

I'd written recently about the nature of choices and how so many different choices impact our lives. Usually our own choices carry the biggest weight for where our life goes (even just how we react to other's choices) but obviously the choices of others impacts us greatly too.

And none of us would be where we are without the choices of those around us affecting how we got here. In fact, the choices of individuals throughout history has impacted us more than we could ever know, too. And what sticks out to me when I consider how so much of where we are is impacted by others and how human history is a complex mixture of all choices by all humans throughout history is how God is able to accomplish his will despite those choices.

There's an interesting image that reveals to us the nature of God's work in this world, especially in his revelation of Jesus as the Messiah. In the Old Testament, there are many prophecies concerning the Messiah but 60 are considered 'major prophecies'. Of those 60, I want to consider these 8:

- 1.The Messiah was to be born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- 2.The Messiah was to be preceded by a messenger (Isa. 40:3 and Mal. 3:1).
- 3.The Messiah was to enter Jerusalem riding a donkey (Zech. 9:9).
- 4.The Messiah was to be betrayed by a friend who ate with him (Psa. 41:9).
- 5.The Messiah was to be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12).
- 6.The money was to be thrown into God's house and used for a potter's field (Zech.11:13).
- 7.The Messiah was to stand silent before his accusers (Isa. 53:7).
- 8.The Messiah was to die by crucifixion (Psa. 22:16; Zech. 12:10; Isa. 53:12).

Taking just these eight specific prophecies concerning the Messiah, Peter Stoner wrote in his book, *Science Speaks*, to show that mere coincidence cannot explain all of these being fulfilled in one man. He applied the science of probability to show the chance that all eight prophecies would be fulfilled in one man. That probability was calculated to be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000! (that's 17 zeros) In the book *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Josh McDowell points out the fact that it would take 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars to cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Suppose we marked one of those silver dollars and let a man with a blindfold wander as long and far as he wished but instructed him to pick up one specific silver dollar. He would have the same chance of picking up the right silver dollar as that one man would have of fulfilling those eight prophecies about the Messiah.

The odds are simply astronomical when we consider how probable it would be for these events to randomly occur within one person and so this should affirm God's work in this world through Jesus. And for most of us we might be like, 'Well, duh!' but for others of us that can help solidify or strengthen our faith that might be struggling. And wherever you're at, it's important for us to remember that despite your choices or my choices or the choices of the billions of people who live and have lived on this planet, God will work out his will to restore and redeem his creation no matter what.

And I hope that gives us confidence in the grace and love God has for each one of us. That no matter how many poor or bad choices we've made, God has a way for us to be brought back to him and to know the love and peace that he provides.
Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Adult Night Out

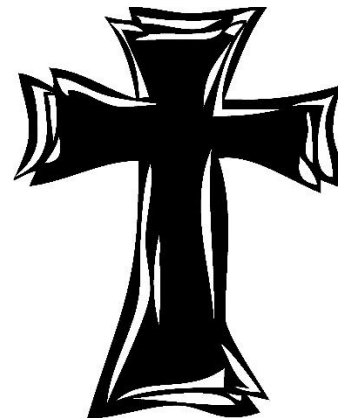
We are having another adult night out at Los Charros in Rushville on **Thursday, August 4th at 6:00pm**. This is open to anyone who wants to come and enjoy time together as a church community. Anyone who wants to carpool can meet at the church at 5:30pm, otherwise we will see you at the restaurant!

Family Night

We are putting together plans to have our mid-week gathering again this school year after almost two years of not meeting. We will have a planning meeting **on Sunday, August 21st at 6:30pm** for anyone interested in helping or getting more information. We need help with meals especially. Contact Matthew with any questions.

Address Update

Sue Lindsey
Evergreen Place
8570 St Lukes Dr.
Room 210
Beardstown, IL 61618



Prayer List

Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
Bobby Blickenstaff – cancer treatments, weakness
Dorothy Cleavinger – health issues
Betty Clemens – congestive heart failure
Dorothy Cleavinger – health issues
Betty Davis – home, recovering well
Don Elliott – heart surgery in September
Salina Gilson - tests
Mike Grater – cancer
Gary Hulett – heart failure
Danny Jones – new treatment
Sue Lindsey – adjust to new living arrangements
Clyde Prater-cancer, experimental treatments
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Randy Sorrels – kidney removed, recovery
LeAnn Thiner – home and recovering better
Mike Thomas – delayed surgery, complications
Students, teachers, administrators and staff heading back to school

Condolences:

Ramon Escapa family
John Struble family

Praise:

Baby Girl (Teagan Rose) Mummert born

July Financials

Date	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
July 3rd	\$2,297.00	\$31,992.03	\$27,545.13
July 10th	\$995.00	\$32,987.03	\$28,565.32
July 17th	\$664.50	\$33,651.53	\$29,585.51
July 24th	\$793.00	\$34,444.53	\$30,605.70
July 31st	\$650.00	\$35,094.53	\$31,625.89

The Astoria Christian

Vol. 46 No. 8 August 3rd, 2022

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:

Tues, Aug 2nd-Camp Cooking 9:30am - 7pm

Thurs, Aug 4th-Adult night out @ 6 pm at Los Charros

Sat, Aug 13th - Bader VBS at Camp Emmanuel 9am-3pm

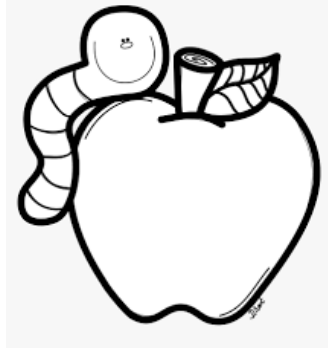
Sun, Aug 14th- Board Meeting @ 6 pm

Mon, Aug 15th- Camp Fellowship here @ 6 pm

Sun, Aug 21st - Family Night planning meeting at 6:00pm

Sun, Aug 28st-Worship & Prayer @ 6 pm at ACC

All events are subject to change. Please keep up to date by checking the bulletin, Facebook page or website.



Astoria Christian Church

Every good and perfect gift
is sent from above.

James 1:17

