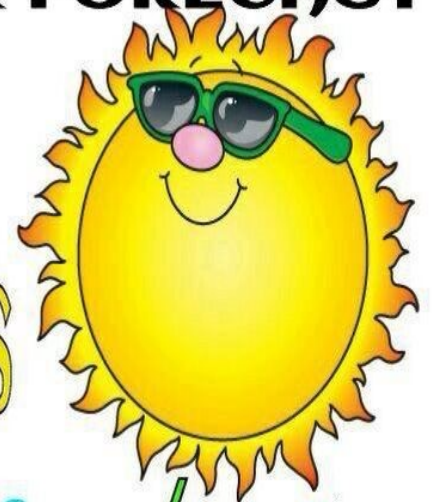


WEATHER FORECAST

GOD REIGNS
and the
SON SHINES
EXPECT
SHOWERS
OF
BLESSINGS!



✓ Every day
GOD is good!

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Church Calendar

June 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Lord's Supper</p> <p>All Ladies Brunch after church</p> <p>6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church</p>		<p>6:30 a.m. Discipleship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting</p>				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>"Snacks & Steps" after church</p> <p>6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church</p>		<p>6:30 a.m. Discipleship</p>		<p>7:00 p.m. Men's "Higher Calling"</p>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
 <p>6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church</p>		<p>6:30 a.m. Discipleship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Meeting</p>			<p>6-8:00 p.m. Fellowship Night</p>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>"Let's Do Lunch"</p> <p>6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church</p>		<p>6:30 a.m. Discipleship</p>				
29	30					
<p>All-Church Potluck</p> <p>6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church</p>						

Updates and Opportunities



Women's Summer Book Club

We will be meeting in homes again this summer as we read *The Jordan River Rules* by Robert Morgan. This is a follow up to the book we so enjoyed a few summers ago *The Red Sea Rules*. This book is about moving forward. The same God who led you out - He will lead you on. The book cost is \$10. Meeting times are Sunday after Church; Wednesday @ 10 am; Thursday @ 6 pm; Friday @ 10 am.

Please contact the church office to sign up.



Men's "Higher Calling"

Men, come and join us on **Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.** for a time of fellowship, fun, and food for thought!



Snacks & Steps

Come and join us **Sunday, June 8 after church** to hear about the church's **next steps forward**. It will be a time to ask questions, be encouraged, and have hope for the future. Snacks will be provided!



All-Ladies Brunch



Ladies of all ages are invited to join us for a fun time together on **Sunday June 1 after church**. No lady is too young or too old to come. Bring family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, all are welcome. We will have brunch and activities for all. Invite those who don't attend our church to arrive at **11:45** for food, fellowship and fun.



Come and join us **June 22 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 17

October 19

July 20

September 21

November 16

December 14



Church Happenings - Children's Ministry

Children's Church



"The aim of children's ministry isn't to grow children's ministry – it's to grow children!" Dr. Lawson Murray

Without all the work of the adults who faithfully serve our children there would be no Children's Ministry. Thank you all

for the time you put in to grow our children in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Evergreens

June will conclude the unit on the birth of the church by looking at the conversion of Saul/Paul, Lydia and the ministry of Priscilla and Aquila. Then we will begin a unit on The Feasts of The Lord. This is a look at the feasts of Israel and how they show us Jesus. There will be special games, food and projects that will make it a memorable time of learning.

Sprouts

The younger children are going to be learning about God's wonderful creation. We will look at all He has made and see how that shows us Who God is.

"Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself" Matthew 21:16





Greetings. Wow, we are a short hop away from the time when ACEFC will be enduring a transition that is sure to be a bit anxiety producing. That is, Pastor Greg retiring, and an interim pastor coming in to bridge the pastoral gap until a full time pastor is hired. This is especially difficult when the outgoing pastor is beloved by so many! For me, I am so glad that The Lord intentionally designed personal and spiritual support for one another into Christ's Body, the church. Knowing that I have a church body that I love for support has been so important to my spiritual and mental health more often than people would know. And of course, let us all attach to our emotions, the surety of our God's sovereignty over all things and all matters. It was the well-known preacher, Charles Spurgeon, who said, "**The Sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the Christian rests his head.**" I cling to this truth!

However, the interim pastor is to be trained to do more than only pastoral fill-in. He is also to help address areas of difficulty and dysfunction that a church body has experienced and is experiencing. For all who are reading this elder message, please pray daily to the Lord for whoever He sends us to provide Godly wisdom empowered by the Spirit.

A few days before my writing of this update, Elders participated in the Team Leader Meeting where the focus is upon the many ministries that exist in our church. A recommendation was made to add to the Sunday morning transition updates, additional informative opportunities about this upcoming pastoral transition so that more attenders can get answers to the questions that they have. To that end, Ruth is setting up 2 opportunities called **Snack and Steps** on 2 different dates and times that will have advance notice to all. Please do attend!

Together in Christ,

Chris





“We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Faith, love, hope—Paul often groups these three together in his letters. We are used to it being faith, hope and love but here in Thessalonians Paul puts love in the middle and hope at the end. Let's look at these three important marks of a Christian.

Faith is not merely belief; it is something that changes you. Faith makes you turn from what is wrong to what is right, from dark and hurtful things to right and true and healthy things.

The phrase here "the work of the faith", describes the work or activity that faith inspires or that springs from and is motivated by faith. D. L Moody said "We work because we are saved; we don't work to be saved. We work from the cross but not towards it." The faith that Paul is so thankful for here is the ongoing change in their lives because of their salvation. Living a life of faith does take work!

Love—this love is not romantic love or personal affection. It's not warmth because of the attractiveness and appeal of the other person. It is not because we may have so much in common. Christian love is a desire for the welfare of the one loved. It is an act of the will not from emotion. Such love found its supreme expression on Calvary.

Paul calls what the Thessalonians are doing a "labor of love." Labor is not just work, it means hard work, work that can make you sweat! Love motivated their labor. Biblical love is willing to sacrifice for others. It is others oriented. To love sacrificially is to labor until it hurts. It is a love of blood, sweat and tears.

This love is willing to work for others and to pay a price if necessary. It means forgiving someone you don't want to forgive, speaking to someone when you would rather not, going to see someone and when you would rather stay home. You do it because you have God's love as your motivation, not your own desires.

Hope—what a wonderful word! Christian hope is what anchors us in the present while we look to the future. It is something solid and sure, as firm as the ground under our feet. **“Steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”** is how Paul puts it and it is **“in the presence of our God and Father.”**

This hope is the assurance that we one day will be saved from even the presence of sin and receive new bodies free of all the limitations we may have right now. It is the hope and assurance that we will have eternal unbroken fellowship with our Lord and all His children. This hope inspires us not to just hold on but to press on sure that the victory has already been won at Calvary. This hope is not grim waiting but joyful expectation.

Faith, love and hope three marks of a Christian. Faith rests on the past, it comes first as the source of our Christian life. Love works in the present; it's the power that enables us to keep living and serving even when we are opposed or suffer. Hope looks to the future and helps us face each day with joy and expectation.

Faith looks back to a Crucified Savior.

Love looks up to a Crowned Savior.

Hope looks on to a Coming Savior.

John Lightfoot

Let's live today strong in faith, walking in love and joyful in hope.

Mary for your Women's Ministry Team

Church Happenings - The Nest Potluck



Church Happenings—Farewell to Jeff & Nancy Davis



Dear Friends,

We want you to know that we will miss all of you. ACEFC has been our home for 30 years. We have walked alongside and served with many wonderful Christ followers through the years. As is true of all facets of life, there have been many peaks and valleys. There have been people come and go as they served God in their lives.

It is hard to let friends go but ultimately it is our relationship with Jesus that is our deepest and most satisfying relationship. He is our Rock; a faithful friend and Savior who has never left us nor forsaken us.

We have so many memories of people and experiences that we take with us and hold so dearly. We were baptized here, married here, and formed many friendships here. There have been tears and laughter, joy and pain, many prayers (both for us and by us for others). There have been many births, and we have had the joy of watching these children learn and grow in faith. Many have grown and now have their own families.

We have served God and the church in so many ways here-work trips, remodel projects, teaching, AWANA, evangelism, prayer, Bible studies, sharing meals, and more. We have heard the Word of God preached faithfully and powerfully by men of God who loved us well and loved God most of all.

We have enjoyed picnics and potlucks. We have had the privilege of being let into your lives in both big and small ways. We have been served by so many of you and are certain that we have been prayed for countless times over the years.

The joys have served as a promise of greater joys to come when we will be with Jesus. The hard times have drawn us closer to Him as we are reminded of how frail we are and in need of our Savior every hour of every day.

Thank you for loving us so well! We are excited to start this new opportunity to serve God in Wausau. We will be serving alongside some dear family members at Restoration Church of Wausau. We are especially excited to watch Sadie (age 8), and Edmund (age 5) grow up (our grandniece and grandnephew) in our daily lives. We are confident of God's place in our lives and place our full faith and trust in Him and Him alone.

And, of course, remember that Wausau is not that far from Appleton and Jeff makes some tasty BBQ ribs (in addition to his famed hot dogs)!

We love you!!

Jeff and Nancy Davis
1521 Summit Drive
Wausau, WI 54401



Church Happenings—All Church Farewell Potluck





Men's Breakfast

Men, come and join us for our next Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, July 19** at **7:30 a.m.** for a time of fellowship, fun, and food!



Church Happenings—Men’s “Higher Calling”



Men’s “Higher Calling”

Men, come and join us for our next time of fun, fellowship, and prayer on Thursday, June 12 @ 7:00 p.m.



Church Happenings—Youth Group



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

We watched the 2019 cartoon rendition of Pilgrim’s Progress, based on the book by John Bunyan, which is a Christian allegory written in 1678. It follows a man named Christian who goes on a harrowing journey from his home in the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. He meets characters such as “Evangelist,” “Help,” along with those meant to lead Christian astray, such as “Worldly Wisdom,” and “Beelzebub.” Thanks to Marshall Legg for leading this study and allowing us to discuss how it can apply to our lives. In addition to completing the Pilgrim’s Progress study, we had a fun night at Skater’s Edge to celebrate the last Christian Skate night for the school year.

WELCOME CURRENT 5th GRADERS!

Beginning June 1, 2025, we want to officially invite any current 5th graders (those who will be in 6th grade for the 25/26 school year) to join us for Youth Group!

What is Youth Group all about?

Every week, our youth group nights are packed with snacks, games, and meaningful time spent diving into God’s Word—a perfect mix of fun and truth!

Each month, we turn things up with a special event, featuring epic activities like a mall scavenger hunt, a Mario Kart tournament, and more surprises you won’t want to miss.

And twice a year, we take things to the next level with our can’t-miss retreats: Fall Fest and Districts—two incredible weekends full of faith, friendship, and unforgettable memories.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Our next unit will be going back to the basics of Christianity; in a series called “Backyard Bible Basics.” We intend to have a mixture of large group sessions where we learn about a topic together around a fire, and small group sessions where we break down what we learned and discuss it.

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, June 1	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, June 8	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, June 15	4pm-8:30pm	Pick up/drop off @Church	Bay Beach Amusement Park
Sunday, June 22	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, June 29	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group





2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Standing Strong By Standing Firm On God’s Word

Recently I was approached with a question about how we should draw a line between what our society defines as right & wrong and what the Bible says about God’s will for us. Without any specific details, this seems as if it should be simple. However, whenever it begins to invade our lives & become more personal, our own judgment often becomes conflicted. In times when someone asks me for advice on some issue they’re facing, typically before I respond to their question, I try to discover what’s behind their concern. Personally I believe that there are far less gray areas in between what’s biblically right & wrong than our behavior & actions might tend to demonstrate.

Therefore, I find it beneficial to step back so we can clearly see the real reason why we find ourselves asking where to draw the line. Basically it’s because we’re consistently being trained & conditioned to be more & more tolerant toward sin by the world that surrounds us. Since these influences are usually very subtle & deceptive, it becomes difficult for us to actually draw a distinct line that enables us to avoid stepping into that danger zone where we start to condone what God calls “participating in the unfruitful deeds of darkness.” **(Ephesians 4:1–14) *It’s obvious that we need the Lord’s supernatural assistance to protect ourselves from being deceived about right & wrong! But we also need to take the proper steps to stand strong by standing firm on God’s Word!***

Please allow me to introduce you to Jack Phillips. Maybe you’re familiar with his story. Here’s a brief summary: “Jack Phillips opened Masterpiece Cakeshop in 1993, where he, his wife, Debi, & their adult daughter, Lisa, continue to serve the community of Loveland, Colorado. In July, 2012, Jack refused to make a cake for a same sex wedding & was sued by these customers in what eventually led to a lawsuit against him by the State of Colorado. For more than 12 years, Jack was pulled away from his work in order to defend his freedom to express what he believes without fear of government punishment. Thru it all, Jack endured the spotlight of the national media, lost a big part of his business, & had to let several employees go. He’s received angry phone calls, letters, and even death threats. Yet he never lost faith in God and continued to stand for biblical values.”

(You might enjoy reading Jack’s entire testimony on this link! <https://adflegal.org/client/jack-phillips/>)

Over the years, Jack has been sued many times for standing up & trusting in biblical values; he’s been targeted because he wasn’t willing to give in to any request for work that violated his beliefs & brought shame to His Lord.

How did he survive these attacks? Before he started his business, he & Debi (his wife) drew lines that defined any cakes that they wouldn’t create, based on biblical truth! They were determined that they wouldn’t blur the lines; they refused to compromise their values! **What an amazing & awesome testimony!**

What can we learn from this & where can we turn for the guidance we need? There are many Bible references that might help us, but there’s one that speaks boldly to instruct us in a clear & concise way. On the top of this page, please notice 2 Timothy 3:16–17. All four purpose statements about how the Bible is profitable are relevant because **teaching, reproofing, correcting, & training in righteousness** are closely connected to each other; they actually depend on each other! But please observe carefully the ultimate result = **that the man (& woman) of God might be adequate, equipped for every good work!** We might think that to “*merely*” be adequate suggests being *just good enough*. But that’s not even close to what the Greek word means. Literally it means ***to be perfectly & completely fitted for the task!*** Then the word equipped describes ***being prepared & furnished with everything needed to do the task!*** We should all realize that God’s Spirit indwells every faithful follower of Christ to empower us to do whatever God wants us to do. But we also need to take the responsibility to study God’s Word in such a way that it saturates our thinking & penetrates our lives so we’ll be more than adequate & properly prepared to stand strong by standing firm on God’s Word of Truth!

With prayer for God’s glory, praise for His grace, & preparation for His return,

Pastor Greg

Mission of the Month— Roberto & Robin Paz



When crisis strikes, ReachGlobal Crisis Response is there—committed to spiritual, emotional, and physical transformation. We partner with local churches to rebuild lives and communities, sharing the love of Christ to multiply disciples and disciple-makers. Since 2013, we've been serving in Covington, Louisiana, responding to the mission field created in the wake of crisis. Our work in Covington centers on glorifying God by multiplying transformational Hispanic churches and providing vital administrative support to the ReachGlobal Crisis Response ministry in the U.S and internationally.

Roberto has served as the lead pastor of Dulce Refugio Church since its launch in 2020, focusing on discipling and developing church leaders. Robin serves as the Covington site leader, is a member of the Crisis Response finance team, and actively supports Roberto and the Dulce Refugio church plant.

Prayer Requests & Praises

Dulce Refugio Church

PRAISE: We celebrate 9 baptisms and 1 child dedication the day before Palm Sunday—what a joyful and powerful day!
PRAY: For God's protection over this young church, continued spiritual growth, and increasing love for one another.
PRAY: For the process of officially establishing Dulce Refugio as a fully recognized church and for ongoing partnership with Trinity Church.

ReachGlobal Crisis Response

PRAISE: Three of our sites have had new Bible study groups this year!
PRAY: For strength and stamina for our staff as we head into a busy summer season.
PRAY: For safety for our teams and staff as they serve.
PRAY: For deep relationships to form between staff, response teams, and homeowners.
PRAY: That hope would grow among homeowners still living in uncertainty and loss.
PRAY: That Christ would be made known and glorified through all we do.
PRAY: For a quiet and uneventful hurricane season as it approaches.



Roberto with those that were baptized and the child that was dedicated in April.



The men and youth served a wonderful Mother's Day lunch to approximately 30 moms at Dulce Refugio Church.



Robin with the ReachGlobal Crisis Response Division business manager, Dorinda, while visiting the Hazard, KY site in March

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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