



Evangelical Events

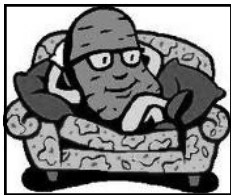
Evangelical Free Church of Lena

March 2011

"Preparing People with Purpose"

From the Pastor's Pen

Over the past five months I have been going through a very rigorous home exercise program. I decided to do this because I wanted to improve my physical strength and cardiovascular health. Several people had recommended the particular program to me, so I decided to try it. I found it to be quite



strenuous at first. At times I wanted to give up the hard work and become a couch potato.

The path of least resistance is always easier and doesn't require much effort. At other times I was motivated to go through the demanding daily routine. Particularly, as I began to see improvement in my physical condition I felt more desire to continue. The reality is that high impact exercise is tough work. Discomfort and fatigue become companions as you go through the early stages of the program. Anyone just beginning physical activity constantly fights the temptation to grumble, complain, and quit. Our bodies seem to relish rebelling against the discipline of exercise.

Paul, in Philippians 2:12 says, ". . . *continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*" At the beginning of this verse Paul addresses the people as "my dear friends." Paul recognizes them as Christ-following friends in the rigorous work that he is doing in spreading the gospel of Christ. Desiring that his spiritual friends join him in the same task, he challenges them to a higher work ethic as followers of Christ. He tells them to work out their salvation. Paul is not advocating here a works salvation or right standing with God achieved by human effort. He is not saying that we can get to heaven by our own good deeds or rigorous religious effort. Rather, he is saying that we are to live out what God is working in us. This is spiritual fitness! Furthermore, we are to do it without complaining or arguing.

What is true in the physical world is also true in the spiritual world. Just as we desire to work out to become more physically fit, so also we should exercise spiritual discipline and "work out" for the sake of the Kingdom of God. So often, when we begin the process our spiritual muscles begin to ache and we

find ourselves fighting the temptation to grumble and complain. The temptation to become spiritual couch potatoes is compelling. What can motivate us to accept the challenge of rigorous exercise? First, Paul reminds us that it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose. Our personal effort and discipline will never be enough. God is working in us to produce the transformation we long for. God does His part by working in us individually. We do our part by working in out in real life. This involves taking initiative to love God and others.



Second, great motivation comes in knowing that there are others joining us in the work. I find comfort in knowing that others are sweating just as much as I am. The command to work it out is in the plural. We are to work out our salvation together. We need each other!

Eugene Peterson says it this way, "*What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was*

living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13, The Message)

May we be energized for the work of His kingdom!

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim



Thank you to my church family for your kind words of sympathy and prayers during Don's illness and passing. The elders and pastors for their visits and prayers while Don was hospitalized and in Lena Living Center. A special thanks to Pastor Jim for his beautiful sermon at Don's memorial service., Jeff Smith for singing "How Great Thou Art". Thank you Cathy for doing such a great job on the bulletins. Thanks to Marilyn Gilmore for organizing the lunch and all who donated the food and the help setting it up.

Thanks again for all your thoughts, prayers, flowers, food, cards and memorial money. It was all greatly appreciated.

Mary Lou Krahmer and family

Egg Hunt News:

- ◆ Please save your STYROFOAM Egg Cartons. We need 50-60 to make Resurrection Egg Sets for the families that attend this year. Drop them off in the office.
- ◆ We still need of volunteers to be on a planning committee for the Egg Hunt. If you would be interested, give Vicki Kloepping a call at 815-443-2554.



Leap of Faith Ministries presents:

Bebo Norman
Sunday, April 17, 4 p.m.
 Freeport Masonic Temple

Tickets:
 \$20. Artist Circle, all others
 \$15.

815-947-3063



We are in need of a Vacation Bible school director or directors for this summer!

We will train you and the dates for VBS are yet to be s

et.

Give Talena Wuebbels a call today!
 (815-233-5549)

We will be having an adult Easter cantata this year. Practice will be Sundays at 4pm beginning March 6. The title is *As Sure As My Redeemer Lives*. Please come and be a part of this wonderful worship experience. Invite others that you know to join.



Student Ministries

30 HOUR FAMINE: EUROPE

Please support our students as they raise money to reach one of the most spiritually dark regions of the world with the Gospel.

More than 800 million people live in Europe, yet less than 2% have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Surrounded by spiritual darkness, Europeans are looking for authentic answers to the questions of life. They want Truth. They need Jesus.

Sadly, missionaries are burning out and leaving Europe in large numbers.

In order to help, our youth ministry would like to help send Gary Wittevrongel (Chadwick) to Hungary. There he will invest in EFCA missionaries, so that they might have a long and fruitful ministry on the mission field.

Famine Weekend

Who: Jr. and Sr. High Students

When: March 11-12, 6 pm Friday – 2 pm Saturday

Where: Evangelical Free Church of Lena

What: 30 hours of fasting, prayer, worship, and community outreach.

Mission: To serve our community and world to the glory of God.



Gary and Sandy Wittevrongel, Europe Division Coach, Reach Global EFCA

Developing, empowering, and releasing missionaries throughout Europe!

<http://www.efca.org/reachglobal/where-we-serve/europe>



Wednesday, March 30, 7 pm

Dare 2 Share Evangelism Training Conference, (Jr./Sr.)

April 1-2, Hoffman Estates, IL (NW Chicago Suburbs)

Cost: \$50, Due March 20

un.
the tour
2010 - 2011
un.cool • un.afraid • un.reached

Missions Morsels



Mark Bowman

Sunday, February 13, we were challenged by missionary, Mark Bowman, to follow God's leading and be willing to take risks. The face of missions is changing around the world, and it was great to hear about Co En Ministries in Japan. It was good to hear that they are now set up to use short-term missionaries to minister with them. Talk to one of the mission team members about exciting opportunities with the Bowmans.



The Bassetts

Sunday, March 13th, we will welcome Tom and Phyllis Bassett. They will be sharing about their ministry in France with all the adults during the ABF hour. Plan to join us for this time of fellowship with one of our dear missionary couples.



Rockford Rescue Mission

April 10th is our turn to minister at the Rockford Rescue Mission. Watch for the sign up sheet on the welcome center and sign up to provide items for the sack lunches we will be packing. We will be packing the lunches right after 2nd service. It

goes pretty fast when we have plenty of hands. 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.



Be in Prayer

Please remember to keep praying for our missionaries. They are facing many difficulties and hardships on their respective fields. They need our encouragement and support. Besides the bits of news here in the newsletter and Sunday bulletins, you can receive their emails or hard copies of their letters by contacting the church office.

The secretaries would be glad to add you to their list. You can also pick up one of their information cards from the Missions table in the foyer. This will help remind you to pray!



Mark and Athlee Bowman Serving in Japan

Mark and Athlee have a new name for their ministry center – CoEn Life – and it encompasses their three areas of outreach; Café CoEn, CoEn English School, and CoEn Community (worship, Bible studies, and outreach). They have a great team to help them including Mika, their café manager, Eby and John, they do English teaching and work in the café, and Andy and Megan, who lead wor-



ship, college outreach, and a moms and tots' class. They'll also be getting a new worker, Becky, to work in Café CoEn from June to November.

Mark will be in the USA until March, completing a six month home assignment that fulfills a requirement between Japan and the USA. This time in the USA has allowed him to visit churches, family, and friends.

March Happenings

Lenten Luncheons

A soup and sandwich lunch will be served promptly at noon.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 9	Lena United Methodist	Pastor Doug Carroll
March 16	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Pastor Art Stees
March 23	Evangelical Free Church	Pastor Jim Erb
March 30	Lena United Methodist	Pastor Ben Rocke
April 6	St. Joseph's Catholic	Fr. Max Striedl, Jr
April 13	St. John's Lutheran	Pastor Rick Bader
April 20	Lena United Methodist (lunch provided by Salem UCC)	Pastor Randy Nicholas (of Salem UCC)



Awana Grand Prix



Plan on coming out to our 10th Annual Grand Prix on **Saturday, March 12**. The children (and their parents) will have worked hard on their cars. Car check-in begins at 9 a.m. Races start at 10:30 a.m. Come out to see how creative they can be with a block of wood and cheer them on. Everyone is invited to watch the races. There will be a snack bar open in the Fellowship Hall.

Congregational Meeting

Plan to join us **Sunday, March 27** for a potluck following the 2nd service. Please bring 2 dishes to pass and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Our spring Congregational Meeting will follow the potluck. Come, find out the exciting things that are happening at Lena Free!



W.O.W. Women's Study

Join us on **Saturday, March 26** at Lena Family Restaurant. At 8 am Suzy Erb leads 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!

Who is My Neighbor?

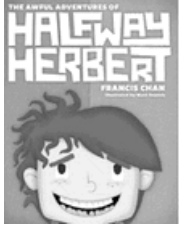
Peter Lovenheim was dismayed by the isolation he felt in suburban Rochester, New York. After a murder occurred down the street, he realized none of the neighbors seemed to know—or care—about one another. The mailman told Lovenheim most people would rather give misdelivered mail back to him than walk it over to the person next door. An elderly woman said she'd once fallen on the street and had to crawl home because no one came to help.

That prompted Lovenheim to engage in a bold experiment: He asked to spend a night at each of his neighbor's homes. Lovenheim documented the results in the book *In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time*.

As Lovenheim and his neighbors go to know one another, they learned that a single mom was being treated for breast cancer. They took her to appointments, brought her groceries, met her daughter at the bus stop after school and even installed a light over a dark staircase. By searching for community, Lovenheim and his new friends helped create it.

Church Library

Francis Chan has written a picture book for children, called **Halfway Herbert**. Herbert, as the title suggests, does everything only halfway, including telling the truth. Herbert's dad reminds him of the Biblical example of not being half hearted. It's a good illustration of Matt. 22:37.



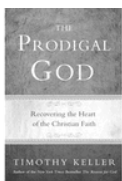
Another Chan children's book is **The Big Red Tractor**. This book is designed to illustrate the Holy Spirit's working in the Christian's life.

First there was **Bringing up Boys**. Now Dr. Dobson has given his expertise in raising daughters in his latest book, **Bringing up Girls** (248.8 Dob parenting). This well known Christian child psychologist discusses relevant subjects for parents of girls. There are some helpful one liners specifically for dads. This is a frank guide to dealing with some serious issues facing today's girls.



C. J. Darlington, author of the novel, **Thicker Than Blood**, features Christy, who is tortured by past sins. Alcohol is her release, but finds it is a chain that binds. Christy hits bottom when she is accused of a crime and her apartment is set afire. Christy's heart yearns for peace, but finds it hard to believe God can bring it to her. This book is a great Christian fiction with an exciting climax. If you're tired of the same old romances, try **Thicker Than Blood**, a great illustration of Godly love and forgiveness. I look forward to more writing from Darlington.

The Prodigal God (226.8 Kel), by Timothy Keller, is a study of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Note there are 2 sons' stories in the parable. Is the parable simple for you? Perhaps there are insights you may have missed, that Keller can point out to you. I found this short book long on wisdom and understanding. Check it out and discover what is hidden between the pages.



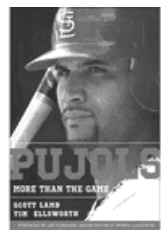
Are you a Neta Jackson reader? We now have the **House of Hope Series** (1-4).



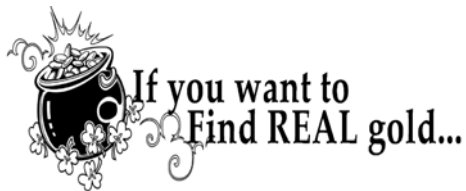
Originally written in 1991, **God is my Delight** (242 Kel), was printed again in 2010. The book was written to express how God taught Keller to find joy in Himself. Keller authored some 35 books. This one opens eyes to God's wonder.

Kim Vogel Sawyer's latest historical novel, **Courting Miss Amsel**, stars Edythe, a one room school teacher in the early 1880's. Edythe is romantically pursued by several men from the small Nebraskan area of Walnut Hill. She thwarts all interest in dating to continue her teaching. Edythe is a welcome relief for the children of Walnut Hill. The former teacher freely used a whip to discipline students. Although loved by her students, her teaching methods are questioned by some of the townspeople, especially when she expresses a desire to hear Susan B. Anthony.

Put away your fiction book and pick up **Pujols, Bigger Than the Game** (92 Lam) by Scott Lamb and Tim Ellsworth. There is no better way to start the baseball season than with a book about a player who is 1st in baseball history to bat .300 for 10 consecutive seasons and has earned the MVP 3 times. Even if you don't love the Cardinals (I pity you), you must respect the 1st baseman who wears the #5, Albert Pujols. What drives Pujols? Read what he says when asked why faith in Jesus is crucial. From humble beginnings, to sports stardom, Pujols has a larger perspective beyond the next home run.



Submitted by Carol Corp



dig into a Small Group!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fridays with the Visel Group:
369-9036 (every other Friday)
"Forgotten God" by Francis Chan

Saturdays 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"



To Our Family at Lena Free,
 Your amazing support and love has blessed us so much. We are in awe at how god has provided for our medical needs. We were impressed with the hospital and doctor staff. Ava got great care and her tests all came back normal. Singapore was a nice change from Papua and we also got to enjoy a few comforts of home like a hamburger and cottage chesse!

Love,
 Zach and Mandy Osterloo

Dear Friends in Christ,
 Sincere THANKS for ALL your prayers for us since May 2009. We still feel your prayers daily. YOU keep us going with your concern, prayers, phone calls, cards, notes, e-mails, love and support. THANK YOU seems so small for all you do and have done for US.
 There is no cure for multiple myloma cancer, however, we are hopeful that someday there will be a cure.
 Habakkuk 3:19 NIV, "the Sovereign LORD is my (our) strength, he makes my (our) feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me (us) to go on the heights."
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Always be joyful, always keep on praying. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, always be thankful, for this is GOD's will for you who belong to CHRIST JESUS."

We love you all through JESUS,
 Barbara and Gerald Wire
 (Pray continuously for one another)

Thank you for the flowers and your expressions of sympathy at my brothers passing.

The Larry Woolcock Family

A big thank you to Ron and Vicki Watson, Jean Paisley, Mari Conway, Suzy Erb and Ward and Becky Dawson for all their work in helping to get ready for the Fondue for You. Your help was appreciated very much. Thank you to all who attended the Fondue for You. It was a great success.

God bless
 Vicki Kloeping, Vee Clair and Vicki Bennett

Schedules

for



Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

March 6 Laurie/Abbie Walters
 March 13 Melody/Samuel Welch
 March 20 Bill/Dawn Crichton
 March 27 Tom/Jean Paisley

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

March 6 Christine Woolcock
 March 13 Rhonda/Tracy Schoeny
 March 20 Kay Russell/Miranda Walters
 March 27 Anyone want to volunteer?

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

March 6 Anyone want to volunteer?
 March 13 Bill/Barb Duncan
 March 20 Diane Oxley/Kaitlin Oberle
 March 27 Ben/Amber Albright

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

March 6 Cindy Smith/Kaitlin Oberle
 March 13 Nancy Plager/Kirsten Mancosky
 March 20 Carol Corp/Jennie Wuebbels
 March 27 Ray/Elizabeth Gable

Greeters - 8 a.m. service

March 6 Matt/Carol Heinrich
 March 13 Carol Curtis/Tracy Schoeny
 March 20 Tom/Jean Paisley
 March 27 Gerald/Barb Wire

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

March 6 Dave/Pam Becker
 March 13 Ward/Becky Dawson
 March 20 Bill/Barb Duncan
 March 27 Merlene Erb/Pam Barton

Ushers for March * head usher)

<u>8:00 a.m. service</u>	<u>10:45 a.m. service</u>
Ken Foltz*	Ron Watson*
Bill Crichton	Boyd Boyer
Richard Plager	Lee Gobeli
Don Visel	Don Hoge
Michael/Samuel Welch	Delvin Trost

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

March 2 Irene Julius
 March 3 Dominick Albright
 March 4 Megan Visel
 March 5 Vicki Bennett
 Merlene Erb
 March 6 Lana Hoge
 March 7 Kaitlin Oberle
 March 9 Kelli Huneke
 March 10 Ben Albright
 Michael Murray
 March 13 Heidi Diffenderfer
 March 15 Brian Hacker
 Alex Packard
 March 16 Brett Anderson
 March 17 Mel Dotson
 March 18 Sue Myers
 Jim Wachlin
 March 20 Mary Ellen Miller
 Lee Turner
 March 21 Zachary Fox
 March 22 Mary Lobdell
 Heather Wilson
 March 23 Doug Visel
 Ron Watson
 March 24 Lee Gobeli
 March 25 Tom Paisley
 March 27 Daniel Erb
 Harold Oxley
 March 29 Richard Plager
 March 31 Jacqie Langguth





Anniversaries

March 1 Dennis & Ruby Shultz
 March 18 Mel & Linda Dotson
 March 23 Michael & Jeanette Murray
 March 31 Brett & Becky Anderson

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
 three people All ages can play
 to find me along with me!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30a Prayday	2 5:30-7p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	3 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	4 7p Holverson Small Group	5 7p The Walters Small Group
6 Communion	7 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	8 6:30a Prayday 7p Elder Meeting	9 12noon Lenten Lunch at Lena UMC 5:30-7p Awana 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	10 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Hansen Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	11 7p Holverson Small Group	12 9a Awana Grand Prix 
13 Bassett's in the ABF hour	14 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	15 6:30a Prayday	16 12noon Lenten Luncheon at Good Shepherd 5:30-7p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	17  9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	18 9:30-11a Family Ties in Fellowship Hall 7p Holverson Small Group	19 7p The Walters Small Group
20	21 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	22 6:30a Prayday	23 12noon Lenten Luncheon at Lena Free 5:30-7p Awana 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	24 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Hansen Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	25 7p Holverson Small Group	26 8a W.O.W. Women's Study at Lena Family Restaurant
27 Potluck after 2nd service followed by Congregational Meeting	28 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	29 6:30a Prayday	30 12noon Lenten Luncheon at Lena UMC 5:30-7p Awana 7p Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 7:15p College Study	31 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous		



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

O LORD
of hosts, HAPPY
is everyone who trusts in
YOU.



PSALM 84:12

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