



# A.M.E.N.

March 2019



**Discovering Membership Lunch** is for anyone interested in more information about our church. It is scheduled for March 24 at Pastor Kevin's home just south of the church. Please let the office know you plan to attend.



**Just Walk Across the Room** will help you share your faith. This video-based material will give practical help and courage to live the mission. When: 10:45-11:30am, March 24-April 14  
Where: Consistory Room (Northwest corner)

## HEADLINES

Effectively applying the Bible to current events

**Headlines** will help you effectively apply the Bible to stories ripped from the headlines. We'll weave current events and appropriate Scripture into weekly group discussions.

When: 10:45-11:30am, March 24-April 14  
Where: Green Room (Southeast corner)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDE

Sunday School Guide is an in-depth biblical expositional class with weekly preparation. Monthly publications are available under the balcony.

When: 10:45-11:30am  
Where: under the balcony

## Articles

### You Probably Won't Like this Article...

By Kevin Van Wyk

The other night I got a peculiar email from Catalyst Movies. It was an invitation to watch a couple of movies for free. "Mully" sounded familiar, so I took advantage of being snowed in one day and watched it. Spoiler alert... even though I will give much away, it's worth watching.

The movie tells the story of Charles Mully. It's the ultimate rags-to-riches story. He was abandoned at age 6 and begged for years on the street in Kenya just to survive. God then intervened and he began working, ultimately becoming a multi-millionaire. However, as he is living the good life, God intervenes again. This burning bush experience would be tough! God calls him to join Him in helping the orphans in Kenya, and it must begin with selling everything. Charles sits his family down and explains the plan. (Can you imagine? The shock, the fear, the resistance!) Amazingly, his wife does not leave him! He begins going to the streets and bringing children into their home. Not just a couple; rooms are filled with bunk beds and an addition is built. The story does not end there. This man's impact is hard to fathom, but it came at a cost, an enormous cost.

While I loved the movie, I did not particularly like the message. You may have enjoyed the story I just shared, but chances are good many will leave it right there... a nice story.

The movie's message is one of sacrifice, and we don't really get that word. Honestly, for nearly all of

us, when we give, it has little effect on our lifestyle or spending. **We still eat whatever we want, go on vacations, and buy stuff we don't need.** I am sure many of you still reading give generously, maybe a few giving beyond the tithe, but most church attenders give only 2.5% of their income. That's less than Christians were giving during the great depression.

In 2018 the average household of our members gave \$193/month. If we take the average household income in Wisconsin (\$59,305) times our households (297) and they tithed, **our income would increase 2.5 times to over \$1.7 million.** With that we would have no trouble meeting budget, replacing the boiler, repairing windows, fully funding 6 missionaries, and planting several churches. Imagine what we could do! Cory Kok, our Deacon Chair, has done an even more modest, yet complicated, analysis of our church's potential and concluded an income of \$996,250 is well within our grasp.

**Some of you have been keeping up with the Jones and giving your 2.5% or less...** I am not looking to guilt you into giving, but I do want you to hear God's call to generosity. He promises to bless you when you give... *"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."* (Luke 6:38 NLT) Did I mention those are Jesus' words!

**Some of you have been giving generously...** Thank you and keep it up! I'd just like to ask one question. What would it look like for you to give sacrificially? Charles Mully gave everything, and I don't think he regrets it one bit. Please consider how you might go beyond generous and see God work. Maybe increase your regular offerings, give a special gift, or put Alto in your will.

Like I said, you maybe won't like this article, but it is a message we need to hear. Is it possible we aren't

experiencing God because we refuse to obey him in our giving?

## Prayer in our Church

By Doug Shotsky

*James 5:13-16*

*<sup>13</sup> Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.*

*<sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*

When I think of prayer, it usually reminds me of my mom. I'm pretty sure that my salvation, and walk with Jesus are a result of her prayers. I can remember many times that I look back on in my youth and young adulthood and think, "It's a miracle that I'm alive." I know that God heard my mom's prayers for grace, mercy, protection, and repentance. And I cannot imagine the mental, emotional, and physical struggle she went through as she watched me fall over and over, and she patiently waited for God to pull me up out of the muck and mire of life.

Fast-foreword to my time here at ARC. I was so encouraged when I came here to find out that we have three different prayer groups that meet here each week! I have never been an amazing prayer. So, I decided that if I wanted to get better at praying, I should go be with people who pray!

Well, that's what I did, and I want you to know that we have people in this church who are praying for you! I've always seen names on the back of church bulletins, but wondered, "Do people really pray for these things?" The answer is a resounding, "YES"! Literally every name on that bulletin, all of the church mailboxes, and so many other things are

being prayed for Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Sunday mornings.

When I look at the scriptures above in the book of James it reminds me that prayer is the answer. If we have hardships, if we're sick, or if we have sin in our lives "prayer...has great power and produces wonderful results." Many times we feel that we don't want to bother others, or we have too much pride to want to be transparent with our issues, so we keep things to ourselves and don't tap into the deliverance, healing, or forgiveness that the Lord is offering.

So, I want to both encourage and challenge the people of ARC. I want to encourage you that if you have a need, please let us know. There are people here who are eager to lift you up before the throne of our Lord Jesus, and He hears our prayers! I also want to challenge you to join us in prayer. This is a discipline I struggle with, so I decided to join a group of faithful believers who were joining together to petition and praise our Lord. If God is tugging on your heart, adjust your life and join Him in the work He is doing to bring believers together to pray that His Kingdom come, and His will be done!

## Children & Families Update

By Adrea Daane



**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's VBS will be taking place the week of July 15-19. All kids who are 3 years old through incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders (for the 2019-2020 school year) will be invited to join us at SonTreasure Island where we will discover God's love for each of us. Watch as more details and information will be coming out shortly. Too old to

register? We have SO many volunteer opportunities and we'd love to have you join in making this another memorable week for the kiddos of our community...keep an eye out for sign ups and ways you can get involved in the upcoming months.

### 2nd Semester Offering Opportunities:

This semester in Sunday School we have the opportunity to partner with Mission Backpack again. This organization works alongside REACH to provide food to children of our community over the weekends. Each child in the program takes home a backpack with different food options to keep them well-nourished while not at school.

Our Bible Class offering gives us another way to reach out to the kids of our community and help provide a need during the summer months. We will again be providing a week or two of bagged lunches through the Community Table and this offering will make it possible to purchase the supplies needed to fill those bags. This is an awesome chance for families and/or kids to get involved and help out as well as we will be looking for volunteers to come with us and help pack the lunches. Look for more information on this service opportunity once we have our dates selected!

## Upcoming Events in Youth Ministry

By Jessa Ter Beest

Spring is always a crazy time in youth ministry! I thought I'd use this article to inform you of some big events we have coming up and could use prayer for! We're coming off of a great month with 48 students attending the middle school Overnighter and Teen Worship Night February 15-16, and 10 high school students attending the Winter Retreat at Silver Birch Ranch in White Lake, WI February 22-24. I could feel and see the Holy Spirit moving in both of these events as kids responded to the messages they were hearing. Thank you for all of your prayers and financial help in making these things possible!

Ash Wednesday on March 6th will be mostly led by the youth. I am so excited for them to have this opportunity to lead in this service of reflection and repentance as we prepare ourselves for Lent and Easter. I hope you all will join us at 7pm that night!

March 8-10 we will be traveling to Kentucky with 8 seniors to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter as a senior retreat before they graduate. This is such a cool time to connect with them before graduation and to instill some great information and experiences in them about creation and our incredible God before they head into adulthood where a lot of these things get questioned.

April 5-7 our middle school youth group will be heading to Madison for our annual Spring Retreat at Lake Waubesa Bible Camp. This retreat, unlike Silver Birch in the fall, will be with just our youth group and gives us some time to wrap up what we've been learning in our Rescued Curriculum throughout the year.

Brennan Wegener of Waupun will be speaking at our high school youth group Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. God has helped Brennan overcome drug addiction in his life and turn back to Jesus with a fiery passion for spreading the gospel through sharing his story of redemption.

Before we all know it, May (and hopefully nice weather!) will be here and we'll be preparing for the end of the school year and the youth services - High School on May 12<sup>th</sup> and Middle School on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

And of course, in June we will head to Memphis for our summer mission trip, so we are beginning preparations for that now!

Please keep all these dates in mind going forward. We ask you to keep the coaches and kids in prayer as Spring starts busyness with sports and so many other activities, and I personally covet your prayers for this incredibly filled season of ministry. Please pray for us to take the time to notice the Holy

Spirit's movement and find time to rest in God. Thank you for all your support!

## **Women's Ministry Update**

**By Erin Brewer**

For the month of March, food items for the Brandon and Waupun Food Pantry's will be collected. There will be totes marked for the food pantry in the lobby. Some special items the food pantry is in need of are: soups (any and all kinds), cereal, toilet paper.

Sisters/Friends/Mothers/Daughter mark your calendars and save the date for May 5<sup>th</sup>! The Women's Ministry is planning a spring event. More details to come.

## **Library Views**

**By Mary VanderKooi**

As a new member of the Library committee, I am getting acquainted with the selection of books and audio-visual materials available in our church library. It's worth checking out.

I am aware of the vast amount of data available on screens but there is something nice about a physical book to hold. Reading is good for adults and children. Kiley Crossland, an assistant editor at World Magazine filed this report: "A longtime Wall Street Journal reviewer believes the latest brain science should urge parents to adopt an ambitious goal: reading aloud to their children for one hour every night. Meghan Cox Gurdon's new book, "The Enchanted Hour: The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud in an Age of Distraction", delves into how listening to a story transcends anything digital when it comes to brain development and provides an antidote to fractured attention spans and disconnected families in the tech era." An hour is a long time and could just put them to sleep (a bonus some nights!), but the idea is valid. Reading aloud is great for the reader and the listener. So, you are welcome to visit the church library for some ideas for yourself and your kids.

## Golden Lifers Update

By Roxy Schouten

The story is told of a teacher and her class of children at a gift giving celebration. Children would come forward to offer their neatly wrapped gifts and to each the teacher would express delight. At the very end of the procession was a hesitant child bearing a crudely wrapped present. The teacher carefully unwrapped the gift and sat in silence for a few moments before she gingerly lifted the gift – an exquisite rare sea shell. The teacher knew that this type of beautiful and rare shell could only be found in a secluded cove that entailed a long and arduous journey. The teacher humbly asked the child how this came into his being. The child explained that he had made the journey and some of the obstacles ran into.

The teacher protested that this gift was too much because of the struggle that the child had to go through to obtain it. To this the child replied, “Part of the gift is the journey”.

As Golden Lifers each has experienced some rough “terrain” over the span of their lifetimes – some more than others but none immune. We can complain and feel sorry for ourselves but a break through happens when we can say this to our Lord –

Lord, I offer this pain and tough journey as a Thanks offering because You are the Pearl of Great Price. You have carried me when I could not walk. You have encouraged me when I think I cannot go on any further. Thank You for lifting my eyes to stay on You. I don't know fully the exquisite treasure at the end of my journey, but I know it will be beyond my imagination. We offer Thanks for the journey and Your never-ending loving care. Thank You, Father, Son Jesus, Holy Spirit – God Three in One. Amen

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His countenance to you and give you shalom (peace). Num 6

## Messages

We thank you for your prayers when I had knee surgery. Thanks also for the cards and well wishes. Thank you, Pastor Kevin and Pastor Doug, for your visit, prayers and conversation. God is good.

*Phil and Lynette Loomans*

Praise for Dave Rumley. He was given a good report. The disease is still at a stand still and looking good. They moved his check-ups to every 6 months now for his brain tumor and brain cancer. He celebrates with God, family, and church family. #Godsgotthis # Godsgotus

Thank you so much for all the support and encouragement that we received during mom's illness and since her death. Your prayers for our family were so appreciated.

*Larry & Gloria Mulder*

We want to thank everyone who gave money towards the love offering. What a blessing it is to be part of this wonderful church. Thank you again for all the thoughts and prayers throughout this last year.

*Derrick, Heidi, Darrin, & Delicia Schindel*

Thank you for your continued support for the Brandon Food Pantry!

## Events

The Chabros – March 3 at 9:30am

Volunteer Celebration Lunch – March 3 at 12pm

Congregational Meeting – March 3 at 1pm

Pine Haven Men's Chorus Concert – March 3 at 4pm

Ash Wednesday Service – March 6 at 7pm

Crops, Livestock & Industry Prayer Service – March 10 at 7pm

# News

With the new year we've taken on supporting a new missionary, Steve Bialy. He will be here on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to share with us during the Sunday school time. For more info on his work, please visit <https://converge.org/give/183229>