

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #9

February 29, 2008

Fourth Sunday in Lent



The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ; John 9:1-41 . "I was blind, but now I see," declared the man, after Jesus had healed his blindness.

In lent we seek to be freed of our blindness so that we may see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As daughters and sons of God we are to be God's instruments of healing and restoration in the world. We must help others to "see".



Darlene Janssen fell recently and was hospitalized. She is now recuperating at her daughter's home. The address is C/O Kim Franklin, 5805 Hempstead Road, Madison, WI 53711.

Our sympathy to Judy Kaufman and Carole Busjahn on the death of their brother, David Knauer. They would like to thank everyone for all their prayers this past year.

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 - When we have nothing left but God, we will find that He is enough..

SENDING SONGS ACROSS THE SEA THANKS - THANKS - THANKS

Thanks to co-chair Sue for shopping, cooking chicken, making soup, etc. etc. She had her sleeves rolled up scrubbing soup pots before some of had eaten. Maybe you're ready for retirement, Neville, but we're not ready for Sue to retire! She'll have to commute!!

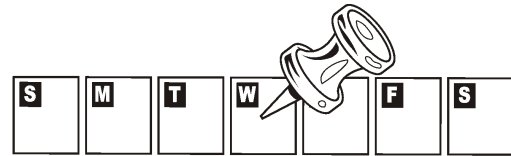
Thanks also to the other soup makers: Dee, Warren, Barb, Mike (actually Mike made the posters while Barb cooked), Dagny, and Teresa. A big thanks to Marilyn, Jeanette, Ruth, Dagny, Micki, Betty S., Trudy, Dawn, Evelyn, Kryz, Jan, Pat, Shirley, Arleen, Betty T., Dolores, Sandie, and Betty B. for your tasty breads and delicious desserts. (If I missed anyone, sorry, thank you, too.) Thanks to the congregation for buying tickets (after the weatherman finally cooperated) and for your generous cash donations. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to all the choir members who pitched in to help wherever needed. We're a close knit group who work together to make everyone's job easier.

We netted \$613.57 plus whatever Thrivent gives us. Thank you Thrivent. So, this should help make Kendra and her co-teachers sing - sing - sing.

Thanks everyone,
Norma

BREAKFAST

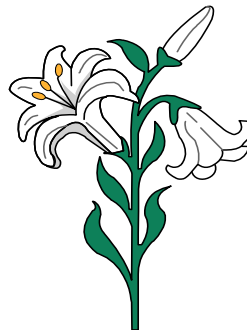
Mark your calendars now for the next all church breakfast, Sunday, March 9, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Come and enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship time with your First friends.



Mid-Week **WORSHIP SERVICES**

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 tacos. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.



EASTER LILIES

It's time to order your lily for this year's Easter services. Please use a pink multi-purpose envelope or a pew envelope for your donation and indicate if they are to be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. The cost this year is \$9.00.



**5TH GRADE
COMMUNION EVENT**

On Sunday, 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**

Each year our synod sponsors the Congregational Resourcing Event in an attempt to provide congregations with "practical" resources that congregations can use in day to day ministry. Workshops are offered on just about every aspect of congregational life. The event will be held at Kishwaukee Community College, Malta, Illinois, on March 8. 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.



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.

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. The concert will feature Randall Thompson's, "The Peaceable Kingdom."

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.

First News
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Freeport, IL 61032

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Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.com

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John Moore, Lay President
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

MARCH 2

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

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

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

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*

1:30 p.m. *Care Givers Meeting*

4:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts*

5:45 p.m. *Lenten Supper*

7:15 p.m. *Celebration Choir*

Thursday

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

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

6:30 p.m. *Bell Choir*

Saturday

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

5:00 p.m. *Worship*

THE PARISH RECORD

February 23/24 Saturday 5:00-19 Sunday 8:15-139 10:45-83 Total-241 Sunday School-62 Offerings \$4,685.50

Wednesday, February 27 12:15-22 6:30-16 Total-38