

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

MAY 2026



Board of Elders

Meeting

Wednesday

May 13

@ 6:30 pm

Meetings are always
open to all.

We're on the Web!

www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

YouTube, Facebook & Twitter:
[@ockerchurch](#)

The good people of Ocker have already been so supportive (through prayer, giving of time, talent, financial support) of Ocker's Alaska Mission Team....Thank You So Much.

Because Ocker is already so invested we thought it might be a good idea to explain exactly why we are going and what we are going to do when we get there....in the form of an FAQ!

Why are we sending a team on a "Mission Trip" to Alaska? *A couple of years ago...several people approached me with a desire to do more to be "the hands and feet of Christ" both here in our community and outside of our community. That sounded like a very worthy goal...so we pray-fully set about forming two groups...a local missions group and a non-local group. This mission trip is a result of the non-local group coming together and praying about what type of ways we could spread the love of God to other hurting cultures....thereby, hopefully, gaining a deeper appreciation of God's love for all people.*

To that end...after a lot of thought and prayer...the group decided that the Spirit was leading us to go on a short term mission trip and do two things....spread the good news of Jesus through hosting a VBS to community children with the help of local churches; and through construction labor (helping fix a dilapidated church). With that in mind, we sought a missions partner (para church missions organization) that could help us find the best place to live out those goals.

We settled on Praying Pelicans Missions. They told us the people who are in the most need...who are hurting the most (on the continent) are the people in Appalachia and the people in rural Alaska (they...are the most forgotten). We were immediately drawn to the most forgotten.

Where in Alaska are you going?

We are going to be working with a new C3 Church (a bit more Pentecostal) in a formerly "rough" Anchorage neighborhood. **Chugach Covenant Church** started in the **Muldoon Elementary School** several years ago. Muldoon Elementary is literally the most diverse school

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in the entire nation. However before the church moved in, the neighborhood was in terrible shape...drug dealers, crime and alcohol loomed large. When the church moved in, they really tried to claim the neighborhood for the Lord. So they "re-claimed" the park right by the school and started running ministries there...and they helped church-goers in the neighborhood repair their homes. Eventually, they bought a home right by the school and park. Now, they hold worship services in the driveway during the summer and in the school in the winter.

We are going to hold VBS style ministries in the afternoon for the kids. The pastor said that these summer VBS ministries keep the kids from getting bored and moving towards trouble. I like that our ministry helps prevent the devil getting a stronghold.

Tell Me More about Praying Pelicans Missions...

Praying Pelicans has been great. Think of them as a mission team's guide to mission trips. We thought...since Ocker hasn't been on a mission trip in a while, we should rely on some professionals to help us out this first time.

Praying Pelicans has set us up with the church that I just described to you.... They provide transportation, a guide, and food!

In addition, two of their ministry coordinators will be with us at all times.

Who is Going?

20 of us from Ocker are going (and two good lifelong ministry friends of mine). That is about a tenth of our church. We wanted to make it very safe (one reason we involved an organization like Praying Pelicans) but genuine...because we wanted youth and children to go. We have the names listed at the bottom of this newsletter article.

Why Are You Trying to Raise SOO MUCH? Are you going on Vacation?

Praying Pelicans worked with us to create an itinerary that gives us one free day (out of five) to recover from our work. They said that is what they do for all their mission groups and churches...seems about right to me. We haven't decided if we are going to use that day...they said we can see how "we feel."

With 18 Ocker Church Members going, we set the amount to raise at \$16,000...sounds like a lot....but...

Here is the breakdown of cost:

Praying Pelicans Charges \$850/ person for the 7 days we will be there. That includes the following: food, transportation (all of our transportation needs), setting up ministry partnerships with churches and other para church ministries and organizing ministry sites and constructions time and two ministry coordinators on site with us at all times).

The Mission Team is doing other separate fundraisers (OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH) to raise money for flights and lodging.

We are so very excited to show God's love in this new and unique way to so many so far away....we are so thankful for those who can support us in any way the Spirit leads. If you have any questions or want to know how you can specifically help us...please ask!

Please...most of all, pray for us!

Ocker on Mission — Here are the Names of the people going on the trip...please pray for us:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Brad Herridge | 11. Matthew Wilfert |
| 2. Lucy Herridge | 12. Darrell Glaser |
| 3. Mary Herridge | 13. Shannon Glaser |
| 4. Jennifer Chervenka | 14. Stephanie Phillips |
| 5. Joanna Chervenka | 15. Maycee Phillips |
| 6. Jaidyn Chervenka | 16. Kindra Koslovsky |
| 7. Brittni Krcha | 17. Tessa Koslovsky |
| 8. Jordan Krcha | 18. Sandy McAdams |
| 9. Bailey Krcha | 19. Jason Nesmith |
| 10. Mark Wilfert | 20. Nigel Nesmith |

-----FATHERS DAY FUNDRAISER NEWS-----

The Elders have been praying and thinking about the best way to continue our Father's Day Fundraiser. For over fifteen years, Ocker has diligently offered a community wide Fundraiser complete with a meal, desserts, silent auction and several raffle items. The response and participation of the community has been wonderful and our church has benefited from the proceeds that were raised...and we are so grateful for the unwavering support the community has shown Ocker. In addition, we are so grateful for so many of our church family who have worked so hard to make this event a success for so many years. However, as many of you know, the time/effort/planning and work that a huge event like this takes is immense...especially for our men, who cook (sometimes all night) the day before.

Last year, because of Grant's passing, the church didn't feel like hosting such a massive event so close to his death. Instead, we offered a drive through "rib sale" at the church. We simplified things and sold slabs of cooked ribs. It went really well...we sold over 200 slabs of ribs to the community without having to engage in such a massive effort.

Since then, many church members and Elders have been talking about moving away from the huge Father's Day event of the past in favor of a more simple "To go rib sale" like last year...if only to give the church a little break for the intense work.

Last Sunday, after a "listening period" where we asked church members to talk to an Elder about the subject, we met and decided to move forward with a more simple "to go rib sale" this year.

So....Please **SAVE THE DATE!** The To-Go Rib sale will be at Ocker on Saturday, June 20. Our goal is to sell 350 slabs of ribs to our community.

While the "Rib Sale is significantly less work, it is still "work"... we are still going to need volunteers and helpers from Ocker to make this event a success...so, please be on the lookout in the weeks to come for ways to help!

Personally, I just want to thank Ocker for your dedication and support of this event in the past...it has been a joy to work alongside with you... and I can't wait to see how this new idea will bring even more success and...perhaps even, rest for the weary!

Peace to us all,

Brad



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Ocker was a drop-off hub last year for Operation Christmas Child. It was an overwhelming success and we will do that once again this year. National Collection Week is November 16 through November 23. Volunteers will be needed to work a 2 hour shift each day. Sign-ups will be open later in the year.

Last year our focus was on "learning the ropes of becoming a DROPOFF" location for our community and surrounding area. We now know what's expected, so THIS year we will be bringing back the Packing Party! We will continue to accept donations and pack boxes for Ocker on November 14.



CEC / SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please note that our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Sunday, May 17

immediately following the Graduates Luncheon.

Yay May! Recognizing our Moms and our Graduates! What a great month! On Sunday, May 3, we will have Muffins with Mom's. Mom's are Special! God made them special.

Then, on Sunday, May 17, we will recognize our graduates from 8th grade to High School, High School Seniors and our College graduates. We hope everyone can join our graduates and their family's for this special recognition and luncheon. The church will be providing chicken tenders, rolls and gravy. We are requesting everyone to bring sides to complement the tenders.

If you have a graduate, please let Tracie, Lisa, or Jennifer know so that we do not miss anyone.

Reminder for the first Sunday in June, June 7, we will begin our "Today's Issues" class during Sunday School. If you have a "Today's Issues" topic, please see our Sunday School Superintendent, Tracie Malovets, or our Pastor, Bro. Brad Herridge. We would like to have 10 days or so to prepare for the topic matter.

So for June, July and August, we will meet as usual for breakfast at 8:30 am. After breakfast, the children will be released to the sanctuary for choir practice. The middle school and high school classes

will remain with the adults for a discussion on "Today's Issues".

We want to say "thank you" for another successful craft retreat hosted by the Sunday School. We appreciate each class for providing the meals and John's class for providing the desserts. The craft retreats have been hosted quarterly for the past 15 years and they are still going strong. Thank you so much, to each of you, that help make this a great success.

Breakfast Dates:

May 3 - Muffins for Mom

June 7 - Donuts for Dad

July 5 - Pot Luck - everyone bring something to share

August 2 - CEC provides - Back to School

As we prepare for the summer and upcoming fall classes, please touch base with Tracie Malovets on your desires to continue teaching a Sunday School class. We would also want to know if you would like to teach a class. There will be a possibility for a new class or two in the fall and we will need teachers. Please pray about this and let Tracie know your heart's desire.

Remember, the next CEC meeting is Sunday, May 17, immediately after the Graduates Luncheon. Don't forget to let Tracie, Lisa, or Jennifer know about your graduate as soon as possible.



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MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 – Callen Martin
- 10 – Lynne Cassens
- Lacie Elkins
- Donna Lawless
- 12 – Linda Vasek
- 16 – Kalan Caldwell
- Barton Pierce
- Karsen Stephens
- 19 – Amanda Bedrich
- 20 – Carolyn Groseclose
- Mickey Tomlin
- 23 – Robert Stephens
- 24 – Camden English
- 25 – Nell McAdams
- 27 – Elisa Ranly
- Lisa Sebek
- 28 – Ralph Snyder
- 29 – Daniel Lesikar

May Anniversaries

- 7 – David & Kindra Koslovsky
- 13 – Matt & Stephanie Phillips
- 17 – Cameron & Cheyenne Doskocil
- 23 – Brad & Mary Herridge
- 25 – Quintin & Kara Hoelscher
- 28 – Brody & Mariah Malovets
- 30 – Mike & Kathi Beimer
- 31 – John & Robin Brinkley



CHRISTIAN SISTERS

The Christian Sisters met on April 21. Linda Vasek gave the devotional on What Makes the Bible So Special, giving us some very interesting information on how and when the Bible was written.

We will sponsor a special program led by Janet Hoelscher in August on driver safety. This program will be open to all. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Our next meeting will be May 19 at 11:30. All ladies are welcome.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The adult Wednesday night Bible study group has started the book of Isaiah. The group meets each week at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join. Hope to see you there! Maggie

