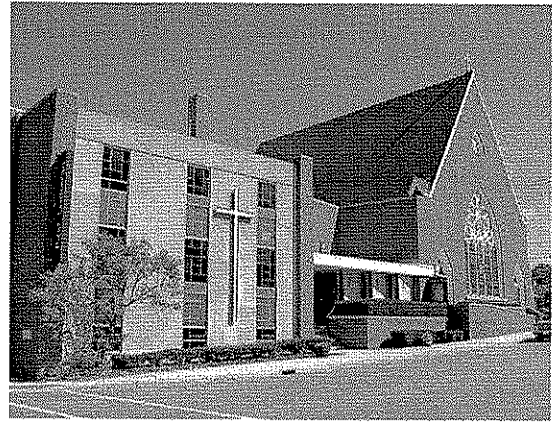


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #15

May 1, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd -3rd



Jesus is the Good Shepherd. John's gospel message is full of such images. The good shepherd, the light of the world, the vine (and we are the branches), the gate for the sheep, the bread of life. John seems to love allegory! But Jesus turns symbols into action. I KNOW my sheep. I GIVE them eternal life. Jesus is the embodiment of God's actual love for humankind, and not just some symbolic figure.

In seeing Jesus in this way - as an active, creative embodiment of God's real love - there is a hint about true religious life: being symbolic in our public practice of religion is not enough. To call ourselves Christian requires that we put our belief and our faith into action. In the gospel text for this Sunday, the two actions Jesus claims as the good shepherd are matched by two actions

he ascribes to the sheep: My sheep HEAR my voice, and they FOLLOW me.

To the degree that we put God's love into practice, we are living a Christian life. So the text from John's gospel puts the question to us all: In your religious life, are you just an allegory, or are you for real?

With you in Christ,
Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor



Aubrey Olson is recuperating at home following surgery last week.

Our sympathy to the family of Rev. Richard Jenkins-Wright. Rev. Wright died on April 25, 2009. Services will be held at noon this Saturday, May 2, at Mount Calvary Church.

Becky & Bernie Leopold would like to thank the members of the congregation for their cards, prayers, and support following the death of Becky's father, Virgil Bowers.

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 - No person can do everything, but each one can do something.

PASTORAL CALL UPDATE!

The results are in! In case you didn't hear it through the grapevine, last week's Pastoral Call Vote produced an overwhelming majority in favor of calling Pastor Keith Johnson to be our next pastor. As of Thursday, the official "Letter of Call" was hand delivered to our Synod Bishop, bearing the signatures of the Executive Committee. After the Bishop signs off, we expect that Pastor Keith will receive the letter by the first of next week. He will then have 30 days to accept the call. Based on conversations, we believe he will accept quickly. He will then notify his current congregation and set a departure date with them. Depending on moving dates and other details, we hope that he will be able to begin his ministry at First sometime in mid to late June.



WE'VE MOVED - The church nursery has moved and is now located upstairs beside the Pre K/Kindergarten class room.

The nursery is available at both the 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

A TIME TO PLANT... Are you interested in supporting the beautification plantings around the church? There will be a short get-together to discuss plans, possibilities and plants this Sunday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. during the Fellowship time.

NEEDED!!

The high school youth are in need of your help!! Are you crafty? Do you knit? Sew? Do woodworking? How about baking?? We are looking for a variety of great things to auction off at the annual Mother's Day auction. Let's see how creative we can be. This auction helps fund the youth's mission trip and has always been a fun time. Gordy will again be the auctioneer, and along with the *special donations*...we will need our church family to fill the room in order for it to be a success. Please plan to attend, and better yet, bring a friend. If you have any questions or would like to donate, please call ~ Jackie Meiborg 815-238-0403.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER - Two/Three Year Olds - Fourth Grade students will be singing during the prelude at the 10:45 a.m. service this Sunday, May 3. Students will remain in their classrooms until it is time to sing.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM MEETINGS

The CE Team is now meeting regularly on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther room. We welcome all members to join us with your thoughts and ideas to help keep our CE programs active and growing. If you have any questions or comments, but cannot make the meeting, contact Bill Castle at 815-232-4153 or liamcast67@msn.com.

KNITTING GROUP - All knitters, crocheters, and those wishing to learn how, are welcome to come to the next gathering of the knitting group on Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Lounge. 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.

READING GROUP - The women's reading group will meet on Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. to share our thoughts on the first book selected, "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown. The group is 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. Suggestions for books to read are always welcome. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you would like more information.

TASTING BEE - Thank you to everyone who attended the Tasting Bee and special thanks to all who provided food, table settings, and helped out in the kitchen! If you were unable to attend but would like to purchase a booklet with all the recipes, they will be on sale this Sunday for \$2.00 each, or by contacting Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield.

PROJECT WORKDAY - Project Workday will meet this month on Thursdays, May 14 and 28 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Come down for part or all of the day. We are still collecting items for health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Donations of hand towels, washcloths, bath-size soap, wide-tooth combs, and nail clippers may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes. Thank you for your support.

A MESSAGE FROM MISSIONPLUS INVESTMENTS - Just about everyone could use a boost these days. So we've added .50% to our rates on MissionPlus investments. Along with a great rate, you enjoy checkbook availability, a Visa debit card, and the freedom to add to your

investment anytime. What's more, you get the added satisfaction of helping to build your church. That's because the money you invest helps the Mission Investment Fund make loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries for building and renovation projects. To invest, visit elca.org/mif or call 877-886-3522. But hurry, this promotion ends July 1, 2009.

HERE WE STAND - LUTHERAN DAY 2009

Since 2004, Lutheran Day has provided Lutherans from across Illinois the opportunity to build relationships with public officials and each other, as well as demonstrate Lutherans' involvement in their communities as citizens and as leaders of charitable organizations meeting human needs. This year, Lutheran Day will be held on May 6 in Springfield. For more information go to www.lutheranday.org.

CONGRATULATIONS



Harriett Gustason was the honored guest at the Stephenson County Historical Society's annual dinner on April 23. She was honored for her unwavering devotion to preserving local history. Friends (including the famous "lunch bunch"), family, co-workers and society members attended. Freeport Mayor George Gaulrapp proclaimed April 23 as "Harriett Gustason Day" in Freeport.

Jan Butterfield was honored as a "Women of Excellence" nominee at the Women of Excellence Recognition Dinner on April 29. The nominees were recognized for excelling in leadership, achievement and concern for quality of life through their volunteer activities. Jan had two tables of supporters at the dinner which included her husband, Brian, the Mary Circle, and the Workday ladies.

We're proud of you Harriett and Jan!

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

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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

MAY 3 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
Monday 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Care Givers Meeting
1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study
6:30 p.m. CE Team
Thursday 11:00 a.m. OWLS to Dogwood Inn
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
10:00 a.m. Reading Group
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

THE PARISH RECORD

April 25-26 Saturday 5:00-18 Sunday 8:15-136 10:45-80 Total-234 Sunday School-39 Offerings \$4,549.00

ACOLYTES

- Early Service
03- Collin Castle & Danny Chamberlin
10- Carsten Brandt & Emily Cowman
17- Katelin Parkinson & McKayla Rimington
24- Hannah Bollon & Collin Castle
31- Haley Bunker & Danny Chamberlin
- Late Service
Paige Kerr & Derek Kortemeier
Daniel & Marisela Arana
Grady Coffee & Kirsten Pontius
Brian Meiborg & Allison Shields
Paige Kerr & Derek Kortemeier

GREETERS

- Early Service
03- Charles & Sharon Janicke
10- Louie & Dorothy Ackerman
17- Ernie & Kryns Brose
24- Jim & Esther Eden
31- Carol Meyers & Anna Nelson
- Late Service
Warren & Dee Burstrom
John & Trudy Moore
Bob & Audrey Last
Terry & Marty Love
Steve & Lizz Withington

ASSISTING MINISTERS

- Early Service
03- Dena Kampmier
10- Jeff Cowman
17- Sharon Wall
24- Jeff Cowman
31- Tom Klemm
- Late Service
Dale Schutte
Duke Herring
Ruth Wardlow
Dee Burstrom
Barb Statdfield

NURSERY

- Early Service
03- Arleen Olson
10- Joe & Laurie Banderet
17- Dave & Melanie Morton
24- Gail Harris
31- Terri Meier
- Late Service
Kim & Amelia Marchini
Lizz Withington
Sue & Dave Swank
John & Barb Statdfield
Norma Parkinson

COMMUNION PRESENTORS

- Early Service
03- Louie & Dorothy Ackerman
10- Dean & Ann Sperle
17- Tom & Jane Klemm
24- Ernie & Kryns Brose
31- Gene & Sharon Wall
- Late Service
Duke & Bev Herring
Paul & Betty Tormohlen
Sandie & Carrie Tresemer
Norma & Teresa Parkinson
Ruth Wardlow & Betty Stebbins

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- Early Service
03- Barb Donahue & Nancy Holtum
10- Dean & Ann Sperle
17- Tom & Jane Klemm
24- Ernie & Kryns Brose
31- Gene & Sharon Wall
- Late Service
Duke & Bev Herring
Paul & Betty Tormohlen
Sandie & Carrie Tresemer
Norma & Teresa Parkinson
Ruth Wardlow & Gail Diehl

USHERS

- Early Service
Dan Hoffman
Tina Chamberlin
Marian Ewalt
Steve Kampmeier
- Late Service
Al Simler
Betty Simler
Dale Schutte
Arlo Trickle
Carolyn Trickle

READERS

- Early: Ann Sperle & Judy Brady
Late: Duke Herring
- VISITATION TEAM
3 & 10 D Eizinga & B Reichert
17 & 24 Albert & Betty Simler
31 & 6/7 R Wardlow & S Kampmeier

ALTAR GUILD

- Set-Up
03- E. Eden & J. Brandt
10- Barb Donahue
17- Jean Greene
24- Ruth Wardlow
31- P. Kemp & R. Wardlow
- Early Service
S. & S. Kampmeier
M. Althof & L. Chamberlin
Nancy Olson
Carole Busjahn
Carole Busjahn
- Late Service
Bev & Duke Herring & Dee Lieber
B. Stebbins & C. Heitter
Lizz Withington
Toni Ditzsworth
C. Trickle & R. Wardlow

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 01- Jacob Olson
Lee Williams
02- Sandra Vaillencourt
04- Mindy Frakes
05- Kyle Kampmier
Tiffany Brobst
Ernie Brose
JoDeen Bunker
Betty Tormohlen
06- David Buss
Mandy Shick
07- Brian Dillard
08- Sara McAuliffe
Trudy Moore
09- George Koehler
- 10- Rhys Love
Meta Ridgway
11- Esther Dugger
Jared Duncan
Barbara Stricker
15- Dale Sievert
Dawn Zeigler
17- Kristin Brandt
Meagan Cosgrove
Leslie Hayenga
18- Judy Castle
20- Jordan Kerr
Richard Young
21- Mary Kirkpatrick
Shirley Washburn
- 22- Leon Heitter
Brad Wall
24- Brennan Meier
25- Doris Elliott
Susan Swank
26- Beth Madden
John Miller
28- Gail Harris
29- Michael Brose
Meghann Redford
30- Austin Cosgrove
Kathy Neuendorf
31- Logan Breed
Tina Butterfield

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 02- Bruce & Bonnie Olson
05- Robert & Rose Wagens
09- Bill & Donna Frakes
10- Jacqueline & Fay Meiborg
11- Jay & Delores Nevenhoven
12- Martin & Kathy Murray
13- Jon & Angela Spachman
16- John & Lori Brobst
- 20- James & Mary Ann Elmer
21- Marvin & Marlene Atz
22- David & Melanie Morton
23- Bradley & Nancy Heilman
29- Aaron & Tracy Love
Tom & Christina Parkinson
30- Bob & Donna Dwyer

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:15 & 10:45 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Catechism	4 4:30 Neighborhood Youth Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts	5	6 1:00 Care Givers 1:00 NW Conf Pastor's Text Study 6:30 CE Team	7 11:00 a.m. OWLS to Dogwood Inn 6:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Kids/Kingdom 7:30 Celebration Choir	8 6:00 Scrapbook Group	9 6:30 MBA at Big Apple 10:00 Reading Group 5:00 Worship Service
10 8:15 & 10:45 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Catechism Mother's Day Auction	11 4:30 Neighborhood Youth Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts	12	13 1:00 NW Conf Pastor's Text Study 7:00 Council Meeting	14 Pastor at Synod Staff Meeting 6:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Kids/Kingdom	15	16 6:30 MBA at Big Apple 5:00 Worship Service
17 8:15 & 10:45 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Catechism	18 4:30 Neighborhood Youth Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 10:30 Rebecca Circle at Jean Sorn's 7:00 Rachel Circle at Toni Ditsworth's	20 1:00 NW Conf Pastor's Text Study 6:30 Evangelism Team	21 6:30 Kids/Kingdom Bell Polishing Party	22	23 6:30 MBA at Big Apple 5:00 Worship Service
24 8:15 & 10:45 Worship	25 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	26	27 1:00 NW Conf Pastor's Text Study	28	29	30 6:30 MBA at Big Apple 5:00 Worship Service
31 8:15 & 10:45 Worship						