

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



***THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL***

Volume 34 #38

November 7, 2008

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8-9

Wisdom and Foolishness - How does one relate to the Almighty? In the time of Amos, people were focusing on individual pursuits which ignored the ways of God. Speaking through the reluctant Amos, God corrected them: "I hate, I despise your festivals... I will not accept your offerings... I will not listen to your songs. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Wisdom and Foolishness - In the parable Jesus tells, ten bridesmaids await the arrival of the bridegroom, but five of them forget to bring oil for their lamps. The five go to buy oil for themselves (at midnight!!), and thus miss the bridegroom's arrival. What were they thinking? Was having their own oil so important, or might it be that the bridegroom wanted a more intimate, trusting relationship with them?

Wisdom and Foolishness - How are you preparing to meet the Lord? From where does the oil for your lamp come? And more importantly, what will you do if - for whatever reason - your supply runs out?

Interim Pastor Kurt Hansen

Arlene Camerer had surgery this week and is recuperating at home.

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 - A friend is someone who can see right through you and still enjoy the show.

GUEST PREACHER NOVEMBER 9

Our Sunday morning worship services will provide an opportunity to hear guest preacher, the Rev. Ken Gibson. We are providing a neutral preaching site for a neighboring Northern Illinois Synod congregation in which Rev. Gibson is a potential candidate for pastoral call. Welcome, friends!

IT'S BREAKFAST TIME

Plan on joining your fellow members and friends for breakfast this Sunday, November 9, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will be: biscuits & gravy, 2 kinds of eggs, bacon, toast, and applesauce. They'll be coffee and juice to drink. The suggested donation is \$5.00.

SULLIVAN'S FOODS

It's again time to collect your Sullivan's Foods receipts. Sullivan's will be giving churches a 5% rebate for cash register receipts dated between November 22 and November 26, 2008. Please bring your receipts to church and put them in the basket in the entryway. Remember, we can only accept receipts dated between Saturday, November 22 and Wednesday, November 26. Thanks.

FEELING HUNGRY?

It's time for the First Lutheran Youth "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Luncheon! The event takes place Sunday, November 16, from noon to 2:00 p.m. The cost is only \$5 per person/\$20 per family. With your support and help from our friends at Thrivent, profits will go toward our ELCA Gathering trip this coming July. What better cause can there be than sending the youth away!! Tickets will be available after services through the 16th. Bring some friends and your appetite!!!!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Our 7th-8th grade Catechism students will be attending the NW Conference Confirmation Retreat this Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8 at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, Illinois. The theme of this year's retreat is: "Reformation: What Does This Mean?"

JUST A REMINDER...If you haven't turned in your commitment cards, it's not too late. Please bring them to church with you or mail them to the church.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE SYNOD
MISSION GATHERING TO BE HELD AT
FIRST LUTHERAN ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The program will begin at 7:00 pm and end at 9:00 pm.

The environmental issues plaguing the world such as global warming, drought, deforestation, landfills, and polluted groundwater, to name a few, seem so huge that it's hard to imagine what an individual or a congregation can do about it. But there are things that we can do to care for God's creation where we live. There are simple things, small steps that we can take that together will have a big impact on global issues.

The 2008 Mission Gatherings will be offered in each of the eight conferences of the Northern Illinois Synod, and will carry the theme, "Caring for God's Creation Where I Live." Attendees will explore ways that individuals and congregations can make a difference in caring for God's creation. Along with a brief discussion of a theology of ecology, practical suggestions for being "greener" will be presented.

There will also be an opportunity for participants to learn from each other and share what their congregations are already doing to care for God's creation where they live. The Gathering will provide an ideal opportunity for innovation and discussion for anyone interested in environmental stewardship, especially pastors, congregational green teams, council members, and property committee members.

Registration will begin at 6:30 pm

URBAN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

All pastors, outreach leaders and others from small - to mid-size communities are urged to attend the **Urban Ministry for Small and Mid-size Communities Conference**, November 20-22 at the Cliffbreakers Resort in Rockford. Keynote Speaker is Rev. Stephen Bouman, executive director of ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM). Registration deadline is **November 14**. Find our more about this outstanding event online at <http://www.nisynod.org/urban/>, or by calling Pr. Denver Bitner at 815-964-4609.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, November 13, 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! We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Bring a lunch if you plan to

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

Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor
Peg Huber, Office Manager
JoAnn Beckman, Volunteer Coordinator
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director
Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director
Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.com

come during the noon hour - beverages are provided.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, November 15, 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.

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS -

Application forms for First Lutheran's Endowment Fund are available at church from the tract rack. If you would like an application form e-mailed to you, you may request one from friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com. Completed forms need to be turned in to the church by **November 30, 2009**.

Periodicals Postage Paid
Freeport, IL 61032

USPS 345110

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor
John Moore, Lay President
Dawn Zeigler, Music Coordinator, Organist, Bell Choir Director
Teresa Parkinson, Choir Accompanist
Rebecca Roe, Kids of the Kingdom Director
Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791
E-Mail: friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

NOVEMBER 9

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

9:00 a.m. Congregational Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes

9:45 a.m. Cantor Training

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday

4:30 p.m. Tutoring/Mentoring Program

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. NW Conference Mission Gathering at First Lutheran

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. NW Conference Pastor's Meeting at Prince of Peace

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Pastor at Synod Office

10:00 a.m. Workday

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

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at the Big Apple

9:30 a.m. Pastor at Social Ministry Conference in Rochelle

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

THE PARISH RECORD

November 01/02 Saturday 5:00-17 Sunday 8:15-126 10:45-99 Total-249 Sunday School-46 Offerings \$6,930.00