

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 them Sunday, April 8 and Sunday, April 22 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they 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, April 4.

Men's Breakfast

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

Weekend Serving Trip to Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation

April 27-29. This is a great opportunity to serve. Contact Tim or Sue Diestler for details.

Ongoing Bible Studies

Women's study of Judges. Meets Monday nights at 6 or Tuesday mornings at 9.

Men's Study Wednesday mornings at 6.

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



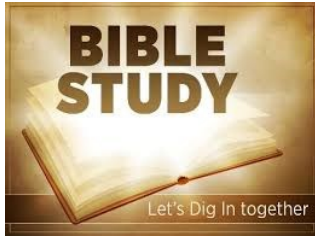
Inside this issue

Opportunities	2
This & That	3
Elders Report	4
Youth & Children's Ministry.....	5
A Word From Pastor Greg.....	6
Missionary Page.....	7

Save the Date

- Oil Change-
Saturday, May 12
- White Table-
Wednesday, May 23

Opportunities



Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00 as we dig into God's Word. We meet in the kitchen and are currently studying 2 Corinthians. Everyone is welcome.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Saturday, April 7 at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. We will begin at 7:30 am and be done around 9:00 am. This is a time of sharing and getting to know one another better. All men are invited to join us. Contact Marv Schauland 920-450-2698 for more information.



Mission Opportunities

We are once again going to the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation April 27-29. 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 or 851-3104.

The Oil Change is coming up!!! Mark your calendars for May 12. 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 for more information. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

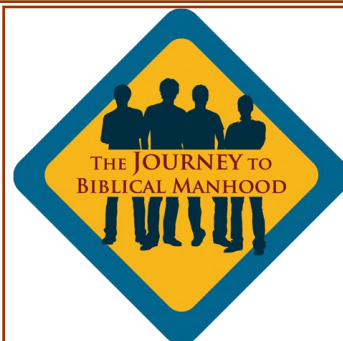
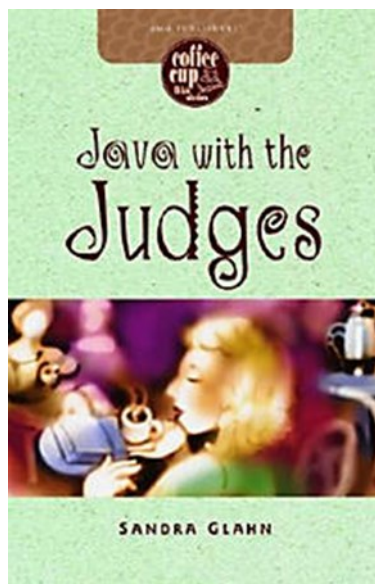


Women's Ongoing Study

We begin April with the
Judges
Othniel, Ehud, & Shamgar

We meet Mondays at 6 pm
or Tuesdays at 9 am.
All women are welcome.

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



Men's Wednesday Morning Study

Join us Wednesdays at 6
Here at church

A great way to start the day
Coffee and donuts too

Join any time, all men are welcome

Join Us For... Movie Night!

Friday April 20 at 6pm



***FREE!!**

***Popcorn!!**

***Everyone Welcome!**



***Enter to
win 2 free
Movie
Tickets!**



Everyone is welcome to join our clubbers and leaders Wednesday, April 18 at 6:00 pm. There will be songs, awards, cake and fellowship.

Discipleship Notes-LOVE

While living in New Mexico I developed a close friendship with a pastor of the church we attended. I have been able to maintain a distant relationship with Pastor Don over these several years and he continues to be a source of encouragement for me. In addition to his love for Christ, I've always respected his desire to stay active in ministry. Don is well into his 80's.

Recently, I received a note from Don describing LOVE. As I read it, I couldn't help but think how the timing of this is so appropriate. As we celebrate the most significant time in the Christian year, our thoughts and prayers should express our love for our Savior Jesus Christ and what he did on the cross. It shouldn't stop there however, for Easter is often the gathering of friends and relatives here at church and at our homes. What a great time to share the gospel and encourage others.

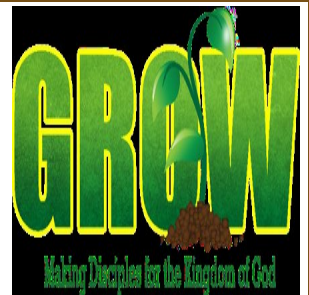
The Apostle John spoke of this special love described in his gospel chapter 21. Peter had just denied knowing Jesus after his arrest and now Jesus comes after his resurrection expressing his love and forgiveness.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Last month I spoke of the need for encouragement as a form of discipling. Also, the need for love in a discipleship relationship goes together hand and glove.

Praise God.

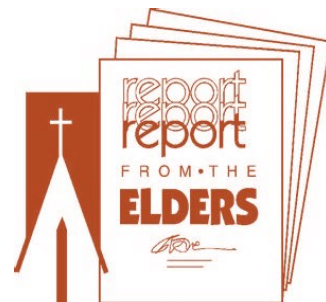
Tom Deason



Elders Report

In the February Elder Newsletter Report, Rob asked us all to be in prayer as to where God will lead Appleton Community tomorrow and in the future. On April 17, the Elders will spend time in prayer and visioning, seeking where God is leading. Please be in prayer for us during this special time.

Recently, I was able to participate in the serving trip to Houston for Hurricane Harvey Relief through EFCA ReachGlobal. On the trip, I saw two of our core values Evangelism and Fellowship exemplified. As teams, we had a chance to share our faith in an Evident Way Every Day as we built relationships with the homeowners while working with them. They asked us many questions about why we came to Houston and as we answered them, we were able to share our hope in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. One of the homeowners accepted Jesus as his Savior on the Monday after we left, Praise the Lord!!!



As a group, we experienced fellowship as we did life together each day. It truly is a blessing to be part of a church that desires to reach the lost and to do life together. If you've never been on a serving trip, would you consider going on one? If you've been on one before, would you consider going again? You will be blessed by God!!!

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

What's New in Children's and Youth Ministry...

I am happy to announce the K-5 kids came up with a room name: The Evergreens...always growing in Christ!

Lil' Sprouts, ages 6 wks-24 mo, the age will vary depending on ages of babies. If you have questions about this please ask. The theme for the **April** Surprise Bag is God made Flowers and Trees.

The Sprouts, ages 2-5 yr. will hear lessons from the book of Judges starting April 8. They will learn about Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

Evergreens will continue with the Gospel Project; some of the themes will be Children of God, A Transformed Mind, The Fruit of the Spirit, The Armor of God...

The Youth, Y.A.M's...Youth **A**ccepting the **M**ission (this is the name they really like) will finish up their book, The Gospel Project this month. Reminder Y.A.M's Youth group meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month unless noted. April they will meet April 11 and 25 and May 9 and 23. June, TBD.

How do Preschoolers learn:

- *Motion and sound
- *Uses all their senses
- *Involvement, singing
- *Conversation starter type of questions
- *Repetition

The last Sunday School class for Youth and K-5 will be May 20, they will resume in September.

If WE don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

Awana Schedule

- April 4-Regular Club
INCENTIVE NIGHT!
AWANA Store
- April 11-Awards
Practice Night (wear
your uniform and be
ready to practice,
*LAST NIGHT FOR
VERSES
- April 18-AWANA
Awards Night
Ceremony

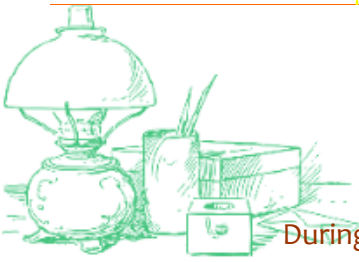
AWANA

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.

Thank you everyone for all your help!

Please join us for our Movie Night on Friday April 20 at 6:00 for a great movie and a chance to get together.





Some “Reflections” from Pastor Greg

The Turning Point(s) That Matter

During the past several months (& probably longer) there’s been a trend developing where many people (some seem to be more well—known or popular) who’ve become increasingly transparent and open about the struggles and challenges they’ve faced in the past. Some of these “turning points” have been revealed in books, movies, radio interviews, and in the media—and often they’re characterized as either stories of redemption and changed life, or simply “how to overcome pain and problems.” The difference between these themes usually involves whether the Lord is part of the solution or not. An interesting insight that needs to be recognized is that most people around us could identify a time in life when they’ve been uniquely hurt or emotionally challenged, but not everyone needs or wants to tell their story to others. Many simply listen to the “conversation” and process their own experiences privately. And others quietly ache without expressing what’s going on in their hearts and heads. Please keep in mind that we’re all emotionally wired in different ways.

This article could be very long if I wanted to continue addressing the vast amount of information available regarding “personal well—being,” and it also could become an “essential discussion starter.” However, even though those conversations could be valuable and beneficial, sometimes they could distract and tempt us to look in the wrong direction for the answers that are most needed in our culture today. Therefore, my intention and purpose here is to draw our attention to the lesson Jesus taught His disciples during the event recorded in Mark 8:27—33. Jesus was pointing to the **most important** “*turning point in all history!*” That’s what we are celebrating on Easter and what is the **FOUNDATION of our faith**. As a popular Gospel song from the 1970’s proclaimed: “Jesus is the Answer for the world today. Above Him there’s no other, Jesus is the Way.”

When Peter answered Jesus in Mark 8:29, the words of his statement were correct and accurate—but his theology, expectations, and personal application missed the point of what Jesus wanted His disciples to understand.

Above I commented that the distinction between having a redemption, changed life story and merely saying that I’ve learned a more effective way to deal with pain and problems is whether or not the Lord Jesus is part of the solution. Please realize that the main thing that makes a “**turning point**” matter is whether we desire to enjoy God’s best interests for our lives—or are we settling for the answers that society and people have to offer?

Please let me know what you think as you read this. I’d enjoy discussing this with you to see if we can help one another grow stronger in our relationship with the Lord.

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

Mark 8 ²⁷ Then Jesus and His disciples went to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way He asked His disciples. “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ They said, “John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and still others suggest one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Messiah!” ³⁰ Then He warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

³¹ From that time, Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and experts in the Law, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke openly about this. So Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But after turning and looking at His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan. You aren’t setting your mind on God’s interests, but on man’s.”



All our best wishes for 2018, as we work together for the Kingdom of God! Thank you for your partnership with us! It has been a full year, but one in which we've seen God at work realizing dreams and transforming lives. We are so thankful for his grace to us!

(Be sure to see what's been happening by looking at the bulletin board-there are lots of pictures and updates)

Prayer and Praise:

After the discouragement Josué and Dorine experienced after the “no show” for Thanksgiving at the FEU, we asked for

specific prayer for the evening of December 17 and their Christmas outreach. December 18 Dorine wrote to our home group with this update. We praise God for answering our prayers, and we thank you for praying with us! Her message translated :

Hello to our dear home group ! Good news !! Last night six non-Christian students came to the Christmas party at the FEU ; 2 from Morocco, 2 from India, 1 from Viet Nam and 1 from Senegal. The Good News of Jesus' coming was brought to them and the young woman from Senegal asked us for a Bible ! Our students from the Merlan really came through and handled themselves so well - - welcoming them and engaging our guests in conversation. Our guests were so touched by the welcome they received, by all the good food prepared by the ladies of the Merlan Church, and the games... thanks to all of you for your encouragements, your active participation and for your solidarity with us. Thank you for making all of this possible. God is seeking to reveal himself to these students and he will do miracles !!

- Lonnie went for a routine visit with the cardiologist and was found to have an irregular heart beat. This has happened to him before, but we thank you for praying his heart would regularize. The condition leaves him fatigued, but otherwise he's doing OK.
- Pray for the training Lonnie hopes to lead with three interns next week concerning Disciple Making Movements. Pray their visits into the various districts of Marseille would be fruitful.
- *Alpha Couple* - a marriage enrichment course, will begin with eight couples on January 27 at the Merlan. Thank you for praying!
- Five of those at the Merlan Church who have needed to find jobs are now employed! Praise God with us!

Praying blessing on you and your loved ones, and with all our thanks -

Lonnie and Debbie Smith
EFCA - ReachGlobal
Marseille, France

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

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

