

## About this season of Interim Pastoral ministry

For the next 12-18 months, our Interim Pastor Jeff MacLurg will do the 'usual pastoral ministries' such as preaching, staff oversight, visitation, training, planning, weddings, memorials, and more. However, a key part of his ministry will be to lead us through a 5-Step process designed to strengthen Maranatha's effectiveness in preparation for our next Senior Pastor.



### 1. CONNECT WITH PEOPLE:

Jeff will conduct 'listening interviews' with many of Maranatha's people to discern key issues that may need addressing. Please be willing to share your thoughts when contacted for an interview.

### 2. ASSESS CHURCH HEALTH:

A Transition Team will use various tools and activities to get a clear, up-to-date picture of Maranatha and surrounding community, and to celebrate what God has done in and through the church.

### 3. FACILITATE ACTION:

The church will determine the most appropriate steps to deal with issues that may be hindering fruitful ministry.

### 4. LEAD STRATEGIC PLANNING:

The church leadership team works to clarify or develop our biblical mission and a compelling vision, discover our core values, and craft a strategy to put them into effective ministry.

### 5. COACH PASTOR SEARCH:

When the church has achieved sufficient health, unity and vision clarity, the Interim Pastor can be a key resource in the search for our next Senior Pastor.



MARANATHA

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

3340 S MAIN STREET, RICE LAKE, WI 54868 · 715-234-8313

11/23/2025

# When You're Beyond Irritated

Ephesians 4:1-6

## WELCOME TO MARANATHA

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

### Worship Service

Join us for worship at 9:00 AM. Families are welcome, and enjoy coffee fellowship immediately following service in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15AM

### Children's, Youth & Adult Sunday School

10:45AM—11:45AM

### Nursery

Available for children 2 and under in the south hallway. We also have a pre-school area for children in the Conference Room

### Children's Activity Kits

Available on the table on the south wall in the lobby.

### Tithes & Offerings

Give through the offering box located between the sanctuary doors or use the QR code for easy, online giving. Envelopes are available.

**Connect with Us:** Fill out a CONNECT CARD and drop it in the offering box or at the Welcome Desk.

GIVE HERE



FOR CALENDAR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT [MARANATHAFREE.COM/EVENTS](http://MARANATHAFREE.COM/EVENTS)

**OUR VISION:** To reach *all* generations for Christ

**OUR MISSION:** According to God's Word, we proclaim the *joy of salvation* in Christ to people in need and encourage His followers in their devotion to Him.

#### OUR CORE VALUES:

- Founded on Christ
- Grounded in Scripture
- Powered by Prayer
- Committed to Evangelism
- Responding in Worship
- Intentional in Discipleship
- Characterized by Love

### Opportunities to Participate:

- **This Wednesday:** There will not be AWANA, Youth Group or Men's Bible study.
- **Save the Date:** The Christmas Program is happening December 14th @ 9:00 AM. If you are able, please bring 1-2 dozen cookies. There will not be Sunday School.
- **OCC Collection:** Today 10:00 AM –Noon & 3:00 PM– 5:00PM and final collection tomorrow from 9:00 AM– 11:00 AM.
- **Women's Christmas Tea:** Saturday, December 6th | 9:00-11:00 AM. *Specialty coffee served from 8:30-9:00 AM only.* Come enjoy a time of fellowship and delicious "tea" foods. Bring your favorite cup or wear a festive tea hat if you have one. Speaker: Joan MacLurg. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.
- **No Sunday School Today:** However, Children's Sunday School students and their parent(s) are invited to the Ministry Center at 10:45 AM to work on a special craft for the Christmas Program.
- **Pastor's Listening Interviews:** Pastor Jeff would like to meet with individuals and couples to listen, learn, and understand your thoughts about Maranatha. These 40-minute conversations can take place in your home or at the church. Please contact the office to schedule a time.
- **New Adult Sunday School:** Begins next Sunday the 30th to learn about the Muslim worldview and apologetics led by Otieno Oduor.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING



Can you help hang lights, garland, or ornaments?  
There are two opportunities to get Maranatha  
ready for Christmas! Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## When You're Beyond Irritated

Ephesians 4:1-6

Message by Jeff MacLurg, November 23, 2025

### Your Prison and Your Calling (Ephesians 4:1)

*"As a prisoner for/in the Lord, I urge you, to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*

"I'm not a prisoner in a \_\_\_\_\_; I'm a prisoner ...

*And when you understand this?*

You keep giving yourself to the \_\_\_\_\_ your Lord ...

*What is your "calling"?*

The \_\_\_\_\_ you're in right now as a prisoner in Jesus.  
Cp. 1 Corinthians 7:20-22

You can \_\_\_\_\_ even in this prison because  
Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ your prison.

### Living a life worthy of your calling (Ephesians 4:2-6)

- *be completely humble:* You \_\_\_\_\_ it all.
- *be gentle:* You can't \_\_\_\_\_ to change.
- *be patient, bearing with one another in love:* Give God \_\_\_\_\_.
- *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

You: reach \_\_\_\_\_ the gap.

- *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

You can \_\_\_\_\_ over it all.

### Keeping to your Calling in Prison

-Talk ...

-Talk ...

-Take ...