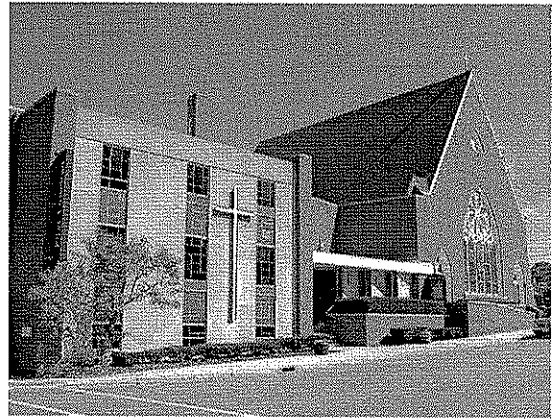


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

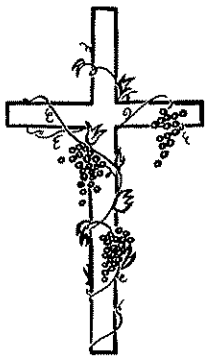


**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #16

May 8, 2009

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Saturday - Sunday, May 9th - 10th
Mother's Day



I've noticed a phenomenon in my fifteen or so years of leading worship here in the Midwestern USA: after Easter and Christmas Eve, Mother's Day tends to be one of the highest attended worship events of the year. Year in and year out, it seems that people who don't have enough time for regular worship the rest of the year tend to make time to be in worship with Mom on Mother's Day. Why is that?

Well, the first, best response to any such question is always, "I don't know for sure," but I'd like to hazard a guess. I think that it has been our moms and grandmas who have kept the faith alive in our churches for years. Think about it... Who (mostly) teaches Sunday school? Who reads our children's Bible to us? Who sees that we learn to say our prayers?

Who kicks our butts out of bed to get us to worship on Sunday morning in our teen years, and to get us to catechism and other church events (even when we grouse about it)? Who keeps the faith alive in your family?

Like the women who remained with our Lord all the way to his cross and empty tomb, our Lord's gospel writer John focuses us this week on the word "abide." Abide, remain, live with him - that's what Jesus encourages his disciples to do. And to bear the good fruit of sharing God's love is the result of that abiding.

Without the unfailing love of our moms, things in our lives often turn out badly. And since our moms tend to be the connection for us to the things of church and of God, maybe for many of us the tendency to be in worship on Mother's Day just seems appropriate. And maybe it is...

Serving with you in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Kurt Hansen, Interim Pastor



Judy Kaufman had surgery last week and is recuperating at home.

We welcome Aidan John Mitchell to the family! Aidan was baptized at First Lutheran on May 3. He is the son of John & Carolyn Mitchell, grandson of Dean & Ann Sperle, and great grandson of Martha Sperle.

A sincere thank you to each member of our church family that said a prayer, sent a card, or inquired about my daughter, Rebecca Lieber-Jacobs, as she recovered from the stroke she suffered March 22. She is home and doing well. A special thanks to Rev. Hansen for his prayers and comforting call he placed from Iowa to express his concern. -Deanna Lieber

Missing...We are missing a 7x11 Pyrex glass baking dish from the Tasting Bee. Please check your cupboards.

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 - You can't speak a kind word too soon.

WOW!



I was shocked when I entered Fellowship Hall last Friday afternoon. Anyone who saw my face knew that I was truly surprised by the luncheon to celebrate my

25th anniversary as your church secretary. I was overwhelmed by the wonderful turn out and thank each of you who took time to come and help me celebrate. I thank Pastors Art Stees, Neville Kretzmann, and Kurt Hansen for their kind words. It's easy to be a good employee with bosses like that! Thanks to everyone who helped make the luncheon possible. I really appreciate all your efforts! Thank you for all the cards and gifts I received. Again - overwhelming!

As I start my next 25 years (or so) I thank the congregation of First Lutheran for making my job so rewarding. It is truly my privilege to be a part of your family.



WE'LL BE THERE ~ to accept your generous donations for the Mother's Day auction on Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the fellowship hall. Then again on Sunday morning from 8:00 a.m. until the time of the auction (same place). Please try to drop your donations off ASAP so that we can be organized for the fun. Thrivent will be matching the funds brought in, which is wonderful and makes all donations even more valuable. If there is anyone wanting to give a cash donation instead, that would be greatly appreciated as well. Please call Jackie Meiborg at 815-238-0403 with any questions or donations.

WE THANK YOU !!

The New Orleans Bound Group

50 DAYS OF PRAYER
FOR THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Beginning Monday, June 29, and for the 50 days leading up to the Churchwide Assembly, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invites congregations, groups, and individuals to set aside intentional time for focused prayer and scriptural study by using prayers, Scripture, and song drawn from the daily worship. Resources to guide individuals and groups in this time of prayer and reflection on the Word may be found at <http://www.elca.org/50days>.



Have you registered yet for one of the "Make It Simple" Congregational Stewardship workshops: **May 26** - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Prince of Peace, Freeport; **May 28** - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Joyful Spirit, Bolingbrook; contact Nancy Corey at (309) 794-4004 or ncorey@nisynod.org.

ATTENTION FORMER SCOUTS!

Boy Scout



Troop 7

Did you know that Boys Scout Troop 7 has been chartered by First Lutheran Church since 1942? The Scouts are working on a troop history project that will be displayed on the

Scout wall adjacent to Fellowship Hall. If you have any old pictures, newspaper articles, documents, or memories of your Scouting days that you would like to share, please put them in an envelope with your name on the front and drop them in Bill Castle's mailbox at the church. Original documents will be scanned and returned to you.



THE ELCA brand campaign is going national. From May 11 - 31 television ads will broadcast nationally on CNN, CNN Headline News, Fox News, HGTV, and DIY Network. The ad schedule can be

found at <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/Our-Brand/Ads/TV.aspx>

READING GROUP



Bring your own coffee, or other beverage of choice, and join the women's reading group this Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. We will gather in the Lounge and share our thoughts on the book,

"Angels & Demons," by author Dan Brown.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

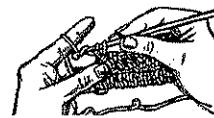
Vacation Bible School will be held this year from June 14 through June 18 at Grace Episcopal Church. Registration forms will be taken between services next Sunday, May 17 or they may be sent to the church office.

PROJECT WORKDAY



Project Workday will meet on Thursday, May 14 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.

KNITTING GROUP



The knitting group will meet again on Saturday, May 16 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.

MEMORIAL DAY WORK WEEKEND

AT LOMC

May 23-25, 2009

Lodging and meals provided!

Please come help spruce up the camp for the summer season. Register with Audrey at 815-732-2220 or e-mail to registration@lomc.org.



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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 10 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
9:30 a.m. Mother's Day Auction

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

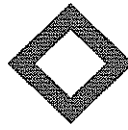
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Thursday 10:00 a.m. Workday
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

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

THE PARISH RECORD

May 02-03 Saturday 5:00-14 Sunday 8:15-116 10:45-128 Total-258 Sunday School-38 Offerings \$5,822.00



A TIME OF TRANSITION

Well, the time has come for farewells and welcomes. Every ending is a new beginning, and so the ending of our time of interim ministry yields to the excitement of beginning new things with a new pastor.

The Rev. Keith Johnson will begin his time as our new pastor, with his first day in the office sometime in the week of June 21st. His first opportunity to lead worship will be June 27-28th.

There will be a community service of installation later that day at 3:00 p.m. A potluck celebration dinner will follow. All local clergy will be invited, as well as ELCA clergy from the Northwest Conference. This promises to be a great time of celebration, and all members of First Lutheran are strongly encouraged to be a part of it.

Interim Pastor Kurt Hansen's last Sunday with us will be May 17th. There will be a time of fellowship held between the services on that day, and the worship time will include a rite of leave-taking and farewell. Pastor Hansen requests that anyone wishing to offer gifts direct these to either the FACC Neighborhood Fund or to the Northern Illinois Synod Benevolence Fund, as both are facing significant needs.

Pulpit supply pastors have been arranged for every Saturday and Sunday service between May 17th and June 28th, and pastoral coverage for any urgent pastoral needs has also been established. A schedule of the "time between" is in Peg Huber's office.

We can use these few weeks to prepare for welcoming Pastor Johnson and his family to Freeport and to First Lutheran. Pray for a safe and smooth move and transition for all, and ask God how you might be involved - maybe in a brand new way - in the work God plans to do here. God only knows what the future holds for First Lutheran Church! This promises to be an exciting time of new promise and growth as we move ahead to fulfill our mission: **Through worship and loving service to others, we make Christ known to all.**