



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

Sunday, December 3

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

Sunday, December 10

9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship/Children's Church
Noon: Potluck

Sunday, December 17

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

Sunday, December 24

9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship/Children's Church
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service



Sunday, December 31

9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
10:30am Worship/Children's Church
7:00p Soup & Game Night

Biblical Worship

Pastor Justin



I want you to read this. Psalm 150

¹ Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

2 Samuel 6:5; 1 Chronicles 13:8; 15:16-28, 16:5, 25:6; 2 Chronicles 5:12-13, 29:25; Ezra 3:10; and Neh. 12:27 all talk about praising God with cymbals, harps, lyres, and timbrel. We are encouraged to praise God with all that we have and with all instruments. That means this: there is nothing wrong with praising God with drums, guitars, violins, pianos, mandolins, and organs. I want to encourage the use of all these instruments in worship of God. All of these instruments are a part of biblical worship. If you don't agree with me, that is fine. You don't have to argue with me; you have a fight to pick with scripture.

Let EVERYTHING that has breath praise the Lord. Our praise is to be reflective of all that we can do and all that we have. We are to hold nothing back from worshipping God. However, sometimes we get in the way. We become the problem when we are worshipping God. We may like one song better than another. This is a problem. We may dislike one instrument more than others. This is a problem. We may be fascinated by the sound of our own voice. This is a problem. We may focus upon where we sang a song last. This is a problem.

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.

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

Dana Powell*

* = Appointed

worship should take all that we have and direct it toward God. He is the focus of our worship. He is the center of our worship. All we sing, all we do, all we concentrate on SHOULD BE HIM ALONE. When the music gets in the way of God... the music should go. When our liking of the music gets in the way of God... we have taken God off his throne and replaced him with music on the throne. When we say, "I don't like the cymbals or timbrel (aka drums)," what we are really saying is, "We don't want to worship God with all we have." This type of thinking is just the same as saying, "I won't worship with that person because they are a Jew (or Gentile)."

Worship isn't directed toward the worshipper. Worship is directed toward God. If you don't know the song, know that scriptures encourage us to sing NEW songs to the Lord. You may not like a musical instrument, know that scriptures show no distinction in the type of instruments used. We must be ready to change our worship so that it is reflective of GOD. There are no people nor instruments that should be excluded from worshipping God. For HE IS WORTHY OF ALL WORSHIP. Praise the Lord!



Election of church officers is coming the 3rd week in January.

An Election Committee was formed and will be seeking people for various positions. Please consider being a deacon, deaconess, trustee, asst. Sunday School Supt., or chairman. Pray for our Election Committee, and people to step forward to help lead our church. Contact Pastor J., Dick B., Odrey or Sue Lundgren.

**10TH ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA
Apple River Community Church**

'SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT'

SPEAKER: JEAN ABBOTT

FOR ALL LADIES AGE 5 AND UP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

11:00AM - 1PM

A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.

SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE ENTRYWAY



Keep Our Nation and Church in your Prayers!

WHITE CROSS and WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

NO WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OR WHITE CROSS IN DECEMBER



COMING DATES: January 4, 2018 - White Cross all day





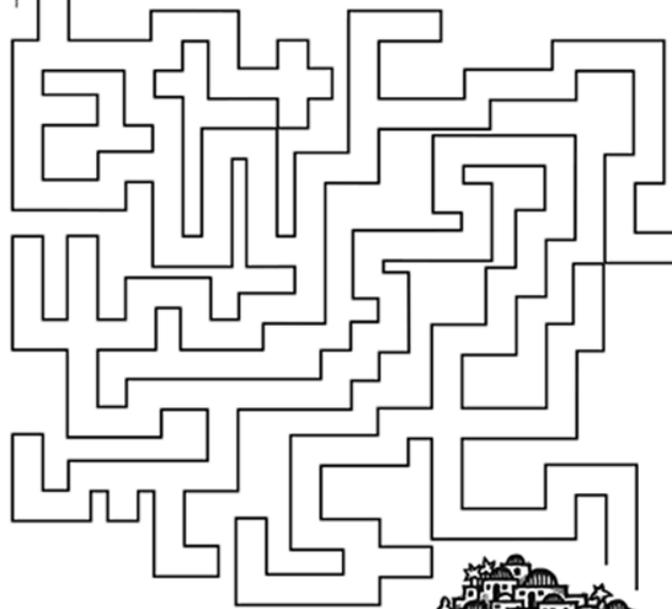
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM



We have over 30 people going to Districts in 2018! Wow, that's great! They are asked to help pay their own way, but if you can help them out, you can designate "Districts" on your offering check or cash.

We thank you very much.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Directory update slips are coming in—Thank you!.

Please fill out a Directory Update form, even if there are no changes. Just complete the top line with your name, so we know you are O.K. with the current Directory information.

If you can help with the directory, please let Marie, pastor or one of the deacons know.

Directory update slips and the collection box is in the church office or on the table in the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen window.



Soup & Games

Celebrate New Years Eve

at Church
Sunday,
December 31

5:00p



GAME NIGHT



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday December 24th
At 5:00 p.m.

Bible Quiz

When Jesus was born, which two earthly rulers were in power?

- A. Quirinius
- B. Pontius Pilate
- C. Caesar Augustus



3 Gary Clark
 4 Tom & Diane Berry (1983)
 6 Randy & Debra Newbauer (1980)
 6 Zach Newbauer
 8 Dawn Lundgren
 9 Don Nelson
 9 Mitchell Symbal
 9 Duane (Butch) Symbal
 10 Bruce Beatham
 13 Candice Beatham

13 Calvin Wright
 14 Joyce Brown
 15 Cyrus Elmer
 15 Ward & Suzette Taber (1984)
 16 Carrie Wisner
 20 Larry & Annette Strandine (1965)
 25 Deb Brown
 26 Wayne & Barb Tanner (1997)
 29 Glen & Louise Wright (1962)

December 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	29	30
31						

The Great Date Debate

In *Lessons of Christmas* (Xulon Press), Daniel Armah notes that ancient scholars expressed more than 130 opinions about Jesus’ actual birth-date, covering every month of the year. “Even with a debatable date,” he concludes, “the blessing of Christmas is obvious.”

Likewise, our Christmas celebrations aren’t diminished by the possible timing of Jesus’ birthday with secular festivals. “If December 25th was chosen to rival other pagan worship activities ... for want of a real date,” Armah writes, “then that decision has been successful. Indeed those ancient pagan festivals have all been swallowed up, and Christianity has been growing since.”

The perfect gift

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn’t about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday – or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it’s his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, “How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends – the people who seem to have everything – and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you – your time, your talent and your treasure –

THIS TINY HUMAN RACE

By MCCrim

Today I send them sunshine
 And a breeze to kiss their face.
 Today I am delighted
 With the entire human race.
 Sweet children in their kindness
 Their empathy and actions
 They’re generous and selfless
 And honest in transactions.
 Their love is Free and healing
 And more valuable than gold
 Their spirits like the mountain
 They exceed my highest goal.
 I’m pleased with how they turned out
 This tiny human race.
 So today I send them sunshine
 And a breeze to kiss their face.



Church Signs—a part of our culture.

By Stan Miller

Faith Fellowship in Luck, WI had this sign along highway thirty-five:

“LOST? Try G.P.S. Gods Plan of Salvation”

It’s common knowledge that men especially, dislike asking directions if they get lost. If they are at the end of their rope, they will finally ask, “How do I get there from here?”

All mankind is at the end of the rope. Many do not know that they are and continue blindly down the path that ‘seems right to them’. Hopefully, at some point they will realize their plight and seek the remedy.

Perhaps the sign by the road will spark interest. Maybe a friend will tell the truth or perhaps their “stinky” life will be cause for reflection. Whatever the cause, “anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will

Hospital Calls: If you learn 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 Joyce Brown, Darlene Holecek and Lydia Weiberg.

Prayer changes things

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the family of Jim Woodcock.

Jim went to his heavenly home on Sunday November 19th, while getting ready for church. His celebration of life service will be held in December. Further information on arrangements will be announced.

Someone took Jesus

A couple of days after Christmas, the Nativity scene was still up in the chancel of a San Francisco church. Walking by it, the pastor noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from the manger.

Shortly afterward, as the pastor walked outside the church, he saw a small boy pulling a new wagon. In the wagon bed was a doll that looked very much like the missing baby Jesus.

The pastor greeted the boy and asked him about the doll.

"I got it in the church," the boy replied.

"Why did you take it from the church?"

"Well," the boy answered. "I prayed for a new wagon and told the Lord Jesus that if I got one, I would give him a ride. I got the wagon, took him for a ride and now I'm bringing him back to the church."



Everlasting Joy

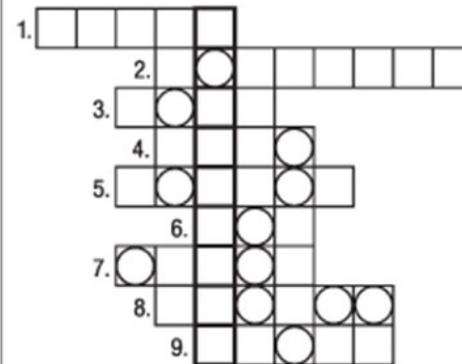
In a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing "Our First Christmas Together."

Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. "We've hung this ornament on our tree for several years," she explained, "but this year we wanted you to have it." When Asire hung it on the tree and stepped back, "all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all [she] saw was the shimmer-

a seasonal phrase.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

Answer: See Calendar Page

Please submit your article for January by Dec. 18th. How about updates on things happening in church.

December

Apple River Community Church Calendar of Events

2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:45a M.O.P.S	2 Women's Christmas Tea 11a-
5a Praise Team Sunday School Fellowship Worship/Children's Church	4	5 9:30-11:00a Women's Bible Study	6 * SEE BELOW	7	8	9
45a Praise Team Sunday School Fellowship Worship/Children's Church Lunch	11	12 9:30-11:00a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Deacons Meet; 7:30p Executive Bd Meets	13 * SEE BELOW	14	15 8:45a M.O.P.S	16
5a Praise Team Sunday School Worship/Children's Church	18 RIPPLE DEADLINE	19	20 (NO) <i>One-Way Club</i>	21	22	23
5a Praise Team Sunday School Worship/Children's Church	25	26 5:00p Serenity House	27 * SEE BELOW	28	29	30
45a Praise Team Sunday School Worship/Children's Church Soup & Game Night						

Articles MUST BE received by the deadline to be included in the next issue. Send to arccc@amerytel.net (*PREFERRED*) or put in Ripple box in the office. Bulletin items must be received by Thursday for the next issue. *Thank You,*

* 10:00a Men's Bible Study
5:30p One-Way Club

Puzzle: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, camel, manger, sheep; Christmas; peace on earth

Bible Quiz: Answers: A and C (See Luke 2:1-2)



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