The Ripple

Volume 9, Issue 1

February 2017

WELCOME TO APPLE RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH

Reaching out to our community with Jesus' love

We welcome you and hope you will visit our church and join us in worshiping our Lord.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, February 5
9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship /Children's Church

Sunday, February 12
9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship/Children's Church
Potluck (*Circle 5)*

Sunday, February 19
9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship/Children's Church

Saturday, February 26
9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship/Children's Church
7:00p Sunday Night Live *Circle 1)*

www.appleriverchurch.org

Who is correct?

Pastor Justin

FROM THE PASTOR

If you choose to look hard enough at anything, you will find something you disagree with. This is true of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). You can search the dredges of the internet and find no shortage of people who dislike the denomination.

There are those who feel the EFCA has left its traditional roots and engaged in practices that are nothing short of "demonic." It is too "liberal" for them. "Lies, errors, untrustworthy and unbiblical" are terms that these groups use to describe the EFCA. They make claims that the EFCA is trying to remove all "traditional" worship and standardize all EFCA churches.

On the other side of the coin, there are those who say that the EFCA is far to "conservative." They claim that the way the Free Church denies homosexual ministers, refusing to perform LGBT weddings and the patristic view of women make it a denomination of small-minded bigots.

So, who is right? I don't believe either of these two arguments are right. **The internet has given fools a chance to expose their folly**. It is wise to be careful who we listen to. There is no shortage of bad information and false accusations in our world today.

Look to Jesus. Jesus explains, when we have a problem with a brother or sister (or a denomination), we are to approach them and talk directly with them. We are not supposed to talk with our neighbor about problems we have with our brother at church. This is why we are going to give you a chance to talk directly with a representative of the EFCA. I'm quite certain that you will be relieved to hear who they really are… not just what a few "internet bloggers" claim they are.

From my dialogues with the EFCA, they are not changing worship styles, they are not demeaning to women, homosexuals or the LGBT communities. They seek to honor scripture and bring GRACE and TRUTH to the world we live in. We are called to hold to biblical standards as we love a lost and sinful world – Just like Jesus did.

So, who is correct? It is wise to ask them directly rather than listening to the heresy of disenfranchised people. This is true in all areas of life.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Apple River Community Church is to glorify God by helping people to find Jesus and grow to be like him.

OUR AFFILIATION *Apple River Community Church is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America (Forest Lake District).*

CHURCH OFFICERS 2017

PASTOR
Justin Hosking*
VISITATION PASTOR
Bruce Tanner*

CHAIRMAN
Glen Wright

DEACONS
Dick Berhow
Odrey Rasmussen
Mark Powell
Steve Wright

TRUSTEES
Dan Lundgren
Glen Brown, Jr.
Rich Frankson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Erin Hosking* (Supt.)
Claudine Brown (Asst. Supt.)
Dana Powell (Member at Large)

SECRETARY
Marie Geist Berhow*

DEACONESS
Joyce Brown
Darlene Holecek
Lydia Weiberg

FINANCIAL
Sue Lundgren*
Joan Talmage*

TREASURER
Nancy Jorgenson*

* = Appointed

Keep Our Nation in your Prayers!

Thanks
to Our Musicians

VISITATION PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Bruce's report was erroneously omitted from the Annual Report. He does an excellent job in getting out to see people. His report is as follows:

It was my privilege to serve members and friends of ARCC for another year as Visitation Pastor.
I put in 657 hours and made 476 contacts in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce A. Tanner

The cost of hiding our light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered – without being disconnected first – during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was $17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news, we do indeed hide "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus says, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (verse 16).

FOR SALE

2009 BUS with 155,000 miles

$12,500

The alphabet prayer

Many of us need to be more like the little girl whom the farmer found lost in his meadow. The farmer said to her, "Do not cry; I'll take you home."

The little child snuggled up to him, and with a smile, said, "I knew you would; I was waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" said the man. "What made you think I was coming?"

"I was praying you would," she said.

"Praying? When I first heard you, you were saying A-B-C-D-E-F-G. What was that for?"

She looked up again and said, "I'm just a little girl. I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way he wanted to. He knows I was lost, and he knows how to put words together better than I do."

—Homiletics

WHITE CROSS & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

WILL **NOT** MEET IN FEBRUARY.

Plan to come Thursday, March 2nd.

PUZZLE

Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: *Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.*

(1) You really like ice cream! __ __ __ __

(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. __ __ __ __ __ __

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. __ __ __ __ __ __

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. __ __ __ __

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. __ __

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

"Honor __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ and __ __ __ __ __ __, and __ __ __ __ your __."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

See calendar page—puzzle #1

The Bible Quiz, puzzle, cartoons, and various articles are from the NewsletterNewsletter to which we subscribe and have permission to reproduce

Bible Quiz

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

A. He was left-handed.
B. He was blind.
C. He was very fat.
D. He was exceedingly strong.

Answer: See Judges 3:12-26 or check the calendar page

Keep our Children

In Your Prayers

Why Lincoln Stood

When it came time for the pastoral prayer at the church Abraham Lincoln attended, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D.C., the president stood up. Because most of the worshipers remained seated, someone asked the president why he stood. The president responded, "When my generals come into the Oval Office, they stand for their commander-in-chief. Isn't it proper then, that I stand for my commander-in-chief?"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

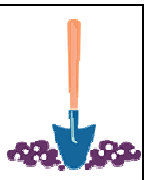
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Kent & Mary Munson (2002)
2 Marie Geist Berhow
2 Lola Wolter
3 Clara Wright
5 Judy Traynor
8 Chas Wright
8 Mary Swanson
10 Bonnie Fredrickson
12 Gordon Palmer
12 Sherrell Wolter
14 Paul & Carol Streif (1959)
17 Janet Dopkins
19 Kent Munson
19 Joanne McKinstry
20 Naomi Bell
20 David Brown
20 Rosette Palmer
22 Nathan Elmer
25 Taylor Newbauer
26 Dave Olson

February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Start Digging!



Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won't rain.

Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

"Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope, patience with God is faith."

—Adel Bestavros

HELP PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

Amery Memory Café is a gathering for people with memory concerns and their care partners. They meet monthly from 1:00-2:30pm on the 3rd Thursday at the Amery Community Center. Call 1-715-720-7611 to RSVP

GriefShare meets at the Amery Community Center every Monday at 1:00 pm.

Long Term Care Planning at Amery Community Center January 30 from 1-2 pm

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover these four-letter answers. When read from top to bottom, the first letters reveal a phrase related to the children of Israel's wilderness experience.

1. Camping shelter
2. To track wild game
3. Home to Adam and Eve
4. Middle Eastern tree
5. A form of precipitation
6. To follow commands
7. Martha's sister
8. A false god
9. Israel's first king
10. Valley in 1 Samuel 17
11. Unable to hear
12. Smaller than an ocean or sea
13. Jezebel's husband
14. Mount climbed by Moses
15. Morning's light

See calendar page #2

Vital Signs

Church signs—a part of our culture.

By Stan Miller

The Salvation Army in Sedalia, MO posted this sign: **"Backsliding begins when knee bending stops."**

Backsliding is similar to the common cold. It is a common malady if proper care is not taken. It is no respecter of persons. A normal case doesn't last forever. It goes from one to another in families.

But unlike the common cold, it can be prevented or cured. A daily dose of prayer and Bible reading can prevent or cure backsliding. Knee bends are more than an exercise to enhance blood flow.

The creature at the door

Pastor Don Sprague tells about making a pastoral call at a home in rural Knox County, Ohio. When he knocked on the door, a child opened it and, recognizing the pastor, called out "Mommy! Mommy! It's the Creature."

—With permission of Rev. Sprague

YOUR Article Here!

Suggestions: Missions, favorite recipe, youth events, new Sunday School material, or upcoming Bible Study topics. There are many possibilities. There are many interesting fill-in's but a word from you would be good.

Apple River Community Church
Calendar of Events

2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:15a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way Club	**2**	**3** 8:45a MOPS	**4**
5 8:45a Praise Team 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	**6**	**7** 9:30-11 Women's Bible Study	**8** 10:15a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way Club	**9**	**10**	**11**
12 8:45a Praise Team 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church Noon: Potluck *(Circle 5)*	**13**	**14** 9:30-11 Women's Bible Study :00p Deacons Meet; 7:30p Executive Bd Meets	**15** 10:15a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way Club	**16**	**17** 8:45a MOPS	**18**
19 8:45a Praise Team 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	**20** RIPPLE DEADLINE	**21** 9:30-11 Women's Bible Study	**22** 10:15a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way Club	**23**	**24**	**25**
26 8:45a Praise Team 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church 7:00p Sunday Night Live *(Circle 1)*	**27**	**28** 9:30-11 Women's Bible Study 5:00p Serenity House			"Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." —Robert Heinlein	

Ripple Articles MUST BE received by the deadline to be included in the Ripple. Send to arcc@amerytel.net *(PREFERRED)* or put in Ripple box in church office. Bulletin items must be received by Thursday for the next Sunday's bulletin.

Thank You, Marie

Bible Quiz: Answer: A
(See Judges 3:12-26.)

Puzzle #1 Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19 NIV

#2 Answer: 1. tent, 2. hunt, 3. Eden, 4. palm, 5. rain, 6. obey, 7. Mary, 8. Idol, 9. Saul, 10. Elah, 11. deaf, 12. lake, 13. Ahab, 14. Nebo15. dawn ; The promised land

SOUPER BOWL

BRING A CAN OF SOUP

FOR THE AMERY FOOD SHELF

FEBRUARY 5 OR BEFORE