

He's so red...he's so blue...it's amazing how often Jesus agrees with YOU!

That's a little 'Valentine' quote from Andy Stanley's sermon on January 19th. I don't encourage you to put that into the card you're giving to your significant other, but, I think there's quite a bit of truth in that little poem. And if you're confused, that's understandable. Andy's little poem here is referring to political parties and how whether you side with the red party or the blue party or somewhere in between, it's often easy to see how Jesus would support your party, right? I mean there are God-fearing, Jesus-loving people on both sides and on neither side. And I know, that's hard for us to accept if we grew up in a certain party or were taught you had to accept one or the other. When I was in Junior High and I heard a Christ-follower wasn't a Republican, I wondered if they were truly a Christian! In fact, you might be considering putting this paper down and burning it to ash at this point. But I ask that you hear me out. Just as with so many issues, there is diversity among those who follow Christ in the political world. And since this year is a year where we'll probably be hearing and talking too much about politics, I thought it'd be good to lay some ground work for us. But the interesting truth about almost everything we believe is that it comes from the perspective of a variety of factors tied into our lives. But ultimately, I think Mile's Law says it best: "Where you stand depends on where you sit." And what I think he means by this is that what views or truths we hold depend on where we're coming from. And that's true for big issues as well as small issues. We're colored and influenced by so many factors

that once we've settled into something, our worldviews are skewed by that outlook. And so often once we've joined a particular group or party we accept all of their views without much thought. Or we accept what we believe we're supposed to accept without much thought. We don't try and understand better. We don't listen to opposing views or arguments contrary to our stance. And we fail to hear logic and reason and the possibility that someone else might have some good points. Which brings me back to the last part of Andy's quote: "it's amazing how often Jesus agrees with you." And I believe that Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians and others can say that Jesus agrees with them. And if he does, that means he wouldn't have accepted just one party, but that each party has aspects that line up with what Jesus is all about. But ultimately, Jesus didn't come to pick a party, he came to TAKE OVER. He came not to align himself with one group or one nation but to be King of kings over the entire world and creation. Which leads me to my point: if Jesus is greater than any political party, maybe we should check our political beliefs. And I don't mean we should switch sides, because that'd defeat the purpose. What I'm suggesting is that we listen better. We try to understand more. Instead of writing someone off as an idiot because of their political party, let's hear them out and take their words seriously. And I encourage you to be purposeful about this. Instead of just marking the red candidate or the blue candidate, hear what other candidates have to say and why they say it. Because to truly love those around us, like Jesus calls us to do, we need to be open to listening and learning. Serving Him and you, Matthew

Community Youth Meeting

After an initial meeting with other area churches about a combined youth group, discussions and thoughts were very positive. We look forward to continue our discussion and details at our next meeting on **Sunday, February 9th at 4:00pm** at the church. Please come with thoughts and ideas to share with the group as well as an open mind.

Adult Night Out

We are planning another adult night out on Tuesday, February 11th at Los Charros in Rushville. We will meet at the church at 6:00pm to carpool down, otherwise you can meet us at the restaurant around 6:30pm. Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary if you plan to attend.



January Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Jan 5th	\$1,370.00	\$1,370.00	\$1,331.29
Jan 12th	\$573.10	\$1,943.10	\$2,662.58
Jan 19th	No Service		\$3,993.87
Jan 26th	\$1,627.90	\$3,571.00	\$5,325.16
Totals	\$3,571.00		

Prayer List

- Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
 - Bob Belville - hospice
 - Kelly Lund-Bollinger - surgery
 - Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure
 - Betty Clemens – in ICU with pneumonia
 - Mark Danner – serious fall
 - Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer
 - Tim Graham – home, more tests
 - Justin Griffin – sprained ankle
 - Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
 - Glenda Hunter – congestive heart failure
 - Marilyn Hendricks – open heart surgery
 - Rita Jones – successful eye work
 - Randy Lindsey – infection & hip surgery complications
 - Roger Lindsey – health concerns
 - Drew Mathewson
 - Bob Mummert – health concerns
 - Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
 - Audrey Rogers – gall bladder surgery
 - Jenny Stambaugh (Jones' friend) – hospitalized, heart trouble
 - Ellen Stevens – surgery recovery
 - The Thiner family
 - Sandra Yocum – surgery complications
 - Marissa (Letha Stambaugh's friend) – cancer
 - Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer
- Praises:**
Bill Pollitt – no stint necessary
- Condolences:**
Gloria Lapping family



The Astoria Christian

Vol. 44 No. 2 February 5th 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.

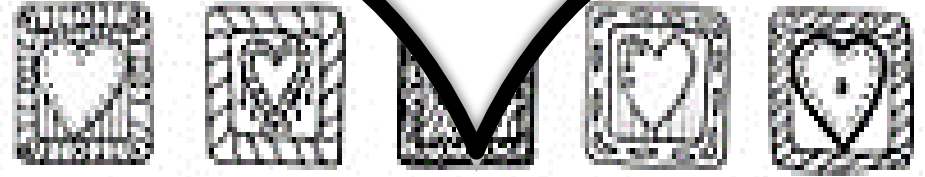
Events:

- Wed, Feb 5th 6:00pm Family Night
- Sun, Feb 9th 4:00pm **Community Youth Meeting**
- Sun, Feb 9th 6:00pm **Board Meeting**
- Tues, Feb 11th 6:30pm **Adult Night Out @ Los Charros** (meet at church at 6:00pm to carpool)
- Wed, Feb 12th 6:00pm **Family Night**
- Wed, Feb 19th 6:00pm **Family Night**
- Wed, Feb 26th 6:00pm **Family Night**

This month's camp fellowship was cancelled.



Astoria Christian Church



*Love one another as
I have loved you.*
John 13:34

