


Evangelical Events

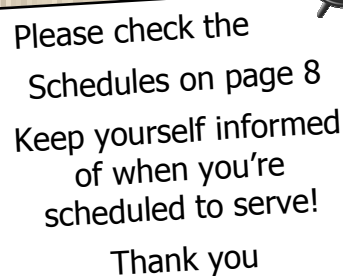
Evangelical Free Church of Lena

January 2012

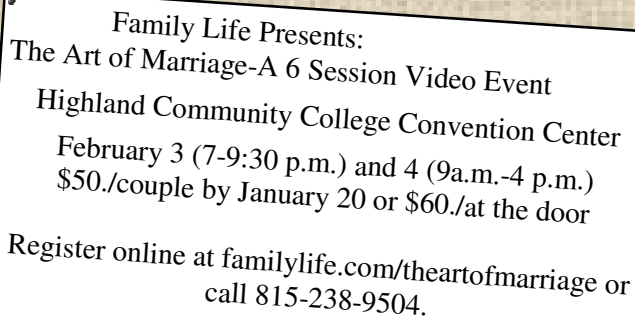
"Preparing People with Purpose"



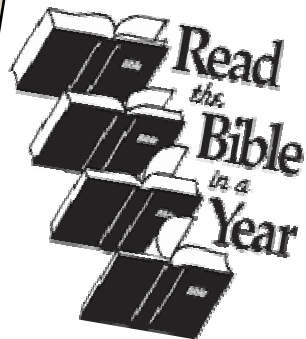
Secret Sister Reveal Tea
 Sunday, January 29 at 2 p.m.
 All 2011 Secret Sisters will be
 revealed as we share gifts,
 food and fellowship!



Please check the
 Schedules on page 8
 Keep yourself informed
 of when you're
 scheduled to serve!
 Thank you



Family Life Presents:
 The Art of Marriage-A 6 Session Video Event
 Highland Community College Convention Center
 February 3 (7-9:30 p.m.) and 4 (9a.m.-4 p.m.)
 \$50./couple by January 20 or \$60./at the door
 Register online at familylife.com/theartofmarriage or
 call 815-238-9504.




**Read
 the
 Bible
 in a
 Year**
 Pick up a 2012
 Bible Reading
 Schedule from
 the Welcome
 Center!

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From the Pastor's Pen

President Theodore Roosevelt was a charismatic leader who made quite an impression on people. One journalist, William Allen White, wrote of his first meeting with Roosevelt in 1897:

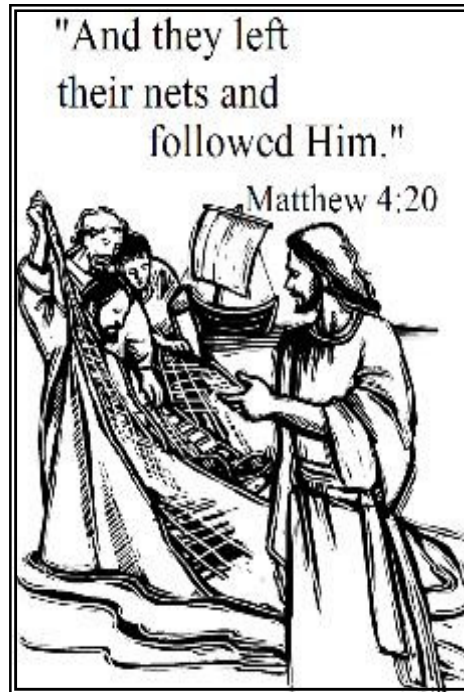
He sounded in my heart the first trumpet call of the new time that was to be.... I had never known such a man as he, and never shall again. He overcame me. And in the hour or two we spent that day at lunch, he poured into my heart such vision, such ideals, such hopes, such a new attitude toward life and patriotism and the meaning of things, as I had never dreamed men had.... After that, I was his man.

If a mere man can have such an effect on another human being, how much more can our Lord impact us? Imagine what could happen if we committed to spending regular time with him in prayer and Scripture. Each day we would find our hearts filled with vision, hope, a new attitude toward life and the meaning of things, and afterwards we too would say, "I am his."

For this to happen, some things will need to change in our lives. In fact, if we want the New Year to be a fruitful, productive year, we must get rid of all entanglements and follow Jesus! The problem is that these entanglements can so easily trip us up. Joseph Stowell in *Following Christ* explains:

"There are moments that significantly test our resolve to be fully devoted followers of Christ. Following Christ is a cakewalk when he leads us through familiar terrain or comfortable passages. But when followership

means that we have to give up something important to us, or it challenges the familiar and comfortable, or it flies in the face of reason or natural instincts, then we find ourselves at a strategic crossroads on our pilgrimage."



It was no different for the first followers of Christ. Would they be willing to follow Jesus at all costs, or would they hold onto the comfortable routines of life? Matthew 4:18-20 records: "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him."

Jesus interrupted the routine of Peter and Andrew. Each work day these two brothers would go through the

same routine. They would get up early in the morning when the fish were feeding. Checking and mending the nets was also part of their routine. Going by boat to areas where the schools of fish were located, they would throw their nets out and draw fish into the boat. Then, they would take that day's catch back to sell. Yet, in the midst of this routine, Jesus disrupts their careers. He says, "Come, follow me." The adventure of pursuing Christ and his kingdom was far more exciting to them, so they let go of their nets and immediately followed him.

What is it that you need to let go of to be a fully devoted follower of Christ this year? What are the nets you need to leave behind? Joseph Stowell says "A net is anything that inhibits or prohibits our non-negotiated commitment to follow Christ." Could it be a relationship that is your net? Could it be your possessions? Could it be *your* plans and dreams? Could it be your pride or fear that is your net? Perhaps it's a secret sin or your feelings of inadequacy. To be a faithful follower of Christ, you must leave behind the comfortable and predictable (v. 20) and the secure (v. 22). You must let go to follow Christ! Letting go means coming to see that pursuing Christ is worth it. We must treasure him more than anything else in life. Ask him to help you!

May this year be the best year for you as a follower of Jesus Christ!

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim

Student Ministries

It's that time of year again. Millions of people are reexamining their lives, goals, and priorities in light of the new year. While kicking bad habits, joining the gym, and getting out of debt are all good aims, there is one goal that every Christian ought to make a priority: Disciple-making.

Consider Jesus' life. Jesus intentionally drew a few men close to himself, so that he could train and mobilize them to lead a disciple-making movement. His strategy was simple. First, He called a few men to **follow** Him (Mk. 1:17a, Mk. 3:14a). Then He trained and equipped them to **fish** for men (Mk. 1:17b, Mk. 3:14b; Lk. 9; Lk. 10). Finally, He called them to **multiply** (Matt. 28:18-20) this disciple-making way of life with others. As His followers, it's good for each one of us to ask, "**How will I make disciple-making friendships a priority in 2012?**"

A friend recently asked me some questions to help plan for disciple-making in the upcoming year. I invite you to take out a pen right now and answer these questions with me in the space below.

What are your God-given spheres of influence?

As you pray through your current spheres of influence, who seems ripe for disciple-making?

Who do you need more time with?

Is God prompting you to invest more time with anyone?

Do you have room in your life to be more intentional with disciple-making friendships?

What current activity or meeting will I specifically eliminate or reduce in frequency to make new space in my life for disciple-making friendships?

Now that you've taken some time to answer those questions, write in the blank calendar below the day (s) you will invest in the those God is laying on your heart.



Let's make 2012 a year of helping others follow Jesus more closely!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Ministry Activities

Winter Retreat '12 - January 6-8, Living Waters Bible Camp



Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group
Every Wednesday

Missions Morsels

Happy New Year! I'm not really good at keeping resolutions, but this year my goal is to be more loving and compassionate and to be more committed to prayer. Would you join with me to be committed to choosing one day a week to pray for our missionaries? They really appreciate our prayers and support. ~ Linda



Tom & Karen Virtue

Tom shares the story of Tanya Palmer, an Irish American, who was involved with Campus Crusade (CRU) as a student and began to reach out to Hmong students that she saw on campus. After Tanya graduated, she became a full time intern on her campus, UW at Stevens Point. Last spring, she went through the distance learning "Epic Movement Launching" course. Through the contact with Epic, she decided to be a full time Epic Intern this year, so Tom became her ministry coach all the way from the L.A. Basin to Stevens Point, WI. Through Tanya's faith and effort, there are now 25 Hmong students involved. This fall, 5 fellow students have come to Christ. You will enjoy a video about a Hmong student who came to Christ and influenced her family.

<http://vimeo.com/31235985>

Katie Myers and Daniel Myers

Katie and Daniel, who serve with the Jesus Film Project, were home for Christmas. Please continually keep them in your prayers, that God would protect them, that the recording equipment will work as it should, that the people who see the film will have open hearts and minds, and that the Lord will be glorified through their work.

Joe and Kim Whitchurch

Joe writes: "I hope this finds you well and connected to a wonderful small group Bible study. The Pharmacy and MBA fellowship studies are going strong as is the Graduate IVCF study. Pray for grad students, faculty and the Whitchurch family to wear out their spiritual armor (Eph. 6), be doers of the Word and not merely hearers (James 1) and to not grow weary in well doing (Gal. 6:9) all to the glory of God." Joe encourages us to keep making Jesus known until He comes. They are grateful for our prayers and support. Many of our missionaries come up short at the end of the year and depend on love gifts to meet their needs. If you would like to donate to Tom and Kim, you can log onto:

[www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Joe Whitchurch](http://www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Joe_Whitchurch)

Rich and Mary Alice Sicard

As of this writing, the International Students and in the middle of finals which is very stressful. Rich and staff had a Christmas party for about 250 attendees. The students heard the story of the True Christmas and the Christmas story was acted out by Internationals chosen beforehand. Each table was hosted by a Christian couple, so there was great interaction. Rich was encouraged after a Med school group meeting. He challenged with a question, "Can you say at the end of the day, that you have lived today like God wanted; like Jesus, who said, "I always do the will of the Father." They started an e-mail string for students to share how their day went in light of the question. The students were digging into the Word like never before. Rich said it was such a blessing and would like to do in again this semester. Rich and Mary Alice are in the red concerning their finances by \$6000. They are trusting God to meet their need. If you would like to help, you may give a love gift at www.InnerVarsity.org and hit <donate to InterVarsity>. Locate 'quick gift' and search for his name, Rich Sicard. Follow the screen directions. Please keep their family in prayer.

Mark and Athlee Bowman

The Bowmans are thankful for those who prayed for their friends, who have suffered with depression and fatigue issues. They share that God is at work in their friend's lives. Please continue to pray for Mr. Nishimoto. Please pray for Mr. Nakagaki, a man who comes to worship from time to time, received Jesus as his savior. He desires to be baptized. He has issues, which appear to be demonic attacks. Pray for healing and stability in his life. On Dec. 10th, they had their first Joy Kids Club at the café with 8 preschoolers and 12 parents in attendance. They hope to mentor the parents to understand Jesus' love and forgiveness and share it with the children as they grow up. The children received a Bible and prayer cards to take home. Please pray for them. They celebrated Christmas Eve with a candle light service and pot luck. On Christmas day, the Bowmans hosted an open house and served cookies and hot drinks in their home. The Bowmans are thankful for our prayers and support.

Linda Lindstrom, Missions Ministry Leader

January Activities

Secret Sister Program

Secret Sisters is a ministry in which ladies have the opportunity to minister, secretly, to other ladies in the church. This is done by praying for them daily, writing encouraging notes, and in other little ways. This is an excellent way for our women to get to know each other. It's open to all women in the church. If you have any questions, please call Cathy Graham at 815-908-1335, or at the church office Wednesday through Friday.



Secret Sister information sheets are on the Welcome Center along with the questionnaire for those who would like to participate. Everyone who participates will need to fill out the form, even those who were involved in 2011. The **deadline for turning in the forms is Sunday, January 29**, after the second service.

Secret Sister Reveal Tea

On Sunday, January 29 at 2 p.m. the secret sister reveal tea will be taking place in Fellowship Hall. All ladies who were a part of the secret sister program this year are invited for an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun as we reveal all the Secret Sister's identities!

W.O.W. Women's Study

All women are invited to join Suzy Erb for breakfast at the Lena Family Restaurant on Saturday, January 28 at 8 a.m. They will be discussing topics from "Lies Women Believe" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.



...continued from page 7

Thank you to all who shared with us in our loss of Rich's sister with cards and words of comfort. She was a very special sister and aunt to our family and will be missed.

In gratitude—Rich and Nancy

Thank you "St. Nick" for the Bible Study book. I'm faithfully reading and studying my way through. The CD is great. I feel I'm in God's refining fire and in His love and mercy. He sends friends like you to encourage and give insight.

Thanks again—Nancy

Thank you to the church and our church family for the plant, cards and many prayers during the loss of Ron's dad, Glenn. Also for the works of encouragement, concern and prayers during Glenn's illness in the months prior to his passing. We shall always remember your comforting expressions of sympathy.

With a very heartfelt Thank You—The Family of Glenn Watson

Church Library

Chase away those January blahs with a good book from the church library. Here are some new suggestions:

Be the first to read Joel Rosenberg's **The Tehran Initiative**. It's Rosenberg's latest novel of intrigue. I confess I have not been able to read it yet, so let me know how you like it. Those of us who enjoyed the **Twelfth Iman** will want to follow up with this novel of the Middle East conflict.

So Shall We Stand is book 2 in Elyse Larson's **Women of Valor** series. W.W. 2 is still raging and secrets make Nella's life miserable. The marks of gen-try and commoners are clearly drawn in England. Nella works in the Land Army and discovers the death of Rufs, an American soldier, appears to be murder more than suicide. Nella is determined to find the truth of Ruf's death. This entangles her further into danger. Larson makes a surprise turn in the story when Nella and Annie are kidnapped. A trusted family reveals themselves as Nazis and the plot thickens. This book is a keeper.

Kim Vogel Sawyer's latest novel, **A Whisper of Peace**, entails two missionaries in Alaska in the latter 1800's. Clay desires to preach to an Indian village and works diligently to build a mission building for that purpose. Clay becomes disappointed when his building is finished, his sermon prepared, but no one came for him to preach to. Clay's life is further complicated by his heart's desire for a native woman who was ex-communicated from the village. Clay wrote his father, a seasoned missionary, that he needed tips on how to reach people for Jesus. Clay's father's answer is a lesson for us all.

Shattered Dreams by Irene Spencer (92 Spe), is a book you will not soon forget. Spencer is an ex mor-man who was a polygamist wife. Her true story is one of abuse, poverty, neglect, and faith in a hopeless religion. It illustrates that one can be sincere, but sincerely wrong. Spencer's autobiography will grip you from the start.

A trip back to the Smokey Mountains to bury her 3 year old daughter, begins childhood memories for Sandra Onchuck. Travel back to the '50's - 60's in Appalachia country in North Carolina. What Sandra lacked in material goods did not affect her spiritual treasure. Read Sandra's account of grace and comfort in **Mud Pies Memories** (92 On). It's a living scrap-book of one woman's journey with Jesus.

In 1989 college student, Chai Ling took center stage in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China to protest lack of freedom. She demanded government reform. **A Heart for Freedom** (92 Lin), by Chai Ling is her story of the fight for freedom and mission to end Chinese one child policy. By the time Chai Ling was 10 years old, she cared for her 2 siblings, went to school, and planted a garden, while her soldier parents were absent for a year. She was taught religion was a poison. Her 4 abortions haunted Chai Ling, where she found no freedom from that guilt. The meaning of life was outside her grasp until she met Jesus. **A Heart for Freedom** is a true account of a Chinese girl desperate for freedom and hope.

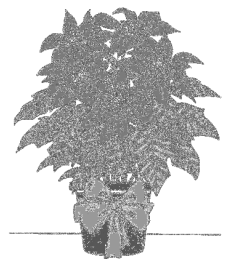
Submitted by Carol Corp, church librarian

Blooming Success

My husband was serving as interim pastor in a church, and we moved into the parsonage. The poinsettias by the fireplace, I noticed, still looked as cheery and welcoming as they had during our first visit several weeks ago. So I carefully put a saucer under each and watered them, hoping to keep them beautiful a little longer.

That very day, a kind church member brought us cookies and took note of my efforts: "You're not watering those artificial plants, are you.?" -

Lois Westlund





Join one Of our Small Groups!

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)
"Have the Funeral" by James MacDonald

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

**Call any of the numbers listed and get more information
about joining their Small Group!**



Thank you church family for your prayers, beautiful plant, cards, food and phone calls.
A special Thank you to our small group for the gift card.

In His Grip,
Byron Baker

We love belonging to this congregation. The love, support, understanding and the ability to share with you all our prayers an knowing God hears us and answers is the best blessing, 2nd ONLY to be saved. We love y'all.

Jerry and Mary Staskal

To my family at Lena Free, to those who demonstrated the love of Jesus Christ, thank you.

Your prayers, tenderness and presence have been offered to heaven as a fragrant and pleasing aroma before the throne of Christ. Between the illness and death of my dad in June and the loss of my brother in December, each kind word and prayer has been more effective than any of us will know this side of heaven. The flowers sent by the church were a powerful testimony to my family. To those faithful saints who made the long trips to Rockford to support me both times at the funeral service—may God bless you 10 fold more than you blessed me. For those who prayed for the ultimate healing-SALVATION – your reward IS in heaven.

I rejoice in the faithfulness of God, the assurance of diligent prayer and the knowledge that the Christ we celebrate coming on the 25th was, is and will be more than any desire.

Rejoicing in the Cross
Pam Barton

For all that helped out with the Adult Christmas Party and the Soup and Sandwich before caroling—THANK YOU.

Everything you did was very much appreciated, we really could not have done it without you.

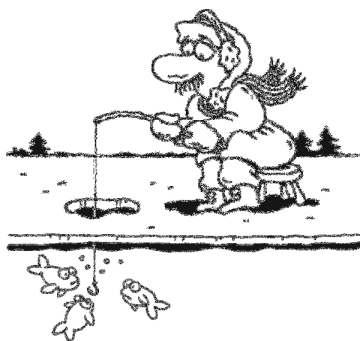
Social Committee
Vicki K, Vee Clair and Vicki B.

We want to thank you for your prayers for our mom during her transition home! We feel really blessed. Also, thank you for the plant, it sure is pretty.

Mike and Jeanette Murray

Thank you notes continued on page 5

Schedules for January



January 1

10 am Nursery:

10 am Children's Church: Linda Lindstrom

Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

January 8	Brett & Becky Anderson
January 15	Bill & Dawn Crichton
January 22	Natalie Mancosky/Kristen Mancosky
January 29	Deb Mahon

Nursery - ABF hour 9:30 a.m.

January 8	Christine Woolcock
January 15	Ginger Hubner
January 22	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
January 29	Donna Hornung

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

January 8	Ben & Tammy Duncan
January 15	Ginger Hubner
January 22	Sherry Wedige/Taylor Wedige
January 29	Ben & Amber Albright

Children's Church 10:45 a.m.

January 8	Nancy Plager
January 15	Donna Hornung/Kendra Becker
January 22	Linda Lindstrom
January 29	Carol Corp

Greeters - 8:00 a.m. service

January 8	Joel & Maralee Kaufman
January 15	Roger & Vicki Kloepping
January 22	Karl & Hazel Byerley
January 29	Students

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

January 8	Bob & Judy Gates
January 15	Bill & Barb Duncan
January 22	Jeff & Cindy Smith
January 29	Students

Ushers for September (* head usher)

8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
*	Ron Watson*
Steve Bressler	Boyd Boyer
John Reed	Bill Duncan
Doug Visel	Lee Gobeli
Dave Visel	Jeff Julius



January 2	Dave Becker
January 3	Jeff Smith
	Todd Welch
January 6	Kay Bennett
January 8	Rob Graham
January 9	Mae Trost
	Mariah Visel
January 13	Barb Visel
	Jennie Wuebbels
January 14	John Folgate
January 19	Kip Martens
	Katie Myers
January 20	Taylor Wedige
January 22	Steve Bressler
	Jean Paisley
January 23	Jolene Martens
January 24	Grace Fox
	Roger Russell
	Laura Tsao
January 27	Sarah Siefken
January 29	Arlene Green
	Bill Hills
	Talena Wuebbels
January 30	Ward Dawson
January 31	Russell Wire



January 10	Bob & Judy Gates
January 14	Ian & Amanda McIntosh
January 20	George & Vee Miller



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	2 Office Closed 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons 7p Baker Small Group	3 6:30a PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group	4 5:30p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group	5 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymus	6	7
8	9 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	10 6:30a PrayDay	11 5:30p Awana 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group	12 9a Precept resumes 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	13 7p Visel Small Group	14 7p Walter Small Group 7p Byerley Small Group
15	16 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	17 6:30a PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group	18 5:30p Awana 6:30p Erb Small Group 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group	19 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	20 Family Ties 9:30a 7p Visel Small Group	21
22	23 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	24 6:30a PrayDay	25 5:30p Awana 7p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30 College Study Group	26 9a Precept 6:30p Hubner Small Group 7p Families Anonymous	27	28 8a WOW 7p Walter Small Group 7p Byerley Small Group
29 2p Secret Sister Reveal Tea	30 7p High School Bible Study at Wilsons	31 6:30a PrayDay 6:30p Tawfik Small Group				

EFC of Lena

720 North Freedom Street
Lena, IL 61048
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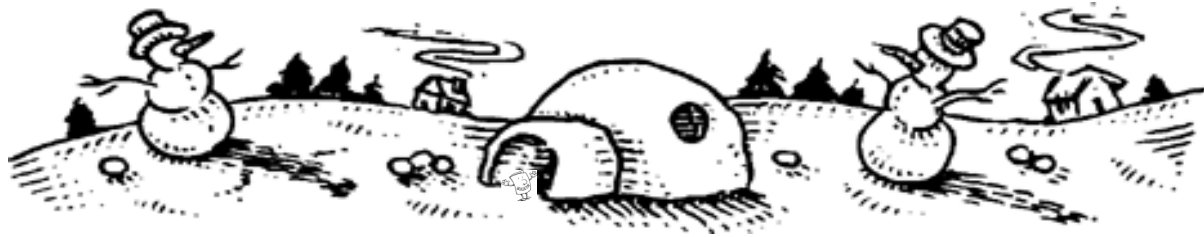
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CAR-RT-SORT



“As long as the earth
endures, seedtime and
harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease.”



Genesis 8:22

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

Sunday Worship Service

8:00 and 10:45 am

Sunday School and

Adult Bible Fellowship

9:30-am

Student Ministries

Jr. High Youth Group

Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Awana Clubs Age 3 - Grade 8

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

September - April

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Assoc. Pastor of Youth

Church Secretaries

Jim Erb

(815) 369-9733

Scott Wilson

(309) 371-4645

Cathy Graham

Jean Paisley

Contact us at: office@lenafreechurch.org