



Evangelical Events

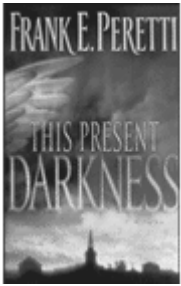
Evangelical Free Church of Lena

October 2010

“Preparing People with

From the Pastor’s Pen

Piercing the Darkness is the theme of this year’s Missions’ Awareness Month. For those of us who were around in 1988, we remember it as the name of the second novel written by Frank E. Peretti. Peretti received notoriety among evangelical Christians



with his first novel *This Present Darkness*, which sold over 2.5 million copies worldwide and remained on the Christian Booksellers Association top ten best-sellers list for over 150 consecutive weeks after its release. Peretti sought to make the hidden reality of the spiritual world real to

Christ-followers by painting a literary picture of what might take place in the unseen spiritual realm. I remember being profoundly impacted by *This Present Darkness* as Peretti vividly described the power of prayer and the unrelenting assault of our enemy. I wanted to pray more, fight the fight of faith more, and put on God’s armor more as a result of this novel.

These novels, however, were not without controversy on a theological and biblical level. Peretti wrote these as novels, therefore he used his sanctified imagination to describe the battle between angels and demons. Wikipedia reports, “*Authority figures within the disciplines of Christian missions, such as A. Scott Moreau and Paul Hiebert, detect a dualist cosmology in the novels that is influenced by Zoroastrian and mystery religion myths. These critics also argue that the novel’s depiction of angelic-demonic combat and spiritual warfare techniques is tinged with animist ideas.*” What this means is that Peretti subtly conveyed the idea that God and Satan are equally powerful on this earth, locked in mortal combat. Their minions, both angels and demons, are slugging it out to determine who

will be victorious. Dualistic cosmology is not theologically and biblically accurate.

Scripture teaches that there is no other God but Yahweh. Isaiah 45:18 proclaims, “*For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’*” Yahweh has no other equals. Nothing in this universe can stand before His awesome power and holiness, not even Satan. Satan is a created being, formed by God as one of His most magnificent angels. Pride, however, drove Satan to rebel against God in heaven, taking one-third of the angels with him. He was cast out of heaven by God and sent to the earth to have temporary authority so that God’s eternal plan of salvation could be implemented. Why would God do this? He did it so that the nations could see His glory displayed more brightly. Isaiah 60:1-3 declares, “*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*



For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” This great promise is ultimately fulfilled in the Church, those redeemed by the power of God through the resurrected and victorious Son of God.

*Arise, shine,
for your light has come,
and the glory of the
LORD rises upon you.
Isaiah 60:1*

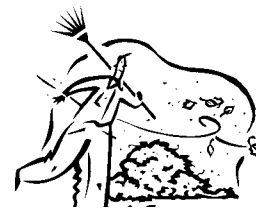
As we think about God’s glory and the advancement of His Kingdom through mission, let’s not forget who the Sovereign of the universe really is.

He is Jehovah, our mighty God.
He is the One who challenges His Church to march forward triumphantly against the darkness and unbelief of this world. He is the One who promises *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18). Let His light drive away all fear and darkness, knowing that *"he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."*



Because He Lives,
Pastor Jim

Rake N' Run Saturday, Oct. 30



Plan to take part in this very important outreach to the community on **Saturday, October 30 at 8:30 a.m.** We will gather and descend upon the community, rakes in hand. We will rake the lawns of people who may not be able to do their own and let them know we are doing it for the love of our Lord. If you know of someone, please put their name and address on the sheet at the Welcome Center and also sign up to help.

Chinese Scholars



Welcome Guests

Partnering again with Rich Sicard who ministers to scholars and students at the UW-Madison, we once again have the opportunity to host Chinese Scholars October 9-10. If you're interested in being a host family, helping this ministry in other ways, or would like more info, call Pam Becker at 815-369-

4656.

Directory Update:

Shelia Terhaar
6756 N. Rink Road
Lena, IL 61048
email: sheilanboys@aol.com
815-266-9859

Urgent Need:

Larry and Jen Alt are in desperate need of a single person or couple to live at their home and care for their animals. The rent and utilities will be paid by the Alt's in exchange for caring for the property and the animals. Larry and Jen both are OTR drivers. If you have any questions, or would like to do this,

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.

The cost will be \$60. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center beginning October 17.

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

Mark Your Calendars!



**"God Our Strength"
Mark 12:30**

*"Love the Lord your
God with all your
heart, soul, mind
and strength."*

Student Ministries

The small town of Nazareth was abuzz at the news of Jesus' homecoming. The little boy they watched grow up had become a celebrity throughout Galilee. And he was finally coming back to town! Excitement was in the air. People filled the town synagogue to hear Jesus teach. But little did they know His teaching would cause their excitement to turn to rage. The person they so willingly accepted quickly became the One they rejected.



In Luke 4:14-30 we read the account of this story. Jesus came into his hometown, entered the synagogue and read to the people Isaiah 61:1-2, which described the ministry of the Messiah. Immediately after reading this prophecy, Jesus shocked everyone by saying, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." In other words, "I am the Savior of the World."

Here's where the story begins to go sour. In light of Jesus' disclosure that He is the Messiah, the people respond by saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" (4:22) You can almost imagine them saying things like, "How can Jesus be the Messiah? We've known him since he was an infant!" "Jesus used to come over and play with our kids. There's no way one of my kid's friends is the Savior of the world." These people are very familiar with Jesus. They are his family, friends, and neighbors. And their familiarity with Jesus is the reason they begin to reject Him as the Messiah.

Familiarity with Jesus is a common problem for church kids. While it is a blessing to grow up in a Christian family and a Gospel-centered church, our youth can easily confuse *knowing* Jesus with *knowing about Jesus*. Like the people in Nazareth, our kids can easily fail to see the reality of who Jesus really is.

We want our youth to be amazed by Jesus. We want them to know that He is not simply a person to be studied, but the Son of God who is to be believed, obeyed, and worshiped. So let's model to our children a passionate faith. Let's pray for them, study God's Word with them, and ask them questions about their beliefs. You may want to ask them questions such as, "What do you believe about Jesus? Do you see evidences of genuine salvation in your life? What are your motives for reading the Bible, praying, and going to church? Are you amazed at the grace of God?"



As you make disciples in your home, guard yourself and your children against becoming familiar with Jesus. And always strive together to stand in amazement of our great Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Scott

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

Missions Morsels

- Helping Honduras: There are a few projects we can work on for the Schuberts and Miranda. They include Spanish children's Bibles, CD's with Bible memory songs, and maybe some VBS supplies. If you are interested in helping get these things together, either individually or as a Sunday School class see Mae Trost. Please don't purchase anything on your own – these are specific needs. This is a great way to reach out to Honduras.
- This is the time of year we start thinking about our missions program and Faith Promise for the next year, but it is also important to remember our faith promises for the current year. Thank you for your faithfulness to fulfill your faith promise pledge for this year. We are behind for the year, but trust God that He will provide all that we need.
- We are excited about Missions Awareness Month this year. There are many exciting things planned for the first 4 weeks of October. It was also exciting to kick off this time with a concert of prayer the last Sunday of September. Please be in prayer for all that God is going to do

Piercing the Darkness

Missions Awareness Month 2010

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

October 3 - Tom Virtue, one of our missionaries with Campus Crusade for Christ will be here sharing God's Word in both services.

October 9, 10 - Our annual visit from the Chinese Scholars from the UW Madison will be here with Rich Sicard. They will be with us on Sunday in the Coffeehouse ABF hour and worship services.

**Following the 2nd service we will be able to spend more time with them during an all-church potluck in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring 2 dishes to pass - 1 hot, 1 cold. Table service and beverages will be provided. (Singles, only bring 1 dish)

October 17 - Short-term missionaries from our congregation will share what God did through them and for them during their trips this past year during the ABF hour.

October 24 - Jim Snyder from TouchGlobal will be with us during both services.

FAITH PROMISE

As of this writing, we are still working on the proposed budget on which we base our Faith Promise goal. Please be in prayer, as we are, for God's direction and timing so we can present you with a goal by October 3.

Mae Trost 815-369-4422 or 815-238-3638

Ross and Mary Hunter serving in Ecuador

Ross and Mary praise God for finding housing in Riobamba. They'll be renting a house from Christian owners, with a 6-month lease to begin with. They are going to be moving the beginning of October, and a friend from the States is coming to help them out with the move. They are still being pressured to get out of the apartment



they are currently in before that time, but the law gives them until the end of October to leave. Ross and Mary are looking forward to moving to Riobamba and their continuing ministry there and also hope to soon make new contacts. They are in need of an increase in support, as it is low, and moving has added additional expenses.



October Happen-

Chinese Scholars

Partnering with Rich Sicard, who ministers to scholars and students at the UW-Madison, we once again have the opportunity to host Chinese guests on **Oct. 9-10**. If you're interested in being a host family, helping this ministry in other ways, or would like more information, contact Pam Becker (815-369-4656), or Mae Trost (815-369-4422).

Chinese Scholar Potluck

Join us after the 2nd service on **Sunday, October 10**, and visit with the scholars during and all-church potluck. Please bring 2 dishes to pass - 1 hot, 1 cold (singles, only bring 1 dish). Table service and beverages will be provided!

Monday Night Football

Men, join us at the home of Dan Visel (644 N. Quail Drive, Lena) on Monday, **October 11 at 7 p.m.** for the Vikings - Jets game. Bring some snacks along and enjoy the game together!

Church Hay Ride

Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday, **October 23, at 5:30 p.m.** for hot dogs, chips and a Hay ride! Everything will be provided, but please bring your lawn chairs. We'll be roasting the dogs out back of the church in the fire pit, go on the hayride (smaller children must be accompanied by an adult), then come back to the church and roast marshmallows!

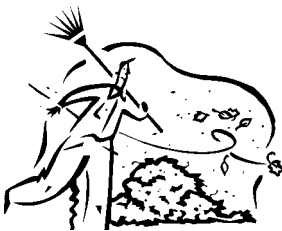


W.O.W. Women's Study

Women of Wonder meets at Uncle Bob's Restaurant in Lena at **8 a.m., Saturday, October 23**. All ladies are welcome any time. Come and enjoy encouragement and fellowship over breakfast with Suzy Erb as she shares from "Bloom Where You're Planted."

Senior Dinner

Tuesday, **October 26 at 11:30 a.m.** Seniors (those 50 years plus) from our congregation and surrounding area will be treated to a wonderful meal and entertainment.



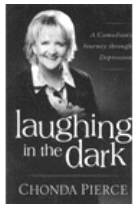
Rake n' Run

Plan to take part in this very important outreach to the community on **Saturday, October 30 at 8:30 a.m.** We will gather and will descend upon the community, rakes in hand. We will rake the lawns of people who may not be able to do their own and let them know we are doing it for the love of our Lord. If you know of someone, please put their name and address on the sheet at the Welcome Center and also sign up to help.

"Faith working by love' is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection." -John Wesley

Church Library

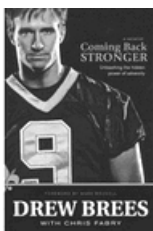
Did you know: Christians can suffer from depression? There is scripture concerning depression? 20% of people suffer from depression yearly? The queen of comedy struggles with depression?



Laughing in the Dark (616.85 Pie), by Chonda Pierce is a book that takes the reader through her journey of depression. Chonda speaks openly of the dark side she experienced during mental illness, and the hope of recovery. This book can be a help for those battling depression and for those who want to help someone who is depressed.

Betrayal, by Randall Arthur is a book about a missionary Pastor who ruined his life by abandoning his family and God. He became devastated when the good times ran out and he could find no one to forgive him. This novel portrays all too well the effect of sin. It also shows sadly, how some Christians will offer no help to the down and out. This realistic story is not new, just recently acquired. You will find it hard to close the cover once you open the pages.

As football season is here, fans will want to read the inspiring biography of Drew Brees, quarterback for the N.O. Saints. Drew experienced what every quarterback tries to avoid- a severe shoulder injury. Brees battled to make a come back against all odds. Drew's attitude of a glass half full and his faith in God brought him through difficult situations. God was molding him into the person God wanted Brees to be. New Orleans needed a come back, as did the Saints. Drew Brees inspired the city and the team to do just that, right up to winning the Super Bowl. Read about Drew Brees in his book, **Coming Back Stronger** (92 Bre).



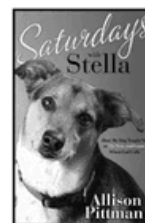
We have a new DVD. **Letters to God** is a story based on the true story of an 8 yr. old boy named Tyler. Tyler wrote prayers to God while he battled cancer. The letters produce hope and courage, not

only for Tyler, but many others also. Number 3 in the **Song of Alaska series**, by Tracie Peterson is on the shelf. **Twilight's Serenade** continues the saga of Britta and Yuri. Britta returns to Sitka, Alaska only to find Yuri married, but gone. Yuri's wife dies in childbirth and Britta takes charge of their 2 little girls. Britta is faced with an opportunity to play in an orchestra in England. Moreover, the conductor has offered her his hand in marriage. Britta realizes going to England would close the door to her relationship with Yuri and the girls. When Yuri returns to Sitka and shows no love for Britta, she must make her decision.



If you read Christian romances, chances are you'll want to check out **The Silent Governess**, by Julie Klassen. The setting is in the early 1800's. Olivia finds herself on the run for a crime she didn't commit. Olivia is caught trespassing and is forced to work as an under nurse for a wealthy family as a result. The family has secrets Olivia must not reveal. A disheartening chain of events causes Olivia to run from her position and a forbidden love. Freedom, she discovers comes from many sources. I enjoyed this one.

Dog lovers will want to take **Saturdays with Stella** (248.4 Pit), by Allison Pittman, home. Pittman faithfully took her dog, Stella to obedience school every week for 6 weeks. I'm not sure who learned the most, Stella or Allison. God used the lessons at obedience school to teach Allison some practical truths. We can all put to use the lessons Pittman learned about obedience to the master. This is a short inspiring book you can read in an evening.



Submitted by,
Carol Corp



FALL INTO A SMALL GROUP!

**There is something for
everyone
Give a call and JOIN in!**

Mondays with the Baker Group:
369-5393 (every other Monday)
American Heritage DVD series
(see how Christian the founding fathers were)

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"

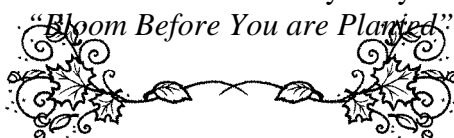
Thursdays with the Hubner Group:
821-3804 Watch for start up date!

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

Fridays with the Don Visel Group:
369-9036 (every other Friday, beginning Sept. 10)
"Forgotten God" by Francis Chan

Saturdays with the Walter Group:
369-4072 Watch for Start-up date!

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder:
369-9733 (meets at 8 a.m. at Uncle Bob's
Restaurant in Lena -led by Suzy Erb)



Thank You Notes

Thank you for your kind words of sympathy, food provided, flowers, plants, memorials, and any part you may have had in easing our loss of Mom Russell. She was called Grandma by many, and she enjoyed your visits. Thank you for making her part of the church family. Our sorrow is replaced with gladness knowing she is with our Lord.

Roger and Kay Russell
Brandon and Jessica Russell, Ella,
Ireland, Ashlen
Jacey and Justin London, Trey
and Maya
Brock (B.J.) and Jennifer Russell

Dear Church Family,
We are so incredibly blessed to be a part of this body of believers, who help carry us through difficult times! Thank you for sending flowers to the Memorial Service of Sheldon L. Myers, my father. Thank you to Cathy, Jean, and the entire staff at Lena Free for making the memorial service something to remember despite the very sad circumstances. Thank you to all who brought food or worked in the kitchen during the memorial luncheon. You are all so appreciated!

Thank you, Pastor Jim, for telling the truth so eloquently and for giving up an evening to meet with our entire family to plan the service. You have such an excellent way of bringing people together. Thank you Shokry and Amal for caring for our entire family by inviting seven of us into your lovely home for lunch on Sunday. Your kindness really touched our hearts on this most difficult day.

Thank you to all who sent cars, flowers or prayed with us! We have felt so loved and cared for by our Lena Free Family!

With Love and Appreciation,
Ward and Becky Dawson

Thank you very much for the delicious picnic you provided for Lena-Winslow faculty and staff. It was a wonderful gesture of community togetherness on your part. Thank you for all you do for our community!

Sincerely,
Lena-Winslow High School Faculty

Thank you to my church family for the beautiful flowers, calls and cards you all gave me after my car accident. God was watching over me and protecting me that day and has truly blessed me with all your care and concern.

Thank you again and God Bless,
Vicki Kloepping

Schedules **OCTOBER** for

Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

October 3	Brett/Becky Anderson
October 10	Melody/Sam Welch
October 17	Kris/Kallie Visel
October 24	Natalie/Kirsten Mancosky
October 31	Deb Mahon

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

October 3	Rhonda/Tracy Schoeny
October 10	Christine Woolcock
October 17	Kay Russell
October 24	Dan/Kathy Tsao
October 31	Ginger Hubner

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

October 3	Carol Curtis/Diane Oxley
October 10	Kelli Huneke/Kaitlin Oberle
October 17	Ben/Amber Albright
October 24	Ben/Tammy Duncan
October 31	Ginger Hubner/Heather Wilson

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

October 3	Carol Corp
October 10	Donna Hornung/Kendra Becker
October 17	Youth teaching
October 24	Elaine/Jerrid Gift
October 31	Talena Wuebbels/Taylor Wedige

Greeters - 8 a.m. service

October 3	Chris & Laura Holverson
October 10	Dan & Connie Visel
October 17	Paul & Kim Hanson
October 24	Karl & Hazel Byerley
October 31	Students

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

October 3	Brett & Becky Anderson
October 10	Bill & Barb Duncan
October 17	Wayne & Elaine Gift
October 24	Donna Hornung/Vee Clair
October 31	Students

Ushers for October(* head usher)

<u>8:00 a.m. service</u>	<u>10:45 a.m. service</u>
Byron Baker *	Ron Watson *
Karl Byerley	Dave Becker
Bill Hills	Rob Graham
Don Visel	Andy Hubner
Todd Welch	Tim Schoeny

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

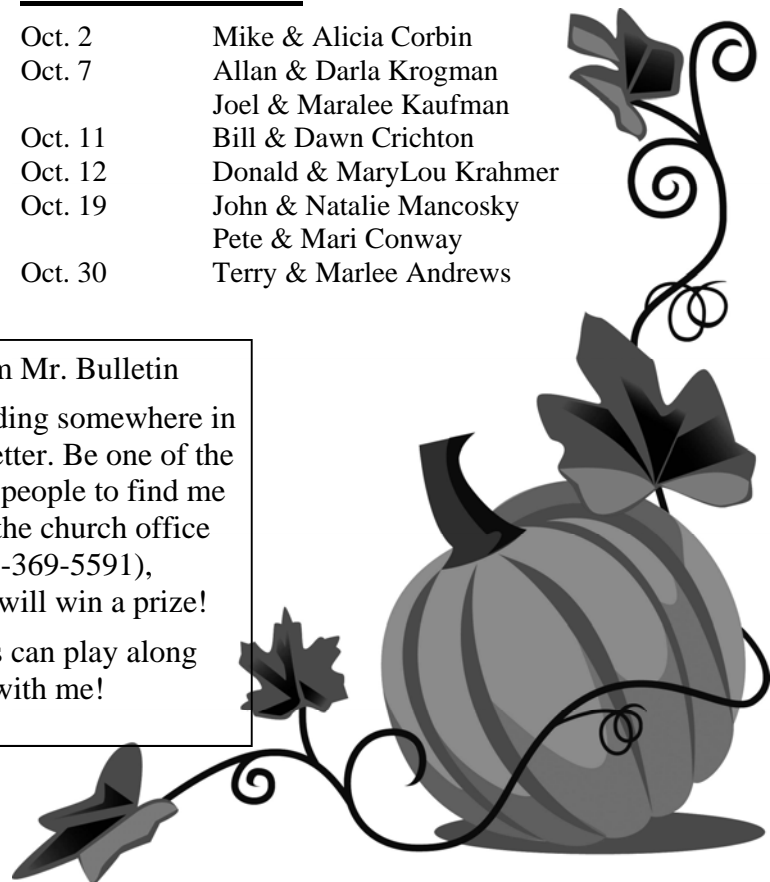
Oct. 2	Isaac Tsao
Oct. 3	Alexis Albright Chase Huneke Caleb Visel
Oct. 5	Tim Schoeny Mark Visel Rebekah Visel Barb Wire
Oct. 6	Tracy Schoeny Christine Woolcock
Oct. 7	Tammy Duncan Kalli Visel
Oct. 10	Suzy Erb Max Parks
Oct. 12	Roger Kloepping
Oct. 14	Jeff Julius
Oct. 15	Ethan Gift Kylie Zimmerman
Oct. 16	Gerald Wire
Oct. 21	Steven Conway
Oct. 26	Isabelle Cropper
Oct. 27	Diane Oxley
Oct. 30	Jason Huneke

Anniversaries

Oct. 2	Mike & Alicia Corbin
Oct. 7	Allan & Darla Krogman Joel & Maralee Kaufman
Oct. 11	Bill & Dawn Crichton
Oct. 12	Donald & MaryLou Krahermer
Oct. 19	John & Natalie Mancosky Pete & Mari Conway
Oct. 30	Terry & Marlee Andrews

Hi! I'm Mr. Bulletin
and 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!



CALENDAR



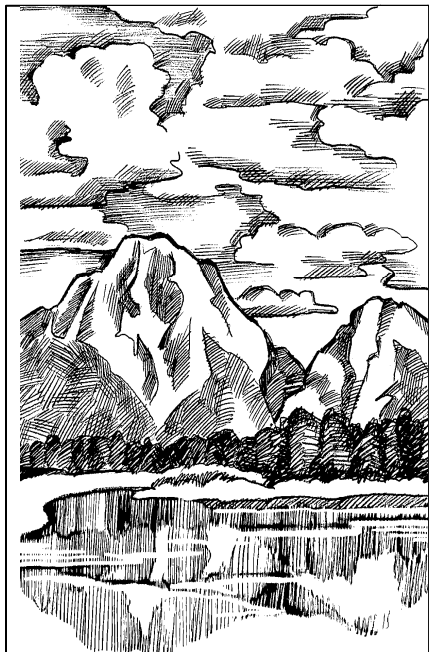
EFC of Lena

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
LENA, IL 61048
PERMIT NO. 25

CAR-RT-SORT



*He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of
God's very being*

Hebrews 1:3, 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