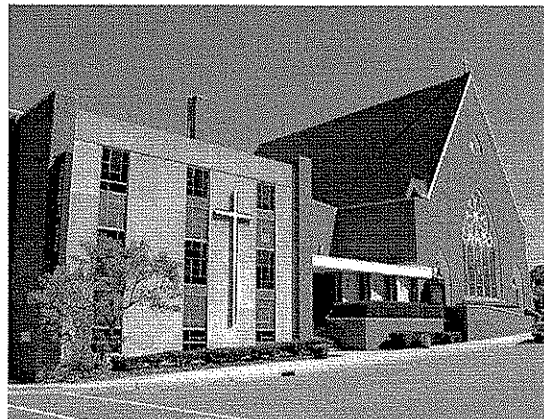


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

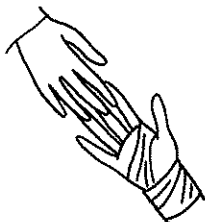


**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #6

February 13, 2009

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - Simple Gifts
February 14-15



We celebrate this weekend the gifts, given and received, which empower and extend the ministry of Christ in many places through First Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund. As we do this celebration, I was reminded of a Shaker song entitled, "Simple Gifts, written by Elder Joseph Brackett in 1848. I share those words with you in hopes you will remember God's profound strength, shared in the simplest of gifts, and that you will give thanks.

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

Refrain: When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn 'twill be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and we'll all learn to say, (Refrain)

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of "me",
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real.
(Refrain)



There will be an Altar Guild Workshop this Saturday, February 14, 9:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary.

The Rebecca Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 17, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Towers. Please note the change of time.

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 Kryss Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator -The best form of exercise is to touch the floor regularly with your knees.

PASTOR ON CONTINUING ED.

Pastor Hansen will be out all next week for continuing education. Rev. Margo Peterson of St. Paul, Warren will be available for any urgent pastoral needs. She can be reached at 815-745-3444 (church) or 608-325-2084 (home). Rev. Karen Capel will lead Saturday eve. worship on 02/21 and Rev. Lee Luebke will lead Sunday morning worship on 02/22.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED - Plan on joining the CWU for a "World Day of Prayer" service on Friday, March 6, 1:30 p.m. at St. John UCC, 1010 S. Park Boulevard. There will be a Bible study on Friday, February 27, 9:30 a.m. at St. John UCC. Contact Phyllis Rosenwinge for more information.

PADS - First Lutheran was responsible for staffing the PADS shelter on Saturday, February 7th. Thank you to LaVonne Chamberlin, Dena Kampmier, Diane Rondeau, Joanne VanNatta, Don and Laurie Swanson and the Saturday night worship group for volunteering to help that evening.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet on Saturday, February 21, from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come.

VISIT THE LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER website: www.lomc.org. You'll find information about upcoming events for families and students.



OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP will go bowling at the 4 Seasons Lanes, 1100 W. Galena Avenue, this Sunday, February 15. We'll meet at the bowling alley at 6:30. Please come and bring a friend or two!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - The Zion Wellness Program is in need of a volunteer to lead a nutrition class once a week at Meadow Ridge and Prairie Ridge Apartments. The class size for each apartment building will be between 3 and 8 people. The class sessions will be about 30 minutes long. Experience in teaching and/or in dietetics is preferable but not necessary. Please contact Jessica Jelen, the Zion Wellness Coordinator, with any inquiries. Her office is here at First Lutheran - in the church library and her phone number is (815) 266-9318 or you may email her at ZionFreeport@gmail.com

ARE YOU 50 YEARS OR OLDER?

Learn More about How to Reward Yourself While Helping a Family Caregiver.
Become a Legacy Corps Member!
Give Back to Your Community by Volunteering.
Attend an Informational Meeting

DATE: Monday, February 16, 2009
TIME: 1:30-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Prairie Ridge Apartments
1730 S. Hance Dr., Freeport, IL

Benefit yourself by being active in mind and body.

Benefit caregivers by giving them a weekly break from their care giving responsibilities.

- Receive complete orientation and ongoing training to ensure success.
- Interact in small groups to exchange ideas and "get things done."
- Receive a living allowance stipend of \$2,000 per year to help defray expenses.
- Earn an educational award of \$1,250 for lifelong learning opportunities.
- Meet nice people, learn new skills, and have FUN!

For more information, contact Julie Clark at 815-266-9349 or by e-mail at julieclark68@yahoo.com

NISWO RETREATS

The Northern Illinois Synod Women are sponsoring two retreats based on the theme "Dancing with the Spirit," to be led by Pastor Diane Dardon of NIU Campus Ministry. An overnight retreat at Sinsinawa Mound, WI will be held March 27-28 for the cost of \$75, which includes meals and lodging. A one-day retreat on the same topic will be held at the NIU Lutheran Campus Ministry Center on Saturday, April 4, for a cost of \$30, which includes lunch. Registration forms can be found on the bulletin board near the restrooms. Our WELCA will reimburse one-half the cost to any woman who attends either retreat. If you plan to attend, contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow regarding transportation.

BOOK OF FAITH RETREAT

The Northern Illinois Synod's Diakonia Program will present a one-day retreat to educate individuals about the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative. This event will be held on Saturday, February 21 at First Lutheran Church, 324 N. Third Street in DeKalb.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., program begins at 9 a.m. The day will end by 4 p.m. with a closing service and Eucharist. A \$15 fee includes program, materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks. To register, mail or e-mail the following information to Denise Rode, NIS Diakonia Chairperson (drode@niu.edu), 2800 Country Club Lane, DeKalb, IL 60115. For more information: 815/756-8321. Please make your reservation by February 13.

The Book of Faith is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

The Diakonia program would like to encourage anyone who is interested in growing in their faith and increasing their knowledge of scripture to attend.

2009 CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT:

Word of God. Word of Life.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Dr. Matthew Marohl, Associate Professor of Religion at Augustana College and a member of the ELCA Committee on the "Book of Faith" Initiative will be keynote speaker.

The Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) will offer many varied educational workshop selections for you, your key congregational leaders, and other interested congregation members. Augsburg Fortress will have a display and other displays from agencies and institutions will be present.

During the CRE Worship, a **special offering** will be taken. Please plan to give generously. If you'd like to send a check, please make it out to *Northern Illinois Synod*. As has become traditional, the CRE will be held at Kishwaukee College, Malta, Illinois. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Life Committee.

The Northern Illinois Synod's Congregational Resourcing Event is one of this synod's finest yearly events. Church council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, and leaders--just about everyone in a congregation--can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. Come, experience and bring home new ministry tools. Kishwaukee College is handicap accessible. Supervised child care in Kishwaukee College's on-campus Early Childhood Center is provided with pre-registration. A free-will offering will be accepted to cover child-care costs.

You may see a list of scheduled workshops, see a map and directions to Kishwaukee College, and register online at the following URL: <http://www.nisynod.org/cre/>

First News
First Lutheran Church
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Freeport, IL 61032

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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

February 15

CELEBRATION OF GIFTS SUNDAY

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

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

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group - Bowling at the 4 Seasons Lanes

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Mary Circle

10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle at Lincoln Towers

7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at Pat Schutte's

Wednesday

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

6:30 p.m. Evangelism Team

7:00 p.m. Youth Team

Thursday

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

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

5:00 p.m. Worship

THE PARISH RECORD

February 7/8 Saturday 5:00-12 Sunday 8:15-137 10:45-81 Total-230 Sunday School-36 Offerings \$3,345.00