

# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032

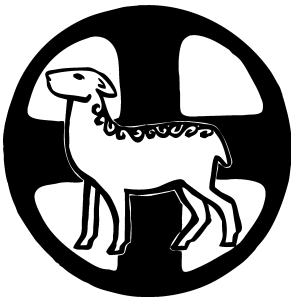


***CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING***

Volume 34 #3

January 18, 2008

## Second Sunday after Epiphany



The gospel reading for this Sunday is taken from John 1:29-42. It tells us that Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"; that is his identity. His mission is to be the sacrificial lamb who will die for the "sin of the world". In the reading we also learn that Jesus called disciples. In our worship we encounter Jesus in word and meal and we are sent forth to invite others to come and worship him and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

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## Annual Meeting



Our annual meeting will be held this Sunday, January 20. 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.

**Our Church  
Family**



We were sad to learn of the death of former member, Archie Gaston, on January 5, 2008.

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 Kryz Brose (815-233-4410).

*From the Volunteer Coordinator - If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be.*



## ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of the congregation for 2007 has been mailed. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the report and to Jeanette Leopold, Barb Donahue, and Carol Meyers for helping with the report. A very big thank you to the crew that assembled the reports and prepared them for mailing. They were: Kryz & Ernie Brose, Judy Castle, Bev & Duke Herrling, Norma Parkinson and Ruth Wardlow.

## YOU CAN HELP!



Thank you to those who have served at the PADS Homeless Shelter. Your ministry is much appreciated. We still need someone to serve supper on February 2. Please consider it and put your name on the sign up sheet located in the entryway.

## STATEMENTS OF GIVING

If you would like to receive a copy of your 2007 Statement of Giving, please

contact the church office and one will be mailed to you.

## 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!!!

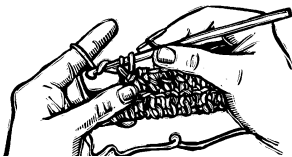
## WELCA GATHERING

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.

### 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.



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 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](http://www.hearts-at-home.org)

### 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.

### PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**JANUARY 20**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

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

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

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Visiting Committee

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

5:00 p.m. Humane Society Board & Annual Meeting

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Workday

6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom, Bell Choir, Praise Band Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Scrapbooking

4:00 p.m. Praise Band

5:00 p.m. Worship

**THE PARISH RECORD**

January 12/13 Saturday 5:00-20 Sunday 8:15-102 10:45-85 Total-207 Sunday School-44 Offerings  
\$4,122