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The Astoria Christian
Church, P.O. Box 677,
Astoria, IL 61501

You Are
Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

1st Morn. Worship.....8 a.m.
Sunday School9 a.m.
2nd Morn. Worship10 a.m.
Wed. nights.....6-7:30p.m.

Church Office: 309-329-2150,
Matthew Thiner: 507-360-2405,
Website: :www.astoriachristian.com
Facebook: Astoria Christian Church

April

- Sun., April 2nd 2 -4 p.m. Good Friday Practice
4 - 8 p.m. Community Youth Game
Night for 6th -12th grades, meet at
church to carpool
- Wed., April 5th 6:00 p.m. Family Night
- Sun., April 9th 2 -4 p.m. Good Friday Practice
6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- Tue., April 11th 6:30 p.m. Man Up at Hamblins
- Sat., April 14th 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
- Sun., April 16th 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Second Service
- Mon., April 17th 6:00p.m. East LaMoine Camp
Fellowship
- Thur., April 20th 6:30 p.m. Soul Sisters
- Sun., April 30th Youth Sunday, 1st and 2nd Services
Youth offering
4:30 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting
- Wed., April 26th 6:00 p.m. Family Night

*Dates and times are subject to change.
Please check your weekly bulletin for updates.*

***Wed., April 12 and 19th, there is NO Family Night,
Happy Easter. Enjoy your family time***

Save the Date: Ladies Tea, Saturday, May 13th at Oak
Ridge Décor and Café. More details to come!



*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I
in him, he it is, that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do
nothing." John 15:5 (ESV)*

Wikipedia.com defines lent as “a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday.” Though we don’t focus too much on this season at ACC, maybe you practice lent. Maybe you’ve given up some food or Facebook or TV or wearing socks or some other vice that grips hold of you. If you do, I pray that it is a helpful and meaningful experience for you. I personally don’t do lent simply because I know I wouldn’t do it right.

And it’s not that I don’t have the self-control to give up coffee for a few weeks or stop playing Candy Crush for lent (ok, maybe I do), but it’s more that I would give it up just for myself. I would stop some habit or behavior and then I’d feel a sense of satisfaction, or even more, a sense of pride in my success. I would focus on the outward behavior and the changes that are being made on the outside without worrying too much about anything else.

And I’m pretty sure that misses the point of lent. Though I might feel better if I didn’t eat sugar for over a month, I don’t believe I would be any closer to Christ or drawn deeper into my relationship with him just by participating in lent.

The point of lent is to join us with the suffering of Jesus. We get this 40 day practice from Matthew 4.1-2, “Then Jesus was led up

by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” (ESV) And though tying ourselves to Jesus suffering and understanding some of his pain through this season can be enlightening, I wonder how often we allow it to draw us closer to him.

And really, whether we practice lent or not, the point is that everything we do should draw us closer to him. Whether it’s religious or secular, as a follower of Christ, all we do should lead us back to him. No prayer or sacrifice or giving or service has meaning unless it helps us to connect to him. Certainly God can use our actions for his glory and to build the church, regardless of our motives, but the value for us in all we do is directly tied to our relationship with him. Jesus makes this point clear in John 15.5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (ESV) My prayer is that all we do will draw us and others deeper into that vine.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Easter Services

Prayer Easter services are coming up soon. Please join us for a production of the trials of Jesus on Good Friday as the area churches work together to perform on April 14th at 7:00pm in the Astoria High School Gym.

Easter Sunday morning, April 16th, we invite you to join us for a unique Sunrise Service at 7:00am followed by a full & hearty breakfast. We will then have our usual 9:00am Sunday School followed by our 10:00am Resurrection Service.

Summer Camp

Camp season is coming soon and details for attending LaMoine Christian Camp are available now. We will pass out information and details on Wednesday, April 26th but you can get a registration form from the back table now

Soul Sisters

Save the date: Ladies Tea, Saturday, May 13th at Oak Ridge Décor and Café. More details to come!

Prayer list (3/28/2017)

Olivia Anaganostopolus -had a hard day (3-27)
Donald Anderson - cancer treatment(10-16)
Doris Baker – Alzheimer’s
Denny Belville – leaky valve & mostly blocked artery (3-29)
Joyce Belville’s niece, JoAnn, extra prayers (3-19)
Leroy Bollinger - Not doing well (3-19)
Betty Bucher - congestive heart failure, hospice (11-16)
Mike Busby - radiation 3-13-17(5 days a wk/ 6wks)
Jerry Carlock - surgery went well, recovering (3-26)
Justin Cozad - battling cancer

Jack Danner - hospice (12-16)
Ashley Davis- pregnancy risk due April 4th, Pat B.s granddaughter (2-19)
Lila Edwards - broken ankle (3-19)
Brenda Fawcett - cancer still present, waiting results/ surgery (3-12)
Chris Jones - tumor, surgery scheduled for March 30th (2-26)
Todd Hamm - cancer surgery, treatments (2-5)
Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)
Rachel Koenig - pregnancy (10-16)
John Moose - surgery recovery (3- 22)
Bob Mummert - ESBL super bug (3-19)
Sharron Musson - tests 3-19
Gerald Nelson - cancer in bones, chemo (1-1)
Denise & Kevin Owsley - health issues and loss of her father
Karen Sager - radiation (1-17)
Tammy Smith - white blood count issues /surgery (2-5)
Linda Snyder - radiation (2-12)
Tom Stell - months to live (3-19)
Judy Wilson- kidney transplant recovery, home 3-19-17

Condolences:
Family of Ed Hicks 3-19
Family of Melvin Woods Ackenburg 3-19

Attendance/Offering March

Date	1 st	S.S.	2 nd	Offering	Needed
5	22	32	58	\$1,374.50	\$1,636.41
12	17	29	63	\$1,528.73	\$1,636.41
19	16	31	59	\$1,248.29	\$1,636.41
26	21	30	52	\$1,724.00	\$1,636.41
Totals	76	122	232	\$5,875.52	\$6,545.64
Averages	19	30	58		