

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #11

March 14, 2008



Palm Sunday welcomes Jesus with shouts of hosanna! Good Friday resounds with rejection; "Crucify him!" they cry.

We are always amazed by the fickleness of humanity; how easily people are swayed by public opinion, polls, rumors and the like. So we are not surprised that the people shouted "Hosanna" one day and then a few days later "Crucify him." The reason why we are not surprised is that we are no different.

So as we enter Holy Week many fickle disciples of Jesus will gather for worship, to express their regret, to give thanks for God's love and to celebrate the hope of Easter.

Known to be hospitalized is Don Freeman at University Hospital in Madison.

Pastor Milt Whitney had surgery last week and is recuperating at home.

Helen Busjahn wants to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during her illness, especially the OWLS and the Workday crew. She is now back home.

Carole Busjahn and Judy Kaufman want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers for their brother David Knauer.

Marsha Roe would like to thank the people who made the prayer shawl she received. She is enjoying the shawl and the prayers that came with it.

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 Kryss Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator - God does not shield us from life's storms; he shelters us in life's storms.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 16
8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 20
12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 21 - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Easter Vigil, March 22
5:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 23
6:30, 8:15 and 10:00 a.m.

Our Palm Sunday worship begins with a procession of palms as we welcome Jesus into our midst, as the crowd did when he rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, as a sign that he was coming in peace. During the service we will also participate in the reading of the account of the arrest and betrayal of Jesus.

On Maundy Thursday we remember that it was during the last supper that he was having with his disciples, while they were celebrating the Passover, that Jesus gave us the gift of Holy Communion. At the end of the

service we carry out all of the paraments, the candles, flowers, and communion vessels as a reminder that Jesus was stripped of his humanity, garments and his life.

On Good Friday our service will be very different this year. We will offer a service of healing with Holy Communion. The ministry and the sacrifice of Jesus invites us to new life in God which impacts our relationships with others. Through his death Jesus set us free from the powers that separate us from God and others. Jesus brings healing and restoration to our lives. Through the gifts of bread and wine we receive the presence of Christ in our lives. Just as the physical elements of bread and wine help us to taste and see the presence of Jesus, the laying on of hands conveys the physical presence of Christ and a sign of his healing touch.

On Saturday we welcome Easter, remember our baptism and celebrate

communion together. The service begins with the lighting of the Paschal candle to represent the presence of the risen Christ.

EASTER LILIES

This Sunday is your last chance 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.

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.

RETIREMENT DINNER

Pastor Kretzmann's retirement dinner will be held on Friday, March 28 at the 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

CONFIRMATION YOUTH GROUP

All confirmation students are invited

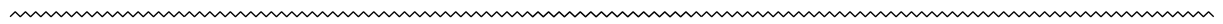
to a youth group event this Sunday, March 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We'll meet in the youth room. Please bring a packet of seeds and a picture of something "awesome." Snacks will be provided.

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Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.com

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor
John Moore, Lay President
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

MARCH 16

PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Mark 11:1-11, Isaiah 40:9-11, 29-31, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 15:1-39

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

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

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*

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. *Mary Circle*

11:00 a.m. *Rebecca Circle at Nine East Coffee*

6:30 p.m. *Evangelism Committee*

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

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts*

6:30 p.m. *Kids of the Kingdom Easter Celebration*

Thursday

12:15 & 6:30 p.m. *Maundy Thursday Worship Services*

7:30 p.m. *Celebration Choir*

Friday

6:30 p.m. *Good Friday Service*

Saturday

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

4:00 p.m. *Praise Band*

5:00 p.m. *Easter Vigil Worship*

THE PARISH RECORD

March 08/09 Saturday 5:00-16 Sunday 8:15-90 10:45-62 Total-168 Sunday School-41 Offerings \$3,727

Wednesday, March 12 12:15-16 6:30-14 Total-30