

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

Serving Christ, Serving Our Community

APRIL 2025

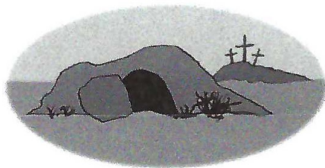
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

*Palm Sunday
Worship Service
April 13
at 10:15 am*

*Maundy
Thursday Service
April 17
at 6:30 pm*

*Easter Sunday
Worship Service
April 20
at 7 am*

followed by
Pancake Breakfast
and Egg Hunt.



Board of Elders Meeting

Wednesday April 9
6:30 pm
Meetings are always
open to all.

The Lord's Prayer and Lent

Easter is almost here and Lent is quickly passing us by. But, before it does...I have a few more things I want to say about this season in the church.

Lent is a season of repentance, reflection, and renewal. It is never too late to get started and it is a great practice for every day Christian living. I would like to introduce the Lord's Prayer as a model for deepening your relationship with God during Lent. The Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13 reads, "This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one."

I did not come up with this idea...in fact, I read about it in a spiritual journal. A believer was struggling with the function and practicality of Lent in her daily life and found this experiment with the Lord's Prayer a very helpful way to reconnect to Lent.

Below is how she structured her Lenten Lord's Prayer practice....I thought you might enjoy seeing what she did:

Week 1: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name"

This week focuses on adoration and aligning with God's Holiness. Start Lent (or any time) by recognizing God's sovereignty and setting a foundation of worship. Spend time in daily worship and praise. Fast from distractions that take away from God's presence.

Read Psalms that glorify God's holiness. For example, Psalm 145, "Praise. Of David."

"I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you; I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD and worthy of much praise, whose grandeur is beyond understanding. One generation praises your deeds to the next and proclaims your mighty works. They speak of the splendor of your majestic glory, tell of your wonderful deeds. They speak of the power of your awesome acts and recount your great deeds. They celebrate your abounding goodness and joyfully sing of your justice.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works. All your works give you thanks, LORD and your faithful bless you. They speak of the glory of your reign and tell of your mighty works, Making known to the sons of men your mighty acts, the majestic glory of your rule.

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Your reign is a reign for all ages, your dominion for all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all his words, and loving in all his works. The LORD supports all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look hopefully to you; you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is just in all his ways, merciful in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he destroys.

My mouth will speak the praises of the LORD; all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.”

Week 2: “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”

This week focuses on surrendering to God’s Will. Lent is a time to seek alignment with God’s plans rather than our own. Pray for a heart that desires God’s will. Take inventory of areas where you resist surrendering control. Consider fasting from something that symbolizes self-will. This could be TV, social media or other personal indulgences.

Read and reflect on Romans 12:2, “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Week 3: “Give us this day our daily bread”

This week focuses on dependence on God’s Provision. Recognize that God is the source of all we need, spiritually and physically. Practice gratitude by keeping a Lent journal of daily blessings. Serve others through acts of kindness, giving food or support to those in need.

Meditate on Philippians 4:19, “My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

Week 4: “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”

This week focuses on repentance and forgiveness. Lent calls for a heart examination, seeking God’s forgiveness and extending grace to others. Make a list of areas where you need to repent and ask God for forgiveness. This next one may be hard. Commit to forgiving someone you’ve held resentment against. Oftentimes, family can be the hardest to forgive. You can find some tips in this article titled, “Forgiving Family: Healing Through Faith and Letting Go.”

Meditate on Jesus’ call to forgive. Read Matthew 18:21-22, “Then Peter approaching asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.”

Week 5: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

This week focuses on spiritual warfare and strength against temptation. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness resisting temptation. The Lenten season invites us to do the same. Identify your biggest spiritual struggles and create a strategy for overcoming them. Fast from a specific habit or indulgence that leads to spiritual complacency.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 about the armor of God. “Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones”

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Week 6 (Holy Week): "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"

This week focuses on living in resurrection hope. As Lent concludes, shift focus to Christ's victory over sin and death. Spend time reflecting on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Write a personal commitment to carry Lent's spiritual lessons beyond Easter.

Participate in Holy Week services. Spend time with the readings. Meditate on John 11:25, "Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

I have really enjoyed practicing this in my personal weekly Lenten journey. It might not be for you...but many of you might feel like this is a good way to "tap into" Lent. If this isn't a good method for you, I am sorry...but I do hope that you can find some way to spiritually participate in this important season...your soul will thank you.

Our Maundy Thursday Lenten Service will be on April 17 th. @ 6:30.

Humbled to be your pastor,

Brad



Mark your calendar! Tickets will be available soon.

Alaska Mission Trip Frequently Asked Questions:

July 26-August 2, 2025

Many 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? *About a year 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 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.

Tell Me More about Praying Pelicans...what to they do?

Praying Pelicans has been great. Think of them as a mission teams 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.

*They have a missions coordinator for the Alaska region who we have been working closely with...he has set us up with a church in deep need in rural Wasilla, Alaska (thirty miles outside Anchorage). **Palmer Family Nazarene Church** is in dire need of help. They run a summer ministry for community kids right outside their front doors in a public park. The park is overrun with kids whose parents have to work hard jobs or who have given up trying to find work at all. They want us to help then run a VBS and show these kids the love of God...we said we would come help. I am so excited.*

Praying Pelicans has also set us up with a service organization that is taking us to three separate dilapidated churches for us to help fix up. We have people going who are excited to put their skills to use for no other reason but that they see a need and God has called them to help.

In addition, Praying Pelicans is providing us food and transportation to and from our various ministry sites. Two of their ministry coordinators will be with us at all times.

Who is Going?

Sixteen of us from Ocker are going (and one good ministry friend of mine). That is about a tenth of our church. We wanted to make it very safe (one reason we involved organization like Praying Pelicans) but genuine...because of that, we are excited that youth and adults are going on this trip. Some entire families are going. We have the names listed in another section of this newsletter.

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 16 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 \$800/ 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. Please...most of all, pray for us!

If you would like to support the Alaska Mission Team financially you can donate by using this QR Code or by placing your donation in the offering plate and designate it "Alaska Mission".



FAMILY GAME NIGHT
Wednesday, April 23; 6-8pm
For All Ages! Dinner Provided.



YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, April 2; 6-8pm

Wednesday, April 9; 6-8pm

Wednesday, April 16; 6-8pm

Wednesday, April 30; 6-8pm

* For 6th grade-college students
Dinner provided.

EASTER EGG HUNT!

Candy needed... Stuffers needed...

HELP stuff the 1500 eggs for the egg hunt after worship on **Sunday, April 13.** Lunch will be provided.

Please have all **candy donations** (individually wrapped candies) to the church no later than Wednesday, April 9 as additional candy will need to be purchased. Monetary donations can be given to Jenn Chervenka.

The EGG HUNT is held directly following the pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday morning. It is for children 5th grade and below. Children need only bring their basket to fill to the brim 😊.

2025 Camp Dates

Encounter Camp: June 15-18

Entering 2nd-4th Grade

Alpha Camp: July 13-17

Entering 5th & 6th Grade

Pioneer Camp: July 6-11

Entering 7th & 8th Grade

Discovery Camp: June 8-13

Entering 9th & 10th Grade

Hus Camp: June 20-28

Entering 11th, 12th, & College Freshmen

Visit HUSCAMP.ORG to sign your child up for summer camp!

You are responsible for a \$50 deposit per child at time of registration, and Ocker Brethren Church pays the remaining balance if you register by the deadline and use the coupon code: OCKER.

Your online registration must be 100% complete by May 15 for your child to be registered for camp. SOOOOO....don't wait until the last minute and find that you need shot records, etc. Register early!

Looking ahead at upcoming Ocker Events:

April 11-12- Craft Retreat sponsored by Sunday School

Sunday, April 13- stuff Easter eggs after worship

Saturday, May 10- Fundraising Banquet and Magic

Show for Alaska Mission Team

Sunday, May 18- Graduate's Luncheon

June 9-11: Vacation Bible School

July 18-19- Craft Retreat

CAMP WORKDAY

Saturday, April 12

8am til ?; lunch provided

All ages are invited to come and volunteer to help prepare for the summer camping season. There will be cleaning/organizing, general maintenance, flower garden work, and trail trimming; fishing pole rigging, etc. Feel free to bring rakes, shovels, limb clippers, bush trimmers, etc. if you have them.

Contact Jennifer Chervenka for more information (254) 913-1244.

Sanctuary Choir News

The Sanctuary Choir will sing during the Easter Sunrise Service April 20. Therefore, we will rehearse Wednesday, April 9th and Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. If you enjoy singing, please join us! Questions may be addressed to Kim Dillard, Director.



CEC / SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BIG EVENT - The Ocker Craft Retreat is set for April 11 & 12 and is sponsored by the Sunday School this quarter. We will need all hands on deck. Each adult Sunday School class will provide one of the three meals. They are as follows: Friday Evening Meal- RoseAnne's Standard Class; Saturday Noon Meal - Books of the Bible;

Saturday Evening Meal - Jennifer's Adult Class

We will need desserts for all three meals. If you can provide a dessert, please let Tracie, Dianne, Lynne or Lisa know. Desserts can be dropped off anytime on Friday or early Saturday morning. We anticipate feeding 50-55 for the weekend at each meal. Also, if you would like to assist one of the adult classes at meal time, please reach out to that class.

On Saturday evening, 7pm, the Faith Hall and the Fellowship Hall will need to be cleaned up and made ready for Sunday School on Sunday morning. We will leave the tables up as we have Easter breakfast the next weekend. We appreciate any volunteers that could show up and help us clean up. We will set up Wednesday evening if you are available.

Easter Sunday is around the corner. We hope to see you for Sunrise Service, Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Please join us and invite a friend.

First Sunday Breakfast:

April is POTLUCK. All are asked to bring a breakfast item to share.

May is Muffins for Mom provided by the C.E.C.

Graduates luncheon is Sunday, May 18, 2025. Although we have a list of possible graduates, we ask you to *PLEASE let Tracie, Lisa or Jennifer know if your child is graduating so they can be recognized.*



CHRISTIAN SISTERS

The Christian Sisters met on March 18 and 8 members were present.

Carolyn Groseclose gave a lesson about the chalice people who were Hussite women who lived during John Hus's time.

The Sisters voted to supply fresh or silk flowers for the front of the church each week.

The next meeting of the Christian Sisters will be Tuesday, April 15 at 11:30 am. All ladies are invited to attend.

Girlfriends & God Coffee Social



JOIN US AND FILL YOUR CUP,

IT WILL BE A LATTE FUN!

MONDAY APRIL 21

9:00-10:30 AM

1914 COFFEE HOUSE TEMPLE, TX

(DUTCH TREAT)

LIFE IN CHRIST---GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

PRIMETIMERS' GATHERING

at

HUS ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, April 26

8:30am-3:30pm

**Coffee and sweets in the morning.
Hamburger lunch served at Noon.**

Card games, dominoes, puzzles,
and good old-fashioned fellowship.

A free-will offering will be
collected to cover food expense.

For questions and more information,
please contact Jennifer Chervenka:
254-913-1244; jennchervenka@gmail.com

* Please RSVP via text or email by Easter Sunday so
that that we have plenty of food for everyone. (If you
miss the deadline, contact Jenn as soon as possible.)

Father's Day Fundraiser: Sunday, June 15, 2025: Seaton Star Hall

Meal- BBQ ribs, sausage, coleslaw, Westphalia noodles, beans, dessert, tea

Quilt Raffle Silent Auction Other Raffles

There are many opportunities for you to get involved and help make this a successful endeavor. Volunteers are needed immediately to help with silent auction, raffle, and inventory. Then, the Saturday before, volunteers are needed to set up the hall, make the coleslaw, prep for the BBQ, etc. On Sunday, it takes all hands on deck for cooking, serving, desserts, cleanup, etc. Please use the QR code enter the link below to look at the sign-up list and see how you can volunteer to help. If you have questions about any part of the event, please see:

General Info- Ryan Zdroik; Darrell Glaser

BBQ- John Dillard

Noodles- Alicia Buck

Tea- Jennifer Chervenka

Quilt Raffle- Jenn Chervenka

Silent Auction- Mark & Renee Wilfert; Cristi Jungmann

Beans- JP Chervenka

Coleslaw- Alicia Buck

Desserts- Judy Jeske

To-Go Line- John Brinkley



Donations are needed for the silent auction. New items such as gardening tools, BBQ equipment, children's goodies/games, décor, jewelry, and more. If you have questions, please see Mark and Renee Wilfert.

Raffle information and tickets will be available soon! Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 for a chance to win a beautiful quilt made by the Christian Sisters or one of several gift cards.

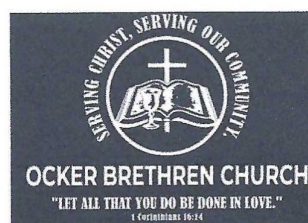
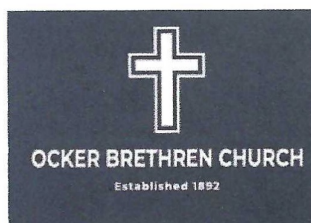
Each family is asked to bring 2 cakes for the dine-in desserts. Homemade cookies and brownies, bagged in sandwich baggies are also needed for to-go desserts.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAFAC2BA7FA7-55866038-fathers>

Ocker Brethren Church T-shirts

We are reordering our Ocker church shirts. Both regular 50/50 t-shirts or dryfit style t-shirts in either red, blue, or dark green are available. Forms and payment are due no later than Sunday, April 27. Forms are located in the church entry and fellowship hall, or by contacting Jennifer Chervenka. There will be no later orders taken. Shirts will be available for pickup Sunday, May 18.

Front Pocket Area



Back of shirt

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Christian Sisters
Hospitality Coordinator:
Deanna Naivar
Phone: 254.931.5720

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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**  
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~ 4/2 – Emily Sebek  
~ Scott Cummings  
~ Brian Lawless  
~ 4/7 – Kim Dillard  
~ 4/9 – Karly Powell  
~ 4/10 – Kolbi Caldwell  
~ 4/11 – Frances Harper  
~ 4/12 – Dillon Barbisch  
~ Erin Brinkley  
~ 4/17- Jordan Barbisch  
~ 4/18 – Tamela Paddenburg  
~ 4/24 – Jordan Sebek  
~ Grant Jungmann  
~ 4/25 – Jerry Dillard  
~ 4/28 – Kyler Caldwell  
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April Anniversaries

2 – Bernard & Cathy Koenig
8 – Ron & Sandy McAdams
9 – Lawrence & Dianne Psenick
27 – Ronnie & Elaine Moore

We're on the Web!

www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

YouTube, Facebook & Twitter:
@ockerchurch



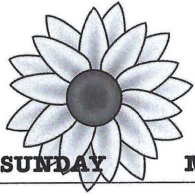
**HAVE YOU HEARD
THE NEWS?**

Sunday morning Worship Service
LIVESTREAM IS MOVING!

FROM FACEBOOK
TO
YOUTUBE
Ocker Brethren
@ockerbrethrenchurch

STARTING APRIL 6 @ 10:15 am

Go to YouTube.com – search Ocker Brethren – Subscribe!



APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	3 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm	4	5
6 First Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Worship 10:15 am	7	8	9 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i> <i>Board of Elders 6:30 pm</i>	10	11 QUARTERLY CRAFT RETREAT	12
13  Sunday School 9 am PALM SUNDAY Worship 10:15 am	14	15 CHRISTIAN SISTERS MEETING 11:30 AM	16 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i>	17 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am - 1 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICIE 6:30 PM	18	19
20  SUNRISE SERVICE 7 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	21 GIRLFRIENDS & GOD COFFEE SOCIAL 9 AM	22	23 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6 PM <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	24	25	26 PRIMETIMERS GATHERING @ HUS
27 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	28	29	30 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6-8 PM <i>Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>			