

*How many times* this past couple weeks have you complained about the weather? Now, be honest. It's probably been more than once. It's interesting how fickle we are about the weather and its unpredictable nature. But to me, weather and its cycles and rhythms are fascinating. It's interesting how much of our world goes through these changes on a relatively regular pattern each year. Though there are certain places where it's mostly the same, most of our planet has various seasons. We have four seasons, while other places have a wet and a dry season. But whatever the place, it seems God created this world with rhythms.

And God told his people to prepare for that rhythm. In the Old Testament, he commanded the Israelites to live under this cycle even beyond what the weather decreed. He told them to take regular Sabbath rests and to give the land Sabbath rest. He even commanded festivals and celebrations to go along with this rhythm.

In Ecclesiastes, the wise king Solomon wrote about these seasons in life in 3.1-8, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace." (NIV) And we all know this is true about life, but we often don't like it. We want consistency, especially, but a known consistency.

But ultimately we want things to go good all the time. And Solomon promises some good. But we know that bad comes, too. And even when they

aren't good, we want to know *when* we're going to feel pain or be unhappy and especially *when* we'll be better. We want to plan for it and schedule our lives accordingly. I think much of our struggle in our life comes because the pain was unexpected and we have no control on when it will end.

But, my prayer is that we realize the rhythm of life is part of God's plan. That he created it to ebb and flow, from good to bad, happy to sad. But he also promised that it will end, even if we don't know when, and that he is aware of our struggle. He wants to be with us and he wants to love us in the dark winters just as he does in the sunny summer. I pray we learn to embrace this rhythm as something God uses to draw us near to him.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

### *Emotionally Healthy Gathering*

On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a one day gathering to focus on our emotional and spiritual health. Dr. Dan Gildner, an EHS representative, will be presenting from 9am to 4pm about ways we can grow emotionally so that we can grow spiritually. This will be a powerful and meaningful event and is worth setting aside that day to participate. More details are available on the website, Facebook or the flyer on the bulletin board. There is a \$10 fee to cover lunch expenses. **Invite** your neighbors and friends to this significant and worthwhile presentation.

### *LCSC Camp*

Summer Camp registrations are available at the church. Any camper interested in attending will receive half of their cost paid by the church. There have been several updates to the camp calendar this summer. Visit [lamoinecamp.org](http://lamoinecamp.org) for more details.

### *LCSC Open House*

Camp LaMoine is doing something different this year for their annual Open House. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the camp invites everyone to participate in some new and unique changes. The camp will still have its silent auction and welcomes baskets to be donated for those, but they are also having a grill off, bake off and a disc golf tournament. If anyone is interested in participating in grilling or baking for this fundraiser, please let Matthew know. The camp would like to have one person from each church participate in each of these events. Check out more details on our website.

### *VBS Supplies*

VBS this summer is on **June 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**. We will still meet from 9-11:30am and follow a similar format to past years. If you're interested in helping, please let Matthew know. For VBS this year, we will send out a sign-up sheet for the usual supplies in a few weeks, but we're asking that you start collecting these items now: (1) regular sized 'soup' cans without lids, (2) various sizes of plastics lids (from milk jugs, water & soda bottles, etc), and (3) empty paper towel and gift wrapping rolls. Please have these items to the church by May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for God to use this program as he desires. Thanks!

### *April Finances*

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Apr 1st	\$ 850.00	\$18,809.24	\$20,770.88
Apr 8th	\$ 1,851.00	\$20,660.24	\$22,368.64
Apr 15th	\$ 1,917.00	\$22,577.24	\$23,966.40
Apr 22nd	\$ 2,161.61	\$24,738.85	\$25,564.16
Apr 29th	\$ 1,256.00	\$25,994.85	\$27,161.92
Totals	\$ 6,779.61		

### *Baby Bottles*

The Baby Bottle Boomerang is returning again this year. Be prepared to get a baby bottle on Mother's Day (May 13<sup>th</sup>) and return it on Father's Day (June 17<sup>th</sup>). Filling up these baby bottles with loose change and cash is a great way to support the Rushville Pregnancy Center.

### *May Prayer List*

- Greg Beach – throat cancer (1-21)
- Beckie Beaird (Laurie M's friend) – colon cancer surgery (4-15)
- Denny Belville – no insurance, in need of surgery (8-6)
- Pat Bultermeier and family - hospice (8-10)
- Jerry Carlock – surgery (3-18)
- Shelly Claxton – cancer (Pam K's friend) (12-24)
- Cody Cecil (Judy B's son-in-law) – leg injury from shrapnel, waiting on surgery (4-15)
- Cory Chockley – health issues & job (4-22)
- Mary Farwell – home from hospital (4-15)
- Tim Graham – health issues (3-18)
- Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)
- Doris Harper (Cindy M's mom) – hospice (4-15)
- Frankie Jones – heart tests (4-29)
- Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)
- Anthony Klinebough – job (4-15)
- Gloria Lapping (Pam Carlock's mother) – serious health issues (4-29)
- Brandon Lleyellyn – spots on thyroid, not cancer, more tests (3-18)
- Bruce Mercer – upcoming surgery (4-15)
- Margaret Miller – cardiac difficulties and tests (4-15)
- Denise Owsley – knee surgery (3-18)
- Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh's friend) (11-5)
- Karen (Jones' friend) – cancer treatments (4-22)
- Norah Willis – stomach scope (4-29)

#### **Condolences:**

Leroy Bollinger family

U.S.P.S. 352 870

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to  
The Astoria Christian Church,  
P.O. Box 677,  
Astoria, IL 61501  
Periodical postage paid By the  
Astoria Christian Church. Published  
1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Month.

**You Are Welcome  
At Our Services!**

**Sunday**

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

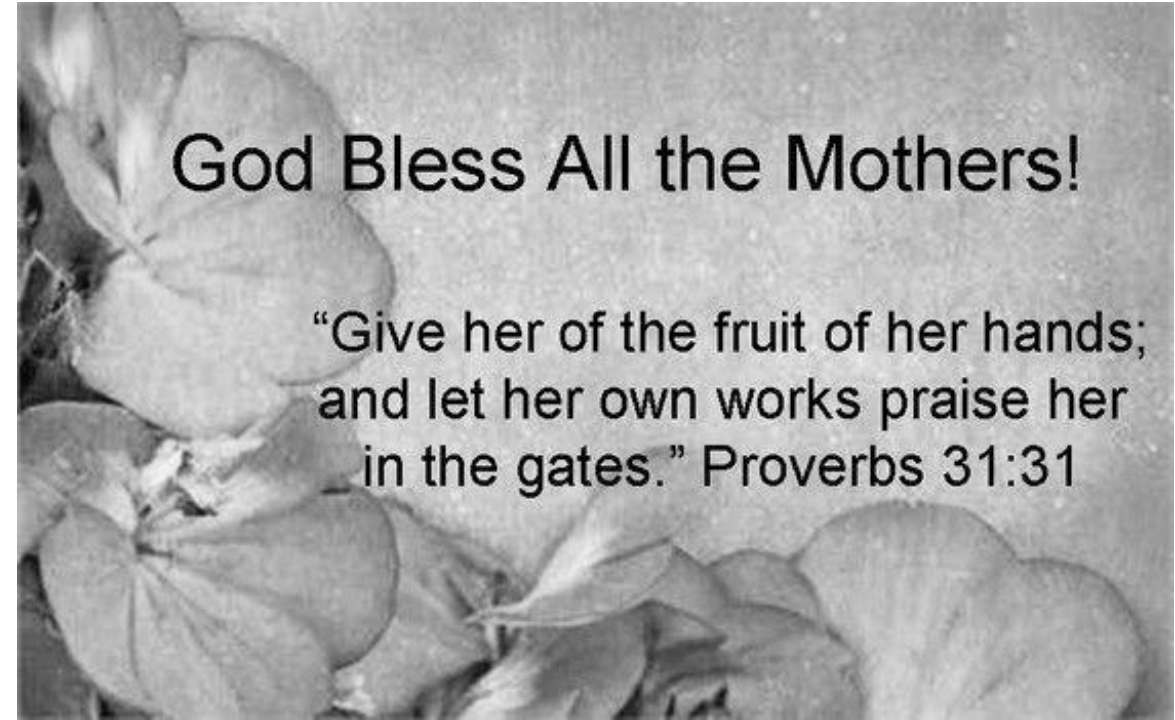
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**

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

**May Events:**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Wed, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | 6:00 p.m. Family<br>Night Finale                           |
| Thur, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 7:00 a.m., noon and<br>7:00 p.m. National<br>Day of Prayer |
| Thurs, May 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4:30 p.m. VBS<br>meeting                                   |
| Sat, May 5 <sup>th</sup>   | 8:00 a.m. LCSC Pool<br>Cleaning                            |
| Sat, May 5 <sup>th</sup>   | 9:00 a.m.<br>Community Fishing<br>Day @ Camp<br>Emmanuel   |
| Tues, May 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:30 p.m. Man Up   |
| Sat, May 12 <sup>th</sup>  | 9:00 a.m. Emotional<br>Healthy Spirituality<br>Seminar     |
| Sun, May 13 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:00 p.m. Board<br>Meeting                                 |
| Wed, May 16 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:00 p.m.<br>Baccalaureate                                 |
| Sun, May 20 <sup>th</sup>  | 4:30 p.m. Youth<br>Committee                               |
| Mon, May 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 6:00 p.m. Camp<br>Fellowship – Astoria                     |



**God Bless All the Mothers!**

**“Give her of the fruit of her hands;  
and let her own works praise her  
in the gates.” Proverbs 31:31**