

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

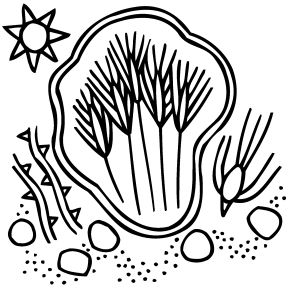


CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING

Volume 34 #25

July 11, 2008

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday, July 13



God's word is sown like seed, and as we all know, seed sprouts and grows under certain conditions. Good soil, adequate water, light from the sun; all these are needed for seed to produce anything. We have received the grounding of the Scriptures, the water of Baptism, and the Light of God's own Son, Jesus Christ. Is God's word growing and producing in your life? If not, why not? (Hint: which of those elements listed above are you not in contact with...)

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday, July 20

Where can we go to flee from God's presence? That's the question posed by the psalmist in Psalm 139. One might reasonably question why one would wish to flee from God's presence, but the urge to do so is apparently not unusual among humankind. Life with God can get overwhelming; but consider the alternative... Thankfully, the psalmist answers his own rhetorical question: Nowhere! God remains with us, incessantly interested in us, passionately pursuing us, no matter where we go or what we do. We cannot get away from God! (Thanks be to God...)

Dorothy Ackerman is recuperating at home following surgery.

Dick & Connie Regez want to say a big thank you to Pastor Whitney and the Care Givers for their visits and prayers during Dick's recent illness.

The family of Donald W. Freeman would like to thank everyone for the cards, memorials, flowers, food

and prayers we received. Also, thanks to Pastor Art Stees and Pastor Kurt Hansen for being there for us. A special thank you to the Women of the ELCA who participated in the luncheon. -Marilyn Freeman, David & Stephanie Freeman, Karen Driscoll, Janelle & Rex Blomberg, Darla Kortemeier, and Laura & Rodger Fye.

Phyllis Rosenwinge would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, visits, and calls she received after her surgery. Also, thanks to Pastor Whitney and Pastor Swanson for their visits.

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 Kryss Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator - Temptations are sure to ring your doorbell, but it's your fault if you invite them for dinner.

JANICE BURCK † 1926 - 2008
May God grant peace to her memory, comfort to her family and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to His glory.

information collected will contribute to developing a congregational profile for the call process. Look for more info on this soon...

-Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor

PASTORAL VACATION SCHEDULE

Pastor Hansen will be away doing a wedding in Wisconsin on Saturday, July 12, so the Saturday evening service will be led by Rev. Karen Capel of St. James, Forreston.

Pastor Hansen will be on vacation July 19-26. Rev. Margo Peterson of St. Paul, Warren will be available to cover any urgent pastoral care needs during this week. She may be reached at 815-745-3444 (church) or at 608-325-2084 (home).

Rev. Mark Luepke will lead worship on Saturdays, July 19, and 26, and Rev. Lee Luebke will lead worship on Sunday, July 20.

Please make these guest worship leaders welcome!

INTERIM UPDATE

A transition task force (TTF) has been initiated and has begun to meet. The purpose of the TTF is to identify issues of concern to congregation members related to the current and future ministry and mission of First Lutheran Church. Input will be sought from all members through a variety of means, and will be shared with the church council. The

THE DEADLINE IS APPROACHING

The Women of the ELCA will be attending the 2:00 p.m. performance of "CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES" at Timber Lake Playhouse on Wednesday, August 13. The cost is \$18.00 and the deadline for reservations is Tuesday, July 15. Contact the church office.

WANTED

We are looking for donations from our many talented people at First for the upcoming WELCA Silent Auction/Salad Luncheon to be held on October 25th. Only new hand crafted items(wood working, needle work, decorative items for the home, etc.) wanted. Other ideas are gift baskets, gift cards, and specialty baked items. Any questions, please contact Judy Castle 815-233-2425.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

The Women of the ELCA is sponsoring a 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. Please bring a salad to share and call the church office to make your reservation.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, July 24 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 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 19 from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Thank you to everyone who has used their "Special Offering" envelope and given a tithe (10%) of the economic stimulus check they received from the government. Offerings are still being accepted and you may designate where you would like this extra offering to go. Extra "Special Offering" envelopes are available at church.

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 and the deadline for submission is July 15, 2008. 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

The deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, July 29.

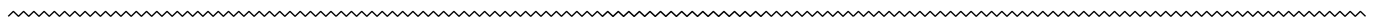
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First Lutheran Church
303 S. Galena Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032

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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
E-Mail: friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com



THIS WEEK AT FIRST

JULY 13 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Transition Team
Monday 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. WELCA Gathering - Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Mutual Ministry Team
6:30 p.m. Evangelism Team
Thursday 1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study
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 28/29 Saturday 5:00–25 Sunday 8:15–91 10:45–39 Total–155 Offerings \$5,464.50

July 05/06 Saturday 5:00–16 Sunday 8:15–96 Total–112 Offerings \$4,185.50