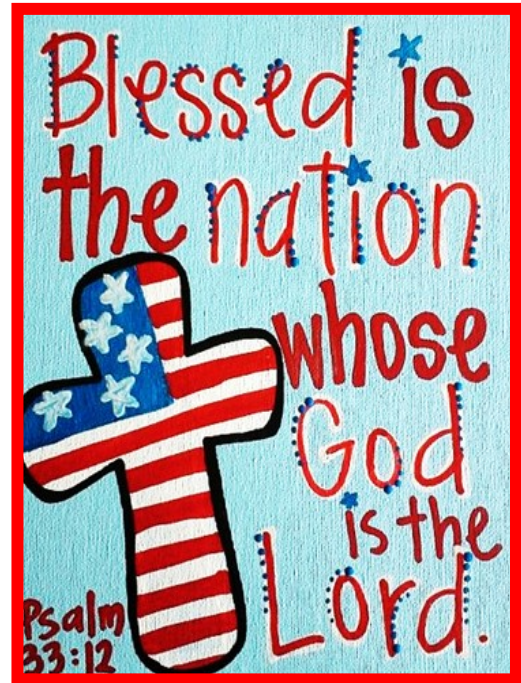


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## A Word from Pastor Blake

It was a joy to serve with the youth during Operation Fox Valley. I watched these students eat together, laugh together, study the Bible together, pray together, and serve together. Things didn't always work out to our plan, but I never heard any complaints. I hope you enjoy some of the pictures from the week. Ask the students what God taught them and enjoy their stories!

This week the students participated in...

- Neighborhood outreach and yard clean up
- Bread give away and windshield washing at Kwik trip
- Projects around the church
- Projects for church members houses
- Sports camp at Lynndale Apartments
- Teen Outreach at the church



# Updates and Opportunities



## It's A Picnic in the Park

Saturday July 16

10:30 - ?

Jennerjohn Park, Greenville

Ladies-Pack a lunch, bring the kids and some cookies/bars/brownies to share and join us for a picnic. This is just to hang out and enjoy each other.



## Lavila Reiss Celebration of Life Service & Luncheon

The Witter family would like to invite you to a celebration of life service for Becky's mom Lavila Reiss on Saturday, July 9 at 11:00 a.m. at church with a luncheon following.



## Come and Join us July 17 at Pizza Ranch (5450 W. Integrity Way).

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can spend some time eating and enjoying fellowship with one another. If you feel comfortable, we would love to have you fill the room with joy and laughter. If you can't join us this time, you can join us next time.



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is coming August 1-4 from 6-8 p.m. Please register your children ASAP at the table in the foyer at church. We are also in need of crafts, snacks, and decorations. If you are able to help, please take a look at the donation board on the registration table. Contact Aimee Moran for any questions!

## What's Happening in Growing God's Way Children's Ministry

### Lil' Sprouts ages: under 4 years old.

This summer the Sprouts will be learning about a few of Jesus' Disciples.

### *We need to follow Jesus like the disciples.*

The children have been practicing counting to 12, sorting plastic people and having fun playing a disciple matching game. They have learned about Peter and how the disciples were Jesus' friends.



**Memory Verse: Matthew 10:1** Jesus called for his 12 disciples to come to him.

### Sprouts/Evergreens ages: 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



The children will continue to learn about The 12 Disciples. They have learned about Peter, James, John, Philip and Bartholomew. Peter and John visited for an interview. There may be more visitors throughout the summer.

### **Memory Verse: Verse: Matthew 10:1-4**

1. Jesus called for his 12 disciples to come to Him. He gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every illness and sickness. 2. Here are the names of the 12 apostles. First were **Simon Peter** and his brother **Andrew**. Then came **James**, son of Zebedee, and his brother **John**. 3. Next were **Philip** and **Bartholomew**, and also **Thomas** and **Matthew** the tax collector. Two more were **James**, son of Alphaeus, and **Thaddaeus**. 4. The last were **Simon** the Zealot and **Judas Iscariot**. Judas was the one who was later going to hand Jesus over to his enemies.

## **KIDS' BIBLE CHALLENGE is still going on!**

Have your child fill out the Bible Challenge slip and return it Sunday morning.

*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*

**Mark your calendars VBS, August 1-4! Check out the VBS Table in the foyer at church!**



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



## Elders Report by Doug Moran



My father-in-law, Bill, was an amazing man. The way he loved his wife, his family, his friends, his church and most importantly, the way he loved the Lord. His life was a direct reflection of his love and devotion for/to God. And everyone who knew him noticed. If you would have attended his funeral, you would have heard stories about the kind of godly man that he was. How he was humble, loving, forgiving, accepting, patient, kind and helpful. He was a great fisherman too! I already knew all this about Bill, but while listening to these stories I was really convicted. Am I being a godly example to others like Bill was? Are people seeing the light of Christ in me? I can imagine the answer to these questions is, not enough! But I know that I can be doing something differently to help improve that. And that is... spend more time in the Word and allow the Holy Spirit to work in me.

Scripture reminds us...

2 Timothy 3: 15-17

And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1 Timothy 4: 14-16

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this for by doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Hebrews 12:11

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

# Church Happenings

## Children's Church

Little Sprouts learning about "wise choices" ( Proverbs)



Interview with "Peter"



Interview with "John"



Learning about the 12 Disciples



Interview with "Philip & Bartholomew"

Interview with "Philip & Bartholomew"



# Church Happenings— Continued

## Men's Breakfast



# Church Happenings

## Youth "Operation Fox Valley"





To Our ACEFC family,

Cindi and I want to give you our heartfelt thanks for your generous expression of love towards us through your many cards and monetary gifts. It has been a great pleasure these last few months to lead you as a congregation who has been so eager to worship. We have also been so blessed by your many words of encouragement and other expressions of love towards us. The last several months have brought us many challenges, but you were always there for us with your support and prayer. It has truly been a privilege for us to be part of such a loving congregation. We wish you God's richest blessing.

Dan and Cindi Dinkler

# Some Prayerful Thoughts from Pastor Greg

## Transformed By the Truth

In John 8:12 & 32, we read, “Then Jesus 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.**’ ... Jesus was saying to those who had believed Him, ‘**If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine and you will know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free.**’” In our culture today, it’s become more and more essential for us to abide in His Word and know the Truth, allowing God’s Word to transform us—protecting us from being infected and influenced by our secular society. Here’s an interesting testimony that is also very encouraging!

*At age 19, Christopher Parkening signed a contract with Capitol Records, and was asked to start the guitar department at the University of Southern California. The following year he signed with Columbia Artists Management and began a rigorous concert schedule touring the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. During that time, he became known as one of the most talented classical guitarists in the world.*

*The combination of teaching and recording obligations brought tremendous stress to his life. He was miserable on tour, hated the hotel rooms, the airplanes, the monotony of one concert after the next. But, he thought, there will come a day when he would be happy. He planned to become a multi-millionaire and own a ranch with his own trout stream where he could retire, by the age of 30. And that was the goal he pursued.*

*It happened—he achieved his goal, and his life’s dream! He stopped playing the guitar, found a ranch with a beautiful trout stream in Montana, and moved there from Southern California. He called Capitol Records, USC, and Columbia Artists Management to thank them, and to let them know that he wouldn’t be playing the guitar anymore. For the next four years, he did everything he wanted to do: fishing to his heart’s content, and going back to Southern California in the winter to escape the snow and cold weather. He was living the good life—or so he thought.*

*But, soon after retirement, he became bored with life and felt empty inside, but he didn’t know why. His “ideal” life was turning out to be not so ideal after all. He needed something more, something to provide the fulfillment his musical success and early retirement hadn’t given him. During one of his winter visits to Southern California a neighbor leaned over the backyard fence and invited him to a Bible teaching church where he heard a sermon that changed his life. That sermon caused his whole life to flash in front of him and he realized he would stand before Christ and hear Him say, “You never cared about glorifying Me with your life or with your music—all you cared about were your ranches and your trout streams. Depart from Me!”*

*He realized that he had believed some basic facts about Christ, and that he even wanted to be saved from hell, but he had never been willing to submit to the Lord’s authority! In his own words, he explained, “That night I realized that my life was a total washout. Knowing I was a sinner before God, I gave my life to Christ that night for real and I asked Him to forgive me of my sins and to be my Lord and Savior. And by His grace alone He saved me. My new commitment to Christ gave me a great desire to read the Bible and learn more about the Word of God. Soon it became evident that the Lord wanted me to return to playing the guitar again, but this time for a different purpose—to honor and glorify my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!”*

Please allow me to draw a brief conclusion (or a personal application). I often hear various people comment about the stress and tension they feel because of all that’s happening in this fast-paced world around us. I admit that it can become very overwhelming. The best response I can give points to the words of Jesus (in John 8 above) encouraging us to **abide in His Word, and that requires us to take the time to allow it to sink in and saturate our minds.** It might be beneficial

to recognize that we live in a “microwave world” where we often expect instant results. But if we want to properly abide in God’s Word, it’s necessary for us to use a “crock pot.” In Psalm 1 and throughout Psalm 119, we’re encouraged to meditate on the Word. That means we read it over and over, allowing it to fill our thoughts and transform our thinking. That’s how we can obtain an increasing sense of freedom

from the stressful conflicts and controversies thrust on us by our culture! Beyond that, we’ll become more and more transformed by God’s Truth!

**As always, with prayer for God’s glory and praise for His grace, Pastor Greg**





We are Roberto and Robin Paz. We currently serve with ReachGlobal Crisis Response in Covington, Louisiana as church planters and as Crisis Response staff that serve volunteer teams at the Hurricane Ida Covington site. Roberto is serving as pastor of the Latino church plant and uses English as a Second Language classes as an outreach opportunity. The church plant meets weekly for Bible study and Sunday worship services.

**Please pray:**

ESL - for successful learning, for an administrator dedicated to develop the courses, that Jesus would be known.

Dulce Refugio Church plant - for strengthened relationships with Christ, for hearts and hands to be committed to serve, and for Christ to be known through the church and its members, for the men currently in leadership training to be equipped and empowered to lead new groups by the end of the year.

ReachGlobal Crisis Response - for safety for staff and volunteer teams at each of our sites, for lives to be transformed by the Gospel.

**Robin Paz**

*Serving with ReachGlobal Crisis Response*

Phone: 985-302-2942



ESL



Dulce Refugio Worship Service

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**

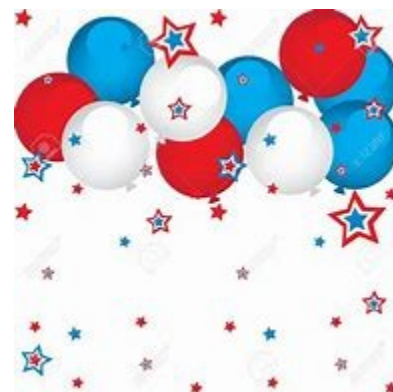
We believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)

**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)

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



Church Office Closed  
July 5 & 6

Regular Church Office  
Hours

Closed Mondays  
Tuesday—Friday  
8:30 - 2:30

