

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #2

January 11, 2008

Baptism of Our Lord

This week we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. The gospel text is found in Matthew 3:13-17. It's an account of Jesus' baptism. When Jesus was baptized God's Spirit descended upon him and God claimed him as his Son.

In our worship we will give thanks for our own baptism and remember that in the waters of baptism we are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children.

Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing. We will give thanks for our baptism.

Known to be hospitalized is Katie Kaiser at FHN Memorial Hospital.

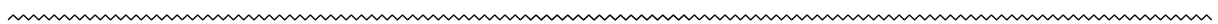
The family of Merlyn Leopold would like to thank the congregation for the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy for their loss. Thanks especially to Pastor Whitney for his visits, to Pastor Kretzmann for a very sensitive service, and to the Women of the ELCA for a great luncheon.

Marsha Roe would like to thank the pastors for their visits while she was in the hospital. Also, thanks to the congregation for their visits, calls, cards, transportation, and offers of help. It was all appreciated very much.

Thanks to the Senior High Youth Group, Diane Rimington, Bob Neuendorf, Jan Butterfield, and Don Swanson for staffing the PADS Homeless Shelter last week. The Senior High Youth Group also provided supper for the shelter that night. ☺

Care Givers give emotional support when a member is in need. If you know of anyone who could benefit from a Care Giver's visit, contact Pastor Kretzmann or Krys Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator - Good friends are like good quilts: they never lose their warmth.



ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held on January 20th. At noon, following our worship services and Sunday school, we will gather for a potluck and then after the meal, we will conduct the business of our annual meeting.

The Council will provide the meat and the drinks. Members are asked to bring a vegetable dish or a salad or a dessert.

In the next few days you will receive the booklet of reports for the meeting.

SOUPER BOWL

Are you ready for the Souper Bowl???

No matter what team you're rooting for on Super Bowl Sunday, you're sure

to be a winner if you take part in the Souper Bowl! The Souper Bowl is a nationwide fund raising event to help in the fight against hunger. This year, the First Lutheran Youth are asking for your support in this effort. All you need to do is drop a some money in the soup pots during our pre-game warm up event at the Annual Meeting Potluck, or after Church on February 3rd. 100% of your donation will stay local as we present the funds to FACC. So whether you're an AFC or NFC fan, you're sure to be a winner by supporting the Souper Bowl!!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM MEETING

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room to discuss the current Confirmation program. All 5th-8th grade parents and teachers are invited

to attend. Contact Bill Castle if you have any questions.

WELCA GATHERING

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 12th as the Women of the ELCA will be hosting an afternoon tea. We will start at 1:30 p.m with a short program about tea and then spend time in fellowship sampling a variety of good food and tea. We should conclude around 3:00 p.m. Cost for the event is \$3.00 per person and tickets will be sold starting January 27th. Invite a friend to accompany you and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. If anyone would like to attend and is in need of a ride, please contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, January 24 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Come down and join us for part or all of the day and bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. All are welcome to participate. For the next two months we will be gathering items for sewing kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. Donations of 4 yard pieces of cotton blend material and large spools of thread are needed and may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes.

HEARTS AT HOME

Hearts at Home is a national organization that encourages, educates, and equips women in the profession of motherhood. Their national conference is being held in Normal, IL on March 14 and 15, 2008.

Registration cost is \$80 for one day and informational brochures and a registration booklet can be found on the desk in the entryway. Other information is available on their website: www.hearts-at-home.org

PRAYER SHAWLS

Interest has been expressed by a few women to start a prayer shawl ministry. If you are interested in getting together to knit or crochet shawls, or just want to find out more, come down to church on Wednesday, January 30th at 1:30 p.m. We will have information on this ministry as well as patterns and samples to view. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, this would be a good project to learn how to. If you can't attend but are interested in participating, contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

JANUARY 13

BAPTISM OUR LORD

Readings: Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 10:34-43, Isaiah 42:1-9

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

9:30 a.m. *Sunday School & Confirmation Classes*

6:30 p.m. *High School Youth Group*

Monday

4:30 p.m. *Neighborhood Youth Ministry*

7:00 p.m. *Boy Scouts*

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. *Rebecca Circle at Jeanette Leopold's*

6:00 p.m. *Rachel Circle at Cannova's*

6:30 p.m. *Evangelism Committee*

7:00 p.m. *Youth Committee*

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts*

Thursday

6:30 p.m. *Kids of the Kingdom & Bell Choir Rehearsal*

7:30 p.m. *Celebration Choir Rehearsal*

Saturday

6:30 a.m. *MBA at Big Apple*

5:00 p.m. *Worship*

THE PARISH RECORD

January 6 Saturday 5:00-16 Sunday 8:15-108 10:45-64 Total-188 Offerings \$7,627