



The Ripple



Volume 12, Issue 04

APRIL 2020

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 worshipping our Lord.*

CHURCH SERVICES

In House Services
Cancelled until further
notice.

Please listen to the service

Sundays at 1:00 P.M. on 93.1,
WPCA Radio, Amery



On Facebook



or

www.appleriverchurch.org

The Virtual Reality *Pastor Justin*



From virtual doctor's appointments, to virtual sales calls, to online meetings with coworkers, and facetime chats with friends, the world around us has changed so quickly over the past few weeks. Most of this was available to us prior to the modern crisis. But, who would have imagined it impacting our lives so much. I **never liked the idea of "online" church services, but they seem to be reaching more people than I would have ever imagined.** Local churches, that normally have 110-130 people in a church service are now having 600 people tune in to listen to what the pastor has to say. **However, large churches that had 1000's of people in attendance seem to have 100's in their virtual services.** The landscape of human interaction is changing. Things will never be the same again.

Has this ever happened before? Yes. But it didn't happen this quickly. There was a time in the past when telephones and televisions didn't exist. All communication was done face to face or in print. News traveled slow. Some individuals did not want to talk on the phone. They felt it was too impersonal. Others did not want to invite the Television into their homes. It would be too distracting. But today, it is hard to imagine life without either of these. And, we have grown accustomed to having phone conversations.

With changes like this, we can ask a moral question of the change, **"Is this 'right' for us to participate with?"** First, you must define "right". Right would have to be something that aligns with the moral character of God and doesn't violate the precepts that He has given us to live by. These changes we see are "right" by this definition. They are not sins against God. We may not "personally" like the changes, but they are neither "right" nor "wrong". They are different. These changes are "amoral." They don't have a morality about them.

For my biblical scholars out there, Hebrews 10 does talk about **"Not giving up meeting as some are in the habit of doing"**. We must also keep in mind that the author did not imagine one hour

Continued on Page 2

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 2020

PASTOR

Justin Hosking*

VISITATION PASTOR

Bruce Tanner*

CHAIRMAN

Glen Wright

DEACONS

Rod Wetzig

Odrey Rasmussen

Ron Nelson

Dan Smith

Rich Frankson

TRUSTEES

Dan Lundgren

Mike Crim

Steve Wright

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Erin Hosking (Supt.)

Deb Brown (Asst. Supt.)

Denise Luster (Member at Large)

CLERK

Marie Geist Berhow*

DEACONESS

Judy Nelson

Linda Wetzig

Carol Smith

FINANCIAL

Sue Lundgren*

Joan Talmage*

TREASURER

Mark Powell*

* = Appointed



EASTER SUNDAY
April 12

(Easter Bonnets in May!!!??)

The Virtual Reality —Continued from Page 1

services held in special buildings once a week. He was probably thinking more about maintaining fellowship with other believers within your town as they would continually meet throughout the week at each **other's houses. The point of the verse is to encourage fellowship with one another not to mandate attendance at a church building.** We must continue in fellowship with one another, regardless of if it is at a building, over the computer, a phone call or even a letter.

Think of the invention of the printing press back in the 15th century. There were individuals who did not like this new machine. It removed the artistic form of writing books. It made more knowledge available to more people. It became a tool that was used to pass the word of God on to the general population. It made it possible for many people to know God and grow in him. Though, some did not like it, it became the means by which God spurred His people to great revival.

So, what does this mean for you and me?

We may not like some of these changes. But many of these changes are going to be part of our lives forever. Phones are not going away. Computers are not going away. The internet is not going away. Televisions are not going away. Rather than scorning the devices, how might we incorporate them into greater glory for God?

They can be frustrating to learn... just like driving a modern car... or processing your social security changes online... or applying for a job online... or even shopping online... there is a learning curve. If you keep in mind that "everything you do, you are doing as unto the Lord" you will find His strength encouraging you to keep going and keep learning. Trust in Him, don't lean on your own understanding, but acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

Keep going, keep learning, keep trying.

Pastor Justin

Loosed from Death

Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. **In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report.** When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."



Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"



Financial Training is planned. Time & date TBA after we are back to "Normal"

Whether young or old, it is never too late to learn more about managing your money.

WHITE CROSS CANCELLED IN APRIL

PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.

Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

See page 5 for answer. The Bible Quiz, puzzle, cartoons and articles are from NewsletterNewsletter to which we subscribe and have permission to reproduce

A Reason to Laugh

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday – a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term "*risus paschalis*," or "the Easter laugh," saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan's defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that "we are fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.

Bible Quiz:

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

Answer: See Page 5



RENT-A-TEEN

Do you need help with projects? Our youth would like to help and earn money for Bible Camp or Districts!



There are no set fees – you decide your contribution for the project.

Call Alice Brown at 715-857-5246 to schedule a crew (large or small), or sign up in the church foyer. Thank You!!!



Start Thinking CAMP!
2020's Theme is "Share the Hope"
I Peter 3:15

Registrations **postmarked by May 1** receive a **\$20 discount**. (Date was extended from April 1) A family discount is available if you send more than two children. Check out www.abcamp.org for more information and to register online.

April One-Way Club—CANCELLED

Why we need Easter (Resurrection Sunday)

No one is exempt from tragedy or disappointment – even God was not exempt. Jesus offered no immunity, no way out of the unfairness, but rather a way *through* it to the other side. Just as Good Friday demolished the instinctive belief that this life is supposed to be fair, Easter Sunday followed with its startling clue to the riddle of the universe. **Out of the darkness, a bright light shone. ...**

The cross of Christ may have overcome evil, but it did not overcome unfairness. For that, Easter is required, a bright clue that someday God will restore all physical reality to its proper place.

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."
—Virgil A. Kraft



Maybe these cars are practicing social distancing???



April Birthdays and Anniversaries

2020

3 Linda Wetzig
 4 Lori Lundgren
 6 Louise Wright
 7 Joy Soldner
 8 Doris Danielson
 8 Brian Nelson
 8 Glen Wright
 9 Brian Johnson
 9 Butch Symbol

11 Becky Lundgren
 15 JoAnn Frankson
 15 Annette Strandine
 16 Claudine Brown
 18 Phyllis Lowe
 18 Amy Lundgren
 19 Sarah Frankson
 19 Sandi McCloud
 19 Odrey & Alona Rasmussen (2014)

20 Dave Lundgren
 20 Olive Johnson
 22 Jordon White
 23 Pat Erickson
 24 Ginger Tanner
 26 LeRoy Brown
 27 Dorene Melstrom
 29 Dan Smith

April 2020						
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	29	30		

Mission Updates — Forest Lakes District

Our church is part of the Forest Lakes District of the Evangelical Church of America. There are 138 churches in this district. This organization exists to strengthen pastors and local churches.

A fall conference was held in Madison with over 50 churches represented.

The youth conference in January was held in Green Bay. Over 4,500 were in attendance and about 20 people from our Apple River Community Church attended.

They also hold marriage retreats, workshops for youth pastors, and have training and resource materials for pastors.

Rob and Nancy Weise have served for 16 years in the Forest Lake District. They raise their own support. They are short \$300/month. Pray this need is met.

Judy Nelson

Scripture for our Troubling Times

Many Christian's are sharing these verses around the world.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19.

“Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.” Isaiah 26:20 ESV

In reference to Isaiah 26:20, in Exodus the Jews put blood on the doors so the angel of death would “passover” their homes. We as well are covered by the blood of Christ. God is certainly in control! We don't know what's going on spiritually in the world, but we do know we are precious children of the King and he loves his children more than we can imagine. He will care for us and we know we have no need to fear. It is wonderful to think how the Lord protects us. God bless you and your family.

Marie Berhow

Mighty to Save

Dr. Kent Brantly, a U.S. medical missionary who contracted the Ebola virus in 2014 in Liberia, credits a “mighty God” – and lots of prayers – for his survival. After recovering from the disease, Brantly returned to the North Carolina headquarters of Samaritan’s Purse, the group he’d been working with in Africa.

He spoke about Deuteronomy 6, saying it’s important to remind others of God’s acts. “I will never grow tired of talking of this,” Brantly said. “I’m going to keep telling my story so I can remember what God has done in my life.”

Then Brantly offered this challenge: “Never think you’re just a normal person. If you’re pursuing God’s calling in your life, he will use you. Even if it’s a challenging calling, even if you find yourself in difficult circumstances, he will give you what you need to be faithful to him, even if it’s a whole army of people praying for you. Share your story over and over and over so you can remember we serve a mighty God.”

Puzzle!

Hands play a key role in the biblical accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Use this sign-language alphabet to retell what happened.



Jesus' _____ were _____
to the tree. Two criminals were also crucified,

one on the _____
and the other on the _____ of Jesus. Jesus
cried out with a loud voice, "

into your _____ I commit my spirit."
(Luke 23:46) Jesus' friends _____

him from the cross to the tomb. Jesus showed _____
his _____ to prove _____

he was Christ. Bring your _____ together _____
in _____, and thank God for his _____
Son, Jesus!

Please Pray for:

Care and healing for those who contracted the coronavirus;

Safety and protection for those who are vulnerable;

Peace of mind for all who experience fear or anxiety;

Pray for protection for those in the medical field, and to find a cure for COVID-19.

As always, keep our president and leaders in your prayers.



Thank You for the offerings received by mail!

We are not physically at church on Sunday mornings, but we still have bills to pay and missionaries to support. You can also give online—Go to the arc web page and click on "GIVE ONLINE" or download the app "easythithe" through your app store to five on the go.

Our Prayer Chains are Active.

If you have a prayer concern, contact Lorraine Aune (715-268-2429) or

Deb Brown at debbriel37@gmail.com. Contact them if you want to be added to a prayer chain.

Hospital Calls: If someone is hospitalized, please contact Pastor Justin and/or Pastor Bruce.

The deaconesses also need to know so they can visit, send cards, etc. Our deaconesses are Judy Nelson, Linda Wetzig and Carol Smith.

Remember to keep our members and friends that are on the prayer chain in your prayers. Especially the homebound and those in a facility for Alzheimer's.

Two recent concerns needing prayer are:

Alona Rasmussen for cancer, and

The passing of Lorraine Aune's sister, LaVerne Stone.

Answer Bottom of Pg. 5

A Modern-Day Parable

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven – indeed God – is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.*