



The efree Press

Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church

September 2017

Volume 24, Issue 9

Missionaries Serving Around the World

Avant

Awana
Tim & Sherry Thomas

CRU
Ryan and Holly Menzer

The Evangelical Alliance Mission

Fellowship International Mission

Global Serve International

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Bob and Deb Wolniak

Literacy and Evangelism Int'l
Bob and Mary Emily Mulloy

Ethnos360 (formerly NTM)
Rich and Karen Brown
Derrick and LaShawn Dobbs
Lloyd and Mary Wapp

Pioneers International

ReachGlobal

Ed and Janet Pollasch
Nubako and Claudine Selenga
Lonnie and Debbie Smith

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Jon and Stephanie Weiss

Partner Missionary Organizations

Anchor of Hope Medical Center
Campus Life

Evangelical Child & Family Agency
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

**Check the church directory for
contact info on all missionaries
and their sending agencies.**



Let's Grow!

The 2017/18 Program Year brings numerous opportunities throughout the week to help all ages become more committed followers of Jesus Christ!

Children

Awana is our Wednesday evening (6:30-8pm) programming for children ages 3-grade 6. It reaches students with the Good News of Jesus Christ and trains them to know, love, and serve Him. Club includes small group Bible lesson time, large group teaching and worship, and game time.

Students

A new semester is kicking off for Student Ministries! Middle school and high school. The Wednesday evening Youth Group begins September 6 at 6:30pm in Cafe 19 and includes a pizza party! Bible Quizzing and D-Group are also starting up again. Contact Pastor Aaron for more info.

Young Adults

Young Adults (those age 18-30-ish) meets year-round on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. The group is led by Pastor Bennett Anderson.

Women

Ladies — there are several studies to choose from that will encourage your heart and draw you deeper in your relationship with Christ.

- A Tuesday evening Bible study, led by Nancy V, will meet at 6:30pm at her home and will discuss the book *Proverbs: Words of Wisdom*. Contact Nancy for more information.
- A *Precepts* Bible study will focus on the book of Galatians. You choose either Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm or Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am. For more information, contact Lora L.
- A Wednesday morning Bible study, led by Kathy B, will meet at 9:30am and will discuss Charles Swindoll's *The Owner's Manual for Christians*. Child-care will be provided.
- *First Love* Bible study is a discussion-oriented study focused on growing in your knowledge, love, and intimacy with Jesus. Led by Summar C., this study will meet Wednesdays at 9:30am. Childcare will be provided.

Men

Men — there are some great opportunities for growing in your relationship with Christ, as well as developing friendships with other Christian brothers.

- Men's Prayer Meeting meets Wednesday mornings from 6:30-7:30am.
- A Wednesday morning Bible study, led by Tom R., will meet at 9:30am and will be studying the book of Genesis.
- D-Team will meet Wednesdays at 6:30pm and will focus on growing as we learn and apply the Scriptures to our lives.

Visit the church website and watch future bulletins for ministry start dates!

Forever Faithful Potluck Will Help You Investigate Scams!

Telephone scams are rampant and stealing millions from young and old alike! ADRC speakers will explain how to recognize them at the Forever Faithful potluck on Thursday night, September 21, from 6-8pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Sign up on the Welcome Center bulletin board for a delicious potluck beforehand. Sharon S. will lead the Forever Faithful in a wonderful sing-a-long, too. Invite a friend!



It's Time to Be Equipped!

*Equip: 5 - week Sunday morning electives designed to build up the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-16*



We are excited to launch our *Equip* series, which will meet on Sunday mornings during the 9:30am and 11am services. *Equip* is relational and intergenerational, and the topics are varied and timely. Questions? Attend one of the *Equip* Preview Sessions on Sunday, September 3: at 9:30am, join us in the Welcome Center for a Connections Fellowship, followed by the preview session in the Sanctuary or, at 11am, join us in Cafe 19 for a Connections Fellowship and the preview session. The first session of the *Equip* series begins September 10!

***Equip 1* Topics and Times:**

9:30am: *This We Believe, Stronger Marriages I, Sermon Application, Bible Foundations, All In*

11am: *Transformed*

Happy Birthday/Anniversary in September

Omitted for security.

Is your special day not here? We want to know! Please contact the church office (452.6520 or secretary@e-free-family.com).



This and That

In observance of Labor Day, the **church office will be closed** on Monday, September 4.

The third **quarterly directory update** will be available in the church office starting Sunday, September 3.

GriefShare on Tuesday mornings at 9am will resume September 12. GriefShare also meets Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.

Many church activities that take place throughout the year are candidly captured on camera. These **photos may be used on our church website, in newsletters and brochures, or in other promotions.** Photos of children will never contain personally identifiable information. **If you prefer your or your child's photo not be used,** please inform Briana (briana.r@e-free-family.com) or Kayla, (kayla.k@e-free-family.com).



September 6

Welcome to Awana

September 13

Favorite Sport Night

September 20

Good Samaritan Night

September 27

Be a Hero Night



April 13 & 14, 2018,

9am-5pm

Empowered to Connect Simulcast—

a two-day conference designed to help adults better understand how to connect with “children from hard places” in order to help them heal and become all that God desires.

eFree Men's Ministries Breakfast Kick-Off

All men 6th grade and older are invited to attend eFree Men's Ministries Kick-Off Breakfast on Saturday, September 23 from 8:30-10:30am. The breakfast will be a sit-down, family style meal. Numerous opportunities to grow in your faith will be presented, including D-Team, mentoring programs, prayer/accountability groups, and more!

Tickets for the Kick-off Breakfast are \$5, and go on sale September 10 in the Welcome Center between all the services, and will be available in the church office from September 11 until they sell out.



Come eat hearty, enjoy some male bonding and, best of all, discover opportunities to help you follow Christ more closely.

Treasurer's Review of FY2017

I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.

2 Samuel 24:24b (ESV)

Fiscal Year 2017 (July 2016 through June 2017) was a year best characterized by firsts. It was the first year in the history of this church when tithes exceeded \$1,000,000. It was the first year in which expenses incurred at this church exceeded \$1,000,000. And it was a year during which many individuals and families decided to begin giving the way Jesus taught us to give.

Giving for the year totaled \$1,035,817 and, although short of our approved budget, was still 4% higher than the previous year. Expenses were 12% higher than the previous year, primarily due to significantly higher costs in health insurance for our pastors and staff, but still came in 5% under budget, at \$1,052,013.

Thus we ended the year with a deficit of \$16,214 and, while we would prefer not to have a deficit, we were able to put over \$26,000 into the Land & Building Fund as we pursue the vision God has given us for campus expansion.

As the year progressed, it became clear that God was working in the lives and hearts of many in the congregation toward not only a greater trust in Him regarding giving and finances, but also teaching them the joy of generosity in the realm of eternal investments. And, as He worked through the Holy Spirit to grow us and change us, many responded. Many chose to downsize their lifestyle for the sake of the Gospel.



So even though we had a deficit, we also finish the year in a strong cash position, and with strong patterns of regular giving.

We are still being challenged by higher health insurance and other costs, and we will have a large debt to pay off from our purchase of the 1716 N. 16th St property, but we are also positioned to continue the expansion as God directs.

And...we are in the hands of a God who will continue to teach us what type of giving pleases Him – giving that is generous, involves faith, and includes sacrifice. It is from Him that we have learned what sacrifice really is.

LLBC Ladies' Retreat 2017

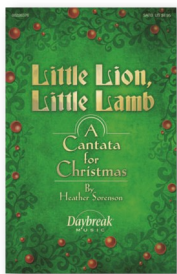
Ladies, make plans to attend the annual Ladies' Retreat from September 8-10 at Lake Lundgren Bible Camp. This year's speaker is Kathy Ptaszek, who will share from God's Word on Romans 8:31, *If God Is For Us Who Can Be Against Us?* Kathy is known for her warmth, openness, sense of humor, and the ability to connect with audiences of all ages. Her messages are inspirational, motivational, practical, and hope-filled. She has spoken to thousands of women at retreats, as well as church and community events throughout Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Colorado for over 40 years.



Throughout the weekend, enjoy music, wagon rides, crafts, delicious meals and plenty of free time to explore the beautiful area. Registration forms can be picked up in the Welcome Center or church office.

Christmas Concert Prep Begins

The Concert Choir will again be presenting a new musical this year, *Little Lion, Little Lamb*, on December 9 and 10. Though it seems early to think about, rehearsals begin in October. There is an opportunity for a youth choir this year, so those with young singers in the household will want to plan ahead! This year's concert will have parts for speakers, soloists, possibly some children as soloists, as well as general choral singers. The Gospel message will be clearly presented.



Details about a listening preview, and rehearsal dates and times, will be posted in upcoming bulletins, as well as on the choir bulletin board next to The Gathering Grounds coffee counter in the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, contact Lynne Z.

Ladies' Christmas Brunch Preview

The Christmas season brings with it unique opportunities to share with others the hope that we have in Jesus. Our annual Ladies' Christmas Brunch is designed for that very purpose: to provide a beautifully festive, non-threatening gathering for you to invite your friends to hear the Gospel message.

This year's brunch will be held on Saturday morning, December 2. We're delighted to welcome Jennifer Slenk of Holland, Michigan as our guest speaker. Guests will enjoy a delicious brunch and warm fellowship while seated at beautifully decorated Christmas tables.

This year's Gingerbread theme will bring a touch of whimsy and warmth to our gathering, and we're currently

recruiting table designers who are willing to bring their creative touches to our tables. Never designed a table before? No problem! We have ladies who are willing to come alongside and walk you through the process, even providing dishes and décor, if needed.



Table designers can sign up on the Women's Ministries bulletin board in the Welcome Center. As a thank you, table designers will be able to purchase tickets (\$10 each) at their tables prior to the start of general sales on November 5.

The eFree Press is the monthly newsletter of the eFree Church.

- To submit articles for future issues, contact Kayla Kautzer, Editor (kayla.k@e-free-family.com) or Briana Ringel, (briana.r@e-free-family.com). We reserve the right to edit for space and clarification purposes.
- The eFree Press is primarily distributed via email. If you'd like to join the email list, please contact Briana Ringel (briana.r@e-free-family.com).

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