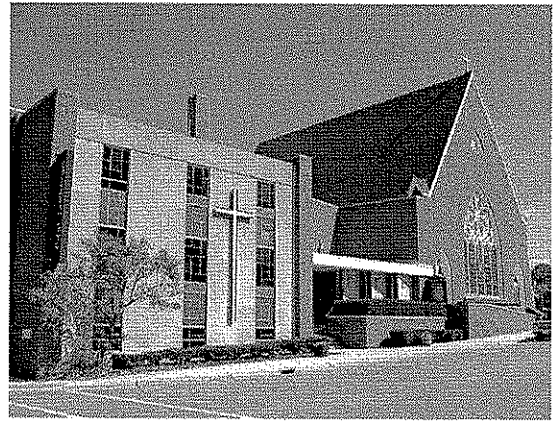


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #12

April 10, 2009

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day  
April 12, 2009



Come and celebrate the resurrection.

There will be a good crowd, the music will be familiar and uplifting, the story will give you hope

Happy Easter!!!!!!

Easter Worship ~ 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.



Lee Williams is recuperating from a fall at Manor Court, 2170 Navajo Drive. He would like to thank Pastor Whitney for his visits while he was in the hospital.

Marvin Atz would like to thank Pastor Hansen and Pastor Whitney for their prayers, visits, and calls. Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Group for the beautiful shawl and to Bev Herrling for bringing it. Thank you to Care Givers Al Simler and Shirley Diestelmeier for their calls and to everyone for their prayers, cards, and calls.

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 Kryse Brose (815-233-4410).

*From the Volunteer Coordinator - The world, in its concern with Left and Right, seems to have forgotten that there is also Above and Below.*

#### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

In today's *First News* you will find some very exciting news about Pastor Keith Johnson. Both the Call Committee, and the Church Council have unanimously voted to call Pastor Keith. The next step in our process is for the congregation to meet him. Specifics may change, but as of this notice, we are planning an informal "Meet the Pastor" potluck from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 19. Pastor Keith and his wife Vicki will be there. After the potluck, there will be time to reflect before we hold a special congregational meeting to vote on this call between services on Sunday, April 26. This is a very exciting time for our ministry! We hope to see you at the Potluck!

#### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP/BIBLE STUDY PLANS ON HOLD

Due to the recent significant progress in the call process, the Church Council voted to hold off on any immediate change in the worship structure, opting to include the next called pastor in any plans which are made. Plans still are underway for involving the membership of First Lutheran in the ELCA's Bible study initiative entitled, "The Book of Faith." Watch for more news in the coming weeks.

SATURDAY 5 P.M. WORSHIP schedule will resume for now, beginning April 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### EASTER SERVICES

Holy Saturday, April 11  
Prayer Vigil, 3:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12  
Worship Services at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.



#### ROOM RELOCATION MEETING

There will be a meeting this Monday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library to discuss the possible relocation of some rooms, namely the Nursery and LSSI. If you have some suggestions, but can not make this meeting, e-mail Bill Castle at [liamcast67@msn.com](mailto:liamcast67@msn.com).

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Please remember that there will be no Sunday school classes this Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday.

## COFFEE CAKE CALL!!!



The First Lutheran Youth will be serving Easter Breakfast this Sunday from 9 a.m. til 11 a.m. As part of this effort, we would invite any of First Lutheran's expert chefs to make and donate a coffee cake to be served at the Breakfast. Donations may be dropped off in the church kitchen between 2 and 3 p.m. this Saturday. If you're not able to make a coffee cake, perhaps you'd like to eat one...Tickets are only \$5 per person / \$20 per family, and will be available at the door. Thanks for your support...we'll see you at breakfast!

## TASTING BEE



Women of the ELCA will be hosting a Tasting Bee on Saturday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a variety of new dishes to sample, and as before, you will go home with a booklet of all the recipes sampled. Cost to attend is \$6.00 and tickets will be available between worship services or by calling the church office.

## PADS



First Lutheran staffed the PADS shelter on Saturday, April 4. Thank you to LaVonne Chamberlain for providing the meal, and to Mike & Barb O'Grady and Ted and Marilee Odendahl for filling the overnight shifts.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



This year's Vacation Bible School will begin on Sunday evening, June 14 and will continue on Monday through Thursday mornings, June 15 - 18. Watch for more information.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Think Summer! Think LOMC! Please take time to visit [www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org) and fill out a campership form to request funds so you may attend. So far, no requests have been received. The deadline is May 17. Applications are on the Jackson Street bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Swanson at 815-232-7526.

## YOUR ENDOWMENT FUND AT WORK



*Thank You*

Through the First Lutheran Endowment Fund, \$2,000 is helping to change the lives of three amazing young women.

The money is helping to help defer the costs of their airfare when they travel all the way from Slovakia to Northern Illinois this summer to volunteer at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center.

They get the opportunity to be ministers at the camp, broadening the understanding of the world and the Church for the campers, and also improving their own English and building leadership skills as a part of the Church.

Andrea Gavulova, Kristina Okolicanyova, and Dominika Gecova are very excited to come and thank you all for your support and generosity. Please pray for them as they go through the visa process and prepare for their first trip to the States.

Blessings,  
Kendra,  
[kendrabethswanson@gmail.com](mailto:kendrabethswanson@gmail.com)

First News  
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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](http://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](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

April 12      **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

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

Wednesday      1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study  
6:30 p.m. Evangelism Team

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

Saturday      6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple  
9:00 a.m. Acolyte Training  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

**THE PARISH RECORD**

April 5 8:15-140 10:45-93 Total-233 Sunday School-38 Offerings \$6,222.00  
Wednesday, April 1 12:15-30 6:30-27 Total-57

## GREAT NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE!!!

The Call Committee of First Lutheran Church has been meeting regularly since November in an effort to find and call a new Pastor. Throughout this process, we have prayerfully asked for God's guidance. We have also attempted to remain respectful of the congregation's wishes by heavily relying upon the input and feedback received throughout the Natural Church Development, congregational survey, and cottage meeting processes. Based upon these guides, we have sought an individual who possesses the following traits:

- Inspiring worship abilities
- Strong leadership skills
- A personable teacher
- Follows God's Gospel and Laws
- Is growth oriented
- Has the ability to balance Youth, Neighborhood, and Family ministries
- An energetic and "can do" person

In the ELCA church profile we made the following statement, which we believe sums up our hope for this individual...*"We are not seeking someone who is looking to slow down or perhaps retire in the near future. In fact, we are looking for a leader who desires to do the BEST work of his or her career! And we want to be a part of it."*

In total, the Call Committee has reviewed the mission papers of 8 candidates. We have conducted phone interviews and personal interviews. We have evaluated current performance data, and made background calls. After these efforts, we have concluded the following...

**We, and the Church Council, unanimously, and wholeheartedly, recommend that the Congregation of First Lutheran Church Call Pastor Keith D. Johnson to be the next pastor of First Lutheran Church!**

Pastor Keith was told in 9<sup>th</sup> grade that he would eventually be a pastor. He avoided that pronouncement and followed a path into the Radio industry until one day, as he was crossing the street, a stunningly cold Chicago wind hit him and he heard God's true call. A big lovable fellow, Pastor Keith borrows from his pre-pastoral life to relate to others. He is personable, direct, and always willing to share Christ with those he meets. He is a highly skilled preacher and teacher of God's word. We have found him to be enthusiastic, positive, and driven. He has no use for the word "can't." Moreover, we believe Pastor Keith is a humble, but strong leader who will listen first to God, then to the congregation, when guiding our mutual ministry. He values integrity and communication, and desires to help grow his next congregation in faith and action. He brings with him an interest in chaplaincy work, firefighting, NASCAR, and the Minnesota Vikings.

In addition, we have found Pastor's wife, Vicki, to be a delightful person. She is smart, pleasant, and engaging. We believe she will fit in well with the people at First, and the Freeport community as a whole. She has expressed interest in choir, praise band, and prayer groups. We believe Vicki is an added bonus for First Lutheran, should they accept our call.

Respectfully (and enthusiastically) submitted,

The First Lutheran Church Call Committee

J. Brady, B. Castle, J. Moore, B. Morton, R. Roe, A. Sperle, G. Tormohlen, G. Wall