

It's November!



Don't forget to set your clock back one hour on Sunday, November 4. Use that extra hour to join us for some of the wonderful opportunities to be together this month. Here's what's coming up:

Prayer

All church fasting and prayer day is Wednesday, November 7. Also the Prayer Team invites you to join them Sunday, November 4 and Sunday, November 18 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for our church needs.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 3 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. All men are welcome for this time of good food and fellowship.

The Nest

Join us on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 to enjoy an evening getting to know each other better. Linda Kamark will be sharing and Emily Nash will have a fun and simple craft to do, for those who enjoy making something.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are due here at church Sunday, November 11. If you haven't filled yours yet there is still time to bless a child with a wonderful gift filled shoebox.

Thanksgiving Potluck

Sunday, November 18 at 4:30 join our church family and celebrate God's blessings as we gather together with thankful hearts. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a time of fellowship.

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 6:00 am. There is coffee!

Women's Bible Study meets Mondays at 6:00 pm and Tuesdays at 9:00 am.

Awana & Youth

Wednesdays at 6-7:30.



Inside this issue

Opportunities.....	2
Elder's Report	3
Youth Ministry.....	4
Children's Ministry.....	5
Word From Pastor Greg.....	6
Mission of the Month...	7

Save the Date

- The Nest-Tuesday, November 13 at 7 pm
- Thanksgiving Potluck-Sunday, November 18 at 4:30 pm
- Christmas Tea-Saturday, December 1 at 11 am

Opportunities

Texas Trip

We are in the first stages of planning a trip to Texas to again help with Hurricane Harvey relief. The dates will be February 16-23, 2019. The cost is \$525.00. Please be in prayer about this opportunity. We would love to have a group. If you want more information please contact Tim and Sue Diestler at 851-3104 or diestlerts@aol.com.



Operation Christmas Child



November is Operation Christmas Child month! This year boxes are due at church November 11. You may go on line and follow your box to find out the country where it goes. The kids would love a note from you and a picture if you desire to do that. The most important thing to remember is to pray for the child who receives your box to come to know our Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Thank you so much for helping kids to be introduced to Jesus!

We would love to have you join us for the Women's Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 1 from 11:30am-1:30pm. Come for the friendship, fun, excellent food, and a time of inspiration and worship.

Please consider hosting a table.



The Nest
Join us
Tuesday, November 13
7:00 pm
Snacks, fellowship, inspiration
Women of all ages are welcome

Linda Kamark will be sharing and Emily Nash will have a fun and simple craft to do, for those who enjoy making something.

Save The Date
Sunday, December 16
Christmas Program During Service



BAPTISM

Sunday December 9 During Worship Service
Please contact Pastor Greg if you are interested

The following paragraph written by Dr. John Babler, Professor of Counseling at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary answers the questions:

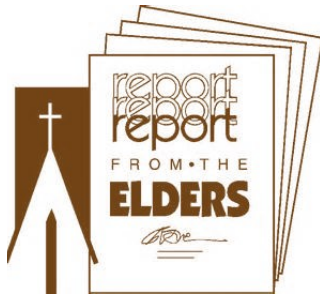
What is Biblical Counseling? Who may be a Biblical Counselor?'

Biblical Counseling is a ministry of the local church whereby transformed believers in Christ (John 3:3-8) who are indwelt, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26) minister the living and active Word of God (He. 4:12) to others with the goals of evangelizing the lost and teaching the saved (Mt. 28:18-20).

If you have any doubts look up the noted scripture verses in God's Word.

Tom Deason, Biblical Counselor

Elder's Report



*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*

As Elders we are entering the season where we take pause to do an annual review of all of our ministries. Ministry leads, church staff, and Elders are all tasked with doing a self-assessment and then there is the facilitation of open dialogue around the great things going on and areas of opportunity within our church community. It is timely we start this process around the Thanksgiving holiday. We certainly have so many great things going on within every ministry to be thankful for that I could fill up every page of this newsletter!

As an Elder Liaison for our Children's and Youth ministries I especially wanted to highlight this ministry and the many blessings going on:

Lil' Sprouts, Sprouts, and Evergreen Programs (Birth to 5th Grade)

- These groups are faithfully serviced by a core group of volunteers that are teaching our children Bible basics- Creation all the way to more in depth discussion on the Bible that is age specific
- It is a blessing to have so many investing in our children each Sunday
- It is exciting to hear the retention of Biblical themes and memory of scripture that is happening

The name of these children's groups is very fitting as we pray our children and youth will be Forever Growing in Christ. A special thanks to all the volunteers and a special thank you to Lisa Schodorf for the great coordination, planning and vision for all these programs.

Youth (6th through 12th)

- 7-10 youth meet regularly on Wednesday nights and Sunday Mornings
- Youth are focused on the witness curriculum from Awana and will also be learning the wordless book to help share the Gospel message to others
- Other fun events like District conferences, Game Nights and a Lock in are fun activities for our youth

A special thanks to Matt Diestler, Ted Parish, and Katrina Van Stippen on their leadership and support of our youth programs!

Awana (Wednesday Night)

- Very exciting that on average 80 kids are coming and digging into God's Word (Many of these families not necessarily members)
- There are numerous leaders and volunteers that spend countless hours to infuse God's Word in an impactful way to all these kids

A Special thank you to all our leaders, volunteers and a special thank you to Pam MacDonald (and Jesse) for being our Awana commanders. It is an immense blessing to have this program in our church and to have it run so well through great leadership and support.

It can be easier to focus on the many opportunities that exist both within our personal lives, families, and church family. During this season of review and Thanksgiving I pray we all dwell on the many blessings that we have and look to encourage each other in more creative ways than we did last year.

Sam Nash

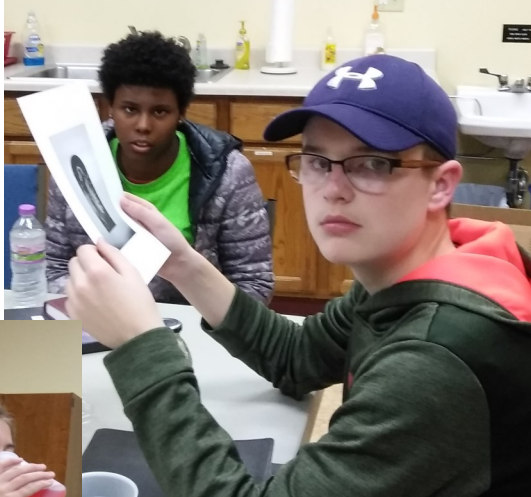
"May God keep us from the terrible vice of ingratitude and the forgetfulness of His blessings."

(Martin Luther)

Youth Ministry



Sunday mornings at 9:00 the Youth meet for Sunday School where they are continuing in the book of Genesis using Gospel Project materials.



Y.A.M's (Youth Accepting the Mission) meet every Wednesday from 6-7:45. They have a great time of fellowship as you can see!

They are also studying Witnesses. This is a curriculum designed to help them learn how to share the Gospel in this day and age and to show and share the love of Jesus in ways that connect.

Districts are coming January 4-6, 2019



Let us give thanks!

Thanksgiving Potluck Sunday November 18 Come at 4:30 eat at 5:00

Bring a dish to share. Beverages are provided.

Contact Ginny Parish with any questions (920) 878-0314

Church Office Closed
Thursday, & Friday, November 22-23 for Thanksgiving Weekend.

Have a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving.

Regular Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday 11:00 am-7:00 pm

Thursday and Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm



Children's Ministry

Growing God's Way Ministries...

Lil' Sprouts, this month the little ones will celebrate God's wonderful creation of Fish and Water.

Sprouts, this month we will focus on being Thankful. The verse for November is: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. 1 Chronicles 16:34

K-5 Evergreens and **Sunday School** will continue in the book of Genesis.

Last week I was watching a soccer game and one of the players was showing disrespect to the opposing team and also to the referee. The player's coach yelled MANY times, telling his player to "stop it!" (but not in those exact words). It came to the point where I couldn't listen to his "threats" any longer, so I called out, "Take him out!" Looking back at it, I must admit that wasn't something that I'm proud of doing, but this whole situation caused me to think: "I wonder if this is the way he parents his children, by throwing out "threat after threat" without actually taking action."

So this brings me to the topic of **failing to follow through with discipline**. This might fall into the category of things we all realize, but where we still slip up. Following through with the consequences we tell them can be hard work. But when we fail to do this, eventually we could forfeit our authority, and over the years we'll also lose the respect of our kids. Trust me ...there were times when I gave threats with no follow through with my kids. I hope these simple tips can help you:

- Communicate with your spouse about discipline. Make sure you both are on the same page and recognize that your kids are smart enough to play their parents against each another. This is a BIG one and it becomes even bigger when they reach the teen years!
- Limit the number of rules you set. (I needed this tip 30 years ago. I was a big rule maker.) If your children can't remember the rules because there are too many, how can we expect them to follow them?
- Make rules that are age appropriate.
- Don't become like the soccer coach. :)

Children are a wonderful blessing and thankfully we are given grace. So do the best you can and always seek the Lord for wisdom. As often as possible, point them back to God's Word.

Trusting Him,

Lisa Schodorf

Children's and Youth Ministry Director

AWANA

AWANA Schedule

- November 7-Thankful Night (Share something you are thankful for) OCC donations are due
- November 14-Regular Club (wear your uniform)
- November 21-**NO CLUB**
- November 28-Regular Club (wear your uniform)

Did you see our new bulletin board in the fellowship hallway? This year our Awana club is working to reach children around the world with the Gospel. \$10 reaches 1 child internationally with the message of Jesus Christ. It is our goal to reach 1 child for each child we started with in our Awana club, that's 75!

Pizza! It's that time of year again! Join us for pizza at the Pizza Ranch on Monday, November 19th from 4-8pm. Bring in the flyer and a proceed of sales will go to our Awana club. Bring your friends! Bring your neighbors! Not only has this been a great fundraiser for our club, but it has also been a great conversational opportunity for us to talk to others about our church and our club. If you'd like to serve as a volunteer cleaning tables on this night, please contact Pam MacDonald (920) 460-9571.

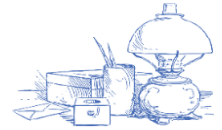
It's hard to believe we have been doing Awana for 2 months already! God continues to use our leaders in mighty ways! A HUGE shout out to all of our amazing leaders who are investing in our future by discipling our children. Wednesdays are filled with fun, fellowship, and friendships. We'd love to have you join our Awana team. Contact Pam MacDonald at appletonawana@gmail.com

No club November 21st! Happy Thanksgiving!



Christmas is Quickly Approaching:

Let's Prepare for the Opportunity to Tell Others The “Real Story!”



I've recently become acquainted with a book that has grabbed my attention. Here are a few excerpts that might grab yours and will also serve as an interesting intro to what I'd like to say in this article. (Please note that these excerpts might be seen as somewhat disturbing, but the remainder of what I'd like to say is intended to be encouraging and energizing because they will focus on the Good News we can present to our culture, especially as we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas season when “Jesus is the Reason for the Season!”)

“There will never be another Billy Graham because the world that made him possible is gone. ... He basically just preached the Bible. In the America of his time, that was enough. People stopped him in the street to shake his hand. We live in a different country now, but Billy Graham never changed. ... Yes, the world has changed, and we do ‘live in a different country’ now and another Billy Graham wouldn't have the same response as the late great Billy Graham the evangelist had. ... The gospel message hasn't changed, but the way in which it needs to be presented in a secularized culture does need to change. The way we present the gospel does need to be reset in the world we now live in. ... Something is happening to America—in fact to the entire once Christianized Western world. Whether you get your news from television or online, the information is the same ... it is shocking to compare the worldview of today's generation with the one embraced by older generations in the West. ... Western civilization as a whole is becoming less Christian every day. ... We are seeing moral relativism spread like an infectious disease. And as moral relativism enjoys greater national acceptance, Christians and their worldview are treated with greater intolerance. ... But the Church can influence the culture through being salt and light. ... This is a critical moment in Church history.” ... and God's Word provides us with a valuable history lesson that shows us what we can and should do to provide a foundational context for the glorious gospel message.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:11, 14—15, 17, 18, 20

Therefore, because we understand the fear of the Lord, we persuade people. ... For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that Christ died for all; therefore all have died and He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ... So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away and what is new has come. ... All these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself thru Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. ... Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ as tho God is making His plea thru us. We plead on Christ's behalf, “Be reconciled to God!”

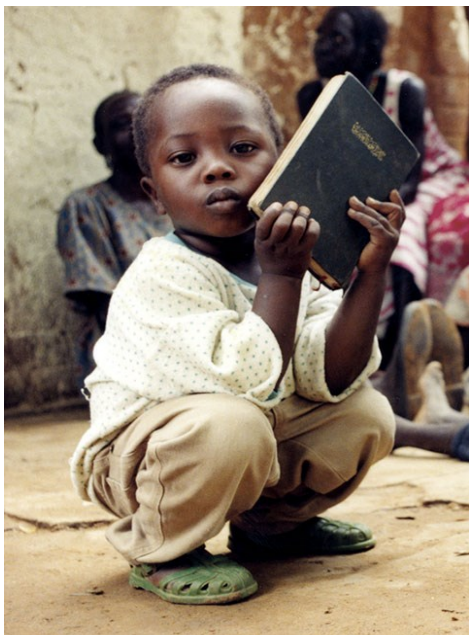
This book is written by Ken Ham and is called: ***Gospel Reset: Salvation Made Relevant***. It was released in April, 2018. Although it's message is sobering, I also believe it's a fascinating reminder of the powerful influence and impact of God's Word. God isn't watching us from heaven with any sense of disbelief or discouragement. He's not been caught off—guard by the conditions of our society! He has everything “under control” and He's told us over and over again that (1) He is absolutely trustworthy and He will never forsake those of us who are faithful followers of Christ. (2) His Word is a light shining on the path He wants us to walk. (3) His gracious message of forgiveness and freedom from the problem of sin never changes; and (4) we can be most effective in our “role” by consistently becoming better acquainted with Him by studying His Word.

In view of this, we should also understand that our culture is less aware of the foundational truths in the Bible than ever before in the history of our country. How do we respond to this? We should learn from Bible history. In Acts 2, when the Church started, the Jewish culture was resistant to the message of Christ, but they were also aware of what had just happened to Jesus. The message pointed directly to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. But in Acts 17, when Paul was on Mars Hill, first he had to introduce these pagan Gentiles to the idea that God had created the world where they lived. Before He could tell them to Christ, he needed to introduce them to God.

What can we gain from this? Very clearly stated: **We should all be as prepared as possible to start with the very foundation of the GOOD NEWS by explaining how our Holy Father God created us to worship Him. He sent Jesus to reveal Himself to us ... and to save us from the problem of sin. That's where the conversation should begin.**

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

Voice of the Martyrs-In November we remember and pray for the persecuted church



The Voice of the Martyrs is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian missions organization dedicated to serving our persecuted family worldwide through practical and spiritual assistance and leading other members of the body of Christ into fellowship with them.

This mission is based on Hebrews 13:3; "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."



We, as a church, give monthly support to this mission to our hurting brothers and sisters in Christ.

Voice of the Martyrs works and supports front line workers in restricted and hostile areas of the world.

A restricted area includes countries where government-sanctioned circumstances or anti-Christian laws lead to Christians being harassed, imprisoned, killed or deprived of possessions or liberties because of their witness. Also included are countries where government policy or practice prevents Christians from obtaining Bibles or other Christian literature.

A hostile area includes nations or large areas of nations where governments consistently attempt to provide protection for the Christian population but where Christians are routinely persecuted by family, friends, neighbors or political groups because of their witness.

Persecution of Christians continues in certain parts of the world, mostly in the Middle East and throughout South and Southeast Asia, and in Africa.

The persecution statistics are horrific: More than 300 people are murdered monthly throughout the world because of their Christian faith. Two hundred houses of worship are destroyed monthly. Almost 800 incidents of violence are committed monthly.

The Pew Center, an American secular research organization, estimates more than 75 percent of the world's population lives in areas of rampant religious persecution, mostly against Christians.

The State Department keeps an accounting of more than 60 countries where religious discrimination is practiced and encouraged.



VOM provided aid to believers after another round of violence in July, in Jos, Nigeria.

These believers are thankful for the support and prayers of Voice of the Martyrs and those who are a part of this ministry. Their prayer is not that God take them out of the situation but that He enable them to be faithful, to stand for Him no matter what the cost may be. They desire to be witnesses of His love and mercy to all who don't believe, even those who persecute them.

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)



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We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org