



# The Ripple



Volume 11, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2019

## 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, December 1**

- 9:30a Sunday School
- 10:15a Fellowship
- 10:30a Worship /Children's Church

#### **Sunday, December 8**

- 9:30a Sunday School
- 10:15a Fellowship
- 10:30a Worship/Children's Church
- Noon: Potluck (Circle 2)

#### **Sunday, December 15**

- 9:30a Sunday School
- 10:15a Fellowship
- 10:30a Worship/Children's Church

#### **Sunday, December 22**

- 9:30a Sunday School
- 10:15a Fellowship
- 10:30a Worship/Christmas Program

#### **Tuesday, December 24**

- 5:00 p Christmas Eve Service



#### **Sunday, December 29**

- 9:30a Sunday School
- 10:15a Fellowship
- 10:30a Worship/Children's Church
- 7:00p Sunday Night Live! (Circle 3)

[www.appleriverchurch.org](http://www.appleriverchurch.org)

## A Christmas Memory

*Pastor Justin*



During this Christmas season, we remember Jesus' birth. The stories of the Wisemen, the angels, the shepherds, and the gifts are woven into songs that we sing inside and outside the church. A childlike wonder fills us with a sense of awe during this time of year as we consider the infant-king who was born to save the people of Yahweh. Remembering His birth is part of the season.

We also have memories of other times in our lives that are fresh during this season. We remember the joy and anticipation of Christmas morning as a child. We remember moving from being a gift "receiver" to a gift "giver". We remember times with our families. Images of our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles visiting and sharing laughter with each other come to mind during this season. We remember quiet nights in our homes with our own little families. Christmas eve services, Christmas morning celebrations, carols sung at the church and ringing bells outside of local stores remind us of Christmases past.

There is a certain amount of care that must be exerted when remembering all of these past celebrations. Sometimes, the nostalgia of past Christmases can rob us of the joy of the Christmas before us.

Life changes. As much as we wish for the past to be the present, it cannot be so. The very reason the baby had to be born in the manger long ago is the same reason that we suffer today. We live in a broken world. Sin and death have entered the world through the disobedience of mankind. But Christ came to set us free. Christ came to redeem us. Christ came to concur sin and death. And as we wait for His great coronation ceremony, we endure the effects of the fall of mankind.

So, how do we celebrate this season when our hearts are troubled? How do we find the joy we experienced in the "nostalgic past" in our present world? How do we work past the loss of loved ones and changes in the way we are celebrating Christmas this year?

*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 2019

PASTOR

Justin Hosking\*

VISITATION PASTOR

Bruce Tanner\*

CHAIRMAN

Dick Berhow

DEACONS

Mark Powell  
Steve Wright  
Rod Wetzig  
Odrey Rasmussen  
Ron Nelson  
Glen Wright  
Dan Smith

TRUSTEES

Rich Frankson  
Dan Lundgren  
Mike Crim

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Erin Hosking (Supt.)  
Deb Brown (Asst. Supt.)  
Denise Luster (Member at Large)

SECRETARY

Marie Geist Berhow\*

DEACONESS

Judy Nelson  
Linda Wetzig  
Carol Smith

FINANCIAL

Sue Lundgren\*  
Joan Talmage\*

TREASURER

Dana Powell\*

\* = Appointed



A Freewill Offering Will Be Taken

**12TH ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA (BRUNCH)**  
**Apple River Community Church**

**“Peace on Earth”**

**Speaker: Saheer Khoury**

ALL LADIES AGE 5 AND UP  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019  
9:30 A.M ---11:00 A.M

*Continued from Page 1—A Christmas Memory*

Some might suggest that you just paste a smile on your face and forget about the past. Some of us actually try to do this. But, that isn't honest. I might add, it doesn't honor God either. Let me give you some different advice: live in the "moment". See the joy that other people are experiencing during this season. Take a moment and talk with a child to taste the excitement they are living in. Take a different moment to visit with a mother or father about the joy they can see in their children's eyes. Take a moment and sing a few songs with an old friend. Take a moment and glance across the check-out lines in the store to see who is most excited about buying a gift for another. Take a moment and worship the new-born King.

God set an example for us by sending His Son as the first and best Christmas gift ever. God considered us when sending His Son. Let's follow Yahweh's example and consider others this Christmas season too.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
5:00 P.M.  
Tuesday, December 24



**Celebrate New Year's Eve At Church**  
Soup & Game Night  
Tuesday, 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!



**Operation Christmas Child**

**The Amazing Journey of a Shoebox Gift Began with You and Resulted in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication.**

Wow, 32 shoeboxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who donated items and money for the shoeboxes to be filled and sent for this evangelism.

Possible Constitutional Bi-Law Change —Keep this proposal in your prayers.

Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 PM



**It's time to pack cookies and goodies for shut-in's and college students.** Please bring 3 dozen cookies, candy or goodies, wrapped and ready for packing. Please bring names and addresses of shut-in's and college students.

Also, set up tables and chairs and decorate for the Christmas Tea, and the church for Christmas.

Please help with preparations for this special time of year.





# Symbols of the season

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



- shepherd's staff    \_ □ □ \_ \_ \_ □
- tree that keeps its leaves    \_ \_ \_ □ \_ \_ \_ \_
- shines to lead the way    \_ \_ \_ □
- green for eternal life, red for Jesus' blood    □ \_ \_ \_ & \_ \_ \_ □ □
- sounds to announce good news    □ \_ \_ \_
- has no beginning or end    \_ \_ \_ \_ □

Th □ □ ks b □ to □ od fo □ □ is  
 indesc □ □ ba □ le gif □ !  
 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

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

## RENT-A-TEAM

Do you need help with projects? Our youth would like to help and earn money for camp or Districts Youth Conference!



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 your support!!

## 30 HOUR FAMINE

By Kathy Lundgren



Our youth group, One Way, chose to raise awareness of child hunger by participating in the 30-hour famine. During these 30 hours, our youth will work on scripture goals, play games, watch movies, pray, and enjoy fellowship with each other, all while getting a small glimpse into what the hunger crisis is all about. Our goal at ARCC is to have our youth group raise \$1,000 by April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All money raised will go to World Vision to help those in need of food and water. Raising \$1,000 will feed a child for just over 2 years!

To continue our awareness and give our youth the opportunity to make a difference in the world, we chose to sponsor a child through world vision. Each month, the kids will try to raise \$40 to send to a young girl to help her go to school and bring food home to her family. Please pray for our youth and these new endeavors - that they would be fruitful and allow us all to share the love of God.



Christmas Program  
 December 22  
 During Morning Worship



**“Good News Ahead:  
 The Signs of  
 Christmas”**

**Baby Shower**  
 Come to a Baby Shower (It's a girl) for Patricia Potter & Dale Dotson.

When: After potluck on December 8th.  
 Gift ideas: See Deb Brown.



Districts has 43 people signed up to go! (10 adult chaperones and 33 students). Pray for safe travels and a life-changing, spiritual experience for everyone.



“That’s why I say, ‘Fleece Navidad!’”

Bible Quiz:  
 Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt

Answer: See calendar page





## Birthdays and Anniversaries

2019

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 Donna Sanvig  
 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 2019						
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				

### Mission Updates —

**Ngonamai** Wangrai and Michelle Ngonami serve in northeast India with World View Ministries.

They primarily witness to Hindus. Wangrai taught the gospel at a camp to young people preparing to enter the military. He has worked with translators to complete the Gospel of John and edit the Gospel of Matthew.

**Michelle worked in the Christian school and children's home in their village. Relatives from the U.S.A.** came this summer and helped her with VBS and Sunday School. A good number of decisions were made for Christ.

They care for two foster girls and a teenage boy. They are mentoring Matthew to prepare for Bible college.

**Wangrai's aunt died this year and left orphan an eight year old son. Michelle was able to lead her to salvation before she died.**

Prayer requests: 1. Praise for an intern to help with translation.

2. Praise for several salvations this summer. 3. The rainy season is late. Pray for an adequate harvest.

4. **God's will in giving them their own children or to adopt.** 5. **Improving their Nepali language skills.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Samaritan's Purse** - Franklin Graham is president of Samaritan's Purse. This is a worldwide charity with emphasis on sharing the gospel and giving Bibles. November is the annual Operation Christmas child project. Last year 12,000,000 shoe boxes were distributed to children in about 100 countries. You helped by buying items to help pack shoe boxes here at ARCC. The kids did a great job of packing.

**Here are some other areas Samaritan's Purse is involved in.**

1. Rescue children in poverty, human trafficking and medical needs.
2. Supply animals and sewing machines to enable women to earn a living. Provide teaching skills.
3. Marriage enrichment camps in Alaska for military couples.
4. Surgical operations for children with heart defects and cleft palates.
5. Rebuild homes and churches after disasters of fire, flood and tornados.
6. Care and food in refugee camps.
7. Set up medical hospitals in war ravaged Africa and the Middle East.
8. Train nationals to be evangelists and provide a bicycle and teaching materials.
9. Drill wells for safe, clear water supply.

Thousands of volunteers travel all over the world to serve.

### A Big Thank You!

A Big Thank you to everyone that helps to keep the church and events at church running smoothly. To name specific persons would need a BIG wall. The Circles (4 circles) help set up and clean at potluck luncheons, Sunday Night Live, funerals, etc.

Need cups, napkins or plates? They are always on hand for the next "Event". Toilet paper is on hand, light bulbs replaced as needed, smoke alarm batteries replaced and sign message changed. Snow is removed and the lawn mowed. Coffee & cookies made and served on Sunday morning. Etc., Etc. Our wonderful musicians keep us in tune and the sound booth crew do a great job. Of course, thank you to Sunday School teachers and Pastor Justin for bringing us the message every week.

These things take the effort of many people pitching in. They aren't thanked enough.

*Marie Berhow*

### Notice

Pastor Bruce will not be available the month of December. He is taking some much deserved time off.

Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

*—C.S. Lewis*

Did You Notice? The carpet was cleaned in the fellowship hall and soiled areas in the sanctuary entrance, hallway near kitchen and nursery.

## Your Story

By Mike Crim

I lost my mother and father-in-law this year. One of the nice parts of the process was hearing some stories **I hadn't heard before. I have spoken to a great many, who express the regret that they never asked their** elders enough questions before they died.

Well last Christmas, my youngest daughter, Amanda, gave me a wonderful, unique gift. It is called **"Storyworth". This is how it works:**

1. Each week, they send the recipient questions that family never thought to ask. They include alternative **questions, in case you don't like the primary one.**
2. The recipient writes a story in response, or you can phone it in.
3. At the end of a year period, they are bound into beautiful book.

The cost is \$99.00 and they can be found at Storyworth.com.

I think it is a wonderful way to alleviate family regret. It is a great way to talk about subjects that may be taboo subjects with family members. I utilized this to great effect with the subjects of God, country and **politics. Another nice side effect has been that some questions make you think of things you've forgotten, or** never told anyone.

I highly recommend it. Give it a try.

## Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



- |               |       |   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 1. TGLBEHHEME | _____ | — |
| 2. NEAGLO     | _____ | — |
| 3. NRMEDAG    | _____ | — |
| 4. ODEKSNY    | _____ | — |
| 5. AMGYR      | _____ | — |
| 6. OHESJIP    | _____ | — |
| 7. EFJUSS     | _____ | — |
| 8. ITEENMSW   | _____ | — |
| 9. SPHHDSREED | _____ | — |
| 10. EMCFAL    | _____ | — |
| 11. TLSRA     | _____ | — |
| 12. CSSNUEO   | _____ | — |
| 13. HEVSPE    | _____ | — |
| 14. ENIN      | _____ | — |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9		10		11		12	
13		14					

Answer: See Calendar Page

**"The birth of Jesus is the sunrise in the Bible."**  
—Henry van Dyke

## Light shines in the darkness

In Nepal, where blindness is prevalent due to under-funded medical care and a lack of eye doctors, ophthalmologist Sanduk Ruit has made it his mission to **treat poor people. He's performed more than 130,000 cataract surgeries to re-**store sight, sometimes walking for a week with surgical equipment in tow to reach patients. Dr. Ruit also found a way for replacement lenses to be made locally for less than \$3 each, rather than buying them internationally for 100 times as much. The physician brings healing to remote villages and celebrates **"big eye-opening festivals" with people who "were blind yesterday, and ... are seeing today."**

At Christmas we celebrate the Word of God who came to live among us as Jesus, the light of the world. In countless ways since, God has brought light to those living in literal or figurative darkness.

We celebrate people, such as Dr. Ruit and the 650 doctors he has trained, **whom God uses to cause "light [to shine] in the darkness" (John 1:5).**

## Hope's Solid foundation

As he neared death, the atheistic philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre tried — but failed — **to resist despair. "I know I shall die in hope," he wrote. "But that hope needs a foundation."**

**For Christians, that foundation is Jesus, our sure hope amid life's uncertain-**ties. While Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, it also represents the **fulfillment of Jesus' promised birth and the certainty of his promised return.** Jesus — the hope of nations — **says he's preparing a place for us and coming back for us (see John 14:2-3).**

**Because our hope's foundation is guaranteed "according to the Lord's word" (1 Thessalonians 4:15, NIV), we don't have to live like people "who have no hope" (verse 13). Praise God!**

## Our Prayer Chains are Active.

If you have a prayer concern, contact Bev Richmond (715-268-4226) or Lynne Peterson at (lybrpeterson@yahoo.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.



2019



# Apple River Community Church Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45a Praise Team Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Coffee & Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	2 6:30p Women's Bible Study	3 9:30a Women' Bible Study	4	5	6 9:00a M.O.P.S.	7 Ladies Christmas Tea 9:30—11:00 AM
8 8:45a Praise Team Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Coffee & Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church 11:45a Potluck (Circle 2) Shower for Potter/Dotson See pg. 3	9 6:30p Women's Bible Study	10 9:30a Women' Bible Study 6:30p Deacon Mtg; 7:30p Exec. Bd. Mtg.	11 10:00a Men's Bible Study 5:30 One-Way Club	12	13	14
15 8:45a Praise Team Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Coffee & Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church	16 6:30p Women's Bible Study	17	18 10:00a Men's Bible Study 5:30 One-Way Club	19	20 9:00a M.O.P.S.	21
22 8:45a Praise Team Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Coffee & Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Christmas Program	23 6:30p Women's Bible Study RIPPLE Deadline!!	24  5:00 P.M	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29 8:45a Praise Team Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:15a Coffee & Fellowship 10:30a Worship/Children's Church 7:00p Sunday Night Live (Circle 3)	30 6:30p Women's Bible Study	31 5:00 PM Soup & Game Night				
<p>Puzzle Pg. 5: 1. Bethlehem (G), 2. angel (O), magnet (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), Inn (E); God's gift of love</p>						
<p>Bible Quiz: Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.) Puzzle Pg. 3: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly &amp; berries, bell, wreath: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift: 2 Corinthians 9:13 NIV</p>						
<p>Ripple Articles <b>MUST BE</b> received by the deadline (Dec. 23) to be included in the Ripple. Send to <a href="mailto:arcc@amerytel.net">arcc@amerytel.net</a> (<b>PREFERRED</b>) or put in Ripple box in church office. <u>Bulletin items must be received by Thursday for the next Sunday's bulletin.</u> Thank You, Marie</p>						