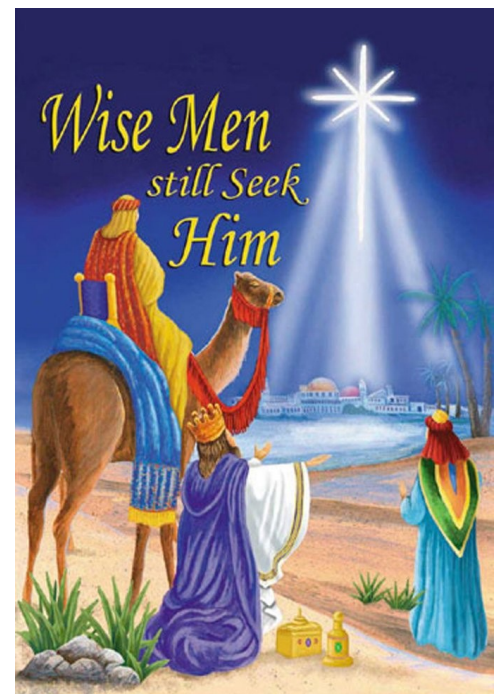


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Updates and Opportunities



We are going to be studying Genesis using a study by Max Lucado, "Life Lessons From Genesis." A beginning. An origin. A foundation. This study begins in January and we have two meeting options, Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. or Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. It's a 12 week study. Cost is \$15.00.



In January we start another Bible Reading Challenge. We will be reading the Old Testament, Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the office at 920-735-9971 or office@applefreechurch.org and let Ruth know the study you will be joining.

I'm excited to start!

Mary Noggle

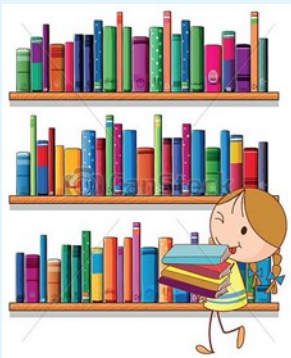


Sunday January 24
Immediately following the church

Join us for the annual congregational meeting. Members and attendees are welcome. There will be voting for one new Elder, a financial report and an update on the state of the church.

Library News

With winter upon us, and COVID-19 slowing social events down, now might be a great time to check out the church library to help fill those extra hours or to feed your soul. There are many treasures in our library, both non-fiction and fiction, but here are a few I heartily recommend:



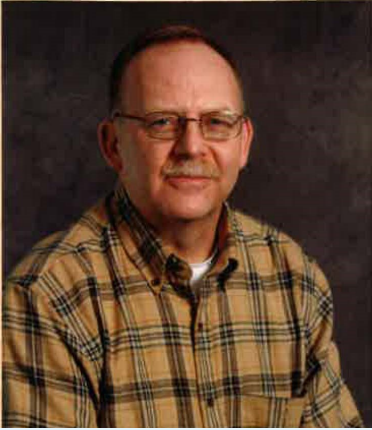
The Attributes of God, by A.W. Tower
One Faithful Life, by John MacArthur
Jesus Among Secular Gods, by Ravi Zacharias
Vince Vitale The Heavenly Man, by Brother Yun with Paul Hathaway
The Wisdom of God, by A.W. Tozer

If you have had a book checked out for longer than 2 months, please return it to the church library. Thanks

Yon Abel

What's Happening in Children's Ministry:







Standing on the Promises of God!

One of the songs (hymns) chosen for our in—person worship service this past Sunday brought back some special memories from my childhood years. During my years in elementary school, I attended Sunday School and a separate Bible class each week. During the opening time of worship, the leaders would choose the first song and then ask for requests. My friends and I would compete with one another to request #161, *Standing on the Promises of God*. Now whenever I hear or sing that hymn, I recall how much we enjoyed singing it years ago. With today’s emphasis on contemporary songs, there are times when I miss singing a few of the rich hymns I learned as a child. (I greatly appreciate an appropriate blend of hymns and contemporary worship music. There are so many of both types of music that include poor or incorrect theology and we need to be very discerning about what we choose, and on both sides of this spectrum, there are plenty of musical tunes that make me plug my ears. But I also strongly believe that worship music, hymns, and choruses are very effective in drawing us closer to God.)

For this article, I did some research about *Standing on the Promises* and here’s what I found:

It was written by Russell Kelso Carter (1849-1928). Carter was an excellent student and a star athlete at a military academy, who went on to be a successful teacher and coach at that same school. He left teaching to become an ordained pastor, and eventually went to medical school. He spent the last of his professional years as a doctor. Carter was also a musician and songwriter.

Although Carter was serious about his Christian faith, it wasn’t until he experienced some heart problems that he began to understand the reality and power of God’s promises. At age 30, his health was in critical condition and the physicians could do no more for him. Carter turned to God for help and healing.

He knelt and made a promise that whether he would be healed, or not, his life was finally and forever, fully devoted to serving the Lord. It was from that moment that the written Word of God became alive to him. He began to stand upon the promises of healing, determining to trust in the Lord no matter what his physical condition, no matter how he felt. Over the course of the next several months his strength returned, and his heart was completely healed! Carter lived another healthy 49 years.

The words of this great hymn became his life story—his “theme song!”

As we face various uncertainties and move toward the Christmas season and the new year ahead, it might be helpful for us to make standing on God’s promises a “theme” for each of us to establish as well. So here are a few of God’s promises that just might be a source of help, hope, and holiness to strengthen our faith.

—1—(**Proverbs 3:5—6**) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and don’t rely on your own understanding.

Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your path clear (direct your path).

—2—(**Psalms 23:4**) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

—3—(**2 Corinthians 9:8—9**) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; as it is written,

"He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever."

—4—(**John 14:2—3**) In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

—5—(**John 8:12**) Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world;

he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

—6—(**Romans 8:38—39**) For I am convinced that “nothing in this entire world” will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With prayer for God’s glory and praise for His grace ...
And as always, with prayer for our ACEFC family, Pastor Greg



Forest Lakes District of the EFCA *We Are Better Together!*

Our MISSION:

We exist to strengthen our member churches so that together we may multiply transformational churches among all peoples.

Our strategic values:

- Connect: Create environments for relationships.
- Equip: Offer resources and training.

Multiply: Support the multiplication of disciples, leaders and churches.

Our VISION is to enable multiplication by:

RELATIONSHIPS

The foundation of everything we say or do is our personal relationship with all pastors and lay leaders in the District.

- Personal contacts between District staff and pastors/lay leaders

RESOURCING

- Consulting and coaching
- Training
- Staff issues (hiring, evaluating, compensation, etc.)
- Disciple-Making, Leadership Development, Elder Training
- Crisis Intervention and Conflict Management
- Conferences, Retreats, Special Events

REFOCUSING

- Church Health Assessment
- Visioning and vision casting
- Pastoral Health (Ministry Support Program)

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Placement Services (including interim pastors, pulpit supply)
- Credentialing (licensure and ordination)

Discipline

The Forest Lakes District is VALUE DRIVEN:

In all that say or do, the FLD is driven to provide value to local churches as they seek to fulfill their mission. The idea of being “driven” brings to mind being compelled, forced, pressing ahead, relentless exertion, setting in motion, energized, determination, no detours, and mission accomplished. Value is taken from the Latin verb; “to be worth”. Value is further defined as “relative worth, utility or importance; degree of excellence; something intrinsically valuable or desirable.” We are value driven.

We are value driven:

- To build relationships with and between churches, pastors and leaders that ...
- To offer or recommend resources that ...
- To help maintain or refocus the efforts of the local church so that ...
- To fulfill our responsibilities in a way that ...

enhances the leadership and ministry of each pastor, leader and church member toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission.



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)



Appleton Community
Evangelical Free Church
2490 West Capitol Drive
Appleton, WI 54914

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org

Regular Church Office Hours
Closed Mondays
Tuesday—Friday
8:30 - 2:30

