

Church Vision for the Year

“Covered in Prayer”



October Focus—Elections



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Christmas Tea-Save the Date



Ladies, you are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Tea! It will be held on **Saturday, December 3!** Come for fellowship, fun, food and time of inspiration. Stay tuned for more information.

Operation Christmas Child



As we draw near to Thanksgiving please remember those children who are very needy and have never heard of Jesus!
Fill a shoe box or a box from OCC with small toys, school supplies, or personal hygiene items and OCC will add a brochure about Jesus in their own language. They will have an opportunity to attend "The Greatest Journey" Bible study to learn even more about Jesus! You can also fill a box on line at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ/>. Please enclose \$10.00 for shipping and handling. **Boxes and instructions will be given out Sunday October 16 thru collection day which is Sunday November 13.**

God bless you for blessing a child and their family as well!!



Union with Christ

Union with Christ is one of the subjects I have always wanted to study. The scriptures seem to talk about being in Christ or Christ being in us. I realized I didn't know a lot about it so I decided to think about it theologically and practically.

What does it mean to be in union with Christ?

Grudem says union with Christ is a phrase that summarizes several different relationships with Christ and the believer. The Bible often says we are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.¹ Union with Christ is essential to our relationship with God and our understanding of salvation. One is connected to God through the work of Christ and once one receives salvation they are said to be in Christ. The benefits of our union with Christ are all the aspects of salvation, which includes: election (Eph. 1:4), adoption (Eph. 1:5), justification (Rom. 8:1), sanctification (John 15:5), and glorification (Rom. 8:30). The Bible often uses the phrase "in Christ". The Bible uses this phrase to talk about our connection to Christ's work on earth. Whatever Christ did as our representative is thought of as being performed by us.² This is how God views Christ's righteousness as being our own because we are united to Him (Rom. 5:19). God also views our sins as Jesus' sin because we are in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). We are in Christ but the Bible also talks about Christ being in us. John 15:5 talks about believers abiding in Jesus and at the same time Jesus abiding in us. This indwelling of Christ is what gives Christians the power to live the Christian life. The Christian life is not one of self-effort but is a supernatural life that is dependent on the work of Jesus Christ. The Bible says we are like Christ. Ephesians 5:1 tells believers to be imitators of God. We imitate God and Christ through our actions in this life. Husbands are supposed to love their wives like Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25), people are supposed to forgive like Christ forgives (Col. 3:13), and people are supposed to be humble like Jesus is humble (Phil. 2:5-11). Jesus also showed us how to suffer patiently.³ We as Christians know we will suffer because Jesus was persecuted (Matt. 10:22). Jesus gave us an example to follow. Ultimately Christians are supposed to look more like Christ through the processes of sanctification. Christians are also said to be with Christ. One has personal fellowship with Christ even now. Jesus said he will be with us to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20). Not only are we in relationship with the Christ but because we are with Christ we are also in fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 17:21, Rom. 8:9).⁴

Implications for Christian living.

1. We are in Christ, imitators of Christ, putting to death sin in our lives through the process of sanctification, to live lives that are different from the world around us. Being in Christ means that we keep His commandments (1 John 2:3-6).
2. We are in Christ, in fellowship with Him and with other believers. We are called into a community of believers to help in this fight for sanctification.
3. We are counted righteous in Christ.⁵ Every work is viewed as our work because we are in Him. God sees us as righteous not because of our good works but because of Jesus' good works.
4. Because Christ is in us, we now live in His strength (Phil. 4:13). This is a great encouragement to every Christian because we are weak. We fail in many ways. We don't perfectly obey. We don't perfectly handle suffering but our union with Christ gives us the strength to live.
5. We will be raised from the dead because of the work of Christ (Rom.6:4). Our connections with Him makes our resurrection sure. This helps us endure suffering and allows us to persevere to the end.

¹Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 841

²Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 841

³Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 845

⁴Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 847

⁵ Millard Erickson, Systematic Theology, p. 822

Updates and Opportunities



Meal Train

For some of you who may be new or have not heard about it, we want you to know about the meal train ministry. Our church body is committed to bringing three meals for parents of new babies and also to families who have had surgery. At times, this may also include situations for an extended illness. Our church uses an application called meal train as a way to contact families within the church body for any meals that may be needed. There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?"

Often we can help them with a meal. For those that would like meals, you will receive an email stating that Suzanne Matula has invited you to join the meal train for the individual or family who would appreciate some meals. At that time, you may create an account IF you haven't already done so. Once that has been done, the application is very user friendly. You will be given all of the information necessary for that particular meal train. If you cannot participate at any given time, just simply delete the email.

Thanks for serving our body in this way.....



The Nest

Ladies, join us the 2nd Tuesday each month for the Nest. It's a time to gather, share, create and be encouraged. The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at church. This month's craft will be a simple visual prayer reminder.



La Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation Trip

The fall trip to the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation will be **October 7-9**. Cost is \$50 per adult, 17 and under are free if accompanied by an adult. We leave Friday late morning/early afternoon and return Sunday afternoon. We will be doing serving projects in the community and within the Shack ministry. If you want to know more about this trip, please contact **Tim 920-851-9803**, or **Sue 920-851-3104**.



All Church Campfire & S'mores

Save the date for October 15 at 7:00 p.m. This is a family event and will be a night of fellowship, s'mores, games, and fun. Bring your own chairs/blankets, some hot cocoa or apple cider, and enjoy! Please contact Sue Diestler or Vera Hansen for more information.



Come and join us October 16 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



Youth and Children's Ministry

What's Happening in Growing God's Way Children's and Youth Ministries:



This year our focus for all ministries is PRAYER. Please take time to pray in your classroom and also check out our monthly prayer focus board.

Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."

Sprouts: Will be learning about Elisha (2 Kings).

Big Truth: We are only to Worship God!

Verse: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5



Evergreens: Will be learning about idols, prophets, and miracles. (2 Kings)

Verse: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

Big Truth: We are to Worship God Alone!

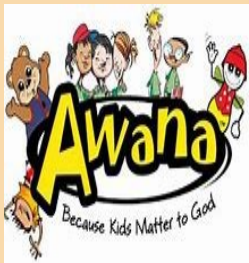


Kindergarten through 5th grade will be in the EVERGREENS ROOM. Children that are not in kindergarten, they will be in the SPROUTS ROOM.

We will have the Lil' Sprouts room open when needed for children under 2.

Sunday School (9:00-9:45) Aimee Moran will be teaching.

If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.



Awana kicked off in September and we are "FALLing" into our routines. Every Wednesday the church is filled with the joy and excitement of our 73 clubbers, along with our many leaders and volunteers. We are very fortunate to have a great team of leaders (but there is always space for more!) this year. Please pray for our Awana club - that we may serve as an outreach as well as a discipleship program for children to grow stronger in their faith. If you are interested in joining in on our Wednesday fun, please email

appletonawana@gmail.com

This month we had "Silly Hat" night and we shared our silly hats with our fellow clubbers.

October 5th is Sports Night and October 19th is Noah's Ark Night.



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

Everyone is welcome!



Being Shaped by Fatherhood



Fatherhood is on my mind and so I want to open up about how hard it is to be obedient to God under the stresses of being a Father coupled with my daily responsibilities. I have come to see that God has this powerful way of bringing me to my knees in order to rid me of my ungodliness. His perfect plan squeezes out the sin under the pressure of what I am confronting. I remember when I first was saved, I knew the truth of what God said but at that time, I was a bachelor, my biggest concern was whether God had a wife planned for me and when she would show up! God used that time in my life to understand the truth of His word more, to deepen my knowledge of doctrine and to prepare me for a time such as this, when He would love me enough to put me into situations where I could apply the truth and live out Godliness when life got challenging.

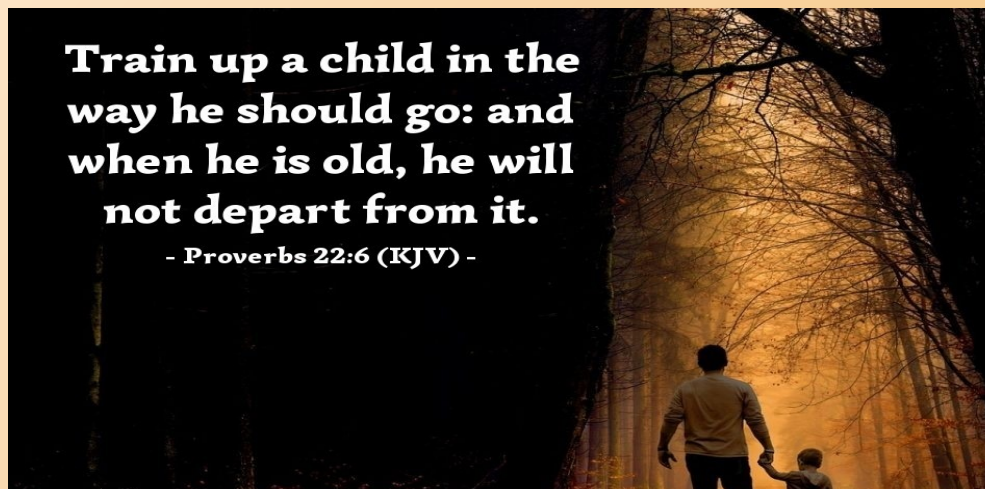
He loves me enough to put me into daily situations where I can choose the reaction that my boys see in me – every single tone is detrimental to how they view Godly character. I am their first impression of a man of God.

Here is a list of things I ponder daily when it comes to my role as a father:

- Do my kids see me reading God's word?
- Do they recognize a Godly love for strangers in me?
- Is my frustration on display for them to see?
- Am I responding to their hearts and not just their actions?
- Am I praying for their purity? Am I praying for their future spouse's love for God?
- Am I taking time to invest in them rather than the world?
- Do I encourage them to speak the truth always?
- Do I lie to them?
- Do I set an example of how a man should treat his wife?
- Do I take the time to ask and answer questions about the Lord in a meaningful way?

The reason I want to share this list is not because I can answer 'yes' to all of these, but because they are legitimate ways that the Lord has been convicting me. Knowing that God loves me enough to convict me of these things both destroys me but also causes me to seek Him in a deeper way. A way I recognized was always possible but couldn't comprehend as a single man with just his Bible.

Andy Soto



Church Happening's

Bible Sunday



Church Happening's

Women's Revive Simulcast



To access any of the sessions and the rest of the conference material, visit

TrueWoman22.com/Archive

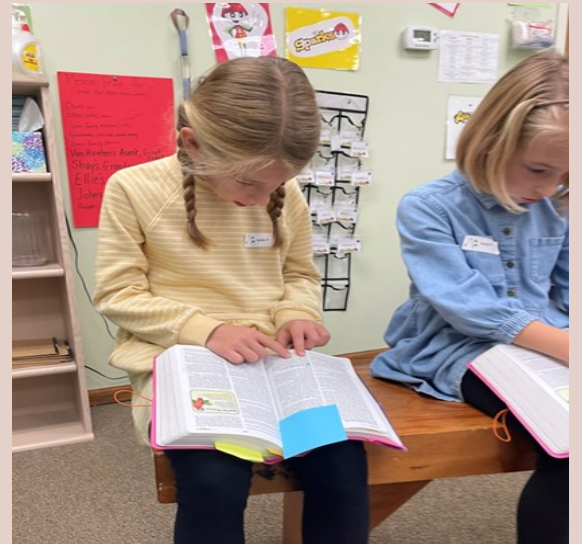
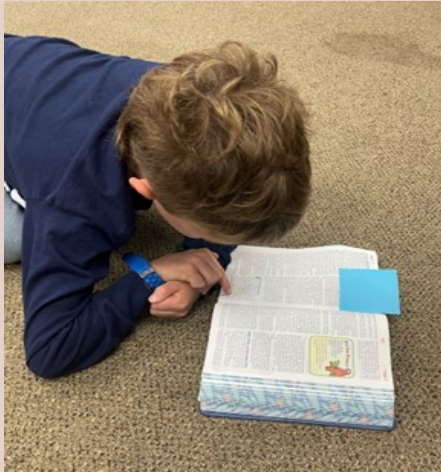
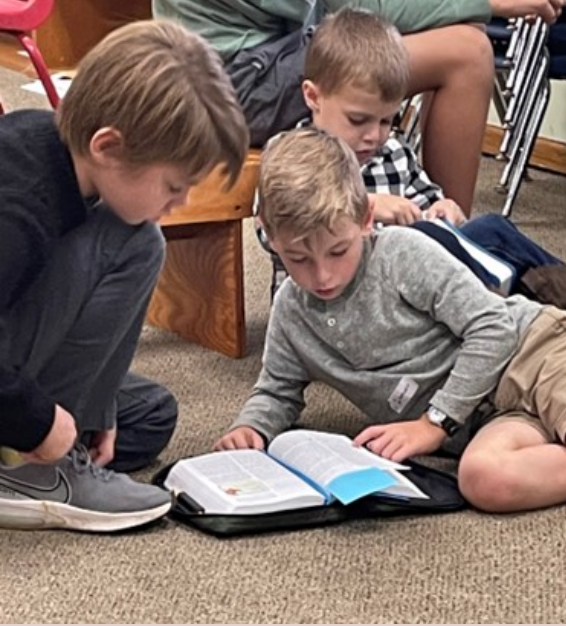
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Church Happening's

Children's Church

Digging into the Bible about Elijah & Elisha



Church Happening's

Awana Silly Hat Night



Some Prayerful Thoughts from Pastor Greg

Something That Deserves Our Attention: A True Hero Who Served The Lord Faithfully!

When I was in high school, someone at our church gave me a book that had recently been written. It was entitled, “*God’s Smuggler: Brother Andrew*.” When I began reading it, I couldn’t put it down—it told an amazing story about a man who began secretly taking Bibles into the Soviet Union, Romania, and China. Obviously, from the title you can determine that this man was known as Brother Andrew, but his real name was Andrew van der Bijl. He was from the Netherlands and this past week at 94 years old, he graduated from earth to heaven. In this article, I want to give tribute to him because his life was an example of someone who not only gave glory to God, it was one that demonstrated a very special commitment to reaching as many people as possible with the Good News of God’s saving grace. The book I read was written in the 1960’s, but Brother Andrew’s ministry continued throughout his entire life—and it’s been expanded through the efforts of an organization called *Open Doors, International*. Here are some highlights that might motivate us to become more



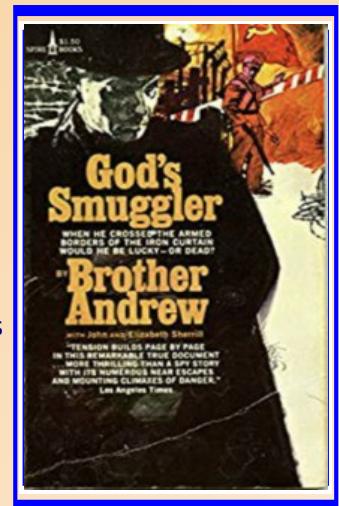
intentional in sharing the Gospel with others around us.

Brother Andrew is often described as the founder of Open Doors. But referring to him as *the founder* gives the impression that he was a *suit and tie wearing executive* who delivered presentations in a boardroom. In reality that image couldn’t be further from the truth. Brother Andrew was an amazing adventurer and risk taker. He’s best known, in fact, for courageously putting his life on the line to smuggle Bibles behind the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War. On one occasion, he approached the Romanian border in his Volkswagen Bug—which was packed with illegal Bibles (and had been given to him after a married couple had just purchased it brand new for themselves, but decided he needed it more than they did). He was hoping the border guards were moving the cars through quickly and not paying much attention, which might allow him to pass through undetected. But unfortunately, Brother Andrew saw the guards stop the first car. He observed with anticipation as the occupants were forced to remove everything in the car for careful inspection. This also happened to each car that followed, with the fourth car’s inspection lasting the longest. The guard took an hour to look, even taking off the hubcaps, checking under the hood, and removing the seats. “Dear Lord,” Brother Andrew remembers praying, “What am I going to do?” As he prayed, a strange idea came to his mind. “I know that no amount of cleverness on my part can get me through this border search. Dare I ask for a miracle? Let me take some of the Bibles out and leave them in the open where they will be seen.” He thought, “Allowing the Bibles to be visible would be depending on God, rather than his own creativity.” When the guards waved Andrew forward, that’s what he did. “I handed him my papers and started to get out. But his knee was against the door, holding it closed.” And then, something incredible happened.

The guard looked at Brother Andrew’s passport and immediately waved him on. “Surely thirty seconds had not passed,” he remembered. Brother Andrew started the engine and began pulling away, all the while wondering if he was supposed to pull over so the car could be taken apart and examined. “I coasted forward, my foot poised above the brake. Nothing happened. I looked out the rear mirror. The guard was waving the next car to a stop, indicating to the driver that he had to get out.” God had cleared the way for Brother Andrew to smuggle the Bible to Christians who had no access to God’s Word. After that situation, Brother Andrew developed a trademark prayer to say as he smuggled Bibles and Christian literature across the border: **“Lord God Almighty, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Don’t let the guards see those things You do not want them to see.”**

After the Iron Curtain was taken down, Brother Andrew set his sights on the Muslim world. In his eyes, he believed that God’s people shouldn’t be held back by man-made boundaries. **His message to us would encourage us to reach out! “The Bible is full of ordinary people who went to impossible places and did wondrous things simply because they decided to follow Jesus. The real calling,” he has said, “is not a certain place or career but to everyday obedience. And that call is extended to every Christian, not just a select few.”** *His life and ministry motivates me! I hope you’re encouraged to do whatever you can to spread God’s Truth to anyone and everyone that God places in our paths!*

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



Missionary of the Month - Chris & Carrie Davis Athletes in Action



After a very busy summer, which went by much faster than we realized, we are in the midst of our 10th year on campus at the University of Georgia. Carrie's new role as an International Sending Coordinator has meant additional travel to conferences as well as connecting and supporting Athletes in Action Staff throughout Europe. She's loved seeing AIA staff in Europe get back to in-person ministry. One family works with Pro Cycling in Spain and another staff member is working directly with the National Soccer Team in Europe.

Chris continues his work with lacrosse and men's golf as well as overseeing AIA's partnership with Jamaica. It's been a good start with lacrosse as 4 new guys have joined and 2 returned to his weekly discipleship group. It's been awesome watching these guys recruiting each other to show up on Tuesday nights. He will hopefully - God-willing and Jamaican-staff willing - help coordinate trips back to Jamaica in November and in the spring.

Caitlin has started 4th grade and Nate is in 2nd. Both are running cross country this fall and are loving it. We enjoy being able to connect with the other parents at practices and meets. Thanks to all of you - we're grateful for you.

-Chris, Carrie, Caitlin and Nate



Reach Global Crisis Response

Our Reach Global trip for 2023 is scheduled for February 25-March 4th. We do not have a location yet, that will be determined in October, after hurricane season winds down. We will be working on rebuilding houses after a disaster. Building skills are not needed as we can train you on the site. You just need a servant heart and a love for hurting people. A sense of adventure and a love of long car rides helps also!!

We plan to have an informational meeting on Sunday Oct. 23rd right after the service for those that are interested. If you have been on previous trips and plan on going, please let us know. If you are new to this type of ministry and have questions, please contact Tim 920-851-9803 or Sue 920-851-3104 or diestlerts@aol.com. We are happy to answer and questions or concerns you may have.

The cost of the trip will be approximately \$550-\$575 per person. Space may be limited depending on vehicles and location.

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
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Appleton, WI 54914
Phone 920-735-9971

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org



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

