

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

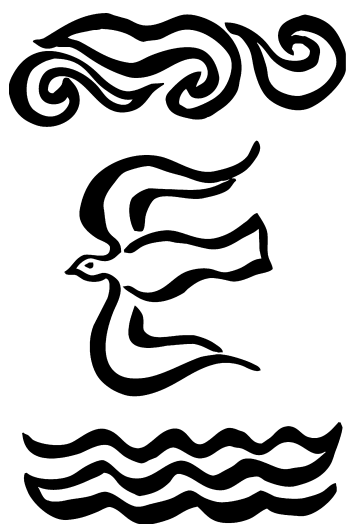


CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #7

February 15, 2008

Second Sunday in Lent



Psalm 121 affirms that during our lenten journey our "help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." As we deal with temptations long the way, we must remember where to turn for help; to the Lord.

Our gospel reading tells about a visit in the night that the Pharisee named Nicodemus made to Jesus. He was a leader of the "church" but he was afraid of letting others see him together with Jesus. Like us he was a person on a pilgrimage to discover the truth. He wanted to grow in his faith. He asked Jesus about being "reborn." Jesus told him that the Spirit of God would "mysteriously" give him new life. The text ends with those famous verses from John 3:16,17.

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

Lee Williams would like to thank the pastors for their visits while he was in the hospital.

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 - While seeking happiness for others, we unconsciously find it for ourselves.

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, March 29 - Retirement Party and Program at the Freeport Country Club

Sunday, March 30 - Open House at church for Pastor Neville & Sue Kretzmann

LOMC CAMP BROCHURES ARE HERE!

I will be distributing these to our Sunday School students in March.

-Laurie Swanson

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At our last council meeting John Moore was elected president, Bill Castle vice president, Gordy Tormohlen secretary, and Gene Wall treasurer. Other council members are: Tyler Cowman, Deb Elzinga, Dena Kampmier, Steve Olson, Meta Ridgway, Diane Rimington, Ruth Wardlow, and Steve Withington. Please support our council members with your prayers.

ONLY 3 SLOTS LEFT....

Search your hearts and sign up to staff the PADS Homeless Shelter. The sign up sheet is located in the entryway.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek services continue with services on Wednesdays at 12:15 and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Suppers will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This Wednesday we will be having Jimmy

John's subs. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

SONGS ACROSS THE SEA

SOUP SUNDAY

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 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!

Matching funds will be received from Thrivent.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

4:00 - 7:00 P.M. ~ FELLOWSHIP HALL

Families are invited to a Family Fun Night here at church. We are going to play games and make our own pizzas! Come and join in the fun of a unique multi-family experience. Please bring one tube of refrigerated pizza dough, the toppings you want, and a pizza pan or stone to bake it on. We will provide pizza sauce, cheese, laughter, fun activities, ovens, and free advice for our resident pizza expert. If you have any questions, please contact Tom and Chris Parkinson at 815-233-9222.

KUDOS

A big thank you to the Women of the ELCA who sponsored and held the Afternoon Tea. What a delightful way to spend an afternoon. Information about the tea was given and proved to be interesting and valuable. The decorated tables added a special touch. An extensive menu was featured with food that was absolutely delicious.

"It was one of the best teas I have attended anywhere."

Don't miss it in the future. Thank you ladies, you did an excellent job.

GROW IN YOUR FAITH

We have some great books designed to provide prayers, Bible readings, songs and other resources to help you grow in your faith. The books are not very big, they don't take up a lot of space, so you can place a copy in your bathroom or on the counter in the kitchen etc. The book is called "Bread for the Day". Maybe you might want to give a copy to a friend. The suggested donation is \$3.00 or less per book. If you cannot afford one, take one for free. They are in the narthex, place the money in the envelope that is provided and drop it off in the offering plate or at the office.

5TH GRADE COMMUNION EVENT

On March 9th at 3:00 p.m. the fifth graders from First and Prince of Peace will gather for the annual communion event at First Lutheran. The youth will make community soup and bread, share a community supper with the parents and learn more about Holy Communion. It's a great event!

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT

The event will be held at Kishwaukee Community College, Malta, Illinois, on March 9. It is a great opportunity to attend workshops about the various ministries that congregations are engaged in. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ralph Klein. His topic "Getting Lutherans to read the Bible." We usually car pool. The event is

sponsored by our synod. Please call the office as soon as possible and let us know if you will be attending.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet again this Saturday, February 16, from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring along 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. There are some supplies of yarn and needles at church, as well as copies of the patterns. All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome.

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 wish to attend, contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow regarding transportation.

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Freeport, IL 61032

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JoAnn Beckman, Volunteer Coordinator
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Micki Arana, Kids of the Kingdom Choir Director
Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.com

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor
John Moore, Lay President
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director
Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director
Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791
E-Mail: friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

FEBRUARY 17

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: Psalm 121, John 3:1-17

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

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

4:00 p.m. *Family Fun Night*

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

Monday

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

7:00 p.m. *Boy Scouts*

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. *Worship & Music Committee*

9:30 a.m. *Mary Circle*

1:00 p.m. *Rebecca Circle at Shirley Kampmeier's*

6:30 p.m. *Evangelism Committee*

7:00 p.m. *Rachel Circle at church*

Wednesday

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

4:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts*

5:45 p.m. *Lenten Supper*

Thursday

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

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*

9:00 a.m. *Scrapbooking*

4:00 p.m. *Praise Band*

5:00 p.m. *Worship*

THE PARISH RECORD

February 9/10 Saturday 5:00-14 Sunday 8:15-102 10:45-60 Total-176 Sunday School-39 Offerings \$3560