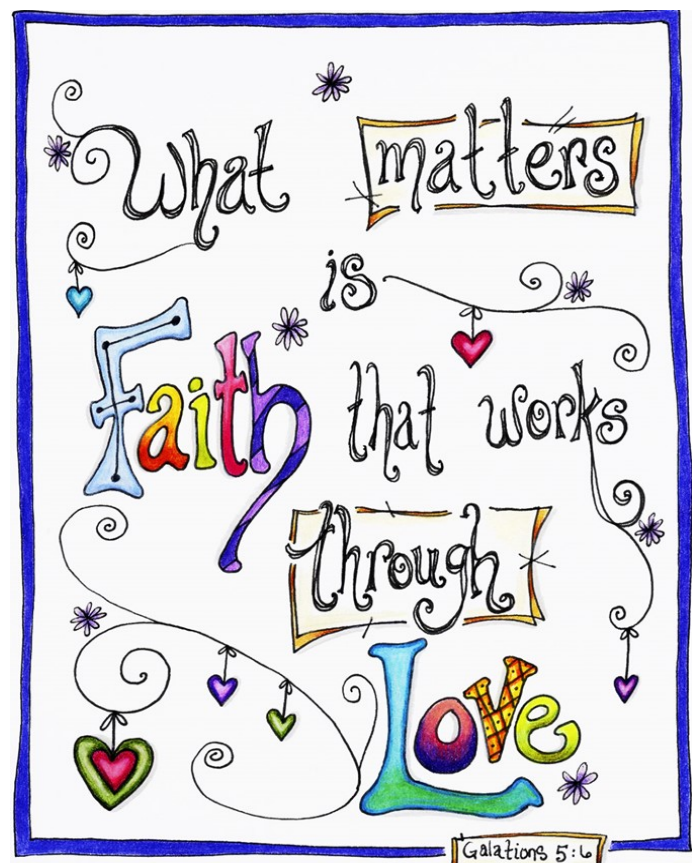




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Church Calendar for June

June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
4 Lords Supper 1:00 p.m. Elders Meeting 6-8 p.m. Youth	5 Youth Operation Fox Valley	6 6:30 a.m. Discipleship Youth Operation Fox Valley	7 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study Youth Operation Fox Valley	8 Youth Operation Fox Valley 6:30 p.m. Praise Team	9 Youth Operation Fox Valley All Day @ Church. Teen Night 5:30-10:00 p.m. ↓	10
11 "Let's Do Lunch" No Youth Group	12	13 6:30 a.m. Discipleship	14 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study	15 6:30 p.m. Praise Team	16	17 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
18 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church	19	20 6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Meeting	21 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study	22 6:30 p.m. Praise Team	23	24
25 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church	26	27 6:30 a.m. Discipleship	28 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study	29 6:30 p.m. Praise Team	30	

Updates and Opportunities

Women's Ministry—A Word from Amy Pankow our new Women's Ministry Leader

Hello, ladies! I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about my heart for Women's Ministry! I'm passionate about helping women to know and love God more! For over a decade now, God has been growing in me a heart for encouraging women in their faith, both individually and collectively. My capacity to do this has taken different forms in various seasons and chapters of life, but no matter where I'm at, I love spurring on women in their lifelong journey to grow in God and to give Him the glory. As women, I think there is a great need to rehearse God's truths in our everyday lives. I'm a firm believer that we need to remind each other that our lives are not about perfection, appearance, or performance, but about finding a sense of hope, peace, and rest in God's righteousness – despite all the tensions and pressures around us. I think it's important to come alongside and walk with one another in seasons of grief, exhaustion, apathy, uncertainty; times of relative calm, abundance, and celebration. I want to briefly mention three things that I'm enthusiastic about when I think about our faith walks as women of God...

The first is **ABIDING** in the Lord – dependence on God always draws us deeper with Him; it may not seem like it on the surface, but anything that makes us need God more, is a blessing in our lives.

The second is **SANCTIFICATION** – or, the spiritual growth that the Lord produces in us, as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit and how the Lord is leading us. God is always, always patiently working in us.

The third is **STEWARDSHIP** – I like the Holman Bible Dictionary definition which says, “utilizing and managing all the resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.”

As I was considering what thoughts I wanted to share with you, I realized how beautifully interconnected each of these facets of the faith are! **Abiding** in the Lord leads to **spiritual growth** which leads to proper **stewardship** of all that which He's entrusted us with – our unique relationships, callings, circumstances, and burdens.

Picture **ABIDING** as being deeply rooted as we attach ourselves to the Living Vine and receive nourishment from Living Water.

Picture **SANCTIFICATION** as the growing, strengthening, and pruning involved as an acorn becomes a seedling, a sprout, a sapling, and eventually a mature tree, like a mighty oak.

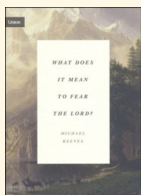
Picture **STEWARDSHIP** as the majestic branching out, withstanding storms and strong winds, bearing blossoms and fruit in its proper season, and offering a place of shelter and shade for all who draw near.

Colossians 2:6-7 pretty well summarizes this imagery by saying, “Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” In every season and challenge that we face, my desire is that we as a body of women can rely on each other to shift our gaze away from ourselves and our surroundings by pointing each other to Christ and our good and faithful God. I want to encourage you all with 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 which says: “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”

You'll be hearing more from me soon!

Grace abounds, Amy

Summer Book Study!



Ladies, join us this summer as we read *What Does It Mean To Fear The Lord*. If you have ever wondered about what the fear of the Lord is, how it's the beginning of wisdom or why it's important to understand, join us this summer for our summer book club. We will be meeting in several homes throughout the summer months to discover more about the fear of the Lord and how it can delight and strengthen us.



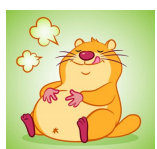
Lac Courtes Orielles—Mission of the Month for June/July

We have been serving at the reservation twice a year for many years. They have received a grant to purchase school supplies they need, so we are collecting donations of gift cards and cash. Please put any donations in the giving box and mark for the LOC reservation.



Come and join us June 11 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.



Growing God's Way Ministries

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

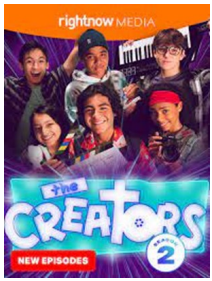
Evergreens: This month we will be diving into the book of Mark and we will continue in the book of Mark throughout the summer. The children will learn about Mark and we will focus on chapters 3-6. Children should bring their Bibles to class.

Verse: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15



Sprouts: This month the Sprouts will be learning about some of the miracles Jesus did from the book of Mark.

Verse: Go and tell others about Jesus. (Paraphrased) Mark 16:15



Great resources to help reinforce Bible Lessons; Right Now Media, SuperBook, Bible Project, and there are also some great resources on YouTube.

On Right Now Media, I recently watched The Creators, I think ages 6-10 would enjoy this series. Check it out!

YOUTH GROUP



If you are in middle or high school, join us Sunday nights from 6pm-8pm. We meet at church, unless otherwise posted.

WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

We completed our Truth & Love study, and held a successful Movie and Mocha Night event at church.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

We have a busy month and are kicking it off with Operation Fox Valley. There will be no Youth Group Sunday, June 11th to allow the students to recover after the weeklong event. The last two Sundays we will have regular Youth Group.

	Date	Time	Location	Event
	<i>Sunday, June 4th</i>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Church	Prepare for Operation Fox Valley
	<i>Monday, June 5th – Thursday, June 9th</i>	9:30am – 8:00pm	Moran's	Operation Fox Valley
	<i>Friday, June 9th</i>	9:30am – 5:30pm	Church	Operation Fox Valley
	<i>Friday, June 9th</i>	5:30pm – 10:00pm	Church	Teen Night
	<i>Sunday, June 11th</i>	n/a	n/a	NO YOUTH GROUP
	<i>Sunday, June 18th</i>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
	<i>Sunday, June 25th</i>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Church	Regular Youth Group

Check out page 9 for "Youth Student Spotlight", we interviewed **Mya Moran!**



No One Comes to the Father Except through the Son

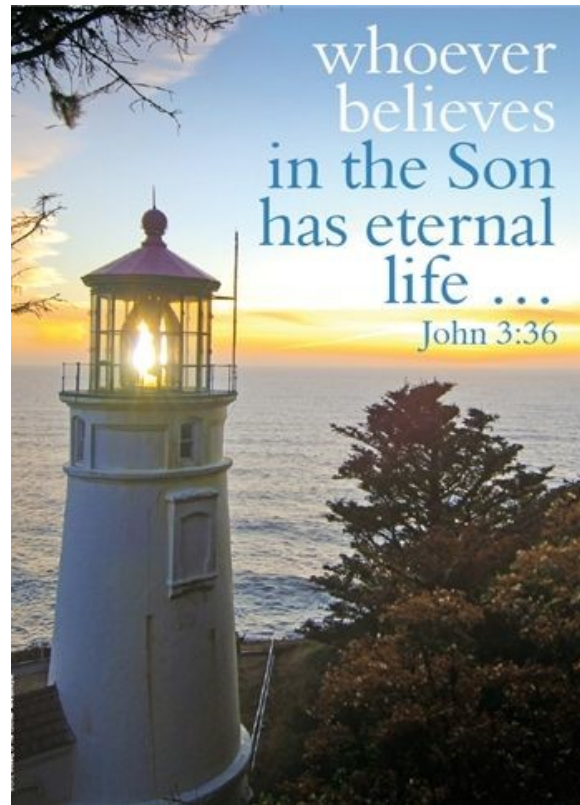
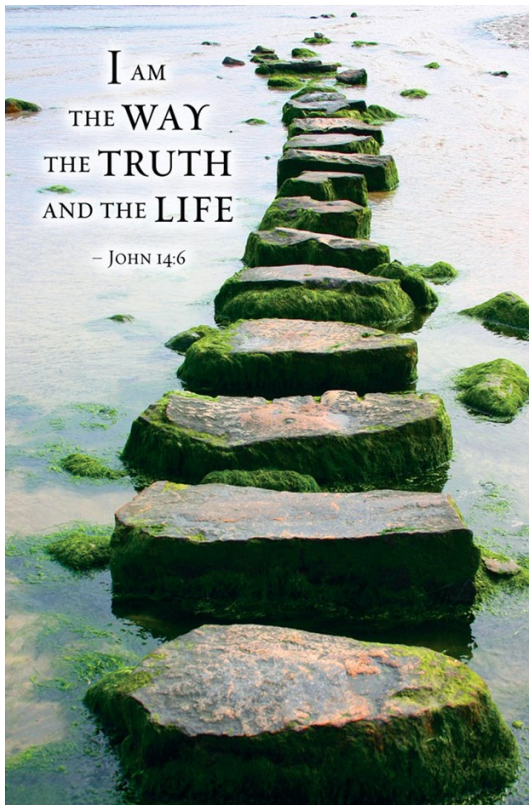
Two of my favorite verses in the Bible are John 14:6 and John 3:36. In fact, I had a t-shirt with the image of the three crosses on Calvary and it read, “You Can’t Eliminate the Middle-Man” at the top and John 14:6 “No one comes to the Father except through the Son” written out underneath the image. I would always wear it to family gatherings hoping someone would read it.

We read in John 14:6: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

For those who are lost and perishing and looking for direction, this verse is clear. There is no other way to God except through Jesus Christ. Not through any good works, not through any other gods and not through any religion. Through Christ alone.

However, if we reject the Son we will be rejected by the Father. We read in John 3:36, “36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

As believers we can be joyful knowing that not only do we have access to our Creator, but we also have the promise of eternal life because of our faith in Christ. Let us be encouraged by this and continue to share the good news with those around us.



The Nest



Children's Church—Lesson from Mark 2, The Paralyzed Man



Church Happenings

Youth Group



Youth Student Spotlight: Mya Moran



Grade: 8th Grade

How long have you been attending youth group at ACEFC? This is my third year

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? I see myself running and living a good life for the Lord.

Favorite thing to do in your free time? My favorite thing to do in my free time is run.

Favorite food: My favorite food is pickles of course.

What is your favorite memory from Youth Group? The first VBS the youth group held (Operation Fox Valley)

Tell us how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? I came to the Lord when I was like 8 years old. I grew up in a Christian home all my life. I had been going through a hard time worrying about stupid stuff and having really bad anxiety. My mom wrote Bible verses and put them all around my room to read when I was feeling anxious. I remember sitting in a car and this song came on about fear and telling us to cast it away and come to God. I remember lying in bed that night and asking the Lord to be my savior and rescue me from my sins. Then I completely stopped worrying because I knew that God was comforting me. The end:)



Some Prayerful Thought's from Pastor Greg

Eliminating The Noise That Quietly Distracts Us: How Well Am I Hearing God's Guidance?

I'd like to introduce this in three ways, hoping to get everyone's attention.

First, several months ago, I had a hearing test and it was determined that hearing aids would help me during the various meetings I attend. However, after being fitted for hearing aids, I quickly found out that in large areas (such as the foyer or the hallways after our worship service), the background sounds distort and drown out what a person in front of me is saying. **Being able to understand simple conversations can be challenging ... and distracting!**

Second, recently I listened to an interview with an Israeli Bible teacher (Amir Tsarfati) whom I appreciate for his sound and straight-forward approach to teaching God's Word. He was asked, "If Jesus would return today, do you believe He would find the Church awaiting and ready for His return?" His answer was interesting; he stated that he thinks the Lord would find the **Church too busy with the distractions that keep them from pursuing what God wants most**. He believes most pastors and people in the pews (or chairs) are compromised and confused by issues that appear to be more important than they are. In his focused opinion, it seems as if Churches are working too hard to be accepted by our secular society and are being pulled away from living as followers of Christ who seek to give God glory by emphasizing the importance of the truth of the Gospel.

Third, I'd like to point out a couple important ideas from Isaiah 6. This is when God grabbed Isaiah's attention. Please keep in mind that this is chapter 6 of what Isaiah wrote. God had already called out Isaiah for his prophetic ministry, and he had been serving in this role. But it would appear that **Isaiah's focus might have been a bit distracted**. Let me encourage you to take your Bible and read the entire chapter, and I'll only insert what I'd like to highlight.

Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. **2** Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." **4** And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. **5** Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." **6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. **7** He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" **9** He said, "Go, and preach to this people!"

To explain how/why Isaiah might have been somewhat distracted, King Uzziah had been a successful king. The nation had prospered under his rule and it seemed as if they had forgotten that God was the source of their prosperity, not King Uzziah. So when the king died, and when God grabbed Isaiah's attention, Isaiah recognized his sinful condition. He realized that he needed a personal cleansing from his sin and then when that happened, he heard God's voice more clearly. He was able to discern exactly what God wanted him to do.

Let's conclude this article with some personal questions we can ask ourselves. Please be honest with ourselves!

—1— *Does the background noise of news, entertainment, television, podcasts, radio, other people's opinions, music, gossip (both from others or from my own mouth), internet and social media, or anything else **distort or drown out** God's voice of inspiration, instruction, or insights that I need to hear?*

—2— *Am I **too busy with distractions** that pull me away from pursuing God's glory by placing more emphasis on spreading the Gospel? Am I praying for those in my life who need to trust Christ in a personal way?*

—3— *Am I **compromised or confused by concerns** that aren't as important or urgent as I make them?*

—4— *Is there **anything that's blocking my vision of God's glorious holiness**? Am I blinded by my personal opinions or perspectives that might not line up with what God's Word tells or teaches me? Do I need a personal cleansing from habits, activities, or sins that have caused my heart to become hardened toward God's Word or will?*

I'm working through these questions and asking the Lord to show me how I need to entrust myself to Him in any of these areas. Let's pray for one another in an encouraging way to see what the Lord might do within our Church!

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

Mission of the Month— Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation—Bob Dykstra The Shack

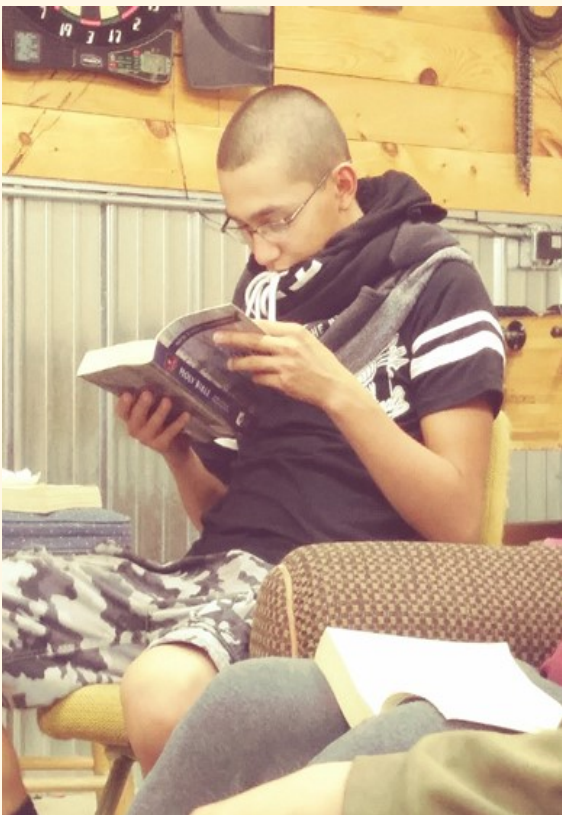


Boozhoo Appleton,

Greetings to you from the Shack. We are a ministry located on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation and have been a part of the community here since 2009. It is our hearts' desire to live in and walk out the Kingdom of God with our neighbors. From baby showers to brake work, baptisms to basketball, beading to Bible studies, we seek to walk out all aspects of life together with Jesus and His love as our heartbeat. As we walk out this life together, we seek to help each other grow in our relationship with Jesus both personally and collectively. As His ambassadors here, we

look to tear down walls and build bridges with and through his Body, the Church.

Thank you for helping us bring opportunities and alternatives, healing and hope, prayer and praise to the everyday on LCO. You and your partnership with us is most appreciated. Miigwech!



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)

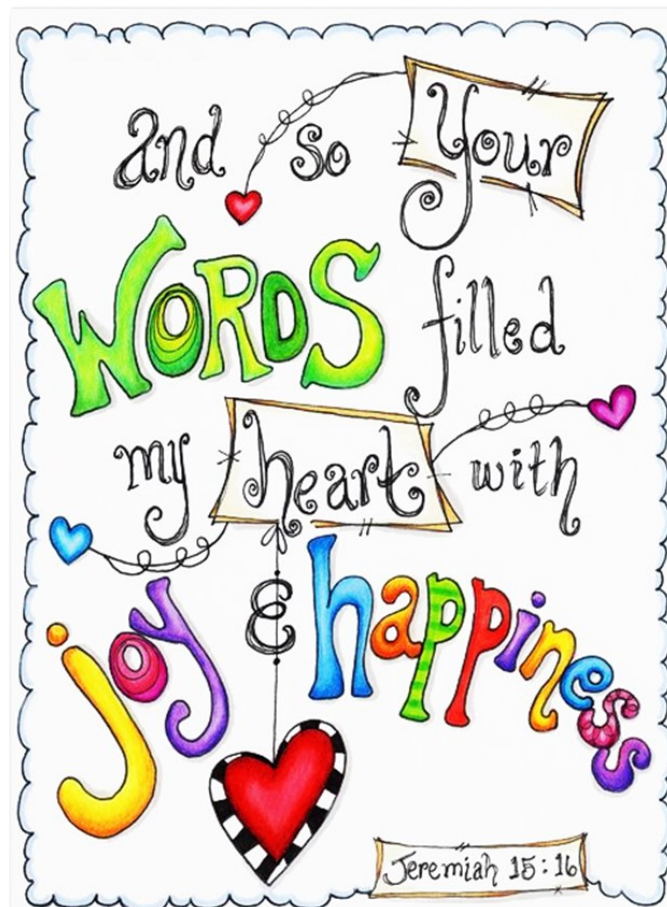
Encouragement

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



Church Office Hours
Closed Mondays
Tuesday—Friday
8:30 - 2:30