

## April

“Look! The winter has passed, the winter rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come.”

Song Of Solomon 2:11-12

He IS risen! Hallelujah!

### Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join us Sunday, April 9 and Sunday April 23 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where we pray for requests from our church family.

The first Wednesday of every month is set aside for Fasting and Prayer for all those who feel led. This month Fasting and Prayer is on Wednesday, April 5.

### Men’s Breakfast

Saturday April 1 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship.

### Women’s Mini Retreat

Saturday April 1 from 9:00– 3:00. Join us for a day of creativity, inspiration, food and fellowship. Details are inside.

### Weekend Serving Trip to Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation

April 28-30. This is a great opportunity to serve. Contact Tim or Sue Diestler for details.

### Ongoing Bible Studies

Women’s study of Philippians. Meets Monday nights at 6 or Tuesday mornings at 9.

Men’s Study Wednesday mornings at 6.

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## Save the Date

- Roller Skating Night- Monday, April 17
- Baubles, Bangles and More -Saturday, May 6
- Oil Change- Saturday, May 13

## Opportunities

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

ЧИЛДРЕНС ПИБРАРИ



The children's library is being developed. If you watch you will see a mural being painted by Deb Schauland and a shelving unit being built by Onix Pagan-Abreu. We thank them along with Jeff Davis and Lisa Schodorf for the work they are putting into this project. A thank you to Thrivent, also, for the grant they have provided for this ministry.

We welcome donations of new or slightly used children's materials such as Christian dvd's, books, and other materials our children would enjoy. A box in the entry area is available to place these materials.

God bless our children and you for your support.



### Mission Opportunities

We are once again going to the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation April 28-30. We will be leaving Friday afternoon/early evening and returning Sunday late afternoon. We will be working on various projects on the reservation on Saturday. Cost is \$50 per person. Please contact Tim and Sue Diestler for more information. [diestlerts@aol.com](mailto:diestlerts@aol.com) or 851-3104.

The Oil Change is coming up!!! Mark your calendars for May 13th. We will need many hands to make this vital service happen. Please be in prayer about helping... we need people to change oil and serve food. We will also need donation of breakfast items such as muffins, fruit, egg bakes, orange juice etc... contact Tim and Sue Diestler or the office for more information. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.



### Women's Ongoing Study



Begin April with Chapter Two of this great letter.

We meet Mondays at 6 pm or Tuesdays at 9 am.  
All women are welcome. This study will continue until the end of May.

Grab your Bible and join us. You are NOT too late!

## fathering and the Man in the Mirror

Beginning Sunday, April 9 at 9:00 am  
in the Multipurpose Room  
All men are welcome.

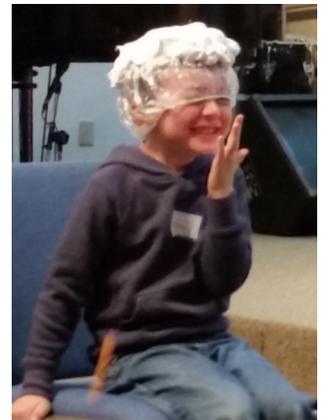
For information contact Marv Schauland  
or Ben Sierra.  
You may also call the church office for details.  
Come and bring a friend!

## Family Fun Night



We played, laughed, got messy and had a lot of fun.

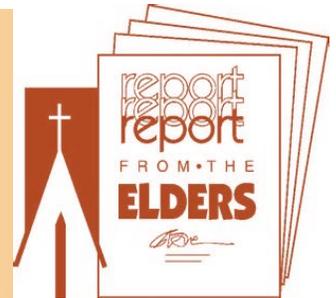
Let's do it again!



## Elders Report

At our annual meeting in January we as Elders introduced four areas that our church will be focused on. They are:

- Telling others about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at home, at work, and throughout our community.
- Worshiping God through inspiring times of ministry for our guests and church family.
- Doing life in groups (small groups, women's groups, men's groups, serving groups, etc.) that help people develop into fully functioning followers of Jesus.
- Creating opportunities for children and youth so they can connect with one another and with Jesus.



Over the past several months, the Elders have been working with the Ministry Leads to view our Sunday morning worship experience through the eyes of our visitors. As a team we have identified items that we feel are inviting to our visitors and those which may require change. We are in the process of prioritizing the changes and will begin implementing the highest priority items in the near future. Please be in prayer for the team as we seek to make our Sunday morning worship environment more inviting.

We recently approved a Sign Committee and re-established the Design & Decorating Committee. Both committees are up and running and we are excited to see the output of their efforts.

As Elders we continue to recognize the need to be in prayer for all the ministries of our church. Please join us in prayer for God's work in and through Appleton Community EFC.

Jim Ziehr



### Pastor Greg's Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-4:00

### Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday 1:30 pm-7:30 pm

Thursday and Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

# Youth and Children's Ministry

## Sprucing Up!

There's a tree in the lobby. Our Children's Library is taking shape. Soon we will be adding shelves and then the materials that have been donated. Thank you Deb Schauland for making this happen.



## Toddler Room Face Lift

Our wonderful volunteers worked hard Wednesday Night March 29 to give the toddler room a fresh look. Stop by and check it out! Thank you everyone.



## Awana Schedule

- April 5-Awards Practice Night (wear your uniform and be ready to practice, practice, practice!)  
LAST NIGHT FOR VERSES
- April 12-AWANA Awards Night

## AWANA

April is the last month for AWANA. It has been a great year with all our wonderful volunteers and clubbers. The AWANA Schedule is on the left for what's ahead in April.



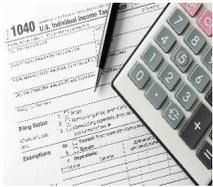
The congregation is invited to join us for a fun-filled night April 17th, 6:30pm at Skater's Edge. Join us for roller skating! It's Christian Music Night! The \$5 admission includes regular roller skates. A portion of each admission will go back to our AWANA club! AWANA clubbers can wear their uniform for a free popcorn or Slushie. Bring friends and get 1 free popcorn to share! Questions, contact Pam MacDonald 920-460-9571.

### Technology, Truth, Faith & Facts: Let's Get It All Straight!

After being gone for a couple days, I noticed the message light blinking on the phone ... and since at least 95% of my phone calls and messages come directly to my cell phone, I was somewhat surprised to have a message waiting for me. As I listened I had to “laugh out loud” at the irony in what was being said. The caller was a scam artist who was suggesting that I had a problem. For some people, the call could have caused an emotional heart attack, but fortunately I had been warned about the wide range of scams that are being used to take advantage of unsuspecting people who are targeted by their schemes to obtain personal info and money through what normally would appear to be something that needs our attention.



Supposedly this call was from the IRS and without identifying me in any specific way, they said there was a warrant out for my immediate arrest, and I needed to call them within three days to avoid being taken into custody for fraudulent activities involving my most recent tax return. Please understand that the IRS never makes any initial contacts by telephone and anything of this nature is done by sending letters through the US Postal system. According to the IRS website, they received reports of almost a million fraudulent contacts annually made by these scam artists and on the average each year those who are victimized pay out over \$26.5 million as a result of their trickery. Obviously, “technology” is being used as a tool for trouble, the “truth” is being twisted, the “facts” have been falsified, and in the end, many people’s “faith” in the system has been frustrated. Sometimes you begin to wonder what to believe, whom can you trust, and what can be done to fix the system?



Let's shift gears a bit ...and broaden our focus. This isn't simply a concern that involves our taxes and the IRS—it's something that affects our entire culture and there should be little doubt that cultural changes from technology have influenced the way we view and do almost everything, including the church and how we carry out our ministries. Allow me to clarify something before I continue ...my point is not anti-technology or against change. I believe very deeply that change is a normal and necessary part of life.



However, I want everyone to realize that because of the speed at which information comes into our homes and lives, it's become more essential than ever that we have an effective filtering system. We need one that enables us to sort out ideas and beliefs that could be harmful because they aren't true, accurate, beneficial, or



necessary. When we don't have a trustworthy way to filter the information we receive, it's more likely that frustration and confusion will set in and we'll become more vulnerable to scams—those similar to the IRS scam described above, but even more importantly, deceptive schemes involving false teaching about God's Word that can distort what we believe as well as what God desires for us and from us.

**What can we do to develop a good screening or filtering process?**

Here are three brief, but beneficial ideas to consider:

- (1) Take advantage of the Small Group, Bible study, and Discipleship opportunities being offered by our church. Most everyone is busy and time is a precious commodity, but recognize the value of studying together with others. This can guard against false teaching.
- (2) Rely on “reliable” resources. I'd be happy to help answer your questions about trustworthy resources.
- (3) Pray for wisdom, avoid being impulsive, and never be afraid or hesitant to ask questions. Look for others who have experience in the areas related to decisions you need to make.

With prayer for God's glory & praise for His grace,  
Pastor Greg

## Lonnie and Smith-Missionaries in Marseille France with EFCA ReachGlobal



Our ministry is Developing, Empowering and Releasing others to become godly leaders to grow and reproduce communities of believers.

As City Team Leader I am developing relationships with other leaders and ministries in Marseille, networking and partnering with them. Ministry opportunities include:

- street evangelism with the goal of starting discovery Bible studies and eventually new churches
- the opportunity to place college missionary interns in our local church ministries
- Networking with YWAM missionaries, helping to place them in various ministries around Marseille
- Partnering with a local church in Ohio, helping them to reach

an unreached people group of which there are 100,000 here in Marseille

- Ministry to the immigrant community of Marseille. General encouragement, help with paperwork, translation, transportation, groceries, prayer

As Marseille City Team leader I am first called to know the potential ministries here and then to recruit new missionaries or local people needed to reach more people for Christ. I am then called to coach these people in the goals that they set helping them to be healthy and growing to be able to achieve their goals. I am not only a coach but Debbie and I are also players and actively involved. In the local church Debbie has been developing the worship team and is in the process of releasing others to the task. She has been working with others to create a women's ministry. We both take part in discipling or coaching other men and women on their faith journey. We have been teaching several in the local church how to use a Discovery Bible Study method for reaching others with the Gospel. Lonnie is also an elder in the church and shares the preaching and worship-leading responsibilities as well as leading a Home Group. We enjoy using our gifts of hospitality to create an atmosphere conducive to gathering and sharing as a local body. We use those same gifts for evangelism, and recently used a Science and Faith video series to share the Gospel with non-believing friends in our home.

### **Prayer Requests for Lonnie and Debbie Smith - April 2017**

- Ongoing prayer for our 15 year old daughter, Olivia:
  - Homeschooling on-line in English (9th grade) after 10 years of French school
  - Friendships/ companionship
  - Relief/ rescue from anxiety
- That God would be the joy of our hearts
- For Fémi and Sarah (both believers -- he is from Kenya ; she is French from Martinique) as they meet with us for a marriage prep. course in preparation for their July wedding. From different parts of the globe and communicating with each other in another language (English) than each of their mother tongues. Pray they would grow in love for each other and for the Lord. They have asked Lonnie to perform their multi-cultural wedding ceremony.
- For Jacques, a neighbor of the Merlan Church who has been coming occasionally to our home group. His heart is failing as he waits for a heart transplant. Pray for his salvation.
- The demolition phase of the inside of the church house was completed in February (thanks to a team from Wisconsin!), and the reconstruction has begun on the church villa (next to the church) which is being renovated to become the future university student center. Pray all the work would be completed in a timely manner and for the funding necessary so that the center can open this Fall as scheduled.
- A team is scheduled to come the beginning of June to do the painting and finishing work on the villa renovation project. Pray the construction will be completed on schedule.
- Pray for Josué and Dorine, the couple who are coming to head up the ministry to university students (FEU – Foyer Evangélique Universitaire) in the Fall 2017. Pray for them as they prepare to move, and that the Lord would provide the finances necessary for them.

Pray for additional workers to come and join us here in Marseille.

Our Mission here at Appleton Community EFC is to lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ.

Growing together in Christ we value:

**Biblical Truth**

We depend on the Bible as our source of authority in what we believe, what we teach, and how we live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

**Worship**

We believe that we are created by God to worship Him. Therefore, we live in worshipful response to God's character and activity. (Psalm 86:11)

**Prayer**

We believe that daily prayer is essential in the life of a believer and as such we pray with expectancy knowing that God is actively involved in our world. (Colossians 4:2)

**Evangelism**

We believe in sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with honesty and humility. (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Fellowship**

We believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)

**Encouragement**

We believe we are responsible for caring for and encouraging one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



**We're on the Web!**  
[applefreechurch.org](http://applefreechurch.org)

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church  
2490 West Capitol Drive  
Appleton, WI 54914  
Phone  
920-735-9971

**Church Office Hours**

Closed Mondays  
Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm  
Wednesday 1:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Thursday and Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.”

- Virgil Kraft

