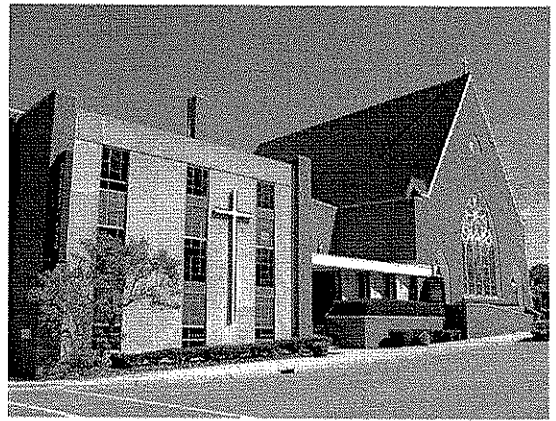


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #10

March 13, 2009

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2009



"If you're going to live in my house, you'll live by my rules!" Sound familiar? How many of us *didn't* hear our moms or dads say those words to us in our "formative" years? And didn't you hate to hear those words? Yet how many of us who have raised children found ourselves saying those same words to our own kids...

Why the change of heart? Why did we come to embrace in adulthood the very words we hated so much to hear as we grew up? Probably because we came to understand that the rules were acts of caring and love. Limits that we set on our kids help them to know we won't let them get too far out of control. Imposing structure is - when done with care and compassion - an act of love.

So also with the rules given to the wandering people Israel through their priest and leader, Moses. Ten organizing principles by which the life of the community might be protected. If lived out, the ten commandments free us from the need to compete with one another for life and for God's approval. In these ten organizing principles, God offers a sort of container for life, within which God's love is expressed.

As we move through our Lenten journey together, give some intentional prayer time to the notion of God's unlimited love, extended through the imposition of limits on our behavior in the ten commandments. They are commandments, yes; but they are ultimately words of love.

Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor



Known to be hospitalized is Tina Buss at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Our sympathy to Judy Kaufman and Carole Busjahn on the death of their sister-in-law, Penny Knauer.

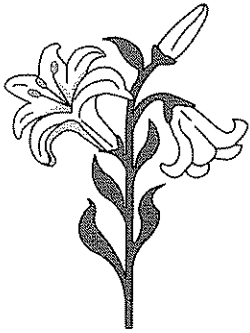
Our sympathy to Dick & Connie Regez and family on the death of Dick's brother, Donald Regez.

Our sympathy to former member Bob Smith and family on the death of Bob's wife, Brenda Smith.

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* - If the elevator of success is out of order, take the stairs.

### EASTER LILIES



It's time to order your lily for this year's Easter services. Please use a pink multi-purpose envelope or a pew envelope for your donation and indicate if they are to be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. The cost this year is \$9.50.



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

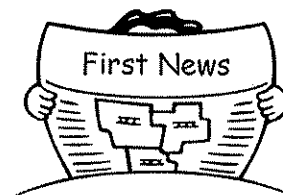
Suppers will begin at 6:00 p.m. This Wednesday we will be having chili. You don't need to bring anything, just come!

### READING GROUP

"Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown is the first book selected by the women's reading group. We will meet again on Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. to share our thoughts about the book. The group will be flexible - if you wish to read this book, come join us on May 9th. If not, perhaps the next book will be more to your liking. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you would like more information.

### NO NEWS IS...

Just a reminder - 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.

### PADS HOMELESS SHELTER



First Lutheran staffed the PADS shelter on Saturday, March 7. Thank you to the Youth Group for providing the meal, and to Aubrey & Arleen Olson, LaVonne Chamberlin, and Mike & Barb O'Grady for filling the overnight shifts.

The next time we are scheduled for PADS is Saturday, April 4, and volunteers are needed for the 2:00-6:00 a.m. shift. You may sign-up on the poster located in the entryway.

### PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, March 21, 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.

## SUPER-SIZE THAT!!!



The First Lutheran Senior High Youth Group will meet for an extended session this Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>! They will meet at 6:00 to pop some corn, watch a video, and then discuss it. They will end at the normal time. Hope to see you there!!!

## NW CONFERENCE SPRING ASSEMBLY



The Women of the Northwest Conference will gather for their Spring Assembly on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. 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 26, 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.

## FREEPORT CHORAL SOCIETY

You are invited to attend Freeport Choral Society's Annual Spring Concert on Sunday, March 29, 3:00 p.m. at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 S. Park Boulevard. The Community Handbell Choir will also perform. "Gospel Mass" by Robert Ray is the featured work for this concert. A free will offering will be taken. 🎵

## 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 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.

## REBECCA CIRCLE

The Rebecca Circle will meet this Tuesday, March 17, 10:15 a.m. at the Big Apple restaurant. Afterward there will be Bible study at Jean Sorn's home.

## SPRING RETREAT AT LOMC

First Lutheran's own Rev. Don Swanson will present "Living with the Psalms" at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois April 26-28. "Living with the Psalms" uses the four themes of contemplation, complaining, confession and celebration to explore the Psalms and their impact on our lives. Come prepared to use your Bible, your hymn book, your experience and creation to look at the many ways that our lives reflect the tenor and tone of the Psalms. For more information, check out [www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org) or call 815-732-2220. Information is also posted on the entryway bulletin board.

First News  
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**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

March 15 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes  
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Movie Night

Monday 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry  
Boy Scout Court of Honor Dinner

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Mary Circle  
10:15 a.m. Rebecca Circle at Big Apple  
6:30 p.m. Evangelism Team  
7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at Church

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

Thursday 6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom, Praise Band, Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Friday 10:00 p.m. Youth Lock-in at YMCA

Saturday 6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group  
NW Conference Spring Assembly at Trinity Lutheran in Elizabeth

**THE PARISH RECORD**

March 08 8:15-84 10:45-53 Total-137 Sunday School-24 Offerings \$3,950.50  
Wednesday, March 4 12:15-28 6:30-39 Total-67