

the MESSENGER



COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2025

Sunday Morning Services:
9:30am Sunday School*
10:15am Breakfast
10:45am Worship*
*Nursery is provided
Children's Church (4yrs-4th grade) during Sermon Time

Wednesday Activities:
6:00pm Small Groups

Church Office:
309-523-2834
Church Email:
cccportbyron@gmail.com
Church Website:
www.countrysidecc.org

Live Streaming Info:
Paste the links below into your browser:



shorturl.at/CIM08



shorturl.at/wBVY4



Steve Allison, Minister
"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1 Cor. 15:58

Elders: Wayne Lotz
Ryan Schmidt
Jim Kaecker

Join a team of 8-10 people and help us meet our goal of packing 40,000 meals!

On Saturday, August 16th, Countryside and Erie Christian Church, along with volunteers from the community are hoping to pack 40,000 meals to provide nutritious meals for countries that have experienced disasters. Sign up for a shift (sign-up sheet will be available soon in the lobby) beginning around 8:00 am to unload the truck. We will package meals to help feed the hungry and transform lives around the world.

During the set-up we will need approximately 10 people who can lift boxes, move tables and take directions for set-up and for being a crew leader. Each crew of 10 will need a leader who can give the crew instructions and oversee their line in bag filling. We are hoping to have six crews, three from Erie, and three from CCC. Thirty-five people from CCC will be needed to be crew members and will require extended periods of standing. We plan to be finished by 11:30am - that will be determined by the number of workers. Snacks and water will be provided. A sign-up list is in the church lobby. Even if you can only work for a short period of time, sign up for a shift.

IDES provides nutritious meals which are sent to countries that have experienced disasters. Each bag contains the equivalent of 6 meals which can be reconstituted with water. Each meal contains vitamins, minerals and rice.



August 13th
9am – 12pm

“
**FIGHT WORLD HUNGER
FROM YOUR OWN
BACKYARD!**
”

IDES Food Packing Event



BACK to SCHOOL



God, we pray for all of our students that they will grow in wisdom over the course of this year. We pray that they will grow academically, learning all that is required of them. We pray that they will work hard, and be successful in their studies. More importantly, we pray that they continue to grow in the wisdom that comes from You. We pray that they become more capable lights to those around them and learn and follow Your heart for them as they make decisions. Give us as parents the wisdom to assist our children as they walk through this life and help us to discern how best to help them.

We pray that our children will continue to grow in faith and obedience to You. We pray that they have integrity in their choices, whether those choices are seen by others or not. We pray that they act in love and kindness towards others, especially those whom the world pushes to the margins. We pray You give them strength to stand up for the outcast. We pray that they may have strength to stand up for what is right. We pray for their obedience to You and other authority figures in their lives. We pray that they image Jesus in all their actions, words, and interactions with others. We pray that they are a light to those around them. We pray that they surround themselves with people who will help them grow closer to You.



Thank you to everyone who helped donate school supplies for Riverdale children. We will still collect until August 10th. Please bring your items to the church before then and place in the donation box in the lobby. Thank you!

EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT



Fall

Sunday School

Regular Schedule
resumes on August 17th!

Our Sunday School Groups:

- Pre-School – 5th Grade (Teacher: Connie Curry)
- Jr High/High School (Teacher: Judy Millies)
- Adult (Teacher: Steve Allison)
- Adult (Teacher: Jim Kaecker)
- Adult (Teachers: Larry & Connie Van Oosten)

Sunday School: 9:30am
 Breakfast: 10:15am
 Worship: 10:45am

Nursery provided during Sunday School

This year, our church sent 11 campers to Rock River Christian Camp! So happy to see these elementary, middle school, and high school kids valuing their time to grow closer to Jesus!



"The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18

HOEDOWN NEXT MONTH!

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT I



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

HOEDOWN

Join us for an unforgettable day of **good old-fashioned fun** for the whole family! From **bouncing excitement** to **toe-tapping tunes**, there's something for everyone at the **HOEDOWN!**

-  **Giant Bounce Houses & Outdoor Games**
-  **Hands-on Petting Zoo** – Meet adorable farm animals!
-  **Classic Tractors & Custom Car Show** 
-  **Live Bands** all day long
-  **Chili Cook-Off** – Taste & vote for the best!
-  **Free Popcorn, Sno-Cones & Hot Dogs** – While supplies last!
-  **Cozy up at the Community Bonfire**
-  **Square Dancing & Line Dancing** – Fun for all ages!



-  **Basket Raffle** with amazing prizes
-  **Bake Table** with homemade sweet treats

Bring your boots, your appetite, and your sense of adventure – and **don't forget the kids!**

Admission is FREE – Come celebrate community, country, and fun!

7PM



"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

COLLECTING FOR OTHERS

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT



CHRISTMAS JARS!



Pick up a jar for your family to start collecting loose change until December. We will anonymously gift it to someone as a congregation at Christmas time!

*Last month, our movie night was “The Christmas Jars”!
Thank you, Adult Sunday School class, for this fun
Christmas in July night with popcorn and Christmas
cookies! There are jars still available your family can take
on Sunday to start collecting your change until
December. At Christmas time, as a church, we will
prayerfully consider who we can bless with this gift!*

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

ONLINE GIVING

Easy. Safe. Convenient.

SIGN
UP
TODAY!

INSTRUCTIONS

1

Point your smartphone camera at the QR code to the right to be taken to the online giving site.

OR:
Type this URL address
into your browser:
<https://countrysidecc.org/give/>



2

Countryside Christian Church PORT BYRON, IL 61275-9780 Login | Sign Up

Give: **\$0.00** To: **Tithe**

Recurring Giving **Every Week** **Thursday**

First Name Last Name Email

Card Bank

Card number MM / YY CVC

Give \$0.00

On the next screen, input your tithe amount and fill in any required boxes. You will have the option of setting this up as a recurring amount weekly or monthly or as a one-time gift.

AND THAT'S IT!

Simple and easy!
If you have any questions, contact the church office:
309-523-2834

2024-2025

Offering Budget

(Starting 10/1/2024):

\$117,692

YTD Actual:

\$139,548

Our Giving

2024-2025 Mission Year

(Starting 5/1/2024)

Faith Promises Goal:

\$59,500

YTD Actual:

\$42,601

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

At our July 2014 mission meeting the mission department decided to support Ozark Christian College. In May of 2024 Lincoln Christian University closed its doors. We had financially supported it for many years and were saddened when they closed. The seminary students that were attending Lincoln were transferred to Lincoln Seminary Ozark Christian College.

“By God’s grace, the soil of Lincoln Christian University lives on in two ministries:

LINCOLN SEMINARY. On June 1, Lincoln Christian Seminary transferred to Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri. In Lincoln Seminary at OCC this fall over 100 seminary students will continue to be trained biblically and theologically for ministry.

LINCOLN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE. On June 1, LCU adopted the name Lincoln Christian Institute (LCI). Located on LCU’s former campus and under Dr. Silas McCormick’s leadership, LCI remains a regional resource to the churches focusing on non-academic courses, retreats, and conferences and Ozark Christian College is partnering with LCI in this ministry.



So over the next 24 months we will receive joint communication from the two of us Silas McCormick Executive Director of LCI and Matt Proctor, President of Lincoln Seminary at OCC.”

“Commencement day was May 10, 2025 including the first-ever graduating class from Lincoln Seminary at OCC gathered with their undergraduate counterparts to form the largest graduating class in OCC’s history. OCC’s tradition is to read aloud the graduates plans as they receive their diploma, and as the 171 graduates walked across the stage, I heard plans to serve as local church preachers, youth ministers, children’s ministers, missionaries. Campus ministers, worship ministers, homeless shelter directors, women’s



ministers, Christian counselors, church planters and a prison ministers. I heard all the places they’ll go: Africa, Alaska, Arkansas, Australia, Eastern Europe, England, Florida, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Ireland, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. Praise the Lord!

And who know? Maybe someday, when a church finds itself facing crisis, disorganized, uncertain how to proceed, a leader that you helped train will step in, unite the team, lead then forward, and by God’s grace, get people safely Home.” (Matt Proctor July 10,2025)

In all the change that has and will occur we feel that Countryside Christian Church is continuing to help to train workers for Christ’s ministry and the spread of the Gospel message by supporting Ozark Christian College. If you have any questions about the change in financial and prayer support of the mission please talk to Wayne Lotz, Cathy Lotz, Galvin Garcia, Jim Kaecker, or Connie Curry, the mission department members. Information will be placed in the booklet on the mission shelf. Financial support for this new mission is received through the Faith/Promise giving.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

SUMMER POTLUCK

BRING YOUR APPETITE AND A DISH TO SHARE!

Saturday

August 30 12:00pm

Countryside Christian Church

Any questions, please see
Dennis and Kim Ford

CELEBRATE TOGETHER

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



AUGUST Birthdays

- 3 – Jeff Jones
- 3 – Jimmy Schumpert
- 4 – Laura Schmidt
- 11 – Addison Tiesman
- 12 – Freddy Mikles
- 13 – Alicia Simms
- 16 – Becky Wierenga
- 16 – Randy Denekas
- 16 – Connie Van Oosten
- 18 – Jackson Creen
- 21 – Sarah Denekas
- 25 – Brennan Harrington
- 25 – JoAnn Courter
- 25 – Alaura Massey
- 27 – Rock Lawrence
- 28 – Bob Gipson
- 28 – Kim Ford
- 28 – Lorrie Jackson
- 29 – Laura Byers
- 29 – Erika Baxter
- 30 – Beverley Skelton



AUGUST Anniversaries

- 6 – Jamie & Gail Horst
- 11 – Ryan & Laura Schmidt
- 17 – Noel & Michelle Paxton
- 29 – Bob & Cheryl Gipson
- 29 – Jeff & Naomi Jones
- 30 – LeRoy & Laura Byers



If you think the Lord moves in mysterious ways, you should see long division.



But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. Jeremiah 17:7

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

Children's Ministry

Sunday School (9:30-10:15)			Worship (10:45-12:00)						
Nursery			Nursery			Children's Church			
<i>Nursery workers are scheduled for the entire church service from 10:45-12:00</i>			<i>Children's Church Teacher & helper are dismissed from service after the worship communion / offering</i>						
3	Mikah Mikles	Becki Winger	3	Mikah Mikles	Amber Miller	3	Cathy Lotz	Naomi Jones	Kim Ford/Patti Stith
10	Mikah Mikles	Sarah Denekas	10	Mikah Mikles	Gail Horst	10	Cathy Lotz	Kati Jo Chasek	Kim Ford/Patti Stith
17	Mikah Mikles	Gail Horst	17	Mikah Mikles	Rachael Creen	17	Cathy Lotz	Linda Griffin	Kim Ford/Patti Stith
24	Mikah Mikles	Amber Miller	24	Mikah Mikles	Shanie Bird	24	Cathy Lotz	Alisha Simms	Kim Ford/Patti Stith
31	Mikah Mikles	Cathy Lotz	31	Mikah Mikles	Sandy Lawrence	31	Family Sunday	Family Sunday	Family Sunday

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

August 3 – Wayne Lotz
 August 10 – Dennis Ford
 August 17 – Ryan Schmidt
 August 24 – Jim Kaecker
 August 31 – Steve Allison

GREETERS

Please sign up for a Sunday that works for your family! Welcome people, direct them to the sanctuary, nursery, or restrooms if needed, and hand out bulletins.

Breakfast



VOLUNTEERS

New sign-up sheets are in the lobby. Please sign up for a Sunday that works best for you! Provide breakfast treats and help serve coffee and clean-up between Sunday School and Worship.

Church

BUILDING CLEANERS

Mike & Becki Winger
 Roger & Connie Curry



"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

2025 AUGUST

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



designed by free

Friday 1
Pack the Backpack Due

Stamping Club (Bev Skelton)
9am-12pm

Saturday 2

MEN'S BREAKFAST
8:00am

3
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM
COFFEE TIME
10:15AM
WORSHIP
10:45AM

4
Evangelism/
Missions 6:30pm
All Depts. 7pm

5
Men's Study 9am
Women's Study
9am

6
Small Groups
Port Byron –6pm
Geneseo – 6pm

7

8

9
Women's Coffee
9:30am


← TUGFEST →

10
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM
COFFEE TIME
10:15AM
WORSHIP
10:45AM

11

12
Men's Study
9am
Women's Study
9am

13
Small Groups
Port Byron –6pm
Geneseo – 6pm
1st day of School
(6th – 12th)


14
Zuma Home
Extension
1:00-4:00pm
1st day of School
(K – 5th)


15

16
IDES Food Pack
9am – 12pm


17
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM (Adult SS
resumes)
COFFEE TIME
10:15AM
WORSHIP
10:45AM

18

19
Men's Study
9am
Women's Study
9am

20
Small Groups
Port Byron –6pm
Geneseo – 6pm

21

22

23

24
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM
COFFEE TIME
10:15AM
WORSHIP
10:45AM

25

26
Men's Study 9am
Women's Study
9am

27
Small Groups
Port Byron –6pm
Geneseo – 6pm

28

29

30
Seniors Potluck
Lunch 12pm


31
FAMILY SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM
COFFEE TIME
10:15AM
WORSHIP
10:45AM
POTLUCK

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11


Food Pantry Needs