

Thursday, May 7, 2026  
National Day Of Prayer



See Opportunities on page 3



Rejoice in the  
LORD  
A·L·W·A·Y·S

AGAIN I SAY

rejoice  
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

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# Church Calendar

# May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10:00 a.m. Sunday Service</b>  <b>Baby Shower for Kendalyn Strasburg</b>  <b>6-8 p.m. Twigs</b>	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study		10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	 <b>Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.</b>		<b>Impact Team Meeting 9-11 a.m.</b>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>10:00 a.m. Sunday Service</b> 	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting</b>  <b>7:00 p.m. The Nest</b>	10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Men's Higher Calling 7-00 p.m.</b>		<b>7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast</b>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>10:00 a.m. Sunday Service</b>  <b>"Let's Do Lunch"</b>  <b>6-8 p.m. Twigs Group @ church</b>	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study		10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.</b>		<b>Impact Team Meeting 9-11 a.m.</b>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>10:00 a.m. Sunday Service</b>  <b>No Twigs Group</b>	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>6:00 p.m. Elders Mtg.</b>	10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>Prayer Gathering 6:30 p.m.</b>		
31						
<b>10:00 a.m. Sunday Service</b>  <b>6-8 p.m. Twigs Group</b>						

# Updates and Opportunities



## Men's Breakfast

Men, come and join us on **Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 a.m.** for a time of fellowship, fun, and food!



## Final Nest POTLUCK

Join us Tuesday May 12 at **6:30 p.m.** for our final Nest until the Fall, bring a dish to share and join us. All ladies are welcome.  
Come!



## National Day of Prayer

We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to participate in the National Day of Prayer, set for Thursday, May 7. Please consider this an urgent call to pray for our families, our church, our schools, our work, and our country! Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to come together and pray! **The church will be open from 8:30-4:00.**

## 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/>



We will be finishing our study of Psalm 23 this month.

Heading into Summer stay tuned for some opportunities for fellowship and casual gatherings. We want to get to know one another better.

There will be a survey emailed to you in the near future. As we plan for the coming year we would like to hear from you as to what you would like to see us doing.

Thank you so much for your enthusiasm and support. It is a joy to be sisters together.



## Come and join us May 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.



Mark your calendars now with the dates for the rest of the year:

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

# Church Happenings—Children's Church



One adult friend in church can make a huge difference in a child's growth and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Children's Church volunteers are making that kind of difference. Thank you!

## Evergreens

We are continuing our study of Luke in May. They will see at the end of chapter five that Jesus is doing new things and then in chapter six hear some of His important teaching on His authority, the call to be different and how important obedience to His truth is. Please pray for the children and their teachers.

## Sprouts

In May our littlest ones are learning about the early church and Jesus promise to come back.

**“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.” Matthew 18:10**



Another Awana year is in the books! Congrats to all of our clubbers and great job to our Timothy Award recipients who share short speeches at Awards Night. Thank you to our faithful volunteers who serve and love our children each week! Stay tuned for Awana 2026-2027 returning in September. Registration will open in June!

See pictures on page 9!

## Elders Report—Tim Diestler



Sue and I recently saw the movie *The Great Awakening*. A story based on true events from the United State's fight for independence, to the formation of our constitution and the friendship between Rev. George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin. I would recommend this movie to everyone. Whitefield came to the United States as a missionary and preached the gospel to the young nation and because people were saved and followed Jesus it rallied our people in the fight against Great Britain. It also made Franklin rethink how this country needed to have God's involvement in the formation of this young nation. There was an urgency in both cases to bring the Creator into people's minds and to follow His word for things to work out.

I don't believe writing the elder report is a favorite task of any of the elders, but I do like the fact that as I think about what to write, I need to prayerfully examine how I'm doing in various areas of spiritual growth and discipline. I have enjoyed reading through the New Testament with the body along with my regular time in the word. I encourage you to take the monthly reading guide and start reading the daily passages mapped out for us. Prayer has always been a struggle for me. Sometimes I feel I am just lazy about my time talking with the Creator and our Father. If you feel this is an area you could improve on, talk to Pastor Jim and he would be happy to share a copy of the Navigators prayer guide. It takes a picture of a hand and helps you praise God through thanksgiving, intercession, petition, and confession. It has been very helpful to me. There are certainly more areas where I still need to grow, but one of the most important ones for me right now is evangelism. Hopefully I am reflecting Jesus through my actions, but as I encounter people I want to open my mouth and tell them about Jesus and what He's done for me and what He will do for them.

Whitefield was content to follow his calling to preach the gospel whether one person or thousands came to Christ. As we move ahead as a body we should have a sense of urgency, as Whitefield did. Our days on earth are numbered and if you look around it seems that Christ could return any day now. Our friends, family, or anyone else we encounter could be gone anytime and we could have a part in keeping them from an eternity of suffering without God. As we follow God's will for us we can be content with the outcome. Whether a few come to Christ or thousands is up to God. Our job? Follow what He tells us in His word and obey.

In Christ,  
Tim

*Mark 12:30-31*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.*



## Women's Ministry—A Women's Heart



"Then when a woman of that town, who was a sinner, learned that Jesus was dining at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfumed oil." Luke 7:37

"Was" past tense-what a wonderful word. What this woman had been was no longer true of her. At some point she had heard Jesus, believed and her life was changed. The joy of her forgiveness resulted in the outpouring of love she lavished on Jesus when she got the chance.

It was quite a scene at that dinner party and her actions were judged and so was Jesus, by Simon the host. Neither the woman nor Jesus allowed the disapproval and misunderstanding to stop the love she was pouring out to

Jesus. She knew she was different. She knew she was not the same person that she had been before she believed.

**And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:50** It wasn't her love that saved her. It wasn't what she did for Jesus to show her love that saved her. It was her faith in Jesus that saved her. Jesus assured her that she was indeed forgiven and saved because of her faith in Him.

We are NOT who we were before we encountered Jesus and were forgiven. He has done for us what He did for this woman. We have all been forgiven much! Accepted! Approved! Lovable! That is worth an outpouring of love and thanks.

There is wonderful old song "Come Ye Sinners" written by John Hart. Hart was raised in a Christian home but drifted far from the faith as a young man, living a thoroughly sinful life. Finally, at the age of 45, he heard a sermon that brought him back into the faith. It changed his life.

Hart became as enthusiastic about his new-found faith as he had been about his earlier wicked living. He began to write hymns, and two years after his conversion published them in a collection. "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" was one of the songs in that collection.

Here is part of that wonderful hymn:

Come ye sinners, poor and needy  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore  
Jesus ready stands to save you  
Full of pity, love, and power

I will arise and go to Jesus  
He will embrace me in His arms  
In the arms of my dear Savior  
Oh, there are ten thousand charms

Others may not understand or frown on our behavior as we live out our love for Jesus. They may judge us by our past. Not Jesus. We are free to live a life of freedom and joy because we believe in all He has done for us.

Mary—for your Women's Ministry Team

# Church Happenings— The Nest “Game Night”

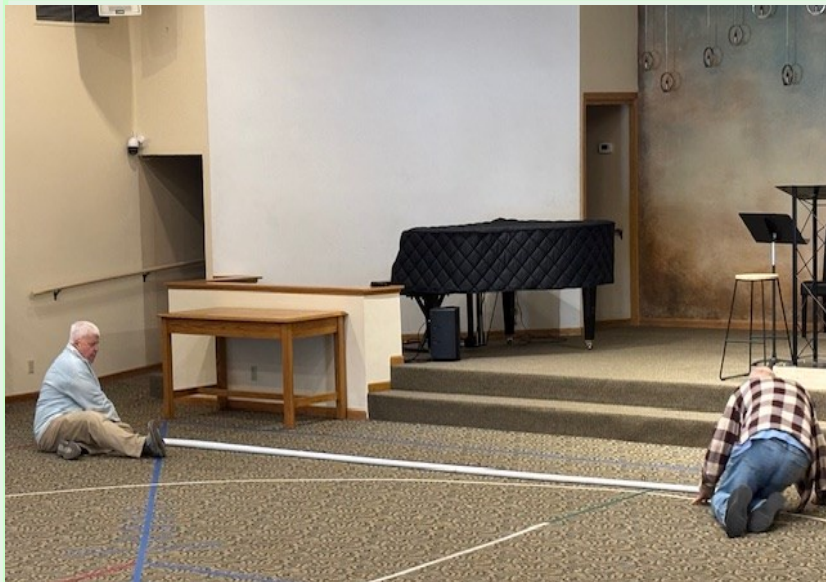


# Church Happenings—"Let's Do Lunch"





# Church Happenings— Palm Sunday & Easter



# Church Happenings— Palm Sunday & Easter



## Church Happenings— Prayer Lanes

We continue to add prayer lanes here at ACEFC and invite you to set apart Thursday May 7th as our countries "National Day of Prayer." Certainly as believers we know prayer is an ongoing moment by moment expression of faith and dependence yet there's something meaningful in our countries national embrace of dependence upon God expressed in this day, especially as we celebrate our countries 250 year birthday this July 4th.

### National Day of Prayer Gathering YMCA of the Fox Cities

**Thursday, May 7, 2026 • 7:30-9:00 AM**

**Held in the Endries Gym at Heart of the Valley YMCA**

On the National Day of Prayer, the **Mission Emphasis Committee of the YMCA of the Fox Cities** invites you to gather in **The Prayer is Powerful Place**—a space where faith is shared, hope is renewed, and our community comes together with purpose.

This meaningful morning brings churches, neighbors, and leaders' side by side to lift one another up through prayer and encouragement. It's a time to pause, reflect, and remember the strength we find when we are united, even in times of uncertainty.

We also encourage you to **invite friends, family, coworkers, and fellow church members** to join us in this special time of prayer and encouragement. A light breakfast will be served, and all are welcome!

We can't wait to see you there!

**Exciting News... This event will be live streamed by the Y, more information to come!**



**Dennis Episcapo**



**Brian Rassmussen**



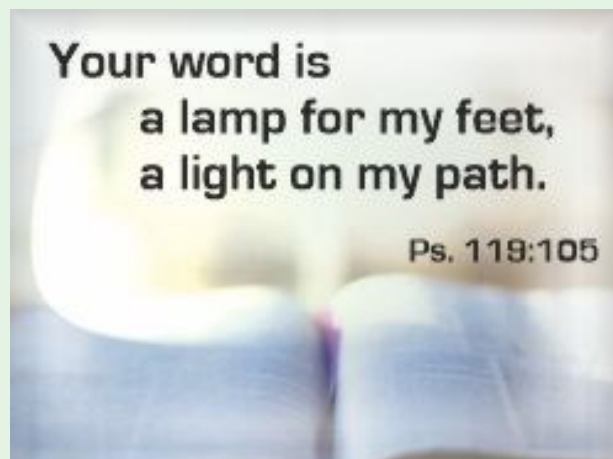
**Danen Kane**

**The church sanctuary will be open from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** if you are able to stop by and pray. We will also dedicate our Thursday evening prayer group to our countries renewal, as well as our own hearts and churches revival. On Sunday May 3rd we will consider the churches first prayer meeting described in the book of Acts and the ground shaking event it became.

Pastor Jim



May 1	Luke 22:54-71	May 17	John 6:22-44
May 2	Luke 23:1-26	May 18	John 6:45-71
May 3	Luke 23:27-38	May 19	John 7:1-31
May 4	Luke 23:39-56	May 20	John 7:32-53
May 5	Luke 24:1-35	May 21	John 8:1-20
May 6	Luke 24:36-53	May 22	John 8:21-36
May 7	John 1:1-28	May 23	John 8:37-59
May 8	John 1:29-51	May 24	John 9:1-23
May 9	John 2	May 25	John 9:24-41
May 10	John 3:1-21	May 26	John 10:1-21
May 11	John 3:22-36	May 27	John 10:22-42
May 12	John 4:1-30	May 28	John 11:1-17
May 13	John 4:31-54	May 29	John 11:18-46
May 14	John 5:1-24	May 30	John 11:47-57
May 15	John 5:25-47	May 31	John 12:1-19
May 16	John 6:1-21		



# Church Happenings—Twigs Youth Group



# Church Happenings— Twigs Youth Group



## TWIGS YOUTH (Teens Working In Growing Spiritually)

A place to belong. A place to grow.

**Sundays | 6pm-8pm**

Students in grades 6-12

Each week we gather for fun, connection, & time in God's Word.

We're learning how to live out our faith in everyday life.

### What's Happening

We continue our journey through *The Non-Prophet's Guide to the Bible* by Todd Hampson. Last month, we finished the Old Testament, took a look at the time between the Old and New Testament, and covered the Gospels. Next month, we are diving into Acts, and beginning the New Testament letters.

### Bible Reading Challenge

We challenged the students to read through the entire Old Testament during this school year. For students who have accepted the challenge, they ended the month in Ezekiel and will continue through Malachi for the remainder of May.

### Annual Mario Kart Tournament

Thank you Mr. Jesse who provided the old systems, trophy's and coordinated the tournament!

Students competed on various Nintendo systems, like the N64, Game Cube, Wii, Wii U, Switch and Switch 2.

Congratulations to our Mario Kart trophy winners!

- 1st: Lofton
- 2nd: Abram
- 3rd: Malachi



## TWIGS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, May 3	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)
Sunday, May 10	No Youth Group (Mother's Day)		
Sunday, May 17	6pm-8pm	Church	TWIGS (regular youth group)
<b>Monday, May 18</b>	<b>6pm-8pm</b>	<b>Skater's Edge</b>	<b>Christian Skate Night</b>
Sunday, May 24	No Youth Group (Mother's Day)		
Sunday, May 31	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.

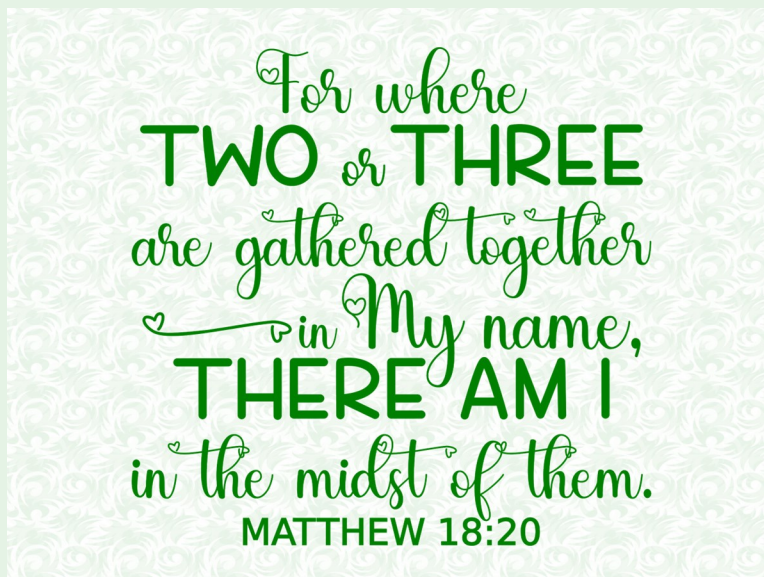
## ***MEET & ENCOURAGE***

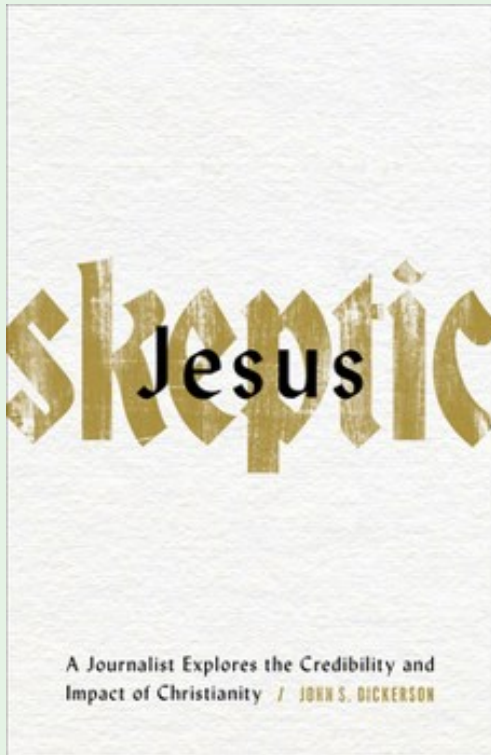
*Don't stop meeting together with other believers;  
Instead, encourage each other.*

*- 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.**





Did Jesus actually exist? Can Jesus's teachings actually provide peace, identity, and fulfillment today? Do Jesus's teachings block social justice and human progress, or do Jesus's teachings further those causes? This book makes the argument that no matter where you are in your faith journey, the life and teachings of Jesus have functioned as the most positive driving force for progress in all of human history.

**You can hand this book to a skeptic assured** that Dickerson indeed acts as the award winning reporter he is, interviewing experts and reviewing historical documents. He digs into "primary evidence" using "anchor-point" methodology regarding the existence of Jesus. The book is well researched and documented with an exhaustive list of references.

**One of the book's strongest sections details the impact on civilization**, describing how followers of Jesus initiated, funded, and drove major positive shifts, including the abolition of slavery, the establishment of modern public education, our universities, the creation of modern hospitals, the advancement of scientific discovery and the sanctity of life.

**Jesus Skeptic is a refreshing take on apologetics by avoiding** theological jargon but offers a fast-paced, sweeping journalistic account of history. It is a powerful read for anyone interested in the historical impact of Jesus and the tangible, global influence of his followers and as such is an important read for millennials and gen Z who have often been taught Christianity is more the cause to our worlds problems (DEI) than the solution! It's a compelling read for those who may "claim" to be agnostic "Jesus Skeptics".

**I highly recommend this book for all believers looking** to sharpen their understanding of our faith's history, its impact upon culture and as a door opener to sharing the gospel.

Upon lovingly addressing the skeptic this book will lead many of us to share the saving gospel of Jesus death, burial and resurrection boldly.

Jim Vyleta 224-345-1401  
james.vyleta1@gmail.com

## Missionary of the Month—Bob Dykstra of The Shack (Lac Courte Oreilles)



Boozhoo Niichii,

Greetings to you from the annual spring symphony ... front row seats once again!!! Today's show consists of spring peepers and wood frogs with a splash of thunder in the background. It's incredible how an amphibian can go from a frozen state out in the woods to singing in the pond choir so quickly. It speaks/sings/booms/chirps to the transforming power of our Creator and Savior. Praise God!

Speaking of transformations and freezing water, we celebrate the baptism of a young man this week! It's been a blessing to be a part of Jeremiah's journey from the

dikinaagan (cradle board) to the great young man he is today. Praise God!

I'm not sure if they were praising but there was definitely some singing going on as all eight canoes ended up in an "Endurance" type situation on the river. Except, instead of a two-year adventure, this one only lasted a few hours. It is always a treat to help host the InterVarsity team over spring break and plug them into community and Shack-leton events. And every year they ask to go canoeing and every year there's a story.!? Let's just say that this year's story features another marvel of God's creation, the engineering ability of a beaver to hold back so much icy slush. Praise God!

I'm excited to help host a couple church teams here in the next few weeks. They will tackle a number of projects and kids, ... wait!?! They will not tackle kids but will help out with Kidz Club and connect with the local church and beyond. May their connections be sweet and their labors fruitful. Praise God!

The other team I worked with this winter was the Ikwe Migiziwag Basketball team. It was another incredible one-win season. These kids rock! Their shots do not!?! At this point in my coaching career, I'm so fortunate to be a part of so many former players and their families' lives. It's an incredible gift to be able to continue to extend and share HOPE in their everyday, including the good, the bad, and the ugly. Today I was invited to go to court with one of my players ... No, not the basketball court. Praise God!

But, speaking of basketball courts. It is one of the big draws here at the Shack and I've been wrestling with how to provide a bigger court to play on. Problem solved! The tribe paved Mukwa Drive just before snowfall and now that it's melted, game on! Just be sure to look both ways before dribbling. Praise God!

Your prayers are appreciated as we gear up for summer events, programs, community cookouts, conferences, teams, discipleship, service, ... both at the Shack and beyond as we continue to live in and love out the Kingdom of God here on Lac Courte Oreilles. Miigwech for your partnership!

Trusting your version of the spring symphony is just as amazing!  
boom ... peep peep ... boom,

Bob



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)

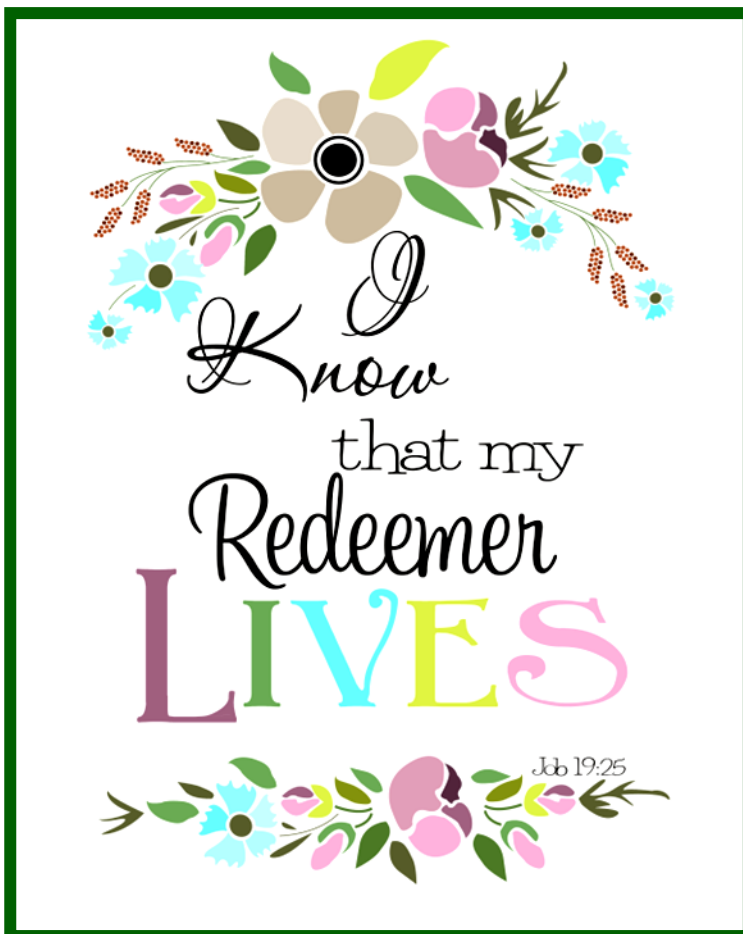
Join us Sundays at

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