

Is your cup empty?
Are you tired?

Is your fire burning low?

Come Refresh, Renew, and Recharge

On **Saturday, September 30 at 9:00 a.m.**

for Our All-Church Kickoff

Everyone is Welcome!



Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up. GALATIANS 6:9

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September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NO Youth Group	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Membership Class after church 6-8 p.m. Youth Group	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6:00 p.m. Elders Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
"Let's Do Lunch" 6-8 p.m. Youth Group	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana			9-11 a.m. Women's Brunch
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Membership Class after Church 6-8 p.m. Youth Group	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana	9-3 "Quilters"		9-11 a.m. All Church Kick Off

Updates and Opportunities

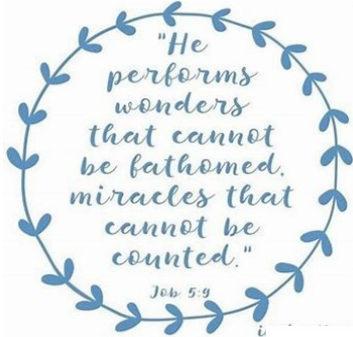
La Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation Trip



The fall trip to the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation will be **October 6*8**. Cost is \$50 per adult, youth are welcome if accompanied by a parent. We leave Friday late morning/early afternoon and return Sunday afternoon and car pooling may be available. If you want to know more about this trip, please contact **Tim 920-851-9803, or Sue 920-851-3104**.

Have You Considered My Servant Job?

Ladies Fall Bible Study



“Have you considered my servant Job?”

Ladies, join us in September as we delve into the book of Job. God has a lot to teach us as we consider His servant Job. Prepare to learn, grow and be surprised!

The study begins **Monday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m. or Wednesday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m.** Cost is \$15.00. (Childcare is available on Wednesday mornings. Contact Amy Pankow if you want childcare.)

Please contact the office if you need more information or to register for this study.



Women's Brunch - Save the Date!

Join us for brunch! Our Women's Fall Fellowship time will be held on **Saturday, September 23rd from 9-11a.m. at church**. Come and enjoy a low-key morning of food and fellowship while learning about what's being planned for our Women's Ministry in the year ahead!



All Church Fall Kick Off

Is your cup empty? Are you tired? Is your fire burning low?
Come Refresh, Renew, Recharge
and “**Fill Your Cup**” with a continental breakfast, worship,
games, and prayer.

We hope to see all of you there!

Saturday, September 30, 9-11 a.m.



Mission of the Month for August/September-Homeless Shelter

Laundry baskets, napkins, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels, dryer sheets, bike locks, etc.



Come and join us **September 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.



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



Evergreens: This summer in the Evergreens Room we read through the book of Mark. It was great watching the students read with each other. We also had many wonderful conversations about the book of Mark. The last few weeks of summer we talked about how we are responsible for our own words and actions. No one can make you use unkind words or unkind actions, also known as sin. You are responsible for yourself! This was a great discussion, which led into the topic on Pineapple People. Ask your child what a Pineapple Person is. The children could write names of Pineapple People on pineapple paper and tape the paper to the door frame in my office. They can continue to write down names throughout the school year. I will be praying for the Pineapple People, others can pray too.



Sunday's in August from 9:00-9:45: Girls going into 3-5 grade were invited for Devo's with Ms. Lisa. It was a time to share, encourage, read God's Word, and pray together.

We will be starting the Gospel Project this fall, From Death to Resurrection. This curriculum will be used with the Sprouts and Evergreens. For the month of September, we will be in the book of Matthew.

September 10. Move Up Sunday: Children going into kindergarten will move up to the Evergreen Room and students going into 6th grade will move to Sunday Night Youth Group. We will miss the 6th graders!

September 10: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School with Ms. Aimee and Mr. Doug.

Awana starts on September 13.

Right Now Media, has a series on Talking to Your Kids About Jesus by Natasha Crain. There are MANY great parent resources on Right Now Media! Check them 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 dug into the book of Ephesians and the importance of unity among believers. This last month we focused more on relationships and understanding what submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ truly means. We were also able to partake in a mini escape room (thank you to Pam MacDonald), had a fun night of karaoke, and had our Youth Scavenger hunt. To see pictures from the escape room and karaoke, see the dedicated section later in the newsletter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
<i>Sunday, September 3rd</i>			<i>No Youth Group</i>
<i>Sunday, September 10th</i>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
<i>Sunday, September 17th</i>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
<i>Sunday, September 24th</i>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Church	Regular Youth Group

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Stay tuned for more information regarding both events.

- **October 13-15, 2023:** Fall Fest @ Lake Lundgren, Pembine, WI
- **January 12-14, 2024:** Districts Youth Conference 2024 @ KI Center, Green Bay

Check out page 9 for the Youth Student Spotlight: Isaiah Whitworth



Colossians 3:1-2 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

The good thing about having to write an article for the newsletter every once and a while is it makes you sit down, reflect on things going on in your life and evaluate what you should be working on in your spiritual walk. With going through a double bypass surgery and recovery, I have had time to sit around with not much to do. I found myself watching more TV and more world news,

also computer games and such things to pass the time. Then I would lie awake at night and worry about what was going on in our culture and how bad everything was. I found the best thing to do was limit how much information I was taking in, now I sleep much more soundly.

I think we all are influenced by social media and other cultural forces that are all around us. I am thankful that I found better things to set my mind on.

In the end of chapter 2 of Colossians, Paul asks us as believers, since we have died with Christ to the spiritual forces of this world, why do we still belong to the world? He says do not handle, taste or touch! It is so tempting though isn't it? So what do you think he is saying in 3:1-2? I think we need a mind change like we talked about in Romans 12:2, when Paul calls for a renewing of your mind. Bad habits are hard to break, but we have Christ who is seated in the place of power, at the right hand of God, who was tempted and faced everything we face as our advocate. We should focus on heavenly things, not to learn how to live there, but how to live here. There are also going to be benefits when we do get there if we have the correct perspective on the way we do live here on earth.

I pray that as I get more understanding of God's grace, that God himself, who became fully man, but still fully God, came to earth so I can overcome the power of my old life because of His sacrifice for me. Please help me have a heavenly mindset and keep my heart set on things above.

In Christ,
Tim



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

Dear Women of Faith,

When I first began my facets of faith series at the beginning of summer, I wrote that *“abiding in the Lord leads to spiritual growth, which then leads to proper stewardship of all that which He’s entrusted us with.”* I shared thoughts on both abiding and our spiritual growth; but now here we are, already at the end of summer, and I’m focusing on the final aspect: stewardship.

The Holman Bible Dictionary defines stewardship as “utilizing and managing all the resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.” Stewardship is being wise with, and not enslaved to, all that God has entrusted us with – our unique bodies, callings, circumstances, burdens, and relationships (which I’ll be focusing on in this letter).

In order to steward our relationships well, we must be positioning ourselves to continually receive from the Lord *so that we are filled to overflowing* – spilling forth His love, patience, kindness (the list goes on!) into the lives of those around us.

Amy Carmichael wrote that: **“A cup brimful of sweetness cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, no matter how suddenly jarred.”** The Lord is the Fountain and we are the cup! He’s created us to first receive from Him, the ever-renewing source of Living Water, before we can effectively pour out to others. We need the satisfying and lasting refreshment that He offers us from His Word, His Spirit, His Creation, and His people – otherwise our cups can become stagnant, turn bitter, or run dry. None of these options are beneficial to us or to those around us. Yet, I’m sure most of us can relate to feeling these ways at some point or another...

At times we may feel empty, but we need to trust that the Lord is filling our cups at the pace He’s set for us in our current season. I think God allows us to feel that emptiness at times in order to show us our own limitations, inability, and insufficiency to keep our cups filled by our own means. We are designed to desire Him, but our cravings are often misguided and we tend to grasp for forms of refreshment apart from Him – even the good things He’s created! When our expectation for refreshment shifts from the Creator Himself to the created thing itself, we’re settling for an unfulfilling form of refreshment that cannot satisfy or sustain us.

But, God pours His love into us generously, unreservedly, and unconditionally. **He uses those feelings of emptiness so that we might once again turn to Him in complete dependence to be filled with His lifegiving, sustaining fuel.** Though it may be hard to perceive from time to time, He always has something to teach us about Himself, or reveal to us about ourselves, in those depleted or empty moments. One of my mentors has shared a piece of wisdom with me that I need to remind myself of often: “When you and I feel inadequate or incapable or in need of something beyond ourselves, we’re experiencing a God-given dependency, not a deficiency.”

The love He pours forth into our lives isn’t determined by our works, efforts, intentions, or lack thereof; it isn’t determined by our achievements or failures. Because our Heavenly Father first loved us, He equips and enables us to love as He has loved... by the example of His Son and the empowerment of His Spirit working in us! He is the One who fills us and fuels us to pour ourselves out for those He’s placed in our lives – even those who resist or don’t reciprocate it. The Holy Spirit uses our obedience and empowers us to extend that love over and over and over again – just as Jesus does with us when we resist or don’t reciprocate His love! **Stewarding our relationships well – loving and serving others faithfully – is hard and it’s costly. But, take heart! His love supplies us and shows us the way.**

To close this summer series, I want to reinforce that *a life poured out for others must begin with deeply rooting ourselves in a relationship with the Lord.* By rooting ourselves in Him, **we become captivated by Jesus’ heart for serving because we understand more deeply that He is the humble servant King who bends low to meet our needs and who pours Himself out willingly to fill our cups.**

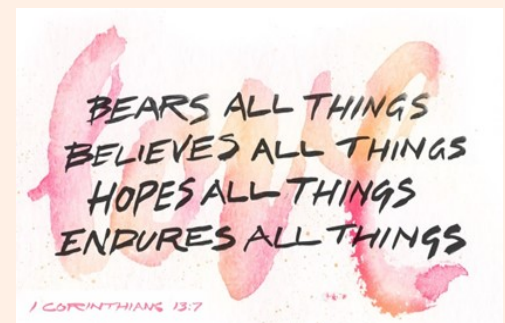
As always, in every season and challenge that we face, my desire is that we as a body of women can rely on each other to *shift our gaze away from ourselves and our surroundings by pointing each other to Christ and our good and faithful God.* May the Lord renew and refresh us with His overflowing love and kindness so that we can be Women of Faith who empty out ourselves to those around us, trusting that He is filling us in His good timing. Keep persevering in the relationships that you are weary of loving and serving well, remembering that Christ pours out this love toward us in our moment-by-moment neediness.

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.”

~1 Corinthians 13:7

May you experience His refreshment and be filled to overflowing!

Amy



Children's Church—Lessons from Mark

“Let the Children Come Unto Me”



Mark 12



Church Happenings

Youth Group—Escape Room & Karaoke



Student Spotlight: Isaiah Whitworth



Grade: 10

How long have you been attending youth group at ACEFC? I've attended the ACEFC youth group for 1 year.

What do you see yourself doing in 5 years? Playing college football hopefully for Michigan State University.

Favorite thing to do in your free time? Hang out with friends and family or play sports.

Favorite food: Steak or pizza.

What is your favorite memory from Youth Group? Free for all dodgeball in the worship center. "If you can dodge a wrench you can dodge a ball".

If a movie was made about your life, which actor would you like to play your role? Ryan Reynolds or Ryan Gosling, Ryan Reynolds because he's my favorite actor but Ryan Gosling because he's literally me.

Tell us how you came to know Jesus as your Lord & Savior? I was born into a Christian family, my dad started The Mission Church and he's the pastor, so I've always gone to church. I grew up learning about God and the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us but it wasn't until I was 8, when I decided to get baptized to show that I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. I continue to learn more about God and what he's done for me. I'll never stop believing in God.

Backyard Bible Study

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Backyard Bible Study. Over the past 8 weeks, we've had the chance to study the book of Romans and connect with over 60 young adults who are hungry for the Word. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we transition to hosting bible studies in the fall.
In Christ,
BBS Leaders



Church Happenings

Men's Breakfast

Rick Malchow cooked up a GREAT breakfast! We had a missionary to the Netherlands share his work with the men. Bill Sundling spoke about his recent medical challenge and how it brought him closer to the Lord.



Church Happenings

Timber Rattlers Game



Church Happenings

Adult/Teen Challenge Work Trip for Adult/Teen Challenge



Church Happenings

Women Making Blankets for Adult/Teen Challenge with a Wonderful Lunch by Marilyn & Melanie Cable



Some Prayerful Thought's from Pastor Greg

Let's Take A "Walk" Through The Sites In Proverbs 16!

There are many sections in God's Word that I treasure, and one of them is Proverbs 16. What I'd like to do in this newsletter article is draw your attention to some of the individual proverbs included in this powerful passage that's filled with wisdom intended to lead us toward a better understanding of how the Lord directs our paths. My desire is to encourage you to read and observe it in a personal way! Before we dig into what we might find in this chapter, let's define what a proverb is and how the Book of Proverbs can benefit our relationship with the Lord. The Hebrew word for proverb basically means "a comparison." When we observe what's being expressed throughout the biblical book of Proverbs, we might conclude that it refers to clear and concise statements about life coming from the writers' observations, experiences, personal circumstances, or emotions. One commentator suggested that "a proverb is a truth that has been tested by time." (C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Poetic Books of the Old*

Testament, pp. 155, 156.) Another writer posed the idea that "To read straight through a few chapters of Proverbs is like trying to have a conversation with someone who always replies with a one-liner." (John J. Collins, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes*, p. 13.) Regarding how Proverbs can help us, I'd simply point out that all scripture is God-breathed and is profitable by teaching us truth, helping us see where we need God's guidance, redirecting us toward what we should do, and equipping us for the understanding needed to find spiritual success. Proverbs is filled with wisdom and is God's special revelation to us.

So, as we walk through Proverbs 16, first, let's notice verses 1–4.

1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.

3 Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established!

4 The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil!

If we took the time to read through the entire book of Proverbs, we would (should) notice a shift in the style at the beginning of Proverbs 16. Prior to this, the majority of the proverbs were statements of contrast, showing an opposite perspective between two statements. (Example: "This is this, **but** that is that!") In Proverbs 16, we begin to find statements of agreement that are connected by **and**, rather than **but**. Looking at verses 1–2, then 3–4, we see 1–2 make a contrast and verses 3–4 make a statements about (1) commitment to the Lord **and** then adds to the statement by expressing the benefit of our commitment and (2) the Lord's sovereignty. These four verses lay out a foundation that will be used throughout the chapter. Many of the proverbs in chapter 16 will draw a connection between the Lord's sovereign authority and our faithfulness, focus, or (reverential) fear toward Him. They also reveal a relationship between how sinful actions/attitudes cause challenges, conflicts, and chaos in a person's life. I want to encourage you to observe the entire chapter and notice the various truths included. There are some very rich recommendations revealed. But as I conclude, I'd like to zero in on verses 20–22.

20 He who gives attention to the Word will find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

21 The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

22 Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, But the discipline of fools is folly.

In a simple, straightforward analysis of these verses, I want to emphasize the reality that we should never underestimate the importance and impact of being attentive to God's Word. In the midst of all the cultural chaos and confusion that we experience today, we can great security and stability in all that God has revealed to us in His inspired Word. Every book within the Old and New Testaments is packed with powerful principles that provide us the understanding we need each and every day!

As we move into this new ministry year, my prayer is for a sense of revival, an awakening that will help our church ministry abound in hope because of all gracious and glorious blessings that God has provided for us!

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

Pastor Greg



Summer Bible Study: I'm leading a study through Psalms for any students that stayed in Lincoln for the summer. This week one of the gals asked a hot topic question that wasn't related to our study but was clearly on her heart. "My co-worker wants to be called "they/them" what should I do?" Since moving to Lincoln, God has given me a group of friends that are non-Christians and live a very different lifestyle than I do. Some are atheists, 2 moms with children, etc. I know He placed them in my life for a reason because as I was wrestling with how to relate to them He kept dropping them everywhere I went in Lincoln. Different parks, Target on the North and South side etc. It became clear He wanted me to love them and befriend them. I also remembered a pastor sharing a message on how Jesus interacted with those that didn't know Him and it was with love and compassion. I was able to share my journey, learning to

see people like Jesus sees them, and encouraged her to read the gospels and watch how Jesus interacted with the lost. I encouraged her to pray for eyes to see her co- worker like Jesus sees her. As soon as I was done sharing, the other gal in my group shared that her roommate was bisexual and she had been wrestling with this as well. Will you pray with me that God would show these gals how to interact with their co-worker and roommate in a way that would point them to Jesus and His great redeeming love. I'm praying that eventually I'll be able to share some stories of how Jesus brought these women to Himself.



Rachel: Last semester I started discipling Rachel, a Senior, who was graduating from Hastings University in NE. We had to meet virtually because her school was so far away. I found out she had a heart for ministry and was planning to do missions when she graduated college. 4 months later ,Rachel is planning to intern on our Cru staff team. Will you pray that she gets her support raised this summer so that she is ready to go when the school year kicks off in August. Rachel will bring so much zeal for Jesus, energy, fun, and excitement to our team. I'm really excited to have someone who is fresh out of college and knows what college students need on our team. She is a delightful person and full of energy. Pray she works hard and that God moves in people's lives to join her support team.

Thank-you so much for your financial support and prayers. Your partnership allows me to invest in the lives of college students.

Nikki

Nikki Tetschner
Nicole.Tetschner@cru.org
515-451-3914
5910 S 32nd St. Lincoln NE 68516

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

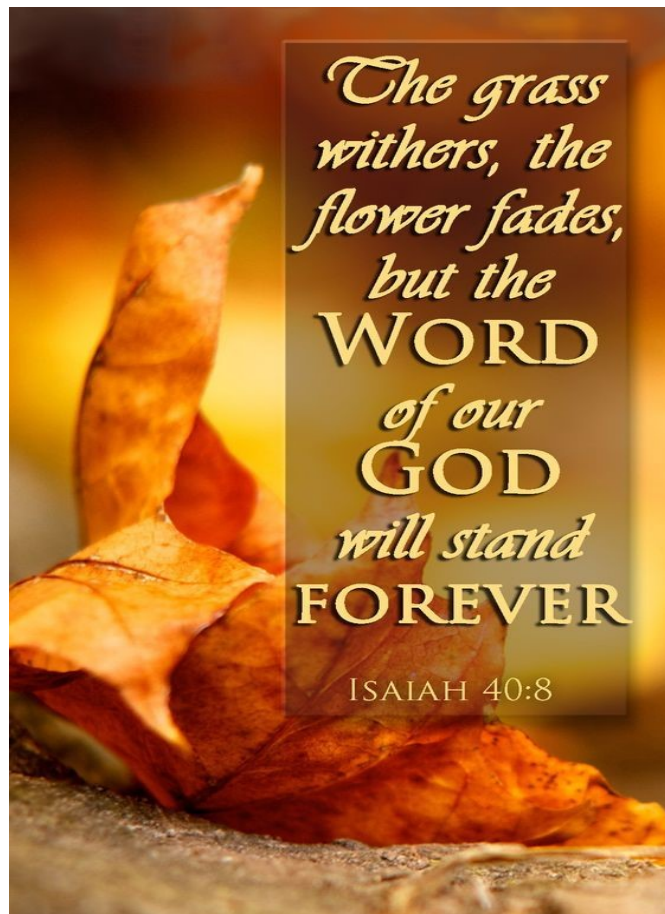
We believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)

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



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

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org