



The Ripple



Volume 12, Issue 12

DECEMBER 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 worshiping our Lord.*

CHURCH SERVICES

9:30 AM Sunday School for
ALL Ages

10:30 AM Worship and
Children's Church *for ages
3—2nd grade*

Inside seating with distancing.
Please use hand sanitizer. Please
exit the sanctuary using the north
and south exits.

Seating for the most vulner-
able is in the Fellowship Hall
(MASKS REQUIRED).

If you wish, stay in your car and
listen to 107.5 on your radio (only
available in the church parking lot).

10:30 AM Livestream On Facebook
Listen to WPCA, 93.1 Amery
for the service on
Sundays at 1:00 P.M.
or

www.appleriverchurch.org

The Ripple is also on this site.

Christmas Songs

Pastor Justin

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #277, Good Christian
Men Rejoice #273, The First Noel #265, I love these
Christmas songs and many others. There are so many memories, joy,
fondness and hope that these songs cause to rise from my inner being.
Maybe you feel the same way too. Can you picture yourself singing a
great number of these Christmas songs with friends and family members
that are no longer with us? I feel like I can.

The feelings go further than just the songs in the hymnal. Don't you get
the same feelings and joy when you sing things like, "I'll Be Home for
Christmas," or "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas?" If we are honest,
many of the feelings and emotions that are in these "secular" Christmas
tunes are also the same feelings and thoughts we have about the ones in
the hymnal. So, what makes one "qualified" to sing in church and an-
other "not qualified?" Why would we sing Angels, from the Realms of
Glory #259 and not sing "Jingle Bells?" What makes one acceptable and
the other unacceptable?

The answer to the question is not as simple as you might think. If we
simply say that one speaks of the biblical perspective of Christmas and
the other a secular perspective, what does that mean? Let's consider the
song, We Three Kings #288 in the hymnal. In this song, we have an ac-
count of the three wise men traveling to see Jesus. They sing of their
gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The chorus focuses upon the star
they are following. The song evokes emotions within us. We can remem-
ber Christmas pageants that we have participated in. We can think of
**caroling with friends. It is story in the Bible... but is it really much dif-
ferent than singing "Here Comes Santa Claus?"**

Sure there is--- at least we think at first. But, in each song, there is only
one major reference to God and his plan for us. We Three Kings – in the
final verse – says, "Behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice." In the
rest of the song... singing about the gifts and the star. In "Here Comes
Santa Claus" the second verse says, "Santa knows that we're all God's
children if we just follow the Light." Again... one time in the whole song.
So, why is one "ok" to sing in Church and the other is not?

The deeper answer is this, songs sung in church should exclaim glory,
honor and worship the God we serve. As such, it seems that some of the
Christmas songs that we love, and even sing in the church, probably
shouldn't get sung within the context of a time of worship. Even though

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

Steve Wright

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Erin Hosking (Supt.)

Deb Brown (Asst. Supt.)

Denise Luster (Member at Large)

CLERK and SECRETARY

Marie Geist Berhow*

DEACONESS

Judy Nelson

Linda Wetzig

Carol Smith

FINANCIAL

Sue Lundgren*

Joan Talmage*

TREASURER

Mark Powell*

* = Appointed

Christmas Songs *Continued from Page 1*

they made it into the hymnal, that isn't a free pass to be used with the worship service.

It doesn't take away from the fact that *We Three Kings* is still a great song. But, you probably won't find it within the context of the "Body" of a service here at Apple River. We would reserve a song like that for prelude or for a fun time of carol singing. Worship should cast our attention and glory on Christ. That is what we are intending to do when we come together. We are gathering to worship the Lord. Our songs should fit within that focus.

There are songs that are fun and songs that cast our attention to Christ and worship the King. We would be wise to remember that at other times of the year as well. I know it is fun to sing songs to our country during civil holidays, but we gather together to worship God. **Save the national anthem for inauguration gatherings or for sporting events. Let's sing of the greatness of our God when we gather to worship Him. It isn't about the feelings that we generate in worship, it is about giving glory and honor to Christ.**

Sound and Visual System

The membership approved to spend up to \$15,000 on a new sound and video system. Components have been ordered.

To date, \$10,200 has been received toward the system from your designated offerings. THANK YOU!



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

5:00 P.M.

Thursday, December 24

Celebrate New Year's Eve At Church

Soup & Game Night

Thursday, December 31 at 5:00p

Come for a night of food, fellowship and fun!

Bring soup or goodies to go with soup. And, bring games!

"If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God's word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared."
—Nancy Guthrie




WOMEN'S WHITE CROSS—DECEMBER 3

9:30-11:30 AM—Brunch served by Claudine Brown, Annette Strandine and Betty Anderson
Special music with ladies quartet
Christmas story with Claudine

Project for the day: Bring good clean used pillowcases.

All Ladies Welcome!







PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.

PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	Lord	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace

↓ EXIT

" _____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____ . "Though your _____ are like _____ ,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

PUZZLE A: Answer on Pg. 6 The Bible Quiz, puzzle, cartoons and articles are from NewsletterNewsletter to which we subscribe and have permission to reproduce

Newborn stats

A pastor asked a church member to have a sign made for Christmas. It was to be rather large: 6 feet long and 2 feet wide. The layperson paid for the sign, took it to the church and hung it above the front door.

Imagine the shock when people saw that it read: "Unto Mary, Jesus was born, 6 feet long and 2 feet wide."

Riddle: A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed in town for three days and rode out on Friday. How was this possible?

See Pg. 6

Bible Quiz:

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four

Answer: See Page 6

RENT-A-TEEN

Winter is here. Christmas is coming! Are you ready? Do you need help? Our youth would like to help and earn money for Bible Camp and/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 for thinking of Rent-a-Teen to help.


NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP!

The Executive Board approved to establish a group for our young adults. This group would consist of those young adults who recently graduated and are too old for One-Way Club. Primarily singles. This group needs a leader - one who can take charge in setting up activities, guiding them spiritually and be a good role model. If you are one of those individuals or know of someone who would be, please contact Pastor Justin or any of the deacons. This group will determine their name and how often to meet. At the present time we are calling the group Next Gen for Next Generation.



Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

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
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21
 11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13
 6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21
 12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1
 22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13
 14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16
 15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14
 24 15 25 14 10 12 14
 ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

Puzzle B Answer on Page 6.



Birthdays and Anniversaries **

DECEMBER

2 Rod Wetzig
 4 Tom & Diane Berry (1983)
 4 Gloria Soldner
 6 Mike & Sheila Crim
 8 Dawn Lundgren
 9 Don Nelson
 9 Mitchell Symbal
 10 Bruce Beatham

13 Candice Beatham
 13 Calvin Wright
 14 Joyce Brown
 14 Clyde & MaryAnn Wright (1963)
 15 Cyrus Elmer
 15 Ward & Suzette Taber (1984)
 17 Tiffany Peterson

20 Larry & Annette Strandine (1965)
 25 Deb Brown
 26 Brian & Tonja Nelson (2015)
 26 Wayne & Barb Tanner (1997)
 29 Glen & Louise Wright (1962)
 30 Mary Ann Wright

December 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	31		

** If we missed your birthday or anniversary, it was not intentional. If you are new to the congregation, we most likely are missing your information. Please update us by email at arcc@amerytel.net or put a note in the Ripple box in the church office.

December Mission of the Month — Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

Our church supports the St. Croix District Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Bill Stirrat is the field missionary. Alice Brown works with him part time. They train teenagers and adults to teach 5-Day Clubs, Good News Clubs and to become Sunday School teachers. Some teaching is by Zoom and some in the classroom.

5-Day Clubs met this summer in small groups outdoors. There were 19 clubs. 236 children heard gospel and Bible lessons and 2 decisions were made for Christ.

Verse-a-Thon is a program where individuals make pledges, learn Bible verses and give the money to CEF.

Good News Clubs are an after school program to evangelize students and train them in the Bible. They cannot meet in the school now, but are transported to a home or local church. 143 children are enrolled. 19 decisions for salvation have been made. Clubs are in Unity, Clear Lake, Amery, Baldwin, Luck, Osceola and Barron. CEF directors work worldwide in many countries. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, much of their work is being done by Skype and email rather than world travel.

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so does our hope and joy.



Look forward to the Sundays of Advent as each Sunday will focus on one of the Advent themes of HOPE,

Operation Christmas Child
 35 shoeboxes full of toys and other gifts were packed and brought to Baldwin to be sent to MANY parts of the world.
 Thank you to Erin for coordinating this mission and bringing our boxes to Baldwin.
 Thank You for Your Donations!

PUMPKIN PIE CAKE

4 eggs	1/2 tsp. salt
1 (1 lb.) can pumpkin	1 big can Milnot (or evaporated milk)
1 1/2 C. sugar (I used less)	1 yellow cake mix
1 tsp. nutmeg	2 sticks butter, melted
1 tsp. cinnamon	1 C. chopped nuts

Mix the first 7 ingredients together well and put in a 9 X 13 inch cake pan. Sprinkle the dry cake mix on top of pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle the butter on top of the cake mix, then sprinkle the chopped nuts on top.
 Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a knife inserted comes out clean.

Prayer Concerns



Congregational Care:

- Those going through cancer treatments.
- Widows and those going through the grief process

Ongoing Concerns:

- Pray for our church leadership to have wisdom as they guide our church and protect its integrity and core values.
- Pray for our congregation to embrace spiritual discipline including daily Bible reading, prayer and scripture memorization.
- Pray for intentional focus of winning others to the Lord.
- Pray for revival in our churches and a spiritual awakening in America
- The homebound and in nursing homes who are unable to have personal contact of visitors
- Those struggling to find work, reliable shelter and healthy food.

Concerns Beyond our Doors:

- Our local, state, national and international leaders.
- Teachers, staff, parents and students this school year which will be different than normal.
- Racial inequality in our community and around the world.
- Those afflicted with COVID and their caregivers, and healthcare professionals.
- Our elected president and other officials.

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.

Because of HIPPA laws, hospitals do not call when a member is admitted. We would rather have several calls about a hospitalization than not to know. Thank You!

Seasons of hope



The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the **Father's will Jesus Christ** became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer

Worthy of note

A young boy wrote to his aunt after Christmas: "Dear Aunt Ruth, I want to thank you for all the gifts you have sent me in the past, and all you intend to send me in the future. Love, Eugene." *(No doubt, he will grow up to be a diplomat.)*

Another child had this to say in a "thank you" letter: "I love the book you sent me for Christmas. I have been reading it day and night and am now on page 10." *(Well, some of us are simply slow readers.)*

Then there was the lad who was painfully honest: "Thank you for the fire ingin. It's almost as good as the one I really wanted."

A NOTE OF






December 2020

Apple River Community Church Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30p Deacon Mtg; 7:00p Exec. Bd. Mtg.	2 10:00a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way	3 9:30 White Cross Noon lunch provided	4	5
6 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	7	8 6:30p Deacon Mtg; 7:00p Exec. Bd. Mtg.	9 10:00a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way	10	11	12
13 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	14	15 5:00p Sr. Saints	16 10:00a Men's Bible Study 5:30p One-Way	17	18	19
20 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	21 RIPPLE Deadline!!	22	23 10:00a Men's Bible Study	24 5:00p Christmas Eve Service 	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	28	29	30 10:00a Men's Bible Study	31 New Year's Eve—Soup & Game Night 5:00 pm.	Riddle Pg. 3 Friday was the name of his horse.	

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7)

Puzzle A: Path 3; come, settle, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

Puzzle B: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Riddle: Hey, don't give up yet. If you must—See the Friday calendar block after 12/31.

Ripple Articles **MUST BE** received by the deadline December 21) to be included in the Ripple. Send to arcc@amerytel.net (PREFERRED) or put in Ripple box in church office.

Thank You, Marie