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Save the Date

- Saturday, September 9- Women's Pajama Party Brunch
- Wednesday, September 13- AWANA volunteer training
- Wednesday September 20- AWANA begins
- Saturday September 23-Oil Change 8:00-Noon

August

As summer winds down and we prepare for Fall take a little time to look over the news of what God is doing and the opportunities He may want you to pursue.

Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join us Sunday, August 6 and Sunday, August 20 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where we pray for our church needs. 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, August 2.

National Night Out

August 1. Join us in Lion's Park from 4:00-8:00 pm.

Mini Learning & Growing Camp

August 2, 3, & 4 for 3-6 year olds from 9:30-11:00 am. Come 1, 2 or all 3 days. Contact church office to register.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, August 5 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship.

All Church Summer Blast

Sunday, August 13 from 3-6 pm. Details on page 3.

Party In The Park

Saturday August 26 at Pierce Park 10:00-3:00 pm.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6 am. We meet at church for study and fellowship. All men are invited.

Women's Bible Study

THERE IS NO STUDY IN AUGUST

Join us for our Women's Fall Brunch Saturday, September 9 and learn about our upcoming opportunities for study and fellowship.

Updates and Opportunities

Men's Breakfast

We meet the first Saturday of each month at the Grand Chute Golden Corral. The doors open at 7:30 and we usually wrap up by 9 am. The cost is \$8.49 plus tip. Hope to see you there soon! Please contact Marv Schauland for more information.



Missions and Outreach

Our mission of the month for August is St. Joe's food pantry. Please bring non perishable food items and place them in the mission box near the restrooms. Summer is always a low donation time of the year for the pantries, so let's help them keep their shelves stocked. Thank you!!

Saturday, August 26

10am-3pm

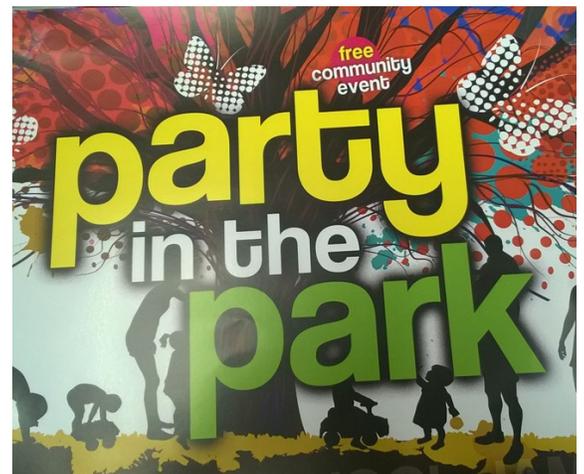
Pierce Park

This is an outreach by local churches in the Fox Valley to help the community by providing clothing, free haircuts, food, games and more to help those in need.

Attention hairstylists! Your skills are needed.

Please volunteer if you are able.

**Sign up to volunteer in the church lobby or online at:
Pathwayschurch.us**



Women's Bible Study

A new Bible Study series will begin Monday, September 11. We will be studying the I AM statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. This is a study written by Lysa TerKeurst titled *Finding I AM-How Jesus Fully Satisfies The Cry Of Your Heart*.

We meet Mondays at 6:00 pm and Tuesdays at 9:00 am. Both sessions study the same material. Cost is \$15.00.

Contact Mary for more information or to register 920-735-9971.

All women are welcome.
Come and bring a friend!

Discipleship

Praise God, the Discipleship Ministry Leadership Team (DMLT) has been formed. I am thankful for the willingness of the following people to accept this important responsibility as we move forward with developing a heart for discipleship at ACEFC. The members include: Chet Kamark, Sam Nash, Chris Matula, Mary Noggle, Andy Soto, Marv Schauland, Lisa Schodof, Stephanie Zaruba, Pastor Greg, and myself.

Our mission is to work together with everyone at ACEFC to follow the instructions given by Jesus in Matthew 4:19, "Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fishers of men." Our marching orders are given in God's Word. I am so pleased to have these people on the leadership team. When you see them thank them for their efforts because we have already come together and begun our work.

God Bless. Tom Deason

Opportunities– Continued



Pajama Brunch-Saturday September 9

Go bananas and come in your pajamas to our Women's Ministry yearly kick-off brunch!

It will be a great time to fellowship with other women from our church, enjoy yummy food and hear what God has to tell us about our insecurities through the experience of two amazing women in a short but wonderful devotional time.

You need to come to know who they are!

August 13! Mark your calendars! Summer Blast, invite your friends & neighbors. Fun, Food, Volleyball, games...To make this a success we need many volunteers. This is a great opportunity to volunteer as a family. See signup sheet in the church lobby for opportunities.

Join us Sunday August 13 from 3:00-6:00 pm



Missionary of the Month-Emily Dunham



I just finished a week at Surf Camp in Portugal. The Young Life camp is a weeklong and in English. This year I was Summer Staff coordinator and had the opportunity to serve with 5 University kids from Madrid, and 7 from the US on expeditions team. It was a difficult week logistically, but it was so sweet to see kids I had been discipling serve the campers. Each of the work team shared their life stories, and I was amazed, and humbled, that each of the Spanish kids talked about how crucial their experiences with Young Life have been in their faith. These kids recognize that they are still in process, as are we all :), so please pray that God will send someone along to mentor them and continue to disciple them. I do believe God will use these kids to bring more people to Him!

Besides the Summer Staff experience, there were 65 campers that got to hear about Jesus from Madrid, France and Portugal! Very few made decisions to follow Jesus, but they go home with their leaders, and whether they like it or not, discipleship has already begun!

I am currently back in Madrid, but tomorrow depart for Indianapolis. I have been offered a teaching job in Indianapolis, Indiana (where my brother and sister-in-law live). It is at a Catholic prep school, teaching both Spanish and ESL, and I have accepted the job. These big changes are very bittersweet for me, but after much prayer, wise counsel, and thought, I do believe God has opened doors for this change.

The kids I have been discipling have been "passed off" to Dawn Miller who works for Cru (Agape) here in Madrid. Dawn and I have been partnering over the last years, so the Young Life students that I work with know Dawn well. Dawn loves Jesus and engages college students with love and enthusiasm. She will continue to look after the spiritual growth of these college Young Life students. YL Madrid will post the position for a College Director, and I will be praying for these students and the future of this position.



I am SO grateful for your prayer and financial support over these years. Your support of my ministry here in Madrid has helped to spiritually impact the lives of many young adults living here in Madrid.

Emily



Check out the new Lil' Sprouts Room (infant room) Room 108. The old infant room is being used as a teaching room for the Toddler/Preschool children.

The Toddler/Pres children are learning the Bible Basics. K-5 are learning about Jesus' miracles with the Gospel Project. They have also been memorizing verses this summer and diving into their Bibles :)

We are so blessed with amazing volunteers that take time to pour into our kids! Exciting things are happening! If you would like to be part of Growing God's Way Children's and Youth Ministry, a few opportunities are available, contact Lisa.

Youth will meet August 16, 6-7:30. Regular classes will resume Sunday, Sept. 10. Currently the Youth are brainstorming on a name :) Can't wait to read the ideas!

Trusting Him,
 Lisa Schodorf
 Children's and Youth Ministry Director
 Appleton Community EFC



What's New At The Tree?

Featured Books:

The Case of Christ for Kids
 Lee Strobel

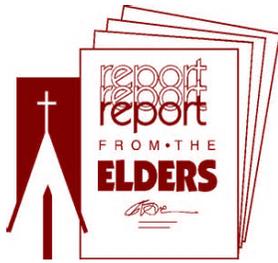
Candle Bible for Kids
 This is one of my favorites
 for younger kids!

What Happens When I Talk
 to God?
 Stormie Omartian

Sunday School will be starting September 10th! We are excited to dig into the Bible again with the pre-school and elementary kids. We are still determining which curriculum we will be using, but plan to do something different than Children's Church. The Morans will continue to teach the preschoolers and we (the Sierras) will teach the elementary students again. We are in need of some subs, so if you are interested in subbing, please contact us. Bring your children at 9 am on Sunday mornings to join us for some fun Bible exploring.

Ben and Alisa Sierra

Elders Report



Discipleship Ministry-Tom Deason has assembled 10 (!) people with diverse talents to work with him on the Discipleship Ministry team. They will take a comprehensive look at our current efforts and seek to develop new opportunities for growth for everyone (young to older) within our congregation.

Congregational Care-Nancy DeDecker is stepping down from her leadership role but will continue to serve as a member of the team. She has coordinated the efforts of Congregational Care for over six years and has served as our church nurse for 15.

Elder Jim Ziehr is assessing the ministry's design and working to revise the leadership role.

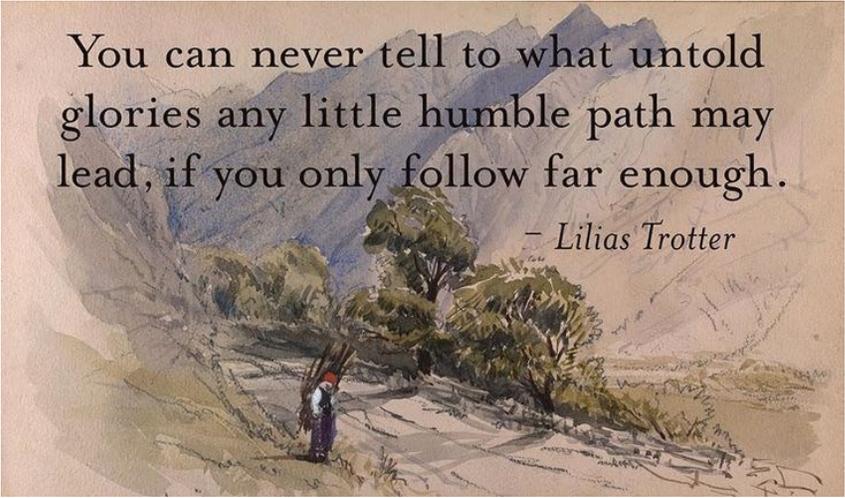
New-Members-Pastor Greg has completed several new membership classes, and will be doing at least one more class in the near future (to be scheduled). The Elders have interviewed most of these individuals. WE celebrate those who are becoming committed member of our congregation.

Space Needs & Adjustments-The Elder board is looking at our room use and the need for appropriate classroom and ministry space. We love to hear the laughter and "commotion" of so many little ones! Redesigning the way we utilize our current space and studying future needs is underway as we try to determine what is best. One example is the exchange of nursery space for infants so as to better serve the toddlers in our program. We will continue to adapt to best utilize our space.

Men's Ministry-To all the men of our church, we appreciate your attendance and commitment to involve your families in our ministries. Let us know how we may better equip you as husbands and fathers. At a recent Wednesday morning study, we learned how God has called us uniquely to take responsibility for our families, and we desire obedience to God's commands in this area. We are supposed to model Jesus who served in his ministry as prophet, priest and King. Like a prophet, we are to be spiritual leaders and messengers, delivering the Word of God to our family. As priests, like Jesus, we are to mediate on behalf of our family in prayer with God. As kings we are to lead, protect and provide for our wives and children, ministering to their hearts and growing their faith. Ask God to help you in your role, and He will surely provide.

We give thanks to God for each of you who do so much for Appleton Community. We love you and feel your love as we all live freed by Jesus' atoning sacrifice, new and alive in Christ. Enjoy the remainder of our beautiful summer days and pray for God's plans for our church this fall!

Rob Fox

A watercolor illustration of a person walking a path through a valley towards mountains. The person is small and dark, wearing a hat and carrying a pack. The path is light-colored and winds through green hills and trees. In the background, there are blue and grey mountains under a pale sky. The overall style is soft and painterly.

You can never tell to what untold
glories any little humble path may
lead, if you only follow far enough.

— Lilius Trotter

Significant Solutions from Solomon

This article is a summary of the sermon from July 30—repeating or reviewing a specific sermon isn't something I've typically done in a newsletter, but there were some truths in this study that deserve to be repeated. My prayer is that this will be an encouragement in a variety of ways to everyone who reads it. If any of us had been Solomon, it would have been difficult to write what he recorded about himself. He admitted his weaknesses and gave details about his sinful actions—but under the influence of God's Spirit, it appears that he wrote to warn us about living life with the wrong perspective. We can learn from his mistakes!

Solomon followed his dad (King David) as the third King of Israel. He was abundantly blessed by God—with extraordinary wisdom and wealth! But he was also given an **ASSIGNMENT** by his earthly father (King David) that was also from his Heavenly Father. {1 Kings 2:1—9} **“Follow the instructions and commands of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, so you can be successful in all that you do and wherever you turn.”**

How did he do? We find Solomon's ACCOUNT (from God) in 1 Kings 11:1—13. Here is a summary of what this says: “Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel ... So the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.”

It is very likely that Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes as an AUTOBIOGRAPHY and we could select some of his words from 1:12—18 to get a clear picture of his own description about his life: “I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. *It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.* ... And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind. Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge *results in increasing pain.*

In Ecclesiastes 2, we find various details about Solomon's ADVENTURES. In 2:1—11 he tells how he tried “going for all the gusto he could get.” Note this portion of the text: “I said to myself, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.’ And behold, it too was futility. ... ‘What does it accomplish?’ ... All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, ... Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

In 2:12—17, he described how he “focused on folly & foolishness.” Here is a sample of his explanation: “So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly; for what *will* the man *do* who will come after the king *except* what has already been done? And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. ... So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.”

In 2:18—23, Solomon pointed out his displeasure with the results of his ADVENTURES by saying he wanted to “forsake the fruit of his labors because he was feeling so much frustration.” Here are more selected portions of the biblical text: “Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity. Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun. For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun? Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.”

At this point we should draw a logical conclusion about what Solomon was trying to express—this would be a lesson for each of us to learn: **Most people seek to find fulfillment in things that actually lead to futility!**

The next thing Solomon has to teach us is recorded in Ecclesiastes 3. This is a well-known portion of scripture where we read about God's faithfulness in establishing times and seasons for every purpose under heaven. I call this Solomon's APPRAISAL of the situation. The theme of this section is found in 3:12-14 where it says: “12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; 13 moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.”

Here is another life lesson for us to learn and apply: **The fear of the Lord provides us with THE path toward fulfillment because the fear of the Lord guards against futility and gives us discernment.**

The final portion of this that we get directly from Solomon is his ADVICE for us to follow. Please notice the box with four quotes from Ecclesiastes.

Repeatedly throughout Ecclesiastes we find the terms “futility,” “vanity,” and “striving (chasing) after the wind.” Solomon’s point in expressing these ideas is that when we pursue any priorities that don’t follow God’s desires for us, we will end up EMPTY. We might obtain some limited satisfaction, but it won’t last long. The ultimate outcome will include despair, depression, discouragement, defeat, or discontentment.

Please notice what Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 12:13—14. The FEAR OF THE LORD involves (includes) RESPECT for God’s POSITION, REVERENCE for God’s PRESENCE, and RELYING 100% on God’s PROVISION!

Before we close, there is one more thing that needs to be addressed. In the final portion of this sermon on Sunday, we asked some very personal questions that relate to the applications from what Solomon taught us.

- 1) Do my actions and attitudes show that I have respect & reverence for God and that I rely on Him as I should?
- 2) Do I have any personal areas of sin in my life that cause problems for me or for those around me?

Digging a little deeper into this, are there any specific areas of my life that need attention?

—1—Do I sin with my MIND?

- Inappropriate ideas about myself or others
- Hatred, jealousy, or uncontrolled anger
- Stubborn about obedience & submission to God
- Lusts or evil desires (sensual, sexual, selfishness)
- Arrogance or pride
- Thoughts controlled by society & not by Spirit

—2—Do I sin with my MOUTH?

- Lying, deceptive, or false statements
- Manipulative statements or flattery
- Vulgar, obscene, or vain language
- Gossip or slander (saying unkind or unnecessary things about others—either true or false)
- Too much talk & not enough listening

—3—Do I sin with my MONEY or MATERIALS?

- Poor spending habits that waste \$\$\$\$
- Hoarding or becoming materialistic
- Worshipping money or things more than God
- Selfishness & refusing to help to those in need
- Failing to honor the Lord thru giving \$\$\$\$ for church or missionary ministries

With prayer for God’s glory & praise for His grace, and excitement about what the Lord is doing at ACEFC,

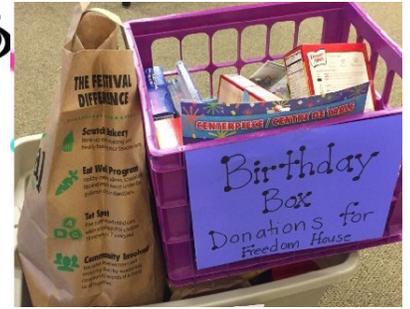
Pastor Greg

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 24 There is nothing better for a man *than* to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. 25 For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him? 26 For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God’s sight. This too is vanity (futility) and striving after wind.

3:14 I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.

Ecclesiastes 5:7 For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness (futility). Rather, fear God!

12:13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.



Happy Birthday Party

A HUGE thank you to Everyone who pitched in to help run games, grill food & donate items and time to help make this a stellar event!!!



Tons of fun & fellowship was shared by all with a cook out, cupcake decorating, pin the emblem on Sparky, jumpy house, Bingo, musical chairs, birthday card making, sidewalk chalk, hoola hoopin', Drip, Drip Drop & birthday box donations to the Freedom House Food Pantry.



God Bless and looking forward to more sharing of life together as we grow in Christ at ACEFC!

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church
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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

