

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #10

March 7, 2008

Fifth Sunday in Lent



This is the last Sunday in Lent coming up. On Sunday the 16th we will celebrate Palm Sunday and then the Sunday after that will be Easter. This Sunday the readings are from Ezekiel 37:1-14 and from John 11:1-45. Both are texts about hope, new life and resurrection. Ezekiel is about "dem dry bones" that come to life when the Spirit of the Lord blows upon them. In John, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead. The text from John reveals another one of the "signs" that Jesus did, revealing who he was and what his mission was. John shows us that Jesus

is the one who raises the dead.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 16 - 8:15 and 10:45 AM

Maundy Thursday, March 20 - 12:15 and 6:30 PM

Good Friday, March 21 - 6:30 PM

Saturday Easter Vigil, March 22 - 5:00 PM

Easter Sunday, March 23 - 6:30, 8:15 and 10:00 AM

Known to be hospitalized are Tina Buss and Lisa Heilman at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Jim Elmer had surgery recently and is recuperating at home.

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 - Life without love is like a day without light.

COME ONE, COME ALL

There will be plenty of food so please come and enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship time with your First friends this Sunday, March 9, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

MID WEEK SERVICES

Please join us this Wednesday for Lenten services at 12:15 or 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 barbeques. 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.

MAYOR'S HUNGER LUNCHEON

The 18th annual Mayor's Hunger Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 11, from 11:30 - 1:00 at the Masonic Temple. Tickets are \$20.00 and all proceeds will benefit FACC (Freeport Area Church Cooperative). Please contact Dee Lieber at 815-232-6710 for tickets.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Tickets will be available this Sunday for the youth sponsored Easter breakfast. They will be serving from 7:30 - 10:00 a.m. and the cost is \$5.00/person or \$20.00/family.

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE

By now you should have received a revised invitation to Pastor Kretzmann's retirement

dinner. The date has been changed to Friday, March 28. The place and the times are the same - Freeport Country Club, Social time at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will be available this weekend. We are still collecting your written memories and pictures.

The schedule for Sunday, March 30 is:

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

10:30 a.m. Farewell Worship Service

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Open House at First Lutheran

THANK YOU

Thanks to Ted & Marilee Odendahl, Mike & Barb O'Grady, and Mike Marchini for volunteering at the PADS Homeless Shelter last weekend. There are two slots open for April 5. Please sign up on the (large) sign up sheet in the entryway and make things easy for our coordinator, Diane Rondeau. This will be the last date for this season.

THE FIRE

Last week, the home of two of the little girls who come to our Monday evening children's program, burned down. Their home was two doors south of our church. It was a terrible experience for them to watch everything that they owned go up in smoke. Fortunately no one

was injured. The Red Cross and other local agencies, as well as individuals, have been very helpful in providing temporary housing, clothing etc. for the family. The girl's mother is overwhelmed by the generosity of the community. Community Action is providing the initial payment for rent and a deposit for the family so that they can find another home. Unfortunately they can only move into another place next week. The Red Cross provided one week of housing for them at the Baymont. So they are now faced with a few days during which they will not have any place to stay. They could stay with some relatives, but given what they have been through, it would be additionally stressful for this family of six persons to move in with someone else. Possibly we as a congregation could pay for them to stay a few more days at the Baymont. They could also do with a little cash at this time. So I invite you to share some of your financial resources with this family. If we all contribute we will help them on their way.

5TH GRADE COMMUNION EVENT

This 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!

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, March 15th from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come down and learn more about this new ministry.

PROJECT WORKDAY

PROJECT WORKDAY will meet on Thursday, March 13th 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. For the next few months we will be gathering items for health kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. Items needed include hand towels, washcloths, toothpaste (5-7 oz.), toothbrushes, bath soap, nail clippers, band-aids, and wide-toothed combs. Donations may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes. A list of supplies can also be found on the bulletin board near the restrooms.

SOUPERBOWL REPORT

You may remember about a month ago when the First Lutheran High School Youth were asking for your support in the Souperbowl of Caring event. We're tardy, but happy to report that this year's Souperbowl netted just over \$500! Dennis Bokemeier, from the Freeport Area Church Cooperative will be stopping by this week's Youth Group meeting to update us on some of FACC's activities and pick up a check for \$600 (the youth felt that such a worthy cause was worth "upping" to an even amount, so they used some of their fund raising savings). The First Lutheran Youth have participated in the Souperbowl since 1995, and have collectively donated over \$4,000! Nationwide, this year's Souperbowl achieved a new record with \$9,550,204 being donated by over 14,000 Christian youth groups. The Souperbowl concept was started in the early 90's by one youth group hoping to make a difference...God sure knows how to get things done doesn't he?

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

MARCH 9

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45

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

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

9:30 a.m. All Church Breakfast

3:00 p.m. 5th Grade Communion Event

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday

4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry

6:00 p.m. Memorial Committee

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

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. Bell Choir, Kids of the Kingdom, and Praise Band

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

1:00 p.m. Piano Recital

5:00 p.m. Worship

THE PARISH RECORD

March 01/02 Saturday 5:00-19 Sunday 8:15-121 10:45-58 Total-198 Sunday School-53 Offerings \$8,760.34

Wednesday, March 5 12:15-16 6:30-26 Total-42