

This is the Appleton church of Christ



**Christians that meet at
3601 E. Newberry Street**

The purpose of the Bible

The Bible “...is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

In it, God reveals His church to mankind. With the Bible as our guide, we can understand what the original church was like and how to duplicate it. If we just follow the simple blueprint of the Bible, we will re-create the same New Testament church that existed twenty centuries ago.

“...I will build My church...”

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promises, “...I will build My church...”

Any church that claims to belong to Christ should be the same as one you can read about in the Bible. Anything else is...something else.

Acts 2:47 says that God “...added to the church daily those who were being saved.” The church that Jesus promised to build had been established. Every one who was saved was added to it.

Jesus was the founder and “...head over all things to the church,” (Ephesians 1:22). His church's headquarters is in heaven. It's where Jesus Christ was on the day it was founded...and where He rules today.

“...added to the church daily those who were being saved,” - Acts 2:47

Who may belong to His church?

The Bible tells us, clearly and plainly, how to become a member of the Lord's church. We must be obedient to the message of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

Like almost every lesson we learn, it starts when we **hear** the Word (Romans 10:17). Hearing God's instruction will cause us to **believe** it (Hebrews 11:6, Acts 2:37; Mark 16:16). We then need to **repent** of (turn our back on) our sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38) and **confess** in front of others our belief in Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10). Finally, we need to be baptized "...for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-7).

The Lord's church at 3601 E. Newberry St. is made up of people who have carefully followed the New Testament pattern for membership. They were "... *purchased with His (Jesus) own blood.*" (Acts 20:28) and have been added to the church (Acts 2:47), having fellowship in the world-wide family of God.

The Appleton church of Christ is a small collection of God's family who have chosen to work together in this area. "Family" members in other locations have also joined together, for similar purposes, just as they did in the first century. Following the Bible's plan, local congregations - just like the one at 3601 E. Newberry St. - exist all over the world.

“We are simply Christians”

The Bible tells us about people who are added to the church.

They are:

- * Disciples - “...*the number of the disciples was multiplying...*” (Acts 6:1)
- * Believers - “...*but be an example to the believers...*” (1 Timothy 4:12)
- * Christians - “...*And the disciples were first called Christians...*” (Acts 11:26)

The members of the Lord's church are all three: disciples, believers, Christians...not members of any man-made denomination. Their labor is for the Lord - instead of for the glory of some human organization. Christians claim to be "of Christ" and they closely follow the principles Jesus and His apostles taught.

This includes:

1. The way they live -- what they say, do and think.
2. The way they worship God, both in public and in private.
3. The way they respect God's word - and His silence - as shown in the Bible.

The New Testament does not reveal any denominational organization. As the gospel spread, Christians formed congregations in various locations. Each congregation of God's people was independent and autonomous.

The Appleton church of Christ church follows this pattern of simple Christianity. We are simply Christians. We do not report to any “headquarters” - we report to no council, convention, or synod. We appoint our own preachers and teachers, based on God's qualifications...and we work independently of other groups of Christians. Our guide is the New Testament.

“His Divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness.” 2 Peter 1 :3

“What will I do in His church?”

“...to Him be glory in the church...” (Ephesians 3:21)

God is glorified when the purposes that He intended for the church are accomplished. The Bible reveals those purposes...and we should follow them as the New Testament pattern of work and worship.

Evangelism

The New Testament disciples shared the Good News about Jesus. They “*went everywhere preaching the word.*” (Acts 8:4). Just as early believers did, we want to tell the world about Jesus. We believe that the Gospel is God’s “power to save” (Romans 1:16).

Our efforts include:

1. Personal outreach by our members
2. Financial assistance to preachers in other locations in the world
3. Financial support to local preachers

The New Testament does not reveal any evangelism organization larger than the local group. We don't presume to "improve" upon God's plan, so we practice this same kind of local autonomy.

“...*they went everywhere preaching the word.*” Acts 8:4

Worship

The New Testament church was a worshipping church. *“On the first day of the week... the disciples came together to break bread.”* (Acts 20:7). The worship of early disciples was something to participate in, not something to watch.

The assemblies for worship at 3601 E. Newberry Street are simple, spiritual and orderly. Each element of worship is found in the clear commands and examples found in the New Testament.

New Testament worship includes:

The Lord's Supper. The memorial of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine observed each Sunday to remember Christ's death (Acts 2:24, 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Congregational Singing. Songs of praise and encouragement are sung from the heart (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

Bible Teaching. Simple, understandable and applicable studies from Gods word to teach and build faith (Acts 2:42, 20:7).

Prayer. Time to talk to God together (Acts 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Voluntary Contributions. A freewill collection from the members each Sunday to accomplish the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Service

The New Testament church was a church that met the needs of their members *“...selling their possessions and goods and dividing them among all as anyone had need.”* (Acts 2:44-45).

The Christians at 3601 E. Newberry St. consider it a responsibility and an honor to serve others as Jesus Christ served us. We care for those of our church family in need. We share our prosperity through our regular weekly offerings. This is our only means of raising or collecting money.

We have “...all things in common...” (Acts 2:44). And we serve each other with a spirit of love...just as Christ loved us.

Fellowship

The New Testament believers were united together, “...*continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.*” (Acts 2:46).

Just as close, caring families provide support and encouragement, this group is committed to a "family" environment that builds up and unites every member. Individual Christians of Christ's church here are expected to provide spiritual encouragement to one another...especially those who are new Christians.

Unity is a primary goal. As the Bible instructs, “...*you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Discipleship

The first century church made efforts to grow in maturity in Christ. “...*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...*” (Acts 2:42).

The Christians meeting here are committed to walking in the steps of Jesus. “...*For to this were you called...that you should follow in His steps.*” (1 Peter 2:21). We teach the necessity of moral purity, and obedience to Bible instruction.

We believe that the Bible tells us **all** that God wants us to do. “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

We provide Bible teaching in classes and worship assemblies. Our classes are designed to accommodate age groups and special topics. The objective is to help all members grow in knowledge and application of the Word.

You are welcome at our next service.

The Appleton church of Christ is committed to following the New Testament and being a New Testament church. We acknowledge that Jesus is the head of the church and the Lord of every member. We have no creed but Christ, and we obey no book but the Bible. We worship and serve God in the same way the early believers did. We are simply a congregation, or church, belonging to Christ.

Here's what you will find in this church:

- * Evangelism - a FOCUS for living
- * Worship — a FORCE for living
- * Service — a FUNCTION for living
- * Fellowship — a FAMILY for living
- * Discipleship — a FOUNDATION for living

The Appleton church of Christ - A New Testament Church

If you would like to know more about being a part of this congregation, you have many choices. You could visit our services. You could call one of our members. Or you could contact us to schedule a Bible study, at a time convenient to you. We would be glad to help you discover how to become a member of Christ's church. A church that began twenty one centuries ago...and will endure into eternity. A church you can read about in the Bible.

**The Lord's church that meets at
3601 E. Newberry St. Appleton, WI 54915**

Sunday

9:30 - Bible classes

10:30 - Worship & edification

6:00 p.m. - Evening worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Bible study

920-733-5009

wsasser@tds.net

www.appletonchurchofchrist.org