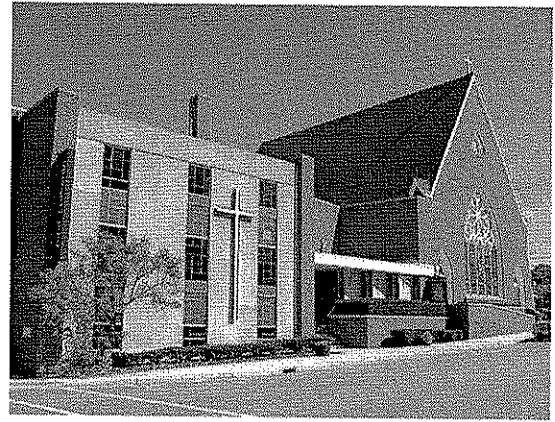


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



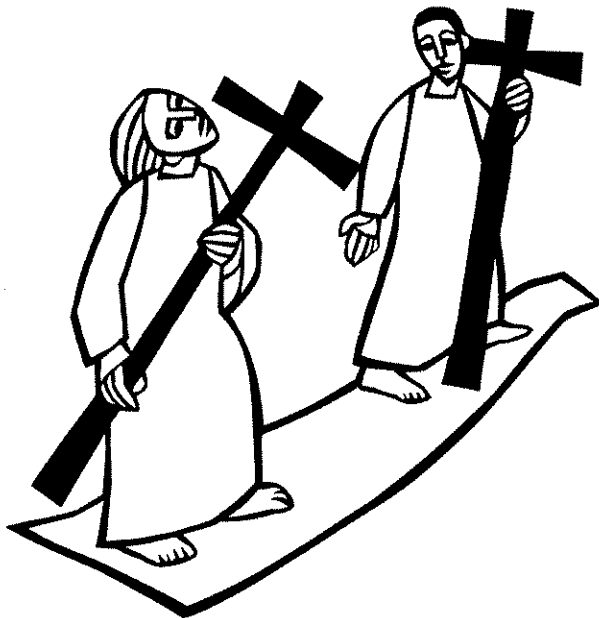
**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,  
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #9

March 6, 2009

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8



As we follow our Lord Jesus in His journey to the cross of Calvary in this season of Lent, the disciple called Peter is our sort of anti-hero. Peter expresses the honest reaction most of us have internally if we really listen to what Jesus says.

"I am the Messiah, and because I am the Messiah, it will mean suffering and death for me, and it will mean all sorts of trouble for those who follow me." That's what Jesus says. And Peter's response - even in the most pious tones - echoes our own: "This must never happen to you, Lord!" (but on the inside, 'this must never happen to ME, Lord!').

The way of the Cross leads to life, both now and eternally. But living in the way of the Cross involves self-denial, self-sacrifice, and chosen suffering for the sake of others. Not the sort of slick marketing scheme one might expect for growing a church, is it? And yet, the church which grew from Jesus' ministry overthrew the Roman empire. Go figure...

And what might His church yet accomplish, even now, even here? Well, that probably depends on the commitment of His followers, doesn't it?



Congratulations to Austin Duncan and Heather Riley on the birth of their daughter, Ava Lynne on February 18, 2009. Grandmother is Dawn Duncan and Great grandparents are Barb & Mike Reichert.

The family of Doris J. Wubbena (Trudy Moore's Mom) would like to thank all of their friends at First Lutheran for the visits, cards, memorials and kind expressions of sympathy during this very sad time for their family.

Margery Althof and family want to thank all who sent cards and prayers at the passing of Marge'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 Kryes Brose (815-233-4410).

*From the Volunteer Coordinator - Imitate the clock...it passes time by keeping its hands busy.*

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#### LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKS AVAILABLE



We have purchased several copies of the *40-Day Lenten Journey* put together in support of the Book of Faith Initiative we heard Bishop Hanson speak about.

The *Book of Faith 40-Day Lenten Journey* is a devotional resource connecting forty personal daily readings and weekly worship with the study of Scripture. The forty devotional readings included are structured around seven key petitions of The Lord's Prayer. While the Bible may be intimidating to many of us, the 40-Day journey will help engage everyone in devotional reading of Scripture.

Several people are already making this a part of their individual Lenten journey. If you would like a copy for your use, call Peg at the church office and arrange to have one set aside for you to pick up next time you are in church or have a volunteer drop one off for you if you are unable to get out. If you like the book and can contribute \$10 to cover the cost, it will help us when we go to buy future resources.



Please join us this Wednesday for Lenten services at 12:15 or 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Suppers will begin at 6:00 p.m. This Wednesday we will be having "make your own" tacos, salad, brownies and ice cream. You don't need to bring anything, just come!

#### ECUMENICAL SERVICE

A Lenten Vespers Service will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church this Sunday, March 8, at 3:00 p.m. First Lutheran, Grace Episcopal, St. Mary's Catholic, and St. Joseph's Catholic churches will participate in this ecumenical service. Please join us for a time of prayer, reflection, and music.

**BRING A FRIEND** - A catered breakfast will be served from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. this Sunday, March 8, in the fellowship hall. The menu will be two kinds of eggs, pancakes, sausage, toast & jelly, and peaches. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will help cover the cost. Come and have breakfast, enjoy the food and fellowship! You are encouraged to bring your friends!

## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet this Saturday, March 7, 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.

## NW CONFERENCE SPRING ASSEMBLY

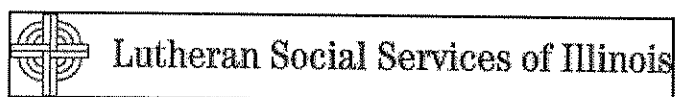
The Women of the Northwest Conference will gather for their Spring Assembly on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elizabeth. Cost is \$8.00 and registration forms are found on the WELCA bulletin board. Deadline for registration is March 16. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you wish to car-pool.

## PROJECT WORKDAY



Project Workday will meet on Thursday, March 12, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room.

Come down for part or all of the day and bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. We are still collecting items for sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief. Donations of 3-4 yard pieces of cotton-blend material and packages of sewing needles may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes.



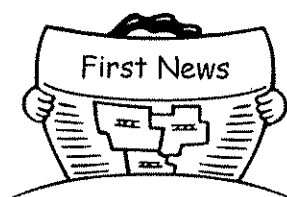
Do you have a heart for caring for others? Intouch Home Care Services of LSSI has openings for part-time caregivers assisting seniors in their homes with daily living activities in the Freeport area. As a trained home care assistant, you will assist with personal care, provide companionship and supervision, shop for groceries and perform other errands, assist with cleaning and laundry, and provide transportation to appointments. CNA and non CNA positions are available. Please contact Sharon Beksell at 815-988-9075 for more information. EOE.

## READING GROUP

If you are interested in forming a women's reading group, don't forget to come to church this Saturday, March 7, at 12:00 noon for a short meeting. If you would like to participate but are unable to attend, contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield.

## LEGACY CORPS SEEKING MEMBERS

Are you 50 or older? Come be a part of something wonderful and make a difference! Share your lifelong talents and support for worthy causes. Become an AmeriCorps/Legacy Corps member serving in Stephenson County. The role of a Legacy Corps member is to provide respite for the caregiver by spending time with their loved one. For about 10 hours a week, you can have the opportunity to be active and meet new people, while serving your country and strengthening our community. Legacy Corps volunteers receive a \$2,000 annual living allowance, and upon completion can earn an educational award of \$1,250. Full training will be provided. For more information or to obtain an application, please contact Julie Clark at 815-266-9349 or by e-mail at [julieclark68@yahoo.com](mailto:julieclark68@yahoo.com).



There will be a newsletter next week and the deadline is Tuesday, March 10. However, there will be no newsletter March 20 or 27.

The deadline for the April 3 newsletter will be March 31 and April calendar and volunteer information will be needed at that time.



First News  
First Lutheran Church  
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Freeport, IL 61032

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Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director  
Elwyn Euler, Custodian  
Website: [www.firstlutheranfreeport.com](http://www.firstlutheranfreeport.com)

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor  
John Moore, Lay President  
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Teresa Parkinson, Choir Accompanist  
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**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

March 8           **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
                    8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
                    9:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast  
                    9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes  
                    3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Vespers Service at St. Joseph's

Monday           4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry  
                    7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday      12:15 & 6:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Services  
                    1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study  
                    6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper  
                    7:00 p.m. Council Meeting  
                    7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Thursday        10:00 a.m. Workday  
                    10:00 a.m. Pastor at Synod Staff Meeting  
                    6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

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

**THE PARISH RECORD**

March 01 8:15-137 10:45-58 Total-195 Sunday School-50 Offerings \$5,735.30

Ash Wednesday 12:15-68 6:30-72 Total-140