



Evangelical Events

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

November 2010

"Preparing People with Purpose"

From the Pastor's Pen



It occurred to me recently that this year marks our 30th year as a church. So, I went back to my archives and reread what I wrote as I thought about our 25th anniversary celebration as a church. I share some of these same thoughts with you because they are amazing relevant with where we are as a church today!

Thirty years ago God was working in Lena in amazing ways. A group of people began meeting together at the Lena State Bank in the summer of 1980 because they had a vision! Their vision was to see a strong, evangelical church started in town. They knew what they needed to do and were filled with great motivation and enthusiasm to make it happen. God began to put all the pieces of the puzzle together for them as they stepped out in faith. Over the next months, meetings with District officials were scheduled, discussions about the type of pastor they needed were held, and land was donated. God blessed this fledgling group with a common purpose and vision. They believed that the *"strength of our church lies in the individual membership, and their love and concern for one another, but most of all, the common bond of Christ."* Their purpose began to crystallize as they realized they were called to establish a beachhead for the personal proclamation of the gospel to the entire area by evangelizing the unsaved, edifying those who know Christ, equipping each believer to be strong in the faith, and by enlisting as workers all who will serve Christ!

During this time of thanksgiving, let us remember where we have come from so that we can set the course for where we should be heading. The original

trajectory of this church was right on target. Evangelizing, encouraging, equipping and enlisting are all ingredients for a strong, healthy church. This vision has not been an easy one to implement. Our history in past years has been filled with many mountain top experiences as well as times when we walked through the valleys of despair. Yet, God has been so faithful to us. He has walked with us, strengthened us, given us courage to keep walking forward, poured hope into our weary souls, and brought us to where we are by His mercy. We have much to thank God for over these years!

Our challenge is not to stay locked in the past (either the good or the difficult), but to look to the future and all that God has for us. Paul, in Philippians 3:13, 14, says, *"Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven."* This race of faith is a team effort – it takes all of us working together to make it happen. Are you straining? Are you looking forward to the prize that God has for you? Can we work together to accomplish His purposes in this generation? God has uniquely called the Evangelical Free Church of Lena to do something in this region that no other church can accomplish.



"...I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize..."

He blesses us with life and strengthens us so that we can make a difference in the lives of others. Our challenge is to reconnect with this purpose and vision in the next twenty five years.

Let us give thanks to God for His great blessing to us and let us not forget where we have come from. Let's praise Him for helping us get to where we are. But, let us keep moving toward where He is calling us by faith and courage.



ever dare to ask or hope. May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen."
Ephesians 3:20, 21

"Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim



To our special Church family,
Sincere THANKS for all your prayers, notes and cards, phone calls and concerns for us over the past year!

Yes, Gerald has been on chemo for 1 year (Oct. 30, 2009). We praise God for this journey and are grateful YOU all have helped us along the way. As of October 19, Gerald begins a new regime of two new pills for four days and chemo once a week for six week intervals. So...we ask that you please continue praying and praising for continued treatment journey. Thanks so much for being a prayerful, concerned church family. God bless each of you as you seek to serve the Lord right where you are located.

Barbara and Gerald Wire



Question - how do you eat an elephant
Answer - One bite at a time.

Many thanks to our church family for the lovely surprise reception for our 50th Anniversary. We received so many beautiful cards and gifts. Special thanks to Vee Miller and her great kitchen helpers. It was all so beautiful. We have been truly blessed with 50 great years and a wonderful Florida vacation with our family.

In Christ,

Karl & Hazel Byerley

Dear Friends at Evangelical Free,
Thank you so much for the lovely autumn flowers you sent after my surgery. They are still beautiful and I enjoy the vivid colors. It's nice to be remembered by friends when we have these little bumps along life's road. I also enjoyed the visit with pastor Dwight and Kay.

Love in Christ,
Mary Ellen Miller

Thank you for the lovely plant. I am on oxygen now and gaining my strength back. Your prayers are appreciated.
John Folgate

Women's Retreat at Stronghold Castle November 12-13

Do you need to be refreshed, not just physically, but in your mind, spirit and soul as well? Then join us for a very unique retreat. We will leave the church Friday at 6 p.m. and have snacks when we arrive at the castle. We plan to address the following areas of our lives and how to restore them: Soul, Body, Mind and Spirit. We will have both breakfast and lunch Saturday at the castle before returning early Saturday evening.



"God Our Strength"
Mark 12:30

The cost will be \$60. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center.

Questions - call Suzy Erb at 815-369-9733
Cathy Graham at 815-908-1335.



Student Ministries

When you think of the word “idolatry”, what comes to mind? Perhaps you think of statues made of wood, stone, or metal that people bow down and worship. Or the word idolatry may conjure up images of ancient pagan cultures or places such as India. But could it be that our culture is also filled with idols?



Yes. Just look around and you will see that our culture is flooded with them. After all, the human heart is an idol factory.

An idol is anything that is more important to you than God. They are things that we will make great sacrifices for to be with or have. Should we not possess them, we will feel like life is not worth living. And the reality is that anything can be an idol. A person, an object, or even an idea can rule your life.

Since idolatry is so pervasive in our culture, our youth group has been going through a teaching series entitled “Counterfeit Gods”. Throughout this series we are examining the idols most predominant in teen culture. So far we have examined the idols of relationships, dating, body image, and material possessions. In the future weeks we will be examining the idols of sports, academic success, and technology. These idols, like all others, cannot be merely put aside or overcome with will power. They are attached to the heart and therefore need to be expelled from



the heart. But how can this happen? Our idols can be expelled from the heart when we replace our love for them with a love for Jesus Christ. There is no one greater or more deserving of our affection than Him. He is the only one that can set us free from the enslaving nature of idols.

Take a moment and ask yourself, “Am I worshipping idols?” Here are some questions to help you uncover possible idols in your life.

What do I enjoy the most?

What do I spend the most time doing?

Where does my mind drift to when I don’t have anything to do?

What am I most passionate about?

What do I spend my money on?

What makes me angry when I don’t get it?

What do I feel depressed without?

What do I fear losing the most?

What we love the most will determine what we worship. And there is no one more worthy of our love and worship than our God. May the aim of your life be to love Him alone with all your heart, soul, and strength.

Pastor Scott

Announcements

Combined Youth Ministry Event: Jr. High and Sr. High students are invited to come to a joint youth ministry event on November 19th from 6pm to 9:30pm held at First Baptist Church in Freeport. We will be joining First Baptist and Mt. Morris Evangelical Free Church youth groups for a night of pizza, games, worship, and special message. Departure time is at 5:30 pm.

High School Bible Study - Mondays, 7 pm at the Wilson's
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group - Wednesdays at 7 pm

Missions Morsels



Osterloo Care Package

We are once again collecting money and/or items for a care package to send to Osterloos. Watch the bulletin for more details, or call Mae Trost, 369-4422 if you would like to donate. We will be sending it before Thanksgiving, with prayers that it will arrive by Christmas. The postage will be paid for from the missions budget, but we need your help to fill the box.



Piercing the Darkness 2011

We have had a very exciting Missions Awareness Month, with special speakers and our Faith Promises. As of this writing we have \$36,040 of our Faith Promise goal of \$39,000. PRAISE THE LORD!!! If you have not turned in a faith promise card and would like to it is not too late. We are praying that God will bring in the rest of our goal.



Chinese Scholars

We enjoyed the weekend with Rich Sicard and our Chinese visitors. Many were interested in hearing

more about Jesus! Many also brought their children. Thanks to Ron Fluegel, were able to tour the Adkins Ethanol Plant on a very warm Saturday. We got to watch combining and filling a semi at Linda Lindstrom's farm as well as a short bus ride into one of Gary Mahon's corn fields. A HUGE thanks for all the work done by Pam Becker, Linda Lindstrom, Marilyn Gilmore, Diane Oxley, and Mari Conway for all their work to make this week-end a success.



Honduras

Please remember to be praying for Ken and Sandy Foltz, Zach Walters and the rest of their team. They leave on November 2 for a one week trip to help the Schubert's and Casa de Luz. They will have a chance to see Miranda while they are there. Then Miranda will fly home with them. It will be good to see Miranda while she works on getting her new visa for her next 3 months.

Mae Trost

Missions Ministry Team Leader

Ben and Jeanne Beckner serving in France

Ben and Jeanne are now with International Messengers as their new U.S. sending agency. It was an answer to prayer for them, as they move towards expanding the ministries of their French nonprofit agency, Francais sans Frontieres. From mid-September to mid-December, Ben and Jeanne are in the Rockies in Libby, Montana, where they are participating in the training program at IM's Mountainside Missionary Training Center.

They are praying for a smooth transfer to IM in the coming months. They will be returning to France on January 5, 2011, where Ben will be working on missions trips to North Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe in 2011



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

In years past, there has been a **Thanksgiving meal** served here at the church. This year, that family has asked that someone else have the opportunity to show God's love to the community. Pray about this and call Mae Trost (815)369-4422 for more details.

November Happenings

Be sure to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday, November 6 when you go to bed. Don't want to be too early for church!

Congregational Meeting

On **Sunday November 7 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 will be available to review at the Welcome Center. Ministry leaders will be on hand to answer any of your questions and concerns. Plan on attending.

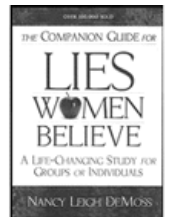


Women's Retreat

Join with the ladies of the church at a retreat **Nov. 12-13**. It will be held at Stronghold Castle. Together we will be refreshed both physically and spiritually. We plan on leaving church at 6PM on Friday and return early Saturday evening. Cost is \$60. Questions - call Suzy Erb @ 815-369-9733 or Cathy Graham @ 815-908-1335.

W.O.W. Women's Study

Women of Wonder meets at Uncle Bob's Restaurant in Lena at **8 a.m., Saturday, November 20**. All ladies are welcome any time. Come and enjoy encouragement and fellowship over breakfast with Suzy Erb as she shares from Nancy DeLeMoss's book *Lies Women Believe*.



Let's Decorate Together

On **Sunday, November 21st** the decorations committee is planning a fun time for decorating the church for the Christmas season. Mark your calendar and plan to join us. After second service we will have a finger food potluck luncheon followed by a decorating party.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Plan to join us on **Wednesday, November 24 at 7 p.m.** for a time of thanksgiving and communion.



Church Library

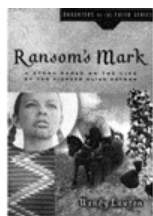
Do you have a comfortable faith or a radical faith? Do you have a relationship with Jesus that is total abandonment of self? These are addressed in

Radical (261.1 Pla), by David Platt. The purpose of this writing is to point out that many of us unknowingly have turned from Jesus' purpose for us. **Radical** challenges the reader to live in such a way that they are dependent on and desperate for the power only God provides. Platt's book gives examples of those who take radical risks to worship and obey God's word. **Radical** certainly is not warm and entertaining, rather

it reveals many spiritual smokescreens the average Christian hides behind. Quite frankly, I often found the contents most uncomfortable to contemplate. If you are not serious about obedience to Christ, you need not pick up the book. If you put little importance in world missions, you must read **Radical**. I dare you to take the 5 part challenge on P. 185. Whatever you do, please, please, do not allow this orange and black book to gather dust.

Historical fiction and Lynn Austin make a great pair. **While We're Far Apart** takes place in Brooklyn during W.W.2. It centers around Esther, a young teen and Jacob, a Jewish widower. Both loose faith in God's power. Esther's mother dies and her dad joins the army, leaving Esther and her younger brother in the care of a friend, Penny. Esther treats Penny like a servant despite all Penny's efforts to provide a loving home.

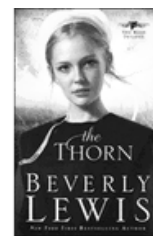
Anger toward God looms in Jacob and Esther's lives, as God's silence continues during the Nazi oppression. Fear gripes Jacob for his family in Hungary. Readers quickly get involved with Austin's characters. Austin's research of W.W.2 is evident. Don't miss it.



Have you ever read the story about the pioneer, Olive Oatman? **Ransom's Mark** (92 Law), is a short 135 page story based on Oatman's life, by Wendy Lawton. The Oatman family headed west from Illinois in

the mid 1850's. Some of the family never reached the west. Olive and her sister, Mary Ann were captured by Indians. Hardship follows the girls and just staying alive is a challenge. The girls find themselves ransomed by a chief's daughter. They must wear the Mahave tattoo on their chins to stay alive. For Olive, the tattoo has another meaning. The Christian message is clearly stated in **Ransom's Mark**.

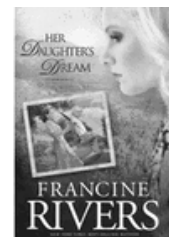
Beverly Lewis has written **The Thorn**, book one in **The Rose Trilogy**. The Amish novel contains unrest in the Bishop's family, as their adopted son rejects Amish ways. Hen left her Amish roots to marry outside her faith. A disappointing marriage causes her to yearn for her Amish family. Rose becomes engaged to an Amish young man, but her heart goes out to another.



Thus begins a peek into Amish living, Lewis style.

Book 2 in the **John Smyth Mystery Series**, **Desolation Highway**, by James Coggins is even better than the 1st in the series. I certainly did not guess who did it in this one. Christianity plays a large part in the character of Smyth, an editor who gets involved with murder cases. Follow up with book 3, **Mountaintop Drive**.

The Daughter's Dream by Francine Rivers is more interesting than her previous book, **Her Mother's Hope**. This deeply moving novel is filled with the self sacrificing of 3 generations of mothers, whom are never credited for their love. Rivers writes that many situations in the book are based on her family history. This is quality Christian reading that will keep a reader interested from start to finish. I hope you enjoy it as I did.



Carol Corp, church librarian



TAKE YOUR PICK OF OUR SMALL GROUPS!

Mondays with the Baker Group:
369-5393 (every other Monday)
 American Heritage DVD series

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

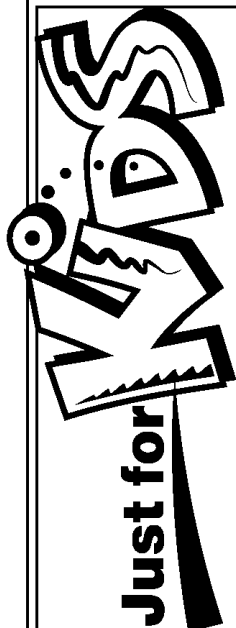
Thursdays with the Hubner Group:
821-3804
"Crazy Love"

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

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

Saturdays with the Walter Group:
369-4072 (Every other Saturday)

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder:
369-9733 (Uncle Bob's Restaurant in Lena)
"Lies Women Believe"



He gave thanks

This Thanksgiving, you may share a special meal with family and friends. Do you remember the time when Jesus shared a meal with thousands of people and gave thanks?

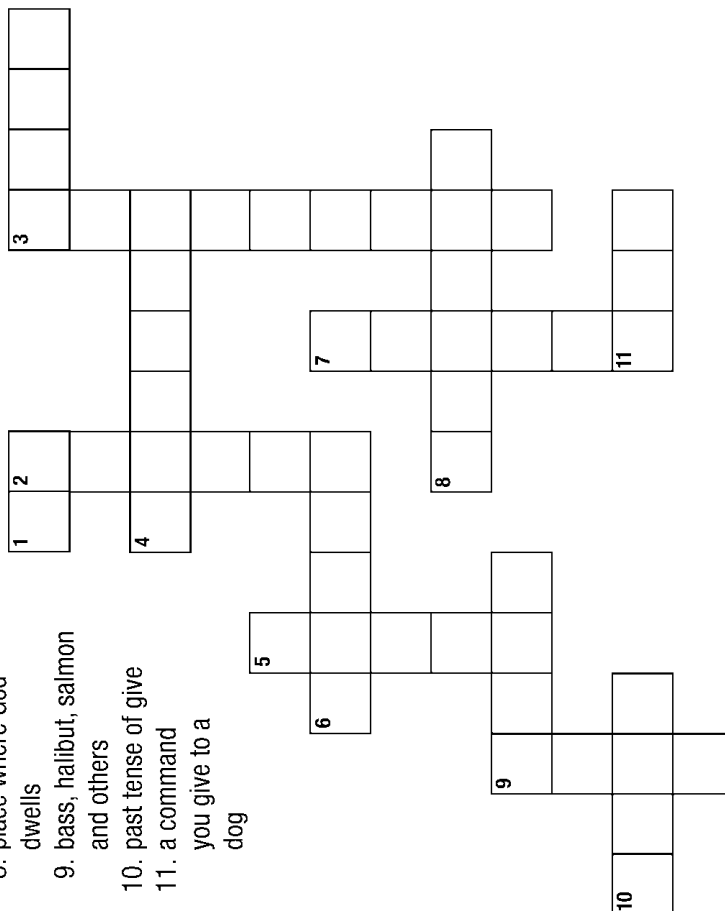
Use the clues to find important words from Matthew 14:19 (NIV).

Across

1. opposite of down
3. opposite of up
4. more than one loaf
6. penniless
8. place where God dwells
9. bass, halibut, salmon and others
10. past tense of give
11. a command you give to a dog

Down

2. another name for humans
3. twelve of Jesus' closest friends
5. what a lawnmower cuts
7. _____ giving
9. odd number after 4



Schedules for



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

November 7 MelodyWelch/Sam Welch
November 14 Nancy Plager
November 21 Chris/Laura Holverson
November 28 Bill/Dawn Crichton

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

November 7 Rhonda Schoeny/Tracy Schoeny
November 14 Dan/Kathy Tsao
November 21 Andy/Ginger Hubner
November 28 Christine Woolcock

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

November 7 Sherry Wedgie/Taylor Wedgie
November 14 Bill/Barb Duncan
November 21 Andy/Ginger Hubner
November 28 Kathy Diffenderfer/Diane Oxley

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

November 7 Amal Tawifk/Whitney Becker
November 14 Cindy Smith/Kaitline Oberle
November 21 Carol Corp
November 28 Nancy Plager/Kirsten Mancosky

Greeters - 8 a.m. service

November 7 Peter & JoAnn Kallas
November 14 Steve & Sue Myers
November 21 Dave & Barb Visel
November 28 Pete & Mari Conway

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

November 7 Gary & Sally Schroeder
November 14 Dave & Pam Becker
November 21 Ward & Becky Dawson
November 28 Andy & Ginger Hubner

Ushers for November

<u>8:00 a.m. service</u>	<u>10:45 a.m. service</u>
Byron Baker *	Ron Watson *
Paul Hansen	Rob Graham
John Reed	Bill Duncan
Doug Visel	Dave Becker
Larry Woolcock	Jeff Julius

*head usher

Birthdays

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 Krahmer
November 18	Connie Visel
November 20	Cody Wedgie
November 23	Daniel Myers
November 24	Matt Heinrich
November 26	Kay Russell
	Scott Wuebbels
November 27	Whitney Becker



Anniversaries

November 1	Jerry & Mary Staskal
	Larry & Christne Woolcock

Hi! I'm Mr. Bulletin
I'm hiding somewhere
in this newsletter.

Be one of the first three people
to find me and call the church
office (815-369-5591),
and you will win a prize!

All ages can play
along with me!



Across: 1. up, 3. down, 4. loaves, 6. broke, 8. heaven, 9. fish, 10. gave, 11. sit
Down: 2. people, 3. disciples, 5. grass, 7. thanks, 9. five

CALENDAR



EFC of Lena

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

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CAR-RT-SORT



"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks; your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds."

Psalm 75:1, NRSV

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