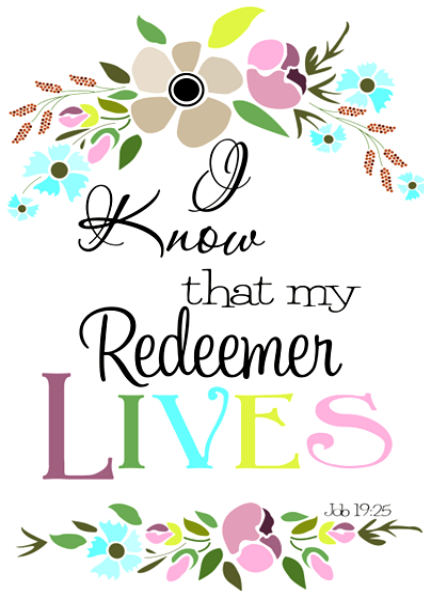


MARCH



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Sunday, March 10 is when we move ahead into Spring. Set your clock one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday, March 9.



Church Calendar

March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6-8 p.m. Youth	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6:30 p.m. Elders Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study No Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 Membership Class 6-8 p.m. Youth	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship 7:00 p.m. The Nest	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
"Let's Do Lunch" 11:45-2:30 Mall Scavenger Hunt Youth Group	6:00 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	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Tessa Mlaker Baby Shower after church 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church	6:00 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	6:30 p.m. Praise Team	5:00 p.m. Good Friday Service	
31						
No Youth Group						

Updates and Opportunities



COMING SOON for the Wednesday Morning Men's Study:
Beginning March 9th we will be starting an 8 week series by Tony Evans called **Living as an Overcomer**.

Description:

The unique hardships of our modern lives can often feel insurmountable. But God's Word reveals to us that there is no obstacle, habit, or situation

we face that Jesus hasn't already given us the power to conquer. In this eight-session study, bestselling author Dr. Tony Evans examines how Christ's message to the seven churches in Revelation can challenge, convict, and lead us toward emphatic victory over any difficulty in life. As we heed God's instructions to the early church, we will learn to reject lukewarm faith and start living as overcomers.

Men, please join us on Wednesday mornings, 6:30 -8:00am, for this useful series!



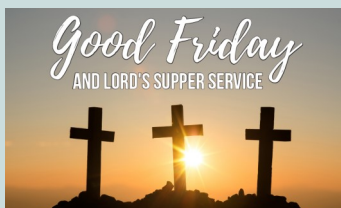
Church Membership Class

Sunday, **March 10**, from 11:45-1:30 there will be a membership class offered, lunch will be provided. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



The Nest

Join us for the Nest Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm. This will be a time for fellowship and reflection as we prepare for Easter.



Good Friday Communion Service

Please join us on March 29 at 5:00 p.m. for our Good Friday Communion Service.



Adult Sunday School Topical Series

Six Week, No Homework Bible Study:

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

A study developed by Kay Auther, David and BJ Lawson

Begins Sunday April 7th, at 9:00 AM, in the adult Sunday school room.



**Come and join us March 17 at Pizza Ranch
(5450 W. Integrity Way).**

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can spend some time with one another after our church service. This is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with others from our church family.



Church Happenings—Awana Grand Prix



Our annual Awana Grand Prix was a hit! We had a full house of racers, friends, and families with some amazingly cool cars. A huge shout out to everyone who volunteered with set-up, clean-up, and the event. Without all of you, this event wouldn't happen! A big shout out to Matt Bushman forgiving a devotional while we prepared to give out awards.

March is the start of our "Pie-the-Leader" contest! Our leaders have graciously "volunteered" to take a pie in the face IF they have the most money in their jar on April 3. Our top 3 leaders will "eat" pie! Vote for which leaders you think should get pie'd by placing your spare change and dollars in the jugs by the Awana bulletin board. All proceeds go to our mission to reach public schools in Africa with the Awana program.

No in-person Awana club on March 6! Instead, it is "Missions Week," and we ask the clubbers and their families find a way to serve others this week. We'll share about our mission projects when we return on March 13.



Elders Report—Dean Pankow



Greetings from the new Elder Board Chairman and at this point, the only other Elder on the Board! It is my belief that newsletters should communicate what news has been going on so that people can be kept up to date and be praying earnestly.

The good news is that at the special church business meeting this past month we did vote in a new Associate/Youth Pastor, Andy Sell!! Also in the good news column is that the nominations committee is now in the process of getting 4 candidates to fill in the 4 open positions on the Elder Board. Our thanks for those Elders who have served and now need to be replaced:

Andy Soto who moved up North with his family, Tim Diestler who came to the end of his second 3-year term, Doug Moran who stepped down early and Desmond VanHouten who also stepped down early.

In the sad news column, March Madness came early this year with much tension and dissension throughout the church. Pastor Greg, asked Jon Payne, our Districts Superintendent to come to speak to the church during a January Sunday service in regard to unity from Ephesians 4. Jon also answered questions from the floor that people had asked. One of the things that he recommended was a church-wide survey that would give us, among other things, a better picture of where we are as a church and where we would like to be. We are hoping that the survey can be sent out by email or by letter, within the month.

What is apparent is that we are amid a spiritual attack. Satan is using gossip, the lack of empathy and the lack of forgiveness; to tear friends apart, put families at odds with each other and weaken the body of Christ, our church. The apostle Paul warned the Christians time and time again to be ready for such attacks in his letters to the churches he helped guide. Paul states in Ephesians 5:15-16 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. And, in Eph 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

James the brother of Jesus, also tells us in James 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Let's put our heads, hearts, and prayers together to stand firm against the evil one and knock his team off our court!

In His care
Dean Pankow

**Submit yourselves,
then, to God. Resist
the devil, and he will
flee from you.**

~ James 4:7 NIV

Dear Sisters,

This month I'm sending along some words that are currently impacting my life and guiding my prayers and actions. These thoughts don't neatly or fluidly connect with one another, but I wanted to gather them together in one place as I seek to understand what the Lord is teaching me through them. I pray that some of these nuggets will appeal to you in your own walk with the Lord!

Treat it like a buffet – take and read what you want from the smattering below!

What I'm thinking about in regards to...

... **God's provision** | God leads us in unlikely places in order to discover His faithfulness. He provides and gives us what we need, day by day. What He sees that we need, He'll give – and what He sees that we don't need, He'll make us able to do without.

... **Being a light for Christ** | “We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.” ~ Madeleine L'Engle

... **Casting my cares on Him** | Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7 | Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. ~ Psalm 55:22

... **Control** | “My primary issue isn't one of balance or time – it's of lordship. Is the day mine or is it His? Are my needs mine to fret over, or are they His to see and supply? Is my to-do list something for me to complete at all costs, or is it His to guide and direct?” ~ Risen Motherhood

... **My duties** | Christ over comfort.

... **Aging with grace** | I'm still relatively young, but I already see crinkles in my skin and feel creaking in my joints. How can I age gracefully and graciously, in both body and spirit? How can I pursue a mature and grounded life in Christ as I learn to replace vanity with security? “Teach us to number our days / That we may apply our hearts to Your ways / O! Teach us to number our days / With wisdom and grace, wisdom and grace.” ~ Bifrost Artists song

... **Pain** | There is a purpose to our pain – it's not meant to destroy us, but to prepare us... But we often put in so much effort in order to avoid the deep ache. How can we lean into the Lord during painful times?

... **My mothering** | Being quick to apologize and quick to forgive – both teaching and modeling it. We're working on understanding the difference between the importance of making it right (reconciliation) versus our tendency towards making it up (earning favor). Also, I'm forever reminding myself to be interruptible, as well as rehearsing the adage ‘Connection before Correction’ as I interact with the littlest “neighbors” in my life.

... **Grace** | “Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.” ~ Dallas Willard

... **The idea of “serious joy”** | The Holy Spirit sustains and strengthens our joy. Despite painful circumstances, and whether we feel joyful or not, joy can still be expressed as praise and thanksgiving to God. If we are abiding in Christ, we can trust that the Holy Spirit is producing the joy of the Savior (which is a serious joy) within us. “A joy that can face the seriousness of life head-on and still come out on top. Nothing can overwhelm a joy that is rooted in God.” ~ Jonathan Landry Cruse, The Character of Christ

With Serious Joy,

Amy

March— Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (See Pastor Greg’s Article)

It is extraordinary how God uses the simplest realities to teach us great truths. Among the many thousands of hymns, Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus holds a tender place in the hearts of many believers. The gentle appeal and tender rebuke urges you to look away from all else and simply “Turn your eyes upon Jesus.” **Few know, however, this call to fix your eyes on Christ was given by a blind woman!**

Born in 1864, Helen Lemmel moved to the United States around the age of twelve. From a young age, her musical ability was noticed by all those around her.

In 1907, She moved to Germany for 4 years to undergo intensive music training. It was here that she would meet her husband. Together, they returned to the United States in 1911. While in America, she served faithfully in the Lord’s work. She dedicated herself to writing, arranging, and teaching songs and hymns of the faith

A few years after her marriage, a tragic illness caused her to lose her vision. Her husband, refusing to attend to a blind wife, left her. This time of hurt and loss weighed heavily upon Helen.

Then, in 1918, Lemmel was introduced to a pamphlet written by Algerian missionary Lilius Trotter. Trotter was a well-known artist who had given up a rising and lucrative career to serve the Lord on the mission field. Her words stirred the heart of Lemmel. She writes, *“Suddenly, as if commanded to stop and listen, I stood still, and, singing in my soul and spirit was the chorus, with not one conscious moment of putting word to word to make rhyme, or note to note to make melody...These verses were written...the same week...”*

The words that so captivated Helen were these: *“How do we bring things to a focus in the world of optics? Not by looking at the things to be dropped, but by looking at the one point that is to be brought out. Turn full your soul’s vision to Jesus, and look...look at Him, and a strange dimness will come over all that is apart from Him, and the Divine “attrait” by which God’s saints are made...will lay hold of you. For “He is worthy” to have all there is to be had in the heart that He has died to win.”*

Helen kept her eyes on the Lord Jesus and continued to serve Him faithfully. She would lead a women’s choral group for many of the Billy Sunday outreaches, teach music at the Moody Bible Institute, and pen over 400 hymns! Her life is a stirring challenge to us all. Hence, it may be said that although blind, her spiritual sight has challenged those of us who can see to keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

Are you weary, tired, hurting, confused, or frustrated? My friend, turn your eyes upon our dear Savior today, and the things of earth will grow *“strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”*

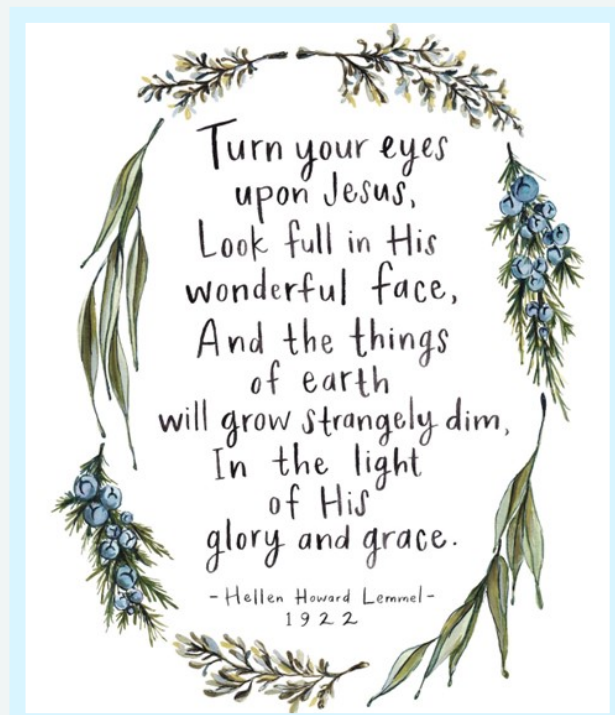
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

1. *O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There’s light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free! (Refrain)*

*(Refrain) Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

2. *Thro’ death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O’er us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conqu’rors we are! (Refrain)*

3. *His Word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell! (Refrain)*



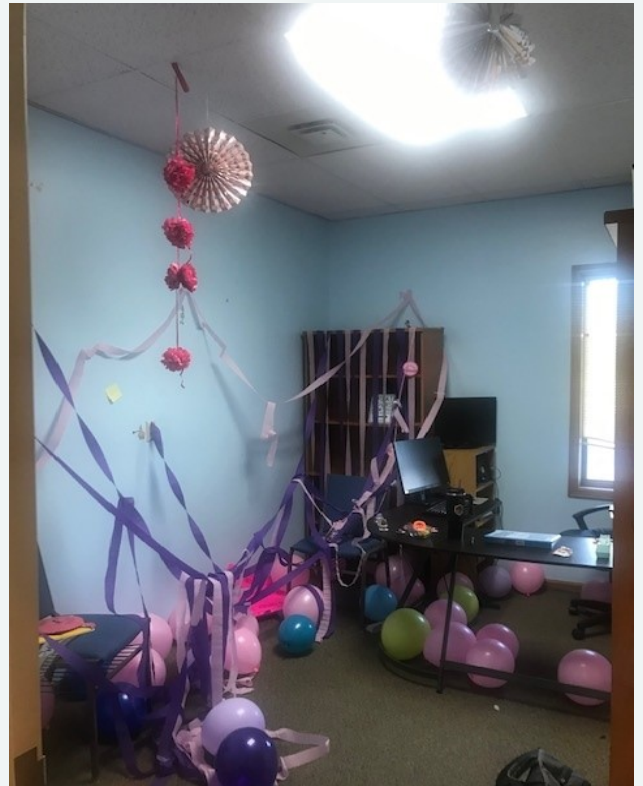
Church Happenings—Children's Church



Church Happenings— Welcome Andy Sell



We are happy to welcome Andy Sell to our staff here at ACEFC. He will be our Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor as well as wearing many other hats. If you see him, please give him a warm welcome. He will be in the office Tuesday—Thursday and his office hours are 8:30-2:30. You are welcome to stop in and see him during this time.



Church Happenings— Baby Shower for Tessa Mlaker



- **March 24 after church in the foyer**
- **Come for lunch, games, fellowship, and fun as we celebrate Tessa and the newest addition to the Mlaker family - a Baby Boy!**
- **Tessa is registered at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/tessa-mlaker-may-2024-appleton/QH1M93ALFIDO>**
- **Monetary gifts towards future baby needs are welcome in lieu of registry items.**

Church Happenings—Youth Group





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

In February, we continued in the book of John. We begin each lesson with a Bible Backroads video that explores the scripture, history, geography, archaeology and impact of John's Gospel within the New Testament. We also had a Super Bowl party hosted by the Van Houten's where the students enjoyed a taco bar. They even prepared a "specialty" meat just for the students aka cow tongue.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, March 3rd	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, March 10 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, March 17 th	11:45am-2:30pm	Church/Fox River Mall	Mall Scavenger Hunt
Sunday, March 24 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, March 31 st			No Youth Group

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: BELLA HOLMES



Grade: 6th

How long have you been attending youth group at ACEFC? 4 months.

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? I see myself in piloting school.

Favorite thing to do in your free time? Play with my dogs.

Favorite food: Pizza

What is your favorite memory from Youth Group? When I met everyone at Fallfest.

What is your favorite athletic activity and why? Volleyball and Cheerleading. My favorite thing about volleyball is having fun with my friends and meeting new people. My favorite thing about cheer is the stunts and competition.

What has God been teaching you this past year? God has taught me that it won't always be easy, but to always follow Him and to trust Him.

Church Happenings– The “Chocolate” Nest



Church Happenings—Men's Breakfast



Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus!

This month we'll be celebrating the most important event that has ever taken place in the history of our world: the victorious death, burial & resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! I'd like to direct our attention by asking everyone to “turn your eyes upon Jesus!”

In 1922, the hymn we know by that title was written by Helen H. Lemmel (1863-1961) who was a gifted concert soloist and a music teacher at the Moody Bible Institute. She also worked as director of a woman's choral group that was a regular part of the Billy Sunday evangelical meetings. She wrote that song to be sung at those meetings.

The inspiration for *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, which Helen originally entitled *The Heavenly Vision*, came from Lilius Trotter (1853-1928). She was a gifted artist and author whose talents led to some initial fame. But her real love was missions. After fervently praying for two years, she determined that the Lord wanted her to sacrifice her love of art in order to focus her eyes on Jesus, and on His calling to the mission field. She ended up serving for over 38 years as a missionary to Islamic people in Algeria. She also wrote several books and gospel tracts. The picture above is the cover of one of her tracts, the one that motivated Helen H. Lemmel to write *The Heavenly Vision*. Here is an excerpt from another of her tracts entitled, *Which Passion Will Prevail?*

"Never has it been so easy to live in half a dozen harmless worlds at once -- art, music, social science, games, motoring, the following of some profession, and so on. And between them we run the risk of drifting about, the good hiding what might be what's best."

It seems that in the midst of our busy world, it's never very easy to determine whether our lives are focused on what is actually best. We have so many distractions and various interests that grab our attention. For example, I've often commented that my involvement in sports was an enjoyable way to relax and relieve some of the stress of life. For the most part, it always seemed to be a harmless hobby. But, we also need to pause to evaluate whether these activities have become too important! At what point do they become idols? Beyond that, we should also be honest enough with ourselves to seriously ask if the priorities and practices we establish are taking our eyes off the Lord by becoming an investment that has very little eternal value.

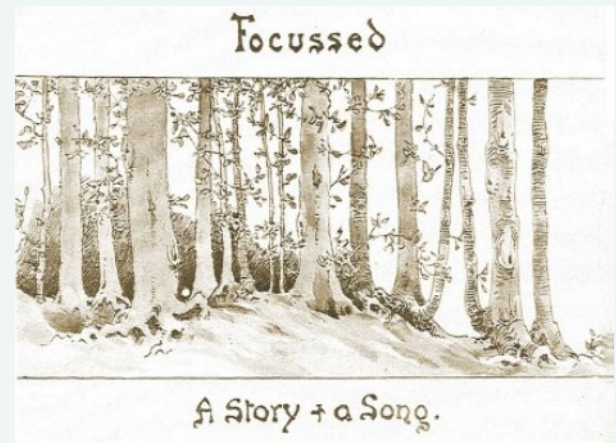
So, as we set our sights on the victory we've been granted by trusting in all that Christ Jesus accomplished for us at Calvary, here are a couple encouraging passages from God's Word. They've been a powerful source of motivation and hope for me and they speak volumes of much needed truth for us to treasure in our hearts.

Hebrews 12:1–13 “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, focusing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Matthew 5:13–16 “13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

During this special month for celebrating our victory in Jesus, I pray and hope that we can shine our Lights before those who surround us in a manner that will bring great glory to our Father in Heaven!

Praying for God's glory and praising Him for His grace,
Pastor Greg





March 2024

Dear Appleton E-free,



Thank you for allowing us to be your missionary of the month of March! As a church body, you sent us out to join Wycliffe Bible Translators 27 years ago. You have supported us faithfully through your finances, prayers and friendships, and we are grateful for your partnership! Without you, we wouldn't be here. It encouraged us greatly to visit with you last summer, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. May God bless you all for the part you have played in the work of Bible translation.

The rate of Bible translation continues to grow exponentially, with the goal of seeing a translation begun in every language that needs it by the year 2025 a very real possibility! (www.wycliffe.org) As of last October, Wycliffe's annual report listed 1255 languages left to go. Jim and I are not translators, but work in areas that support the process of getting God's Word to those who don't have it yet. Jim directs a team that builds websites and phone applications for the translated Scriptures, allowing thousands digital access to various resources available in their particular language. They may not have running water, but chances are they have cell phones! ([Digital Publishing](#)) Ginger works at the JAARS clinic, which services those preparing for the field as well as those missionaries assigned to JAARS. (Jungle Aviation and Relay Service www.jaars.org)

Join us for Wycliffe's Spring Scripture Celebration March 7 at 2 PM ET. [View invitation](#)

Prayer Requests:

Praise God for training sessions recently completed in Guinea Bissau and Papua New Guinea.

Please pray for an upcoming workshop in Cameroon in March. Pray that the students will develop websites which will be engaged by their language communities, giving them access to Scripture.

Praise God for improvement in range of motion in Ginger's shoulder! Ask Him for continued healing.

Please continue to pray for key positions for Jim's team: software development manager, trainer for social media promotion, and funding manager.

Continue to pray for a Bible translation to be started for the remaining languages of VISION 2025.

Thank you

Jim and Ginger Moore

Our Current Newsletter - click [here](#).

Our Website – click [here](#)

Our Family January 2024



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



Regular Church Office Hours

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

