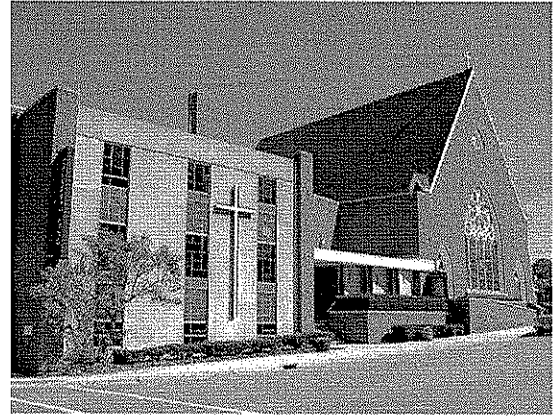


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #4

January 30, 2009

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2009



Do you believe in miracles? One might answer variously depending on one's definition of the word, of course. In truth, much of what used to be categorized as miraculous is explainable in rational, scientific terms in these modern times. Still, some things do occur which defy rational explanation, so the question remains: Do you believe in miracles? And if so, how do you know it was a miracle?

People need someone to point out God's activity amongst them. For the people Israel, that someone was Moses. But people still do need such a person, someone to speak to God for them, and to them on behalf of God. Who speaks God's word to you? Who points out God's activity in your world? And how might you be such a "God-speaker" for others?



Tyler Fago had surgery last week and is recuperating at home.

Our sympathy to Opal Skeel on the death of her brother, Lester Snyder.

We were sad to learn of the death of former member, Steven James Kline. Our sympathy to his parents Reverend Harrison & Maxine Kline.

Nevin & JoAnn Beckman would like to thank the Prayer Shawl Group for the beautiful prayer shawls they received. Your prayers and the warmth of the shawls have brought them great comfort, especially during these bitter cold days.

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 - Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your talents. - John Wooden

ANNUAL MEETING



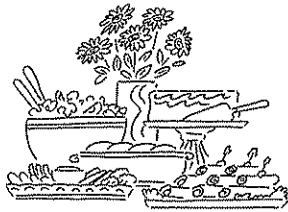
In spite of the frigid weather last Sunday almost eighty members enjoyed the pot luck and participated in the meeting. A lively discussion ensued concerning the exciting changes 2009 will bring to the life of First Lutheran Church. Good discussion, good reporting, good will, and GOOD FOOD...it doesn't get any better than that! Thanks to Ruth Wardlow and member of WELCA for preparing the meat and for organizing the lunch.

Included with this newsletter are the Audit Committee and Worship Team reports. Please put them with this year's Annual Report.

ITS SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY!

So who do you think will be the big winner this Sunday...AFC, NFC, or FACC? While we're not willing to guarantee the outcome of Sunday's football game, the First Lutheran youth can absolutely assure you that you'll be picking a winner when you donate to our Souperbowl of Caring event this Sunday. The Souperbowl is a national youth group fund and food drive event involving more than 14,000 youth groups across the USA. This Sunday, after the 8:15 and 10:45 services, you'll see our Senior and Junior High youth holding soup pots for your donations. All money collected will go directly to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative. Last year, thanks to your support, we collected \$600! So drop your money in a soup pot this Sunday...it's a sure winner!!!

WELCA GATHERING



WELCA Potluck Lunch

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.



PADS

Thanks to LaVonne Chamberlin, Dena Kampmier, and Don & Laurie Swanson for signing up to staff the PADS shelter on February 7. We still need someone to

provide supper on that date. Please sign-up on the poster located in the entryway or call Jan Butterfield (815-233-4515).

COUNCIL RETREAT SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7



A retreat has been scheduled to help the newly formed church council of First Lutheran Church

build a strong and connected team.

The retreat will be led by Rev. Loren Nielsen, a long-time pastor in the Northern Illinois synod and frequent leader of church retreats.

The retreat will be held at Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Road, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding by 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Check the Bishop Lane Retreat Center website for directions: <http://blrc.dpsrfd.org/>. It is very important for all church council members to attend this retreat, so please make every effort to be there.



NOT ON THE CALENDAR?

Please be sure that you write your meeting or event on the church calendar

that is located outside of Peg's office. Thanks.

First News

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Elwyn Euler, Custodian
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Rebecca Roe, Kids of the Kingdom Director
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

February 1 **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
Monday 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Care Givers Meeting
1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor"s Text Study
Thursday 11:30 a.m. WELCA Gathering
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 Big Apple
8:30 a.m. Council Retreat
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group
5:00 p.m. Worship

THE PARISH RECORD

January 24/25 Saturday 5:00-18 Sunday 8:15-85 10:45-70 Total-173 Sunday School-37 Offerings \$4,317.00