



# The Disciple

## Courage!

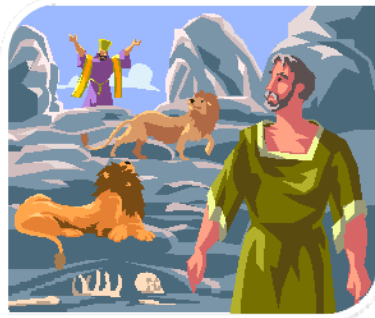
The occupying army embarked on cultural engineering. They had already plundered the wealth and now they treated the people like another commodity. They gathered the young and skilled and began the deportations. They wanted those good with numbers, the administrators, the craftsmen, and the artists. The occupied nation was drained of its treasure and emptied, especially its young and most productive people. The victors drove them like sheep back to their own country.

The crimes against humanity I am describing were not by Stalin or Hitler. The victor was Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The pillaged nation was Judah and it was six hundred years before the birth of Christ.

### God wins

One thousand miles from home with a family and nation in ruins, Daniel made his stand. Time after time in a culture of compromise Daniel responded bravely. Beginning as a young man and into his old age we have a record of his faithful courage. His life story is a deep resource for believers of any age that are tempted to lose courage, drop their commitments, and shipwreck their faith.

The book of Daniel reminds us that God wins. His work is not completed. Against all the severe winds of the world and the most powerful nations, God will raise up a



people for himself and his glory will be made known. The problems, pain, and delay do not mean God's defeat. His plan has not been sidetracked or defeated. He will win.

And he will work through people of faith and courage.

### Fear not

Jesus and the apostles warn us against temptation, false teaching, and losing faith. They encourage us with God's presence, power of grace, and inevitable victory. Jesus, more than once, said "Fear not." He knew about our hardship and suffering and still said, "Fear not." Daniel lived this courageous way. He shows us a disciple's courage and seeks to disciple us. Those who follow God participate in what God is doing—raising up a people to declare his glory.

Our new year, 2012, will contain political winds, financial highs and lows, family successes and tragedies, personal joys and sorrows. Will it be marked by your courage? *Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:1)*. Perhaps your life of spiritual courage will help someone, just as Daniel's helped a foreign king to say, "I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end (Daniel 6:26)." Even the enemy of Israel learned that God will win.

Praying with you for courage,  
Pastor Brad

## Simply Pray

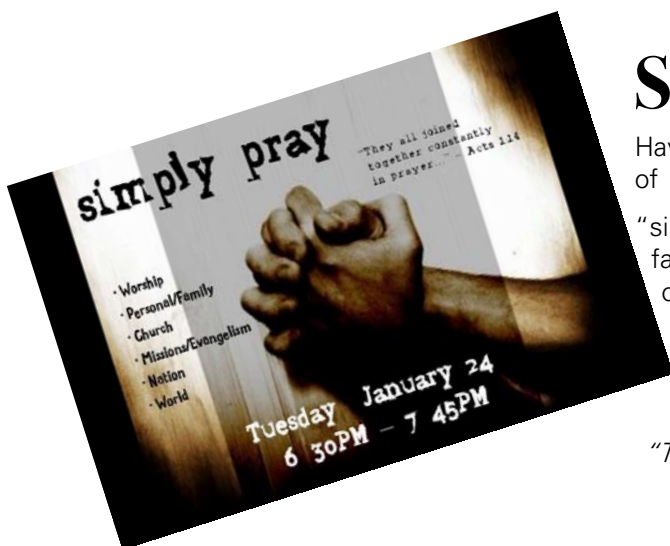
Have you longed for a deeper prayer life with God? Come be a part of a praying community that seeks to connect with our God.

"simply pray" encourages the church to embrace the simplicity and faithfulness of prayer. The desire of the evening is to spend an hour or so interceding for the needs of our families, church, mission, nation, and world.

You are invited to join together in unity with others in the congregation to seek the Lord in prayer.

*"The prayer of a righteous person has great power..." – James 5:16*

**Tuesday, January 24, 6:30PM – 7:45PM**



**Our Vision:**

To be a God-centered, outward-focused people who are building bridges to individuals in our local community and beyond, through authentic relationships and practical service, with a goal of connecting people to Christ and His community, and developing and multiplying followers of Christ.

## The Joy of Biblical Community

by Larry Mix

On a recent Sunday evening I had the blessing of attending one of the 10+ small groups that have been meeting regularly this fall. The group was just finishing up its study from the book of Romans 5 – 8 using the sermon series study guides that several groups have been following.

As small groups coordinator, I was curious to see how these questions were processed by a “typical” group. Did they promote group members to be open and share at a deeper level? Were members going beyond the “right” answer to helping each other apply God’s word in the context of real life?

It was very encouraging to see how the disciplemaking principles we’ve been learning as a church from Dave and Rennie Garda influenced how this group functioned!

One member shared a real life struggle, looking for help

in how he should respond. Other group members offered support and the very practical truth of Paul’s gospel to the Romans was seen to have relevance to the situation at hand.

Here was biblical community happening right before my eyes and it was wonderful to behold! Members walking out their faith in Christ – together.

If you’ve not recently experienced the joy of biblical community that happens in our small groups, I invite you to explore one. Most groups will be “rebooting” in January. Starting early January look for group options posted on our church website, in the bulletin and at the welcome center. Or drop me an email at [small-groups@efcsycdek.com](mailto:small-groups@efcsycdek.com).

Let us help you experience the joy of biblical community.



## Moms Connected

January 12



Questions about Moms Connected? Call Sarah Hilde

## Annual Women’s Retreat

Mark February 17-19, 2012 on your calendars, Ladies!

*“The Beginning, The Middle, and... There is no End when we are in Christ Jesus.”*

Featured Speaker: Janet Redmond

**Come have fun with us!**

Join women of all ages for this time of relaxation and spiritual refreshment at the Hilton Garden Inn of St. Charles. Registration Information Brochures are available in the church entry as well as on our church’s website: [www.efcsycdek.com](http://www.efcsycdek.com). For more information, call Melissa Clack:

# Family Life

*'Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.'* Romans 12:15 (NIV)

## Condolences

Kay Irving's son Roger Carlson died on Wednesday, December 21.

## Congratulations

Jim Mistry became a grandfather on September 27. Felicity Catherine was born to Jim's daughter, Tara and her husband, Clinton Weening on September 27.

Brian and Erica Howard's son, Fintan Gabriel was born on November 20. He was welcomed home by Aidan, Bridget and Brendan

Josiah and Colleen Rittmeyer had Jacob, on November 26. Big sister is Eliana.



Babies!

### New Busi-



### Village Pizza

Carol and Dave Wellendorf are new members of our E Free family. They opened the Village Pizza restaurant in Malta on December 1.

Location: 307 East Adams Street, Malta.

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday—4-9 pm

Friday-Saturday—4-10 pm

Sunday—2-8 pm

Website: [www.VillagePizzaMalta.com](http://www.VillagePizzaMalta.com)

Phone: 815-825-2270.

**NEWS!** Do you have news to share with the E Free church family? Births, deaths, major life celebrations, etc.? Allow us to..." *Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.* Email your news to: [News@efcsycdek.com](mailto:News@efcsycdek.com) or call Katie Mehne.

## Adult Sunday School

9:45-10:30

Join us as we live and learn together!

### 1. Experience the Land of the Bible

This class explores the ancient land of the bible using a beautifully-produced DVD series (*Day of Discovery*) as well as personal experiences from Pastor Paul's recent trip to Israel. We will tour the biblical sites and relate those sites to the stories in Scripture. Throughout the journey, you will gain a greater appreciation not only for the Holy Land itself but for the persons and events that are intimately connected to that amazing part of the world.



### 2. The Heidelberg Catechism (continued)

Room 110 led by Jim Mistry

### 3. Ephesians

Room 109 led by Dave Wellendorf

## SOHL Sunday

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 22

Scripture says that every human being is "fearfully and wonderfully made." How can that truth transform our lives to benefit all of God's creation?

Since 1983, churches in the United States have observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHL)

as a day to celebrate the intrinsic value of all human life.

Our church will be observing SOHL Sunday on January 22 with a special message as well as opportunities to become involved in and support the life saving ministry of We Care Pregnancy Clinic.

For more information, or for help finding peace about an abortion in your past:

[www.WeCarePregnancyClinic.org](http://www.WeCarePregnancyClinic.org)

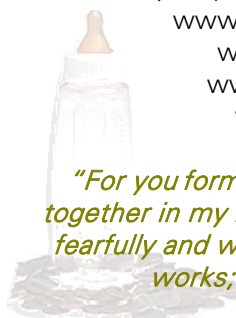
[www.WeCarePartners.org](http://www.WeCarePartners.org)

[www.FocusontheFamily.org](http://www.FocusontheFamily.org)

[www.AfterAbortion.org](http://www.AfterAbortion.org)

*"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."*

*Psalm 139:13-14*



# Statement of Faith of The Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore/DeKalb

- **We believe** in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.
- **We believe** that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.
- **We believe** that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.
- **We believe** that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.
- **We believe** that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.
- **We believe** that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.
- **We believe** that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.
- **We believe** that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.
- **We believe** in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.
- **We believe** that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.



Please keep those who are serving our country, as well as their families, in your prayers.



- ◇ Zac Swedberg  
(Kim and Joe Swedberg's son.  
Fort Rutger, AL, training to fly  
Blackhawk helicopters.)
- ◇ Tony Freeland  
(Tony played drums in E Free  
praise team is in the Navy  
serving in Guam.)
- ◇ Mark Barnhorst  
(Lenny and Bonnie Mack's  
grandson-in-law)
- ◇ Nathan Doering  
(Cindy and Keith Doering's son)
- ◇ Kyle Ericson  
(Susan and Don Willrett's  
grandson)
- ◇ John Gibson  
(Ericka Howard's brother)
- ◇ Matt Gibson  
(Ericka Howard's cousin)
- ◇ Brian Graves  
(Marilyn and Pete Trott's  
grandson)
- ◇ Josh Harmon  
(Julie Ross' cousin)
- ◇ Sarah Harmon  
(Julie Ross' cousin)
- ◇ Phil Menard  
(Dennis and Toni Sheppard's son)
- ◇ Jamie McQuinniff  
(Marilyn and Pete Trott's nephew)
- ◇ Matthew Ross  
(Phil and Julie Ross' nephew)

Please let us know of others.

Call the church office  
815-756-8729 or  
e-mail: sb.efc@comcast.net

For more information about The Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb go to [www.efcsycdek.com](http://www.efcsycdek.com).

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy New Year! No Sunday School 11am - Worship - no 8:30 6pm - NO Young Adult 6:30pm - NO SH Youth	2 Joe Seneczko	3	4 4pm - Women's Prayer 6:30pm - First Place 4 6:30pm - JH Youth Group 6:30pm - Vocal Team Emily Waller Austin Jerousek	5 6:30am - Men's Prayer Ken Potts	6 JH Blizzard Retreat Bonnie Mack Scott Wolfskill Mary Ann Rose	7 Seth Whitfield
8 JH Blizzard Retreat 8:30am - Worship & 11am 9:45am - Sunday School 6pm - JH & SH "2nd 6pm - Young Adult Small	9 Taylor Leach	10 Pat Crumpacker	11 4pm - Women's Prayer 6:30pm - First Place 4 6:30pm - JH Youth Group 6:30pm - Vocal Team	12 6:30am - Men's Prayer 9:30am - Moms Connected	13 SH SnoCamp Retreat	14 8am - Senior's 2nd Andrew Mauch Marcia Wessels
15 SH SnoCamp Retreat Disciple Newsletter 8:30am - Worship & 11am 9:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Young Adult Small 6:30pm - NO SH Youth	16 Annika Doering	17	18 4pm - Women's Prayer 6:30pm - First Place 4 6:30pm - JH Youth Group 6:30pm - Vocal Team David Varner	19 6:30am - Men's Prayer	20 Wendell Hueber Alyssa Meier Caroline Harbecke Dennis Sheppard	21 7pm - Elevate Concert Gary Fry
22 Caleb Lisle 8:30am - Worship & 11am 9:45am - Sunday School 1pm - SH Ministry Team 6pm - Young Adult Small 6:30pm - SH Youth Group	23 Annika Doering 6:30pm - Writer's Group Diane Kerry Adrian Chan	24	25 4pm - Women's Prayer 6:30pm - First Place 4 6:30pm - JH Youth Group 6:30pm - Vocal Team	26 6:30am - Men's Prayer 9:30am - Moms Connected	27 Nancy Olsen	28 Pastor Brad
29 Alverda Ellenberger 8:30am - Worship & 11am 9:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Young Adult Small 6:30pm - SH Youth Group	30 Emily Hansen Eric Kampmeier	31		Bob Woodruff Dave Rose		

# Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

150 Bethany Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
815-756-8729  
www.EFCsycdek.com

Senior Pastor  
Bradley J. Reardon

Worship and Music Pastor  
Paul Rogers

Pastor of Student Ministries  
Gary Lisle

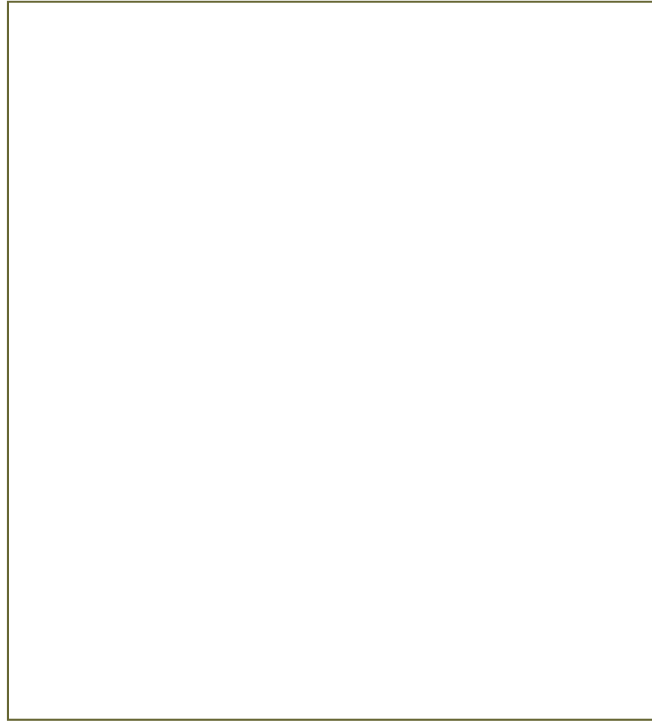
Children's Ministry Director  
Terry Gin

**Sunday Services:**  
8:30am & 11:00am  
9:45am Sunday School



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## New Year's Blessings

### Hope for the Future

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD.  
"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you  
a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

### Wait on the Lord

*"Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently  
for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper  
or fret about their wicked schemes."* Psalm 37:7 (NLT)

### Each New Day is Special

"The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" Lamentations 3:22-24 (NASB)

## Inside this issue...



Courage



Land of the Bible  
Sunday School Class



Babies!



EFC Sycamore-DeKalb  
Statement of Faith