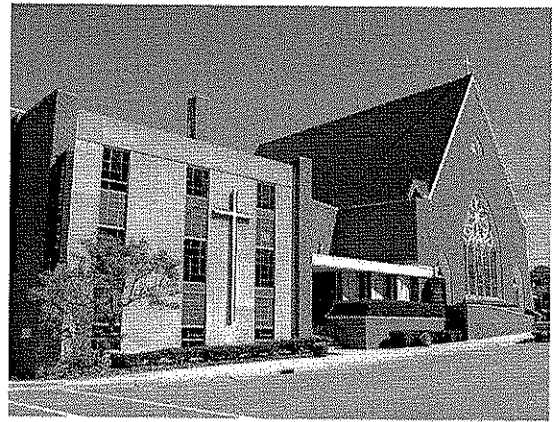


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #7

February 22, 2009

Transfiguration of Our Lord February 21-22

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.





Tina Chamberlin had surgery this week and is recuperating at home.

Our sympathy to John & Trudy Moore and family on the death of Trudy's mother, Doris Wubbena.

Our sympathy to Margery Althof and family on the death of Margery's mother, Eleanor Brandt.

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 - Kind words bring forth kind echos.

PASTOR ON CONTINUING ED.

Pastor Hansen is currently out of the office 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 this Saturday's worship service and Rev. Lee Luebke will lead this Sunday morning's worship service.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At our last council meeting John Moore was elected president, Bill Castle vice president, Joe Banderet secretary, and Gene Wall treasurer. Other council members are: Micki Arana, Tina Chamberlin, Deb Elzinga, Dena Kampmier, Jane Klemm, Steve Olson, Diane Rimington, and Gordy Tormohlen. Please support our council members with your prayers.

SATURDAY SERVICE

During the Lenten season there will be no Saturday worship service. There will be a worship service this Saturday, February 21.

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.



LENT BEGINS

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 25. The schedule for midweek services Wednesday will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday 12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Midweek services 12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Suppers 6:00 p.m.

HAPPY CAMPERS!



Endowment funds have been granted for students and their families to attend summer programs at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, Illinois.

VISIT www.lomc.org to review and register for the 2009 programs.

SEE the Jackson Street bulletin board for an application and more instructions.

NO COMPUTER? Contact Laurie Swanson for more information - 815/232-7526.



CATECHISM YOUTH GROUP

Open invitation to all 5th through 8th graders to join our monthly youth group. We will have a short devotion on positive thinking followed by games & snacks.



Look forward to see you there!

Parents & Friends are welcome.

Date: This Sunday, February 22
Time: 3:00 to 4:30
Where: Youth Room

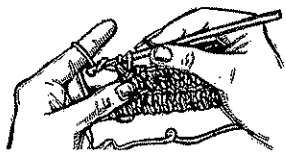
PROJECT WORKDAY



The Workday Group will meet on Thursday, February 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Come down for part or all of the

day - all are welcome! We are still collecting sewing needles, large spools of thread, and 3-4 yd. pieces of cotton-blend material to make sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief. Donations may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP



If you enjoy knitting or crocheting or wish to learn how, come down and join the prayer shawl group on the 1st & 3rd Saturday

mornings of each month. We gather from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and work on a variety of projects. Our next meeting is Saturday, February 21.

NEWSLETTER INFO

The deadline for the next *First News* is Tuesday, February 24. Calendar and volunteer information for March is also needed at that time. Thanks!

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/>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

February 22 **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
3:00 p.m. Catechism Youth Group
Monday 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
Wednesday 12:15 & 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 10:00 a.m. Workday
6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom & Praise Band Rehearsal
Saturday 6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple
9:00 a.m. Scrapbook Group
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Instruction

THE PARISH RECORD

February 14/15 Saturday 5:00-13 Sunday 8:15-129 10:45-84 Total-226 Sunday School-26 Offerings \$3,531.00

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

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

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