

Evangelical Events

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

November 2011

"Preparing People with Purpose"



FALL BACK Don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night, November 5th!



Ladies Retreat at Stronghold Castle
Nov. 11-12
See page 5 for all the

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE LENA AREA CHURCH COOPERATIVE ON PAGE 3!

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wed., Nov. 23
7 p.m.

NOT PART OF A SMALL GROUP?
Why not consider joining in on the learning and fellowship.
Pg. 7 has a listing of all the groups that are ongoing. Won't you join us by giving us a call?

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From the Pastor's Pen

If you weren't in church on Sunday morning what would you be doing? Would you read the paper while sipping your coffee? Would you be out on the course playing golf? Would you sleep in very late? Would you spend the morning getting ready for the upcoming day of NFL games? Would you watch the Sunday morning news programs? Each Sunday morning we decide how we will use our day. The most satisfying and best thing we can do is gather together with those who love God to praise and worship our Heavenly Father.

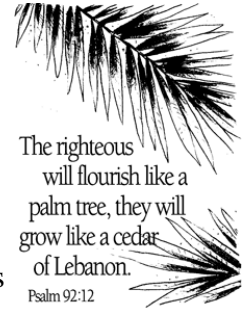


The Psalmist, reminding us of this truth, says in a song for the Sabbath day, *"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!"* (Psalm 92:1-5 ESV)

Thanksgiving happens naturally when our hearts are captivated by God. We can't help but respond with thanksgiving because of the Most High God. This is one of the reasons I love this time of year. Thanksgiving forces us to turn our thoughts from the trials and struggles of life to the things that we are thankful for. So, we begin to think of all the blessings we have in life like health, family, clothing, food, shelter, and the love of God. Notice how the Psalmist loves to declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness in song, accompanied by instruments. Longing and expectation should fill our minds and hearts as we anticipate our Sunday morning worship experience.

What happens when you don't feel this way? What do you do when your mind and your heart are not responsive? When I feel no passion, I confess my

hard-heartedness and coldness of faith. As an act of my will, I praise my Heavenly Father anyway because nothing in this life is more satisfying than praising and worshipping Almighty God. I then begin to steer my thoughts to the ways in which God has worked in the past, to the ways in which He is at work now, and to anticipate the ways He will work in the future.



The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Psalm 92:12

At the end of the Psalm, we find some additional reasons why we should be thankful. We rejoice because God blesses the righteous with strength. In verse 10, the Psalmist says, "You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox." The horn represents strength. When God exalts my horn like a wild ox it means that He gives me strength over the enemies that seek to destroy my faith. I get to experience the peace and well-being that comes with victory. In addition, we rejoice because God blesses the righteous with growth. We

flourish like the palm tree that produces huge amounts of fruit. Palm trees are known for their long life. They stand tall and live long. So, God strengthens his people. We become strong and stable like the cedars of Lebanon. Growing up to 120 feet in height, these cedars are solid, sturdy, and unmoved by the fiercest storms. We get to feel safe and secure in the presence of God Almighty. This knowledge should fill us with joy!

Each week, as you come to worship, be thankful that instead of waxing the car, watching "Meet the Press" or sleeping in, you have the privilege of worshipping our great God. Your challenge is to recognize how God is at work in your world and rejoice in Him! Happy Thanksgiving!

It is good
to give thanks
to the LORD;



to sing praises
O Most High
to your name

Psalm 92:1

Because He Lives,
Pastor Jim

Student Ministries

Recently Michigan State Quarterback Kirk Cousins gave a challenging speech to his fellow players. The main point of his speech was that being college football player is a **great privilege that**



leads to great responsibility.

While Cousins named several responsibilities that come with playing football in the Big 10, one in particular jumped out at me. He said, *"We have a responsibility to represent the name on the front of our jerseys, on and off the field, in such that a way*

that our fellow students, faculty, administrators and alumni have good reason to say . . . He's one of ours. We have a responsibility to represent the name on the back of our jerseys in such a way that our parents, brothers, sisters, and family members have good reason to say . . . He's one of us."

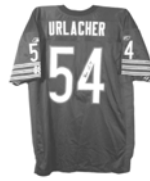
Christians can learn a great deal from Cousin's speech. For the greatest privilege of all is to be a child of God. John writes, "But to all who did receive [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12) We don't deserve this privilege. But by grace, we have been given the right to become God's children. And with this privilege comes great responsibility.



Like a football player who represents the names on his jersey, so too we represent the name of Christ wherever we go. Whether we are in church or outside of church, our goal should be to represent God

in a way that makes Him look great.

We should live our lives in such a way that God has good reason to say, "He/she is one of mine."



How are you doing? Did your words and actions from this week make Christ look great? Where there is great privilege there is great responsibility. Let's represent Christ well wherever we go.

Pastor Scott

Youth Sunday: November 27



Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group
Every Wednesday
7 p.m.

L.A.C.C. Thanksgiving Baskets



The Lena Area Church Cooperative will be putting together baskets for those in need in our area. There are two ways that you can help:

1. We need donations of cool whip for the baskets. Bring to the church by Nov. 20 and put in the freezer in the kitchen.
2. Come and help pack and/or deliver the baskets on Monday, Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m. at the Lena United Methodist Church.

For more information, you can call Joel Kaufman at 815-369-5104.

Missions Morsels

As we near the time of Thanksgiving, I've been thinking about how much I'm blessed. I've always had a bed to sleep in, food to eat, and clothes to wear. I've thought of these things as blessings, which they are. But when Dr. Sammy and Mary Murimi were here, they shared that although the Turkanaland people of Kenya live in extreme poverty in the harshest conditions, they don't think of themselves as poor. They have the greatest treasure of all – Jesus. And they are full of joy. The Murimis encouraged us to be fully committed to Jesus. I hope you had the opportunity to hear them speak.

Miranda Walters

Besides being welcomed back to Honduras by her friends and critters (bugs, snakes, etc.), Honduras' 190th celebration and birthday parties, she is back on schedule. She home schools 4 kindergarten children, Cheynece, Izaak, Krystal and Alex. They have had a good start to this school year, refreshing what they previously learned and moving on, discipline issues which have given Miranda the opportunity to point the kids to Jesus and help them work on their character. Miranda is thankful for your support and prayers.

Ernie and Donna Manges

On Oct. 2, Ernie and Donna were with us. Ernie preached both services and shared during the ABF hour. Donna taught the SS children. Since this time, Ernie has finished training 5 short term missionaries and begun an 8 day training for long term missionaries. Ernie asks for prayer that God would supply funds for a new laptop and air fare for his teaching trip to the Philippines.

Mark and Athlee Bowman

The Bowmans report that new flyers have been printed to be posted at CoEn, explaining its 3 functions as a café; English school, community worship center and opportunities with each. They will begin a monthly children's club which will start with a Christmas event. Classes are in full swing, taught by Mark, Athlee and Megan. Please pray that God will lead the people of His choice to the classes. They ask prayer for Ayaka and other college students who come to the café. The Bowmans are now planning Thanksgiving and Christmas events. Please pray for them to plan in a way that will bring glory to God and share His love with the people there.

Henry and Marcette Happ

Henry and Marcette have made the decision to leave the mission field in Costa Rica and return to the States. The missions team will be making a decision in the near future about what to do with their support. Please be in prayer for us.

Christina Hunter

Christina, daughter of Ross and Mary Hunter, is a senior at Moody Bible Institute this year. She is planning to be here on Nov. 6, and share during the ABF hour about her ministry with Inner City Impact.

Thank you to everyone who made a Faith Pledge to missions. And with your pledge, commit to praying for our missionaries. The real battle is won in prayer.

God's grace and peace be yours,
Linda Lindstrom
Missions Ministry Leader



“Let the Thankful Heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings.”

-Henry Ward Beecher

November Activi-



Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks Back!

Set your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed on **Saturday, November 5th!**

Congregational Meeting and Dessert

On **Sunday November 6 at 6 p.m.** we will be getting together for a congregational meeting. We'll start out with a fellowship time of dessert and prayer at 6 p.m. , followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Reports are available to review at the Welcome Center. Ministry leaders will be on hand to answer any of your questions and concerns. Plan on attending.

Women's Retreat

See important information at the bottom of this page!

Operation Christmas Child

You can help by packing a shoebox filled with small toys and other gifts for a child in desperate situations around the world. Boxes should be labeled **BOY** or **GIRL**, and dropped off at the church no later than **Sunday, Nov. 13**. Questions, call Steve Myers at 815-238-4914.



Wycliffe Banquet

Everyone is invited to attend the Wycliffe Bible Translation Banquet on **Monday, Nov. 14** at Park Hills EFC in Freeport. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. For Reservations and complimentary tickets call Kay Bennett at 815-789-3307.



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Plan to join us on **Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m.** for a time of thanksgiving and communion.

Women's Retreat at Stronghold Castle Friday, Nov. 11-Saturday, Nov. 12

If you need refreshment and encouragement, then plan to join us for a very unique retreat. We will be staying at Stronghold Castle in Oregon, enjoying worship and fellowship together. Our guest speaker is Anne Kooi Tohme from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Our theme is *"From Pauper to Princess."*

We will leave the church Friday at 6 p.m. and have snacks when we arrive at the castle. We will have both breakfast and lunch Saturday at the castle before returning early Saturday evening.

The cost will be \$60. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center. Questions, call Suzy Erb at 815-369-9733, or Cathy Graham at 815-908-1335.



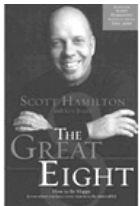
Church Library

Lynn's Austin's latest novel, **Wonderland Creek**, takes the reader back to the great depression of the 1930's. Alice is a young librarian in Illinois who



lives her sheltered life with her nose in a book. When her job is cut, Alice decides to take donated books to an isolated area in Kentucky, where her life takes a drastic change. Her story book world is shattered by no modern conveniences and family feuds. In

Wonderland Creek, Alice learns more about life than any book can reveal. Austin's characters will keep you reading from beginning to conclusion.



Two books that are not newly written, but are worthy of shelf room, are **The Great Eight** and **Beyond Our Selves**. **The Great Eight** by Scott Hamilton (248.8 Ham) was written to help others to live joyfully, even when circumstances give every reason not to.

World renown ice skater, Scott Hamilton is one who climbed the ladder of success, only to be dropped rung by rung as cancer threatened to



take his joy. Scott gives 8 key points of inspiration for meeting life's challenges. **Beyond Our Selves** by Catherine Marshall, (248.8 Mar) is an oldie but goodie classic for defining your life purpose.



Courageous is in the theater, but the book is in the library. It is very much like its predecessor, **Fireproof**. The main characters are cops and their families. It's a fine book for dads who juggle God, career, and family. The book is written by Randy Alcorn.



Forgotten by Melody Carlson, is a book teen girls will enjoy, however I'm not ruling out adult "girls" won't like it as well. Adele is 17 and thrown out of her home. Adele tries to hide the fact to finish high school. Complications set in and Adel's normal world is set into troubled motion.

Forbidden is a 2011 novel by Ted Dekker. Suspense fans of Dekker will want to snatch this one up.

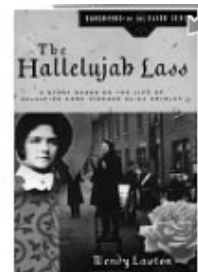
Dancing on Glass is a novel by Pamela Binnings Ewen that illustrates the consequences of a bad choice. Amalise is charmed by Phillip, an unbeliever. Amalise soon discovers that being unequally yoked is a big mistake. Phillip has a manipulative dark side that grips Amalise with fear. When Amalise discovers as \$100,000 insurance policy on her life with Phillip as beneficiary, she realizes it is time to flee. This is a thought provoking novel of suspense.



If you've read Beverly Lewis' **Rose Trilogy**, (book 1 and 2) you'll want to finish the series with **The Mercy**. Join Hen as she cares for Brandon and prays for her failing marriage. When Nick returns, the Amish neighborhood must practice forgiveness and digest the truth of Nick's story. Enjoy your travel back to Lancaster County with **The Mercy**.



Eliza Shirley grew up in England during the 19th century, in an area where poverty and depravity were the norm. Eliza was sheltered by her minister father and genial mother. Eliza attended a revival meeting where she saw a good many lives changed for the Lord by the ministry of The Hallelujah Lassies. From England to the United States, 16 year old Eliza took the Salvation Army, but not without insult or injury. **The Hallelujah Lass**, by Wendy Lawton (92 Law) is the story of Eliza Shirley. Incidentally, I discovered that those ugly black bonnets the women missionaries in the Salvation Army wore, served a purpose. They were made of sturdy fabric to protect heads as they were often hit by protesters throwing objects at them. This is an engaging story of a girl desiring to make a difference for God.



Submitted by Carol Corp



Mondays at 7 p.m. with the Baker Group: **369-5393**
(every other Monday)

"Living the Cross Centered Life"

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Tawfik Group: **369-5102**
(1st & 3rd Tuesday) *Sermon Study*

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Erb Group: **369-9733**
Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday *Sermon Study*

Thursdays at 9 a.m. with Precept Bible Study: **369-5102**
"1 Peter"

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

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Hubner Group: **821-3804**
"When Sinners Say I Do"

Fridays at 7 p.m. with the Don Visel Group: **369-9036**
Meeting every other week. *Galatians*

Saturdays with the Walter Group: **369-4072**
"Wrestling Prayer" by Eric Ludy

Saturdays with the Freeport Small Group **232-7030**
Meeting 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7pm
"Pray Always: What the New Testament Teaches About Prayer"

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder: **369-9733**
(meets at 8 a.m. at Lena Family Restaurant -led by Suzy Erb)
"Lies Women Believe" Chapter 7



To the Dear Church Family of Lena, Your prayers and love have carried us in these days as we watch the hand of God in Paul's home going. Our whole family rests in the Lord wisdom and care. We thank you for the cheer, delivered by the lovely flowers.

Pastor Howard and Lois

A Big Thank you to our church family for all the prayers and the meal card given when we were at UW Madison. There is no better blessing than to be lifted up in prayer. We love and appreciate all of you.

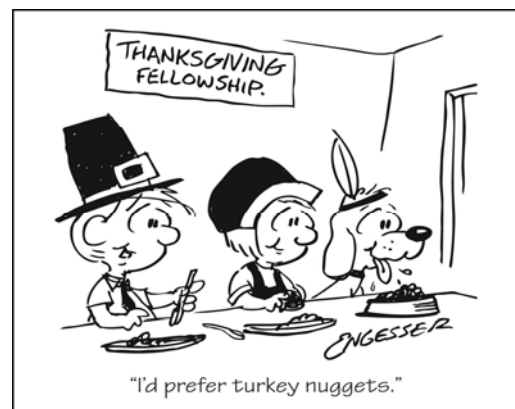
Larry and Jenny Alt

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our church family for the faithful prayers, cards, phone calls and offers of help during Don's recent surgery and recovery. Rejoice with us because of God's grace and power.

Don and Carol Corp

Dear church family,
Heather and I would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, gifts, and meals provided for us in recent weeks. The addition of our twins has been a great joy as well as a great challenge! Because of your help, our load has been lightened and we have been better able to enjoy our time with our kids! God has blessed us with a great church family!

Pastor Scott and Heather



Schedules for



Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

November 6 Nancy Plager
November 13 Tom & Jean Paisley
November 20 Nick & Katy Raab
November 27 Bill & Dawn Crichton

Nursery - ABF hour 9:30 a.m.

November 6 Rhonda Schoeny/Tracy Schoeny
November 13 Christine Woolcock
November 20 Andy & Ginger Hubner
November 27 Volunteers??

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

November 6 Ben & Tammy Duncan
November 13 Bill & Barb Duncan
November 20 Ginger Hubner/Kendra Becker
November 27 Christa Gabel/Amanda Kautz

Children's Church 10:45 a.m.

November 6 Donna Hornung/Kendra Becker
November 13 Linda Lindstrom
November 20 Carol Corp
November 27 Ray & Elizabeth Gable

Greeters - 8:00 a.m. service

November 6 Richard & Nancy Plager
November 13 Steve & Sue Myers
November 20 Dave & Barb Visel
November 27 Pete & Mari Conway

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

November 6 Larry & Christine Woolcock
November 13 Dave & Pam Becker
November 20 Ward & Becky Dawson
November 27 Andy & Ginger Hubner

Ushers for November (* head usher)

8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Byron Baker*	Ron Watson*
Bill Crichton	Boyd Boyer
Richard Plager	Lee Gobeli
Dave Visel	Jeff Julius
Samuel Welch	Delvin Trost



November 1	Deb Mahon
November 2	Natalie Mancosky
November 5	Marlee Andrews
November 6	Mike Corbin
November 7	Marie Boyer
	Ron Oxley
	Don Visel
November 11	Barb Duncan
	Hannah Visel
November 13	Austin Mancosky
November 14	Stephen Heinrich
November 15	Ellie Bower
	Ryan Werhane
November 16	Mary Lou Krahrmer
November 18	Connie Visel
November 20	Cody Wedige
November 23	Daniel Myers
November 24	Matt Heinrich
November 26	Kay Russell
	Scott Wuebbels
November 27	Whitney Becker
	Bryanne Rodriguez
November 29	Jan Parks





November 1	Jerry & Mary Staskal
	Larry & Christne Woolcock



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 6:30a PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group	2 5:30p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group	3 9a Precept Study 6:30p Hubner Small Group	4 7p Visel Small Group	5  Don't forget to turn your clocks back tonight! 7p Walter's Small Group
6 Communion Christina Hunter in the Coffee-house ABF 6p Congregational meeting & dessert	7 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	8 6:30a PrayDay 7p Elders Meeting	9 5:30p Awana 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group	10 9a Precept Study 6:30p Hubner Small Group	11 Women's retreat at Stronghold Castle	12 7p Byerley Small Group
13	14 7p Wycliffe Banquet 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	15 6:30a PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group Leader Re-	16 5:30p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group Source Training	17 9a Precept Study 6:30p Hubner Small Group	18 9:30a Family Ties 7p Visel Small Group	19 8a WOW Lena Family Rest. 7p Walter's Small Group
20	21 7p Baker Small Group 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	22 6:30a PrayDay	23 NO AWANA NO YOUTH GROUP 7p Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 	25 Office Closed	26 7p Byerley Small Group
27 Youth Sunday	28 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	29 6:30a PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group	30 5:30p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group			



EFC of Lena

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CAR-RT-SORT



"I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving."

Psalm 69:30, 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