



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 6.

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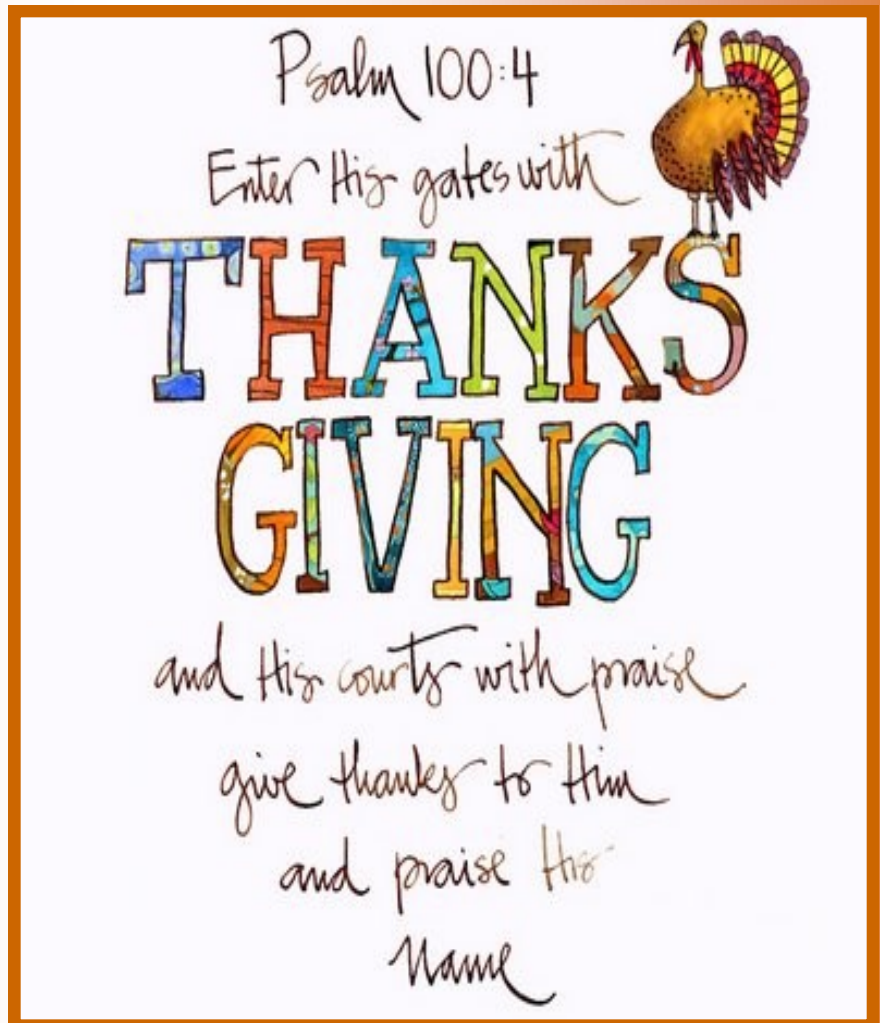
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**Church Office Closed**

**Thursday, & Friday, November 24-25  
for Thanksgiving Weekend.**

**Have a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving.**



### The Practical Comfort of the Character of God

God's wrath is his punishment against sin and wrongdoing. In Romans 12:17-21, Paul tells his readers to repay no one evil for evil and not to avenge yourself. Instead, Christians are supposed to leave it to the wrath of God and to overcome evil with good. There are multiple encouragements from this verse. If someone is suffering because of sin against them then this verse reminds them that God knows. God sees evil and punishes people for their evil deed. One does not need to get even when they are wronged. God will be the one to pour out His wrath and punish wickedness. God's wrath can help us fight against anger and bitterness. God sees the evil and will not let it go unpunished. God's wrath also leads us to do what all that we can to make this right and actually love the person who wronged us. I understand this will look different based on your own situations but use God's wrath as a motivation to do good.

Mercy is often described as God withholding a deserved punishment. It is often used in connection with our salvation. We all deserve God's wrath and hell but as Christians we receive God's mercy when Christ died for our sin. He took the punishment for your sin. If you feel guilt and shame over your sin, then remind yourself of God's mercy. God's mercy also helps us fight unforgiveness. We are supposed to be merciful as our Father is merciful (Luke 6:36). We often feel like we are owed something when we are wronged. Imitate God and show mercy to those who wronged you.

A.W. Pink defines holiness as the "antithesis of all moral blemish or defilement."<sup>1</sup> A.W. Tozer says that holiness is the incompressible fullness of purity.<sup>2</sup> This purity defines everything about God.<sup>3</sup> Everything He does and everything about Him is pure. When one says God is holy it means that He is without blemish and everything He does is perfectly pure. The Bible calls man to be holy just like God is holy. This means that man is supposed to do everything with purity and without sin. Man is supposed to conform to His holy law. This doctrine is helpful because it sets the standard for living. Most people will realize they fall short of this standard. God's holiness should lead us to the cross. The cross is a reminder that evil, and sin needs to be punished. The cross is the reminder that God made a way for unholy sinners to be saved. Holiness also sets that standard. Man, by the power of the Spirit is called to put to death sin and live in purity in every area of life. Repent from your sin and turn to Jesus!

Omnipotence means that God is able to do anything that is not outside His character. He has complete control and power over everything. This includes our lives. He has control over all the circumstances in your life. Nothing takes Him by surprise. Read those sentences again! You can rest in His omnipotence knowing that He will work out all things for good (Rom. 8:28). Even during pain and suffering you can be reminded that God is in control and what people meant for evil, God will work it out for His good (Gen. 50:10). This can bring comfort in the midst of uncertainty and hope in the midst of pain.

Omniscience means that God knows everything that can possibly be known. He knows the deepest and darkest sin of people, and nothing can be hidden from His sight (Heb. 4:13). This should bring fear and trembling to all of us because we cannot hide sin. This characteristic of God should lead to repentance. God also knows people deeply and intimately (Psalm 139). This also brings comfort knowing that someone fully knows and understands us. Human knowledge is limited but God knows all your hurts and pains. Better yet, He also knows how to comfort His children.

God's omnipresence means God is everywhere. God knows all things and sees all things because He is there (Col. 1:17). This is an important characteristic of God for those who feel lonely.<sup>4</sup> God will never leave or forsake His children. We all need to be reminded of the friendship of God. This can bring comfort. It can also be a reminder to the sinner that God is always watching while you are sinning.

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<sup>1</sup>Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, p.41

<sup>2</sup>A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, p. 105

<sup>3</sup>A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, p. 105

<sup>4</sup>Heath Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*, p.114

## Updates and Opportunities

### Decorating the Sanctuary



We need your help to decorate our church for Christmas. Please consider how you can help beautify our church for the season. Installation dates this year will be the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 21 and 22 during the day and in the early evening. If you have some time to spare during one or more of these times, please contact:

Gary Noggle at (920) 574-2914 or [garyalannog@gmail.com](mailto:garyalannog@gmail.com).

### Operation Christmas Child



This year boxes are due at church by **November 13**. You may also build a shoebox online. The most important thing to remember is to pray for the child who receives your box to come to know our Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Thank you so much for helping kids to be introduced to Jesus!**

### Christmas Tea



Ladies, you are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Tea! It will be held on Saturday, December 3. The time is 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with the doors opening at 9:30. We will have a light lunch with Christy Nievinski as our speaker. The \$15.00 tickets will be sold starting Sunday, October 30. Come for the fellowship, fun, food and time of inspiration.

### The Nest

Get ready for a night of "Blessings"! November Nest will be Tuesday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. We will be making "blessing bags" and spending some time in fellowship and an opportunity to bless and be blessed. Join us ladies, for this special time together here at church. We can't wait to see all you lovely ladies there.



Come and join us November 13 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 can't join us this time, you can join us next time.



## 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 in PRAYER. Please take time to pray in your classroom and also check out our monthly prayer focus board.

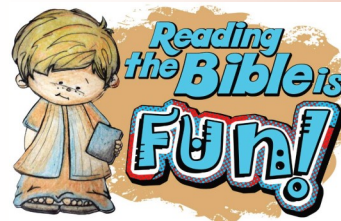
Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."



This month the children will be learning: What is Repentance. They will be learning about people that warned God's people to turn from their sins; Isaiah, Zephaniah, and Noah (Sprouts). The Big Truth this month is: We are to repent of sin. All the children should know what sin is; sin is anything we say, do, or think that displeases God. And we should not put anything or anyone above God. We have talked about many of these topics this fall.

Repentance  
is a change  
OF  MIND  
and  
Heart 

Please have your child(ren) Evergreen Room, bring their Bibles to class. It has been great seeing the children find verses and read from their Bibles. The older ones pair up with the younger ones.



We have started to practice our Christmas songs. The children will sing a few songs in church on **December 18**. More details coming.



If you are not serving currently, please prayerfully consider serving in Children's or Youth Ministries. Both ministries would be blessed with a few more regular volunteers OR subs.

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



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



## Elders Report

### Be of Good Cheer!



Recently I was reminded to reset my perspective through my daughter's Awana verse. In preparing to depart from his disciples, Jesus *commands* his followers to be encouraged by declaring His victory.

John 16:33 (NIV) 33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. The King James describes this as: 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

When faced with trials, we are not called to fix it or be caught up in the why, but instead to acknowledge our reliance on Him. Instead of the downtrodden shuffle sulking away to a corner (insert Eeyore), we are called to look up and smile on account of Him. Focusing not on our situation or sins of others, but instead with courage and conviction of His conquest produces a faithful determination. It's not about us or what we're facing – it's about what Jesus has already done *in our stead* that gives us peace, joy and confidence to continue.

The affronts to our faith are ever-increasing and so our growth in becoming more like Christ may keep pace. He doesn't promise we'll have it easy, but affirms difficulty is certain. And with the same certainty we can be comforted if we focus on the source of our salvation.

As we've been studying on Sundays, prayer is one great way to help initiate this - lay it at His feet and then rise with blessed assurance.

Let this be a motivating reminder of the glory to come because of the triumph He has secured!

Praising with you,

Marshall Legg



# Church Happenings

The Nest



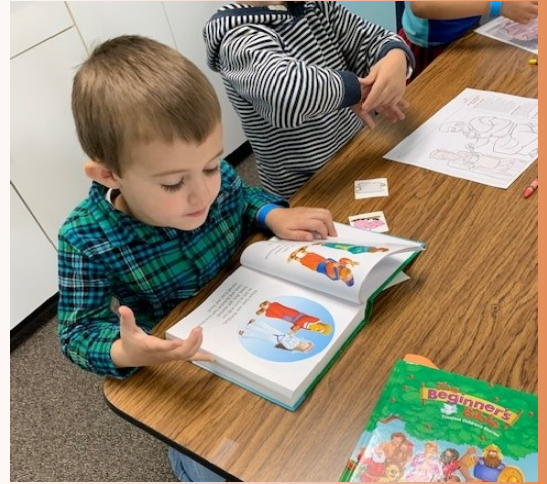
# Church Happenings

## Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation Trip



# Church Happenings

## Children's Church



## Church Happenings

### Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, October 15, twenty men gathered for breakfast and fellowship at the church. Marshall Legg shared his personal story of how the Lord made a powerful impact on his life that is evident to this day. We hope to meet again on Saturday, December 17 pending any holiday related activities in the church building that day. My hope is that more men will attend each time we meet, relationships will be built, and lives will be altered by God's word and the testimonies of men He has touched. All men are welcome!!



## Some “Additional Thoughts” from Pastor Greg

### Finding Encouragement & Focusing On Truth!

On two separate occasions during this past week, I unexpectedly heard something that made a sudden impression on me. It wasn't something out of the ordinary; actually it was something that I have suggested to others at various times. (Yes, if you think I'm going to make a similar suggestion to you, you're correct!)

*Last Monday morning, as I was preparing to rake/blow leaves to the curb, the host, on a radio program Donna and I both enjoy, asked listeners to call in and tell where they turn in the Bible to find spiritual encouragement and enrichment when they need a “spiritual pick-me-up!” What was being said was such a blessing to me that I immediately switched to the Moody Radio app on my phone and listened while I raked leaves.*

*Then later that day, when I was preparing to do something else, another program that we like began; it was “Chris Fabry Live” and at least once each month he schedules an hour-long segment called “The Two Michaels.” This features two men (Michael Rydelnik & Michael Vanlaningham) who answer Bible-related questions from listeners. However, this time they were first asked to explain where they turn in God's Word to find personal encouragement and guidance when they face challenges or concerns. After that, listeners were encouraged to call to talk about their favorite Bible verses with “the Michaels” who added commentary about the passages being mentioned. It's likely that this was a pre-planned program because both Michaels had recently experienced some difficult circumstances; about two weeks before, one of them had been leading a tour in Israel when he received word that his mother had passed away in her sleep; the other simply mentioned that recently he had faced some unexpected turmoil. Again I turned on the app on my phone to hear what was being discussed while I continued with what I was intending to do and what I heard was extremely encouraging and uplifting.*

This impressed and impacted me with a vivid reminder about the surpassing value of finding encouragement in truth we can trust—especially when so often we find ourselves being inundated by information that's saturated and soaked with creatively crafted deceptions intended to distract us away from what we know to be true and trustworthy. God's Word repeatedly warns us about being duped by things that appeal to our appetites, and I'm not specifically referring to dark chocolate or other delicious foods! At this point, let's pause and ponder for a moment, thinking about how modern technology has invaded our heads, our hearts, our homes, our habits, and our happiness. I'll readily admit that I'm thankful for many of the advancements that help us accomplish what we do, but we can't afford to ignore the challenges they bring to our spiritual health and well-being. So I've included several Bible references that might help us develop a brief inventory of where we can turn when we need a “spiritual-pick-me-up.” Maybe you could email a favorite Bible passage that encourages you and next month we can add a page to the newsletter noting what blesses you from the Truth of God's Word. (Please send it to [gdykstra@applefreechurch.org](mailto:gdykstra@applefreechurch.org))

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

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 paths straight.  
Don't be wise in your own estimation; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.  
This will bring healing to your body and refreshment to your inner self.  
—Proverbs 3:5–8

If God is for us, who  
can be against us?  
—Romans 8:31b

Don't be anxious about anything! Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:6–7

We can be assured that God orchestrates all Things to fit together for what's best for those Who love Him and are called according to His purposes.—Romans 8:28  
Suggested by Michael Vanlaningham

Cease striving (stop fretting)  
and know that am God;  
I will be exalted among  
the nations, I will be  
exalted in the earth.  
The Lord of hosts  
is with us; The God of  
Jacob is our stronghold.  
Psalm 46:10–11

The Lord is good; A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take  
refuge in Him. - Nahum 1:7  
suggested by Michael Rydelinnik

### Child Survives FARC Attack, Becomes Red-Zone Pastor



As the sound of gunfire grew louder, 10-year-old Luis and his brother ran to their room and crawled under their bed. They knew the gunfire meant guerrilla fighters from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were again attacking their small jungle village in one of Colombia's "red zones," particularly dangerous areas. When soldiers from the Colombian Army arrived to repel the attack, the guerrillas took the boys' father hostage to aid their escape. Although they released him four hours later, fighting between the guerrillas and government forces dragged on for days. Many of Luis's friends were killed in the attack.

#### **ALL THINGS MADE NEW**

Luis found true peace in Christ at age 13 and immediately felt the need to help people in villages like his who had suffered from the decades-long insurgency. "He told me He was my God and my Father, and He would always be there for me," Luis said. "I felt the love of God come back in my life." Using his small savings, Luis bought books, games and other items to distribute in his old village, which remained under threat. He also brought New Testaments and gave them to everyone he met, including police officers, soldiers, and guerrilla fighters. "I told them, 'Jesus still loves you despite all the pain you have caused,'" he said. "I was scared, but I thought, If I die, I die with Christ." As an adult, Luis serves as a pastor in an area controlled by a paramilitary group. He assumes members of the group attend his weekly church services, listening to what he says and reporting back to their authorities. And he knows they could decide he is a threat at any time and give him 24 hours to leave, as they have done with many other pastors. "I'm not scared," he said. "It is my passion. I have a call from God to preach in these high-risk areas. I desire to keep on reflecting Christ." Luis has a special heart for others ministering in difficult areas. Although still young, he already facilitates training for pastors working in the red zones.

**The Voice of the Martyrs** is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian missions organization dedicated to serving our persecuted family worldwide through practical and spiritual assistance and leading other members of the body of Christ into fellowship with them. This mission is based on Hebrews 13:3; "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."

**We, as a church, give monthly support to this mission**

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



We're on the WEB!  
[appletonfreechurch.org](http://appletonfreechurch.org)

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