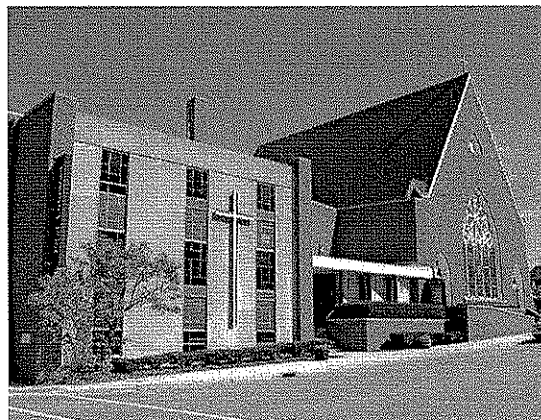


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 35 #20

June 12, 2009

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 13-14



The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed.

It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.



Our sympathy to Tina Buss (1413 W. Beach Street, Apt. 54, Freeport, IL 61032) and family on the death of Tina's mother, Charlotte Buss.

Judy Kaufman would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls she has received during her recovery from surgery. Thanks to Pastor Whitney for his visit and to the Knitting Group for the prayer shawl. It's nice to know people care!

Thank you for all the prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, food, and offers of help that we have received since our accident. Thank you also to Pastor Whitney for his visit, and to the Knitting Group for the beautiful prayer shawl. We are blessed to be part of a very caring church family. -Don & Shirley Diestelmeier

Thank you to Pastor Hansen, Pastor Whitney and the Care Giver group for the many prayers and visits during dad's illness. They were a comfort to him and to us. Also, thank you to everyone who contributed to the lunch after our dad's funeral. It was greatly appreciated. After so many years of being with my mom as she coordinated the funeral lunches, it felt very strange to be on the receiving end once again and so soon. First Lutheran has been our church home for four generations now, so it will always hold a special place in our hearts. -The family of Lee Williams (last pew on the right).

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 - God gives every bird its food, but He doesn't throw it in the nest. -Josiah Holland

HELEN M. BUSJAHN † 1914 - 2009
May God grant peace to her memory, comfort to her family and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to His glory.

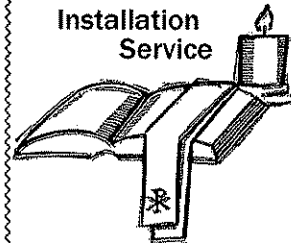
SYNOD ASSEMBLY MEETS JUNE 19-20
Please pray for our synod as it gathers to worship, study, and consider the work of "Making Christ Known" in Northern Illinois. Pastor Keith & Vicki Johnson, and Greg & Lianne Dunham will represent First Lutheran at this gathering. For more information, please check the synod's website: www.nisynod.org.



**NO SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
NEXT WEEK**

Due to the Synod Assembly, we will not have a Saturday worship service on June 20. There will be a worship service this Saturday, June 13. Pastor Carole Andres will lead the service.

INSTALLATION & POTLUCK
Installation Service
Pastor Keith Johnson will be installed on Sunday, June 28th at 3:00 p.m. Afterward we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal. All congregation members attending are asked to bring a vegetable dish, potato dish, or salad to share. Since there will be guests attending from the synod and community, we ask that each dish serve at least 12 people. Meat, beverages, and dessert will be provided.
This is an important day in the life of our congregation, and all members are encouraged to attend.



PASTOR LINDA KERSTEN, former associate pastor at First Lutheran, will be leading our worship services this Sunday, June 14. Welcome back Pastor Linda!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Please join us for Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School to be held at Grace Episcopal Church, Stephenson & Cherry Streets.

All 4 year olds through 6th grade students are invited to attend. The adventure begins this Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 p.m. with a family kick-off and continues Monday, June 15 through Thursday, June 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please call 815-235-9790 to register.

SUMMER CAMP

Thanks to the Endowment Fund and the commitment of First Lutheran students and families, the following youth/families will be attending Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois this summer: Danny Arana, Gabe Zeigler, Marisela Arana, Callie Arendt, Aiden Kerr, Jordan Kerr, and Kelsey Arendt.

Also, 7th grade confirmation students: Marisela Arana, Callie Arendt, Carsten Brandt, Collin Castle, Grady Coffee, Emily Cowman, and Nicholas Marchini will be attending confirmation camp this coming week. Thanks to Jeff Cowman, Micki Arana, and Carrie Julius for providing transportation for the confirmation students. Jeff & Micki will be leaving the church at 1:00 p.m. this Sunday, June 14 and Micki & Carrie will pick up the students at 2:00 on Friday, June 19.

THANKS TO OUR GARDENERS



Thanks to Esther Eden, Rita & Jerry Anderson, Marian Ewalt, Pat Reel, Sandy Helms, and Bob Neuendorf for planting flowers

around the church. It looks great!

READING GROUP

The next meeting of the women's reading group is 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. Contact Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you would like more information.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE RETREAT

The Northwest Conference Women of the ELCA are sponsoring a one-day retreat on Saturday, June 27 at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Scales Mound from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 and reservation forms are available on the WELCA bulletin board.

KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group will meet on Saturday, June 20 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.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, June 25 in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We especially need receiving blankets, cloth diapers, infant sleepers, and undershirts for layette kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items may be left in the WELCA box by the mailboxes near the Jackson Street entrance. Monetary donations towards purchasing diapers are also welcome and may be placed in the baby bottle located in the entryway.

THANK YOU

Freeport Area Church Cooperative would like to thank the members of First Lutheran for their past and present support of the services and ministries provided by FACC. This year (as of May 26), First Lutheran has contributed \$2,836 which was used to provide emergency food, clothing, and shelter to those in need in northwest Illinois.

CHOIRS TO REHEARSE

The Praise Band will have rehearsal on June 18 & 25 at 6:30 p.m. The Celebration Choir will also rehearse on June 18 & 25 - at 7:30 p.m. The Bell Choir will have rehearsal on June 25 at 6:30 p.m.

THE DEADLINE for the next issue of *First News* is Tuesday, June 16. The deadline for calendar and volunteer information for July will be June 30.

First News
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Freeport, IL 61032

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

JUNE 14 **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
5:00 p.m. VBS Family Kick-Off Event at Grace Episcopal Church
1:00 p.m. 7th Grade Confirmation Camp Begins

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School at Grace Episcopal Church
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. VBS at Grace Episcopal Church
11:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle at Shirley Kampmeier's
7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at Laurie Swanson's

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. VBS at Grace Episcopal Church
1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. VBS at Grace Episcopal Church
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Friday Northern Illinois Synod Assembly at Augustana College
2:00 p.m. 7th Grade Confirmation Camp Ends

Saturday 6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple
10:00 a.m. Knitting Group
No Worship Service

THE PARISH RECORD

May 30/31 Saturday 5:00-21 Sunday 8:15-109 10:45-81 Total-211 Offerings \$4,799.00
June 06/07 Saturday 5:00-14 Sunday 8:15-73 10:45-58 Total-145 Offerings \$6,197.00