

September 2018

Growing Together in Christ



September

As our beautiful Fall season begins let's consider beginning a new season here at church. There are a lot of opportunities to try a new adventure this month.

Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join us Sunday, September 2, Sunday, September 16 and Sunday, September 30 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where we 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, September 5.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 1 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship.

Women's Bible Study

A new study will begin Monday, September 10 at 6 pm. We also will begin the Tuesday morning study on September 11 at 9 am. Details are on page 2.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6 am. We meet at church for study and fellowship. All men are invited.

The Nest Women's Event

The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Details on page 2.

Revive Livestream

This is a special opportunity for us to join with other women across the country and around the world. Details are on page 2.

AWANA Begins

Join us Wednesday, September 12 as we kick off another year of AWANA fun and learning. All children are welcome.

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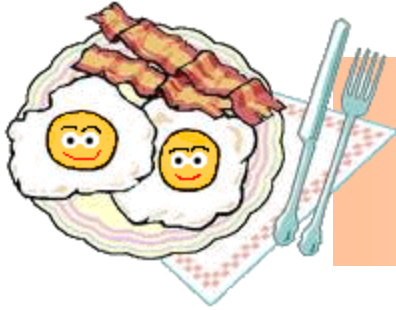
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Save the Date

- The Nest-Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 pm
- AWANA volunteer training-Wednesday, September 5 at 5:30 pm
- AWANA begins-Wednesday September 12
- Revive Livestream- September 27-29

Updates and Opportunities

Men's Breakfast



We meet the first Saturday of each month at the Grand Chute Golden Corral. The doors open at 7:30 and we are usually done by 9 am. The cost is \$8.49 plus tip. Hope to see you there soon! Please contact Marv Schauland for more information.

Women's Bible Study

We will begin a new study on Monday, September 10 and Tuesday September 11. We will be walking with Jesus using the book *30 Days In The Land With Jesus*. As we read the gospel narratives of His life and teaching, your understanding of the person, work, and words of Jesus Christ will take on an added dimension with this day-by-day exploration of the world in which He walked.

We meet Mondays from 6-7 pm and Tuesdays from 9-10:00 am. Books for the study are available at church. Cost is \$15.00.



The Nest

Tuesday, September 11, 7:00 pm.

The Nest is a new event Women's Ministry is starting and inviting all women to attend. Whether your Nest has eggs in it, little birds or is empty, come and fellowship with one another. We will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning with September 11 at 7 pm.

Join us for fun, food, sharing from one of our own ladies and some creating. You won't want to miss this opportunity to grow in relationships with each other and in our relationship with the Lord.

Men's Bible Study

We meet every Wednesday morning at 6:00 am to study God's word and encourage one another.

Coffee and Donuts are provided!
Please join us.



September 27-29

Join us for

Revive Our Hearts' True Woman Livestream

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church

Thursday, 9/27 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, 9/28 8 am - 9 pm

Saturday, 9/29 8 am - 11 am

Bring friends and join us for every session,
or come when you can.

THIS EVENT IS FREE!

Coffee, water and snacks will be provided.
We'll have fruit and muffins in the morning.

Enjoy lunch out with friends on Friday.

And join us for a soup supper Friday night!

View the entire schedule at TrueWoman18.com

We need a few volunteers to bake some goodies for breakfast or bring some fruit.

RSVP to office@applefreechurch.org

Updates and Opportunities-continued



Thank you everyone for your generous donations of school supplies. We had a car load as you can see from the pictures. What a blessing it was to take these up to the Rez.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



This month we are collecting flip-flops and foot powder for the Emergency Shelter. Donations can be placed in the box marked Donations by the Prayer Room.

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity. It is the little things that can make a big difference in someone's life.

Discipleship Notes



Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 23 for the Appleton Community EFC Fall Kick Off of the Growth/Small Group Ministry. During our worship service, we will highlight the impact and importance of being involved in a "growth group." We will hear from some of our group leaders and a member of one of the groups.

Our study series this fall will be based on the sermon series from 1 John about "The Values and Virtues of Discernment: Learning to Live in God's Light." Pastor Greg is preparing a different format for the devotional guides and each booklet will cover several weeks including both individual study questions and group discussion questions with room to record personal notes. There will also be additional study help for those who will lead or facilitate group discussions. It is our desire that each Growth Group would use these resources in an effort to do a better job of keeping everyone connected through what is being studied in our Growth Group Ministry.

As a result of the July ministry team leaders meeting I shared with the group thoughts from a book I was reading titled "Caring for One Another" written by Edward T. Welch. I felt it tied into Pastor Greg's Sunday morning messages. The book provides 8 ways to cultivate meaningful relationships. Ed reminded me, our calling is to care for each other's souls. In this newsletter I want to share the 8 lessons as given in Welch's book.

1. With all humility—our helpfulness, our care for souls, starts with our need for care.
2. Move toward others—God takes the initiative and moves toward us; we take the initiative toward others.
3. Know the heart—know the person.
4. Know the critical influences—if we are to help wisely, we want to know the heart and the significant influences on the heart.
5. Be personal and pray—it comes through our personal engagement with each other, our attention to Christ, and prayer.
6. Talk about suffering—hardships and suffering are everywhere, and Scripture counters by speaking to our troubles on nearly every page.
7. Talk about sin—wise conversations will talk about sin.
8. Remember and reflect—*Caring for One Another* has identified ordinary features of person-to-person engagement. There is nothing new here.

I was introduced to Ed Welch's materials during the training I received on biblical counseling. He is highly respected in this field and I encourage you to read his book "Caring for One Another. I have an extra copy if you're interested in reading it. I welcome your comments, my email is thdeason@yahoo.com.

God Bless.

Growing God's Way Youth and Children's Ministries

The beginning of the school year can bring on many emotions: excitement, sadness, anxiety, among various others—and these are just from the parents! This time of year can be overwhelming for many thinking about a new school ... new friends ... sleep schedule. I remember when my kids were younger, I didn't like August and September. August, because I knew my time with them being home all day was coming to an end, and September, because it was a month of newness. Once October came, I felt like I could take a deep breath and relax. Everyone was in the new routine and the newness had become the norm. If you have a little one starting school for the first time, or a freshman starting a new school, take a breath and know that it will be ok. Pray both with and for your kids. Our Lord has them! I remind myself of this daily. Give them kisses and hugs and enjoy each moment. They grow up way too fast.

***Youth (Y.A.M's)** Youth Group will start on Wednesday, September 12 and meet every Wednesday from 6:00-7:45.

Sunday School for Youth and K-5 will resume September 9, 9-9:45.

***Evergreens (K-5)**, Will continue using the Gospel Project, this fall they start in the book of Genesis.

***Sprouts**, this fall the Sprouts will learn; God keeps His promises, Be Kind and Loving to others, God helps us, Give Thanks to God...

***Lil' Sprouts**, September Surprise Bag, Celebrate that God made the Sun.

Pray for our kids to have a safe school year, pray that they stand bold for Him, they look to Him for their strength and wisdom, godly friends/teachers...Our children, youth, college students, teachers need our prayers! Watch your emails and bulletin for upcoming prayer nights to pray for our children (littles-adult) and families.

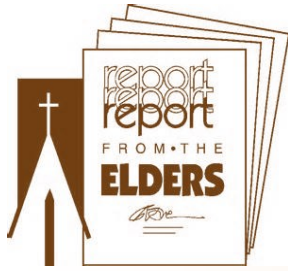
Looking for a good devotion for your child or youth? Check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals



uper excited to kick off another great year! If you have not
ation form from our Children's Ministry cart or from our

SAVE the dates! September 5th is our Leader meeting at 5:30 with sub sandwiches for dinner. All Awana volunteers are welcome! September 12th we are kicking off our Awana year with a pizza dinner for everyone in Awana at 5:30 with a parent meeting to follow.

We have some Awana needs for the upcoming year. Please PRAY for the children we are going to be discipling and sharing God's love with this year. We are in need of some substitute leaders that would be willing to serve when our weekly leaders are gone. We are also looking for a long-term leader substitute to take Marv and Deb Schauland's place until they are able to join us again. If you are interested, please contact Pam MacDonald at appletonawana@gmail.com or 920-460-9571.



Elder Report

Why is it that I struggle to tell my neighbors about Jesus? Is one of the reasons because I really don't know my neighbors? Have I become cocooned, only concerned about my own comforts and not concerned about Jesus' heart for the lost?

Streaming video/content, bigger and better TVs that reproduce pixel-perfect high-definition pictures, cable TV (and all its channels), DVRs and delivery/take-out food have made it possible for me to spin a perceived web of safety and security in my comfortable living room rather than venture out into the real world. Think about your neighborhood for a moment. Do you and your neighbors drive into your garage and close the door right behind yourselves? I know there are times when I do. And, who are our neighbors? Are they just the people next door? Or, are they those with whom we work? Or, those next to us while we exercise? Or, the clerks who provide customer service at the store?

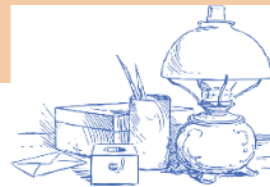
Do we love our neighbors enough to invest in a relationship with them? Do we know their first names? Do we know the names of their children? Do we know what is going on in their lives? Are we praying for them, for their salvation, and for their family?

Being an introvert, I find that I must be intentional in getting to know my neighbors. I need to intentionally make an effort to build a relationship with them to gain the opportunity to share Christ with them. It's quite possible that what our neighbors are desperately seeking is God's unconditional love, flowing through us, in the context of a friendship. This world where we live is strong on social communication and weak on deep relationships. We need to be friends that care for them, so that they will see Christ in our actions and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

If we believe that our mission as Christians is to reach out into the world around us and love people into a life changing relationship with Christ, then closing our garage door and shutting the world out is probably not a valid approach to successfully reach the world for Christ. Would you agree?

Looking forward to this fall, there are many opportunities to get connected and grow together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, Sunday School classes, and Growth Groups are a few of the opportunities at Appleton Community that we have to help us grow together in Christ. Groups are great opportunities for us to get to know others while doing life together in a caring and encouraging setting. If you are not a member of a group, would you prayerfully consider joining one?

Jim Ziehr



The Challenge of Choices: Discernment Matters

Do you ever wonder how Jesus’ disciples or the leaders of the first century church would react if they came to visit us in our contemporary society? How would Peter or John respond to the availability of information (internet, cell phones, television, & other technology)? What would Paul say about computers or about our capability to travel from city—to—city and country—to—country so much faster and more easily than they did? What would these men and women who were pioneers spreading the “good news” of salvation and starting the Church say about the **various options and opportunities we’ve been given**? Would they think we have it easier than they did—or—would they conclude that the increasing number of “choices” make life more complicated and confusing? Regardless of when or where we live, God’s guidelines for “discernment” never expire or change. What’s important is that we develop a biblical perspective of how to analyze, evaluate, and examine the options and opportunities we have.

Beginning in September, our Sunday morning study series will be called **“The Values & Virtues of Discernment: Learning to Live in God’s Light.”** It will be based on 1 John and is designed to help us recognize how the different influences that surround our lives either draw us closer or push us away from an intimate relationship with the Lord.

Let’s take a few moments to consider why we need to develop a biblical perspective for making decisions and weighing out our choices.

Ever since “we” were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, people in every generation have faced the challenge of **cultural corruption because of our sinful nature**. That hasn’t changed throughout history because every person (except Jesus Christ) is born with a natural desire to sin. Romans 3—7 clearly and completely explains this reality. Thus, we need to learn how to choose between right & wrong.

Another reason why we need “discernment” is because there is an **increasing cultural confusion about what is right and wrong**. Paul explains this in many of his letters to the church, but especially in 1&2 Timothy, where he predicts how this problem will grow during “later times.” Over the past fifty years (or so) many of the ideals and values about what’s acceptable, approved, or appropriate have been re—defined. It would seem that in the majority of these “adjustments,” the understanding of what’s right and wrong becomes obscure, causing confusion and making some decisions more difficult. What was once distinct, becomes blurred.

A third factor that makes “discernment” necessary is a sense of **cultural chaos about what’s fair and just**. Our society has placed more and more emphasis on “social justice” and because there is confusion about what’s right and wrong, there is an upsurge emphasizing “unqualified equality” without enough consideration for how personal behavior and choices have contributed to what appears to be unfair. I’m not stating any specific conclusions about this, but it’s essential that we realize how much this forces the necessity for biblical truth to guide our response to this.

Finally, we also need a greater ability to “differentiate” between our options and opportunities because of **cultural complications that stem from having so many alternatives from which we can choose**. There are times when the number of choices we have can be overwhelming. I’ve heard how some people avoid certain grocery stores because of the large selection, but others love the variety and go to the stores that overwhelm their friends. However, we still must acknowledge that multiple options require greater discernment.

Please notice what Peter tells us about developing a biblical perspective in 2 Peter 3:16—18 (inserted above). **When our appreciation for God’s grace and our application of His Truth increases, so does our ability to avoid being led astray by the changes in our culture.**

—from 2 Peter 13:16—18

Some things in Paul’s letters are hard to understand, things the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to the rest of the Scriptures. Therefore, dear friends, since you have been warned, be on your guard that you don’t become led astray by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your firm grasp on the Truth. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the honor both now and for eternity.

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

Missionary of the Month-Nikki Tetschner with CRU Plus Trinity Christian College



Our team's goal is to give every college student in the state of Nebraska the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. We are centrally located in Lincoln and branch out to all of the campuses in the state. Some campuses we coach from a distance others we visit on a weekly basis. My role is to coach all of the female new staff, interns and part-time field staff. This year I'm coaching 5 gals as they learn to do college ministry. I spend time with each of the gals on a weekly or every other week basis. We share our faith together, encourage each other in our walks with the Lord, pray together, and talk about how to grow in their job with Cru.

This month is when most of our campuses begin their fall semester. Last week I spent most of my time with the gals I coach kicking off the school year at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. This is our biggest school and gets the majority of our teams time since we all live in Lincoln. We took 1800 surveys at the student welcome back event and have been meeting with interested students, telling them about Cru and sharing the gospel when they are interested.

I'm married to Andy Tetschner who is a conversion manager at a banking software company here in Lincoln. We share a passion for international ministry and are praying that God would continue to bring international students into our lives and home so that we can share the love of Christ with them.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that students would hear and respond to the gospel across Nebraska.
- Pray for students to come to the Bible Studies that are kicking off on campuses. Pray that people would come and encounter Jesus through the Bible, and community.
- Pray for me as I navigate life as a mom, coach to the staff women, and wife. Pray that I would walk closely with Jesus and rely on Him and not my gifting and talents.

With Joy, Nikki
Nikki

Trinity International University



This is a university that we regularly support. Trinity opened in 1897.

With nearly 100 faculty and 3,000 students, we at Trinity International University are committed to the same vision with which we were founded in 1897 and determined to follow in the footsteps of the great universities that were founded on the cornerstone belief that all wisdom lies in Jesus Christ. Our task, if we are to be salt in the world of our day, is to build institutions where we can think like Christians and learn to live as Christians in a culture in which both have become equally hard. Whether preparing to be pastors or missionaries or attorneys, teachers, counselors, scientists, corporate leaders, homemakers or public servants, whatever our calling under God, we need excellence in education, grounded in the lordship of Jesus Christ. That is the goal and task of Trinity International University.

At the heart of Trinity's mission lies its commitment to its four core values—Christ Centeredness, Community Focus, Church Connectedness, and Cultural Engagement. Trinity's purpose is to enable its graduates to think and live like Christians in the twenty-first century. We believe that God calls his people into many kinds of service; Trinity's calling is to prepare them to serve for his glory.

Trinity University includes Trinity College; Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Trinity Graduate School; and Trinity Law School.

Carnival Fun



It WAS Hot!

But We Had Fun



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

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org

Church Office Hours
Closed Mondays
Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Wednesday 1:30 pm-7:30 pm

