

# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 33 #41

December 14, 2007

## Third Sunday in Advent

Christmas is just over a week from now. We are waiting and hoping for God's presence in the daily things of life. Sometimes God's presence is not manifested in the way that we expect. In our reading for Sunday, from James 5, we are urged to be patient as we wait for the Lord. In Matthew 11 we meet John the Baptist who is in prison and he is wondering if Jesus is the one that he has been waiting for. John sends a messenger to ask the question, *"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"*<sup>4</sup> *Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.* Sometimes it is difficult to recognize the presence of Jesus in the world around us.



## Sunday School Program

The Sunday school children will present, "Christmas Snapshots," this Sunday, December 16, at 10:45 a.m. We hope you can join us as we tell the Christmas story!

Known to be hospitalized is Marsha Roe at FHN Memorial Hospital.



"Thank you to our friends and relatives who came out in such bad weather to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us. Your generous food contributions were wonderful as were the cards, gifts, and telephone calls." -John & JoAnn Kohn

*From the Volunteer Coordinator - Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.*

**MERLYN H. LEOPOLD †**

May God grant peace to his memory, comfort to his family and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to His glory.

**SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS 2008**

It's time to sign up for 2008 altar flowers. The flower chart is available in the entryway. The cost remains \$15.00. You can use a pink envelope or a pew envelope marked, "Altar Flowers."

**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



**POINSETTIAS**

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.

**FACC CHRISTMAS BASKETS**

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



**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.

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

There will be a parent/youth information meeting this Sunday, December 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Martin Luther Room for people interested in attending this year's Youth Group Mission Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi.



**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.

**CAROLING THIS SUNDAY**



The Youth Group Caroling this was scheduled for last Sunday has been rescheduled for this Sunday, December 16. We'll meet at the church

at 5:45 p.m. We'll return to the church afterward for pizza and a gift exchange. Remember to bring your \$5.00 nice gift. Come and bring a friend!

**POINSETTIAS**

There's still time to order your Christmas

poinsettias - the deadline is this Sunday, December 16. 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.

### THE ULTIMATE GIFT

The second session of the film, "The Ultimate Gift," will not be held on Monday, December 17.

If you would like to borrow this wonderful film, please let Dolores Johnson know by calling her at 815-232-5565.

Let us remember the "reason for the season." May you be filled with the most lavish love of God given through the matchless GIFT that He gave: His only son, our savior. Thanks be to God.

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

8:15 AM Communion

10:45 AM Children's Christmas Program

2:00 PM Chapel dedication

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 AM Communion

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

6:00 & 10:30 PM Candlelight, carols and Holy Communion

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM Service

### CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

No classes on December 16, 23 or 30.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be Sunday School classes on December 16 and 23. No classes on December 30.



# CHRISTMAS

First News  
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**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**DECEMBER 16**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Readings: Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7,8; Matthew 11:2-6

8:15 & a.m. Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation

9:30 a.m. Youth Group Mission Trip Information Meeting

10:45 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

2:00 p.m. Chapel Rededication

5:45 p.m. Youth Caroling

Monday

4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Life Skills Class

Mary Circle at Bev Herrling's

6:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Thursday

6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom

Friday

Kids of the Kingdom Christmas Party

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple

5:00 p.m. Worship

**THE PARISH RECORD**

December 08/09 Saturday 5:00-12 Sunday 8:15-86 10:45-43 Total-141 Sunday School-65 Offerings \$4,007.00