

How well do you know yourself? Most of us know ourselves well enough to the point that we adjust various parts of our lives to accommodate ourselves. I've learned not to drink coffee after 6pm. I know that too much sugar and carbs gives me indigestion. You probably have a similar rule or adjustment you've made.

But how well do we know ourselves emotionally and spiritually? Do we understand why we react a certain way to certain situations and people? Do we know why and when we get defensive and why and when we lash out at others? Do we know what types of circumstances will increase our anxiety levels? Do we know why certain people make us feel better and more cared for? And though there's always more to learn about ourselves and how we respond to life, I think it's so important to get a good idea of what drives us and what creates emotional reactions in our lives.

For youth group the last few weeks we've done a few different personality-type tests. One showed us what type of communicator we are (I'm a 'narrator') and another test we took showed us what makes us feel the most appreciated and cared for (mine is physical touch). And though these tests are limited in what they can do for us and can be a little unclear at times, they can also be very helpful because it can show us how we can us make choices that will relieve and help our emotional state. It can also help us better relate to those around us as well.

And really that's the point of it all anyway, isn't it? The greatest commandment given by Jesus reveals to us the holistic truth of love. Luke 10.27 says, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."* (ESV) Paul writes

later in Galatians 5.14, *"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (ESV) Our entire being is about loving God through loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. And how can we love God through loving our neighbor without knowing how to love ourselves? I would argue that, though it's possible, it is more difficult and less holistic as well.

And so, I think it's essential for us to know and learn as much about ourselves as possible. Finding out our communication style and our love language can be part of that, but even the way we respond to those around us and why we react the way we do. I truly believe that it is only in knowing and understanding ourselves in a better way that we can fully love our neighbors as we love ourselves and in turn love God. But as we learn more and more about ourselves, our end goal should not be simply to take care of ourselves and to make ourselves as comfortable as possible but to always keep in the mind our purpose to love God which is only fully accomplished through loving those around us well.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Baby Bottle Boomerang

The Rushville Pregnancy Resource Center's annual fundraiser of filling baby bottles begins Mother's Day (May 8th) and ends on Father's Day (June 19th). Bottles will be available in the back of the sanctuary so feel free to grab one and fill it with coins, bills or even a check to help support this wonderful ministry.

LaMoine Christian Camp

Camp is coming back in full force this summer, with camps available for 1st grade through 2022 graduates. Sign up is available through the camp website (lamoinecamp.org) and if you marked that you're registering through our church, we will pay 50% of each camper's registration cost. Please contact the church office with questions. Also, we are responsible for providing 25 boxes of Fruit Loop cereal again this year; generic is fine, too. Please have boxes here by **Sunday, May 15th**. Also, we are responsible for cooking on Sunday, **June 12th starting at 4:00pm**. Please let Matthew know if you'd be interested in helping cook.

VBS Needs

We will be having a more immersive VBS experience this year where we travel back to ancient Jerusalem. To get the full experience, we are looking for **simple canopy tents** to create a marketplace as well as **rugs and towels** that have a simple stripped pattern to them. We could also use some wicker baskets. If we could borrow these from you, please let Matthew know. It should be a very fun experience this year!

Sunday School

Both adult and kid's Sunday School are happening now on Sunday mornings following our worship service, with adults meeting every week and kids meeting every other week (starting May 1st). We'd love to see you there!

Camp Cleanup Day

The Thiner family is planning to go perform our requested clean up activity (cleaning Cabin 2) at Camp LaMoine on **Saturday, May 14th** in the morning. Anyone interested in helping that day let Matthew know and we can work out rides.

Prayer List

Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
Bobby Blickenstaff – cancer treatments, weakness
Kianna Gilson - possible lupus
Mike Grater-cancer
Gary Hulett – heart failure
Danny Jones – MRI/meeting with doctors
Edna Miller – fall
Clarice Powell – heart attack
Clyde Prater-cancer
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Randy Sorrels – kidney removed, recovery
Mike Thomas – delayed surgery, complications
Steve Trone – health issues, testing
Steve and Marion Trone - travels
Condolences:
Sharon Malott family
Danny Richey family

April Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
April 3rd	\$771.00	\$15,086.03	\$14,282.66
April 10th	\$1,110.00	\$16,196.03	\$15,302.85
April 17th	\$1,549.00	\$17,745.03	\$16,323.04
April 24th	\$797.00	\$18,542.03	\$17,343.23

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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, May 3rd-VBS meeting @ 4 pm

Thurs, May 5th-National Day of Prayer @ 7 am, noon, & 7 pm

Sat, May 7th-Fishing Derby at Camp Emmanuel @ 9 am

Sun, May 8th-Board Meeting @ 6 pm

Tues, May 10th- Man up @ 6:30 pm

Sun, May 15th-High School Graduation @ 2 pm

Mon, May 16th- Camp Fellowship at ACC @ 6 pm

Thurs, May 19th-8th Grade Promotion @ 7 pm

Sun, May 29th-Youth Offering

Sun, May 29th-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



She is clothed in strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:25-26