

# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 34 #4

January 25, 2008

## Third Sunday after Epiphany



The Epiphany season continues and Sunday after Sunday Jesus' is manifested to us in different ways.

This Sunday we encounter him as the light of God. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table.

Like the fishermen we are also called and sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.

Known to be hospitalized is Olive Stoltz at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Charlie Janicke would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards he received after his surgery.

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 - Timely good deeds are nicer than afterthoughts.*

**MARJORIE M. BOYER † 1909 - 2008**

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

**BREAD FOR THE DAY**

Bread for the Day is a book of daily Bible readings, prayers and hymns from the ELW. The daily readings are concise and they follow the seasons of the church. This little book can be used for a quick short devotion or it can be used for more extended times of prayer. It will also work for families. A person could use the specific readings and prayers prescribed for a particular day or one could simply thumb through the book until something caught their eye. It is a very nice flexible resource. The evangelism committee has purchased 100 copies of this book. They are offering them to anyone who would like a copy. The books are available in the narthex. They ask for a donation to help defray a part of the cost. A suggested amount is \$3. Place the money in one of the envelopes attached to the display and place the envelope in an offering plate or slide it under the office door. If someone cannot afford to donate the full amount, any lesser amount will be acceptable. These books will also work very well for lenten devotions.

**THE SUNDAY OF SUNDAES**

Calling all confirmation students. It's ice cream Sunday on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us at 3:00 for some good eats and a fun time.

First Lutheran Youth Room  
Sunday, January 27, 2008

3:00 to 5:00

Bring your favorite game, your favorite ice cream topping, and all your friends.

We will supply the ice cream.

This is just the first of our monthly confirmation age youth group events.

We'd love to see you all there.

Diane, Meta, and Grant

**ANNUAL MEETING**

In spite of the frigid weather last Sunday almost eighty members enjoyed the pot luck and participated in the meeting. We had a good gathering, the last people left at about 3 p.m. Thanks to Ruth Wardlow and her crew for preparing the meat and for organizing the lunch.

**THE FUTURE**

The Council is organizing a retreat for February 9<sup>th</sup> for the leaders of all of the groups, committees and ministries of our congregation. In fact all members would be welcome to attend. Pastor Jeff Clements, assistant to Bishop Wollersheim will be in attendance and he will talk about an interim pastor for First and the calling of a full time replacement for Pastor Kretzmann who will retire at the end of March. Following his presentation Chaplain Don Swanson will lead the group in looking at the future of First; its mission, direction etc. The council is interested in the revitalization of the life of the

congregation and the faith of individual members. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Council President John Moore.

#### LENT BEGINS SOON

Ash Wednesday falls on February 6 this year. The schedule for midweek services will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday 12:15 and 6:30 PM

Midweek services 12:15 and 6:30 PM

Suppers 5:45 PM

Maunder Thursday 12:15 and 6:30 PM

Good Friday 6:30 PM

Saturday Easter Vigil 5:00 PM

Easter Sunday 6:30, 8:15 and 10:00 AM

#### AFTERNOON TEA

On Tuesday, February 12, the Women of the ELCA will be hosting an afternoon tea. We will begin at 1:30 p.m with a short program and then time will be spent sampling a variety of foods and teas. We should conclude by 3:00 p.m. Why not invite a friend to accompany you and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. Cost for the event is \$3.00 per person. Tickets will be available for purchase between church services on January 27th and February 3rd or by calling the church office. Anyone wishing to attend and in need of a ride may 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.

#### SPECIAL MUSIC THIS SUNDAY

The Kids of the Kingdom will be singing two special pieces of music this Sunday in memory of their founder, Judy Boyens. The music was purchased from Judy's memorial fund.

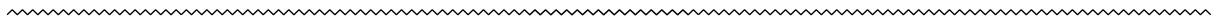
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Peg Huber, Office Manager  
JoAnn Beckman, Volunteer Coordinator  
Dawn Zeigler, Music Coordinator, Organist, Bell Choir Director  
Micki Arana, Kids of the Kingdom Choir Director  
Elwyn Euler, Custodian  
Website: [www.firstlutheranfreeport.com](http://www.firstlutheranfreeport.com)

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor  
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**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**JANUARY 27**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

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

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

3:00 p.m. Confirmation Youth Event

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday

4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Visiting Committee

Wednesday

1:30 p.m. WELCA Prayer Shawls Meeting

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 19/20 Saturday 5:00-13 Sunday 8:15-83 10:45-71 Total-167 Sunday School-42 Offerings  
\$4,173.50