

## February Already!

It seems as though it was just New Year's Day! Our days are full but please consider making time for these wonderful opportunities to gather, to study and to serve.

### Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join us Sunday, February 12 and Sunday, February 26 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where we pray for our church and any 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 February 1.

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship.

### Ongoing Bible Studies

Women's study of 2 Timothy Meets Monday nights at 6 pm or Tuesday mornings at 9 am.

Men's study Wednesday mornings at 6 am.

### Awana

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

### Youth

We gather every Sunday from 9-9:45 for Bible Class and every together Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 pm for fun, fellowship and some good conversation.

### Family Fun Night

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 3! We will be having a Family Fun Night 6:30-8:00 pm. **Minute To Win It Games!** Watch for more information.

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## Save the Date

- Family Fun Night–  
Friday, March 3  
6:30-8:00 pm



**MINISTRY TEAMS FOCUS  
IN FEBRUARY**

**CHECK IT OUT ON THE  
BULLETIN BOARD**

**GET TO KNOW OUR  
TEAMS!**

**Women's Bible Study**

It's not too late to join us in the study of 2 Timothy We meet Monday nights from 6-8:30 pm or Tuesday mornings from 9-10:30 am. Cost is \$15.00.

Contact Mary Noggle for details-920-734-0832.

**Men's Bible Study**

Wednesday mornings from 6:00-7:30 a.m. Contact Ben Sierra or Marv Schauland for details.

Please consider joining us for a time of fellowship, reflection and growth.

(Coffee and donuts too)!

**Small Groups**

Why Should I be in a Small Group?

1. Small groups are the perfect place to understand and practice authentic relationships to feel a part of God's family.
2. Small groups are the perfect place to practice our call to be disciplined and make disciples.
3. Small groups are the perfect place for Spiritual growth and to make His truth come to life in our lives.
4. Small groups are the perfect place to understand the Bible and heartfelt prayer and put it into action.
5. Small groups are the perfect place to be in study of His Word and to be in prayer. We do this individually and we are also to do it in community.

**Are You in a Small Group?**

**Men's Breakfast**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 4th Men's Breakfast. Start your morning and your year off right with a great time of food, conversation, and inspiration from the Word. If you are new to ACEFC or haven't come in a while, you are always welcome! We meet at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute at 7:30 the 1st Saturday of each month, unless otherwise directed. We are always looking for men to share a testimony or devotional. This is a wonderful opportunity for men to "sharpen the saw" with other men. Feel free to bring other men with you as this is open to all men.

A grant of \$250 has been received from Thrivent Financial to develop a children's library at ACEFC. This money is only a start however, of what we need for this important ministry. Lisa Schodorf and Tom Deason are in the discussion stage of creating a library that will benefit our children in their studies as well as for their enjoyment. For questions and ideas contact either Lisa or Tom.



**Sunday Morning Fellowship**

If you like to bake and are willing to share with others, we encourage you to sign up for one of the upcoming Sunday mornings. See the sign up sheet on the table near the doors. Thank you so much. Your ministry will be appreciated!



AWANA  
Grand Prix

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>  
5 pm Pizza Dinner, 6 pm Race  
All are welcome!



**Mark your calendars for Friday, March 3!**

6:30-8:00 pm

We will be having a Family Fun Night

**Minute To Win It Games!**

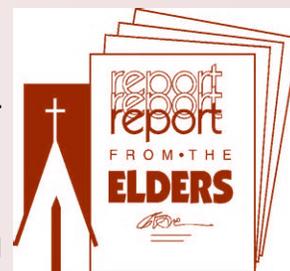
Watch for more information.



## Elders' Report-Thoughts on a new mission statement

### To lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ

I want to take this month's Elders' report to reflect on the importance to our church of developing a biblical mission statement and using it to sharpen the focus of our efforts. When people are living out their faith, churches like ours will constantly experience change. This makes it essential for us to provide a framework that allows all of us to know more specifically what we're supposed to be doing. There will be times when God's people who attend will come and go, and leadership will change. But through all this, we need to ask if we are clear in our mission and if our ministry efforts are focused on that goal. Thus, during this past year, the Elders have taken time to pray and consider these critical questions— "What are we supposed to be doing?" Where are we going?



Our mission statement should help to provide this framework. Our members and attenders have a right to expect us to help point to where we should be heading, and our mission statement guides us as we focus our efforts. It also gives us a gauge to measure the success of ministry and our efforts against the fulfillment of our mission. I believe once everyone understands and embraces our mission, it will energize our congregation, and make our ministry more effective. It allows us to shape strategy and provides a yardstick to measure the outcome of the investment of our time and God's resources. As each of us participates and pitches in, God will help us grow both spiritually and numerically.

So, what should be included in our mission statement? First, our mission statement is not the purpose of our church. Our purpose as a church is to glorify God. Our mission is to focus on people. If we look at John 3:17, God's mission was "...to save the world through Him" (Jesus). God is missional, reaching out to us, and He has instructed us to do the same on His behalf. Thus, our mission, as a church, is made clear to us in His Word. One well-known example is in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore, go and make Disciples of all nations..."

Throughout the course of most of our meetings last year, the Elders arrived at our new mission statement. "To lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ."

Going forward, we have a clear focus for each of us to reflect on as we contribute our energy and gifts to fulfilling God's commission both individually and corporately at Appleton Community EFC. Our mission statement is brief enough that everyone can easily recall "what we are supposed to be doing."

The word 'lead' was used to better communicate that this is an imperative—God commands us to share and tell others about Christ. It, by definition, mandates that we are a church focused on evangelism, which is one of our six core values. Equipping one another to be able to share our faith becomes a focal point we have chosen in the coming year.

"Lead" also exhorts us to become accountable to one another as faithful followers of Christ. Wouldn't it be exciting if more and more of our congregation begins developing spiritual disciplines that allow us all to grow in our relationship with Him?

"All people" emphasizes the idea that we should extend our efforts and invest our resources both locally, and globally through personal opportunities as well as the missionaries we support. "Growing relationship" is intended to express how our relationship with the Lord should become stronger throughout our entire lives. We feel our personal love for the Savior when we use the term "with Christ." Paul writes in Colossians 2:9 "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ."

The entire process of developing this new mission statement is the result of a humble and worshipful attempt by the Elders to help our church to grow in its effectiveness, to gather a harvest, and to change and enrich the lives of our entire congregation and any one else who enters our doors. Our purpose is to glorify and worship God; our mission is to reach all people, on His behalf as we seek "to lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ."

May God Bless our efforts through our faithfulness,

Rob Fox

## Children's Ministry

### Awana Schedule

- February 1-Super Hero Night (Come dressed up as a super hero)
- February 8-Grand Prix Dinner & Race
- February 15-Valentine Night (wear something red/pink or with hearts)
- February 22-Movie Night (Wear your PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal; Help for the Homeless Drive)
- March 1-Double Doozy Night (double the points & double the fun-you could even dress as twins; Help for the Homeless Drive)

### Kingdom Kids

In February we are continuing to look at the life of Moses and how he was faithful to God. Jesus was also faithful to God. The verse for this month is "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory." Hebrews 3:5-6

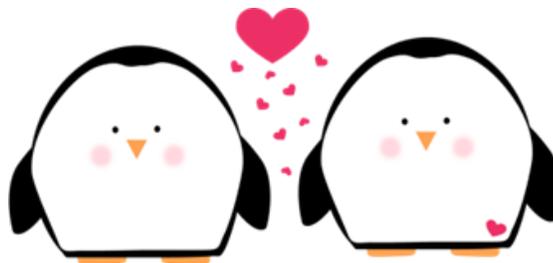
Join us Sunday mornings as we grow together with Christ!

### AWANA

Thanks! A special AWANA thank you to our Mr. Josh, Mr. Liam, and Pastor Greg for taking a Pie-in-the-Face for our hardworking clubbers. The clubbers really enjoyed this event. If you missed it, check out the video on our Facebook page. Also a thank you to all of our dedicated leaders who serve each week and the many who were willing to take a pie-in-the-face. Our club wouldn't be the same without ALL of you! Thanks for serving!

AWANA Store: Our final Incentive of the year is our AWANA store. We are looking for donations of small prizes such as small toys, school supplies, snacks/treats, etc. The dollar store is a great place to find these items! Donated prizes can be brought to church and placed in the AWANA closet labeled for AWANA store.

Grand Prix: Join us for DINNER and the big race! We will be serving pizza at 5:00 and the race will begin at 6. The congregation is invited to join us for this special night. If you would like to provide a side or a dessert, please contact Pam MacDonald at (920) 460-9571 or [pammysue728@yahoo.com](mailto:pammysue728@yahoo.com).



**“Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from Him. “Psalm 127:3**

### Remembering 2016 in Review & Focusing Attention on 2017 for Appleton Community EFC

Psalms 118:24 expresses "This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it." As a church family, we can repeat after the psalmist and say, "This has been year the Lord has given us, so we should rejoice and be grateful for His rich grace and many blessings!" There are three basic themes that I'd like to capture in my annual report.

#### HIGH FIVES OF GRATITUDE

Many thanks go out to people throughout our church family and much praise need to be given to God Almighty. He is first and deserves more appreciation than we often show. Next among those I want to thank is Donna, my wonderful wife. She deserves both my note of indebtedness, but also the congregation's. Her job is too often one that can become unnoticed. Without her support and encouragement, my task and role as pastor could never be done.

Our elders, Lynn Burnett, Rob Fox, Ted Parish, Gaylen Olson, Dean Pankow, and Jim Ziehr have all devoted countless hours to the ministry at Appleton Community EFC. They all receive a "high five" for their leadership and willingness to serve they way they do.

Mary Noggle has done a wonderful job as our office secretary and I am especially grateful that she understands ministry so well from growing up in a missionary pastor's home. Also Nancy Anderson filled in for Mary several times and she is entitled to our gratitude!

Our Children's Ministry Director Lisa Schodorf has made a masterful effort in getting acquainted with our church after coming on board in August. Her experience and expertise are great assets as she has helped us restructure and revive some of our youth and children's ministries.

Ken and Nicole Koszewa have stepped into the leadership role of our worship and music ministry and their talents and abilities shine both musically and in the administrative responsibilities. Thanks be to God for them and to them for their labors!

Taking over as our Finance Secretary at the beginning of 2016, Roberta Selle has performed her role with great faithfulness and we should recognize how blessed we are to have someone with her abilities and background doing this work of budgeting and keeping track of all our church finances.

All our Ministry Team Leaders have continued to serve faithfully. I cannot explain how much I appreciate the hard work everyone does. Thank you to one and all!



#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

This year was one marked by several changes that took place. I already mentioned that we hired Lisa Schodorf, Ken and Nicole Koszewa, and Roberta Selle. As noted above, every one of these staff members are well-qualified and are a blessing to our church ministry. There is no question that the contributions of every one of them have been a highlight for Appleton Community EFC!

Another area of encouragement from this past year has been the growth and impact of our AWANA program. The individual AWANA leaders have all been faithful to the Lord's call as they have created a fun atmosphere for the young people, that also provides an excellent opportunity to reach out to our own children from our church as well as to the children whose families do not attend here on Sundays. Michelle and Ross Kaufman continue to serve in an effective way as our AWANA Commanders and they have been assisted by Pam and Jesse MacDonald.

A resulting "highlight" from a combination of the AWANA ministry and having Lisa as our Children's and Youth Ministry Director is our Middle and High School Youth Group. Matt Diestler, Ted Parish, and Stephanie Ross (along with a few other volunteers) have been supporting this effort with their time, teaching talents, and creativity. It is an encouragement to see them every other Wednesday evening and each Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour.

Finally, one of the most significant highlights of 2016 has been the tireless effort of the Elder Board in their in-depth study and evaluation of our "mission, values, and focus" for the on-going ministry effectiveness at Appleton Community EFC. Rather than repeating what's been said many times already about this task, let me use this as a transition into the final section of my annual report.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS as we trust the Lord to enable us to  
LEAD ALL PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH  
CHRIST!

God is at work in some very special ways within our church family. His Word clearly instructs us to set our sights on Him, to store up eternal treasures through faithful and obedient service, and to seek His glory above everything else!

Our values (as defined by the Bible and determined by the Elders' study together) are:

\* **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)

As a church family our "Focus" or emphasis should be:

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.

With prayer for God's glory & 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**

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**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