

So, you want to start a national controversy and polarize the country even more? Well, take a simple, even out-dated, concept, get everyone on Facebook, Twitter and any other social media outlet possible to state their opinions with no regard for anyone else's opinion, throw in a few well-placed pictures and 'news' (even fake news) articles and you've done it. In fact, it seems like we don't even have to try very hard to push something into the national spotlight and have it blow up in our faces. And I don't mean to make light of recent news that has come out, and I certainly don't want to take a stance in this article on either side, but I do want to make one simple point: often the emphasis and meaning we put behind a particular topic is tied to a personal fear. What I mean is that when we feel strongly about something and we take to Facebook or Twitter or the local coffee shop and we almost *need* others to agree with us, that comes from fear. And the more sarcastic, rude, pushy and attacking we are, the more we fear something. And depending upon the situation and the person, we could be fearing any number of things. Take, for example, the most recent issue of immigrants being separated from their children. Now, someone close to the issue, such as a child who was separated from their parents, might feel strongly about the issue because they fear the loss of family or safety or fear loneliness. We can understand that as a fear, so we expect them to feel strongly about the situation. But what about the rest of the country that isn't directly impacted by this. Well, some of us might

fear the loss of values in this country. In fact, both sides of the issue might have that fear. We might fear that if our opinion isn't validated, we might lose something meaningful about our view of the country. We also might fear that we are alone in what we view, and thus lead to a fear of who we are as a person. In fact, we might place our validation and our value of who we are in whether others agree with us or not. So we push to convince so that we can feel better about ourselves (hoping to get a few 'Likes' and, maybe even a 'Share'). The issues will always push and pull us as a people. They always have and they always will. And we should have opinions, even strong ones. But how much emphasis we put on them points to the fear we have in our lives. A simple Proverb tells us "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe." (29.25) Those fears trap us into thinking we have to convince others or we have to put others down in order to be right. Jesus came to free us from those traps and that fear. I pray we can come to realize our fear and the trap it puts us in. Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Summer Camp

Matthew is the dean of the week of Junior 1 (July 8-13) at LaMoine Christian Camp this year. We are taking several campers and a couple adults with us from our church and wanted your help, too. In order to bless those who are volunteering their time that week, we'd like to bring snacks and treats for them to enjoy

throughout the week. If you'd be willing to bake or buy some simple snacks that could be grabbed and taken on the run, we would appreciate it. Examples would be cookies, bars, Skittles or licorice. Again, desserts that can be eaten with fingers are preferred, nothing that needs a fork, please! Bottles of water are also good. Please let Matthew know if you'd like to bring something and have them here by the morning of Sunday, July 8th. Matthew especially likes homemade frosted sugar cookies and Skittles... *wink*wink. Thanks for supporting the camp in this way!

Six Flags

On Thursday, July 19th we are planning a fun trip down to Six Flags in St. Louis for kids going into 6th grade through 2018 graduates. Space is limited to the first 13 youth who contact the church office (office@astoriachristian.com) and pay the \$39 ticket fee as well as fill out a registration form (can be found on the church website or from the church). We plan to leave the church at 6:00am that morning and return by midnight. Make sure you also bring money for lunch and supper (approximately \$20).

June Finances

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
June 3	\$1,395.36	\$32,516.89	\$35,150.72
June 10	\$1,220.00	\$33,736.89	\$36,748.48
June 17	\$996.00	\$34,732.89	\$38,346.24
June 24	\$1070.00	\$35,802.89	\$39,944.00
Totals	\$3,611.36		

Baby Bottles

We have just a couple baby bottles that haven't been returned. If you have one, please return it as soon as possible. Thank you for all who filled one up!

July Prayer List

- Beckie Beaird (Laurie M's friend) – chemo treatments (6-10)
- Sheila Belville – diabetes – possible foot amputation (5-27)
- Beverly Burgard – health issues (6-10)
- Shelly Claxton – cancer (Pam K's friend) (12-24)
- Mary Ellen Farwell – home from hospital (6-17)
- Marilyn Groff – fell, broke leg (5-27)
- Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)
- Doris Harper (Cindy M's mom) – hospice, setbacks (6-24)
- Frankie Jones – benign, calcium buildup, hospital visit with high blood sugar (6-24)
- Renee Kagel – tests (5-27)
- Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)
- Gloria Lapping (Pam Carlock's mother) – serious health issues (4-29)
- Bruce Mercer – out of hospital (6-17)
- Bob Mummert – surgery (6-17)
- Kevin & Denise Owsley – health issues (5-20)
- Sarah Shriver – broken foot (5-20)
- Matt Smith – back surgery recovery (6-10)
- Joe Stevens – ER visits with stomach pain (6-24)
- Tom/Ellen Stevens – home issues with carpenter ants (6-24)
- Marci Weiss – health issues (6-10)
- Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh's friend) (11-5)
- Karen (Jones' friend) – cancer treatments (4-22)