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Save the Date

- December 24-
 Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Service
 4:30 pm
- AWANA Grand Prix:
 Join us on Saturday,
 January 20
- Sunshine Boxes: Join
 us Saturday January
 27 for a Women's
 Ministry family event

Welcome December

As we focus on preparation for Christmas and the celebration of our Savior's birth, we have many opportunities to gather as a community. Here is what is happening this month.

Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join us Sunday, December 4 and Sunday, December 17 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where we pray for our church and any needs.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday January 6 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship

Christmas Program

Join us Sunday, December 17 for our Children and Youth Christmas Program during our regular Worship at 10:00 am.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pause during the holiday rush and come for a time of worship and celebration 4:30 pm Sunday, December 24.

New Year's Eve Communion Service

What better way begin the year than around the Lord's Table. We invite you come and join us for this special time Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 am.

Men's Retreat

January 26-28 at Camp Lake Lundgren. Plan to join with other men for fun, fellowship and teaching. It is a great time away for renewal and a perfect way to start your year. Cost is \$94.00. Contact Marv Schauland for details.

Awana

Wednesdays from 6-7:30. All children are welcome.

126

That's how many boxes we sent to Operation Christmas Child!

Thank you everyone. You are a blessing.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study is on a break until January 8th when we will begin a study by James MacDonald called "Have the Funeral: God's Plan For Your Past." it is a study on forgiveness.

We meet Monday nights from 6-7 pm and Tuesday mornings from 9-10 am. Cost is \$15.00.

Contact Mary Noggle for details; 920-735-9971.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 6 at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. We will begin at 7:30 am and be done around 9:00 am. Contact Marv Schauland for more information. Watch the website for updates throughout the month as they become available.



Mission of the Month

New Bath Towels
for Harbor House

Place them in the
Donation Box

Thank you for your generous
giving.

Holiday Services

Christmas Eve Service



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Candlelight Service

4:30 pm Sunday December 24

Everyone is encouraged to come for this special time of worship as we take a break from the hectic pace of getting ready for Christmas by pausing to honor our Lord & Savior, Emmanuel!

Invite family, friends, neighbors, & co-workers.

All things New.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation:
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

Join Us Sunday, December 31, 2017

Worship & Communion

10:00 am

There will be children's programs during the worship service as usual.

2018 No Regrets Men's Conference
Men, the No Regrets Conference is on February 3rd, 2018 at Christ the Rock Community Church in Menasha.

This annual simulcast provides great speakers as well as breakout sessions on many men's topics. Go to: www.noregretsconference.org/event for more information.

If you have any questions contact Tom Deason at 920-257-6305.

Church Office Closed

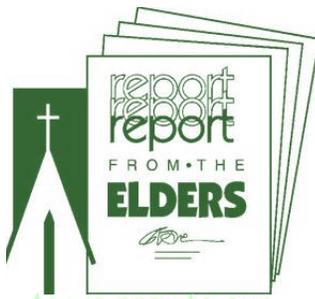
Friday December 22 and Tuesday
December 26 for Christmas
Weekend.

Have a joyous and blessed
Christmas.

Regular Church Office Hours

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

Elders Report



*As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 1:3*

Our November 7th meeting consisted of the elder nominating committee reporting Tim Diestler has accepted the nomination to the office of elder along with Rob Fox for a second term. These nominations will be voted on at our annual meeting. As Gaylen completes his term as elder we want to thank him for his years of service on the board. His contribution as secretary and member have been invaluable. His experience has brought much to be thankful for as a leader at ACEFC. Thank him the next time you see him. Gaylen Olson has been updating our membership role by sending letters to the members we have not seen attending our fellowship for some time. The elders feel it's important to keep our list current as well as contacting those who may have moved from ACEFC without notifying the office. On November 10th your Elders met for a retreat at church. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Senior Pastor and the Elder board which will enhance our mission/focus area achievement. The board has agreed to follow a policies approach to defining the roles and responsibilities similar to the approach outlined by Aubrey Malphurs in his book entitled, "Leading Leaders".

The board has been going through Malphurs' book covering such subjects as board leadership, board accountability, being an effective board, policies governance, board meetings, and implementing board policies. He is recognized as an expert on leadership issues.

Our approach is to view the Duties of the Pastor in the ACEFC bylaws and determine the policies governing his role. The same approach is being used with the Elders Responsibilities and to determine the policies governing the board's role. Malphurs offers excellent models for us to follow and use.

We determined there should be no change in the agreed upon areas of focus, and to continue development and implementation of strategies to advance these four areas to be faithful to our mission—"To lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ."

As a reminder at ACEFC, we are focused on:

Telling others about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at home, at work, and throughout our community.

Worshipping 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.

We concluded our retreat with prayer.

Our November 21st meeting consisted of the budget proposal given by the finance ministry team members Gary Donaldson and Roberta Selle. This process has begun and details will be communicated in December.

Discussion and action was taken to adopt the Financial Management Policy and Procedure Handbook. (To be included in our Policy Handbook.)

Discussion and action was taken to adopt the Policy Governing the Senior Pastor—The Senior Pastor's Function. (To be included in our Policy Handbook.)

In closing the elders offered prayers for our congregation including those with serious health and other issues.

'Growing Together in Christ'

Tom Deason

Everyone has been working hard on the Christmas Program. We look forward to sharing it on December 17.

Sunday School

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL December 24 and January 1.

K-5 will resume Sunday School on January 7.

The Youth will be at the Districts Conference January 5-7. We have 9 youth attending this year!

Youth Sunday School will resume on Jan. 14.



FAMILY HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

Check it out! The Family Challenge booklet will be on the Growing God's Way Ministry Check in Cart, it starts Dec. 1!

The AWANA kids from Puggles to T & Ts wrote a thank you leaf. It was a great reminder of all our blessings, including these kids!

Thank you to Yaime and Terri who worked on making this cool tree a success.



Awana Schedule

- December 6— Regular Club
Get your Grand Prix car
- December 13- Regular Club
- December 20-Christmas
Party Night (wear something Christmassy or dress as a nativity character)
- December 27-No Club

Merry Christmas

AWANA

In November the AWANA kids sported crazy hair, packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child, had a canned food drive and wound it all up with a great Thanksgiving Tree.

December will have lots of fun activities and many opportunities to share what they are learning, even parents get a chance to share this month!

Check out the AWANA Schedule for what's ahead in December.

Our Purpose in Children's and Youth Ministries

READY-Clear Your Mind Of Distractions

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

SET-Set Your Eyes On Him

Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Proverbs 4:25

GO-Grow In Your Relationship

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

If we don't teach our CHILDREN to follow JESUS the world will teach them not to!



Making the Most of Our Christmas Celebrations



Christmas is approaching quickly—it almost always does for everyone above 17 years old and for the younger crowd, it probably seems like it comes slowly and ends too soon. Regardless of our perspective, I'd like to provide some results of the reading and reflecting I've been doing about this special time of year. I can't/won't claim to be an expert, but here are some suggestions (adapted from the sources where I found them) about making the most of our Christmas cheer. (One article was wonderful, but it was also a bit conflicting because it included a long list of ideas about making Christmas "simple." After about 10—12 of the items on the list, I couldn't comprehend how "simple" Christmas could be if someone tried to do more than two or three of the suggestions. So ... here is a summary of several articles I read about "how to make Christmas as meaningful and special as possible." Sixteen items given in no specific order because trying to prioritize them seemed to be more work than it was worth. Look them over and decide for yourself what might be beneficial.

{1} Find some fun and enjoyable ways to remind yourself thru—out each day about the "real" reason for the season!

{2} Feed your mind with biblical truths and songs that emphasize the blessing of Christ's birth.

{3} Rethink your habits, routines, and traditions and honestly ask yourself what's most important and beneficial.

{4} Avoid debt. Spending too much is fun until the bills come—then it becomes stressful.

{5} Spend 5—10 minutes every day in quiet reflection. God's Word says: "Be still and know that I am God!" Silence can be golden when our thoughts are focused on the Lord.

{6} Make an attempt to memorize Scripture. Start with something meaningful and relatively easy, but fill your mind with God's truth!

{7} Organize your priorities in a way that leaves time for rest and for reaching

out to others, especially those whom you love most. Too often those who are closest to us become a bit ignored during busy times.

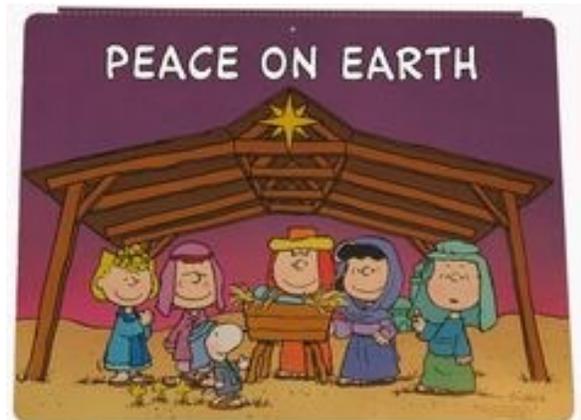
{8} Remember that "Courtesy Counts!" Being courteous can be difficult during busy and intense moments.

{9} Know when to say, "No." Be discerning about doing things that could take away from the beauty of the Christmas message.

{10} Be gracious and grateful.

{11} Try to be creative enough to keep the Christmas season fresh and focused. Repetition can be helpful, but same old, same old can be boring and meaningless!

{12} Find a specific and personal way to cut the amount of stress and tension that builds up. Minimize the pressure by doing something that helps you relax. Exercise can relieve stress and also keep you from gaining holiday pounds.



Some Thoughts From Pastor Greg-continued

- {13} Keep an eye on Philippians 4:4. “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!” Then take a look at Philippians 4:6—7 “Don’t be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”
- {14} Stop and pray for each person who sends you a Christmas card or greeting.
- {15} Reach out to others and especially look for ways to make amends with anyone who has hurt you in some way or another.
- {16} Sing Christmas carols and play background music that spreads the Christmas message of real joy!

With prayer for God’s glory and praise for His grace,
Pastor Greg



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

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