

Evangelical Events

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

August 2011

"Preparing People with Purpose"

*Celebration of the
Ministry of
Pastor Dwight Bennett
Sunday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m.*

Sunday School
Pool Party
Sunday, August 28:
IS IT FOR YOU?
Turn to page 5
and find out !

**Mark Your Calendar:
Church Camp-out Dates
for Lake Le-Aqua-Na**

August 19, 20, 21

September 23, 24, 25

No sign-up required—all are welcome to come and camp out or just come spend the day. Questions, give Dawn Crichton a call at 815-369-4946.

Read an open letter to the
congregation from
Talena Wuebbels on

Children's Sunday School
Starting again on
September 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Talena Wuebbels and Harold
Oxley will be downstairs
directing the children
to their classes.

Table of Contents

- "From the Pastors Pen"page 2
- Student Ministries/Thank You...page 3
- Thank You Notes.....page 3
- Missions Moments.....page 4
- August Activities.....page 5
- Library Corner.....page 6
- Small Groups/Letter.....page 7
- Monthly Schedules.....page 8
- Calendar.....page 9

From the Pastor's Pen

On one occasion, Jesus sent out seventy of his followers in pairs to do the work of ministry. He explained that he was sending them out as lambs in the midst of wolves. What an image! These followers, like helpless, innocent sheep, would encounter strong, blood-thirsty wolves with snarling teeth and ravenous looks in their eyes. Without God's help they would be the next meal. This does not sound like a very good way to start ministry. Showing great courage and faith, these followers did exactly as Jesus instructed. The Gospel always advances when Christ-followers are willing to take a risk!

In addition, Jesus told these followers not to carry money or basic necessities with them on this journey. These faithful men and women needed to learn to walk by faith and trust God's ability to provide. When they arrived at their targeted destination they had to find a person of peace. This person would be any individual willing to open his or her house to this servant of Christ and provide hospitality so that the basic needs of the Christ-follower would be met. In this way, the Gospel could be planted in that particular location. The Gospel always advances when Christ-followers are willing to step out in faith and trust in the God who provides!

Jesus then said, "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:8-9)

Amazingly, these followers of Christ did exactly as they were told. They returned from their missionary foray with joy because God worked powerfully in them. The Gospel always advances when Christ-followers are willing to be obedient to Jesus!

Before they left on this ministry experience, Jesus challenged them to pray. He explained, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (Luke 10:2) The need for workers is just as real today as it was on that first occasion when Jesus challenged his followers. The harvest is ripe and ready. People are open and ready to receive Christ. What is needed most are workers for the harvest. The Gospel always advances when Christ-followers are willing pray for workers in the harvest! So, we must pray!



Let me offer a simple idea that I have learned from reading some of Neil Cole's writings to help us live out this simple command. Take your cell phone, watch, or computer and set an alarm to go off at

10:02. It can either be AM or PM, whichever works best for you. The time reminds us of Jesus' command in Luke 10:2. When the alarm goes off spend 5 minutes praying and asking the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into His harvest fields. Let's commit to do this every day for the next three months and see what happens. The fields are white with harvest!

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim

Student Ministries

If you've been a Christian for any length of time, then someone has probably asked you about your personal devotions. "Are you regularly spending time alone with God?" they might ask. This is an important question, as we need to regularly connect with God in prayer and His Word. However, the question that is rarely asked, yet is just as important is, "Who are you studying Scripture with?"



In Jesus' day, it was common for people to study God's Word together. Living life in community was highly valued, and one way this value was expressed was in the concept of *haver* friendships.



The word "haver" simply means friend. These friends would form groups of twos or threes to grapple with Scripture and apply it to their lives. Here are a few places where this concept is reflected in Scripture.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you [plural] richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom." Col. 3:16

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers." Acts 2:42

"Iron sharpens iron, and so one man sharpens another." Prov. 27:17

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another... Heb. 10:24-25

God has called us into a personal relationship with Him, not a private one. We simply cannot neglect the importance of gathering with a couple of believers, so that we can sharpen each other's faith! **So who do you regularly study God's Word and pray with as friends?** If you only study God's Word alone, then ask a friend to study it with you!

On a personal note, I want to thank our church for providing me with the opportunity to minister alongside Daniel Myers, our youth intern, for the last six months. It has been awesome to study God's Word with him each week and share what we learned with our youth. God has used Daniel to make a huge impact on the lives of our teens. Recently I asked some of them to name 1-2 people who have helped them follow Jesus. Daniel's name came up several times! Our group will greatly miss him as he joins the Jesus Film Project for the next year. Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity to have him as our intern!



Pastor Scott



Announcements

**Youth Group Fall Kickoff –
Wednesday, August 24, 7 PM**

All Jr./Sr. High school students and their parents are invited to join us as we kick off the new school year! We will be welcoming all incoming 7th graders to our Jr. High and 9th graders to our Sr. High. Students, invite your friends!



To our church family. Thank you hardly seems like enough to say for all you did for our family during mom's illness and her passing. God has blessed us with many wonderful people and all of you are part of that. We have comfort knowing where mom will spend eternity. With our heavenly father. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Bill & Dawn Crichton and family

Thank you for the beautiful plant we received after having Sydney. Also for the delicious meals that were brought to us. We're very excited to share the

stories from the "Baby's First bible" with Sydney! We are especially grateful for your prayers. We are blessed to have a wonderful church family!
Ben, Tammy & Max Duncan

Thank you for the many prayers and concern during Josh's recent farm accident. After a long hospital stay in ICU at UW Madison, Josh is mending well at home. Your prayers were heard and they were so felt. God is Good.

Love,
Josh Krogman and family

Missions Morsels

The missions team will be deciding the 2012 budget this month. Please keep us in prayer that we may hear God's direction. Many missionaries are short of needed support. We have been able to meet our commitments and give our visiting missionaries a love gift. They have expressed their gratitude for your faithful support. God bless each of you.



October Missions Awareness Month Line-up

1-2 : Ernie Manges, with ReachGlobal
 8-9 : Rich Sicard and the Chinese Scholars
 15-16: Sammy Murimi, Director of Share International, Inc.
 22-23 :Christina Hunter, daughter of Ross & Mary Hunter



Mark & Athlee Bowman

Mark and Athlee Bowman: Athlee's brother, Mark, passed away on July 21. Please pray for the family at this difficult time as God leads you.



Gary & Sherryl Bowman

Gary and Sherryl Bowman: On July 23, they received missionaries from around the world who are home on assignment for a one week workshop on Wheaton College Campus. TEAM helps them transition to a temporary life and ministry in the homeland. They provide different types of training for more effective service on home assignment and when they return to their respective countries of ministry. They also provide a setting for fellowship and worship among the missionaries – in English! Gary is responsible for these missionaries and interviews each one to encourage, inspire, challenge and advise before they return to their respective missions.



Ernie Manges

Ernie Manges: Ernie gives praise to God that in the past four years, he and his team have trained more than 100 long-term missionaries now serving in 24 nations. He is very grateful for our partnership with him. He and his co-worker, Linda Sauke, are training a team of 6 young adults who are headed to Cyprus for a year to do evangelism among "M" college students. These 6 have been doing on-line training and will do 2 days face to face training before they depart for Cyprus. August 10 – 17, Ernie will lead a day of learning for ReachGlobal missionary staff based in Europe. Ernie will be meeting with ReachGlobal leaders at the Europe Area Conference in Germany. Pray for excellent learning for a new crop of ReachGlobal missionary candidates who are beginning their cycle of pre-field training in preparation for their long term service in many countries.



Miranda Walters

At the end of this month, Miranda Walters will be leaving for Honduras. She is short of approx. \$1000. If you would like to help meet her need, make your check out to the church with Helping Honduras Project written in the memo, and don't forget to pray for her.



Daniel Myers

Daniel Myers is also leaving this month to work with the Jesus

Film Project. Daniel needs \$2500 per month. If you would like to help Daniel, you can make a check out to Campus Crusade for Christ and give it to Daniel or give on line at: give.ccci.org. You will need Daniel's ID # - 000651242. Please read Daniel's testimony and remember him in prayer:

1. I claimed to know the Lord when I was very little, around seven or eight years of age. It was not until I turned fourteen or fifteen that I really started to see what being a Christian really meant. My old youth pastor in Beaufort SC asked if I was a Christian and asked me what that meant to me personally. I did not know how to respond to the question. He explained that it meant placing your faith, trust, and hope in Jesus. It meant giving Christ your life and becoming a disciplemaker. That year, I went on my first short term mission trip to the Ukraine and my life was changed. I saw God work in great ways that only He could do and committed myself to having a serious relationship with Jesus Christ. My understanding and interest in Christianity grew more and more. It was a few years later, when I was only satisfied when serving Christ, that I realized God was calling me to the ministry. Although I did not know exactly what God was calling me to do, I knew that He was calling me to do great things through His name.

Because I knew that God was calling me to the ministry, I set my heart on attending the Moody Bible Institute. I attended Moody for four years and obtained my bachelor of arts degree in Biblical Studies. My plan after Moody was to go straight into youth ministry. I believe that God has given me a heart for youth. I long to see youth standing up for Christ and growing in their faith. I wanted to do for other youth what my youth pastor did for me. When I got out of Moody, God threw a curveball in my plans and called me to do something else for a while. I still believe God wants me to be in youth ministry, but I believe that he first wants me serve Him through cross cultural missions through the Jesus Film Project.

2. I am personally growing in Christ today by being challenged in so many ways. I am the intern in Lena, IL at the Evangelical Free church of Lena. I am challenged by helping the youth to come to a serious decision in making the faith their own, just like my youth pastor did for me. I am challenged by needing Christ to help me with anything I say and do. The youth pastor, Scott Wilson, who is currently mentoring me, is challenging me to get out of my comfort zone and serve Christ with all I have. To live is Christ and to die is gain. If you are not allowing Christ to use you, then you are not living. I am also growing in Christ by spending time in both the Word of God and in prayer. I am learning the discipline of treasuring time with God every day. One cannot grow in any relationship without spending time with the other person.

3. I believe that God is calling me to serve Him through ministry. I believe that He is currently calling me to serve Him through the Jesus film because He has given me a passion for serving Him and for reaching people with the Gospel. God has blessed me with a knowledge and understanding of both media and electronics. Being able to serve Him with both this passion that I previously mentioned and with media is an amazing opportunity to serve Him and proclaim the good news to so many others who desperately need it (Matt 28:18-20). It breaks my heart to know that so many people have never heard the good news of Christ because of a language barrier, a culture barrier, or the lack of people who are able to go. It is my longing and prayer that these barriers would be broken! I believe that the Jesus Film Project breaking all of these barriers and this is why I am so excited to be working with them.

4. My personal ministry objectives for the time spent with the Jesus Film are that I would grow in Christ through helping with the ultimate command, which is bringing the Gospel to every tribe, tongue, and nation, in which could only be done through Christ and by Christ. Other objectives are that I would be able to learn more about other cultures, missions, and Christ with the goal of becoming more effective in ministry. One of my other goals is that I will be both a disciple and a disciplemaker. Just as we are to spread the Gospel to all nations, as the great commission tells us, we are also to make disciples of all nations. This means anyone and everyone without picking and choosing.

August Activities

Park Services

The Saturday night Park Services at Lake Le-Aqua-Na have begun. They begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Hickory Hill Campground. Join campers and others in praising God surrounded by God's beautiful creation!

August 6	Martintown Worship Team
August 13	Tricia Vandenburg and the Father's House Worship Team
August 20	Men in Accord
August 27	The Wilson's
September 5	Debbie Leininger



Church Picnic

We are planning a fun afternoon. On **Sunday, August 14th after church** plan on going to the Dodd's Park Picnic Shelter. Bring your softball equipment and we hope to get a few games going. For the non baseball players, bring lawn games. We will have a great potluck picnic and fellowship. Bring lawn chairs, games and equipment. A couple of dishes to pass. Tableware and drinks will be provided.

CELEBRATING
MINISTRY

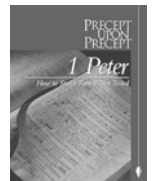


Celebration of the Ministry of Pastor Dwight Bennett

After 14 years of ministry with our church, Pastor Dwight has recently tendered his resignation as our Pastor to Seniors and is retiring. We would like to honor and remember what God has done during the lifetime of ministry of both Dwight and Kay. Join us on **Sunday, August 21 at 6:00 pm** for a celebration of worship and remembrances, followed by a cake reception in fellowship hall.

Precept Begins New Class

A study of 1 Peter will begin on Thursday, September 22 at 9 a.m. Are you prepared for suffering? Will trials and persecutions reveal your faith and bring glory to God? Listen to what Peter says to believers enduring tribulations. If you're interested, please sign up at the Welcome Center so enough books are ordered.



W.O.W. Women's Study

Ladies, join Suzy Erb on Saturday, **August 27 at 8 a.m.** at the Lena Family Restaurant. They will discuss "Lies Women Believe" over breakfast. All ladies are welcome!



Sunday School Pool Party

Dive into Sunday School on **Sunday, August 28** at the Paisley Pool. This is a Welcome to Sunday School party for pre-school through 5th grade. Parents, please attend to help supervise the kids. We'll provide the food, water and fun! It all begins at **3PM**. We will swim and play water games and then grill a light supper. Everything will be provided. Kids, plan on inviting your friends to come and invite them to come to Sunday School with you.

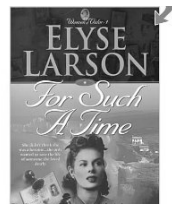
Church Library

Would you like to travel but can't afford the gas? Would you care to travel in time? Would you go back to the post Civil War period? How about W.W.2? Perhaps Scotland is more to your liking. Just check out one of the following books and go places you've never been before.

The One Who Waits for Me by Lori Copeland is a post Civil War novel that is easy to read. Changes are in the air for a black man, an Indian, and a white man, all soldiers and eager to get home from the horrors of war. Three abused women change the course for the men who rescue them. Each discovers that God's plans and man's plans may be decidedly different.



It's W.W.2. The Nazis occupy France. Giselle is active in the French Resistance Movement, and knows many people involved. When Giselle is arrested and beaten, she knew betrayal was at hand. By the grace of God, Giselle escapes. Giselle's American friend Jean is determined to find her and bring her into safety, but at the risk of many lives. When Jean locates Giselle, the danger of escape begins, where no one can be trusted. Tension builds as Giselle discovers an informer among her group of escapees and Giselle's children are kidnapped. For **Such a Time** by Elyse Larson, is a novel of intrigue.



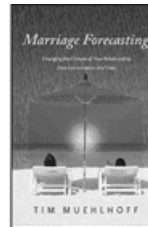
Do you want to learn some Scottish history while you get involved with Marie, a harpist? Marie visits Scotland for a change of scenery and routine. She is drawn into the land and its people. Marie teaches harp

to a little girl who captures Marie's heart, but causes a deep ache as well. It is in Scotland where Marie realizes the need for a loving father and a savior for her soul. Try **Angel Harp** by Michael Phillips.



If you have read any of Julie Klassen's novels, you'll recognize the Jane Austin style of Klassen. **The Girl in the Gatehouse** is no exception. This historical novel illustrates forgiveness and compassion, with a little romance thrown in.

Marriage may not need more communication, but a look at the surroundings. Tim Muehlhoff explains this statement in his book, **Marriage Forecasting** (248.8 Mue Marriage). Each chapter tackles an essential principal for a successful, loving marriage. You can take a reading of your marriage on p. 85-88. Then if needed, you may find some helpful solutions to some annoying marital problems. **Marriage Forecasting** is a practical and spiritual guide to help couples obtain or sustain a healthy marriage.



Finding and keeping the love of your life, is the subject of Kevin Leman's book **The Birth Order Connection** (155.9 Leh Marriage). The book is new only to our shelf, but it contains some noted insights on how birth order affects your life. It can help you understand your mate or prepare you for marriage.



Submitted by Carol Corp

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city," he said, "But his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."



The boy asked, "What happened to the flea?"



Dig Deep Into God's Word!

Join a Small Group!

Mondays with the Baker Group: **369-5393**
(every other Monday)

Tuesdays with the Tawfik Group: **369-5102**
(1st & 3rd Tuesday)

Wednesdays with the Erb Group: **369-9733**
Will be meeting the 1st Wednesday of each summer month for a shared meal! Anyone is welcome to join them!

Thursdays with Precept Bible Study: **369-5102**
"Loving God and Others: The Heart of True Faith"
led by Sue Leverton

Thursdays with the Dawson Group: **248-4518**
(meet at members' homes, scheduling as they go)
"The Forgotten God" by Francis Chan

Thursdays with the Hansen Group:
947-2108
They are taking the summer off. Watch for start up date!

Thursdays with the Hubner Group: **821-3804**
Will be taking the Summer off. Watch for start up date!

Fridays with the Don Visel Group: **369-9036**
Taking the summer off. Watch for start up date!

Saturdays with the Walter Group: **369-4072**
They are taking the summer off. Watch for start up date!

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder: **369-9733**
(meets at 8 a.m. at Lena Family Restaurant -led by Suzy Erb)
"Lies Women Believe"

An Open Letter to the Congregation:

As August approaches, we begin planning for the fall here at Lena Free. Many ministries are ongoing, but one in particular begins again in September, our Awana ministry. Did you know that Awana is the **largest children's outreach** to our community at Lena Free? It runs from September to April each school year. Over 80% of the children who attend Awana do not attend our

church and many do not attend any church regularly. We have such a wonderful responsibility to reach these children for Christ!

Many of you may be asking what Awana is....

Awana is a program for children preschool through high school, held in churches all over the world, thus it is non-denominational. The intent of Awana is to share the Gospel message with children, hopefully see them come to know Christ, and have them memorize scripture. Memorizing scripture is key to the program. The children are asked to memorize the verses with the reference.

Each year the newsletter, bulletins, and announcements express the need for more Awana workers. Why? The scripture the children memorize has to be heard from leaders in order for the child to finish his/her book and finishing a book means rewards. (Of course, the child seldom realizes the eternal reward of hiding God's word in his/her heart, but that aspect is there.) If not enough leaders are able to listen to the children recite their verses, the children become discouraged.



*Will you listen to us
say God's Word?*

This article wasn't written to guilt anyone into helping with Awana. What we're asking is that you pray and seek God's will and whether or not reaching the children of today is part of your calling. I have a feeling God is knocking on hearts today to pray, get more information, or just get involved. If that's happening to you, I encourage you to take the next step. Steve and Sue Myers run the Awana program here and would be happy to speak to you at anytime. Tom Paisley, the Elder of Children & Youth and I could also give you more information.

Here is what I know. The children of today are not growing up in the environment we did. They are exposed to more worldly concepts than ever before. We are under attack from the enemy and it's getting more and more intense. Is God calling you to become involved in the war? And if so, where?

Awana is held on Wednesday nights starting in September. The time is 5:30-7pm. Steve and Sue Myers can be reached at 815/563-4599 or myers7017@netzero.com.

In His service for His kingdom,
Talena Wuebbels
Children's Ministry Leader

Schedules for



Nursery - ABF hour 8:45 a.m.

August 7	Donna Hornung
August 14	Christine Woolcock
August 21	Andy/Ginger Hubner
August 28	Rhonda/Tracy Schoeny

Nursery - 10:00 a.m. service

August 7	Natalie/Kirsten Mancosky
August 14	Kris/Kalli Visel
August 21	Tom/Jean Paisley
August 28	Pam/Whitney Becker

Children's Church

August 7	No Children's Church
August 14	Donna Hornung/Taylor Wedige
August 21	Linda Lindstrom/Jerrid Gift
August 28	No Children's Church

Greeters - 10:00 a.m. service

August 7	Bill & Dawn Crichton
August 14	John & Natalie Mancosky
August 21	Byron & Pat Baker
August 28	George & Vee Miller

Ushers for July(* head usher)

10:00 a.m. service

Ron Watson*
Bill Duncan
Dave Becker
Lee Gobeli
Jeff Julius

Hi! I know you all remember me, Mr. Bulletin. I'm playing hide and seek. If you can find me somewhere in this newsletter, and be one of the first three people to call the church office (815-369-5591), you will win a prize! All ages can play along



August



August 4	Vee Clair
August 7	Vicki Kloopping
August 8	Ruby Shultz Isaac Visel
August 10	Mari Conway
August 11	Sally Julius George Visel
August 13	Elise Osterloo
August 14	Becky Dawson
August 18	Laura Holverson
August 20	Bob Curtis Eliot Parks Elizabeth Wuebbels
August 21	Cathy Graham Austin Heinrich Bree Lorenzen
August 22	Marilyn Visel
August 25	Laurie Oberle
August 26	Maddox Thomas Payton Thomas
August 27	Andy Hubner
August 28	Samuel Welch
August 29	Helen Robson Grace Wilson

August



August 1	Steve & Rhonda Bressler
August 2	Andy & Ginger Hubner
August 3	Doug & Kris Visel
August 4	Jeff & Sally Julius
August 7	Peter & JoAnn Kallas
August 8	Chris & Tracie Zimmerman
August 13	Ben & Tammy Duncan Steve & Sue Myers
August 16	Gerald & Barb Wire
August 18	Daryl & Vicki Bennett
August 20	Richard & Nancy Plager
August 25	Pastor Dwight & Kay Bennett
August 28	John & Karen Reed

August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p Baker Small Group	2 6:30a Prayday 6:30p Elder Meeting at Plagers	3	4 7p Families Anonymous	5	6 6:30p Park Service
7 Communion	8	9 6:30a Prayday 7p Elder Meeting	10	11 7p Families Anonymous	12	13 6:30p Park Service
14 Church Picnic at Dodd's Park after worship service	15 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p Baker Small Group	16 6:30a Prayday	17	18 7p Families Anonymous	19	20 6:30p Park Service
21 6p Celebration of Dwight & Kay Bennett's Ministry	22	23 6:30a Prayday 7p Ministry Leaders Meeting	24 7p Youth Group Fall Kick-off	25 7p Families Anonymous	26	27 8a W.O.W. Women's Study at Lena Fam. Restaurant 6:30p Park Service
28 3p S.S. Pool Party at Paisley's (up to 5th grade)	29 : 7p Baker Small Group	30 6:30a Prayday	31 7p Jr./Sr. High Youth Group			

EFC of Lena

720 North Freedom Street
 Lena, IL 61048
 (815) 369-5591
 FAX: 369-4886
 office@lenafreechurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

LENA, IL 61048

PERMIT NO. 25

CAR-RT-SORT

"Be strong and courageous...
 for the **LORD** your God is
 with you wherever
 you go."

Joshua 1:9, NRSV



EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

Summer Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday

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

Church Staff
 Senior Pastor
 Assoc. Pastor of Youth
 Church Secretaries

Sunday School and
 Adult Bible Fellowship
 8:45-9:45 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
 Cathy Graham
 Jean Paisley

Contact us at: office@lenafreechurch.org