

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #8

February 22, 2008

Third Sunday in Lent



In today's gospel from John 4:5-42 Jesus does an unthinkable thing for his day, he engages in a conversation with a foreign woman (Samaritan). She asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

MATTHEW VOYER, Seminarian from Wartburg Theological Seminary will be preaching at our services this Saturday and Sunday. He will lead a Bible study on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Matt will be accompanied by his wife Heather and baby Toby. Pastor Neville appreciates the generosity of one of First Lutheran's families for providing the funding that has made it possible for us to have the guest preachers. They have been doing that since the fall of 2007. It has given him a much appreciated break. He is very thankful.

Known to be hospitalized is Nancy Neff at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Our sympathy to Joe Patterson (608 E. Wyandotte Street, Apt. 1, Freeport) on the death of his mother.

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 - Let prayer be the key to the day, and the bolt to the night.

HOLTUM MEMORIAL CHAPEL FULL

On Wednesday night the Holtum Chapel was filled to capacity. Extra chairs were brought in to cope with the overflow crowd at the midweek lenten service. The singing was wonderful. The service was preceded by a delicious supper in the fellowship hall.

Services continue throughout lent 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 fried chicken. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

SONGS ACROSS THE SEA SOUP SUNDAY

Sponsored by the Celebration Choir

Come on down for lunch with your First family and friends this 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 and may be purchased at the door.

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.

Saturday, March 29 - Retirement Party and Program at the Freeport Country Club for Pastor Neville and Sue Kretzmann.

There will also be an Open House at church on Sunday, March 30.

Don't forget to turn in your pictures of the Kretzmans to Jeff Cowman as soon as possible.

CONFIRMATION YOUTH AND PARENTS

Please join us this Sunday, February 24, for our next youth group event. We will be watching the movie, "Radio." We'll meet from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the First Lutheran Youth Room. Please bring your favorite movie munchie and a friend. Drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Church Women United will sponsor a World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 7, 1:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 503 N. Lily Creek Road. Fellowship time will follow the celebration service. On Friday, February 29, at 9:15 a.m. there will be a Bible Study also at First United Methodist Church.

SIGN IN PLEASE

Our Attendance Secretary would like us to remind you to sign the attendance sheets when you are at church on Saturday, Sunday, and

Wednesday. Thanks!

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." Details of the workshops are available in the narthex. 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.

SPRING CONCERT

Freeport Choral Society's Annual Spring Concert will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 S. Park Boulevard. David Gutschlag will direct the group with Carole Bertram playing keyboards.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, March 1, 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.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, February 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 lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. All are welcome to participate. This month we are 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.

THERE'S STILL 3 SLOTS LEFT....

Search your hearts and sign up to staff the PADS Homeless Shelter.

The sign up sheet is located in the entryway.

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First Lutheran Church
303 S. Galena Avenue
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

FEBRUARY 24 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

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

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

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Soup Lunch

3:00 p.m. Confirmation Youth Group

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday 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

4:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study

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

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir

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

5:00 p.m. Worship

THE PARISH RECORD

February 16/17 Saturday 5:00-15 Sunday 8:15-60 10:45-42 Total-117 Sunday School-28 Offerings \$3,674.50

Wednesday, February 20 12:15-19 6:30-19 Total-38