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National Day of Prayer

On Thursday, May 5, our sanctuary will be open from 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. to pray for our church, state, nation, and world.



A Word from Pastor Blake

Biblical Principles to Help us Navigate the News

The news has become part of our everyday lives. My phone goes off at least once a week with a breaking news story. Last night I was alerted that Elon Musk bought twitter. Yahoo puts a bright red banner across the top of the page. How can you not click a bright red banner? Companies use provocative titles, so you click their story.

How should we as Christians read the news? I am going to start out by saying there are no hard and fast rules. I am not going to give you time limits or recommend certain new sources. I believe these principles can apply if you read one news article a day or fifteen a day. These principles will apply if you watch Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, or some any other news source.

Start with God (Proverbs 1:1-7, 9:10)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We need God at the center before we can have a true understanding about what is going on in the world. Read the Bible before you read the news. Set your mind on the things of Christ! God is at work amid a sinful and broken world. A good thing to do is ask yourself, "where is God in this story?"

Hold on to God (Proverbs 3:5-7)

Proverbs calls us to trust in God with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding. There is hope even when the news story paints a gloomy picture. We don't know all the things that God is doing. We can think we have all the answers, but we only know a few details. The all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise God, knows what He is doing.

Genesis 37-50 are some of my favorite chapters in the Bible. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, wrongly accused by his boss's wife, and forgot about in prison. His conclusion at the end is what man meant for evil, God meant for good. We read the news and see only evil, but we can trust God to be who He says He is. We can hold onto His promises.

The Wicked will not Prosper forever (Proverbs 3:33-35, 28:18, Psalm 37)

It can seem like the wicked are prospering. It seems like the evil people are getting away with all their sins. Things are not always the way that they seem. The truth is that one day God will bring all this to an end. God is a just God who will not let the sinner go unpunished. Remember God's character as you read the news. Remember the outcome for the wicked as they continue in their ways. Use this as a reminder to pray for the sinner. Maybe God's patience will lead the evil person to repentance.

Gather all the Facts (Proverbs 18:17)

Proverbs 18:17 has court room imagery. The one who states his case first seems right, until someone comes to examine him. Breaking news is coming so fast that it matters more to break a news story than get all the facts straight. We need to get all the facts before we come to conclusions.

A few years ago, a person posted a story about a man who was watching kids get off the bus. I saw the story because it took place in a town near St. Cloud. This story blew up and this guy's reputation was ruined. The truth is the guy parked his truck so he could look up the address to his son's new house.

Facts matter when we want to understand the news. Get news from multiple sources. It doesn't mean that all sources are equally trustworthy, but it helps wade through bias that can be found in the news.

Check your Emotions as you Read (Proverbs 4:23, 25:28, 29:11)

It is easy to reads the news and get despondent or angry. Some of those emotions may be valid. It is hard to see news coverage of war and not feel depressed. I read news articles about evil people doing evil things and it makes me angry. I pray that it is righteous anger! We still need to check our emotions or at least ask why we are angry or depressed.

I know I can get anxious when the economy isn't doing well. I can get mad when I read a news article about increased taxes. Is some other idol being stepped on that is causing me to be mad? Does God care about the issue for the same reason that I care? We should be adamantly opposed to sin and hold our personal opinions loosely.

Pray as you Read (Proverbs 15:8, 15:29)

God hears the prayers of the righteous person. The sorrows and pains of the world should cause us to run to the one who is in control of all things. He hears our prayers. I believe that prayer is a powerful tool in the Christian life. Continue to keep coming back to God! He is the one who can change things, including our hearts.

Updates and Opportunities



Mission of the Month—Vida Medical Clinic (former Mother & Unborn Baby)

- Girls sleepers (12-24 month)
- Boys and Girls onesies (18-24 month)
- Boy Toddler clothes (2T – 5T)
- Baby wipes and diapers
- Gas gift cards (\$10 each), **please turn into office.**
- Grocery gift cards (\$10 each), **please turn into office**



The Nest

Calling all Women.....

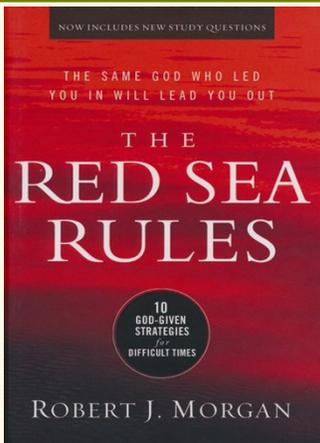
Ladies young and old, come join us May 10 at 7:00 p.m., for the last Nest before summer. We will be making a fun Spring craft and listening to Dawn Zaruba speak. Join us for some fun, fellowship,



“Let’s Do Lunch”

Come and join us May 15 at Pizza Ranch
(5450 W. Integrity Way).

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can



Women’s Summer Book Club

The book we will be reading this Summer is “The Red Sea Rules: 10 God Given Strategies For Difficult Times.” Life is hard. It is certain that we will face difficulties, and that God will allow them, as He allowed the Israelites to become trapped between Pharaoh's rushing armies and the uncrossable Red Sea. But just as certain is the fact that the same God who led us in will lead us out. As “The Red Sea Rules” makes clear, He is in control.

We will be meeting in small groups in homes. Please let the church office know if you are interested and what days and times will work for you.



Student Ministry—Operation Fox Valley June 19-24



The youth will be participating in a local serving trip called Operation Fox Valley. Here are some ways the congregation can participate in the trip.

1. Pray for the serving. Pray for the people we will minister to and for the hearts of our students and leaders.
2. Do you have any projects we can do? One of the afternoons we will be serving the people in our church.
3. Would you consider volunteering for one of the days? We need adults to minister with the students and to the students. We need volunteers to help transport students to ministry locations.



Please contact Pastor Blake if you would be interested in a group come to your house or if you are interested in serving.

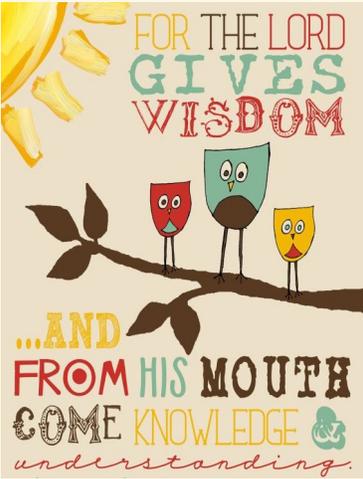
Growing God's Way Ministries

Growing God's Way Children's Ministry...

Lil' Sprouts ages: under 4 years old.

This month the Sprouts will be learning from the book of Proverbs.

Verse: Proverbs teach you wisdom...Proverbs 1:2



Sprouts/Evergreens ages: 4 years old through 5th grade.

This month the children will be learning from the book of Proverbs. They will memorize Proverbs 1:1-5. We will focus on three main points of Proverbs, wisdom, knowledge, and right from wrong.

Key Verse: Proverbs teach you wisdom and instruct you. They help you understand wise saying. Proverbs 1:2

KIDS' BIBLE CHALLENGE is still happening!

Have your child fill out the Bible Challenge slip and return it Sunday morning. The goal is that we have lifelong learners of the Word, that they will crave His Word every day.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' "

Matthew 4:4



April was a fun month for Awana! We had an awesome turnout for our Grand Prix and hot dog dinner. We are super grateful for the Awana missionary who comes to set up the track, as well as all of the amazing volunteers who helped make the night run smoothly. We even had a special message from Pastor "Brake," explaining the safety features of cars and how they remind us of the Armour of God.

We've had so much fun all year, but our Awana year has officially come to a close. We ended our Awana season with an Awards night. This year we had 3 Timothy Award recipients, including 2 from our congregation: Aliyah MacDonald, and Adeline VanHouten. All 3 Timothy award recipients had an opportunity to share about their Awana experience. Our Awards night also had a special visit from Cubbie Bear, who reminded all of our clubbers about the reason why Jesus died for all of us. We also recapped our favorite moments of Awana and had a chance to see pictures from the whole year. Watch the slideshow here: [Awana 2022](#) and see pictures that show a lot of fun and energy, but we also heard stories of children coming to Christ and asking serious questions about faith.



A HUGE shout out to all of our leaders who served this year, as our club wouldn't have been the same without our leaders. If you are interested in serving next year, please let us know at appletonawana@gmail.com, we'd love for you to be a part of all that God is doing through our Awana program!

Stay tuned for 2022-2023 registration this summer!



Come and join us on **Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the church for our Yamily Gatherings.

Everyone is welcome!





Practical Prayer Practices

As we experience the change in seasons, the anticipation of warmer weather and extra to-do's may be building some excitement and anxiety. I encourage you to read Pastor Blake's last article in the [April Newsletter](#) about being too busy – surely you have an extra minute or two to check it out.

Note the aspect of prayer as mentioned as a way to sit at the feet of Jesus.

I admit it is convicting to acknowledge my prayer life suffers as the schedule fills up.

Yet, prayer is a main value we at ACEFC hold in high esteem:

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 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ESV)

We're also familiar with Paul's charge to pray without ceasing, so how can we keep our priority of prayer? Beyond the foundational importance of recognizing it is how we communicate with the God of the universe and brings Him near to us, establishing consistent prayer times and practices can help ensure we stay connected with Him.

Some intentional, practical triggers to help remind us to pray or be more consistent:

Prayer lists – Create a physical, written list of prayer ideas: thank you's, repentances, petitions, requests (yours and others). When's the last time you've asked your spouse, children, or parents "How can I pray for you?"

Parking lot prayers – Anytime you park your car, anywhere, pray. A great way to prepare yourself for what He may have for you before you embark at work, church, school, errands, returning home, etc. (Idea courtesy of a friend who uses this technique before each day at a stressful job).

Before eating/drinking – anything. Do you give thanks for the coffee as much as the dinner? How about the late-night snack or hurried lunch?

Don't say Amen – This one's difficult as the prayer may not seem to end, but that's the point! Although it's an appropriate concluding affirmation/request, it's okay to let the Lord know what's on your heart and ask that he shares His will as you seek to speak with Him again soon. Even indicating the next time you intend to enter the throne room may help you seek Him more earnestly.

A great gift from consistent prayer will be an increase in patience. Yet it takes patience to pray, so where to start? You may just need to pray for patience...

You'll experience many other great fruits as well – I encourage you to refresh your memory with the lyrics/histories of *Sweet Hour of Prayer* and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

If you have a prayer request, please share with us here: [Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church](#)

Praying for ACEFC in Him,

Marshall Legg

Church Happenings

Awana Award Night 2022



Awana Award Night 2022

Aliyah MacDonald

Timothy Award Recipient



Adeline VanHouten

Timothy Award Recipient



Church Happenings — Con't

Awana Derby Race



Church Happenings — Con't

Awana Derby Race



A Personal Priority, A Precious Privilege, A Powerful Protection: Prayer

Traditionally on the first Thursday in May, many people in our nation participate in the National Day of Prayer. This year, it's May 5! On a personal level, I have mixed emotions about a only single day set aside for something as important and essential as prayer. But, with that being said, I'd like to draw our attention to Ephesians 6:10, 18–20. Also please notice all that Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:11–17 about finding our strength in the Lord, in the power of His might, and in the protective armor He provides for us when we totally trust Christ as our Lord and Savior! So, to introduce this article, here are some interesting quotations that help prepare our thoughts for what's we'll find in Paul's encouragement about finding strength through prayer.

- “Prayer is a weapon, a mighty weapon in a terrible conflict. **Our prayers are to be a continual, conscious, earnest effort of battle, the battle against whatever is not God's will.**” —P. T. Forsyth
- “Prayer is a **shield** to the soul, a **sacrifice** to God, and a **scourge to Satan.**” —John Bunyan
- “Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger men and women. **Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.**” —Phillips Brooks
- “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. **He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.**”
—Samuel Chadwick
- “Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since **the power of prayer is in the One Who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.**” —Max Lucado
- When asked how much time he spent in prayer, George Mueller's reply was, “Hours every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer. **I pray as I walk and when I lie down and when I arise. And the answers are always coming.**”
- Ephesians 6:10 ... 18–20 “Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.** ... With all prayer and petition **pray at all times in the Spirit,** and with this in view, **be on the alert** with all perseverance and petition **for all the saints, and pray on my behalf,** that **words of truth may be given to me** in the opening of my mouth, **to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,** for which I am an ambassador in chains; **that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

As I draw some conclusions, I'd like to highlight the truths and explain the practical lessons we find in these verses from Paul's exhortation/encouragement about prayer.

- 1} “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might” —When we become faithful followers of Christ, we also become soldiers in the Lord's army. Then, God's Spirit takes residence in our lives, giving us all the necessary Spiritual Armor to provide protection. When we pray, we're recognizing and acknowledging the Source of our protection and strength, and adorning ourselves with God's Armor.
- 2} “Pray at all times in the Spirit!” —Simply said, this involves asking God to reveal any unconfessed sins that might hinder our prayers; it also means requesting that God's will might be done and relying completely on the guidance and direction of God's Spirit. We can ask for anything in our prayers, but if we desire something that's either sinful or out of line with God's will, the answer is going to be, “No.”
- 3} “Be on the alert!” —Being alert relates to the idea of being on guard duty and watching for any temptations that might influence and impact us—or anyone else within our sphere of influence. We should pray for the awareness necessary to avoid the temptation, to find the escape that God will provide, and for strength to flee.
- 4} Pray for those who might be on the front lines of ministry, especially those who are called to speak the Truth in Love to people around us, both those who are followers and those who haven't yet trusted in the Lord's gracious provision of forgiveness and freedom from the penalty for sin.
- 5} *Within our culture today, for every faithful follower of Christ, prayer is a personal priority, a precious privilege, and a powerful protection against the schemes and strategies of those who oppose God's plans and purposes!*

With prayer for God's glory and praise for His grace, Pastor Greg

Mission of the Month— Andy & Barb Krause



The vibrant, diverse cultures of Asia are home to many who have never heard about Jesus. Asia is also home to some of the most dynamic, transformational gospel movements in the world—and when you join our team, you get to be part of teaching people more about Jesus and seeing churches planted around the region.

ReachGlobal ministry in Asia is unique because, while we have city teams in places like Japan and Korea, we also do ministry through partnership. Whether that's child sponsorship with GlobalFingerprints, church planting with Global Equipping or working alongside local ministries and regional partnerships, there are a multitude of ways to get involved in Asia.

Thank you for your interest in what God is doing in Asia through ReachGlobal to multiply transformational churches among all people! The following descriptions provide current snapshots of the vision God has given to each of our ministry teams in Asia and a brief glimpse of how He is at work. Each team needs:

NEW STAFF – We are praying for more workers to join our ministry teams. As you read through each team description, you will discover some of our current opportunities for short-term and long-term staff. Is God leading you to serve him on one of our teams in Asia?

CHURCH PARTNERS – We are praying for more churches to partner with our ministry teams in a focused manner to accomplish the vision. Your church could be involved in multiple ways such as praying for the work in Asia, sending short-term teams, assisting with projects, and working alongside our staff and Asian partners. Is your church looking for a place to partner in Asia?

PRAYER WARRIORS – Use these ministry team descriptions as a tool to inform and impassion your prayers for what God is doing in and through ReachGlobal in Asia. Perhaps pray for one team per day. Is God asking you to pray for our ministry teams in Asia?



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

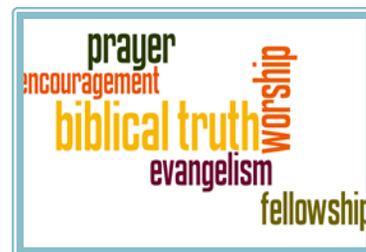
We believe in sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with honesty and humility. (Matthew 28:19-20)

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