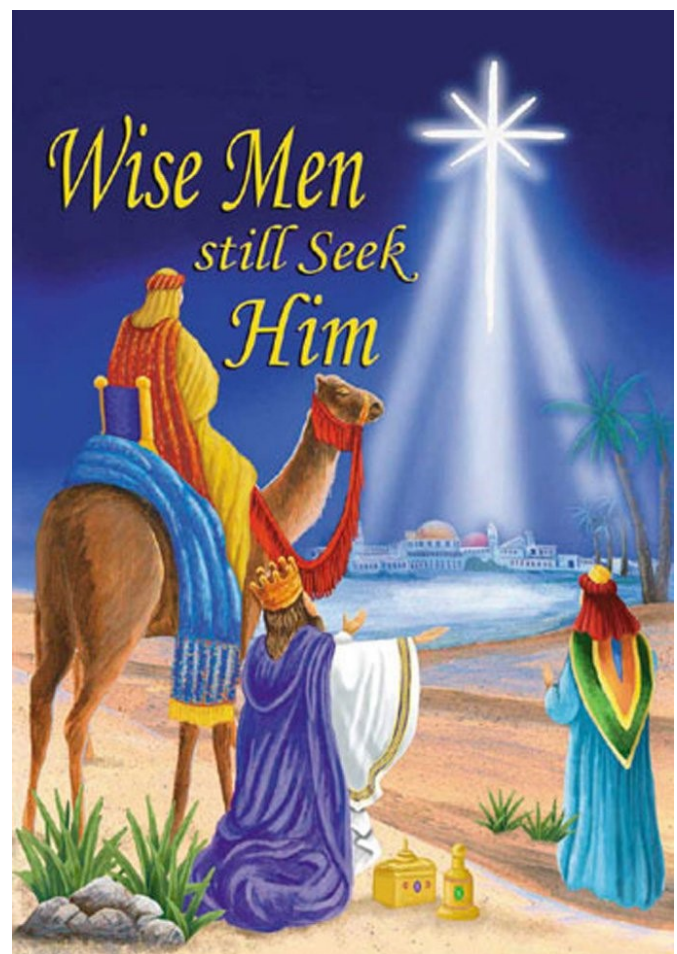




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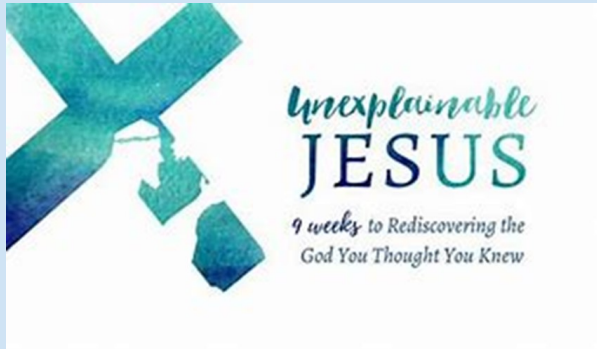
Christmas Tea

Pastor Blake will return with a timely message next month. This month we have some pictures from the Christmas Tea to share.



**THANK YOU
EVERYONE!
IT WAS A
BLESSING.**

Updates and Opportunities



Women's Bible Study

Join us beginning Monday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m. for this study in the Gospel of Luke.

Cost is \$15.00

Please contact the church office for more details or to sign up. All women are welcome!



Sunday January 23

Immediately following the church

Join us for the annual congregational meeting. Members and attendees are welcome. There will be a vote to approve two new Elders, a financial report and an update on the state of the church.

Men's Retreat

January 28-30, 2022

Cost: \$101



You can look forward to being challenged from God's Word, hearing testimonies of God's faithfulness and enjoying times of worship. Enjoy some broomball, cross-country skiing, tubing, our annual ice cream sundae bar and more. Then relax by the fires with a hot drink. Come and play hard, eat hearty and enjoy fellowship with other men of God.



The Nest

The Nest will be kicking off the New Year Tuesday, January 11th!

We will meet between 6 and 6:30 to have a little pizza, fellowship and a wonderful time with the women of the church. Please feel free to invite friends anytime!



Come and join us January 9 at Pizza Ranch

(5450 W. Integrity Way).

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can spend some time with one another after our church service. This is a nice opportunity to enjoy fellowship with others from our church



Growing God's Way Ministries



The kids did a wonderful job on Sunday, December 19, blessing our church with a great performance!

Happy New Year! We're praying this year will bring much laughter and many blessings to you and your family! And most importantly that we will grow in our relationship with our Lord Jesus!

What's Happening in Grow God's Way Children Ministry this month:

Lil' Sprouts (3yr. and under)

This month the children will be learning that they are His masterpiece (God created you).

Verse: Psalm 139:14 For you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Sprouts/Evergreens (4yr.-5th grade)

This month we will be using the Gospel Project, Jesus the Messiah.

From Adam to Jesus, John was born, Jesus was born, Jesus was dedicated, and Jesus as a child.

Verse: John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

The LORD Bless you and keep you; The lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26



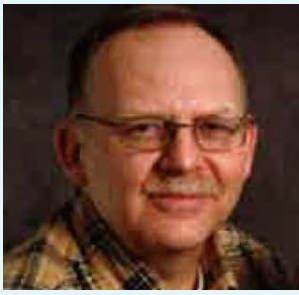
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Awana Club! In December our clubbers created their own wooden peg nativity sets. A special thank you to Aimee Moran for organizing this activity. Club resumes on January 5th with Pajama Night! Come in your comfy PJs! January 12th is a regular club, but then January 19th will be GLOW in the dark night! Round up your "glow in the dark" gear and let's shine brightly by letting our lights bring "Glow—ry to Jesus!"



We had a great time together at our lock-in at the church from Friday night until Saturday morning on December 17-18!



Districts are coming up the weekend of January 7-9. Please be praying for all those who attend that it be a great time of teaching, growth and fellowship. Youth group will resume meeting January 16th.



Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a chance to celebrate Christmas with friends and family and that you had a special time to reflect on God's eternal and everlasting gift. I also hope this season was a time of rest in Him and we were not just blasting through a list of to dos to the point that we collapsed on New Years Day and wondered what just ran us over. By our old nature, we have a tendency to do that.

The new year has come. Out with the old and in with the new. Let's see now. What can I resolve to do that will make **me** feel better and shiny new. I just need to change some things to

make **me** truly happy. I need to get in shape. That's it! I need to lose twenty pounds and then I will look better and feel really good about **myself**. Or maybe it's **my** job? Yeah, I need a better job because I don't feel appreciated. Or maybe what I really need is a dog. I am lonely and they love you unconditionally! Do you see a pattern here?

Unfortunately, many of us fall into that trap. Though we have trusted in Him as our Savior, we still stray and look to find contentment and happiness in things that our culture views as valuable or attractive or just warm and furry. It is a very easy trap to fall into. Especially at this time of year when we do the old self-assessment. People in the field of Psychopathology point to January as being the toughest time of year for mental health. Short days mean not as much sunlight (vitamin D) and hauling out on subzero days to go to work on top of the seasonal anxiety you may have just experienced – well you get the picture. Some have actually pointed to a specific day, January 16th. By then, many of us have actually abandoned our new year's resolutions already, but still face months of winter left to endure. Sounds pretty bleak.

But, can we backtrack a little and see where the train falls off the tracks? We have just celebrated the gift of Jesus who came and died to ransom us so we can spend eternity with the Father in a place so incredible that scripture describes it as a place the human mind cannot even conceive of. But in the meantime, before we even get there, He promises that He will also be here with us always, even to the ends of the earth. He has set his seal upon us and we are assured that He will have a place prepared for us among His Father's many rooms. The Bible teaches us that that we glorify Him by serving and living in close relationship with Him. So, why do we continue to look in the mirror and not to our Heavenly Father for contentment?

He doesn't care if we carry some extra pounds. Nothing in the Bible speaks of getting on a scale prior to admission into Heaven. He doesn't care if we look like fashion models. He chose to come to this earth in a form that was neither beautiful or majestic. He loves us just the way we are. We were made in His image. That cannot be improved upon. He knows your needs and will provide them. His word promises that if we seek his righteousness, He will give us everything that we truly need.

Psalm 23, is probably the most famous Psalm. In that Psalm, the mighty King David likens himself to a sheep under the Lord's (Great Shepherd) care. That in itself is amazing that David, who was a shepherd AND the mightiest King of Israel, saw himself as a helpless sheep under the care of His mighty Father God, the Great Shepherd. Sheep are extremely needy and rely on their shepherds for almost continual care. They are extremely skittish and fearful, not able to rest, feed, or drink unless the shepherd tends to them and makes his presence known at all times. *He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.....for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.* Yet the very first verse tells the story. *The Lord is My Shepherd. I shall not want.* Though I am this little, helpless, scared animal, who by myself cannot eat, drink, or rest, I am in need of NOTHING because You are near. If this mighty King, and man of God, felt this way about his Lord I think we can trust in Him as well to take total control! Have we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior but not sought the fellowship that He wants us to enjoy? I really believe that we are stealing glory from the Father if we still seek to find meaning and enjoyment in this world outside of Him. Walking with Him and enjoying His presence in our lives brings glory to Him!

So this year if we want a resolution that is truly life changing, let's resolve to trust Him completely. We can't let the trappings of this world pull us back and forth like the ship tossed on the waves. Let's spend more time on our knees and more time in His word. Let Him provide all our needs and deal with our fears and anxieties. In Him, we are a new creation, clothed in His righteousness. Truly out with the old rags and in with the new righteousness. Only life in Him can truly satisfy. Let's shine for Him.

Mr. Ted

The FEAR of the LORD is the FOUNDATION that Gives us STRENGTH & SECURITY as We Begin a NEW YEAR!

Sometimes there are some truths and principles that every one of us needs, that probably should be more evident or obvious than they are, but we also might need a nudge or a reminder to bring them into proper focus. I know that’s true for me. In addition to this, it’s important to note that most of them are lessons we gain from having a clear understanding of God’s Word.

*Throughout the Bible, “the fear of the Lord” is emphasized as a necessity for us to have a healthy and vibrant relationship with our Lord and Savior and I don’t believe that it receives enough attention. It’s highlighted in the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, as well as in many of Paul’s epistles. We might define or explain it in this way, “Simply stated, **to fear the Lord** involves having an appropriate reverence and respect for God that acknowledges His authority, sovereignty, and majesty. It’s all about understanding that He is God and there is nothing else in our entire universe that deserves our worship!” This actually sounds more theological than it is. In reality, it’s as practical and personal as it possibly could be. Maybe we should pause and ask ourselves about our tendencies or temptations toward idolatry. As we step into the new year, here are some scripture passages intended to help us start the new year by analyzing the strength of our relationship with the Lord. First, please consider three questions and then focus some attention on several passages that tell us about “the fear of the Lord.” Please use these passages to help analyze how much respect and reverence we have for the Lord.*

- 1) Why is **the fear of the Lord** an essential aspect of maintaining a healthy relationship with God?
- 2) How should the **fear of the Lord** be a part of our daily routine?
- 3) In what ways do our **personal fears** influence our ability/inability to trust and honor the Lord?

*Proverbs 1:7 **The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Proverbs 9:10 **The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

*Proverbs 15:16 Better is a little with the **fear of the Lord**
Than great treasure and turmoil without it.*

*Proverbs 19:23 The **fear of the Lord** leads to life,
So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.*

*Proverbs 14:27 **The fear of the Lord** is a fountain of life,
That one may avoid the snares of death.*

*Proverbs 16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for,
And **by the fear of the Lord** one keeps away from evil.*

*Ecclesiastes 12:13—14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God** and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*

2 Corinthians 5:9—11 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, **knowing the fear of the Lord**, we persuade men.

Happy New Year to everyone! May God’s richest blessings fill our lives as we seek to show Him our reverence and respect throughout 2022! With prayer for God’s glory and praise for His grace, Pastor Greg

Mission of the Month—The Augsburg Family



Hardship of COVID Brings Innovation

What are you thankful for this season? Even though the world is still struggling with the effects of the COVID pandemic, our ministry partners with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit have used the JESUS Film creatively. The gospel is like beams of light shining in the darkness. Let's celebrate together.

Praise God in 2020, our partners broadcasted the JESUS Film over TV and radio to 100 million plus people who watched and listened in their own homes. Gypsy women gave their lives to Christ after watching Magdalena. These ladies started using Rivka and Walking with Jesus as follow up discipleship tools.

In Egypt, 700 people from 87 different churches being trained with JESUS Film resources went out that day to practice using the JESUS Film app. In Guatemala, high school students meet weekly to study the Bible using the 61 segments of the JESUS film. In Uganda, at a digital training conference, the director of the largest media house and the chief editor of a newspaper was in attendance learning how they could share Christ digitally.

In Myanmar, 31 trainers equipped 4,400 church planters to show them how they could reach every village in their country. In Poland, believers were trained to share JESUS Film content through Facebook Messenger. We saw 37 countries air Magdalena for the International Women's Day with over 100 million views. People in East Asia used the JESUS Film app while handing out masks and hand sanitizer. The monks asked the workers why they were risking being out in public. They answered, "It is because the God of love, Jesus Christ has sent us."

In South East Africa, the Hope Project, 400 trainers taught 40,000 church lay volunteers and digital users saw 4.7 million people trust Christ with over 100,000 people going through follow up. Also 1,500 small groups have been started and 1,000 churches planted and 59,000 people trained to continue sharing the gospel digitally.

In the Philippines, SLM trained 204 staff on a 10 day outreach to raise up trained disciples on 15 different campuses. One month later, the 204 leaders had an outreach of a goal to reach up to 10,000 additional leaders. This was all done virtually.

We had our first JESUS Film premiere shown virtually through Facebook to an unreached people group who speak the Gaddang language in the Philippines! Praise the LORD!!!

What are you thankful for?

Mission of the Month

We are collecting nonperishable food items for St. Joe's Food pantry. The need is greater than ever. Please drop off your donation in the box between Lisa's office and the Prayer Room. Thank you so much.

Food Drive



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
Phone 920-735-9971

Regular Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays
Tuesday—Friday
8:30 am – 2:30 pm



We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org

