

# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032

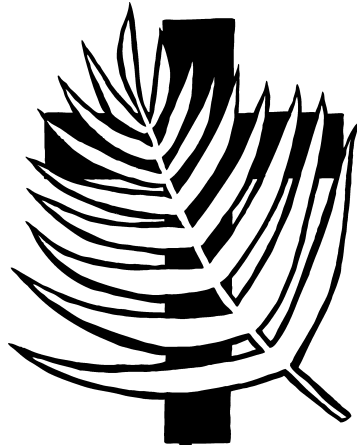


***CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE: CARING AND SHARING***

Volume 34 #28

August 29, 2008

## **Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 31**



"Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." That's the three-part formula Jesus proclaims for those who would be his disciples. Tough job description! And all the more so in times of perceived scarcity or worry. Yet Jesus is unrelenting in his teaching: "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Only in following Christ Jesus is true life found, and following Christ Jesus means following him in sacrificial service to all.



Known to be hospitalized is Dolores Johnson at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Our sympathy to Marvin & Marlene Atz and family on the death of Marlene's sister, Sandra Jones.

Phoebe Petrie would like to thank the Women of the ELCA for sending her a birthday card.

Lucille Corman would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her son, Terry Corman.

The Creative Learning Center at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has some openings for their 3 year old class which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 and for their Pre Kindergarten class which meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 9-12. Please call the church office for more information (815-232-4911).

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 - No matter how many trials come our way, God is only a prayer away.*

#### TRANSITION TASK FORCE UPDATE

By now all members should have received a letter laying out the very important process of mission discernment and commitment we will undergo together during worship in September. Also, cottage meeting sites have been planned and groups assigned. All will be receiving invitations to attend one of these cottage meetings shortly. Please plan to participate in all the worship activities and your cottage meeting! It is important that all voices be heard and considered as the process of calling a new pastor proceeds.

#### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will have a special "Back to School" weekend at our services on August 30 and 31. Teachers and school service workers will be recognized and appreciated. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks for the "Blessing of the Backpacks."

WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:30 - 10:30 FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring your family, meet your teachers, and register for your class.

FACC NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

In a note received August 27th, FACC Executive Director Dean Wright states: "In July our food pantry took in \$4,132 worth of food but distributed \$26,210 in food pantry orders. August was better as we took in \$4,767 in food and only distributed \$12,325. Tomorrow I will be forced to purchase food items to get us through Friday."

In my role as interim pastor of perhaps the most generous church in Freeport, I can attest that I have also seen an increase in persons asking for assistance. Many of these folks are working, but simply cannot make ends meet with the cost of fuel and food rising out of control.

Phone FACC at 233-0435 to see how you might help. Anything you can do to help FACC with their mission is critically needed, and will be most definitely appreciated. Let's see what we might do together to continue the great tradition of First Lutheran Church as a caring and sharing expression of Christ's love for "the least of these, who are members of my family." (Matthew 25:40)

Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor  
CHOIRS BEGIN!!!

The Celebration Choir meets Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the balcony. Praise Band (rehearses in

the fellowship hall), Kids of the Kingdom & Bell Choir (both meet in 3rd floor practice rooms) begin rehearsals next Thursday, September 4 all at 6:30 p.m. Please come and join the song!

The Kids of the Kingdom choir is open to Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. There is always lots of laughs, fun, and singing, so please come and join us.

THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM is very pleased to announce Rebecca Roe as the new Kids of the Kingdom Choir director beginning this fall! Welcome Rebecca!

THANKS FOR HELPING - Thanks to Shirley Kampmeier, Betty Stebbins, Ruth Banderet, and Leona Sofran for volunteering in the clothing room at FACC in August.

PROJECT WORKDAY will meet on Thursdays, September 11 & 25 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 school kits for Lutheran World Relief - still needed are spiral notebooks, 12 inch rulers and blunt-tip scissors. 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, September 6 & 20 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.

THE OWLS (Older Women, Lutheran Singles) will be traveling to Speth's in Broadhead, Wisconsin on Thursday, September 4. They will leave from the church at 10:30 a.m.

#### NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION

The annual convention will be held on Saturday,

September 20 in Joliet, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Registration forms are available on the WELCA bulletin board and the cost is \$30 for the day. Contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow for more information.

#### PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The Senior Center's 35<sup>th</sup> annual Anniversary Ball - Celebrating Our Local Treasures - will be held at the Masonic Temple on Saturday, September 13, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Someone has "bought a table" of eight for First Lutheran. So, please contact the church office and come pick up your free ticket and show your support for the Senior Center.

#### YOUTH NEWS

The First Lutheran 2008 - 2009 Youth Group season is about to begin. On Sunday, September 7, we will meet at 9:30 (between services) in the Martin Luther room to discuss our regular meeting schedule, fundraisers, and special events. There will be an opportunity for parents to volunteer to help with these projects on a regular or one-time basis.



In addition, we will be discussing our plans for attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July.

Should you have any questions, or if you can't be there on the 7<sup>th</sup>, please call Gordy Tormohlen at (815) 232-2845 to learn more. We hope to see you there!

Our first official High School Youth meeting will be the following week, September 14. We will meet at the Olson house for a Bonfire...don't miss it!

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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  
Rebecca Roe, 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  
Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791  
E-Mail: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)



**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**AUGUST 31**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Monday

Labor Day - Office Closed

Wednesday

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

Thursday

10:30 a.m. OWLS to Broadhead

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

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

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

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**

August 16/17 Saturday 5:00-15 Sunday 8:15-83 10:45-55 Total-153 Offerings \$4,001.60

August 23/24 Saturday 5:00-15 Sunday 8:15-98 10:45-81 Total-194 Offerings \$2,511.50