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### Save the Date

- AWANA Grand Prix-  
Saturday, January 20
- Sunshine Boxes-  
Saturday, January 27
- Men's Retreat-  
January 26-28

## Happy New Year

As I am writing it certainly feels like January right now. As we move into this new year consider participating in some of these opportunities for prayer, study and fellowship.

### Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join them Sunday, January 7 and Sunday, January 21 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for our church needs.

The first Wednesday of the month is a day set aside for all church fasting and prayer. This month it is Wednesday, January 3.

### Women's Bible Study

This will begin Monday, January 8 at 6:00 pm and Tuesday, January 9 at 9:00 am. Contact Mary Noggle for details: 920-735-9971

### Men's Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 6:00 am.

### All Family Event

Sunshine boxes Saturday, January 27. Details on page 3.

### All Church Annual Meeting

Sunday January 21 right after the worship service.

### Men's Retreat

Friday, January 26-Sunday, January 28.

### Awana

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

### Youth Group

Wednesday, January 11 and Wednesday, January 25 at 6:00 pm.

Youth goes to Districts January 5-7. Please pray for this time that they are strengthened and encouraged in their faith and in their relationships with one another.



We have a new monthly feature in our newsletter. It will be a special Discipleship section to help us all grow together in Christ!

#### Discipleship Notes

A recent reading of Paul's writing of the book of Romans provided me an excellent review of the gospel of grace. These foundational terms of our Christian faith are often discussed in a discipleship relationship. I invite you to read the early chapters (1-5) of Romans to review the meanings of these critical terms.

Salvation, Justification by faith, Sanctification, Righteousness, His blood, Redemption and Propitiation.

**\*\*Bonus question\*\*** If you feel really energetic answer this. In Romans 5: 1-11 you'll find seven spiritual blessings of our lasting justification we cannot lose. What are they?

(The answer to the bonus question will be in next month's newsletter).

If you cannot wait until February, email your answer to the bonus question to me @ [thdeason@yahoo.com](mailto:thdeason@yahoo.com). I'll respond to your answers.

### Women's Bible Study

January 8 we will begin "Have The Funeral: God's Plan for Your Past" by James MacDonald. This is a six week study on forgiveness.

We meet Monday nights from 6-7 and Tuesday mornings from 9-10.

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

## MISSION UPDATE

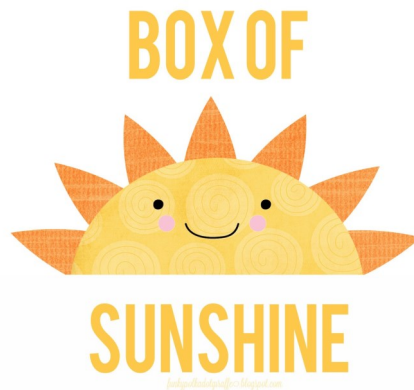
We have 12 people going to Texas February 24-March 3 to help with Harvey Relief. Please pray that our hearts are prepared and the team members and their families remain healthy. The team members are: Marshall Legg, Rob and Barb Fox, Larry Bangert, Chris Matula, Nancy Dedecker, Amy Ledin, Marv Schauland, Jim and Colleen Ziehr, and Tim and Sue Diestler.

Houston Relief also is in need of **Lowes, and Home Depot Gift cards**. If you are willing to donate a gift card, they can be placed in the offering box. Please write the amount on it. Thank you!!

Mission box for the month of January is in need of baby wipes for Mother and Unborn Baby Care. Please place in the box near the water fountain.

Looking ahead to April...We will be working on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in northern Wisconsin on the weekend of April 27-29. More details coming.

## An Event for the whole family!



We will be putting together Sunshine Boxes on Saturday January 27 here at church, 10-Noon  
These are boxes to send a little “sunshine” to someone who may need a lift.



Boxes to decorate and yellow items will be available at church plus you may shop for yellow items on your own. Please sign up in the church lobby and indicate how many boxes you would like to pack.

Here's a sample to get your imagination going

Join us and spread a little sunshine this January



## Sunday January 21 Immediately following the church

Join us for the annual congregational meeting. Members and attendees are welcome. There will be voting for a new Elder, a financial report and an update on the state of the church.

Lunch will be served prior to the meeting.

### A Tribute to Len Anderson

Len Anderson has been a leader at our church since the very beginning of our history—he was instrumental in the founding of the church during the mid—1980's. Here is the article (edited with some additional information) that was published in the Post Crescent Newspaper.



Township of Dupont, Waupaca County - Leonard G. Anderson, age 82, Marion, (formally of Appleton) passed into the loving arms of Jesus, peacefully at home, on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017.

He was born in LaCrosse, WI on September 29, 1935 to the late Irene (Pataska) and George Anderson. After High School, Len served in the United States Army in Germany where he met and married the love of his life, Elizabeth Ambron, on November 17, 1956. He was a devoted and loving husband, dad, grandpa, great-grandpa, brother and uncle.

He always put the Lord first and was a wonderful example to the entire Anderson family. He was a quiet servant and gentle man who will be greatly missed. After serving in the Army, Len attended UW Lacrosse and then had a lifetime career working for the Social Security Administration in Milwaukee, Chicago and Appleton, WI, until his retirement. Len and Lisa then moved to Marion, WI to be closer to family. Len loved the great outdoors where he liked to fish, hunt and work in his flower gardens. After his Lord Jesus Christ, the most important thing to Len was his family. He loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Both he and Lisa loved to show hospitality by having company over for a meal and fellowship. He was known as Grandpa Len to many friends. Len served on the building committee and as Elder for The Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church. He was also on the board for Sonshine Ministries, (now Servant Care International), and served on the board of St Joseph's Food Pantry. He also helped to start the Village Evangelical Free Church in Barrington, IL when they lived in the Chicago area.

Len is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, his two daughters, Beth (Jeff) Mielke, Debbie (Ron) Bedway and son, David (Marylu) Anderson. Grandchildren include: Jenni (Ben) Brandt, Kimmy (Anthony) Hundley. Matt (Ellen) Mielke, AJ (Katie) Anderson, Nick Anderson, as well as 7 great-grandchildren. Len is also survived by 2 dear sisters, Mary (Bob) Johnson and Nancy (Keith) Mauch, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; George & Marion Anderson.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the hospice nurses at ThedaCare at Home who showed love and compassion during Len's last days at home. We would also like to thank the many friends and family members who came to visit, help and sent meals. We appreciate each act of kindness that you showed to us during this difficult time.

A Memorial Homegoing Service for Len will be held at: Appleton Community Evang. Free Church, 2490 W. Capital Dr, Appleton, on Saturday, January 6 at 2:00 pm. All friends and family are warmly invited. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund is being established in Len's name.



## Youth And Children's Ministry

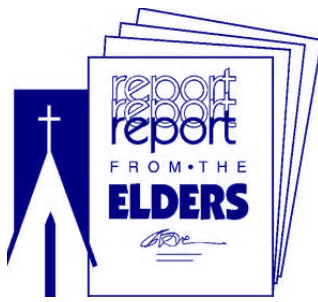
Parents what an awesome privilege you have! As a parent, you get to be the first person to introduce your child to our heavenly Father and Creator. You are the very first messenger of His amazing truth and love. You can start off with simple truths about God: God made everything, The Bible is true, When we pray we are talking to God... Thank you for letting us walk beside you and also share simple truths with your child.

The Youth enjoyed fellowship and a lot of laughter at their Christmas Party on December 13. Sundays they use The Gospel Project and will be diving into the book of Acts. Wednesday they continue with the Alpha Series. We are thankful for our youth leaders, Matt Diestler and Ted Parish!

The Christmas play was a great success. Everyone did so well. It was a great chance to tell the whole Christmas story. There are more pictures on the bulletin board! Thank you everyone.



Start your engines! Get ready for the big race! Join us for our Awana Grand Prix on Saturday, January 20 at 10 am. We will have a fun time of fellowship, snacks, and races! It would be great to see many faces supporting our clubbers! Everyone is welcome! If you would like to provide a snack or treat for this event, please contact Pam MacDonald at [appletonawana@gmail.com](mailto:appletonawana@gmail.com) or call 920-460-9571.



*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*

## Elder's Report

Mark your calendars for the ACEFC annual meeting on January 21st. Unfortunately we didn't have to worry about scheduling the meeting around any Packer playoff games this year! I would encourage everyone, whether a member or not, to come to the meeting. We will review the financial aspects of 2017 in addition to what we anticipate for 2018. The Elder board has invested many hours in creating a vision for the coming year and we look forward to sharing our thoughts with you and answering any questions you might have.

We will also be voting on a new Elder to fill the vacancy of Gaylen Olsen as his term is ending. It has been a privilege to serve on the board with Gaylen. We have appreciated Gaylen's wisdom, his humor and his seasoned counsel as we have wrestled with various issues the past few years. Gaylen's love for this church and his passion for praying for the people of this church have been a real inspiration to all of us on the board. Thank you, Gaylen, for your years of service to ACEFC!

Lynn Burnett



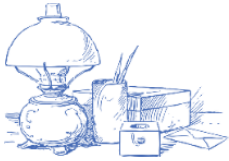
## Regular Church Office Hours

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

**2018 No Regrets Men's Conference**  
Men, the No Regrets Conference is on February 3, 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](http://www.noregretsconference.org/event) for more information.

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



## The Impact of Our Opinions ...

Happy 2018 to everyone! May each of you experience God's most abundant blessings throughout this new year! I'm trusting that God has many opportunities for ministry that our church will be able to enjoy and experience over the next twelve months and beyond.

In preparation for this article, I was tempted to write a summary of 2017 and while looking through various resources to gather perspective and information, I was struck by the variety of opinions that were expressed about so many different events that took place during the year. I wasn't trying to find new things to mention in my summary, but I was simply reading to review what happened on a larger scale than our local church and community. Regardless of my initial emphasis, I couldn't shake the idea that our culture and society is becoming increasingly divided, distracted, and dysfunctional because so many people have such diverse viewpoints about almost everything that should matter most to those of us who hold biblical truth as sacred. This makes me realize how easy it is to allow the most publicized and popular views to change our own personal views and perspectives. We might begin to question our own values (about what's right, wrong, appropriate, acceptable, or accurate) because we're consistently being bombarded by "arguments and arrogant opinions that are being raised up" in opposition to what the Bible teaches about God, His character, and His provision for us.

I'd like to close with a few suggestions for us to help us navigate through the spiritual battles we each encounter. These "truths" relate closely to 2 Corinthians 10:3—5 and also to Philippians 4:6—8.

**For though we live as human beings, we do not wage war according to human standards, for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments and every arrogant opinion that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to try to obey Christ.**  
2  
**Corinthians 10:3—5**

**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. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is just, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if something is excellent or worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.**

(1) Regularly "bathe" your thoughts with the truth of God's Word. Scripture is a filter for what's in our minds. It will cleanse away the filth that invades our thinking.

(2) Pray often throughout the day that God will reveal the difference between what's true and what's deceptive.

(3) Recognize that our secular culture will frequently try to convince us that our biblical world view is outdated and out of touch with what's relevant and right. Many people claim that the atheistic arguments being raised today are creative and brilliant. However, they're really old—fashioned ideas that have been wrong from the beginning of time.

Please let me know what you think as you read this. Let's find time to discuss this and expand on how valuable it is.

As always, with praise for His grace and prayer for His glory, Pastor Greg



## Christmas Tea

We gathered, we ate, we sang, and were inspired. Thank you to all who hosted the beautiful tables, cooked the wonderful lunch and baked all those goodies!



prayer  
encouragement  
biblical truth  
evangelism  
worship  
fellowship

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