

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #17

April 25, 2008

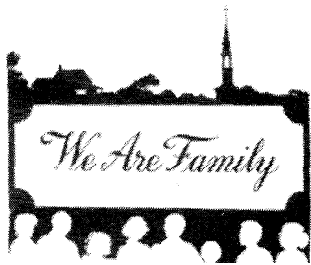
Sixth Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2008



We will think together this week about the significance of Baptism. We will remember the story of Noah and the time when water was a sign of destruction, and we will give thanks for the love of God which has

changed waters of death into waters of life.



Sandy Helms would like to thank all who prayed for her, sent cards and offered help at the time of her mother's illness and death. Special thanks to Pastor Hansen, Pastor Whitney, and Kryz Brose.

Don Freeman would like to thank Pastors Kretzmann and Whitney for their prayers and visits while being hospitalized and since returning home. Thanks to the ladies of the Prayer Shawl ministry for the lovely shawl they made for me which is beautiful. Also thanks for the many cards, phone calls, and visits that I have received. Everything was

gratefully appreciated.

The OWLS (Older Women, Lutheran Singles) will be going to the Granite City Food & Brewery in Rockford on Thursday, May 1. They will leave from the church at 10:30 a.m.

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 Kryz Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator - When we come to the end of our rope, God is there waiting to take over.

SPECIAL FLOWERS

Pentecost is May 11 and we will again be decorating the church with geraniums. The cost is \$10.50 for 3 plants. They may be given in memory or in honor of someone. Please use a pink envelope or a pew envelope.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the following people who volunteered at the Corner Store at Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC) the week of April 14:



Ruth Banderet and friend, Barb Reichert, Dolores Johnson, Jeanette Leopold, Betty Stebbins, Jan Sievert, Arleen Olson, Shirley Kampmeier, Judy Castle, Phyllis Rosenwinge, and Jean Greene.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The May Friendship Luncheon for Church Women United in Freeport will be held on Friday, May 2 at Church of the Brethren. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a program which should conclude by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$6.00. Please call Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield for reservations by April 28.

JOIN THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

The Christian Education Team would like your help with increasing our volunteer base. We are in the process of re-organizing with the concept

of "more people, less work." Our hope is to increase our volunteer base so that no one person is overwhelmed with any responsibility. In the Fellowship Hall, we will have a tree chart showing all the areas of Christian Ed. We ask that you take a look at it, and if there is anything that you feel called to help with, please sign your name.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Bill Castle at 232-4153 or join us at our meeting on Wednesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

SUMMER CAMP

Hey campers - it's time for you to send in your camp registration and \$50 deposit to attend camp at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) this summer. Also, don't forget to complete your First Lutheran Campership application. Completed Campership forms should be left in the church office. The deadline is May 25!



We have learned there will be no Sports II camp this year. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Swanson at 815-232-7526.

ROLLER SKATING AT THE SKATE STATION

Come & have fun with us at the skate station. All confirmation age youth, friends, & family are invited to a Sunday afternoon of skating. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:00 and return around 4:30.

When: This Sunday, April 27, 2008
Where: First Lutheran parking lot
What: Skating at the Skate Station
Skating times: 1:30 to 4:00

Please remember to bring money for skating.

A FUN TIME

The Women of the ELCA has scheduled a summer outing for the women of the church. We will be attending the performance of "CHURCH BASEMENT WOMEN" at Timber Lake Playhouse. This is a musical comedy featuring four different women and their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural Minnesota church in 1964. Funny and down to earth entertainment. You might recognize some of these ladies as they witness the church year unfold from below the house of God. A celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there.

When: Wednesday, August 13, 2008
2 p.m. performance
Cost: \$18 Payment due by July 23

Make your reservations early. We will be arranging to car pool. CALL Jan Butterfield 815-233-4515 or Ruth Wardlow 815-232-4839.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet on Saturday, May 3, 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.

MAY DAY

May 1st, often called **May Day**, just might have more holidays than any other day of the year. It's a celebration of Spring. It's a day of political protests. It's a neopagan festival, a saint's feast day, and a day for organized labor. In many countries, it is a national holiday. (from an article written by Shmuel Ross, which you may read in full at the following website: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/mayday.html>)

What is interesting is that this year, May Day happens to coincide with Ascension Day, the day on which we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven following his resurrection. "The Feast of the Ascension commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. Thus Ascension Day falls



40 days after Easter, on the 6th Thursday of Easter. Evidence from John Chrysostom, Egeria, Gregory of Nyssa, and Church historian Socrates, suggests that Ascension Day probably originated in the 4th century AD. However, Augustine says the festival is apostolic. Often the feast was celebrated with a procession, symbolizing Christ's journey to the Mount of Olives. Until rather recently, the Paschal Candle (lighted at the Easter Vigil) was extinguished on Ascension Day." (excerpted from this web resource: <http://www.churchyear.net/ascension.html>)

So, this year, if you celebrate May Day with baskets of spring flowers and ribbons, you might also talk of the Ascension of Jesus, and how, just like the new growth of Spring, Jesus brought new life to the world forever.

Happy May/Ascension Day!
Pastor Kurt Hansen

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

APRIL 27

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

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

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

1:00 p.m. Confirmation Youth Group

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Monday

4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee - Fellowship Hall

Thursday

10:30 p.m. OWLS to Rockford

1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study

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

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir

Saturday

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

9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

5:00 p.m. Worship Service

THE PARISH RECORD

April 19/20 Saturday 5:00-13 Sunday 8:15-122 10:45-74 Total-209 Sunday School-41 Offerings \$4,845.50