

Evangelical Events

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

April 2011

"Preparing People with Purpose"

From the Pastor's Pen

The quiet garden is suddenly filled with a small detachment of soldiers. Jesus has come to this quiet place after supper to pray for strength to face the upcoming affliction. These tough, battle hardened men enter the garden with torches, lanterns and weapons to look for Jesus. Peter knows that he must do something because he is a man of action. Standing and watching them carry off his Lord is not an option. So, he pulls out his sword and swings at the closest person. He aims for his head, swings and manages to cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. But, this isn't what Jesus is about. He rebukes Peter and says, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" Peter is merely doing what he had told Jesus he would do. "I will lay down my life for you," he told Jesus and he meant it. His desire is real! He wants to follow Jesus faithfully. But, Peter cannot begin to understand what really lies ahead for Jesus . . . and for him.

Distance is already creeping into their relationship. Peter realizes the danger, so he keeps a safe distance behind the soldiers. Jesus is being escorted to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest. Knowing that Jesus is being interrogated, Peter is desperate to discover what is going on. His friend, John, has pulled some strings with the servant at the front door and has gotten permission for both of them to enter into the courtyard.

Trying to get warm because it is cold outside, he stands by the fire with the servants of the high priest and the temple officers. But the temperature outside doesn't begin to match the chill that he feels inside. Something triggers a memory in the servant-girl about Peter. Didn't she see him with Jesus? Isn't he

one of Jesus' followers? So, she says to Peter, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean."

Peter's response is swift and deceptive. Without thinking, he says to this young girl, "I do not know what you are talking about." What did it feel like when those words escaped from his lips? In one instant, he has gone from a faithful follower of Jesus to a deceitful, unfaithful failure. So much for following Jesus to death! He doesn't put up much of a fight; Peter is taken out in the first round. How could it be so easy to lie about following Christ?

I can relate to Peter, can't you? I want to do and say the right thing. I want to stand and look that servant girl straight in the eyes and say "Yes, I am!" But when the challenge comes, I find that I am not as strong as what I thought. I too easily say

things I don't really mean or fail to say the things I should.

Peter tries to chase away the icy fingers of fear, doubt and despair grasping at his soul. In the flicker of the firelight, another servant recognizes his face. Something looks very familiar about him, but she just can't seem to put her finger on it. So, she says to the others, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Peter has another chance; he can make up for the mistake. Mustering enough courage, he could say "I am his disciple. He is being falsely accused. He has done nothing to deserve this treatment." But Peter knows all too well that if he speaks up he might be arrested and taken before the religious leaders who are looking for blood. So, he denies the accusation again.



Time passes until those standing nearby confront him again about his connection to Jesus. Not only does he look like one of Jesus' followers, he sounds like a Galilean. So they challenge him, "Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away." Instead of grabbing this final opportunity, he begins to curse and says "*I do not know the man!*" Three times he has lied about knowing Jesus. Three strikes and you're out. The rooster crows and Jesus' words are fulfilled, ". . . before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" How could it be that he has denied the Savior three times? The damage is irreversible and he goes out and weeps bitterly. Perhaps you know those bitter tears and you feel like there is no hope and you are beyond a second chance.



This is the very reason Christ went to the cross. He gives his life so that he can become the sin-bearer. On the cross, he takes upon himself our sin, our guilt, our shame and our failures and pays them off. We deserve God's anger and justice, but instead we find His forgiveness, His love and His mercy. It is ours for the asking!

The wonderful news is that God is the God of the second chance. Peter meets Jesus after the resurrection. Jesus asks him three times, "Do you love me?" Peter says, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus says, "Feed my sheep."

Peter is restored to usefulness once again. He begins to live this out after he is filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. He not only becomes a bold witness for Christ, he dies a martyr's death proclaiming the truth of Jesus.

God can give you a second chance. He can also give you the courage you need to be a faithful follower of Christ! If Peter could become one, why can't you?



Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim

Combined Service on April 17!



Join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 17 for a combined worship service. Our choir will be performing our Easter Cantata, "As Sure As My Redeemer Lives."

The Sunday School/ABF hour will be from 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers



Many hands make for light work
Please contact:
Vicki Klopping 815-443-2554
Suzy Erb 815-369-9733

Congratulations!

Born to Ryan and Melissa (Smith) Goeble, Payton Ann was born March 17, 2011. She weighed in at 7lb., 5 oz. and 20 inches long. Jeff and Cindy Smith are the happy Grandparents!



Student Ministries

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” – 2 Timothy 2:2

Imprisoned and facing death, the apostle Paul longed to see the gospel preserved and passed on to future generations. So he encouraged his spiritual son Timothy to entrust the gospel to reliable people who in turn could teach it to others. Training and equipping others to share the gospel was of the utmost importance to Paul. And it should be of the utmost importance to us.

If we are to effectively equip future generations to make disciples, we need to train our youth to know and share the gospel. Dare 2 Share Ministries has created a great tool for parents and youth workers to do this very thing. The tool is as follows:

God created us to be with Him. (Genesis 1)

Our sins separate us from God. (Genesis 3)

Sins cannot be removed by good deeds. (Genesis 4 – Malachi 4)

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. (Matthew – Luke)

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. (John)

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever. (Acts – Revelation)

Many of our youth have memorized the G.O.S.P.E.L. acronym and have used it naturally in conversation (as opposed to simply reciting it) with nonbelievers. Some of them are even training and equipping their Christian friends to use it.

I hope this can be an effective equipping tool for you to use in your home as you teach your children the gospel. And if they do memorize the G.O.S.P.E.L., challenge them to share what they have learned with another person, so that more and more people can spread gospel of Jesus Christ!

Training future generations with you,
Pastor Scott



Upcoming Events

April 1-2: Dare 2 Share Conference, Chicago, IL (Depart at 3:45 pm Friday, Return at 11:00 PM Saturday)

April 10: Rockford Rescue Mission

May 1: Graduation Banquet, 6:00 PM dinner for grads and families, 7:30 PM service.

Missions Morsels



Katie Myers

Katie Myers is presently in Cuzo, Peru along with Patty and Heidi who are in training. They will be recording the JESUS film into the Quechua Eastern Apurimac dialect and mixing the recording on the field instead of bringing things back to post production. They plan to leave the nationals with a complete product. The plan is to have a premiere of the film as an outreach, April 1. Hundreds will hear the gospel from their freshly recorded film! Katie requests prayer for God to continue to grow their hearts for those who don't know Him, protect their equipment and for smooth recording, for health and for the film's premiere.



Doug and Sherry Anderson

Doug and Sherry Anderson were planning to be here on May 1, but there has been a change in plans. Doug's mother fell and broke her hip and needs to stay off her leg for 3 months. They decided that they need to be there to help his parents at this time. They have begun a young adult group for those no longer in youth group. Seven young men came to the first meeting. They discussed the truths of God's word and helped answer questions about what it means to be a Christian. These young men have continued to come weekly. They request prayer for these young men, that God will raise up disciples of Christ to become spiritual leaders among the believers. They also request prayer for salvation and growth of many more people across north central British Columbia.



Ben and Jeanne Beckner

Ben and Jeanne Beckner have finished their time in Israel and are back at their home in France. They request prayer for the students who attended classes at IFTJ Bible School in Jerusalem and the evangelical churches in Israel which face many challenges. Also while there, they met with officials to investigate the possibility for mission trips to Israel. The first week of April, they will be attending their first IM staff conference in Czech Republic. Then later in the month, Ben will be making a prospecting trip to the Ukraine to set up contacts

for the language camp there in July. A trip to the Balkans is in the works as well in order to prepare for the summer.

They are trusting the Lord for His direction and praying that they would be discerning and submissive to His will. They are thankful for our prayers and are blessed by our partnership with them.



Ross and Mary Hunter

Ross and Mary Hunter, missionaries to Riobamba, Ecuador are proud to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Patrick David Hunter, born 2-18-11. Mary was able to be there at his birth. All are doing well. They request prayer for the new parents, Jonathon and Maggie and baby Patrick, for Cristina at Moody Bible Institute, for Ross' mother, Mary Dodd, who is recovering from a stroke, for a permanent home (theirs is temporary), for a potential land purchase opportunity, for Ross' students to be faithful in their studies and for their families. Pray that God would give him wisdom as he leads and teaches.



Tom and Karen Virtue

Tom and Karen Virtue serve in the States, training Mission Team leaders on local campuses who bear the responsibility to lead in reaching and developing students. Tom will be the point person to design and implement the first ever Mission Team Leader training for the new Asian-American and Latino leaders from across the country. His job is to hear from a lot of people, set a direction and some priorities, get feedback and implement a one-week training, all in 5 weeks. The training will take place in So. CA, April 10-16. Tom requests prayer that the way they serve these leaders will help move forward what God wants to do within the ethnic students ministries here in the US. They are encouraged by our faithful part in their ministry.

Linda Lindstrom

Missions Ministry Leader

Ernie and Donna Manges serving in the U.S. and Asia



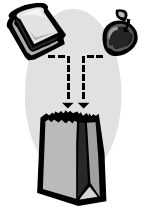
On February 23, the Cebu Graduate School of Theology, where Ernie teaches, was visited by a government inspection team, to confirm that they meet all the requirements to offer a Ph.D. degree in theology. They need to offer this degree in order to develop and empower local Filipino faculty, who need this education in order to teach at the seminary.

The Philippine government did give their approval, and they will now begin to put together classes. For the first three or four classes, their entry requirements will be wide, and then as a faculty they will select from the best of those students those who will be admitted into candidate status. Ernie will be teaching a class next year on the theology of marriage as part of this program. This will be in addition to his usual teaching load at the M.A. and M.Div. level.

April Happenings

Packing Lunches for the Rockford Rescue Mission

Everyone is welcome to join us immediately after the 2nd service on Sunday, April 10 to pack lunches for the evening meal at the Rockford Rescue Mission. Also, plan to join us at the mission for the service and to pass out the lunches. This is a great opportunity to step out of our comfort zones and be part of what God is doing. There are lots of ways to help, so don't miss out



Combined Service and Easter Cantata

Sunday, April 17 we will be having one combined worship service at **10 a.m.** The choir will be performing the Cantata, "As Sure As My Redeemer Lives." The Sunday School/ABF hour will be from 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Awana Awards Night

Join us **Wednesday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m.** as Awana finishes it's year. Commander Steve Myers will be presenting awards and the program will be followed by a Build-your-own Sundae Bar. Everyone is Welcome



Good Friday Service

Join us on **Friday, April 22 at 12 noon** for our Good Friday Service. We'll have a time of reflection on Christ's death and burial followed by communion.

Easter Egg Hunt

Everyone is welcome to join us on **Saturday, April 23 at 1 p.m.** for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. All kids up to 6th grade can come, hunt for eggs, special eggs and prizes. There will be prizes for the adults too! Refreshments will be served. Come, bring your friends and hear the Easter story too!



W.O.W. Women's Study

Ladies, join Suzy Erb at **8 am on May 28th** at the Lena Family Restaurant where she will lead an interesting and thought provoking discussion of Nancy Leigh DeMoss's book *Lies Women Believe*. Good company, good food, great discussion—what better way to spend an hour or so on a Saturday morning with other women! **Please note we are NOT meeting in April, due to Easter celebrations.**

Annual Grad Banquet



Sunday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Grad Banquet Service- Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Church Library

Let your church library lead you to reading material to enhance your Easter celebration. All you need is the willingness to take time to read the inspiring reads the library offers. Search through the bookshelf labeled "New." There you will find many books that introduce the love, power, and sacrifice of Jesus. They may not be new, but the authors will give you a new appreciation for the Jesus of Easter. Choose from a variety of writing style. You may be partial to Tozer, Yancey, Beth Moore, Swindoll, Lucado, or Blackaby. Look for your favorite on the shelves.

24 Hours That changed the World (232.8 Ham), by Adam Hamilton has a title that explains the

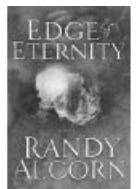


book. The reading journey begins on a Thursday evening long ago, in an upper room in Jerusalem. It's a story of betrayal leading to death. It's a story of redemption and love. It's a story that prompts the reader to look within oneself. Best of all, it's a story of new life and hope. Hamilton may give you some concepts to ponder. **24 Hours That Changed the World** will aid you in appreciating the events of Jesus' last 24 hours of His life as God/man.

Timothy Keller's newest is **King's Cross** (232.8 Kel). This is an introduction to Jesus according to Mark. It is not difficult to read, but offers insights to help the reader live a life that is pleasing to Jesus.



If you're seeking adventure, pick up Randy Alcorn's **Edge of Eternity**. Then you'll want to

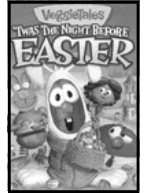


follow up with another of Alcorn's fiction, **The Chasm**. These two allegorical books remind me of **Pilgrim's Progress**. The books describe Nick Seagrave's quest for finding the king. He has many roads

to follow on his journey and severely pays for wrong decisions. The books are full of evil beings

and deceivers, along with people of wisdom and goodness. Heaven or Hell, the choice is Nicks.

2 new DVDs are on the shelf. VeggieTales has a new one out just in time or Easter viewing. "**Twas the Night Before Easter**" is a tale of what helping others is all about and discovering what the true Easter is.



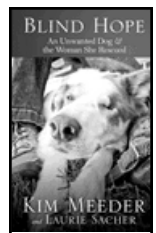
Dinosaurs—Did they exist? If so, what did they eat and did they survive the flood? Earth—How old is it? What about fossils? Bible—Is it true? Does it mention dinosaurs? What does it say about death? These questions are answered in 2 great DVDs, "**Dinosaurs: Genesis and the Gospel**" by Ken Ham.



They are directed toward elementary children, but teachers and parents will enjoy them also. I found them interesting, with the gospel clearly presented. This too is an asset to your resurrection celebration.

My last review has nothing to do with Easter, but will enhance your God sightings. Laurie has mistaken God for a church, a group of people, and a set of rules. They failed her. Laurie thought God failed her too, as God seemed far away and seemed unable to satisfy her needs.

She tried immoral things, anything to gain acceptance and fill her heart's void. When Laurie met a ragged, rejected do she knew this creature was a reflection of herself, broken and ugly. That pitiful, mangy mutt became Laurie's trusted companion.



Read how God taught Laurie how to love and listen to Him through Mia, a dog no one wanted. The book is easy, non-fiction, and is well worth picking up. **Blind Hope** (92 Mee) by Kim Meeder is a quick read that touched my heart. You may want to keep the Kleenex handy!





Monday with the Baker Group:
 (815)947-2108 (every other Monday)
With all Your Heart by R. Vanderlaan

Monday with the Tawfik Group:
 369-5102 (1st and 3rd Monday)
Sermon Study

Wednesday with the Erb Group:
 369-9733 (1st & 3rd Wednesday)
Sermon Study

Thursday with Amal Tawfik and Precept :
 369-5102 *Esther*

Thursday with the Hansen Group:
 745-2579 (every other Thursday)
"The Reason for God" by Timothy Keller

Thursday with the Dawson Group:
 248-4518 (meet at members' homes)
"Men are Like Waffles, Women Like Spaghetti"

Thursday with the Hubner Group:
 821-3804 Men studying *Doctrine*
 Women studying *Girls Gone Wise*

Friday with the Holverson Group:
 608-328-1981 (every other Friday)
Ephesians

Friday with the Visel Group:
 369-9036 (every other Friday)
"How to Give Away Your Faith" (witnessing)
by Paul Little

Saturday with the Walter Group:
 369-4072 (Every other Saturday)
Radical: Taking back Your Faith from the American Dream

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder:
 369-9733 (Uncle Bob's Restaurant in Lena)
"Lies Women Believe"



The family of Staci Adams would like to express our sincerest thanks to everyone at EFC of Lena for all the wonderful support you have shown our family during the last 2 years, 9 months of Staci's life. The outpouring of prayers, meals, cards, gifts, visits, smiles, hugs, and encouraging words were appreciated more than you know. Without this wonderful family God has provided me and the kids, I know I would not have made it through his. May God richly bless each one of you.

Many thank and much love,
 Jerry Adams and Family

Thanks for the beautiful dish garden sent to the hospital for Gerald. It was a very pleasant surprise and really "perked" up our day. It arrived just after he came back from lots of tests. The tulips and forsythia were so bright and greens smelled so fresh. We are still enjoying its presence. Thanks for your concerns and prayers for us.

Gerald and Barbara

Dear friends of my mother, Elsie Hots. She's doing well and wanted you all to know she's remembering you. She has a garden planted again, at age 91!

Jean Johnson

A grateful "Thank You" to the Lena EFC Youth Group for making us a plate of fruit and cookies at the "overnight famine" event and to our granddaughter, Kalli, for carefully delivering it to us.

It was very much appreciated! God bless all of you!

George and Marilyn Visel



Schedules for April



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 17 Combined Service

ABF Nursery Ginger Hubner
10 a.m Nursery Ginger Hubner/Heather Wilson
Children's Church Elaine/Jerrid Gift
Greeters: Dwight & Kay Bennett

Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

April 3 Kris/Kallie Visel
April 10 Brett/Becky Anderson
April 24 Natalie/Kirsten Mancosky

Nursery - ABF/Sunday School hour 9:30 a.m.

April 3 Rhonda/Tracy Schoeny
April 10 Christine Woolcock
April 24 Rhonda Schoeny/Tracy Schoeny

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

April 3 Ben/Tammy Duncan
April 10 Carol Curtis/Kathy Diffenderfer
April 24 Sherry/Taylor Wedge

Children's Church - 10:45 a.m. service only

April 3 Donna Hornung/Kendra Becker
April 10 Gretchen Rose/Whitney Becker
April 24 No Children's Church

Greeters - 8 a.m. service

April 3 Daryl & Vicki Bennett
April 10 Steve & Rhonda Bressler
April 24 Mike & Jeanette Murray

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

April 3 Andy & Ginger Hubner
April 10 Rob & Cathy Graham
April 24 Bill & Barb Duncan

Ushers for April * head usher)

<u>8:00 a.m. service</u>	<u>10:45 a.m. service</u>
Byron Baker *	Ron Watson *
Paul Hansen	Rob Graham
John Reed	Bill Duncan
Doug Visel	Bill Hills
Larry Woolcock	Jeff Julius

Birthdays

April 3	Pat Baker
	Larry Woolcock
April 4	Mandy Osterloo
April 7	Miranda Walters
April 8	Pam Barton
April 9	Darla Krogman
April 11	Dan Visel
April 12	Emma Bower
	Don Corp
	Carol Heinrich
	Allan Krogman
April 13	Joshua Erb
April 16	Cole Oberle
	Chris Zimmerman
April 18	John Reed
	Eleanor Wachlin
April 21	Ron Oberle
April 23	Abigail Bower
	Amber Heinrich
	Mary Staskal
April 26	Daryl Bennett
April 29	Zach Walters

Anniversaries

April 15	Bob & Verlea Heller
April 23	Paul & Sherry Wedge
April 24	Harold & Diane Oxley
April 25	Roger & Vicki Klopping
April 28	Ron & Laurie Oberle




Hi! I'm Mr. Bulletin	and call the church
I'm hiding somewhere	office (815-369-5591),
in this newsletter.	and you will win a prize!
Be one of the first	All ages can play
three people	along with me!
to find me	





April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles April 20th					1 7p Visel Small Group ← Dare to	2 7p Walters Small Group Share →
3 Communion	4 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	5 6:30a Prayday 7p Elder Meeting	6 12noon Lenten Lunch at St. Joe's 5:30-7p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	7 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Hansen Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	8 7p Holverson Small Group	9
10 Packing lunches for the RRM Serving meal at the RRM	11 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	12 6:30a Prayday ← Jim & Scott	13 12noon Lenten Lunch at St. Johns 5:30-7p Awana 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study Gospel Coalition	14 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous Conf. →	15 9:30-11a Family Ties 7p Visel Small Group	16 7p Walters Small Group
17 Palm Sunday COMBINED SERVICE 10 A.M. SS/ABF 8:45 a.m. Cantata performed	18 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	19 6:30a Prayday	20 12noon Lenten Lunch at Lena UMC 5:30-7p Awana Awards Night 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Youth Group 7:15p College Study	21 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Hansen Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	22 7p Holverson Small Group	23 8a W.O.W. Women's Study at Lena Family Restaurant 1p Easter Egg Hunt Outreach
24 Easter	25 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	26 6:30a Prayday	27 12noon Lenten Lunch at Lena UMC 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	28 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	29 7p Visel Small Group	30 7p Walters Small Group



EFC of Lena

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EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

Sunday Worship Services
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Student Ministries
Jr. High Youth Group
and
Sr. High Youth Group
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Church Staff
Senior Pastor
Assoc. Pastor of Youth
Assoc. Pastor of Senior Ministries
Church Secretaries

Sunday School and
Adult Bible Fellowship
9:30 a.m.

Awana Clubs
Age 3 - Grade 8
Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
September - April

Jim Erb (815) 369-9733
Scott Wilson (309) 371-4645
Dwight Bennett (815) 789-3307
Cathy Graham
Jean Paisley

Contact us at: office@lenafreechurch.org