



Evangelical Events

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

May 2011

"Preparing People with Purpose"

From the Pastor's Pen

To her political foes, Lady Nancy Astor was known as a fierce debater. Her exchanges with Winston Churchill became legendary. She was the first woman ever to hold a seat in the British House of Commons. Being a famous socialite of her time, she was extremely rich and influential. Lady Astor was known as a Conservative Member of Parliament until the time she retired in 1945. She championed the rights of women and children.



Once, Lady Astor and Winston Churchill were both staying at Blenheim Castle while visiting the Marlboroughs. The two politicians had been at each other's throat all weekend when Lady Astor said, "Winston, if I were your wife I'd put poison in your coffee." Whereupon Winston said, "Nancy, if I were your husband I'd drink it."

Once, they were both at a social gathering where Churchill was a bit inebriated. Lady Astor said to him, "Why Winston, you are drunk!" Churchill, with his typical quick wit, replied, "And you are ugly, but I shall be sober in the morning!" On another occasion, Lady Astor was giving a costume ball and Winston Churchill asked her what disguise she would recommend for him. She said, "Why don't you come sober, Mr. Prime Minister?"



Most of us do not have minds that work that quickly. We usually think of the great comeback hours or days after we have had the conversation. We wish that we could say just one thing that would "zing" the other person into silence.

Words are powerful! Who ever came up with the

little proverb "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" was wrong. Words can have a powerfully devastating effect. Words can either build up or tear down. Words can either bring destruction or life to those who hear. While we may be tempted to use cutting words for personal gain, the bigger issue is how to use words for the greater good of our family and society.

I would like to suggest an approach that brings long-term positive benefits. Try encouragement! Perhaps you wonder how encouragement could possibly be more satisfying than zinging someone. Let me suggest a few ways this might be true.

Encouragement brings better results in the long run because it builds up people. An old proverb says it succinctly: "It is easier to attract flies with honey, than vinegar." Affirming the best in others allows the best to surface. By speaking words of encouragement we address the essential need in each of us to feel valued and significant. We actually give people the courage to rise to their potential and be the best they can possibly be. Ella Wheeler Wilcox understood this principle when she wrote, "A pat on the back is only a few vertebrae removed from a kick in the pants, but is miles ahead in results."



Encouragement is a higher standard, one that we should strive to emulate. The Apostle Paul was quick-witted and skilled in verbal disputes. He could have easily relied on his skill with words to promote his agenda, but he understood the power of disciplined conversation. He admonished the

faithful Christians in the city of Ephesus (now in modern Turkey), *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”* The standard is clear: our speech should benefit those who listen.

Encouragement also provides a positive model for our children. What does it communicate to our children when they hear us verbally berating and arguing with each other? What does it communicate about the value of community over personal agenda when they hear harsh words at church? A group of children was once asked, “How can we make our words good for others?” They innocently stated, “Say nice things. Give out compliments. Be cheerful. Tell the truth.” We can learn a great deal from their advice.

For years William Wilberforce pushed Britain’s Parliament to abolish slavery. Discouraged, he was about to give up. His elderly friend, John Wesley, heard of it and from his death bed called for pen and paper.



With trembling hand, Wesley wrote: “Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God?” “Oh be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery shall vanish away before it.”

Wesley died six days later. But Wilberforce fought for forty-five more years and in 1833, three days before his own death, saw slavery abolished in Britain.

Who knows, perhaps your encouragement will make a difference in someone’s life that will lead to long-term positive results. Why not give it a try?

Because He Lives,
Pastor Jim Erb

Inter-Generational Sunday School

This summer we, as a church family, have a unique opportunity to grow closer to one another through a creative intergenerational learning experience! What this means is that families, couples, and singles will all be attending the same Sunday School class together. For the summer only, we will be discontinuing our regular schedule of Adult ABFs and children’s Sunday School to focus on this intergenerational event. Our regular schedule will resume at the beginning of September.

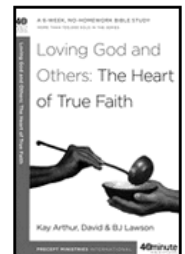


Our focus will be the Ten Commandments using the excellent curriculum from *Desiring God* (John Piper’s ministry). The exception for this will be preschool children because the curriculum we are using is best suited for kindergarten and up. God has placed us together as the family of God in Christ Jesus and this provides us the opportunity to get to know and be blessed by our family of all ages.

We encourage you to participate in this fun, learning environment. If you have any further questions regarding this change, feel free to contact Pastor Jim, Ward Dawson, or Andy Hubner.

Summer Precept Study

Precept will begin a new, shorter class on Thursday, June 2 from 9—10:30 a.m. “Loving God and Others” will help answer the question ‘What does God really want from you?’ It’s easy to get confused about how to please God. *Loving God and Others* looks at how, as you rest in the certain knowledge of what God calls you to, you will be challenged to live these commands out, and discover how obeying Jesus’ simple commands will transform not only your life but also the lives of those around you.



Sue Leverton will be guiding this class and it will go until the end of July. Cost is \$8. per book. If you have any questions, give Amal Tawfik a call at 815-369-5102.

Student Ministries

Several weeks ago a few of our students decided to organize a Sunday afternoon softball game. I have always loved playing a friendly game of softball, so this news made my day. But part of me was skeptical whether we would have enough players to make two teams (Eighteen players). I never would have guessed what I would see as I arrived at the field that afternoon. Well over twenty students out had come out to play ball! And a couple of them were not from our youth group!



This experience caused me to think about how we can reach our neighbors with the gospel. I am convinced that if we are going to love our neighbors, we first need to know our neighbors. This means we need to find creative ways to form relationships with them. As summer approaches, I cannot help but think that Sunday afternoon softball games might just be a great way to get to know youth and parents alike. After all, next to complaining about the weather, baseball is America's greatest pastime.



So I would like to invite parents, students, and church family to join us for some Sunday afternoon softball! This is a great way to spend an afternoon with your kids, as well as connect with other students and parents from our church and community. For upcoming games, see dates below. All games will be held at Dodd's Park.

Upcoming Youth Activities

Sunday May 1, 7:30 PM – Grad Banquet Service

Friday-Saturday May 13-14 – Youth group garage sale at Wilson's. Our teens are pooling together things to sell in order to feed and clothe those in poverty in the name of Christ (Matthew 25:35-36). Items can be dropped off at the Wilson's beginning Wednesday night, May 11.



Friday June 3, 6-10 PM - Summer Kickoff at Myer's Farm. (Volleyball, Campfire, food, night games)

Sunday June 12, 2 PM – Softball at the park: Location: Dodd's Park. Come and connect with youth in our group and community!

Sunday June 26, 2 PM – Softball at the park: Location: Dodd's Park.

Thank you! Our youth group would like to thank everyone who so generously supported us during the 30-hour famine. The students are very excited to help send Gary Wittevrongel to Hungary to equip EFCA missionaries for ministry!

**Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group
meets Wednesday
at 7 p.m.**

Missions Morsels



Rockford Rescue Mission

A big thank you to all who helped pack sack lunches for Rockford Rescue Mission, April 10th. A special thanks to JoAnn Kallas and Marilyn Gilmore who helped me take the lunches that wouldn't fit in the church refrigerator to the empty refrigerator at my house, and also for helping me load them all up again into boxes. Also to the youth who led the worship at the service and to Bill Briggs who shared his testimony and encouraged those who attended.



Helping Honduras

Miranda Walters will be finishing her first short term mission to Honduras soon. She has made the decision to return to Honduras again this fall to work with the Schubert family. If you would like to support Miranda for the fall term, you can make your check out to EFC of Lena and send to this address: Helping Honduras Project, Evangelical Free Church of Lena, 720 N. Freedom St., Lena, IL, 60148



Osterloo's

Around the end of May or so, we will be packing supplies to send to the Osterloos. Please watch for more information in the bulletin.



Happ's

Henry & Marcette Happ, who serve in Costa Rica, have been struggling with illness and the cancellation of their daughter, Meghan's wedding. This has put an emotional strain on their entire family. ReachGlobal mission has asked them to postpone their visits to sup-

porting churches this summer to focus on some much needed emotional rest. They will reschedule at a later date. Please keep them in your prayers.



Sicard's

On May 21-28, Rich Sicard will be taking a Medical team to Honduras consisting of students and medical professionals. They will be working in the capital city of Tegucigalpa in the very poor neighborhoods. They are taking some Over the Counter needs and Prescription meds with them.

_Children's Chewable Vitamins (NOT GUMMY)

_Adult Vitamins

_Tylenol Extra Strength 500 mg

_Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) 200 mg

_Loratadine 10 mg (Claritin)

_Antacid Tablets (Tums, Maalox)

_Zantac or Pepcid

_Naproxen (Alleve)

_Iron

_Nasal sprays both decongestant (Afrin) and Saline Nasal Spray

_Tongue depressors

_Tylenol 325 mg

_Artificial Tear eye drops

_Antifungal creams

_Vaginal Yeast creams

_2x2,3x3,3x4 inch zip top baggies to dispense medications (these can be found at craft stores) Thousands of these items are needed each week. If you would like to help, please bring items to the church no later than May 8. I will take them to his home on Monday, May 9. Questions, contact Rich by e-mail: richsicard@gmail.com.

Tom and Karen Virtue serving in California

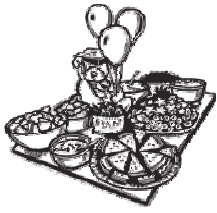


Karen is still recovering from the accident she was in and feeling the after-effects, but she continues to get better and is doing physical therapy.

From April 10 to 16, Tom was part of a training time in Long Beach with 25 of Campus Crusade's young leaders in ethnic ministry from around the

country. Some of the topics they discussed were the nature of God's call, Kingdom, and His hand on someone in leadership, the nature of the Missional Team Leader job in Campus Ministry, establishing a passionate environment for evangelism, and movement launching and building. The groups also spent time talking through what they were learning and what God is putting on their hearts as they lead on their campuses.

May Activities



Grad Banquet

Everyone is invited to join us at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1 for our Grad Banquet Program. We will be encouraging out 2011 graduates as they begin a new stage in their lives.

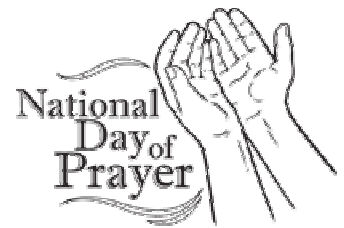
Taking Off Pounds Sensibly

Starting May 2, 2011 and every Monday, the TOPS group will be meeting here at the church. Weigh ins take place at 4:30 followed by the meeting. The group has proven to be an encouragement for those already attending and they welcome new members all the time. Call Barb Wire (815)757-4267 for more information.

National Day of Prayer

Join us at 12 noon on Thursday, May 6 for the Lena area National Day of Prayer. We'll meet at the Lena burial park war memorial. Listed below are other cities:

Freeport: Park Hills EFC at 7 p.m.
 Pearl City: Zion Community Church at 7 p.m.
 Stockton: Stockton Park House, breakfast & prayer at 6:30 a.m.
 Warren: 1st Baptist Church, Wednesday night at 7 p.m.
 Winslow: Town Flagpole at noon



Youth Group Garage Sale

Friday, May 13-Saturday May 14, Youth group garage sale at Wilson's (502 S. Center, Lena). Our teens are pooling together things to sell in order to feed and clothe those in poverty in the name of Christ (Matthew 25:35-36). Items can be dropped off at the Wilson's beginning Wednesday night, May 11.



"Reflections of a Godly Woman" Mother-Daughter Dessert

Plan on coming to the Annual Mother-Daughter Dessert event. It will be held Friday, May 13th at 6:30 PM. Our men will be serving some wonderful desserts and Laurie Walters will encourage us. Plan on having a wonderful night out!

W.O.W. Women's Study

All ladies are invited to join Suzy Erb at the Lena Family Restaurant Saturday, May 28 at 8 a.m. for breakfast and a discussion from "Lies Women Believe" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

Park Services

Every Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, join us at the Hickory Hills Campground Amphitheater for worship and entertainment under the stars. It starts at 6:30 p.m. Below is a portion of the schedule. Watch next month's newsletter for the complete schedule.

May 29 Michelle Rothshadle and LuAnn Jordan
 June 5 Kingsmen Four
 June 12 Love n' Care
 June 19 Dave Rutter



Church Library

Here's a quote from Kay Bennett, "I thoroughly enjoyed **Has Christianity Failed You?**, by Ravi Zacharias" (239.7) Have you read it yet?

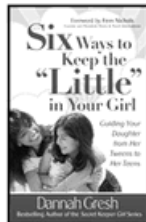
We have some new R.C. Sproul material, all demonstrating the redemption of Jesus. The DVD



The Lightlings is a short allegorical tale only about 7 min. long. There is an accompanying Cd. Two books, **The King Without a Shadow** and **The Priest With Dirty Clothes** by Sproul teach elementary children about Jesus .

If you enjoy fiction and are ready for a little more depth, why not try Davis Bunn and Janette Oke's Biblical novels. **The Act of Faith Series** begin with **The Centurion's Wife** followed by **The Hidden Flame** and **The Damascus Way**. The reader is introduced to Jerusalem, in the aftermath of Christ's crucifixion. The characters come alive with emotion and action. Readers will appreciate the research and insight of Davis Bunn.

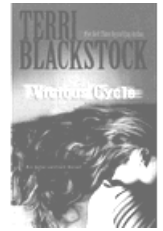
Danna Gresh, author of **And the Bride Wore White** has written a book for moms of little girls. **Six Ways to Keep the Little in Your Girl** (248.8 Gre family), is written to help mothers connect with their daughters. It's a guide to teach girls modesty, inner beauty, and sexuality, just to name a few subjects. The world pressures girls to be anything but virtuous. Perhaps this little book can help parents develop a Godly daughter.



Courting Morrow Little, by Laura Frantz is not a highly spiritual novel, but is jammed with romance and adventure. Morrow, the story's heroine, is shaken by the Shawnee Indian murder of her mother and sister, and the kidnapping of her brother, Jess. Her dad, a frontier pastor, forgives the Indian who changed his life, but Morrow struggles with bitterness over the senseless killing. Morrow's hand in marriage is sought by a number of soldiers, as well as a Shawnee who is a friend of her father. War is often on the horizon and Morrow's safety is in jeopardy. I quickly became engrossed in this entertaining novel from the old frontier.

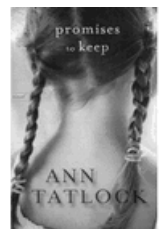
Terri Blackstock's newest novel, **Vicious Cycle**, is an

exciting page turner. You won't get bored reading about Jordan, an addicted 15 year old, who delivered an addicted baby she could not care for. Jordan was befriended by Lance, who landed in jail because of Jordan's accusation of kidnapping. Jordan's mom sells the baby to support her meth habit. When Lance is freed, he is put in life threatening danger when he attempts to save Jordan and the baby. I enjoyed staying up late to read this one.



"When the dream of experiencing now what is reserved for us in Heaven is decisively shattered, and when the shattering is embraced and not fought, either we'll sink into despair or we will hope in God, and wait as faith becomes a firmer foundation and Godly love a way of life." Whew! Think long and hard about this quote from Larry Crabb. Now check out **Shattered Dreams** by Larry Crabb (248.8 Cra). When times are hard and the bottom drops out of your life, perhaps what you read in **Shattered Dreams** will lift you up and aid you in seeing God for who He is, because life is rarely a smooth ride.

Promises to Keep is a novel by Ann Tatlock. You will be endeared to Roz, an 11 year old girl. Roz's mom, Janis moved her family to Illinois in hopes of escaping her drunken, abusive husband Al. Unbeknown to Janis, Al follows the family and is driven at any cost to be united with his family. Roz wants more than anything to have a daddy and seeks to find the good in her dad. Her desire for Al to rejoin the family blinds her eyes to Al's deceit and empty promises. Roz asked an elderly lady, "How do you know you're going to Heaven?" "Well now, was the reply, that all depends on who your father is." Roz was plagued by that thought. She figured her chances of reaching Paradise looked pretty grim. This is a novel true to life with a lesson of God's will is best.



Carol Corp, Church Librarian



Take Your Pick Of our Small Groups

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)
The Truth Project

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)
"The Forgotten God" by Francis Chan

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

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

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 (Lena Family Restaurant in Lena)
"Lies Women Believe" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss



It was a great blessing to be a part of your morning services on Sunday, February 27. The warm and gracious reception on the part of Lena EFC was genuinely felt and appreciated. Your congregation's love for the Word is obvious. The offering that was given in the amount of \$895.00 is evidence of what we consider to be a partnership between the church and the Gideons International in providing God's Word to a lost world. Please know that these funds will be used in their entirety to provide Scriptures in the traffic lanes of life. Certainly we can pray for searching hearts to be touched—and for souls to be saved—by way of these Scriptures.

Thank you especially for your gracious hospitality and your prayerful support of the Gideon work. We pray that you continue to enjoy God's abundant blessings for yourself, your family, and your ministry in the days ahead.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Saul Alexander

A very big thank you for everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. Without your donations of candy, money, baking of cookies, filling of eggs, setting up, running the prize table, etc. the hunt would not have been such a success.

Praise God for all who helped.
The Social Committee

Since my surgery I would like to thank you for all your prayers and get well wishes. Thanks to the church for the beautiful bouquet of flowers, all the get well and speedy recovery cards from friends, Awana staff and children. Also to the bible Study group for the special gift card! It is especially helpful.

God is my strong fortress, he has made my way safe. 2 Samuel 22:33

Christine Woolcock

Schedules for



Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

May 1 Deb Mahon
 May 8 Bill & Dawn Crichton
 May 15 Nancy Plager
 May 22 Nancy Plager
 May 29

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

May 1
 May 8 Dan & Kathy Tsao
 May 15 Christine Woolcock
 May 22 Andy & Ginger Hubner
 May 29 Dan & Kathy Tsao

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

May 1 Ben & Amber Albright
 May 8 Dave & Pam Becker
 May 15 Bill & Barb Duncan
 May 22 Ginger Hubner/Kendra Becker
 May 29 K. Diffenderfer/Diane Oxley

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

May 1 Linda Lindstrom/ Jerrid Gift/Alan Holverson
 May 8 Amal Tawfik/Whitney Becker
 May 15 Talena Wuebbels/Taylor Wedige
 May 22 Cindy Smith/Kaitlin Oberle
 May 29 Nancy Plager/Kirsten Mancosky

Greeters - 8 a.m. service

May 1 Dan & Connie Visel
 May 8 Karl & Hazel Byerley
 May 15 Steve & Sue Myers
 May 22 Dave & Barb Visel
 May 29 Students

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

May 1 Harold & Diane Oxley
 May 8 Boyd & Marie Boyer
 May 15 Tim & Rhonda Schoeny
 May 22 Bob & Judy Gates
 May 29 Students

Ushers for May (* head usher)

<u>8:00 a.m. service</u>	<u>10:45 a.m. service</u>
Byron Baker*	Ron Watson&*
Steve Bressler	Boyd Boyer
John Reed	Bill Duncan
Roger Russell	Joel Kaufman
Doug Visel	Jeff Julius

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

May 1	Don Fox
May 3	Rhonda Bressler Noah Visel
May 5	Jerry Staskal
May 9	Dionne McIntosh
May 10	Mark Diffenderfer Kris Visel Betty Wiederhold
May 12	Jen Alt Amal Tawfik Scott Wilson
May 18	Jackson Corbin Kori Fox Judy Gates Bob Heller
May 20	Dwight Bennett
May 22	Don Hoge
May 23	Donna Hornung
May 25	Larry Alt Alan Holverson
May 26	Verlea Heller
May 27	Sherry Wedige
May 29	Amber Albright April Woolcock
May 31	Christa Gabel George Miller



Anniversaries

May 1	Jim and Eleanor Wachlin
May 4	Bill and Barb Duncan
May 11	Don and Kori Fox Wayne and Elaine Gift
May 24	Ward and Becky Dawson
May 25	Scott and Talena Wuebbels
May 26	Scott and Heather Wilson
May 29	Gary and Deb Mahon

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 with me!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 6p Grad Banquet 7:30p Program	2 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	3 6:30 a Prayday	4 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr & Sr High Youth Group 7:30p College Study	5 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Hansen Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	6 7p Visel Small Group	7
8 	9 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	10 6:30a Prayday 7p Elder Meeting	11 7p Jr & Sr High Youth Group 7:30p College Study	12 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	13 ←Youth Group 6:30p Mother- Daughter Dessert	14 Garage Sale→ 7p Walters Small Group
15 2p Bacalaureate at Salem U.C.C.	16 6:30p Tawfik Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	17 6:30a Prayday	18 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr & Sr High Youth Group 7:30p College Study	19 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Hansen Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	20 Paisley/Zeal Wed- ding Rehearsal 7p Visel Small Group	21 11a Paisley/Zeal Wedding
22 2p Le-Win Graduation	23 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	24 6:30a Prayday	25 7p Jr & Sr High Youth Group 7:30p College Study	26 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	27	28 8am WOW at Lena Family Rest. 7p Walters Small Group
29	30  7p High School Bible Study at the Wilson's	31 6:30a Prayday				



EFC of Lena

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CAR-RT-SORT

"I have been reminded
of your sincere faith,
which first lived in
your grandmother ...
and in your mother ...
and... now lives in
you also."



2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Student Ministries

Jr. High Youth Group
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
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 (815) 369-5591
Jean Paisley (815) 369-5591

Contact us at: office@lenafreechurch.org