

Mar 2016

Lena United Methodist Church



Pastor
Brian LeBaron
Cell 815-541-4207

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P.O. Box 336
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Call 815-369-5291
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Youth Ministry
Director
Christin Flucke
920-273-5963

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Finance Report for 2015 Year-end

March 27th

April Newsletter
Deadline is
April 22nd!

The finance committee would like to thank everyone for their generous giving last year. In June we used \$4447.00 from the mission and education fund memorials to help cover general fund expenses. At that time we began to place the current budget and current contributions received in the bulletin. Below is how we came out for the year.

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2015 Budget - \$168,192.00

2015 Contributions - \$162,704.00 (this includes the \$4447.00 from memorials.)

2015 Total Church Expense - \$161,371.00

The Lord bestows his blessings on us which allows us to enjoy our beautiful church. Thank you for your financial support of the church and its' ministries.

Finance Committee
Gary Rich, chairperson

LUMC Youth and Children's Ministry Happenings in March

Gather in Community – Grow in Faith – Go to Serve Others

After School Program at "The Hangout"

3:30-5:00 pm every Wednesday afternoon

Open to students in grades 4-8

Looking for a cool and safe place to hang out after school? Come join us for an afternoon of games, free pizza and pop, and a short worship and devotion time. Adult volunteers welcomed!



Children's Worship Services

Offered on Sunday, March 13th as well as a special youth-led service on Sunday, March 20th

Open to all students

Students will be dismissed part way through the Sunday morning worship service to attend a worship time geared more towards young people. Participate in music, activities, and discussions about faith with other kids your age. This month we're planning the youth-led service scheduled for Palm Sunday (March 20th), so be sure to mark your calendars and join us in leading worship for the congregation!

Elementary Kids "Dinner and a Movie" Night

Saturday, March 5th, 6:00-8:00 pm

Open to students in grades 1-6

Hey kids! Don't miss out on this special movie night just for elementary students. Enjoy pizza and popcorn and watch a family-friendly movie on the "big screen" in the youth room. Feel free to come in your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal along. Friends are welcome too, so grab a blanket and come hang out for this fun night at church together! **Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 2nd**

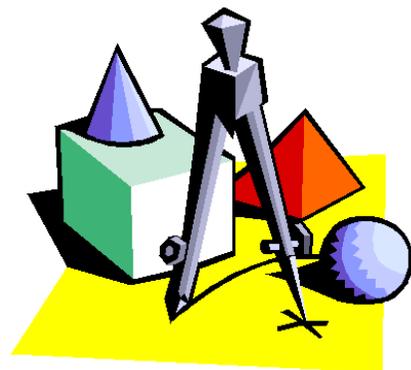


Have questions or want to get involved?
Please contact Youth Ministry Director Christin Flucke
Phone: 920-273-5963
Email: cflucke12@gmail.com

The Farewell Discourse

By Gary Rich – Lay Servant

I am currently helping a student in geometry so I have been attending the geometry class to brush up on my similar triangles. Even though I had taught geometry before, it had been almost 40 years since I had been in a geometry class. Thank heavens not much has changed since Euclid and Pythagoras. Even the scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz knows the Pythagoras Theorem. I think the Bible is kind of like geometry. The information has not changed, but we need to constantly study and use the information to get its full value. Reading the Bible on a regular basis and attending a Bible study keeps the message of Jesus in front of us.



The adult Sunday school class continues our study of Adam Hamilton's new book, John The Gospel of Light and Life. This week's lesson is entitled "The Farewell Discourse." Almost twenty-five percent of the Gospel of John is devoted to the Last Supper. Jesus knows this would be the last meeting with the Disciples before he would be arrested. He knew he needed to leave them with the life lessons that they would need in the future. By washing the feet of the disciples, he taught them to serve others. He also taught them not to worry about who among them is the greatest, but focus on humbly serving others. Jesus promises the Disciples that he will send them another companion or comforter. Jesus promises the Disciples that he will send them the Holy Spirit after his death. In Greek, the



word for spirit literally means "breath" or "wind". God breathed life into Adam and Eve. The words used by John for "The Holy Spirit" could be translated as our comforter, counselor, and encourager and means someone who comes alongside you. Through the Holy Spirit, we feel God's presence and it is this Spirit that draws us to Christ. It comforts us and reminds us of the message of Jesus. Anytime God does something in your life, it's the work of the Holy Spirit.



UMW News: Sat, Feb 6nd, 2016

What a wonderful time we had at the UMW Valentine party. Other churches joined us and we served a good breakfast casserole. We enjoyed having Heather Jacobs tell us all about her daughter's life. How sad that they found out when she was still pregnant that Mady would not be normal. That is always a mother's worse fear. Mady was supposed to have a life expectancy of 3 yrs., but lived for 5. Having another child to care for at the same time had to be really hard on their little family, but she said they just kept their faith and were stronger than ever. What a great thing that they took this negative thing in their lives to make a wonderful positive in developing Mady's Pantry to collect food items for the Ronald McDonald House in Madison. Some of us don't realize how wonderful our lives are until we hear these stories of troubling times for others. Ronald McDonald House representatives were amazed at all they have collected for the children there. One trip alone was \$17,000 worth of food and money. The money part is used for things like off-site housing for families when the House itself is out of rooms. We donated a table full of snack items for the children, the UMW gave a donation of \$100, plus others of us made cash donations. Mady's Pantry does a yearly collection at Sullivan's. Watch for their article of when they will be there and show them you care. If you didn't make it to hear Heather's talk, you missed a good opportunity to hear of something great. Maybe you'll get a chance to make it to some other event that people have invited her to talk at.

I heard a lady talking about the cute Valentine decorations on the resident's doors at the Lena nursing home when I was at the Lenten lunch. I couldn't resist telling her that our UMW made them.

Our annual rummage sale will be March 10-12 this year. So while cleaning closets and drawers be thinking of things to donate for that. You can start bringing items to fellowship hall after church on **March 6th**, and on the 7th & 8th. We will also be having a bake sale during the rummage sale time, so you can make donations to that the 10th and 11th.

Remember to put the Ham Loaf Supper on your calendar for April 9th. We will be looking for volunteers to serve and to make salads and cakes. Whatever you do to help is ALWAYS appreciated.

At our March 5th meeting we will be remembering our shut-ins with a treat to be delivered to them. Everyone remembers shut-ins at Christmas, so we decided to skip the Christmas time and remember them when others may have forgotten for a while. It's always nice to be remembered.

Our next meeting is March 5th, World Day of Prayer, at 9:30. Vera Kempel is leader, Pat Phillips has Response Moments and Vera Kempel & Carol Buss are hostesses.

Bless you all,
Maryanne Gritzmaker, UMW president



**Remember to save your Pop Tabs for
Mady's Pantry and the Ronald McDonald
House!**



Offering Envelopes Refresher

Is there more than one envelope packet style, or can you only get packets of 52 envelopes?

Most members of the congregation have received a packet of offering envelopes for 2016. (If you have not, and would like some, please contact the church office). These envelopes come packaged in two quantities:

A packet of 52 envelopes for members who contribute weekly

A packet of 12 envelopes for members who contribute monthly

If you are currently receiving one type of envelopes, but are giving in the other method, please contact the church office so that we can update our information. For example, if the packet of envelopes that you received for 2016 contains 52 envelopes, but you are contributing monthly, please let the office know, and we will order you the style that only contains 12 envelopes for next year.

Do all of the envelopes have dates on them? How is that date used?

The envelopes we ordered for 2016 do **NOT** have dates on them. Some of you, unfortunately still received envelopes for 2016 with dates, because you were new to the church, the church failed to order new envelopes for you, or some other reason.

The church does not use the date on the envelope. We record your contribution solely by the date that gave.

What if I miss attending church one Sunday, and give weekly, should I bring two envelopes the next Sunday?

Going along with the answer to question B, no you do not. If you bring your offering in one or in two envelopes, your total contribution will be recorded for the actual day that you attend, and give your contribution.

OK, in the scenario in C, if I only use one envelope, what do I do with the 'extra' one?

You can use the 'extra' envelope whenever you want to. If your envelopes have dates on them or not, you can use them consecutively from your packet. As I said in B, the date on the envelope is irrelevant to the church recording system.

Please **DO NOT** bring your 'extra' envelopes to church, and leave them in the pews!

I have some old envelopes, but they have a different number on them than the new ones I received for 2016. Can I use them?

No, if the number is not the same as the number on your 'new' envelopes, please discard them. Every contributor should have one and only one envelope number. That number, along with your name, is used to record your contributions to the church. The old number on some of your envelopes may have been reassigned to someone else in the church. If we fail to recognize that the name and number do not match, you risk the possibility that your contribution could be credited to someone else. We try our best to catch these things, but we are all human, and we all make mistakes.

If you have any other questions concerning offering envelopes please contact the church office.

I hope this was helpful. **Thank you for all of your contributions!**

FROM THE PRODUCERS WHO BROUGHT YOU *HEAVEN IS FOR REAL*



[Miracles from Heaven: In Theaters Wednesday, March 16](#)

This Easter, celebrate the beauty of everyday faith and hope. Coming to theaters Wednesday, March 16, **MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN** is based on the true story of the Beam family as they encounter God's unfailing love and constant presence during an incredible journey from hardship to healing.

MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN is based on the incredible true story and memoir of Christy Beam (Jennifer Garner). When Christy discovers her 10-year-old daughter Anna (Kylie Rogers) has a rare, incurable disease, she becomes a ferocious advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution. As Christy searches she befriends Angela Bradford (Queen Latifah), who helps bring everyday joy and hope back to the Beam family. After Anna has a freak accident, an extraordinary miracle unfolds in the wake of her dramatic rescue that leaves medical specialists mystified, her family's faith restored and their community inspired.



This and That Around Lena United Methodist Church

Library News

We have added these 5 books:

Nobody Knows

by Mary Jane Clark

Daddy's Little Girl

by Mary Higgins Clark

Starting Now

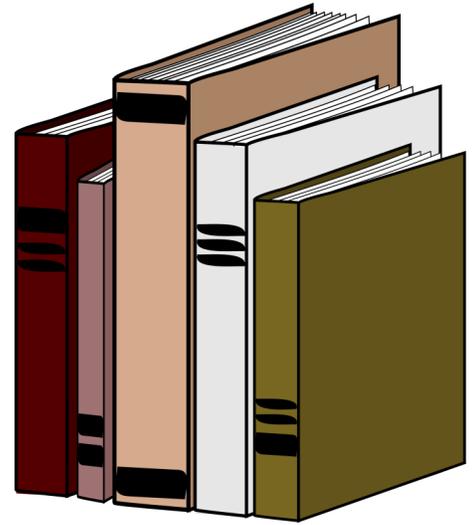
by Debbie Macomber

On a Snowy Night

by Debbie Macomber

Kiss and Tell

by Fern Micheals



Lena United Methodist Church

Rummage and Bake Sale

Donate your gently used treasures to the rummage sale! Any clean, usable donations are accepted. All items are appreciated.

Drop off dates and times are:

Sunday, March 6	1 to 6 pm
Monday, March 7	8:30 am to 7 pm
Tuesday, March 8	8:30 am to 7 pm
Wednesday, March 9	8:30 am to 7 pm

Volunteers are needed to help sort and mark items. Contact:

Pat Edler	369-2661
Carol Robieson	369-2236

Shop the Rummage Sale on:

Thursday & Friday, March 10th and 11th

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday, March 12th

9 to 11 am; It's the \$1.00 per bag day!

Bake Sale is Thursday & Friday only

Bakery donations are greatly appreciated. All of these items sell good!



Hamloaf Supper

Put **April 9th** on your calendar and reserve that night for this delicious meal of:

- Hamloaf
- Parsley potatoes
- Green beans
- Jello salad
- Cake
- beverage

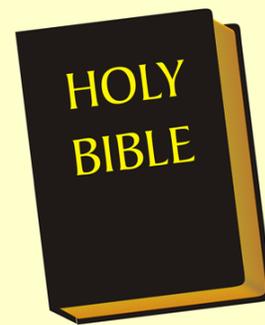


2016 Lenten Luncheon Schedule

Date	Hosts	Location
March 2, 2016	Evangelical Free Church	Evangelical Free Church
March 9, 2016	St. Joseph Catholic	St. Joseph Catholic
March 16, 2016	Beloved Church	Lena United Methodist Church
March 23, 2016	Salem UCC	Lena United Methodist Church

The monthly **Bible Study held at Eleanor and Richard Holmes'**, will be held at Olga and Wayne Benson's on March 6th, and Wayne will be leading the study.

The Benson's address is:
637 N Quail Drive, Lena, IL



Thank you for your Christmas donations:

Dear Friend of Hospice,

Your gift enables us to train volunteers to provide assistance to people in need in ways that add to their comfort and quality of life. This approach enables family members to be more intimately involved in their loved ones care. The beauty of your gift is that it transforms lives.

We are strictly a community based volunteer, "*Neighbor Helping Neighbor*" organization. Your donations, memorials, and your support of our various kinds of fund raising activities enables us to also provide monthly, community based educational opportunities. We never charge the client, the family, their insurance company or Medicare/Medicaid for our services.

If you ever have any questions regarding our services, or if you have suggestions regarding our educational opportunities please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Volunteer Hospice of Northwest Illinois

Dear Lena United Methodist Church Members,

We are truly inspired by those who have chosen to make a difference in healthcare in our community.

Thank you for taking this opportunity through your generous gift to FHN Hospice expressly for the needs of patients and their families. Ongoing donations ensure our patients continue to receive personal, quality healthcare.

Through your thoughtfulness, you have touched the lives of many of your friends and neighbors in a special and meaningful way. We are very appreciative of your consideration and support.

With warm regards,

Jackie Wehrenberg

Annual Giving Coordinator

March Servants

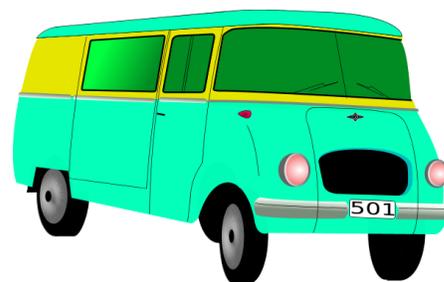
	Liturgists	Greeters	Video Tech	Fellowship	Dial-a-Devotion
Mar 6	Pat Edler	Darryl & Faye Wybourn	Lisa Dascher	Carol & Bob Buss	Norma Klipping
Mar 13	Scott Stich	Mick & Kris Flynn	Elaine Williams	Tammy Edler & Kris Flynn	Eleanor Holmes
Mar 20	Elaine Williams	Mick & Kris Flynn	Marvin Kempel	Angie Oliva & Carol Sander	Pat Phillips
Mar 27	Roberta Rogers	Darryl & Faye Wybourn	Cathy Rich	MaryAnne Gritzmaker & Judy Buchenau	Kristi Flynn

Thank you to Pat Phillips, Beulah Haeft, Don and Elsie Lobdell for their help on this March newsletter!



We are so grateful to all that helped plan the breakfast that was a part of Winterfest this year, and to EVERYONE who worked at the Winterfest Pancake Breakfast, on January 30th. You made the morning very enjoyable, and what a good time we

had with everyone working together. We were able to add \$1,127.91 to our new vehicle fund.



Thank you very much,
Hannah's Helpers and Lena United Methodist Men.

Thank you for donations to widow's roof

Lena United Methodist Church,

Dear Beloved family,

I am excited and honored to connect with you in this letter.

...

“Thank you” does not properly express our heartfelt gratitude for your giving into this ministry and supporting this eternally impactful work given to us. It is truly unique to have people of your quality giving of your precious assets like time and money to support this work for your ***heart***, not from ***pressure!***

...

In Great Love and Thankfulness,

Pastor Steve Cassell

Beloved Church



March



Happy Birthday

3/2	Carol Robieson	3/18	Janet Lobdell
3/3	Pookie Schubert	3/19	Jayden* Clinton
3/4	Kathy* Phillips	3/19	James* Hudson
3/5	Blaine Stamm	3/23	Rachel Edler
3/6	Bill Hooker	3/23	Samatha Griffin
3/7	Jim Hartney	3/25	Nevin Kryder
3/7	Brian LeBaron	3/26	Christine Liles
3/11	Donald Lobdell	3/27	David Busch
3/12	Michelle Liphart	3/27	Tabitha Roenneburg
3/13	Cole Gerber	3/29	Darlene Pauley
3/17	Sharon Holland	3/31	Roger Schulz

FOR HEALING

Alan Schultz
(Marlys Scorsolini's nephew),
Norma Streeb's brother-in-law,
Kim Milder's mother, (Diana Laufenberg),
Kim Lobdell ,
Ron Kempel,
Ron Buchenau



Happy Anniversary

3/4	David & Linda Scheider	3/15	Richard & Eleanor Holmes
3/10	Gary & Cathy Rich	3/15	Mervin & Verla Lobdell
3/12	Robert & Theresa Kepner	3/16	Bob & Carol Buss
3/13	Randal & Tam Kryder		

IN TREATMENT

Kelli Huneke
Joanne Gruendler,
Anita Wells,
Katy Lartz,
Pat Campbell,
Darlene Kossar,
Marvin Kempel

Did you know?

If you would rather receive a text on your cell phone, than a call on your phone:

Text "LUMC" to 292929

To opt into text messaging



Thank you for the use of your church. Your kindness is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated by the family of

Jack Confer

Our **condolences** went out to the families of:

- Donald Konieczny
- Jack Confer
- Richard Rouse
- June Stewart

Around the Area



CROP Hunger Walk Fundraiser - Pizza Day

at Papa Murphy's,
on **Tuesday, March 8,**
from 11am – 8pm

10% of all regular priced food sales at the Freeport Papa Murphy's Pizza will go toward the Stephenson County CROP Hunger Walk.

Craft & Antique Show March 19, from 9 AM to 2 PM

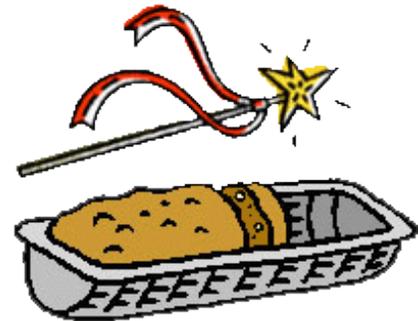
- * Free Admission
- * Lunch Stand
- * Bake Sale
- * Variety of Exhibitors
- * Door Prizes

Trinity United Methodist Church
2600 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport, IL 61032



Ham Loaf Sale

The Women of First United Methodist Church
503 North Lily Creek Road, Freeport, IL
are taking Ham Loaf orders.
The cost is \$3.00 per loaf.



The deadline for orders is **Saturday, March 12.** No orders will be taken after that date.

Order pickup on **Thursday, March 17** : 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30pm and 4:30pm.

Containers will be provided.

To place your order call Evelyn at 815-233-0407
or the church office at 815-232-6210.

Join Us on March 12, 2016

**Spring Breakfast,
NIC UMM Annual Meeting,
& Communion Service**



Featuring:
The Rockford UMM Men's Choir!
(call Rockford Grace UMC at 815-637-4561 to sign up)

**Our Special Speaker is
Bishop Sally Dyck
Bishop of the UMC Northern IL Conference**



Meals For Millions potato drop immediately following the service at noon – all are invited to stay and help distribute potatoes to area pantries!

- Holds a M.Div. from Boston University School of Theology and a D. Min. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio
- Served as pastor and then District Superintendent in the East Ohio Conference
- Bishop, Minnesota Conference 2004 – 2012
- Served on the board of directors for the General Board of Global Ministries
- elected to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in 2006
- became president of the United Methodist Commission on Communications in 2008

Join us at **Grace UMC** for Worship and Renewal!

3555 McFarland Rd, Rockford, IL, 61114, (815) 637-4561
8:00a Choir Practice, 9a Breakfast, 9:30a Meeting, 10:15a Worship/Communion

Cost \$9.00 - Pastors Free – Please call the church by 3/7 to reserve your spot!

There are **5 tickets** for this event in the office, for \$9 each. Please call (815) 369-5291 if you would like to purchase a ticket.

ACADEMY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, March 12th

7:45 - 8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 - 8:30	Opening Worship
8:30 - 10:30	Class
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:15 p.m.	Class
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00	Class
3:00 - 3:15	Break
3:15 - 4:45 p.m.	Class

SUNDAY, March 13th

Host church worship is at 10:30 am

1:00 - 2:30	Class
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 4:15	Class
4:15 - 4:30	Closing - Certificate

10 hours of class time required for completion.

Registration Information

- Register online www.umcnic.org/rcklayacademy2016 or Send Registrations to: Rockford/DeKalb Regional Office 951 S. Seventh St, Suite D Rochelle, IL 61068-9333 815-561-8285 Attn: Betsy Smith
- Registration fee for the Academy is \$40 by February 27, 2016. (\$45 after 2/27/16).
- Scholarships are available for those in need. If you have received a scholarship in the past, partial scholarships are available. Contact Leslie Stanford for details. l.r.stanford@comcast.net or 815-713-7786
- Early registrations are strongly encouraged. Walk-ins are always welcome but class sizes are limited.
- No refunds will be made after 3/5/16.
- Course materials will be distributed at registration on Saturday morning. If you would like your material early please contact the district office.

Rockford District Spring Lay Academy

March 12th & 13th

First UMC, Freeport, IL

Lay Servant Basic Course, Led by Pastor Cal Haines

Lay Servant YOUTH Basic Course (Jr. High & High School)

Advanced Courses:

Living as a United Methodist (UM Heritage)

Led by Geoffrey Kruse-Safford

Leading Worship, Led by Rev. John Wesley Lee

Let the Whole Church Say Amen, Led by Prudy Lee

Growing Spiritually Through Daily Disciplines

Led by Gary Rich

During this course, participants will be guided in discerning God's direction for their lives, practicing daily disciplines, and reaching out in love.



March 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1p Quilters	2 Pastor at HCC Leadership Institute 9:30a Healthy Living 12p Lenten Lunches, hosted by Evangelical Free 3:15p After School Program	3 6p Food & Fun	4	5 8a Men's breakfast 9a Guide Team 9:30a UMW 6p Elementary Kids "Dinner and a Movie" Night
6 9a Sunday AM Worship 10a Fellowship 10:30a Sunday School 1p Rummage Drop-off 6p Bible study at Edler's 6:30p Bible Study at Wayne Benson's	7 8:30a Rummage Drop-off	8 8:30a Rummage Drop-off 1p Quilters 6p Girl Scouts 6:30p Church Council 7p Grief Sup- port group	9 8:30a Rummage Drop-off 9:30a Healthy Living 10a Bible study at Chapin's 12p Lenten Lunches, hosted by St Joseph 1:30p Hannah's Helpers 3:15p After School Program	10 8a Rummage Sale	11 8a Rummage Sale	12 8a Rummage Sale 9a Rockford District UMM Breakfast 4p Ham Loaf Sale - deadline for orders
13 9a Sunday Worship with baptism 9:15a Youth Worship 10a Fellowship 10:30a Sunday School	14 7p SPRC meeting	15 1p Quilters 6:30p Trustees meeting	16 9:30a Healthy Living 12p Lenten Lunches 3:15p After School Program	17 10:30a Ham Loaf Sale - pickup orders 6p Food & Fun	18	19 6:45a Men's Bible Study at Flynn's
20 Spring Begins 9a Youth leading Sunday AM Worship 10a Fellowship 10:30a Sunday School	21	22 Newsletter DEADLINE 9:45a Hymn Sing 1p Elizabeth Circle 1p Quilters 6p Girl Scouts	23 9:30a Healthy Living 12p Lenten Lunches, hosted by Salem UCC 3:15p After School Program	24 6p Food & Fun	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter 9a Sunday AM Worship 10a Fellowship 10:30a Sunday School	28 7p Stagecoach Quilters	29 1p Quilters	30 Pastor at HCC Leadership Institute 9:30a Healthy Living 3:15p After School Program	31 6p Food & Fun		

Lena United Methodist Church
118 W. Mason Street
P.O. Box 336
Lena, IL. 61048
Website: lenaumc.org

March 2016



Happy Easter

On Sunday, March 13, **Daylight Saving Time Begins**

Palm Sunday is March 20th. The Youth will be leading this service.

Easter is very early this year—March 27.

Or Current Resident

[
[Place label here]
[]



Pastor Brian LeBaron
Office Telephone
Dial-A-Devotion
Sunday Worship
Sunday School

Home 369-4899
369-5291
369-4411
9 A.M.
10:30 A.M.

Cell 815-541-4207
Church e-mail lenaumc@mchsi.com
Fax 815-369-2523
Youth worship 2nd and 4th Sunday