



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this Sunday, November 2.



Church Office Closed
Thursday, & Friday, November 27-28 for Thanksgiving Weekend.
Have a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving.



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November 2025



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings 6-8 p.m. Youth Group		6 p.m. Elders Mtg 6:30 p.m. Ministry Team Mtg.	6-7:30 Awana	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m. Men's Higher Calling 7:00 p.m.		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12-3 p.m. Youth Group Smores Party @ Matt Diestler's		Nest 7:00 p.m.	6-7:30 Awana	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.		Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
"Let's Do Lunch" 6-8 p.m. Youth Group		6 p.m. Elders Mtg.	6-7:30 Awana	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Thanksgiving Potluck & Hanging of the Greens 6-8 p.m. Youth Group			No Awana			

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Updates and Opportunities



CHRISTMAS 2025

- Again this year we plan to decorate our church for Christmas as a church-wide event on Sunday, November 23^d, after the church potluck. We want to prepare our sanctuary as an environment that encourages an attitude of worship upon entering. This year's theme is, "Fear Not For Behold..." If you plan to participate, please contact

Gary Noggle at (920) 574-2914. Thank you in advance for your participation.



THE NEST

The Nest Tuesday November 11

7:00 pm at church

Join us for fun, fellowship and inspiration.

We will be making simple jar candles for you to enjoy at home or give to a friend.

All women are welcome so bring your friends.



Operation Christmas Child

As we draw near to Thanksgiving please remember those children who are very needy and have never heard of Jesus! Fill a shoe box or a box from OCC with small toys, school supplies, or personal hygiene items and OCC will add a brochure about Jesus in their own language. You can also fill a box on line at Build Your Shoebox Online! - Operation Christmas Child (samaritanaspurse.org).

Please enclose \$10.00 for shipping and handling. **Boxes and instructions will be given out Sunday October 19 thru collection day which is Sunday November 16.**



Christmas Tea—Save the Date

Ladies, you are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Tea! It will be held on **Saturday, December 6 from 11-1!** Come for fellowship, fun, and food. Tickets are on sale beginning Sunday, November 3 for \$15! Please prayerfully consider joining us in this annual outreach to kick off the Christmas season.



Thanksgiving Potluck—Save the Date

Come and join us for our all-church Thanksgiving potluck on Sunday, November 23, after the service. Save the date and stay tuned for more updates.



Come and join us November 16 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.



Church Happenings—Children's Church

Children's Church



Here is the Mission Statement of our Children's Ministry Program.

"Our mission is to plant the seeds of God's truth into the lives of our children and to encourage their growth."

With church and family working together we can sow seeds of truth and love for God and His Word that will grow roots and bear fruit. Every volunteer in our program is here for you and your children. We want to partner with you, encourage and support you as you are training up your precious children in God's ways.

Evergreens

This month is an exciting time for the children in Evergreens. They will be starting a study of the Gospel of Luke as well as preparing for the Christmas program. Some of the class time will be used to work on the program and the rest of it will be on this wonderful Gospel. Parts have been assigned and we will be asking for your help at home so that each child is ready for our Christmas program scheduled for Sunday December 14.

Sprouts

The younger children will be learning about the how much Jesus loves them and about being thankful This is a not just a playtime but a time for these youngest members of our church to learn truths about God that will last a lifetime.



Save The Date
Sunday December
14



How are we already 2 months into Awana?! Time flies when you are having fun! In October we celebrated our favorite sports and dressed like animals for Noah's Ark night! What a blast! We are always looking to add more children in to the fun, so if you know someone age 3- 6th grade who might like to join, let us know. We have some scholarships available too!

This month we have:

Nov. 5th- Wear your favorite color night (and as much of it as you can!)

Nov. 12th- Thankful night- come ready to share something you are thankful for

Nov. 19th- We will share our Thankful video

Nov. 26- No Club, Happy Thanksgiving!





Change is coming...can you feel it?

Can you feel it coming...there is a change in the season that is telling us that something different is coming. Unfortunately, we who are familiar with Wisconsin know that it means 6 months of cold and snow, and that's where the metaphor breaks down.

But with our church something different is also coming...can you feel it?

We have now voted in and called Pastor James Vyleta to be our new interim pastor. He has accepted the call and will begin preaching on November 9th. We have contracted him to serve with us for a period of 18 months, and with a yet to be determined extension if we need it. He has a bold preaching style and a warm personal bearing. He enjoys being a shepherd and getting out with his sheep. I know

that you will enjoy getting to know him as I have.

We have also voted in a new church covenant, which the elders will begin using in the upcoming new church membership classes. This new covenant will form the basis on how we relate to our church and how we relate to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We also are hoping that current members will want to sit down with the elders to better understand what the new church covenant means to them and how they can embrace it.

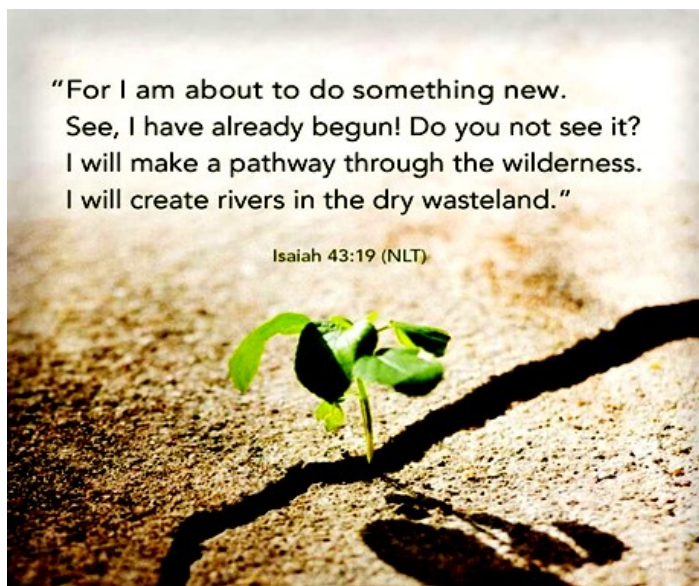
We additionally have the results of the NCD survey which we took in September. The elders hope to go over the results with the congregation in late November or early December. These survey results will help Pastor Jim and the elders to better pin point what changes need to be made in the future to strengthen our areas of weakness and to build on our areas of strength.

Change is coming...can you feel it, can you sense it in the atmosphere of our worship service, can you hear it with all the conversations going on after the service, can you see it as people are beginning to get involved in ministries that are new to them. Old friends are coming back and new friends are coming in. God is bringing about change.

Isaiah 43:19 says: Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Paul tells us in Philippians 3:14-16; I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

As we go through the changes that are coming, may we continue to press on to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus and hold true to what we have attained. To God be the glory!



When Moses felt
inadequate, God didn't
build up his self-esteem,
He built up his
God-esteem

Exodus 3-4

"But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" God answered, "I will be with you."

Exodus 3:11-12

Have you ever felt inadequate? Unqualified? Too weak or limited? Disrespected or overlooked? Dismissed?

Moses sure did! He had once known power and privilege. He had been well educated and lived the life of a prince. Now he was a shepherd. He had been for 40 years. He lived a nomadic life with a small tribe in the vast wilderness. He was 80 years old.

Moses asked the question some of us have asked, "Who am I?" So often we can let our circumstances and limitations control our choices. Sure, things change but God hasn't!

"Look, I am the Lord, the God who rules over all flesh. Is anything too difficult for me?" Jeremiah 32:27

The unchangeable God doesn't look at our education, resources, talents or physical abilities. The God who made iron float, a donkey talk, water turn into wine and the dead live can do anything with anyone!

What Moses needed to know is that this God, all powerful and all knowing, able to do anything at all God, this God was with him. It was not about Moses it was about Who was with him.

Isn't that what we need to know today? God may not be asking you to lead a nation into freedom, but He is asking you to trust Him to be with you no matter the day ahead holds.

God may not be asking you to talk to great leaders, but He is asking you to speak words that are encouraging, kind and helpful. God may not be asking you to be the wise leader of a grumbling people, but He is asking you to **"Do everything without complaining and arguing (Philippians 2:14)."**

How about it? Are you going to look at your limitations or at your limitless God for Whom nothing is too difficult? Let's be willing to see past our limits to His possibilities. God will be with us!

With love—Mary for your Women's Ministry Team

Do everything without grumbling
or arguing, so that you may become
blameless and pure.
Philippians 2:14-15



Church Happenings—The Nest



Church Happenings—Youth Group





TWIGS YOUTH GROUP

If you are in middle or high school, join us as we learn and grow together on Sunday nights from 6pm-8pm. We meet at church, unless otherwise posted.

WE HAVE A NAME!

We decided we needed a name beyond just “Youth group.” Student’s submitted name ideas and voted on their favorite. While it was close, the winning name was **Teens Working in Growing Spiritually (TWIGS)**, submitted by Adalay.

WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

In October, we continued our 12-month study of the bible using The Non-Prophet’s Guide to the Bible by Todd Hampson. We are also challenging our students to read from Genesis through 2 Kings by December 21 to align with what we are learning each week.

We also took 19 students to Pembine, WI for our annual Fall Fest Youth Retreat at the beautiful Lake Lundgren Bible Camp. Students disconnected from screens (mostly) and spent time in the fresh outdoors. We studied the book of Philippians, spent personal quiet time with God, sang praises to our God, slept (a little), drank ridiculous amounts of hot chocolate, played 9=square, threw axes, ran in fun runs, played flag football, and ate delicious food. More pictures on pages 11 & 12.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, November 2	4pm-6pm	Luke M’s house*	Campfire cookout & games!
Sunday, November 9	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)
Sunday, November 16	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)
Sunday, November 23	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)
Sunday, November 30	No Youth Group		



Church Happenings—Youth Group Fall Fest Lake Lundgren



Church Happenings—Youth Group Fall Fest Lake Lundgren



Church Happenings—"His Little Feet"



Church Happenings— Men's Breakfast



Church Happenings—All Church Potluck





Ministry Update:

November 9th will mark one year since our family moved to Fort Myers, Florida. This year has been a great blessing for our family as well as a season of learning. We have found great joy in meeting new friends, growing closer to our fellow team members, working with amazing volunteers and seeing God be glorified and working in so many ways. We are seeing homes being rebuilt while also witnessing homeowners restore their relationship with Christ or beginning that relationship. We are working with the long-term recovery group to continue to find people who are still waiting for help. We recently started working on a home that had not been gutted since Hurricane Ian, 3 years ago. Our site helps facilitate 3 Bible studies in different communities we have worked in. We continue to train volunteers in the trauma care training and Kristen is

actively working on the trauma care team and learning to train others. Ellis continues to lead job sites and is taking on a more leadership role of overseeing all the job sites. We would love to share more details of all that we see God doing so please feel free to reach out or sign up for our newsletters!

Why did you choose Reach Global Crisis Response:

Our family continues to choose serving with ReachGlobal Crisis Response because of its motto, "People over Projects." The house and job will always be there, but the people will not. Ask many of our homeowners, since the hurricane, many have lost their spouse, brother, child, or friends. A house is a worldly possession that provides temporary shelter, but eternity with Jesus is what we truly want to share. We often say that we love someone until they ask Why? Most weeks, volunteers come in expecting to serve and make a difference in our homeowner's lives, but oftentimes we see their lives changed. They are so eager to return home and share how God has changed their life and to continue loving others. Serving our neighbors is a powerful opportunity to see God at work. God has also uniquely equipped Ellis and our family to serve with ReachGlobal Crisis Response.

Praises:

God's provision for our site to have the staff we need and the volunteer teams! We are finishing up 5 weeks of teams! Praise God for all the gospel growth and work that was done.

One of our homeowners recently accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!

Jacob recently hurt his foot; we are grateful that it was only a small fracture and he only needs a cast for 3 weeks. It has not slowed him down much. We have met so many amazing people in Florida!

Prayer Requests:

Homeschooling and a busy season of life: Adeline is in the 3rd grade. We have recently joined many fun activities this year, but it has us on the go constantly.

Jacob's foot to continue to heal and that his cast will be removed Nov 4th. Jacob fell and fractured a bone in his foot and has been in a cast for a little over 2 weeks.

Safe travels over the next couple months.

Endurance and good health as we just completed 5 weeks of teams and want to finish the year out strong.

For our homeowners during the holiday season. Many have lost spouses, close family members, or their home will not be finished and so holidays can be hard.

Pray for our families continued financial support and prayer partners.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to be featured at the church and for all the support the church gives.

Ellis & Kristen

Our mission here at Appleton Community EFC is to lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ

Growing together in Christ we value:

Biblical Truth

We depend on the Bible as our source of authority in what we believe, what we teach, and how we live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Worship

We believe that we are created by God to worship Him. Therefore, we live in worshipful response to God's character and activity. (Psalm 86:11)

Prayer

We believe that daily prayer is essential in the life of a believer and as such we pray with expectancy knowing that God is actively involved in our world. (Colossians 4:2)

Evangelism

We believe in sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with honesty and humility. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Fellowship

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

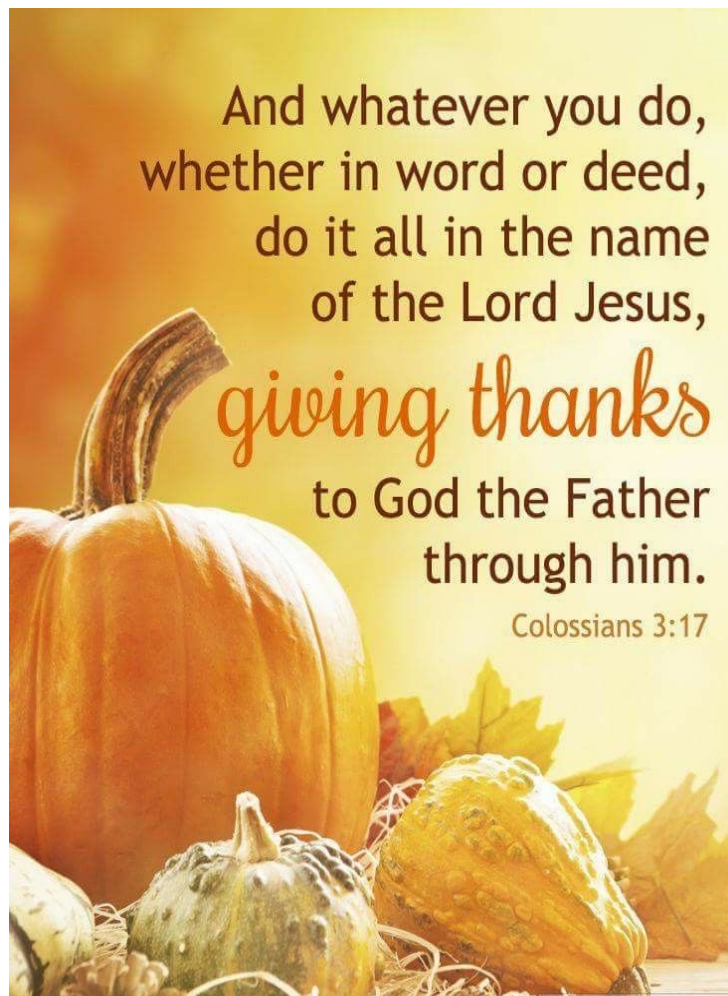
Encouragement

We believe we are responsible for caring for and encouraging one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



Appleton Community
Evangelical Free Church
2490 West Capitol Drive
Appleton, WI 54914

We're on the Web!
applefreechurch.org



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