

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #6

February 8, 2008

First Sunday in Lent

On the first Sunday in lent we always read the story of the temptation of Jesus. In the gospel accounts Jesus' baptism is followed by the temptation.

That is how he begins his ministry, it helps him to define his identity and his mission.

How does this text speak to us as we set out on our lenten journey? Who are we and what is our mission?



Known to be hospitalized is Lee Williams at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Phoebe Petrie would like to thank everyone who prayed for her son. He has had his surgery and is doing very well and is back at work.

Helen Busjahn will celebrate her 94th birthday on February 24. Her current address is: 2228 Cross Country Road, Box 491, Overgaard, AZ 85933.

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 - There's a rainbow of hope that is shining above, reminding us of God's endless love.

KATIE KAISER † 1924 - 2008

OLIVE STOLTZ † 1925 - 2008

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

Sponsored by the Celebration Choir

Plan now for lunch with your First family and friends on Sunday, February 24, 11:30 - 1:30. A variety of soups, breads, desserts, and relishes will be available. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children (10 and under), \$20/ family maximum. We're looking for



your donations of breads and desserts again. Sign up sheet and tickets will be available in the narthex starting this Sunday. Recipient of funds raised will be the Evanjelicke Lyceum in Bratislava, Slovakia, where our own Kendra Swanson is now teaching in support of the formation of their first school choir!

BREAKFAST AT CHURCH

A catered breakfast will be served from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. this Sunday, February 10, in the fellowship hall. The menu will be scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, donuts, coffee, tea, milk and juice. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will help cover the cost. Come and have breakfast, enjoy the food and fellowship and bring your friends!

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek services 12:15 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Suppers will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Lent is a time to journey inwards so that we can turn around and reach out to God and our neighbor. Let us journey together and grow in our love for God, ourselves and our neighbor.

AFTERNOON TEA

Tickets for the Women of the ELCA Tea on Tuesday, February 12th can still be purchased on Sunday, February 10th between worship services. Cost is \$3.00 per person. Women of all ages are welcome - why not invite a friend to come as well! If you are in need a ride, please call Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield.

SONGS ACROSS THE SEA SOUP SUNDAY

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

Remember last year what a good experience we had on a Sunday afternoon in lent worshipping together with members of grace Episcopal and St Joseph Catholic

churches? The choirs from our churches sang and the three clergy preached (briefly). After the service we enjoyed refreshments in St Joe's fellowship hall. We are going to do it again this year at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 229 W. Washington Place, this Sunday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. Come with your friends from the other churches or just bring someone you know.

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS

Please use the enclosed Lenten coin folder to give an offering for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal to aid those who are suffering because of drought, storms and wars. This is a way in which you can show your love for Christ. Jesus said that whenever we help someone in need we are helping him. Make this your Lenten sacrifice so that others might have their suffering relieved.

NISWO RETREATS

The Northern Illinois Synod Women are sponsoring two retreats based on the Book of Jonah. An overnight retreat at Sinsinawa Mound, WI will be held April 4-5th and the cost is \$75, which includes meals and lodging. A one-day retreat on the same topic will be held at First Lutheran Church in Ohio, IL on Saturday, March 29th with a cost of \$30, which includes lunch. Additional information as well as registration forms can be found on the bulletin board near the restrooms. Our WELCA will reimburse one-half the cost to any woman who attends either retreat. If you have any questions, contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to join the prayer shawl group as they meet on Saturday, February 16th. from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Items to bring include: size 11 or 13 knitting needles or a size "N" crochet hook, and 3-4 skeins

of "Lion's Brand Homespun" yarn, the recommended brand because of its softness. We do have some supplies of yarn and needles at church, as well as copies of the patterns. If you can't come and/or would just like to work at home on your own, contact Jan Butterfield for patterns.

Prayer shawls are a means of sharing God's love by reaching out to those in need of comfort and solace. Blessings are knitted or crocheted into every shawl. Shawls created by our group will be shared within our congregation to members in need.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet this month on Thursdays, February 14 and 28 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. This month we will continue to gather 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.

PLEASE HELP

Two weeks more to staff the PADS Homeless Shelter (March & April). Search your hearts and sign up! The sign up sheet is located in the entryway.

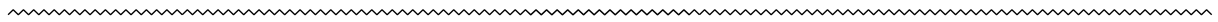
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

FEBRUARY 10

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11*

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

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

9:30 a.m. *Breakfast at Church*

3:00 p.m. *Vesper Service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church*

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

Monday

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

7:00 p.m. *Boy Scouts*

Tuesday

1:30 p.m. *Afternoon Tea*

4:30 p.m. *Youth Bible Study*

7:00 p.m. *Council Meeting*

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. *Life Skills Class*

12:15 & 6:30 p.m. *Midweek Lenten Services*

4:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts*

5:45 p.m. *Lenten Supper*

Thursday

10:00 a.m. *Workday*

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

7:30 p.m. *Celebration Choir*

Saturday

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

10:00 a.m. *Prayer Shawl Group*

5:00 p.m. *Worship*

THE PARISH RECORD

February 2/3 Saturday 5:00-17 Sunday 8:15-129 10:45-64 Total-210 Sunday School-48 Offerings \$5,101