

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #18

May 2, 2008

Ascension of Our Lord

May 4, 2008



Our texts for this Sunday combine elements of the Ascension Day texts with the Gospel assigned to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. As the amazed disciples look on, Jesus is lifted up to heaven before their eyes, and they are captivated by what they are seeing. Then the heavenly messengers stand among them, asking, "Why do you stand looking at the sky?"

In John's seventeenth chapter Jesus prays that after He departs from them, His followers will be protected by the name God has given them and unified in purpose and in vision. Are we a unified body of Christ? Where is our vision cast? Towards heaven? Or outward towards those in need of hope and healing? Maybe we always need some of both...



Known to be hospitalized is Janice Burck at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Nancy Neff would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers she received following her recent surgery.

Lee Markwardt would like to thank the Prayer Shawl Group for the beautiful prayer shawl she received.

Tina Buss would like to thank Arleen Olson for bringing her home from Rockford Memorial Hospital. She would also like to thank the Prayer Shawl Group for the lovely prayer shawl. It was her favorite color.

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 - If you do not have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?

LUTHERAN HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endowment Fund has allocated money for scholarships for members of our congregation who will be attending a Lutheran College or ELCA Seminary for the 2008-09 school year. Application forms have been sent to all college-age members and are also available on the tract rack. Please return the completed applications to the church office - no later than May 4!

LAY ADULT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships are available through our Endowment Fund to assist members who pursue educational opportunities or programs which help them grow and strengthen their faith and ministry. A variety of opportunities exist within our Synod, such as Diakonia classes, LOMC retreats, and courses through Wartburg Seminary or other educational institutions. If you are interested in pursuing these or other program opportunities, please complete an application form and return it to the church office.

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.

GLOBAL MISSION EVENT

At the ELCA Global Mission Event (GME), people of all ages from all over the world celebrate God's mission and encourage and strengthen one another for global ministry. Come receive the witness of international Christians...learn global music and dance...encounter new faces and challenging ideas...gain global ministry skills...equip one another to live as Christians in global relationships...and have fun!

Every GME celebrates the global mission work of the many members of Christ's body, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Lutheran and ecumenical agencies and partners, and companion churches from around the world.

Register by July 10 and come to this year's Global Mission Event in La Crosse, Wisconsin, July 17-20, 2008! See the brochure on the bulletin board, or look for more details about the program and speakers online at www.elca.org/gme

SIGNATURE QUILT

Have you signed your name(s) to the quilt for the Kretzmann's yet? The quilt is in Fellowship Hall and special pens are provided for you to use. It will be available through May 11th for you to sign, then it will be returned to Neville and Sue.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

A big thank you to those who followed their hearts and God's call to staff the PADS Homeless Shelter this past season:

Mike & Barb Reichert
Aubrey & Arleen Olson
Pat, Dale, & Dusty Schutte
Diane Rondeau
Don & Laurie Swanson
Mike & Barb O'Grady
Senior High Youth
Diane Rimington
Bob Neuendorf
Jan Butterfield
Ted & Marilee Odendahl
Mike Marchini
Steve Nancy Olson

-Diane Rondeau

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet this month on Thursdays, May 8 & 22 in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Come down for part or all of the day. Sewing skills are not required to participate. We will start collecting supplies for layette kits for Lutheran World Relief - especially needed are infant t-shirts, sleepers, receiving blankets, cloth diapers and bath-size bars of ivory soap. Items may be left in the WELCA box located by the mailboxes near the Jackson Street entrance.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, May 3, 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 ministry.

MOTHER'S DAY AUCTION

Hey everyone ~ it is getting closer! Do you have the auction on your calendar? The high school youth are in need of your help to get to Biloxi for their Mission Trip. They are collecting any donations for the auction. (Pies, cakes, craft

items, food items) It is a fun event and again, Gordy will be the auctioneer. The auction will take place on Mother's Day, May 11, in between services.



Drop off times for the donations will be on Saturday the 10th, from 10 a.m. until noon or Sunday the 11th, from 7:45 a.m. until 9 a.m. If anyone needs help in getting your items to

the church, please call Jackie Meiborg 815-238-0403, so that we can work out the pick up.

We are looking forward to a great turnout!! See you there!

KITCHEN CLEANING

The Women of the ELCA will be cleaning the kitchen on May 6 at 1:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to come and help! Also, there are quite a few dishes unclaimed and waiting to return home - please take a look to see if any belong to you. They are located on the counter next to the refrigerator.

CAMPERS

The deadline for turning in your Campership applications is Sunday, May 25!



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Kurt Hansen Interim, Pastor
Peg Huber, Office Manager
JoAnn Beckman, Volunteer Coordinator
Dawn Zeigler, Music Coordinator, Organist, Bell Choir Director
Micki Arana, Kids of the Kingdom Choir Director
Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.com

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor
John Moore, Lay President
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director
Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director
Rebecca Roe, Kids of the Kingdom Director's Assistant
Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

MAY 4

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Readings: Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, John 17:1-11

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

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

6:30 p.m. *Youth Group*

Monday 4:30 p.m. *Neighborhood Youth Ministry*

7:00 p.m. *Boy Scouts*

Tuesday 1:00 p.m. *Kitchen Cleaning*

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. *Care Givers Meeting*

4:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts*

Thursday 10:00 a.m. *Workday*

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*

5:00 p.m. *Worship Service*

THE PARISH RECORD

April 26/27 Saturday 5:00-21 Sunday 8:15-110 10:45-98 Total-229 Sunday School-38 Offerings \$4,274.50