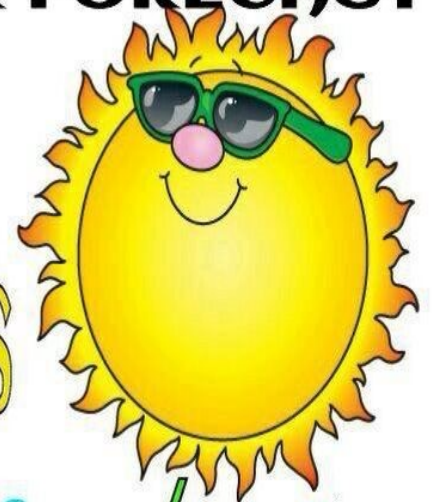


WEATHER FORECAST

GOD REIGNS
and the
SON SHINES
EXPECT
SHOWERS
OF
BLESSINGS!



✓ Every day
GOD is good!

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June 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Missionary Visit Roberto & Robin Paz 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church		6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Lord's Supper "Let's Do Lunch" 6 p.m. All Church Prayer Meeting 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church		6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study			7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
 Missionary Visit Lee Smoll 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church		6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Meeting	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study		6-8:00 p.m. Fellowship Night	
23	25	28	26	27	28	29
6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church		6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study			
30						
Missionary Visit John & Joanne Loker 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church						

Updates and Opportunities



Summer Book Club

Join us this Summer for our annual Book Club, starting in June.

Meeting times are:

Monday night at 6:00

Tuesday afternoon at 2:00

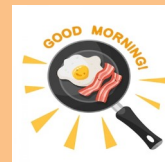
Wednesday afternoon at 2:00

We will be reading *How Does God Change Us?* By Dane Ortlund. It's a lovely, easy-to-read little book that grounds our discipleship in the glowing center of Christianity—our Lord Jesus. Cost is \$10. If you haven't signed up yet please contact Ruth at the church office and she will get you signed up.



Men's Breakfast

Men, come and join us on **Saturday, June 15 at 7:00 a.m.** for a time of fellowship, fun, and food!



ACEFC CARE Fund & Lynn Billings Fund

The Care Fund & Lynn Billings Fund are ministries that focus on providing confidential financial assistance to members and regular attendees. These funds remain financially strong and remain ready to assist as needed. Please contact any member of these teams and they can assist you. Rob Billings, Katie Josephs, Pastor Greg, Tim Diestler, Darrell Martin, Gary Donaldson, Ginny Parish, or Vera Hansen.



-DAY RETREAT -

Rest for the Weary

Ladies, take the day *AWAY* with us...

Please save-the-date for our Day Retreat on the topic of *Weariness, Remembering, and Resting!*

Who: This retreat is designed for women from our church body (16 years and older).

What: The retreat will focus on Biblical truths, prayer, worship, reflection, fellowship, and some R&R! A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

When: Saturday, July 27th from 9:30-4:30pm

Where: Yon Abel's family cabin near Tigerton/Iola, WI – an intentional "getaway" to allow us to separate ourselves from the inevitable tasks and demands of our days.

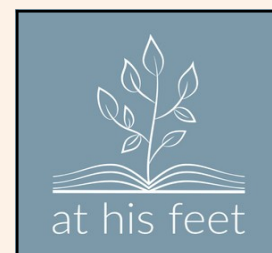
Why: Let's bring a proper perspective to our *weariness* by *remembering* God's provision and protection and by *resting* in His peace and presence!

Cost: \$10 to cover food and materials, but don't let the cost keep you from coming!

R&R Options: Quiet leisure indoors and outdoors, crafting sessions, hiking, games, napping, and more – bring an activity you enjoy to do or to share.

Carpooling: Don't let the drive deter you – we are encouraging and coordinating carpools from the church!

RSVP: Watch for a sign-up table in-person, as well as a Sign-Up Genius online, starting June 23rd – the deadline to sign-up will be July 14th.



Come and join us June 9 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. Mark your calendars now with the dates for the rest of the year:

August 18

October 20

July 21

September 15

November 17

December 15



Growing God's Way Childrens' Ministry

Growing God's Way Childrens' Ministry...

This month we are learning that after Jesus ascended to heaven, the church followed Jesus command to spread God's word!



Children are our future leaders!

Let's fill them with the love of Jesus!

Elders Report—Marshall Legg



Happy June ACEFC family!

I write to you as we're experiencing some significant storms as we transition from spring to summer. A season of change where growth is often accompanied by harsh weather and fluctuating temperatures. April saw our first meeting of the new elder board and toward the end of May we will have been pouring over the congregational survey results and looking forward to the final report/meeting with the church health consultant. We are expediting our meetings and meeting more frequently to ensure the high priority topics receive due attention and we continue to grow in our efficiency as a team. Church staff and ministry team leaders are preparing for the summer and seek continued support and additional volunteers.

Please contact the church office if you have an interest in serving in any ministry. The board continues to pray for patience, grace, and wisdom as we seek the Lord's will in the next steps for our – His – church, as we carefully evaluate all input and plan communications.

I share the below with you again as the season is similar and the forecast hopeful.

What is your perspective on change?

There is an inherent unsettledness that accompanies change, especially when a situation is worsening, but even when it's obviously for the better. I think this comes from upsetting the familiar, the fear of the unknown, but also from an innate awareness of our Creator who made us in His image. We all have an instilled longing for a stayed support – an unwavering hand. Our Father is just that!

Throughout scripture we see how God's children are confronted with change and how they manage through it. Sometimes it is brought upon by their own sin, yet others by a devotion to following His commands. The cyclical nature of this can be dizzying, but the pattern of repentance, reconciliation, and restoration should be comforting when we experience the same. As we observe the cultural degradation and pace of fear overcoming some, should we not run to Him who calmed the sea? Surely we will see the steadfast love, power, and protection of our Lord.

As some in our body experience the exciting changes welcomed by new ministries, retirements, or family growth, others work through bitter-sweet moves and goodbyes. Still others struggle with health and healing.

Remain rooted in His word and in communion with each other through Christ and we too will continue to thrive, come what may.

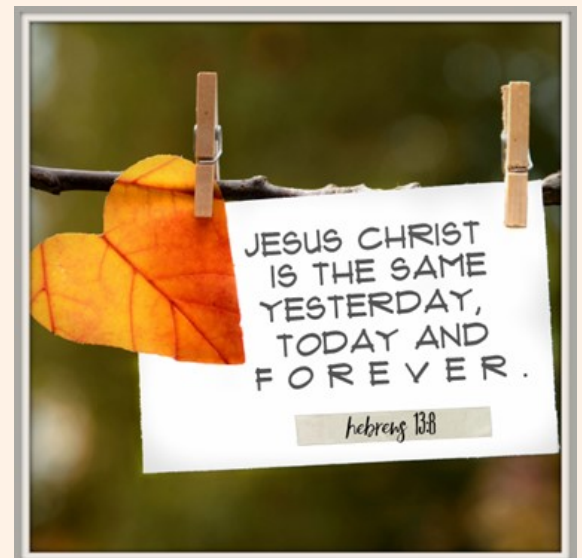
Psalm 119: 88-90

I encourage you to reach out to a fellow brother or sister, break bread together, introduce yourself to someone new on Sunday. Seek prayer for, or in the midst of, change.

Take heart knowing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

He is our hope and stay!

In Him,
Marshall Legg



In Pastor Greg's sermon series about Nehemiah, we see a great example of how to live during a time of trial. As Christians it can be very easy to live a one-and-done life, that is, "now that I'm saved, I can just coast." We don't ever think of it that way. It's not like we get up in the morning and say, "well, I'm saved so I can do whatever I want!" But unfortunately, that is the way that we can act.

Our lives are full of self-preservation: get the kids to school, do well at my job, clean my house, go to my small group, pick up groceries, get a good night's sleep - every day is full of needs. It can be easy to simply respond to those needs and never take a step back and pray, "God, can you help me see if my life is in right alignment with you?" If we really believed that our day would play out differently if God was making all the decisions, then we would say this prayer more often.

What is God asking you to rebuild in your life? How have the decisions you made or inactivity affected your life? Are there areas where you know God is asking you to grow? First, pray that God will forgive you and repent. "God, I'm sorry for the ways that I have fallen short, I repent for these specific areas (list them) and I ask that you would show me other ways in which I am choosing myself over you!"

Once you realize that you need God every day and every day He can challenge you to grow into the person He desires, He can then begin to work ON you and IN you, brick by brick, to help grow His Kingdom here on earth.

Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Pastor Andy



Dear Sisters,

In our family, we practice using the acronym **THINK** to help guide our responses to each other and those around us. It challenges us to pause and *think* before responding so that our words are edifying and constructive – good for building others up (Ephesians 4:29).

The little handmade sign on our refrigerator says:

*Before you speak, **THINK!**
Is it: True? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?*

We are constantly pointing back to our little sign and asking our children, and ourselves, what element was missing? If it's not one of those things, then perhaps it's not worth saying... or if it's something that truly needs to be said, then it's worth pausing to think about *how* you say it so that all those conditions are met.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think (*and **THINK!***) about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” ~Philippians 4:8-9

Bottom line: are our words, and how we wield them,
helpful or harmful to those we're speaking to?

Speaking life-giving words to one another is hard work, but it's a good work. Let's ask the Spirit to speak His words of life through us, in ways that would bring His better hope and healing – words of encouragement that are filled with both truth and grace for the spiritual strengthening of those around us.

Let's speak Life to those around us by walking (and talking!) in a manner worthy of Christ...“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” ~Ephesians 4:2-3

Your Sister,
Amy



Church Happenings—Daughters of the King Spring Brunch



Church Happenings—The Nest Potluck



Church Happenings—Our Elders

Pray for our Elders to have sound wisdom, knowledge and understanding from God. They are Marshall Legg, Chris Matula, Darrell Martin, Dean Pankow, & Pastor Greg Dykstra.

THE ELDERS WHO ARE AMONG YOU I EXHORT, I WHO AM A FELLOW ELDER AND A WITNESS OF THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST, AND ALSO A PARTAKER OF THE GLORY THAT WILL BE REVEALED: SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD WHICH IS AMONG YOU, SERVING AS OVERSEERS, NOT BY COMPULSION BUT WILLINGLY, NOT FOR DISHONEST GAIN BUT EAGERLY; NOR AS BEING LORDS OVER THOSE ENTRUSTED TO YOU, BUT BEING EXAMPLES TO THE FLOCK; AND WHEN THE CHIEF SHEPHERD APPEARS, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF GLORY THAT DOES NOT FADE AWAY.

1 PETER 5:1-4



Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

— Hebrews 13:17 (NASB®)

Church Happenings—If Chairs Could Talk



Where Did the Blue Chairs Go?

First of all we need to recognize SI Metals for their willingness to pick up the new chairs in Dallas and deliver them to the church. This was a true blessing for us!!!

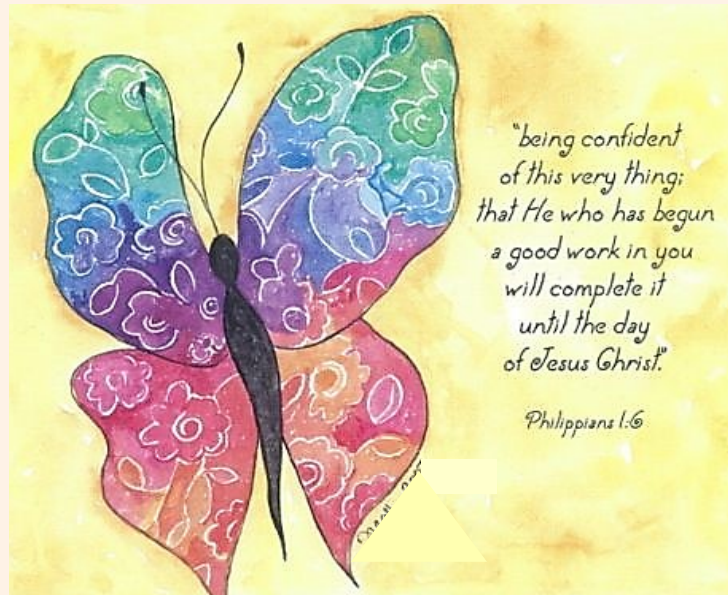
If chairs could talk.... They would tell us about praising God through song and sermon, the joy of a baby's dedication, the beauty of two lives being joined in marriage, the declaration of faith through baptism, the tears of saying goodbye to a loved one. They would also share how the youth may have bounced a few balls off of them, or being dragged through the church to fill the gathering space for a potluck. Job well done faithful sturdy blue chairs. But alas, their duty has not yet ended, for many have gone on to new homes and some will continue to be a part of ministry. Here is where they went:

- A church plant in Sheboygan
- A family hobby farm that wants to provide classes and camps on agriculture, and with that share about their faith in Christ.
- An adult day care that is just getting started in Green Bay.
- A large multi-generational family that has many gatherings.
- Grandparents who were creating a craft room for their grandkids.

Each of these groups came to our church and had a story to tell. It was truly a blessing to hear about their planned use for the chairs and rejoice that some were going to continue on in ministry.

This reminds us of our life in Christ. Sometimes we feel a bit tattered, broken down and not needed. But Philippians 1:3-6 tells us otherwise. "That He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." Christ gives us new life every day at any age!

Tim & Sue Diestler



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

May was a short Youth Group month. We began the first two Sundays with regular Youth Group and continued our study in the book of John. We had some nice weather so we were able to play 9-square and Kickball outside. We also began preparations for our upcoming Teen ‘Minute to Win-it’ night.

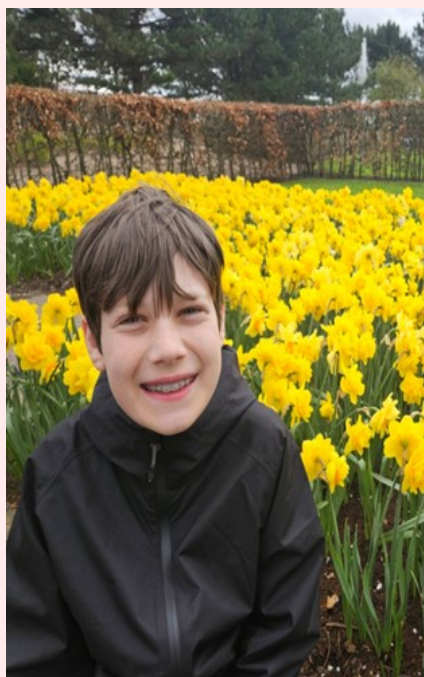
Instead of having Youth Group on May 19th, we had an amazing night at the MacDonal’d’s. We cooked brats and hot dogs over the fire, and finished the meal out with s’mores. The students were able to hold the MacDonal’d’s new chicks, zip-line, play 9-square, and more. We finished the night with Karaoke. With Memorial Day Weekend, we didn’t meet the last Sunday in May.

Curious about the Teen ‘Minute to Win-it’ Night? This is an outreach event where the students plan the games and present the gospel. They are encouraged to invite their friends for a night of fun, and an opportunity to hear the gospel message.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, June 2 nd	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, June 9 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Saturday, June 16 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, June 23 rd	6pm-8pm	Church	Teen Minute to Win it Night
Sunday, June 30 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: EZRA VANHOUTEN



Grade: 6th

How long have you been attending youth group at ACEFC? 1 year

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? Finishing college

Favorite thing to do in your free time? Read and playing with my siblings

Favorite Food: Meatloaf

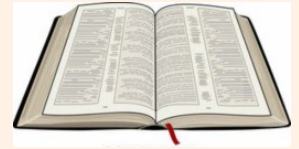
What is your favorite memory from Youth Group? The scavenger hunt where I went waist deep in the river.

What is the dumbest way you injured yourself? At Disney, I banged my eye on a seahorse water fountain while looking to see where the water came from. I now have a scar.

What has God been teaching in the past year? He has been teaching me to be optimistic and happy, even when I’m doing something I don’t like. He also has been showing me how to be more grateful for everything He has done for me.



***A Moment Of Truth For The Church In America:
It's Time To “Get Back To The Basics!”***



According to George Barna, one of the most prominent and reliable Bible-believing researchers in our country today, “The Church is at a critical juncture, and the path to a thriving Christian community lies in returning to the core biblical principles, the empowerment of parents as spiritual leaders and the intentional discipling of the next generation. ‘All the other stuff is noise,’ he said. ‘If we don't do those things, we're going to lose even more in this war ... this is our moment, we've reached a time of Christian invisibility in our culture.’ ... ‘The consequence of that is that the elites in our culture will have the opportunity to shut down spiritual freedom,’ he stressed. ‘We will no longer be allowed to go to churches; we'll no longer be allowed to buy and read Bibles, we'll no longer be allowed to speak in public about our faith. Why? Because it all traces back to disciples not making disciples. So this is our moment. We either will put up or shut up. And I would suggest that we put up.”

If you'd like to read the entire article that prompted me to address this subject, you can find it here:

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/george-barna-identifies-biggest-threats-facing-the-church.html>

As I begin to add my personal comments and thoughts, I want to say that even though this introduction could be seen as intense, my desire here is to be encouraging and motivating. The warnings and exhortations found in God's Word are never intended to scare us, but instead they're designed to prepare us. I never want to ignore the truth that God loved the world so much that He sent His One and Only Son into the world to rescue us from the penalty and problem of sin. **(from John 3:16–17)** Those of us who have trusted in the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection in order to obtain God's unconditional forgiveness should realize “if God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all that He has promised us?” **(from Romans 8:31–32)** In other words, we might be facing some serious threats that are a result of spiritual warfare, but “God's divine power has granted to us everything necessary for life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” **(from 2 Peter 1:3)**

So, let's take a close look at Matthew 5:11–16 and draw a few relevant applications. “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **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.”

Three brief ideas based on what Jesus was teaching:

1} When we face any type of cultural pushback because of our faithfulness, that means they're noticing that we're not following or fitting in with the crowd. This honors God and shows how our faith impacts our lifestyles.

2} In the time when Jesus lived here on earth, salt was important because it flavored food, retarded decay in food, and in small doses fertilized the soil. In this illustration, Jesus suggested that as His disciples, we can have a positive influence on the world by being salty. It's a privilege that through our lives and testimony we can bring blessing to others by slowing the natural decay that results from sin.

3} In God's Word, light often represents purity, truth, knowledge, and God's presence all in contrast to the darkness of sin. Since Jesus pointed out that His disciples (and that includes us) are the Light of the world; we should live as if we are reflecting the light of God and stopping the spread of darkness.

**Praying for God's glory and praising Him 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 on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation. Thank you for your continued partnership and the many ways that looks like with us and the people of LCO. You are very much appreciated!

The Shack is a ministry immersed into the everyday on Lac Courte Oreilles. We look to share the love of Jesus in both word and deed as we offer a living hope with a hurting community.

As we gear up for what looks to be another busy summer, we also look to step back, take a deep breath, and keep our focus on Jesus. Keep Kristi in your prayers as she is in the midst of a sabbatical season. Within that season, we'll continue to host teams, run a VBS, Church campouts, weekly community cookouts, and keep on loving and serving our neighbors in the name of Jesus.

We praise God for the witness found in and through the unity of the body of believers here. A prayer request would be for the many that have tasted and seen that God is good but!? Pray for the battles going on that we don't see.

May His kingdom come and His will be done on Lac Courte Oreilles as it is in heaven.

Shalom,

The Shack



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

“For Nothing is impossible With God.”
LUKE 1:37

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

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church
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Appleton, WI 54914
Phone 920-735-9971