

## *Information, and its source, is incredibly important right now, right?*

In fact I saw a stat online this week that more information is produced in 2 days now than all the information produced before 2003 combined. And I don't know the source of that information, so who knows how accurate it is! But, even if it's not entirely accurate, I know we produce more now than we ever have in history. Now, to be fair, that information comes in various forms (videos, Facebook post, etc) with varying levels of scholarship, but it is still information that is being put out there. And, obviously, there are pros and cons to all of it. While it's great that almost anyone in the entire world now has the opportunity to share any and all information with just about anyone else in the world, we obviously know the drawbacks to that. The worst is probably that truth gets lost in the midst of it all. While I'd be one to say there is usually at least some truth in everything (whether it's about the human condition or simply a person's experience) not all truth is universal. And even when we find a reputable source, there is always the issue of biases getting in the way. We all know that even our news sources present information in a certain way so that it seems to support a political or ideological agenda. And even someone who tries to give the truth unbiased is going to share it based upon their own preconceived notions and worldview. And that is why I truly believe ALL information needs to be analyzed for its truth and then needs to be interpreted in an appropriate manner.

Which is just as true when it comes to scientific data.

Not too long ago, science was going to be the answer to all of our problems. In fact, if we pay attention to the Star Trek series, we would notice the shift in worldview from the original series to

the 'Next Generation' series and now into the 'Discovery' series. Each represents a new mentality in our culture. The original Star Trek was all about science solving problems. A new technology or a new medicine would fix whatever problem they encountered. But we've learned that science, at its very core, isn't bullet-proof. The essence of science (as I read on Facebook repeatedly these last few months) is to update and correct previous hypothesis, like whether masks are helpful to stop viruses. And even when we get scientific data, it needs to be interpreted. It needs to be analyzed. And the worldview of the scientist looking at the data can AND will influence their interpretation. I say all of this, not to discourage you or to put down science, but to make the point: all truth is looked at through a lens. And as great as science is and can be for us, it is still being studied, analyzed and interpreted like anything else.

Which is why our faith in a loving, creator God, who created all of this world and sent his Son to die for us makes just as much sense (in fact, MORE sense) as anything we know to be true scientifically. In fact, I prefer to know that God created me and loves me and interacts with me than to accept any alternative to that. And so, certainly we should listen to scientists, doctors and others who study and devote their lives to scientific truth, but that can't be our foundation.

So, what should be our foundation? Well, the wise man choose to put God's words into practice (Matt 7) and I think that's what our foundation should be as well.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

## *Keep Up to Date*

If you haven't already checked it out, the best way to keep up to date on what's happening during the stay at home order is our Facebook page ([facebook.com/astoriachristian/](https://facebook.com/astoriachristian/)). You should be able to check it out even if you don't have a Facebook account.

Also, you can watch our live stream every Sunday at 9am on our website, too at [www.astoriachristian.com/live-stream](http://www.astoriachristian.com/live-stream).

## *School Use of Church*

As many of you know, we will be hosting the Astoria School 4th grade class for at least the beginning of the school year. This allows them to begin opening up the school year by doing in-class learning rather than remote learning. It shouldn't affect our normal church functioning at this point, but I ask that we are able to be gracious about their presence here.

That being said, Matthew will still be in the office during his normal hours (9am to 12pm on Tues-Fri) but we ask that instead of just dropping by (at least from 7:30am to 3:30pm) we ask that you make an appointment to see him or visit the church. The school would really like to limit who is in contact with the kids during the school day. If you have other business or needs at the church, we ask that you do that after 3:30pm or on the weekends.

At this point, we don't plan on having Family Night or most other events inside the church until the kids can return to their 'normal' class setting at the school, so we should be able to easily co-exist. We appreciate your patience while we serve our community in this way.

## *July Financials*

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
July 5	\$1,325.00	\$32,115.95	\$37,276.12
July 12	\$1,260.00	\$33,375.95	\$38,607.41
July 19	\$1,163.00	\$34,538.95	\$39,938.70
July 26	\$1,371.00	\$35,909.95	\$41,269.99
Totals	\$5,119.00		

## *Prayer List*

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – colostomy blockage  
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure, heart & breathing issues

Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer  
Danny France – continued kidney issues, recovery  
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments  
Estyl McCombs – transferred to nursing home  
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
The Thiner family  
Judy Windsor – hospice  
Unrest in our communities

### **Condolences:**

Bill Jones family  
Clause Miller family  
Wanda Skiles family  
Carroll Skiles family



# The Astoria Christian

Vol. 44 No. 8 August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Astoria Christian (USPS 352-870) is published monthly by Astoria Christian Church, 219 W. State St, PO Box 677, Astoria, IL 61501. Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, IL.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astoria Christian, PO Box 677, Astoria, IL 61501.

You Are Welcome At  
Our Services!

### Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

## Events:

August 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00am Bader VBS @  
Bader Christian Church

August 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm Board Meeting

August 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Man Up

*As stay at home orders are adapted,  
hopefully more events will be added.  
Please keep up to date at  
[astoriachristian.com](http://astoriachristian.com) or the Astoria  
Christian Church Facebook page.*



# Astoria Christian Church



Psalms 113:3  
From the rising of the  
sun unto the going  
down of the same the  
LORD'S name is  
to be praised.