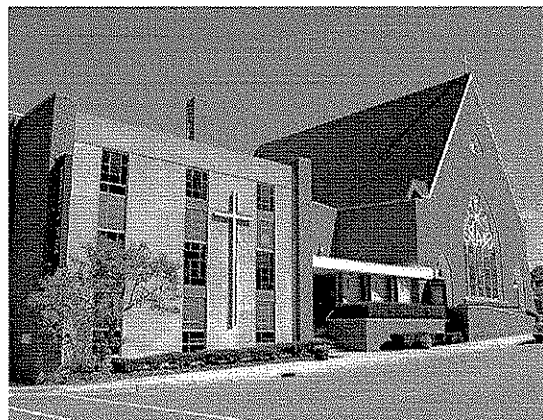


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



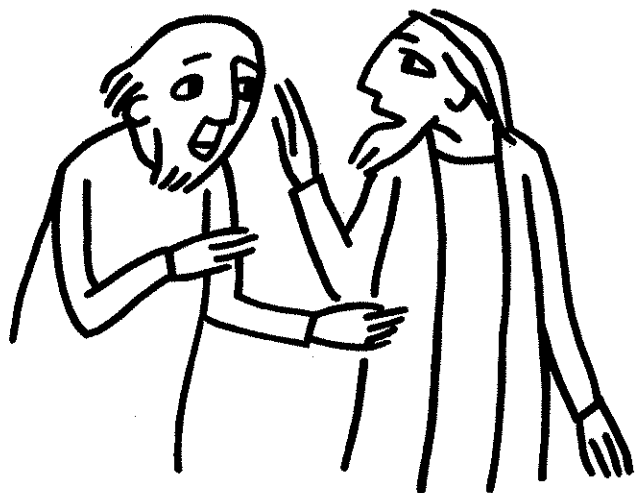
**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,  
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #27

September 11, 2009

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12-13, 2009



Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world.

In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.



Known to be hospitalized is Harry Strohecker at FHN Memorial Hospital.

Janet Bastian wishes to thank Pastors Whitney, Hansen, and Johnson for their visits and prayers during the past years as a resident of Manor Court. Also, thank you to the Mary Circle members for gifts of cards, flowers, and visits and to Barb Reichert for providing communion each month. Your thoughtfulness has made her stay much more enjoyable.

Arnold Schramm would like to thank everyone for the cards and visits he received. A special thank you to Pastor Whitney and Pastor Johnson for their visits.

Gregg Kirkpatrick would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. A special thank you to Pastor Whitney for his visits.

*From the Volunteer Coordinator -A person who has the right to boast does not have to.*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM CLASSES BEGIN

It's exciting - this Sunday all Sunday school, Catechism, and High school classes will begin at 9:30 a.m. Students should go directly to their class rooms.

At 4:00 p.m. this Sunday all Sunday school and catechism families are invited to *Little Cubs Field* for batting practice and baseball to celebrate our return to Sunday school and catechism classes. Hotdogs and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service, and a blanket or chairs to sit on.

In case of rain, bring a board or card game and your dish to the fellowship hall.

**BREAKFASTTIME** - Our first Fellowship Breakfast will be this Sunday, September 13 between services. The suggested donation to help cover expenses is \$6.00. The breakfasts will be held on the second Sunday of each month. The menu on the 13<sup>th</sup> will be: Two kinds of eggs, toast & jelly, sausage, pancakes, and applesauce. Please come and enjoy the good food and fellowship!

**THRIVENT MEMBERS** - Please mark your calendars for the annual meeting on November 8, 5:00 p.m. Free food, prizes and fellowship. If you have any pictures of Thrivent supported projects, please send them to Rudy Nielsen, 718 W. Ordway. More information to follow.

### CATECHISM & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP PARTY

Wow, it's September already and it's time to start up our youth groups. This year, we're starting off in a fun way: a party! That's right, food, fun & friends at Steve Olson's house in Elroy, 8511 Mound Road to be specific.

Now, here's the deal: bring **ALL** your friends! It's this Sunday, 9-13, from 5:00 until about 8:00, so be prepared to do a lot of stuff. Food will be served at 5:30. If it rains, we'll see you at Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Youth Committee

Steve, Gordy, Diane, Dena

(if you need a ride, please call 815-369-4732)

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED** - Faith United Methodist Church in Freeport will be hosting the NW Area Institute on September 24 at 9:00 a.m. The theme will be "Health Care" with a focus on wellness and prevention. The cost is \$12.00 which includes lunch. Please call Phyllis Rosenwinge at 815-232-7861 with your reservation or for more information.

**THERE WILL BE NO FIRST NEWS** next week. The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, September 22.

**SMALL GROUP FAIR** - The Natural Church Development Committee and the Evangelism Committee invite you to attend our **Small Group Fair on Sunday, September 27** (between services) in Fellowship Hall. Our church already has a number of wonderful small groups and we hope to encourage many more!

Come and find out about small group opportunities - with themes like entertainment, bible study, and card-making to name a few. Church members will "host" tables to encourage people to form new small groups. We also encourage members of already established small groups to host a table as well.

If you are interested in "hosting" a table, please call Deb Elzinga at 815-232-7506 or JoDeen Bunker at 815-232-8717. The deadline for reserving a table is Monday, September 21.

**READING GROUP** - The women's reading group will meet on Saturday, September 26 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge to share our thoughts on the book, "Hidden in Plain View" by Jacqueline Tobin & Raymond Dobard. It is a nonfiction book about the use of quilts as signposts for the underground railroad.

**THE KNITTING GROUP** will meet on Saturday, September 19 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 including prayer shawls, children's sweaters, hats, or scarves.

**PROJECT WORKDAY** will meet on Thursday, September 24 in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come down for part or all of the day and bring your lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour.

**WELCA PROGRAM** - Mark your calendars for the WELCA Fall Luncheon on Thursday, October 29 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our program speaker will be Carol Dickerson from the Freeport Public Library. More details will follow later.

GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,



C o m m u n i c a t e ,  
c o m m u n i c a t e ,  
communicate. I don't know about you, but I cannot read minds. Nor, do I know how to read a human heart. My parents

did however, teach me the importance of speaking the truth in love and the importance of being a good listener. Well, people sure are talking right now and I think it would be wise if we took some time to do this talking together.

Some people are talking about the recent decisions made at the national ELCA gathering. Some people are talking about praising the ELCA for their decisions. Some people are talking about punishing the ELCA for their decisions. I would imagine that there may even be some of you reading this article that have no idea of what decisions I'm talking about.

Perhaps the biggest question on some people's minds is, "What does it mean to be a Lutheran?" Others have told me that they would like a "refresher" discussion on that very question. They would like to be reminded of certain things. Things like; how many sacraments are in the Lutheran church? what does "grace" really mean? why do we baptize babies?, and many more.

So, what do you think? Should we get together in the coming weeks and begin learning from each other? I think we should, but what I think is not nearly as important as what "we" think. Please communicate with me, I'm more than willing to listen.

In Christ,

Pastor Keith

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

Periodicals Postage Paid  
Freeport, IL 61032  
USPS 345110

Keith Johnson, Pastor  
Peg Huber, Office Manager  
JoAnn Beckman, Volunteer Coordinator  
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director  
Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director, Choir Accompanist

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor  
John Moore, Lay President  
Dawn Zeigler, Music Coordinator, Organist, Bell Choir Director  
Teresa Parkinson, Choir Accompanist  
Elwyn Euler, Custodian

Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791

Website: [www.firstlutheranfreeport.com](http://www.firstlutheranfreeport.com)

E-Mail: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**SEPTEMBER 13**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes  
4:00 p.m. Rally Day at Little Cub's Field  
5:00 p.m. Catechism & High School Youth Group at Olson's

Monday

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Mary Circle

10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle at Jean Sorn's

7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at church

Wednesday

1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study

Thursday

6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom/Bell Choir/Praise Band Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Friday

6:30 p.m. NA Teen Meeting

7:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday

6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple

10:00 a.m. Knitting Group

2:00 p.m. Simler/Bamberg Wedding

4:30 p.m. Praise Band

5:00 p.m. Worship Service

**THE PARISH RECORD**

September 5/6

Saturday 5:00-17

Sunday 8:15-81

10:45-59 Total-153

Offerings \$6,829.00

# Freeport Rainbows of FHN Hospice

**What:** A registered site of age appropriate grief support groups for children ages K-14 who are grieving family losses in their lives due to divorce, illness, death, incarceration, military deployment or other family disruptions. The groups are small, comprised of 3-5 children each and open to the public - not just hospice families.

**When:** Beginning Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 6:30 pm, and meeting each Tuesday for 7-8 weeks each semester following the school calendar year. The spring semester continues building upon the autumn semester. Spring semester resumes on January 12, 2010.

**Where:** The secular support groups will meet at the Freeport Church of Christ on the corner of South and Carroll Streets in Freeport.

**What does Rainbows offer?** Through structured activities, games, curricula, personal journals and support, Rainbows provides a safe and confidential environment in which children can talk about their feelings and thought related to the losses they are experiencing in their lives.

**Staffing:** Volunteer facilitators who are trained by the Rainbows organization and screened (through an interview process and background checks) lead the support groups. Presently they include those from social work, education and clergy backgrounds.

**Benefits of Rainbows:** Children have experienced alleviation of depression and anxiety, improved school academic performance, increased self-esteem, better coping skills, unconditional acceptance, better communication in peer and family relationships, emotional healing, direction during their journey toward acceptance of their loss, opportunity to meet new friends, developing positive goals for themselves, lessened destructive behaviors, a safe environment to share personal stories and more. The groups encourage positive behaviors and offer a caring adult facilitator to attentively listen and guide children to a healthy resolution of family transition.

**Registration:** Since the groups are small, registration in advance of the beginning meeting date is necessary. The groups are free of charge.

**Contact:** Diane Jochum, Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator, at FHN Hospice, 599-7240 for further information. **Registration deadline is September 22, 2008. Openings for 20 children.**

(Founded by Suzy Yehl Marta in 1983, Rainbows is an international, not-for-profit organization that fosters emotional healing among children grieving a loss from a life-altering crisis. See [www.rainbows.org](http://www.rainbows.org).)