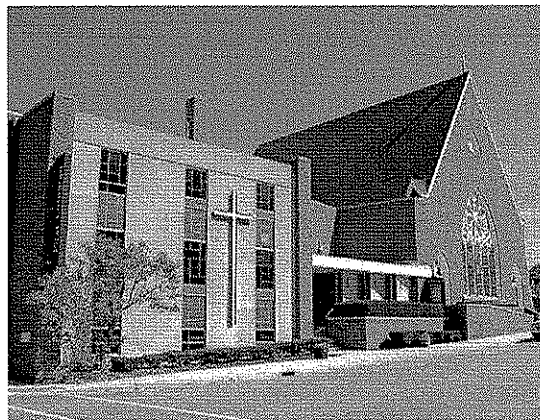


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #17

May 15, 2009

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16 - 17



Endings and Beginnings. Amazingly, our texts for this weekend fit perfectly with the time of transition in which we find ourselves. The gospel texts for this and last week come from what are called the "farewell discourses" of Jesus in John's Gospel. And as we are at a time of farewell, these texts have been speaking directly to our situation.

It has been my joy and privilege to serve the people of First Lutheran Church as we worked together in interim ministry. We have accomplished much, and I feel very proud of you. As we move on to new things, we remain connected in the One we all serve, Jesus of Nazareth, in whom all endings become new beginnings.

May God bless and keep you all, and may you enter with joy this new chapter in the history of First Lutheran under the leadership of the Rev. Keith Johnson.

Serving with you in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Kurt Hansen, Assistant to the Bishop, Northern Illinois Synod



Known to be hospitalized is Tina Buss at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Congratulations to Great grandparents, Barb & Ribs Donahue on the birth of Ann Margaret Haymond who was born May 11, 2009. Parents are Tony & Kelly Haymond.

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 Kry's Brose (815-233-4410).

From the Volunteer Coordinator - Forgive someone - maybe even yourself. It will set you free.

FAREWELL



Interim Pastor Kurt Hansen's last Sunday with us will be this Sunday, May 17. There will be a time of fellowship held between the services 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 posted on the bulletin board in Peg's office.

PLAY BALL



The Men's Softball Church League will begin play on May 21, 2009. Prince of Peace is seeking members of First Lutheran who might be interested in participating on their team. The only criteria is

that they are male and at least 13 years of age. They play each Thursday night at Taylor Park diamonds. Our play time will be either 6:15 or 7:45 p.m. If you are interest, please contact Nancy Lillevold, 815-541-0579.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our Mother's Day auction! There are so many of you who don't have kids that are going on

the mission trip, but yet put forth an effort to help us out. We appreciate it SO MUCH!!!! It means a lot to us to see the support that we have from our church friends. We did awesome at the auction, and brought in over \$1,500.00 in sales and then several cash donations to add on to that as well. We will also be receiving funds from Thrivent, so we should be on our way.

It was fun to see so much support and we are hoping everyone had a good time and will want to do it again next year when we want to go again.

Our congregation is THE BEST! Thank you SO MUCH, from the bottom of our hearts. We so appreciate everything you did in making this a successful fund raiser.

THE NEW ORLEANS BOUND GROUP

PENTECOST FLOWERS



Pentecost is May 31 and we will again be decorating the church with red geraniums. The cost is \$11.00 for 3 plants. They may be given in memory or in honor

of someone. Please use a pink envelope or a pew envelope.

CELEBRATION CHOIR POTLUCK

CHOIR POTLUCK



The Celebration Choir Potluck will be at Dagny's, 3005 Farmdale Lane, on Friday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. Table service, meat, and lemonade will be provided.

Please bring one or two dishes to share and a lawn chair. Thanks for your wonderful singing this year!

FUN, FUN, FUN!



All Kids of the Kingdom and Sunday School children and their families are invited to an end of the school year party. We'll meet at the Skate Station this Sunday, May 17, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Micki Arana at 815-232-3016.

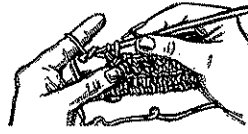
READING GROUP

Reading Group



The next meeting of the women's reading group will be Saturday, June 27, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. We will gather in the Lounge and share our thoughts on the book, "The Red Tent," by author Anita Diamant. This is a fictional book based on the Bible story of Jacob and the relationships between the women and children in his life. Anyone wishing to read the book is welcome to join us. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you would like more information.

KNITTING GROUP



The knitting group will meet this 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.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MEETING



This Sunday will be the last regular season meeting of the Senior High Youth Group. We'll meet from 6:30 to 8:00 featuring devotions, food, and other neat stuff.

Bring a friend if you have any! We hope to see you there.

ATTENTION FORMER SCOUTS!



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.

First News
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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
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

MAY 17 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
9:30 a.m. Reception for Pastor Hansen
3:00 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom & Sunday School Party at Skate Station

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 Jean Sorn's
7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at Toni Ditsworth's

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

Thursday Bell Polishing Party

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

THE PARISH RECORD

May 09-10 Saturday 5:00-17 Sunday 8:15-136 10:45-92 Total-245 Sunday School-46 Offerings \$4,924.00