

First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #3

January 23, 2009

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2009



"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?" So goes the opening to one of our newer hymns (ELW 798, also entitled, "The Summons"). This week our texts focus on the experience of being called by God, and on various responses to God's call. We will hear of Jonah, who tried to run away from God's call. We will hear of the first four of Jesus' disciples, who literally dropped everything and followed him "immediately" (Mark's favorite word). Each of us has been called by God in one way or another, and depending on the nature (and perhaps the timing) of the call, people respond in various ways. What has been your response to God's

call in your life thus far? And if God calls you now, perhaps to a risky or scary venture, what will your response be? Can you follow Jesus "immediately?" Or would you rather choose Jonah's response... (Hint: would you prefer fishing for people or being puked up on a beach by a whale?) :-)

Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor

Marv Atz had surgery last week and is recuperating at home.

Our sympathy to Sally Elsey, Jeanette Leopold, and Arlene Camerer on the death of their stepfather/brother-in-law, Gerhart (Gary) Bantle.

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 Krys Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator - Don't regret growing older. It's a privilege denied to many.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual report of the congregation for 2008 has been mailed. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the report and to Barb Donahue for helping to prepare the report. A very big thank you to the crew that assembled the reports and prepared them for mailing. They were: Krys & Ernie Brose, Judy Castle, Duke Herrling, Shirley Kampmeier, Carol Meyers, and Norma Parkinson.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held this Sunday, January 25. At noon, following our worship services and Sunday school, we will gather for a potluck and then after the meal, we will conduct the business of our annual meeting.

The Council will provide the meat and the drinks. Members are asked to bring a dish to share.

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next *First News* is Tuesday, January 27. Calendar and volunteer information for February is needed at that time. Thanks!

THE SOUPERBOWL IS COMING!!!

Have you ever witnessed a miracle? Sometimes God puts things in our path so that we can see his greatness. On Sunday February 1, the Super Bowl football game will be played, and here at First Lutheran, members of our High School and Junior High youth groups will be accepting your donations for the Souperbowl of Caring Event. Back in 1988, the High School Youth Group at Spring Valley Presbyterian in Columbia South Carolina decided to hold a fund raiser for a local food pantry. They began with this simple prayer..."Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." The event was a success, and the following year, the group challenged several other local church youth groups to join in. Over the years, God has blessed this event. Last year, 14,540 youth groups...averaging about 18 youth...collected \$10,302,275 to help feed the homeless in their communities! In Freeport, 8 churches support this event. The First Lutheran youth have participated in the Souperbowl since 1995, choosing to donate to FACC. Take part in the miracle! On Sunday February 1, the youth will be standing at the back of the church after the service holding soup pots for your donations. We thank you in advance for your support.

PADS

First Lutheran is responsible for staffing the PADS shelter on February 7, March 7, and April 4. Your help is needed to fill each of the three shifts for each date. You may sign-up on the poster located in the entryway.

WELCA GATHERING

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 5 to get together with your friends at church for a potluck lunch and a friendly game of "Take-away Bingo." Why not invite a few friends to come along as well. Just bring dish to pass, your table service, and a wrapped white elephant gift for Bingo. Dessert and beverages will be provided. We will also collect an offering for FACC, either items for the food pantry or monetary gifts to be used towards the purchase of food. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m.

YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

This program provides a one-year international cross-cultural experience of service learning and leadership. Participants grow in faith as they engage in various church-based and ecumenical partnerships, supported in community and with a commitment to simple living. Participants are placed according to interest, skills, gifts, or growth-areas in the following countries: Argentina & Uruguay, Germany, Jerusalem/West Bank, Malaysia, Mexico, Slovakia & Hungary, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. This program is for ELCA members up to age 30 with at least one-year post-high school experience. Information and applications are available on the website - www.elca.org/globalserve.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER READ YOUR MATE'S MIND WELL - ALMOST

On a Marriage Encounter Weekend you can learn the next best thing to this by finding out what your mate is *really* thinking when talking (or *not* talking) with you. This is in the privacy of your hotel room - just the two of you - between presentations given in a conference room. A Lutheran Marriage Encounter (LME) Weekend is intended to make a good marriage better. The next Northern Illinois LME Weekends are:

They will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, Schaumburg, Illinois. For more information or to apply contact Dave & Jean Dobbelstein, 1-847-839-3546 (dave_jean@comcast.net) or www.NorthernIllinoisLME.org Pamphlets are also available from the bulletin board.

STATEMENTS OF GIVING

Thank you for your continued support of First Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive a copy of your 2008 Statement of Giving, please call the church office and one will be mailed to you.

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
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director
Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director
Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.com

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

January 25

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

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

12:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch and ANNUAL MEETING

Monday

4:30 p.m. Mentoring/Tutoring Program

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Visiting Team

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

5:00 p.m. Humane Society Annual Meeting

6:30 p.m. Worship Team

Thursday

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

7:00 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple

9:00 a.m. Scrapbook Club

5:00 p.m. Worship

High School Youth Group

THE PARISH RECORD

January 17/18 Saturday 5:00-19 Sunday 8:15-82 10:45-100 Total-201 Sunday School-43 Offerings \$4,431.04