

# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



**CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING**

Volume 33 #40

December 7, 2007

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



The Bible readings for the Second Sunday of Advent introduce John the Baptist, the one who called people to repent and make a new beginning (Matthew 3:1-12). He also calls us to turn away from darkness and turn towards Christ who brings light and hope. The root of Jesse, that is mentioned in Isaiah 11:1-10 is Jesus who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. When Jesus comes again the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more suffering, hurt or

destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.



Known to be hospitalized are Charles Janicke and Ivan Sorn at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Nevin Beckman wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, called and remembered him in their prayers over these past weeks. Thank you to Pastor Kretzmann for his presence and prayer the day of his surgery.

*From the Volunteer Coordinator - Learn to laugh at yourself....you'll have a life long source of amusement.*

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#### GUEST PASTORS

Since Pastor Neville will be away in Los Angeles December 5 - 11, Pastor Susie Hill from Forreston will preach at the Saturday, December 8, 5:00 p.m. service. Scott Solberg a senior seminary student from Wartburg Theological Seminary will preach at the Sunday services. Chaplain Don Swanson will preside over Holy Communion. Pastor Mark Luepke of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freeport will be on call to deal with any emergencies (815 232 4911).

#### ADULT ED THIS SUNDAY



Scott Solberg, a student at Wartburg Seminary will be preaching at both services on Sunday and leading a Bible study during the coffee hour. The study will focus on the readings for the day and will use the ancient Lectio Divina approach. This involves a contemplative "praying" of the Scriptures intended to increase our ability to listen deeply to the Word of God. This is a wonderful chance to not only meet an interesting student in one of our seminaries and hear his thoughts, it is also an opportunity to experience an approach you may wish to use in other Bible study settings. Be sure to catch this opportunity.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Sunday school students, please remember to arrive promptly at 9:30 with your props for our final two practices on Sundays

December 9 and 16. Our program will be held on December 16 at 10:45 a.m.



FIRST - FOURTH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS, please remember to bring a wallet-sized photo to class this Sunday, December 9 for a special project!

See you then!

#### CELEBRATION CHOIR CANTATA

A big thank you to the Celebration Choir, Teresa Parkinson accompanist and director Dagny Brandt. Thanks for the inspiring words and the lovely music! It was a good beginning to the advent season.

#### MUSICIANS



Please share your talent and spirit with your First Family this Christmas Eve! Let Dawn Zeigler know by December 16 if you are interested.

#### REDEDICATION OF CHAPEL

You are invited to take part in the celebration for rededicating our Holtum Chapel on December 16 at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the service. The remodeling project has turned out very well. We are excited about using the chapel for small worship gatherings, prayer, devotions, Bible studies, small groups, etc.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to those who worked in the FACC clothing room in November. They are: Ruth Banderet, Barb Reichert, Dolores Johnson, Betty Stebbins, Shirley Kampmeier, Jeanette Leopold, Arlene Camerer, Jean Greene, Phyllis Rosenwinge, and Bob & Phoebe Petrie.

## FACC CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Remember to bring your boxes of stuffing to church this Sunday for the FACC Christmas baskets. The deadline is December 16.

## POINSETTIAS

It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias. The cost is \$9.00 and they may be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Please use a pink envelope or a pew envelope.

## DECORATING THE CHURCH

Do you want to do something that is fun? Come and decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary following the Saturday evening service on December 15 (around 6:00 p.m.). You can admire the spectacular results of your labors throughout the rest of the Christmas season.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Sunday school children will share their Christmas program with us at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 16. We will only have one service on that day, at 8:15 a.m.



**Hanging  
of the  
Greens**

## FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

In partnership with Equal Exchange, a fair-trade organization committed to paying farmers a fair price for their crops, Lutheran World Relief began the Coffee Project in 1997. Through fair trade, farmers can earn enough to cover their production expenses, provide for a better life for their families, and help make a long-term difference in their

communities.

Fair trade products are offered for sale upstairs in the entryway and include several varieties of coffee and tea, hot chocolate mix, baking cocoa, and chocolate bars. Payment for items may be left in the box on the display and checks should be made payable to "Women of the ELCA." Purchasing fair-trade products is one way for Lutherans to take action towards alleviating poverty in developing countries.

## PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet once this month on Thursday, December 13, in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Come down for part or all of the day and bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. Sewing skills are not required to participate.

Donations of material to use in making quilts and lap robes are always welcome. A complete list of supplies for all our projects can be found on the WELCA bulletin board in the hallway near the restrooms. Items may be left in the WELCA box located next to the mailboxes.

First News  
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**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**DECEMBER 9**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Ed

9:30 a.m. Endowment Committee

6:00 p.m. Youth Caroling

Monday

4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Workday

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. FACC Meeting

Friday

6:00 p.m. Celebration Choir Potluck at Brandt's

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple

3:00 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom

5:00 p.m. Worship

**THE PARISH RECORD**

December 01/02 Saturday 5:00-2 Sunday 8:15-74 10:45-48 Total-124 Sunday School-46 Offerings \$4,528.50