Questions may be addressed to Kim Dillard.



Bad Girls of the Bible

Wednesday night Bible Study has paused for Summer.

Please join us again September 9 at 6:30 pm to learn about some "Really Bad Girls" of the Bible and what they can teach us about our lives today. Come and learn about The Witch of Endor in 1 Samuel, or Jeal in Judges. Be prepared for a lively discussion on these women and many more!

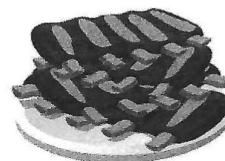
**** YOUTH NEWS! ****

BYF / Youth Bible Study and Fellowship will resume on
August 9 - 6 to 8 pm

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 23 AT 6 PM! JOIN US FOR
FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!

SAVE THE DATE!



Fundraiser / Fellowship Meal following Worship on Sunday, August 27. More details to follow!



What's Up in Sunday School

It's beginning to look a lot like school time...everywhere you go! Football, volleyball, and band practices have begun in preparation for the upcoming season. Ocker is also gearing up for a new season, or as most call it, a new year of Sunday School. We have exciting classes from Pre-k through Adult. I know we have a class for you! Come check it out!

Classes

Pre-K/K

1st/2nd

3rd/4th

5th/6th

Confirmation

High School

Teacher(s)

Judy and Jana Jeske

Sandra Dubcak

Amanda Parker

Mary Herridge

Brad Herridge

Jennifer Chervenka/Dillon Barbisch

Adult Classes:

Books of the Bible

Mayberry

Standard

Members will alternate

Chelsey Pierce (facilitator)

RoseAnne Groseclose

The new Sunday School year will begin August 6th to coincide with "back to school" and changing classes if needed.

August 6th will also be the 1st Sunday Fellowship. Please remember that we begin at 8:30 a.m. CEC will provide the breakfast. Members DO NOT NEED to bring anything.

Upcoming dates of Fellowship Breakfast provided by...

September - Standard Class

October - Mayberry Class

November - Books of the Bible Class

December - Children/Youth Sunday School Teachers

VBS starts 7/31

"Ready, Set, Move"



Next CEC Meeting is September 10th



Operation Christmas Child Summer Drive!



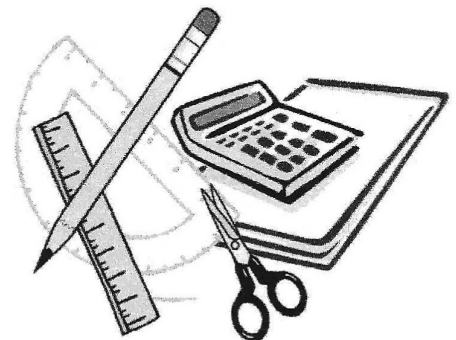
It is hard to believe, but school is just around the corner! Operation Christmas Child is continuing the **Summer SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE!** The supplies we place into a box are used to enhance the education of each child. Through the month of **August, we will be collecting school supplies** such as pencils, erasers, crayons, color pencils, scissors, rulers, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, and more! Please no liquid-based items. We are also collecting small pencil boxes/bags and tote bags for the children to carry their supplies to school. We hope to supply each child with the most school items possible to help them continue their education. So, when school shopping begins, keep Operation Christmas Child in mind and pick up a few extra school supplies.

Please read below for additional OCC Updates:

- **A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the craft retreat!!! It was a great success!**
- **DON'T FORGET! OCC has an Amazon Wishlist!** Can't make it to the store but still want to donate items? Wondering what items are still needed for this year? Want to buy in bulk? We have you covered. Check it out at

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KDH18VR0461I/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?encoding=UTF8&type=giftlist Access this link through:

- The online newsletter located on the church website
- Church Facebook page



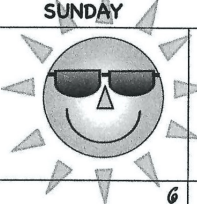
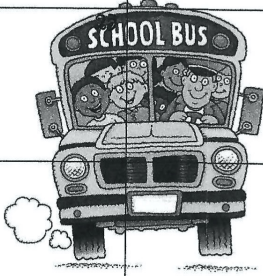


Back to School



August

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 5		1	2	3 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	4	5 Baby Blanket Buddies 10 am
6 First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am (VBS Program)	7	8	9 Youth Bible Study 6-8 pm Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	14	15 Christian Sisters Meeting 11:30 am	16 Youth Bible Study 6-8 pm	17 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	18	19
20 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am BOOK CLUB MEET 6:00 PM	21	22	23 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6 PM	24		
27 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am FUNDRAISER MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP	28	29	30 Youth Bible Study 6-8 pm	31 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm		