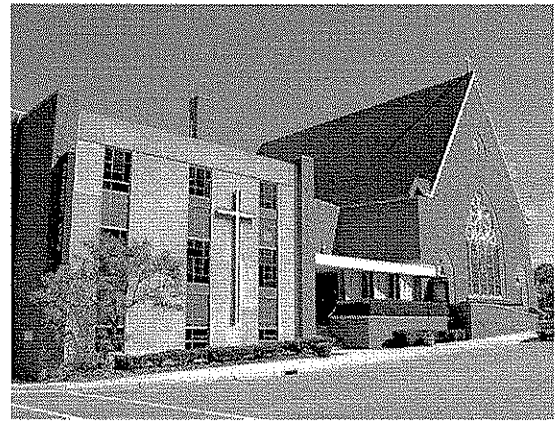


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

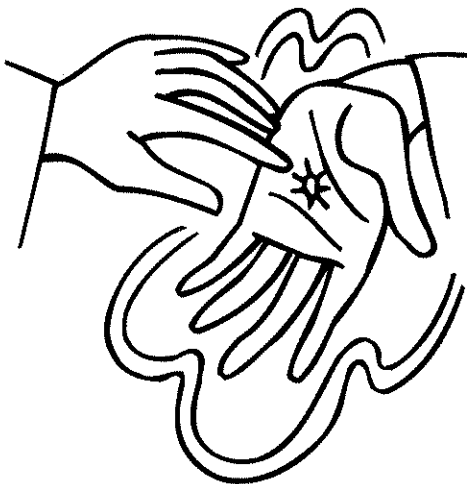


**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #13

April 17, 2009

Second Sunday of Easter
April 18th-19th
John 20:19-31



Doubting Thomas... Funny how your whole legacy can sometimes be determined by one thing you do or say...

Thomas won't be fooled again. Perhaps his heart simply can't take another disappointment. So he wants to be sure - absolutely sure - before he dares to hope again. And how is his hope renewed? By touching Jesus' wounds.

It can still be that way for us, too. When hope fades, when faith gets tested and weakens in the face of life's disappointments and trials, accept Jesus' invitation and touch His wounds. Reach out to the places people are hurting and suffering. Make actual contact with those in need. In an amazing way, sharing of yourself with those who are hurting can be the very way God acts not only through you to help others, but through them to help you, too.

Isaiah was right: By His wounds, we - all of us - are healed.

Serving with you in Christ Jesus,
Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor



Our sympathy to Becky & Bernie Leopold and family on the death of Becky's father, Virgil Bowers.

Our sympathy to Joyce & Del Mailand and family on the death of Joyce's brother, Charles Entmeier.

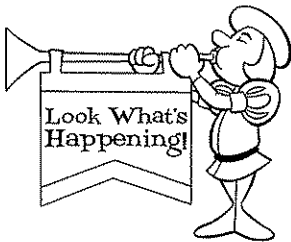
Lena Markwardt is now at Provena St. Joseph Center, 659 E. Jefferson Street in Freeport.

Congratulations to former member, Carolyn Albert, first year master of divinity student at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). Carolyn has received the Cleven Scholarship which will cover her tuition and book expenses for the year. An article about Carolyn is posted on the Jackson Street bulletin board.

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 books that make you think are the ones that help you most.

MEET THE PASTOR



Mark your calendars and check your cookbooks! This Sunday you'll have a chance to meet Pastor Keith Johnson and his wife Vicki at a potluck being put on by the Call Committee from

4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The meal will be served around 4:30. After the meal, Pastor Keith will make some remarks. The remaining time will be spent in an "open house" atmosphere so that everyone has a chance to meet the Johnsons.

Please bring a dish to share (salad, meat dish or a dessert) and your own table service. Coffee, tea, water, and lemonade will be furnished. If you cannot come to the potluck, please come later to meet Pastor Keith and Vicki.

An official congregational meeting and vote to call Pastor Keith will be held between services in the Fellowship Hall Sunday on April 26. If you are unable to be present on the 26th, absentee ballots will be available 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 5:00 p.m. worship schedule will resume for now, beginning this Saturday, April 18th.

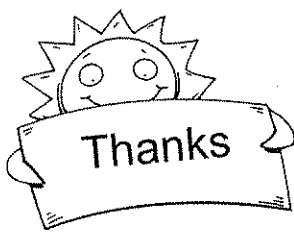
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



The High School Youth Group will meet this Sunday, April 19, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please note the change of time.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!

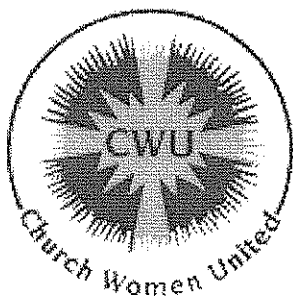


The First Lutheran Youth would like to again thank the congregation for their generous support! Last Sunday, over 115 people enjoyed our Easter Breakfast. The funds earned from this breakfast put us over the top for our New Orleans Youth Gathering trip this summer. Now we can begin to save for our next mission trip. We are indeed truly blessed to belong to such a caring and supportive church!!!

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group will meet on Saturday, April 18, 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.

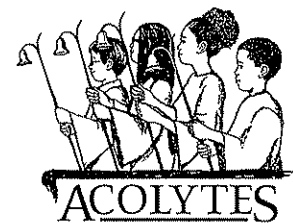
2009 MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY



You are invited to the Church Women United May Friendship Day Luncheon, "Building On Our Stories" on Friday, May 1, 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 607 E. Stephenson Street. The cost is \$7.00 and reservations may be made

by calling Phyllis Rosenwinge or the church at 815-232-6043. There will be a Bible study on Friday, April 24, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

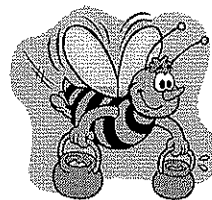
ACOLYTE TRAINING



There will be Acolyte Training, etiquette, and robe fitting this Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. for all 5th grade and new Catechism

students.

TASTING BEE



Women of the ELCA will be hosting a Tasting Bee on Saturday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. in 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.

PROJECT WORKDAY



Project Workday will meet on Thursday, April 23, 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 now collecting items for health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Donations of hand towels, washcloths, bath-size soap, wide-tooth combs, band-aids, and nail clippers may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes. Thank you for your support.



First News
First Lutheran Church
303 S. Galena Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032

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USPS 345110

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

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

April 19 **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. "Meet the Pastor" Potluck
7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
Monday 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Mary Circle at church
10:30 a.m. Rebecca Circle at Ruth Banderet's
7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at church
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study
5:15 p.m. Worship Team
Thursday 10:00 a.m. Workday
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
11:30 a.m. WELCA Tasting Bee
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

THE PARISH RECORD

April 12 8:15-227 10:45-133 Total-360 Offerings \$8,202.00