



The eFree Press

Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church

September 2018

Volume 25, Issue 9

Missionaries Serving Around the World

Avant

Awana
Tim & Sherry Thomas

The Evangelical Alliance Mission

Fellowship International Mission

Global Serve International

Literacy and Evangelism Int'l
Bob and Mary Emily Mulloy

Ethnos360
Rich and Karen Brown
Derrick and LaShawn Dobbs
Lloyd and Mary Wapp

Pioneers International

ReachGlobal
Abraham and Maria Mudidi

Nubako and Claudine Selenga
Lonnie and Debbie Smith

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Jon and Stephanie Weiss

Our Partner Mission Organizations

Anchor of Hope Medical Center

Campus Life

Evangelical Child & Family Agency

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

The Family Radio

**Check the church directory for
contact info on all missionaries
and their sending agencies.**



Opportunities to Grow Your Faith

The 2018/19 school year brings numerous opportunities throughout the week to help all ages become more committed followers of Jesus Christ!

Children

Awana is our Wednesday evening (6:30-8pm) programming for children ages 3-grade 6. It reaches students with the Good News of Jesus Christ and trains them to know, love, and serve Him. The evening includes small group Bible lesson time, large group teaching and worship, and game time.

Students

- Middle School Youth Group — Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm
- High School Youth Group — Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm
- Bible Quizzing — Bible Quizzing is a fun, competitive way to know God's Word better. Practices are Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45pm.
- D-Group — This is for the 9th-12th grade student that desires deeper study and accountability. Generally meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 7:30pm.

College & Career

- Life Group — The College & Career Life Group meets Sundays at 7pm at the Anderson home. Contact Pastor Bennett for more info.
- Second Saturdays — a monthly gathering for college students and young professionals. It's a safe place to explore the tough questions about faith and doubt. Skeptics welcome! We meet at various locations. For more info, contact Pastor Bennett or "like" the Second Saturdays Facebook page.

Women

- A Tuesday evening Bible Study, led by Nancy Veenendaal, will meet at 6:30pm at her home and will go through the book *Discerning The Voice Of God* by Priscilla Shirer. (See article on page 5 for more details.)
- A *Precepts* Bible Study on the book of James will meet every other week. Choose either Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm or Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am. For more information, contact Lora Lynds.
- A Bible Study discussing the actions of a committed follower of Jesus will meet Wednesdays at 9:30am. Contact Kathy Baalke for more details.
- *First Love* is a discussion-oriented Bible Study focused on growing in our knowledge, love, and intimacy with Jesus. Starting September 12, it will meet Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am or 6:30-8pm. Childcare will be provided. Contact Summar Corrigan for more information.
- *Adorned* is a study of Titus 2 written by Nancy Leigh Wolgemuth. Beginning September 5, it will meet every other Wednesday at 6:30pm. Contact Nikki MacDonald for more details.

Men

- Men's Prayer Huddle will meet Wednesday mornings from 6:30-7:30am.
- A Wednesday morning Bible Study, led by Tom Rice, will meet at 9:30am and will be studying I & II Samuel.
- Watch upcoming publications regarding a Wednesday night study for men!

Visit the church website for more details!

eFree Men's Ministries Kicks-Off 2018/19 with Breakfast!

Men's Ministries is looking forward to another great program year, including Bible studies, teaching, mentoring, work projects, and the Wild Game Banquet! We'll get started with a Men's Ministries Breakfast on Saturday, September 15 from 8-10am. Doors will open at 7:45am, and a pancake and sausage breakfast will be served at 8am. The breakfast is a free-will donation, with proceeds going toward other Men's Ministry opportunities throughout the year.

Following breakfast, Pastor Jon will share a devotional message, and then we'll discuss opportunities to connect, grow your faith, and serve. Jeff Smyth will highlight the new video series for a Wednesday evening study. Pastor Aaron will discuss plans for a father-son study, and Mike Vaszily will talk about opportunities to serve in our Awana program.



Registration for the breakfast will begin on Sunday, August 26 in the Welcome Center. You can also sign up during the week in the office or online at <http://e-free-family.com/mens-ministries-kick-off-breakfast/>. Please consider bringing your son(s) and/or friends — it's a great way to connect and see where God will "grow us" this next year!

Fiscal Year Ends Strong!

Praise be to God! Not only did FY2018 end "in the black", it ended with a significant surplus! Several special donations (an estate gift, tithes from several inheritances, other reasons), along with increased regular giving, resulted in year-end offerings of \$1,419,873 -- \$315,373 above budget!



Expenses, even with monthly transfers into the Capital Improvements Fund and the Building Fund, were lower than expected, ending the year at \$1,072,456 -- \$32,044 below budget! After allocating \$45,000 for this coming year's capital improvements, the Deacon Board approved transferring the remaining funds into the Board-Restricted Building Fund.

We thank God for His leading and His providing as we follow the vision for *multiplying committed followers of Jesus Christ*.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary in September

Names omitted.



This and That

In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 3.

Check out our new **Welcome Brochure** and **Ministry brochures** at either the Welcome Center or church office brochure racks! These were created as a resource to share the heart, vision, and mission of our church and its ministries with those who walk through our doors.

The third **quarterly directory update** will be available in the church office starting Sunday, September 2.

*Like apples of gold in settings of silver
is a ruling rightly given.*
Proverbs 25:11, ESV



September 5
Welcome to Awana!

September 12
Favorite Sport Night

September 19
Good Samaritan Night

September 26
Be a Hero Night

Get Equipped!

Equip: Sunday morning electives designed to build up the body of Christ.

As we move into the fall, we'll continue with our *Equip* series, which will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30am and 11am. We want to "Equip" you to be strong in your love for Jesus Christ, to lead in your own home, and to reach out to neighbors with the love of God. The *Equip* title is based on Ephesians 4:11-16, especially verse 12 which says, "to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ".

Equip topics will be varied and timely: We will learn about the foundations of Christian discipleship, how to build a Christian home, how to apply the Sunday morning sermon to our lives and how to engage the world around us in conversations about Jesus Christ. The goal of *Equip* will be to equip followers of Jesus Christ to show others how to follow Jesus, too.

Equip is relational: There will be opportunities to meet new friends and to enjoy fellowship at the beginning and end of each session. We encourage you to talk to a friend, pray about which class will help you the most, and jump in together!

Equip is intergenerational, and we offer excellent options for everyone in the family.

Equip series are short: Every *Equip* series starts on the same Sunday and will generally last 5 weeks. We hope you will jump right in, especially if you have never been a part of Sunday morning options.

Because *Equip* takes place on Sunday mornings, it will give many people the opportunity to serve. Every *Equip* series will need refreshments, a host/hostess and a teacher. This means that we need you! Contact Nikki MacDonald (nikki.m@e-free-family.com) for more information on how you can get involved in the hospitality aspect of *Equip*.

Watch the church bulletin for more information on *Equip*. Plan to attend the *Equip Preview Session* on Sunday, September 9 at 9:30am or 11am. You'll meet new friends and hear topic previews from *Equip* teachers. The first *Equip* series begins September 16!



Sharing Christ, Caring for Each Other

LifeGroups Life Groups are the first place of connection. They are committed groups of 8-12 people who come together in homes twice per month to:

Share life in Christ by applying God's Word to our lives. Most Life Groups will discuss the sermon which was taught on the previous Sunday in order to understand it more fully, live it out more obediently, and surrender our lives more completely. **Share Christ.**

Care for each other by giving and receiving physical and spiritual nurture. Life Groups flourish when we provide advice, encouragement, presence, meals, muscle, and help to one another. In a Life Group, you will do life together, and the "big church" will "feel smaller." **Care for friends.**

Pray together by learning to seek God's face, not just his hand. God changes things through prayer--our own admission that we are weak, and our learning how to ask God to do what only he can do. You will pray, and learn to seek God in a Life Group. **Pray to God.**

Groups are currently forming in preparation for the kick-off to a new year! If you are interested in joining a Life Group, register in the Welcome Center, church office or online (www.e-free-family.com/life-groups/).

Forever Faithful to Hear from Sheboygan's Meals on Wheels

Did you know that no other Meals on Wheels program in the country is doing what we're doing here in Sheboygan County? The Sheboygan Fresh Meals on Wheels program has partnered with local farmers and gardeners who grow and donate a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to use in meals that are distributed daily around the community to elderly, disabled, and homebound folks of all ages. This has become a model for other programs that want to help adapt a local, fresh food approach in their own communities.



Representatives from this fantastic organization will be our guest speakers at Forever Faithful's September 27 potluck and program from 6-8pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. All adults are invited! Before their presentation begins, enjoy an array of delicious hot casseroles, salads, fruits and mouth-watering desserts, followed by worship singing led by Dave & Lyn Neave.

Sign up in your *Equip* class or at the bulletin board near the Gathering Grounds Coffee Bar. Come and bring a friend! You'll come again, and again, and again!

Christmas Concert Prep Begins

The Concert Choir will be presenting the musical *Glorious Impossible* on December 8 and 9. Interested in participating? On Sunday, August 26, we'll meet at 4pm in room 109 for a preview of new music for the upcoming program year. Enjoy a delicious potluck supper at 5pm, and then we'll preview the Christmas concert at 6pm.



This year's concert will have parts for speakers, soloists, and non-speaking parts. General choral singers, all parts, are always welcome.

Sign up on the bulletin board near the Gathering Grounds Coffee Bar. Questions? Contact Lynne Zimmermann.

Staff Hiring Anniversary

Five years ago in July, Nikki MacDonald was hired as the church's first Hospitality Coordinator. Her initial responsibilities included acting as the go-to person for those planning on-site weddings/receptions, social events and funeral receptions; overseeing the look/décor of our building to make it welcoming/attractive; and managing the kitchen function.



Since then, her oversight has grown to include supervising the Sunday Gathering Grounds supplies and staff, managing the annual church connection social (picnic), and assisting in overseeing the church's Welcome Ministry. We are so thankful to God for bringing Nikki to our staff and to our church body!

Fall Missions Emphasis Sunday

On Sunday, September 16, we'll gather at 6pm in the Multi-Purpose Room to hear presentations on three different ways of serving/scattering which spread the Gospel:

- One of our supported missionary couples on home assignment will give an update on how God has been working through them in Asia.
- The 7-member Marseilles Construction Team will update us on both what they were able to accomplish for the Smith family, and on how God has been using that project.
- The Gideon Bible Society will share with us how God is at work in this region through the distribution of Bibles and New Testaments.

Ladies — Join Us for a Nutcracker Christmas!

The annual Ladies' Christmas Brunch, scheduled for Saturday morning, December 1, is designed to provide a delightfully festive gathering for you to invite your friends to hear the Gospel message. Guests will enjoy a delicious meal while seated at beautifully decorated tables. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Pam MacRae, professor at Moody Bible Institute.

This year's Nutcracker theme will bring a touch of elegance to our gathering, and we're currently recruiting table designers who are willing to bring their creative touches to our tables. Never designed a table before? No problem! We have ladies who are willing to come alongside and walk you through the process, even providing dishes and décor, if needed. Designers can sign up on the Women's Ministries bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

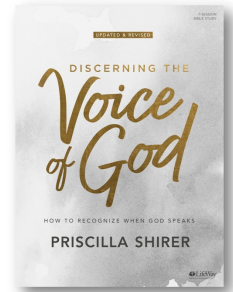
Tickets remain \$10 each, and go on sale to the general public on Sunday, November 4.

Discerning The Voice of God Study

Ladies - you are warmly invited to a Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:30pm, starting September 4. The study is led by Nancy Veenendaal and will be held at her home. We'll be discussing *Discerning The Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. The cost of the book is \$10. Contact Nancy for more information.

Is that You, God?

Wherever you are in your spiritual walk, God will find a way to speak to you in a way you will understand. Become acquainted with the Voice that has spoken from a fire and a cloud; with visible signs and an invisible Spirit; through a burning bush and burning hearts.



LLBC Ladies' Retreat

Ladies — get ready for a time of refreshment, relaxation, and heart encouragement! This year's annual Lake Lundgren Bible Camp Ladies' Retreat will be Friday-Sunday, September 14-16. Guest speaker Trish Propson brings animated and inspiring teaching. Trish owns Cornerstone Communications Company where she provides Marketing and Communication services to non-profit ministries and start-up businesses. She has published three books, is an ordained Crisis Response Chaplain, and is a conference/retreat speaker for women, teens, and families.



In addition to conference sessions, there will be time for crafts, campfires, chatting, delicious food, and games.

For more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/ladiesretreatllbc/> and click on the conference brochure (bottom left) or contact our church office (452.6520).



Office Remodel Update

“Exciting” and “upheaval” are two words that aptly describe life in the church office during the last two months. Filing cabinets were emptied and contents boxed up by the front office staff, and the large reception desk, lovingly crafted by the late Eddie Vinson, was carefully disassembled by son Dale of Vinson Remodeling, in order to allow for some re-carpeting by Cedar Grove Hardware and Carpeting.

Next, filing cabinets were emptied and packed up, and the reception desk was put back together and re-oriented. The waiting area was moved and new chairs provided. Another work space, with temporary furniture, was created in order to allow Kay and Kim to work simultaneously at times. Additional temporary work space was created while the staff waits for new cubicle-style office furniture to arrive.

Wendell Ramaker moved outlets and added new ones while Mike Zimmermann plans to patch drywall and fill holes. Hours of painting will follow. Rick Vande Vrede added phones and updated the voice mailboxes, while Rob Sass and son (Custom Communication Systems) moved data systems. New shared work space, chairs and filing cabinets were provided for Briana and Nikki, while the same is in the works for Steve and Sandy.

Heather and Gwen traded offices and, thanks to the efforts of Sheila Oppeneer, both offices were provided with new furniture due to the generosity of an anonymous local company! We are so grateful to each person who gave their time and talents to serve the church and staff in this massive project!

The eFree Press is the monthly newsletter of the eFree Church.

- To submit articles for future issues, contact Kayla Kautzer, Editor (kayla.k@e-free-family.com) or Briana Ringel, (briana.r@e-free-family.com). We reserve the right to edit for space and clarification purposes.
- The eFree Press is primarily distributed via email. If you'd like to join the email list, please contact Briana Ringel (briana.r@e-free-family.com).