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**GOOD  
FRIDAY**  
WORSHIP AND  
COMMUNION  
SERVICE

**Good Friday Communion Service**  
Join us on Friday, April 3 at  
5:00 p.m. for our Good Friday  
Communion Service



### Easter Sunday

**Come celebrate the joy of Easter with us! We invite you to worship on Sunday, April 5th at 10:00 a.m. as we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope it brings. All are welcome!**



# Church Calendar

# April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10 a.m. Women's Bible Study  6-7:30 p.m. Awana	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.	 5:00 p.m. Good Friday Communion Service	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study		10 a.m. Women's Bible Study  6-7:30 p.m. Awana	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.  Men's Higher Calling 7-00 p.m.		Impact Team Meeting 9-11 a.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 a.m. Sunday Service  6-8 p.m. Twigs Group @ church	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting  7:00 p.m. The Nest	10 a.m. Women's Bible Study  6-7:30 p.m. Awana	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.		Funeral for Marge Balliette Visitation 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Service and lunch following
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 a.m. Sunday Service  "Let's Do Lunch"  6-8 p.m. Twigs Group @ church	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 Ministry Team Mtg	10 a.m. Women's Bible Study  6-7:30 p.m. Awana Awards Night	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.		Impact Team Meeting 9-11 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30		
10:00 a.m. Sunday Service  6-8 p.m. Twigs Group @ church	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:00 p.m. Elders Mtg.	10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.		

# Updates and Opportunities



## Good Friday Communion Service

Join us on Friday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m. for our Good Friday Communion Service



## Easter Sunday

Come celebrate the joy of Easter with us! We invite you to worship on Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. as we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope it brings. All are welcome!



## The Nest-Game Night

Join us Tuesday, April 14 at 7 pm for a time of fun, fellowship and games. All ladies are welcome; you do not have to attend our church.

## Mission of the Month

### Vida Medical Clinic (former Mother & Unborn Baby)

Baby wipes & diapers (sizes Newborn-6)  
Boys and Girls clothes (Newborn –5T)  
Sleep wear (Newborn—5T)

Pullups up to size 5T-6T  
Kwik Trip gas cards (\$10 each, **please turn into the office.**)  
Aldi grocery gift cards (\$25 each), **please turn into the office.**

See more items needed at <https://friendsofvida.org/>



## Women's Bible Study

Join us for a study of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm of David.

Classes will begin on Monday, April 13 at 6 pm and Wednesday, April 15 at 10 am.

Both sessions cover the same material so feel free to choose the one that best fits your schedule.

Cost is \$15.



Come and join us April 19 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:

May 17	July 19	September 20	November 15
June 14	August 16	October 18	December 13

# Church Happenings—Children's Church

## Children's Church



*"Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children." - Chuck Swindoll*

I am so thankful for all of the parents and volunteers who so faithfully deposit truth into the minds of our children. You are banking treasures into their memories that will last a lifetime.

### Evergreens

We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. This month we will be studying the miracles and teachings of Jesus. The goal is for our students to read from the Bible itself about Jesus. Through discussion and activities to learn more and more about Him. Please be praying that those children who do not already know Jesus as their Savior come to salvation.

### Sprouts

Our littlest ones are about God in the ways He shows Himself in Jesus. Our goal is for them to also know Who God is and how much He loves them.

**EASTER SUNDAY WILL BE A FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE**

The Evergreens will remain in church for the service.

We will have class for the sprouts



Our Awana year is quickly coming to a close. In March we started our Pie-the-Leader change wars. Our top 2 leaders with the most donations will get a pie in the face. The leader at the very bottom will also get pie'd. Pie-ing will happen on April 1st. Our end of the year celebration is on April 22nd at 6pm and ALL are welcome to come and celebrate the work the Lord has done.



## Elders Report—Chris Matula



There are some who wonder where ACEFC is at in the interim pastor timeline. Are we actively seeking candidates for full-time pastor? Can't Pastor Jim just stay on at ACEFC as full-time pastor after the agreed upon interim period? These are reasonable questions. I'm hoping to encourage all who are having these thoughts to remember that an important component of the interim pastor role is to assist in addressing the difficulties in the church body that may have led to struggles in the past, and therefore adequately preparing for a pastoral transition. I'm hoping that ACEFC members and regular attendees have seen that process in action. A church survey has been professionally completed and reviewed, church strengths and weaknesses have been identified, and an Impact Team has been established to solidify a biblical ACEFC vision for moving forward and to establish recommendations to address the identified weaknesses. The Impact Team has now officially initiated regular meetings and

Pastor Jim reports that the contributions to the process by participants has been very impressive! So then...I think we are where we hoped to be this far into the interim process!

Please note, however, that **there is a role for everyone at ACEFC to play in the preparation!** The Elders and Team Leaders strongly recommend that every ACEFC attendee (including Elders and Team leaders) prepare personally by pursuing one or more of the following considerations:

- Search yourself. Confess to the Lord any sinful matters in your life that you have allowed to continue, and turn from them.
- Actively pursue personal spiritual growth. Begin or beef up your prayer life or bible reading. Tune in regularly to Moody radio or other well established radio ministries.
- Become involved in at least one church ministry/growth gathering (Women's/Men's ministry meetings, Sunday morning bible study, Awana, Youth ministry, Thursday evening prayer meeting, etc.).
- Build relationships. Initiate conversation with those who you don't know, or don't know well.
- Invite family, neighbors, friends and acquaintances to come with/or meet you at church.
- Think about, and pray for church unity daily. Become a unity protector.
- Actively pray for the pastor that the Lord is preparing for us!

All of these things are very much needed to make the body of Christ (that's us!) fertile ground for our future pastor. The hope is that we might be able to begin looking more specifically at the candidate process by this fall.

Chris

*...I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling that you received: with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, and with diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3*





**“Who alone stretches out the heavens and tramples down the waves of the sea; Who makes the Bear, Orion and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; Who does great things, unfathomable, and wondrous works without number?...He who made the Pleiades and Orion and changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day *into* night, Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is His name.”**

**Job 9:8-10; Amos 5:8**

### Orion Nebula

One of my children's favorite songs when they were growing up was, “My God is so big, so strong and so mighty there's nothing my God cannot do. The mountains are His, the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork too. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty there's nothing my God cannot do.”

Often my lens is so narrow. I find myself focused on limits and restrictions and forget how very big my God is. Then, I see something that takes my breath away!

The other morning, I woke to an amazing sunrise. As God's sky glowed with yellows, reds, pinks and purples suddenly a herd of deer came into our back yard. They stopped and looked at me as I looked at them. There must have been around 8 or so. After a few minutes they gracefully went off into the wood white tails waving. Breathtaking.

What used to be hidden in the amazing universe is now visible through special telescopes. We can see something as complex and incredible as the Orion Nebula in this picture. My Father made that. He just spoke and instantly it existed. The Lord is His name!

It's so easy to get bogged down and discouraged. I am hoping the picture and scripture I've shared with you today will help remind you Who your God is. He IS big, strong, mighty and there's NOTHING He can't do.

As we prepare to celebrate the amazing wonder of the Resurrection, remember this is your God. He is not limited by our expectations or bound by our experiences. He is the One Who raises the dead.

This is our King. Hallelujah! Rejoice! Our God reigns!

Mary - for your Women's Ministry team

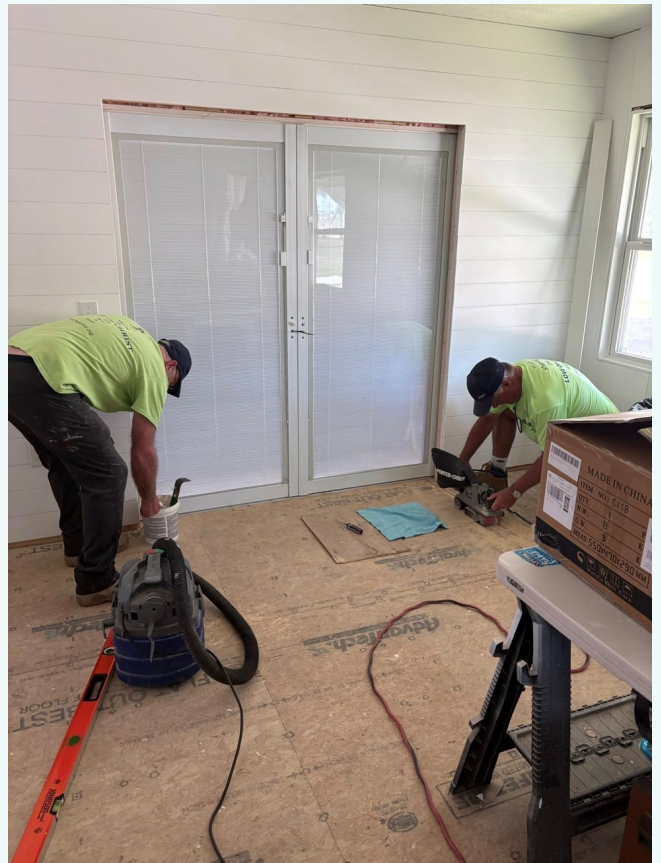
# Church Happenings— The Nest “Sunshine Boxes”



# Church Happenings—Mission's Trip Fort Meyers, Fl



# Church Happenings— Mission's Trip Fort Meyers, Fl



# Church Happenings— Installation of Elders



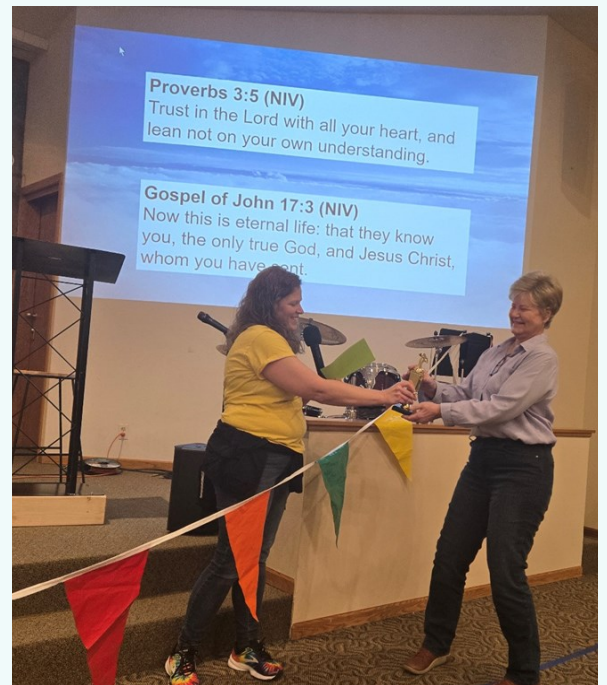
## Prayer Over Mission's Team



## Children's Church



# Church Happenings— Awana “Grand Prix”



## Church Happenings— Prayer Lanes

The saying "pick a lane" has become a very popular saying implying we should commit to a specific path rather than trying to do everything at once or stay undecided.

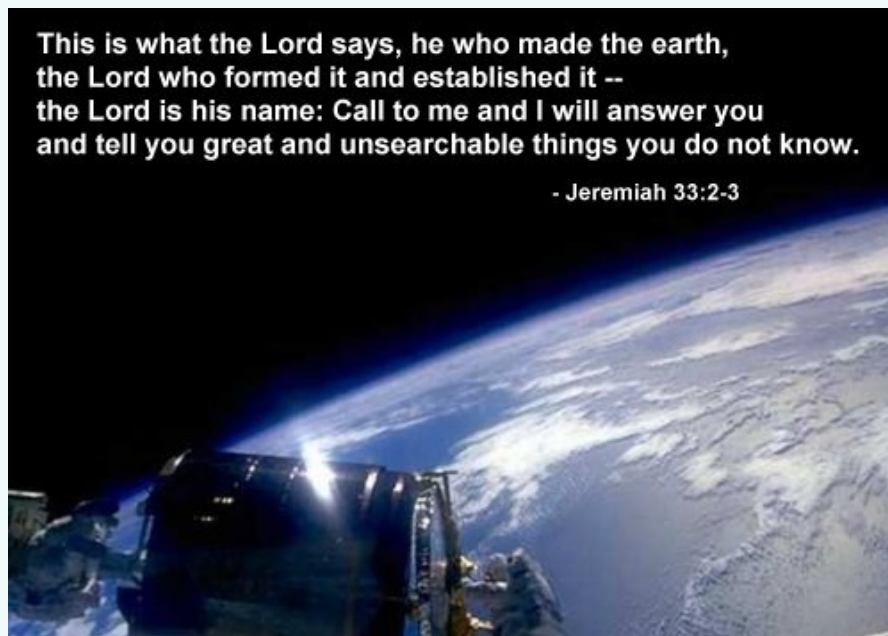
When it comes to prayer , we offer and encourage accessing several "prayer lanes" as we earnestly seek God's all mighty power working among us.

"Prayer lanes" at ACEFC include a "Prayer Chain", Prayer & Praise insert in the bulletin, Thursday night prayer gathering, and my office is open Sunday mornings at 9a.m. for anyone to drop in and have a brief time of prayer. Additionally we've made prayer teams available immediately following the Sunday morning service up front as a response opportunity to the message and to support the burdens and opportunities of a new week.

Obviously we can access our heavenly Father through the finished work of our Savior Jesus any where and any time ..... and as a church we cannot have too many "prayer lanes", so please join in the prayer movement as we follow the pattern given us in Jeremiah 33:2-3 "This is what the Lord says, He who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it- the Lord is His name: "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know"

Please pick a lane (s) and join us in prayer. If we can develop additional prayer lanes let us know or simply drop by to pray.

Pastor Jim





## Easter Sunday

Come celebrate the joy of Easter with us!  
We invite you to worship on Sunday, April  
5th at 10:00 a.m. as we rejoice in the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope it  
brings.

**All are welcome!**

# Church Happenings—Twigs Youth Group



# Church Happenings— Twigs Youth Group



## TWIGS YOUTH (Teens Working In Growing Spiritually)

We'd love for your student (s) to join us as we learn, grow, build strong biblical foundations together, and have fun while we do it.

- **Who:** 6th - 12th graders
- **When:** Sundays, 6:00-8:00PM
- **Where:** At church, unless posted otherwise

### WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

- **The Non-Prophet's Guide to the Bible** (Todd Hampson): Continued our study of the Prophets.
- **Bible Reading Challenge:** For students who have accepted the challenge, they have been reading through the Poetry Books.
- **Annual Mall Scavenger Hunt!**
  - o There was arm wrestling, app issues, something like leap-frog, and we had some interesting conversations with mannequins.
  - o We also had the opportunity to pray with several shoppers which was a true blessing.

### WHAT WE ARE STUDYING NOW

This month, we'll continue exploring the Prophets, learn about the period between the Old & New Testament, and begin diving into the Gospels. We will also have our annual Mario Kart Tournament!

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, April 5	No Youth Group (Easter)		
<b>Sunday, April 12</b>	<b>6pm-8pm</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Mario Kart Tournament</b>
Sunday, April 19	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)
Sunday, April 26	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)





We invite all men to join us the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. for a time of fellowship where men connect, grow, and strengthen their walk with God together.

## ***MEET & ENCOURAGE***

*Don't stop meeting together with other believers;  
Instead, encourage each other.*

*- Hebrews 10:24-25*



**Come join us every Thursday,  
at 6:30 p.m. for a time of prayer.  
We will be meeting at Nancy Winter's house.**



## Some Prayerful Thoughts from Pastor Jim



As we continue reading through the New Testament this year good habits, momentum and anticipation begin to build!

While reading Mark's gospel did you happen to notice he seemed to be in a hurry? In the Gospel of Mark the word "immediately" ("straightway" in the KJV) is used at least 35 times representing almost half the occurrences of the word in the entire New Testament. With so many events happening "immediately" in Mark, the Gospel takes on an urgent tone. Through the eyes of Mark we were given a chronological, action-packed view of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. Given the fast moving flow of

events surrounding Christ's life it's an excellent book of the Bible to share, read and study with anyone considering Christianity for the first time.

Throughout the month of April we're reading the gospel of Luke. Pay close attention to the distinct and detailed approach Luke gives us in the longest, and most comprehensive account of Jesus life as he provides in depth historical background. As a self-described eye witness, servant of the word and careful investigator, (1:1-4) Luke aims to provide an "orderly account," offering unique, detailed narratives on the birth of Christ, His parables, healings and even a significant number of demonic encounters often including longer and more detailed accounts of the incident. The "synoptic" gospels give us such a richness of narrative flavor because each one gives their own perspective all while being guided by the Holy Spirit. Dive into Luke's narrative this month and be persistent, willing to reread each daily passage considering the context and culture and you may want to keep a notebook close by.

As we read Luke this month let's keep in mind the thought provoking comments made by Simeon in Luke 2:28-31 who upon taking the baby Jesus in his arms praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." I love Mary and Joseph's response in amazed astonishment to the life of Jesus .... and I pray as we read through Luke's gospel we also will be amazed by our Savior!

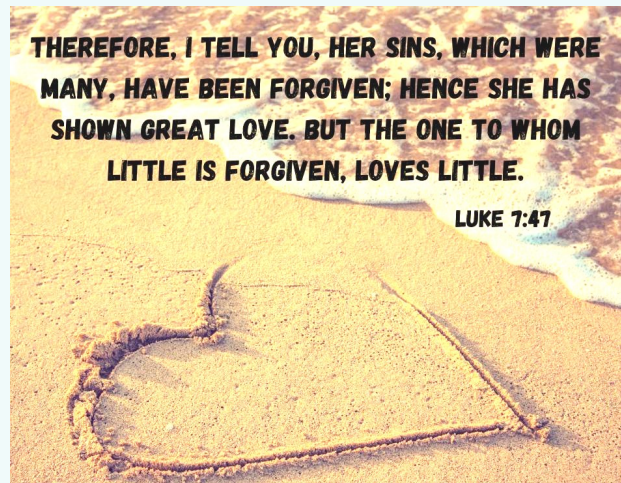
By the way I'm often challenged by Jesus words describing the quantity and quality of love in Luke 7:36-50 when Jesus states in verse 47 "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven- for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

Do you have to sin more to love more? Let me know your thoughts.

I can be reached via text at 224-345-1401 and at [james.vyleta1@gmail.com](mailto:james.vyleta1@gmail.com)

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

Pastor Jim



## Impact Team Meeting Update—from Pastor Jim

We had a productive Impact Team meeting Saturday morning March 21st. We've begun to coalesce around a mission statement which combines the great commission imperative of intentionality and the apostle Paul's stated mission for the church in Colossians 1:27-29. We set the table for translating our mission into a compelling and captivating faith dream (aka vision statement) to drive ACEFC ministries.

The Impact Team has spent a good bit of time sifting through a list of recognized values that sometimes differ in priority based upon the prevailing cultural themes from one's generation. In selecting the values to define us we asked the question; "so what?" and "now what" to each in order to insure relevancy and the potential to form us as a congregation.

I must say the input from each of the team members stunned me in that everyone had insights that I had not yet considered, hence we're all the richer and better as a team! These are the values we've agreed upon and will merge potentially into 5: authenticity, vision, courage, resiliency, humility, diversity, creativity and excellence.

**TeamWork makes the DreamWork.**

Please pray for the team and the Holy Spirit's guidance as we humbly seek His mission, vision and purpose for ACEFC. If you have any questions or input please feel free to let me or one of the team members know.

**Impact Team meetings are scheduled for April on Saturday the 11th and 25th and May 9th and 23rd from 9-11 a.m. Coffee, juice and treats are provided!**

The Impact Team process follows the pattern in Isaiah's vision given us in chapter 6.

Following this pattern we will:

**Look up** to discern His mission, vision, purpose and values. We recognize our mission comes directly from the Scriptures!

**Look in** to determine our spiritual preparedness, healing, readiness, culture, hindering and helping forces

**Look around** to understand community needs, trends and unsolved problems

**Look out** to align our ministries to our mission and cast a compelling vision to pull ACEFC into the future



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](http://applefreechurch.org)

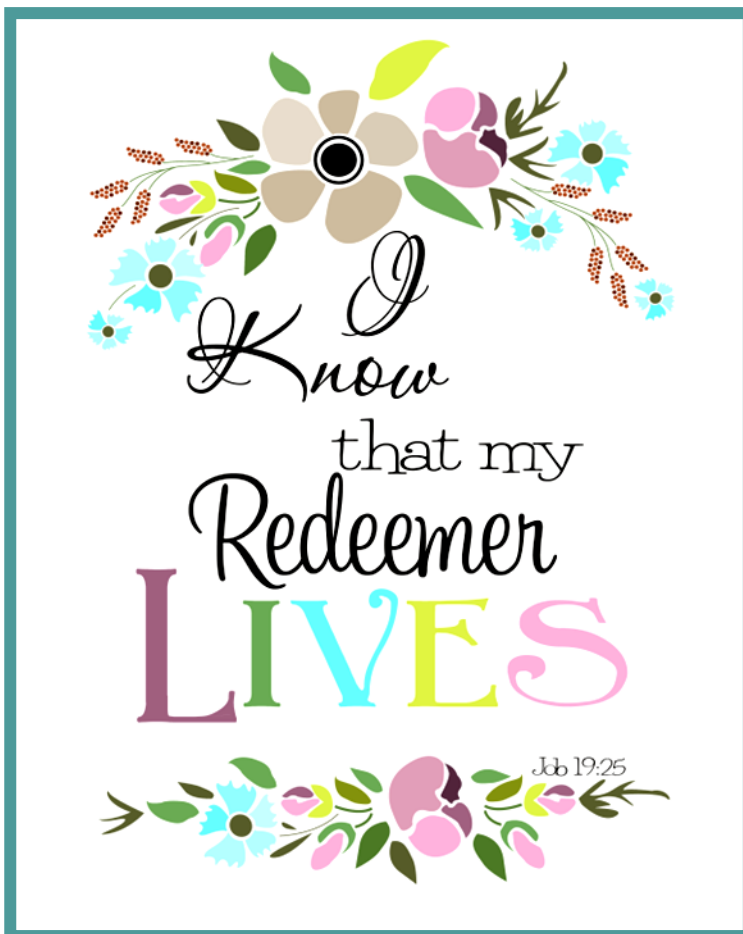
Join us Sundays at

10:00 a.m.

2490 W Capitol Dr

Appleton, WI 54914

920-735-9971



**Regular Church Office Hours**

Closed Mondays

Tuesday—Friday

8:30 am – 2:30 pm