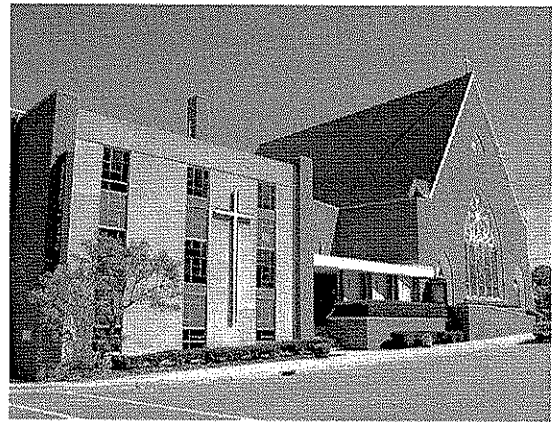


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #14

April 24, 2009

Third Sunday of Easter April 25th-26th



We certainly all have been told this, but it's good to have a reminder: Easter is not just a day in the year; rather, Easter is a season of the church year, beginning with the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. Lent is a season with 40 days (plus Sundays), and Easter is a season of 50 days. During the Easter season, the Christian Church spends much time on what is referred to as the "post-resurrection appearances" of Jesus.

What is resurrection all about, anyway? Something to look forward to after death? Something to do with a final judgment? Something to do with the end of all pain and suffering and death? Well, yes, resurrection is about all those things. But the promise of the resurrection is also - and maybe chiefly - about hope. Hope

for the resurrection gives us new energy and new life even now when our faith and life is centered in that hope.

Leave dying and things of heaven for another time. Live in resurrection hope now. It's a good way to live!

With you in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor



Known to be hospitalized are Lee Williams, Ivan Sorn, and Darlene Janssen at FHN Memorial Hospital and Aubrey Olson at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford.

Bob & Phoebe Petrie would like to thank the Women of the ELCA for the lovely anniversary card they received.

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).

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON CALL

Between the worship services this Sunday, April 26, members of First Lutheran Church will gather to make an important decision: whether to call the Rev. Keith Johnson as your next minister of Word and Sacrament. **Be aware that, in adherence to the requirements of the congregational constitution, only those in attendance at this meeting will be able to vote.** Please make every effort to be a part of this important decision in the ongoing life and ministry of First Lutheran Church.

WOW!



That was the reaction from Pastor Keith Johnson after last week's "Meet the Pastor" potluck meeting. Pastor Keith, his wife Vicki, and two of their four daughters, Nicholette and Danielle, visited First Lutheran to meet the congregation. The event was attended by approximately 150 people, most of whom were greeted by Pastor Keith as they came in the door. After a wonderful meal, Pastor Keith spoke briefly and answered questions. As the official meeting time ended, Pastor Keith and Vicki spoke with people during a more casual "open house" time. Then they spent some time with the First Lutheran youth before they left. The Call Committee would like to thank everyone who attended for taking the time from their schedules to be there...and for your enthusiasm. We are especially thankful for all the cooks who contributed their efforts, and for Ruth Wardlow who organized the potluck.

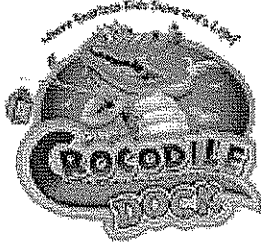
SO WHAT'S NEXT?

This Sunday Church Council President John Moore will convene a special congregational meeting beginning at approximately 9:40 in the Fellowship Hall to vote on whether or not to call Pastor Keith to be our new pastor. The meeting will begin with a motion and second to call Pastor Keith. Then voting will begin. Because this is a vote to call our pastor, voting will be done by written ballot. In order to accommodate Sunday School teachers and others serving the congregation, voting will remain open until 11:00. A simple 2/3 majority is the requirement to approve the call. Depending on the outcome of the vote, the following will occur...in the unlikely event of a negative majority, the Call Committee will re-convene to begin reviewing new candidates. Assuming a positive result, the Executive Committee will meet Monday to sign an official Letter of Call, which will be forwarded to Pastor Keith through the Synod. Pastor Keith will then have 30 days to accept or decline the call. Once he accepts, an Installation date will be set with the Synod and his ministry at First will begin. We hope to see you at the Ballot Box!

LUTHERAN HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endowment Fund has allocated money for scholarships for members of our congregation who will be attending a Lutheran College or ELCA Seminary for the 2009-2010 school year. Application forms have been sent to all college-age members and are also available on the tract rack. Please return the completed applications to the church office by May 18, 2009.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Registration forms for this year's Vacation Bible School, "Crocodile Dock," are included with this newsletter. Vacation Bible School will be held this year from

June 14 through June 18. Registration forms will be taken between services on Sundays, May 3 & May 17 or they may be sent to the church office.

We are in need of volunteers to help with crafts, snacks, decorating, and crew leaders. Please contact Dawn Zeigler at 815-233-3517 or e-mail zignlou@aeroinc.net to volunteer or for more information.

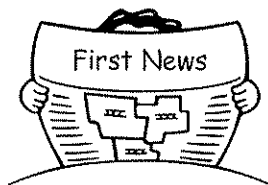
READING GROUP



"Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown is the first book selected by the women's reading group. We will meet on Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. to share

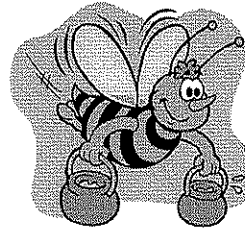
our thoughts about the book. The group will be flexible - if you wish to read this book, come join us on May 9. If not, perhaps the next book will be more to your liking. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you would like more information.

NEWSLETTER



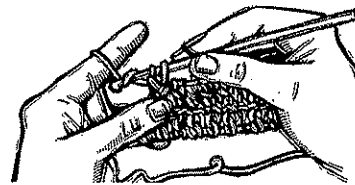
The deadline for the next First News will be April 28. May calendar and volunteer information will be needed at that time. Thanks!

TASTING BEE



Women of the ELCA is hosting a Tasting Bee this Saturday, April 25 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would still like to come, tickets will be available at the door. Cost is \$6.00, which includes a recipe booklet of all the dishes you will sample.

KNITTING GROUP



The Prayer Shawl Group has decided to change its name to the "Knitting Group."

All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come. You may bring your own project to work on, or work on a variety of service projects which include prayer shawls, children's sweaters, hats, and scarves. We continue to meet monthly on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Come join us on May 2!

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.

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

Periodicals Postage Paid
Freeport, IL 61032
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 26 **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
9:40 a. m. Congregational Meeting

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

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Visiting Team
1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study

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

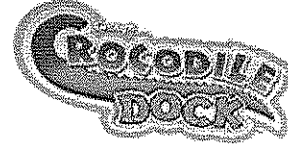
Friday 6:00 p.m. Scrapbooking

Saturday 6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple
9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking
10:00 a.m. Knitting Group
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

THE PARISH RECORD

April 18-19 Saturday 5:00-11 Sunday 8:15-94 10:45-72 Total-177 Sunday School-32 Offerings \$5,204.00

Registration for Vacation Bible School



DATE: JUNE 14 - 18

TIME: 5 P.M. SUNDAY - FAMILY KICK OFF EVENT

TIME: 9 A.M. - 12 NOON MONDAY - THURSDAY

CHURCH SPONSORS: FREEPORT PRESBYTERIAN, GRACE EPISCOPAL,
PRINCE OF PEACE, & FIRST LUTHERAN

AGES: Pre-School (begin K fall 2010) & Pre-K (begin K fall 2009), COMPLETED GRADES K,1,2,3,4,5,6

Student's Name(s)	Grade/Sun. School Class Completed by June '09	Birth Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Parents' Names _____ Address _____ Home/Work/Cell Phone _____
 Mother: _____
 Father: _____

Known allergies, special needs or other medical concerns: _____

All children must be potty trained.
 All children will be expected to behave appropriately.

I give permission for VBS leaders to seek emergency medical treatment if needed for the above enrolled student(s).

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

In case of emergency in which parent cannot be reached, please contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Name of child/ren's doctor _____ Phone: _____

_____ Number of children needing transportation to VBS
 _____ Number of children needing transportation home from VBS

Appreciated Enrollment Donation - \$5/child or \$10/family

_____ I will donate money to help with craft/snack expenses. (Please include with enrollment donation.)

_____ I would also like to help with VBS. Please Call Me! :)

_____ I consent to the use of my child's picture on the web sites of the churches hosting VBS.

Please note - new for this year!
 Please sign-up early as enrollment will be opened to the community on May 18 and the deadline is June 1.
 We need to limit the number of registrations to 100 children.