



## 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 5 and Sunday May 19 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for requests from our church family.

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. All men are invited to come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

### Ongoing Bible Studies

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

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

### Greeters and Information Volunteers

Please plan to stay for a brief meeting after service on Sunday, May 5.

### Scoopie night

Monday, May 13 at 4:00-8:00 at Culver's on Westhill Blvd. Details on page 5.

### The Nest

Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm. Ladies please plan to join us for this final Nest until Fall. Details on page 3

### Youth

Meet Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

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## Save the Date

- Hospitality Volunteers Meeting-  
Sunday, May 5 after service
- Scoopie Night-  
Monday, May 13  
4:00-8:00 pm
- The Nest-  
Tuesday, May 14 7:00 pm

## 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.

Please remember to pray for our nation on May 2 even if you cannot stop by the church.

### Two Special events on Sunday, May 5



Hear what God is doing in Germany  
First hand-May 5  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 am  
Vera Hansen will be sharing



### Greeters and Information Volunteers

There will be a short meeting after service on Sunday, May 5. Please make every effort to attend.

We are also looking for more team members. If you would like to learn more about this ministry please join us at this meeting. We would love to have some more volunteers.



### New Worship Area Chairs

We are looking to replace the chairs in the Worship Area. The current chairs have served us well since the building was built 30+ years ago. Some of them are starting to show their age and are in need of repair or replacement. The welds are starting to break and we have replaced the plastic parts as we could. The cost of a new chair is around \$40.00 so we are asking members and attenders to prayerfully consider an amount above their regular tithe or giving to purchase 250 new chairs. We will bring in some samples after enough money is pledged and purchase the chairs that the majority of the body votes on as their favorite choice. Look for pledge cards soon or make a donation and mark it chair fund and put it in the Giving Box.

## Opportunities—continued



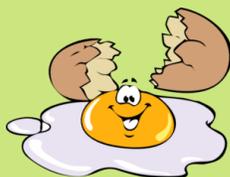
The Nest  
Tuesday May 14  
7:00 pm

Special snacks,  
Spring craft  
Darlene Olson will be sharing

All women are welcome

Try to make it to our last one of the year.  
We would love to have new faces join us!

### Men's Breakfast



Saturday May 4  
at Golden Corral Grand Chute  
7:30 am  
Great food and even better fellowship.  
All men are welcome.

### Women's Bible Study

Join us Mondays at 6 pm or Tuesdays at 9 am for a study series on Ephesians. 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.



### SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Associate Pastor search committee has met to start the search. Terri Burnett is the chair. Other members are: Aimee Moran, Greg Southard, Desmond VanHouten and Yaimé Vega-Crespo. Elder liaisons are Greg Dykstra and Justin Zaruba. Please be praying for each of them as well as for the one God is calling to this ministry.



**TITHE.LY**

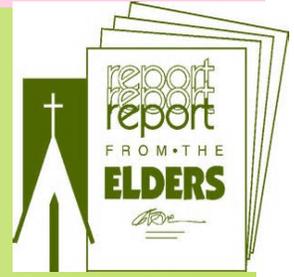
There are now four opportunities to worship the Lord through giving:

- ⇒ Mobile Giving
- ⇒ Online Giving
- ⇒ Text Giving
- ⇒ Giving Box (cash or check)

There are details on our website: [applefreechurch.org](http://applefreechurch.org) just click on the Give link to get started.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." —2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)*

### IT'S A GOOD (TRUE) STORY



The past few months God has reminded me about how important it is to share about His goodness and how encouraging it is to be in fellowship with other followers of Christ. At Christmas we talked about the creator of the universe giving up Heaven's riches and glory, and taking on human form, so He could ultimately be the perfect sacrifice to make us right before the Father. That in itself is enough "Good News" to bring real joy.

Then I think of all of the testimonies we have heard from brothers in Christ on the first Saturday of every month at our men's breakfast. We hear how God has changed lives and because of what He did in those men's lives, others can come to know the saving grace of Jesus. Our morning together gives opportunities for prayer as we share personal requests before closing our time in prayer. I know God's story is alive and well after each Saturday get together. Guys, I encourage you to come out, if you can, and eat with us.

In February I had the privilege to travel to Houston, Texas and serve with an amazing group of people from our body and from North Carolina. Through the study of God's word, being able to concentrate on serving others for a week, praying together, and hearing how God is at work in homeowners' lives, we were able to see God at work, even when tragedy devastates an area and people seem to have no hope. But, because of the greatest story of all, there is hope and His light can shine even when it looks so dark.

I am so thankful for my Sunday morning Bible study leaders and small group leader and the time they put in to preparing a lesson as we dig into God's word. It is good to study together and gain insight on how we need to obey what is written, so we can learn to live as followers today. His word (story) is active.

On Sundays we study His word during worship. We can be thankful for a Pastor who is careful with the Word and prays and studies, to make sure that he is teaching us the truth as God would want. Sunday mornings are and should be one of the most important times to gather as a family and worship the Creator through study and song. I am also thankful for our worship team. I am one of those people who sometimes is so moved by the words of the songs that I can't even sing. I just stand in awe of my Maker and Savior and worship in silence.

On Palm Sunday we heard the gospel message and three powerful stories of how God changed lives and we were able to witness two believers' baptisms. I pray that their stories had an eternal impact. As we come out of Holy week the story comes to a climax with the most important part, the empty tomb. It is a historical fact that Jesus was seen by his followers and his scoffers. Because of His death and resurrection we as believers, will live forever with Him. We serve a God who is alive! If that is not the greatest story I don't know what else could be.

In Christ, Tim

### Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

Tuesday—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 have already begun planning! Stay tuned for our early-bird, summer registration to start in June and save \$5 per clubber!

Join us May 13 at Culvers on Westhill Blvd for Scoopie Night! A portion of sales will come back to us. We will use this money to help re-stock our Awana store with some great items!

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 Happening in Children's and Youth Ministry...

**Lil' Sprouts:** God made the Flowers and Trees

**Sprouts:** Jesus returns to heaven, Peter and Paul, Tell others about Jesus. The verse for May is Acts 16:31, Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.

**K-5 Evergreens:** Will be in the book of Joshua, Conquering the Land. Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 31:8.

**Y.A.M's:** Sunday's the book of Mark. Wednesday's: Sacrifice, Love, Awakening, Obsession from the Witnesses book.

The last 9 am Sunday School class for K-5 and youth will be May 19. **A huge thank you to our Sunday School leaders:** Aimee Moran, Sam and Emily Nash, Matt Diestler, Katrina VanStippen.

Coming Soon...The 39 Day Bible Challenge! The challenge will start in June. Watch for details.



**Scoopie Night**  
**Monday, May 13th**  
**4-8pm**

Support our Awana Club!



Stop in at Culvers in Appleton on Westhill Blvd and mention that you are there to support Appleton Community EFC Awana Club!





## Some “Reflections” from Pastor Greg



# Under Construction For God’s Glory

Have you tried to get quickly through the area around downtown Appleton recently? If not, it could be helpful to realize that almost everywhere you turn, you’ll find either a road block or a reminder that there might be another one right around the corner. One of the people I often see who works near these road projects has expressed to me that “it sounds as if the major portion of this work is going to take a very long time—but once it’s done it’s going to be marvelous!” That’s a positive way to look at something that’s rather challenging.

Regardless of the schedule, we all should be fully aware that good construction projects take time and precise planning. Therefore, patience is also necessary. This reminds me of a chorus that I haven’t heard anyone sing since my youth ministry days. I can’t provide the tune, but the words to the song go like this:

*“He’s still working on me; To make me what I ought to be.  
It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars;  
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.  
How loving & patient He must be ‘Cause He’s still working on me.  
There really ought to be a sign on my heart.  
Don’t judge me yet, there’s an unfinished part.  
But I’ll be better according to His plans;  
Fashioned by the Master’s loving hands!” (Repeat the first four lines)*

Please notice the inserted words in the box above from Philippians 1:6. God’s continually at work on each of us if we are authentically following Christ as our Lord and Savior! He is shaping each of our lives into “perfection.” This word in the biblical text specifically refers to having a growing maturity that leads to being more and more like Jesus—resulting in godliness, wisdom, faithfulness, and obedience to all that God’s Word instructs me to do. Once I place my trust in Christ, God’s Spirit is the “General Contractor” in charge of the construction project where God begins to shape me into His creative masterpiece. He’s the only one who can complete this project exactly according to the Master’s Plan—it’s our individual responsibility to cooperate by allowing Him to take charge and we need to realize, it’s not something that happens overnight or immediately.

Many people balk at the thought of being involved in a remodeling or construction project—often it’s not particularly pleasant until the work is done and in this case the Scriptures clearly remind us that this project lasts throughout the rest of our lives. Here are some steps we can take to make it go more smoothly:



1. **Focus attention (keep our eyes) on Jesus and recognize all that He did in coming to earth to become our Substitute on the cross.**
2. **Find encouragement in how Jesus disregarded the shame that was associated with death on a cross. He was completely and totally undeserving of this shame—but He took it for you & me.**
3. **Observe how God is working in the lives of those around us. Let’s look for meaningful ways to encourage one another with words of assurance and affirmation. Let’s thank each other for testimonies/examples of faith!**
4. **Pray for patience toward ourselves and toward one another!**
5. **Keep in mind that the end result is going to be marvelous because it’s a work of God and it’s all about His grace and glory!**

**Philippians 1:6** For I am sure of this very thing: that the One Who began a good work (life—changing construction project) in you will continually work to **perfect** it until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Hebrews 12:1—3** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses (faith examples of those who have been steadfast in faith), we must get rid of every weight along with the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set before us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and **perfecter** of our faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, disregarding the shame that went with it, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Think of Him Who endured such opposition against Himself, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and give up in the midst of despair.

## Missionary Update-Andy and Barb Krause



We support Andy and Barb in their ministry with Reach Global in Asia where they support and train pastors and Christian workers as well as promote church planting. Here is their latest report. More information is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Many women in beautiful saris, less men, some youth, and some children gathered in a home eager to meet with and know God! Five to six hundred people sat on the floor shoulder to shoulder, in four ground level rooms - emptied of all furniture, on the stairs, in an upper balcony room, and in a outside courtyard. We met for 3 hours of worship through singing, testimony, prayer, and hearing the Word of God being taught. I had the privilege to teach God's Word through a translator, though they were careful not to broadcast via the loud speakers what I said in English, but only the translation. This was a security precaution, so that the neighbors would not hear that they had a foreign guest teaching. After the service, we prayed over many people eager to be touched and sustained by God's power. What an amazing experience on my most recent trip to India!

This gathering happens every Sunday. Some people walk for 2-3 hours to attend because there are so few churches in and around this city. Some are seekers trying to understand the claims and power of Jesus Christ that they have seen and heard in the lives of other family or friends. Most of them are young first generation followers of Christ from a Hindu background. Some come at risk of being mistreated beaten for attending a Christian activity. Despite that, they still come eagerly searching for hope and strength from God for the challenges of life they face.



or

Ask God to lead ReachGlobal as we coach, train, and come alongside Indian church planting leaders like those described above and others in various areas across India. Pray for these dear brothers and sisters who are laboring in difficult contexts that God will provide for their needs and use them to multiply His Church!

### **Praise...**

**For the new Indonesia Consortium leadership team that God has established** and for the early April gathering of the Indonesia Consortium we had in the Chicago area with leaders from US churches who are involved with church planting efforts with ReachGlobal and our partners in **Indonesia**.

**For the ways God is at work through the Indonesia Consortium churches** as they come along side Indonesian church planters and ReachGlobal staff in various ways.

Praise God for the nearly 20 USA churches involved in this consortium! **Pray for more churches to join this effort!**

### **Pray For...**

**The ministry trip I have May 5-15 to Taiwan and one other location in East Asia.**

One of the teams I lead in East Asia is going to be involved in helping to facilitate this vision trip for **a new collaborative church planting effort in Taiwan** with leaders from other Asian EFCs. Ask God for a clear vision for what He wants us to accomplish together.

On this trip, I will also be spending time with the leaders and some team members of another ReachGlobal ministry team I coach in East Asia. **Pray for effective time of coaching and relationship building.**

Ask God for His protection for myself, my family, my co-workers, and those I am visiting. Please do battle on our behalf as **we know we are in a spiritual battle for the souls of men, women and children.**

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)

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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