

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #24

June 27, 2008

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

"WE ARE CAPTIVE TO SIN AND CANNOT FREE OURSELVES."

When we speak the words of confession, consider what we are saying... So often, sin is understood like some sort of "boo-boo," an irritation on an otherwise healthy life, and if we take the right sort of corrective action, everything will be all better. In his remarkable letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that the corrective action has indeed been taken, but not by us. Through Christ Jesus, God has defeated the power of sin and offers the gracious gift of eternal life despite our unworthiness. Our correct response to the awareness of sin in our lives should not be "fixing the boo-boo" but one of gratefulness for God's curing of what Soren Kirkegaard called the "sickness unto death." If God has effected the cure to our terminal illness, what ought our response be?

SUNDAY, JULY 6

INDEPENDENCE DAY!

As a nation, our independence is something we value most highly. As Christian souls, however, that same independent streak can be most vexing. Christ offers another way: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and you will find rest for your souls. Take my yoke upon you..." (Matthew 11:28-29).

A yoke teams up a pair or more of oxen to share the burden of the load they must carry. Jesus offers to share our burdens, but how often we are "stubborn as an ox" instead!

Known to be hospitalized is Susan Fagot at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Jan Butterfield is recuperating at home following an automobile accident.

Congratulations to Carolyn & John Mitchell on the birth of their son, Aidan John Mitchell on June 13. Grandparents are Dean & Ann Sperle and great-grandmother is Martha Sperle.

Elsie Schoop would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and calls she received after she fell. A special thank you to Pastor Hansen for his call.

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).

The deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, July 8.

From the Volunteer Coordinator - If we let God guide....He will provide.

WORSHIP JULY 4TH WEEKEND

-Diane Rondeau

On Sunday, July 6, our worship schedule will be as follows:

8:15 a.m. service at First Lutheran

9:30 a.m. combined service with other churches in the band shell at Krape Park. Participating churches are: First Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Trinity United Methodist, Embury United Methodist and First Lutheran.

There will be no 10:45 a.m. service at First Lutheran that day.

THE OWLS (Older Women, Lutheran Singles) will be going to the Candlelight Restaurant in Sterling on Thursday, July 10. They will leave from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

URGENT!

We only have one person signed up to staff the PADS Homeless Shelter July 26 and August 23. I cannot and will not do it myself. Sign up! Call me at 815-232-3007.

P.S. If you are signing up for the first time, call me and I will give you a job description.

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

The Women of the ELCA will be attending the 2:00 p.m. performance of "CHURCH BASEMENT WOMEN" at Timber Lake Playhouse on Wednesday, August 13. The cost is \$18.00 Make your reservations early. We will be car pooling.

Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, July 10, in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Come down for part or all of the day. We are collecting supplies for layette kits for Lutheran World Relief - still needed are infant sleepers, receiving blankets, and cloth diapers. Items may be left in the WELCA box located by the mailboxes near the Jackson Street entrance. Monetary

donations towards the purchase of diapers are also welcome and may be placed in the baby bottle located in the entryway.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, July 5, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come.

WELCA RETREAT

Mark your calendars for a WELCA sponsored retreat for the women of the church on Tuesday, July 15.

We will gather from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and our program will use the *Lutheran Women Today* magazine summer Bible study series on water and baptism. If you do not receive the magazine, copies of the study will be available at the retreat.

Rene Johnson from Lena will be our leader. Time will be spent in fellowship and Bible study and we will share a salad luncheon.

All you need to do is call Ruth Wardlow or the church office if you plan to attend, and bring a salad to share for lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

There is no cost to attend but an offering will be taken in support of the ministries of Women of the ELCA.

LOCAL TREASURES

Do you have a story of a senior who made a difference in your life? The

Stephenson County Senior Center is seeking submissions for its first volume of, "*Local Treasures - Seniors Who Have Enriched Our Lives.*" Stories by local community members about people who were 60+ at the time the story occurred - living or deceased - who have made a difference in our lives. The story should be no more than 600 words. Call 815-235-9777 for more information. To submit:

localtreasures@stephensonseniorcenter.org

www.stephensonseniorcenter.org

Stephenson County Senior Center
Attn: Local Treasures
121 N. Harlem Avenue, Suite 100
Freeport, IL 61032

Deadline for submission is July 15, 2008.

First News
First Lutheran Church
303 S. Galena Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032

Periodicals Postage Paid
Freeport, IL 61032
USPS 345110

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
E-Mail: friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com



THIS WEEK AT FIRST

JUNE 29 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. *Worship Services*
Monday 7:00 p.m. *Boy Scouts*
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. *Care Givers Meeting*
Thursday 1:00 p.m. *NW Conference Pastor's Text Study*
Friday 4th of July - *Office Closed*
Saturday 6:30 a.m. *MBA at the Big Apple*
10:00 a.m. *Prayer Shawl Group*
5:00 p.m. *Worship Service*

THE PARISH RECORD

June 14/15	Saturday 5:00-10	Sunday 8:15-90	10:45-53	Total-153	Offerings \$3,778.50
June 14/15	Saturday 5:00-26	Sunday 8:15-99	10:45-36	Total-161	Offerings \$4,907.50