

# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



**CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING**

Volume 34 #27

August 15, 2008

## **Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 17**

An unnamed woman from Cana can be our teacher this Sunday in the Gospel text from Matthew 15. She can teach us how to humbly approach God even if we feel unwelcome or unfit. She may even have clarified for Jesus just how far God's plan for salvation was going to go. When confronted by her humble faith, Jesus was compelled to respond and in this encounter Isaiah's prophecy came to pass: "Even the foreigners would join themselves to me. I will welcome them to my holy mountain...for my house shall be called the house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:6-7)

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## **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 24**

Our focus for worship this Sunday will be on what it means to affirm our baptism. Soon we will celebrate affirmation of baptism for several of our young members, but what does this mean these days? What else might it mean? Paul abjures us : "be transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2), yet for so many main line churches, "Confirmation" becomes something to become accomplished, almost like a "graduation from church." If Paul is right, then our spiritual lives require regular reexamination of our baptismal identity. How might we encourage our young people into lives of ongoing spiritual transformation and renewal?



Known to be hospitalized is Richard Regez at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Albert Simler would like to thank Pastor Hansen, Pastor Whitney, and Care Givers for their hospital visits. Thanks to everyone for your prayers, thoughts, phone calls, and cards following his double hernia surgery.

Jan Butterfield would like to thank her church family for the cards, calls, and visits she received while she was recuperating.

Congratulations to Marisela Arana who won first place in the Women's Division of the Sixth Annual Lincoln-Douglas 5K Run.

Big Brothers Big Sisters are looking for mentors for the upcoming school year. The mentor relationship consists of a one hour weekly visit in the school through the school year for children in fourth through ninth grades. Training and on-going guidance and support are provided. For more information, please contact Sharon Mockridge, FHN Community Educator at 815-599-7344.

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 - Success comes to the person who does today what he was thinking of doing tomorrow.*

#### WORSHIP IN THE PARK!



Outdoor  
Worship  
Service

Next Sunday, August 24, we will have our annual worship service at Krape Park. This year Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will join with us. There will

be an 8:15 worship service at the church. The service in the park will be held at 10:45 a.m. at the shelter house by the band shell. Plan to come and bring a friend.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC



Please come to a picnic with the First Lutheran Sunday school families this Sunday, August 17, 2008, from 12 noon - ? at Bidwell Park. Bring your appetite, baseball

glove, and playful spirit!

CUB FOODS is discontinuing their Community Dollars program. Please bring all your current receipts to the Church by **Sunday, August 31.**

Because First Lutheran Church is one of the "Top 10 participants" in the program we have been given an extended time to collect our receipts. A last time opportunity to redeem receipts for purchases made from August through November has been made available to us. Those receipts must be deposited in the CUB Receipts box in the Narthex no later than Sunday, November 23. We will add a reminder to the November newsletter.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute their CUB receipts over the years. Your thoughtfulness has benefitted many people in need.

-MaryAnn and Jim Elmer

#### CUB FOOD RECEIPTS ANNOUNCEMENT

As many of you may have read in the newspaper,

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION DURING WORSHIP

As often happens among caring and compassionate churches, we have tended to include folks in prayer during worship whenever asked. What sometimes occurs is that people can remain on the list for a long time, and the list can become a bit lengthy. Some folks are facing long-term health concerns, and in other cases, folks forget to inform the pastor or secretary when a person's situation changes.

After addressing this issue with the Worship Team and the Caregivers volunteers, the decision was made to create a space in the bulletin to name those needing ongoing prayer support for long-term health or other concerns. Members are encouraged to keep those on this "prayer list" in their daily prayers, and to call on them to offer support as appropriate and possible. The prayers of intercession during worship will name anyone facing more acute issues of any kind (folks facing imminent hospitalization, rehabilitation, surgery or recovery from surgery, sudden loss or grief issues, etc.,).

As we live with this change for awhile, let's see if it helps our worship and care ministries. If concerns arise, please bring them to the attention of the pastor or to a member of the Worship Team or Caregivers group.

THERE WILL BE A BENEFIT for Bob Mellnick on Sunday, September 14. The benefit will include a bake sale, raffle and silent auction. If anyone would like to donate items, please contact Pat Schutte at 815-232-8921. Thank you.

#### DONATIONS NEEDED

We are looking for donations 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.) are needed. Other ideas are gift baskets, gift cards, and specialty baked items. Any questions, please contact Judy Castle 815-233-2425.

#### PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday,

August 16, from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come.

#### PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, August 28, in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Come down for part or all of the day. For the next month we are collecting supplies for school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items especially needed include blunt-tipped scissors, 12 inch rulers, large erasers, and spiral notebooks. If you took home a school bag to fill, please return it by September. Donations may be left in the WELCA box located by the mailboxes near the Jackson Street entrance. Thank you for your support.

#### NISWO CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Northern Illinois Synod Women will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Joliet. This year's theme is "Hands Across the Water." The day will begin with worship, followed by a program presented by Jeana Fors about our relationship with Arcot Lutheran Church in India. Registration forms are available on the WELCA bulletin board located near the restrooms. Cost is \$30.00, which includes lunch. Our women's organization will reimburse one-half the cost to those who attend. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield for more information.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, August 26.

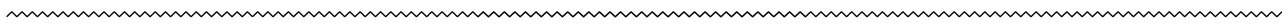


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First Lutheran Church  
303 S. Galena Avenue  
Freeport, IL 61032

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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](http://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](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)



**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**AUGUST 17      FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:30 a.m. Transition Task Force  
12:00 p.m. Sunday School Family Picnic at Bidwell Park  
Monday            7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
Wednesday      6:00 p.m. Quota Club Meeting  
                      6:30 p.m. Evangelism Team  
Thursday         1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study  
                      6:30 p.m. Mutual Ministry Team  
Saturday         6:30 a.m. MBA at the Big Apple  
                      5:00 p.m. Worship Service

**THE PARISH RECORD**

August 02/03	Saturday 5:00-26	Sunday 8:15-94	10:45-55	Total-175	Offerings \$5,035.50
August 09/10	Saturday 5:00-18	Sunday 8:15-90	10:45-54	Total-162	Offerings \$4,017.50