



The eFree Press

Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church

December 2017

Volume 24, Issue 12

Missionaries Serving Around the World

Avant

Awana
Tim & Sherry Thomas

The Evangelical Alliance Mission

Fellowship International Mission

Global Serve International

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Bob and Deb Wolniak

Literacy and Evangelism Int'l
Bob and Mary Emily Mulloy

Ethnos360
Rich and Karen Brown
Derrick and LaShawn Dobbs
Lloyd and Mary Wapp

Pioneers International

ReachGlobal

Ed and Janet Pollasch
Nubako and Claudine Selenga
Lonnie and Debbie Smith

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Jon and Stephanie Weiss

Partner Missionary Organizations

Anchor of Hope Medical Center
Campus Life

Evangelical Child & Family Agency
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

***Check the church directory for
contact info on all missionaries
and their sending agencies.***



2017 *Advent*
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*



Little Lion, Little Lamb

We like to think of that first Christmas night as being peaceful, silent, and calm, but the world Christ entered then was full of chaos and adversity—much like today. He came to a world full of people who were broken and looking for answers—much like today. When the Lion of Judah who came as a Lamb steps into our lives, everything changes.

Little Lion, Little Lamb shares a message of how lives can be made new. Pray and consider who you could bring with you to hear the Good News! The Concert Choir will present this magnificent program on Saturday, December 9 at 7pm and Sunday, December 10 at 6pm. A cookie reception will follow the program.



Cocoa & Carols

This family favorite is sure to warm you from heart to toes! It's an evening of singing favorite Christmas carols and listening to special music, all while sipping hot cocoa and enjoying Christmas cookies. Join us on Sunday, December 17 at 6pm!

Christmas Eve Service

This 6pm service will set the tone for your Christmas celebration as we ponder together God's grace to us in the gift of Jesus and celebrate His birth. Enjoy special music, a children's story time, and a devotional message. The service will conclude with our traditional candle-lighting finale accompanied by the singing of *Silent Night*.

Merry Christmas



MC18 Dates Announced

The annual Missions Conference will be held a little earlier than usual in 2018. In order to secure Dr. Craig Ott of Trinity International University as the Sunday speaker, the conference dates were moved up to February 16-18.

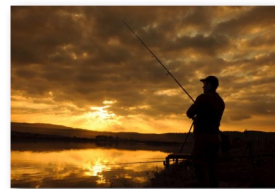
The theme for MC18 is *Good News in the Desert*, based on the Acts account of Philip and the Eunuch.

The children's program, the Friday supper theme and the Saturday fundraiser will be announced in the January eFree Press, so watch for details!



Men's Fishing Trip

Join a group of guys for a week of fantastic fishing on Lake Dinorwic in Ontario, Canada. Departure is Saturday, June 2 and return is Saturday, June 9. The trip, sponsored by Lake Lundgren Bible Camp, includes daily devotions, good fellowship, outstanding scenery, lodging at Pine Sunset Lodge and great fishing.



The cost of \$795 includes travel, lodging, meals and boat rental. A minimum group size is required, so don't delay in reserving your spot at llbc.org.

For more information, contact Bill H.

Empowered to Connect Simulcast Returns!

Our church is once again privileged to be one of the host sites for the Empowered To Connect conference live simulcast in 2018! This conference is designed to help adoptive and foster parents, counselors, and ministry leaders better understand how to connect with "children from hard places" in order to help them heal and become all that God desires for them to be. The live simulcast will be held Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, 2018 from 9am-5pm at a cost of \$20 per participant.



The conference is ideal for adoptive and foster parents, those considering adoption or foster care, and those who are serving and supporting others. This includes social workers, agency professionals, church staff, therapists, and others. Make plans now to attend!

Happy Birthday/Anniversary in December

Omitted for security.



This and That

The **church office will be closed** for Christmas on Monday, December 25 and will reopen at 1pm on Tuesday, December 26.

Awana, Student Ministries, and Men's D-Team will NOT meet on Wednesday, December 27.

Join us as we **commemorate the Lord's Supper** in all three of the morning services on December 31.

Beginning in January, we will regularly use our **security system at the church office entrance**. More details to come in the January eFree Press.



December 6

Layer Night

December 13

Christmas Greetings Night

December 20

Reason for the Season Night

December 27

NO CLUB

Merry Christmas!

Are You Equipped for Christmas?

Join us for a special Christmas edition of *Equip*, which will meet Sundays, December 10 and December 17. Choose from the following topics:

- Facing the Holidays without My Loved One
- Honoring Christ with your Family Traditions
- Testimonies of God-sightings in 2017
- Maximizing Conversations about Jesus at Christmastime

Plan to attend the *Equip* Preview Session on Sunday, December 3. At 9:30am, join us in the Welcome Center for a Connections Fellowship, followed by the Preview Session in the Sanctuary. At 11am, join us in Cafe 19 for a Connections Fellowship and the Preview Session. Also at these Preview Sessions, one of our missionary families will share about their ministry overseas.



Remember — *Equip* is relational and intergenerational, and the topics are varied and timely. We'd love to have you!

Babies Need Your Help!

After being approved by the National Diaper Bank as a diaper distribution center, our diaper ministry has grown tremendously over the past few years!

Would you be willing to love on underprivileged babies by volunteering for the diaper ministry 2 hours per week for 12 weeks at the Ministry Annex beginning in January? Training will be provided. Contact Marge V. or Heather T. for more details.



Text-to-Give Now an Option!

Beginning December 1, you will be able to give your tithes and offerings via text (TTG) if you wish. If you are already an online giver, just log in, add your cell number to update your profile, and text your desired donation to 920.523.4113.



If you do not presently give online, it's very simple to set up an account. Go to the church website home page (www.e-free-family.com), click on Menu, click on Giving, then Online, and follow the instructions. Then, all you need to do is text the dollar amount of your donation to 920.523.4113 any time you wish

to give to church. There is no banking fee for this service. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Tuneberg in the church office.

Winter Weather Procedures

Before the first snowfall, the church reviews and puts into practice its Winter Weather Procedures – when to plow/blow snow, how frequently to salt, when to cancel activities, and how to notify the congregation and community of schedule changes.

Decisions that affect Sunday morning services will be made at 6am, while decisions about Sunday and Wednesday evenings will be made by 3:30pm. Week-day activity changes will be announced as soon as possible in advance.

All weather-related changes will be announced and posted shortly after the decision is made on: WHBL 1330AM radio/website, WTMJ Channel 4, 620TMJ radio/website, and WITI Channel 6 (Fox). Additionally, changes will be posted on the home page of the church website (www.e-free-family.com). Staff will also contact their respective ministry leaders who will then notify their affected volunteers.

Year-End Giving

Many people like to bless the church in extra ways during the holiday season; others like to take advantage of tax deductions for additional charitable giving. No matter which, if you'd like to give a special gift at calendar year-end, here are some things the IRS requires regarding 2017 year-end giving:

- Mailed gifts must be postmarked by Saturday, 12/30; the Sheboygan Post Office will be open until 5pm.
- Tithes and offerings can be given in the offering plate on Sunday morning, 12/31. Gifts dropped in the lock boxes at the backs of the Sanctuary and MPR will count for this purpose.
- Gifts may be physically brought to the office up to 12pm noon on Sunday, 12/31.
- Online giving, via any method, can be transacted through 11:59pm on Sunday, 12/31. Be sure to begin the process several minutes ahead of time.

For tax purposes, year-end giving letters will be mailed late January.



2018 Offering Envelopes

Boxes of 2018 offering envelopes will be available in the church library from Sunday, December 17 through mid-January. If you have not used eFree offering envelopes in the past but would like to start, contact Ann at ann.t@e-free-family.com or 452.6520. If you previously used envelopes in 2017 but now prefer to give online or by ACH, please inform Ann.

2018 Church Directory

By mid-December, the 2018 Church Directory (white cover) will be available for pick-up in all the *Equip* rooms and the church office. Feel free to take multiple copies for use at home, work, and in your vehicles. For security purposes, please shred old directories or bring them to the church office for staff to shred. Directory information is for church family use only.



Celebrating Pastor Jon and Nikki MacDonald's 20 years of serving the Lord at eFree.



The eFree Press is the monthly newsletter of the eFree Church.

- To submit articles for future issues, contact Kayla Kautzer, Editor (kayla.k@e-free-family.com) or Briana Ringel, (briana.r@e-free-family.com). We reserve the right to edit for space and clarification purposes.
- The eFree Press is primarily distributed via email. If you'd like to join the email list, please contact Briana Ringel (briana.r@e-free-family.com).

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