



## May

The flowers are out, the trees are budding and the days are warming up. What a great time to look at what is going on here at church and see if God may be calling you to a new opportunity.

### Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join them Sunday May 6 and Sunday May 20 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for requests from our church family.

The first Wednesday of every month is set aside for Fasting and Prayer for all those who feel led. This month's Fasting and Prayer is on Wednesday, May 2.

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 5 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. All men are invited to come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

### Calling All Women! We Need You!

Wednesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. here at ACEFC. Please join us for a night of fun, fellowship and an idea exchange to help us build up Women's Ministries. RSVP to the office@applefreechurch.org if you need child care.

### Ongoing Bible Studies

Women's study of Judges meets Monday nights at 6 pm or Tuesday mornings at 9 am.

Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 6:00 am.



### DESIGN UPDATE

From the end of April through the first week of May, we will be updating the entrance to the sanctuary. This is a heads-up, as it will involve some painting and light construction. Please bear with us. The outcome should be worth it. Thank you for your patience.

## Inside this issue

Opportunities.....2&3

Elders Report .....4

Youth & Children's  
Ministry.....5

A Word From Pastor  
Greg.....6

Missionary Update.....7

## Save the Date

- Oil Change-Saturday, May 12
- Calling All Women-Wednesday, May 16
- White Table Event-Wednesday, May 23

## Opportunities



Our sanctuary will be open for prayer from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for you to come and pray as led for our nation as well as for whatever God puts on your heart. It will not be a service but an opportunity to come and pray for as long as you desire.

There will be prayer guides available for you to use if you want.

This focus this year is on unity.

Please remember to pray for our nation on May 3 even if you cannot stop by the church.

### Women's Bible Study

Join us Mondays at 6 pm or Tuesdays at 9 am for a study series on Judges. Come share some time in the Word.

We discuss the Scripture, pray for each other and share together the victories and the struggles of being a believer in these days.

Contact Mary Noggle for details-734-0832.



**CALLING ALL WOMEN!  
WE NEED YOU!**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16  
6:30 PM ACEFC**

If you're a woman who calls this church home -  
If you've ever enjoyed a woman's event -  
If you've ever had an idea for a women's event -  
If you've thought being part of a team might be fun -  
**WE NEED YOU!**

Please join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and an exciting idea exchange to help us build up Women's Ministries. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided. Please feel free to bring your favorites.

**RSVP to the office@applefreechurch if you need child care.**

### Sunday Morning Fellowship

Those of you who like to bake and are willing to share with the rest of us are encouraged to sign up for one of the upcoming Sunday mornings. See the sign up sheet on the table near the doors. Thank you. Your ministry will be much appreciated!

### Men's Breakfast



Saturday May 5  
at Golden Corral Grand Chute  
7:30 am

Great food and even better fellowship.  
All men are welcome.



Thank you to everyone who took advantage of the Texas Roadhouse offer and had lunch there. We received a check as promised.

## Opportunities—continued

### Discipleship Notes-Fellowship, Growing Together in Christ

One of the ACEFC's Values is Fellowship which states 'we believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. It is based on Philippians 2:1-4.



Paul's letter to the church in Philippi was written while he was a prisoner in Rome. He encouraged the Philippians to experience and express joy. Here he was under arrest with the threat of execution and his letter spoke of being appreciative of them for being a part of his ministry. He emphasized the importance of church unity and that believers must be in the spiritual battle together, including the worshipping and praying together.

A group of ACEFC men are currently reading a book written by Gene Getz, "Building Up One Another." The term 'one another' is the basis for a different topic in each chapter in this book. The various topics include devoted to one another, honor one another, accept one another, serve one another, and encourage one another, to name just a few. What I've been reminded is how scripture gives us some practical steps for maturing in our own faith and in the life of the church.

The New Testament contains 59 "one anothers." Love one another, forgive one another, be servants to one another, teach one another and pray for one another are just five of these commands. Many of them are found in Paul's Letters.

As we go forward search for other "one anothers" in scripture and share them with one another.

Tom



### *White Table Ceremony*

Wednesday May 23, at 12:30 pm

A special pre-Memorial Day event

All veterans are sincerely welcome to attend

Join us as we honor our heroes

### Messy Fest

Sunday June 3

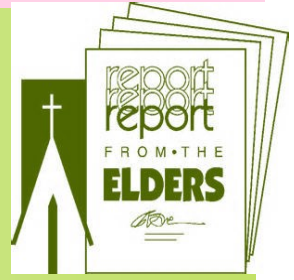
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Enjoy messy kids' activities without the clean up!

This will be a fun and messy event for **ALL** ages! Invite your friends to church. Activities will start in the children's classroom and continue after church. Some of the activities will be tug of war, pie eating, finding treasures in pudding, slip and slide, painting, bubbles and LOTS more...HINT: Bring an extra change of clothes ☺

Lunch will be served.

### Why Am I Not Telling Everyone About What Jesus Did For Me?



This is a question that has been coming into my mind quite often lately. I know the Great Commandment and it seems like I love God more every day. The more I learn about, pray to, worship, and serve him, He is pretty easy to love. Then I get to the neighbor part and if I really loved them as He commanded I would not want any of them to spend eternity without Him. So what's my problem? Is it apathy...or busyness...or laziness...or fear...or something else?

I think most us can ask ourselves these questions. So, in this short little Elder note I'm going to share some things that I am going to try to do and have done to help me have more love for my fellow man and hopefully be able to share the God I love with more people. It seems that the more love that I have for God the more he helps me love my neighbor.

The first is to pray Ephesians 3:14-19. This is the prayer: I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. And I pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, to grasp how wide and how long and how high and how deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Another thing I've done is assess my talents (sometimes they seem very limited). I have been good at trouble shooting and fixing things so I went on a few short term mission trips and through these trips God has giving me a heart for lost people. I don't see the projects as much as I see the people we are serving. This did not happen on my first few trips, but now it is what I look forward to the most. Plus serving alongside full time missionaries has given me a heart for them and God has shown Sue and me ways we can support and pray for them in the field. So I think all of us can look at what God has given us as skills, gifts and resources and ask how we can use these to serve the lost at home, at school, at work, in our community, and around the world.

As summer approaches there will be opportunities to serve our community and our body. Prayerfully ask God how he can use you to plant a seed that may lead someone to the greatest gift they could ever receive. The gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks, Tim

### 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 another amazing year of Awana! We celebrate and praise God for all the work He has done through our club. We have been blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers serving our children this year and blessed to see growth in all of our clubs. We are excited for next year and registration has already begun! Register now until August 31st and get a \$5 discount for each clubber!

Registration forms can be picked up on the children's ministry cart or can be found on our church website. If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming an Awana leader, please contact Pam MacDonald at 920-460-9571 or [appletonawana@gmail.com](mailto:appletonawana@gmail.com).

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

**Sunday School:** The last day of Sunday School will be May 20. A huge thank you to **Emily Nash** and **Aimee Moran** for teaching our K-5 kids and to **Matt Diestler** and **Ted Parish** for teaching our Y.A.M's. We thank them for pouring into our kids and youth! They all are a wonderful blessing to every one of us. Sunday School will resume in September.

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

**The Sprouts**, ages 2-5 yr. will learn lessons from the book of Ruth, we will focus on families.

**Evergreens** will continue with the Gospel Project; some of the lessons will be; The Fruit of the Spirit, The Amor of God, A Cheerful Giver, and Heroes of Faith.

**The Youth, Y.A.M's...**Youth Accepting the Mission will meet 9 am for Sunday School and for Youth Group May 9 and May 23. June TBD. Y.A.M's recently enjoyed a fun game night...Pizza, games, movie, and lots of laughter.

**The 5 Senses: Seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, smelling. Children learn best when several senses are used.**

### May Ministry Donation Month

This month we invite members of the congregation to donate items to the Children's and Youth Ministry Department.

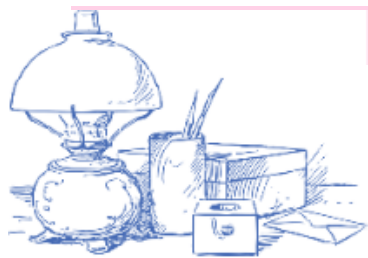
Here is our list of items we would like donated:

- \* Wooden Lacing Beads
- \* Fiskars kid's scissors
- \* Elmers glue sticks
- \* Legos
- \* Bean bags
- \* Do you enjoy cleaning and organizing, we have classrooms and closets that need your touch. Contact Lisa.
- \* Gift cards for Woodman's, The Learning Shop, Amazon
- \* Snacks: goldfish, animal crackers, bars
- \* Board games for ages 8-10
- \* Wet Wipes

Items can be dropped off in the office during office hours or placed in the Donation Box by the water fountain.

Thank you everyone! Your support and prayer is what lifts us up.

## Fixin’ My Focus & Followin’ By Faith



Often ministry leaders discuss what should be included among the goals and objectives for their ministry organization. Since our church is no exception, this is a common discussion for our church leadership and this has been something that I’ve been involved in doing for the vast majority of my adult life. I’m introducing this article in this way because through the years, I have seen many different trends and theories that claim to be the latest and greatest, only to be displaced by the next set of ideas posed by the “experts.”

One of my favorite professors regularly reminded us about a couple practical principles that will always be true in the area of setting your ambitions and aims. First, if you sense that change is needed, (or when something doesn't seem to be working properly) consult the Owner’s Manual (God’s Word)! Second, Whenever you’re trying to determine the goals for a group of people, begin by making sure you’ve set some personal goals for yourself that relate to what you’re trying to accomplish. In other words, don’t get ahead of yourself by trying to lead others in an area where you’ve not been.

So, ... What would you say is the GOAL of following Christ? Is it a pathway to “Heaven?” —or— Is it a pathway to “holiness?” The inserted passage above from 1 Peter 1 helps answer this question.

As followers of Christ, our lives should be “saturated with expectancy and encouragement” because of God’s saving grace. Notice what verse 13 says and how it exhorts us to always be “ready for action” and “fully sober” (able to think clearly and correctly because of our “trustworthy” hope in the Lord.) We could summarize this by saying “hope gives us encouragement in the midst of life’s triumphs as well as life’s trials when we fix our focus on what God is doing to help make us holy.”

In addition to this, as the Lord’s followers, our lives should be “set apart from evil desires and submissive to His example.” Look carefully at verse 14—16. These verses admonish us to look cautiously at the patterns we follow—instead of continuing in the habits we develop because of our sin nature, we should imitate the Lord Jesus. We should acknowledge that “holiness is the everyday business of every follower of Christ. But we must realize it is impossible without God’s personal presence in our lives and it’s most clearly seen in the decisions we make that lead to the things we do every single day.”

Yes, being a follower of Christ does mean that we are on a pathway to “Heaven,” but in a more specific way, God has given us His grace to place us on a pathway toward “holiness!” Holiness is a way of life that affects everything we do. Holiness is a lifestyle, rather than mere conformity to a list of rules. We become holy as we allow God’s indwelling Holy Spirit to transform our thoughts, control our conduct, and determine our decisions. Once this becomes a pattern for our lives, it helps to establish our philosophy of ministry both personally and collectively.

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

1 Peter 1:13—16

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, get your minds ready for action by being fully sober, and set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> Like obedient children, do not comply with the evil urges and desires that you had before you recognized Christ as your Lord and Savior, <sup>15</sup> but, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> for it is written, “You should be holy, because I am holy.”

## Missionary Update-Chris, Carrie, Caitlin and Nate Davis.



Hello all...We hope the first part of 2018 has started off well for each of you. This semester has been awesome-we've seen new students accept Christ, leaders continue to effectively engage their teammates while leading discipleship groups and new teams are being reached.

The kids are enjoying life and growing. Nate loves saying poop and making toot noises while Caitlin has become quite the artist and loves drawing portraits of dad. And yes, my wife is in Puerto Rico for spring break with Athlete in Action.

Here's how that happened.

A woman Carrie disciples decided she wanted to go too...Which meant Emily, myself and the guy who leads our ministry-Jonathan-would be going together, along with other staff and students. I thought it would be fun, but as a week passed it dawned on me this could be a great chance for Carrie and Emily to go together. At first I tried to deny my feelings but God made it clear she needed to go. That's where she is and it sounds like it's going very well. For now the kids and I are on spring break! That means parks, zoos, candy & mac n cheese.



Once again we are incredibly grateful for your continued support. We really love having the opportunity to serve with AIA and have you along side us when we're at UGA, in Puerto Rico or any other place God calls us.

We've just wrapped up 5 years at UGA and we're excited about what God is doing here.



**Praises...** For seeing some growth with the lacrosse team this year. Including Diego's commitment to follow Christ.

Being able to do the ministry God has called us to and being able to provide for our family.

For our children who are healthy and growing

**Prayers...** For God to continue to raise up leaders on each of the teams we work with and that they would help establish small groups among players on those teams.

Safety during our summer travel.

For the ministry from the Puerto Rico trip to continue to have an impact on lives that were touched.

Thanks so much - we're very grateful for your support.

*Chris and Carrie Davis*

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](http://applefreechurch.org)

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church  
2490 West Capitol Drive  
Appleton, WI 54914  
Phone  
920-735-9971

When God delays in fulfilling our  
little thoughts, it is to have  
Himself room to work out His  
great ones.

Lilias Trotter