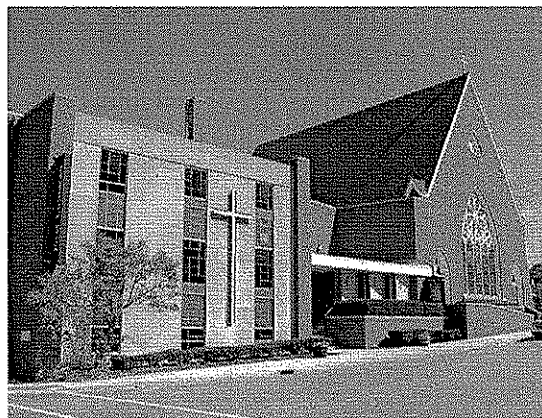


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032

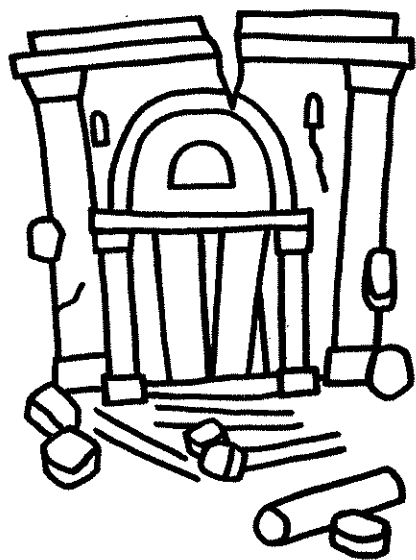


**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,  
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #34

November 13, 2009

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. So the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time.

In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised.

The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.



Known to be hospitalized is Dick Regez at FHN Memorial Hospital.

David Parks appreciates all the cards and get well comments concerning his injury.

Vic & Jan Shields and family would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and condolences they received following the death of Vic's father, John Shields Jr.

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 Krys Brose (815-233-4410).

### TREASURER'S UPDATE



This years stewardship drive is "Make it Simple." We will be putting four different scripture readings in the *First News* for you to read and meditate on. We will be encouraging members to

increase giving by taking a step up to the next level of giving or to increase the percentage that they give. Copies of these charts will be put in our "Green Team" bags and be given out at services later in November (one bag per family).

### RECIPE FOR FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

We still need to receive **Recipe for Fellowship** funds. The mortgage is not paid off until end of June 2010. The monthly mortgage payment is \$3,483.32.

Annual mortgage payment	\$ 41,799.82
YTD Recipe for Fellowship	\$ 18,629.52
Endowment Fund Money	<u>\$ 10,500.00</u>
Net shortfall	\$ 12,670.32

### WELCOME



We received two new members at the 5:00 p.m. service last Saturday. Please join us in welcoming Larry Reel and Michael Sager to the family.

### PARENT'S MEETING

Are you wondering what events we have planned for this year for our youth? If yes, please join the Youth Committee & Youth Group leaders at 9:30 a.m. in the Martin Luther room this Sunday, November 15. We will be discussing the events that we currently have schedule. It will give us a chance to chat with you and understand what you feel are important events or activities for our youth. We look forward to seeing you there.

### CATECHISM YOUTH GROUP

When: This Sunday, November 15  
 Where: First Lutheran Church  
 Time: 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Snack will be ice cream sundaes. Please bring your favorite topping. Ice cream will be provided. As always friends & family are welcome. Hope to see you there!

### THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service, will be held at First Lutheran Church this year at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25. Pastor Mark Luepke from Prince of Peace will be preaching.

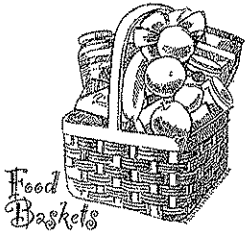


**FREEPORT CHORAL SOCIETY'S** Annual Winter Concert will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 22nd at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 S. Park Boulevard, Freeport. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be taken.

## YOU ARE INVITED

The Statdfeld family invites the congregation to join them for an "Open House Adoption Celebration" for Harmony Isabella Statdfeld and Destiny Danae Statdfeld on Sunday, November 22, 2009 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the church. A light lunch and cake will be served.

## CHRISTMAS BASKETS



We can help provide families with a holiday dinner. Each year FACC delivers over 200 food baskets to those in need. Churches are asked to bring specific items for those baskets. This year we

have been asked to provide boxes of Stove Top stuffing for families of all sizes. Please start bringing your boxes of stuffing this Sunday.

**FOOD FOR FACC** - The food pantry at Freeport Area Church Cooperative is always in need of items for their shelves. Donations particularly needed at this time include: canned tomatoes, tomato paste, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, and crackers. Please bring your donations to church this Sunday. You may leave your donations in the narthex by the coat racks. Thanks!

**KNITTING GROUP** - The Knitting Group will meet on Saturday, November 21, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. You may bring your own project to work on, or work on a variety of service projects including prayer shawls, children's sweaters, and scarves. All are welcome to join us.

**READING GROUP** - The Women's Reading Group has selected their next book, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. They will meet on Saturday, December 12, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge to share our thoughts on the book. Come and join us!

GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,



As a country, we recently spent the day remembering all that our military has done for us. I spent quite a bit of time thinking about just how

disciplined and obedient members of the armed forces have to be in order to perform their appointed duties. I also thought about the word sacrifice and how much our culture just throws that word around perhaps even without thinking what the word actually entails. I mean is sacrificing that second helping of dessert for the sake of the latest fad diet really the same as serving in a foreign land while only seeing your family 15 days out of the year?

I also thought about the word freedom and the many, many sacrifices given by our military to ensure that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave and for this I thank them.

And then, I thought about Jesus . . .

I thought about his obedience, even to the point of death on a cross. I thought about his actually being a sacrifice for me, in order that I may live. I thought about the freedom he won for me by overcoming sin and death and the grave and for this I thank him.

How about you . . .

What did you think about this past Veteran's Day?

In Christ,

Pastor Keith

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

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Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director, Choir Accompanist  
Elwyn Euler, Custodian  
Website: [www.firstlutheranfreeport.com](http://www.firstlutheranfreeport.com)

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor  
John Moore, Lay President  
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir & Kids of the Kingdom Director  
Teresa Parkinson, Choir Accompanist  
Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791  
E-Mail: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**NOVEMBER 15 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes  
9:30 a.m. Lutheranism Discussion/Parent Meeting/Assisting Ministers Meeting  
3:00 p.m. Catechism Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday 4:30 p.m. Monday Afternoon Program  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Mary Circle at church  
10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle at Ruth Banderet's  
7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle at church

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

Thursday 6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom, Bell Choir & Praise Band Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

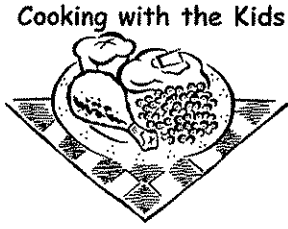
Friday 6:30 p.m. NA Teen Meeting

Saturday 6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple  
8:00 a.m. Humane Society Cookie Walk  
10:00 a.m. Knitting Group  
4:30 p.m. Praise Band  
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

**THE PARISH RECORD**

November 7/8 Saturday 5:00-40 Sunday 8:15-114 10:45-66 Total-220 Sunday School-45 Offerings \$4,084.51

## COOKING WITH THE KIDS



Cooking with the Kids It seems like it was not too long ago when those of us involved in the Neighborhood Ministry were asking the question: What does God want us to do? As many may recall, we tried a number of things - from cook-outs in the parking lots to inviting people from the neighborhood to dinner.

A little more than seven years ago, we began to reach out to the kids from the neighborhood and we have been doing so ever since. This year, we have changed things up a bit. Our new emphasis is on cooking and sharing a meal with the kids. So far this has turned out well. And when you think about it - what better way to connect with people than to share in a meal together. The kids enjoy making the meal, and of course they love to eat what they've prepared. The meals we prepare together are nutritious and delicious - so the kids are learning about new foods and how great it is to eat healthy. They are also learning about how to set tables and how to clean-up after meals. In addition to the meal, we also play games and sometimes still help out with homework.

One special part of the evening is sharing some devotions & prayers with the kids before we eat. A few weeks ago, Laurie Swanson was leading the devotion and she shared how she felt about the passing of JoAnn Beckman because it related well to the bible lesson she was teaching. We were struck by how caring and empathetic the kids were. They seemed genuinely interested and expressed caring thoughts about this very difficult topic.

If anyone is interested in helping us out on a Monday night, we'd love to have you join us. If you are interested, just call someone on the Neighborhood Ministry Committee (phone numbers are listed below). We need people to help with cooking and also to help play games with the kids or keep them occupied while dinner is cooking.

These kids keep coming back to our church because they know that we care. They believe that this is "their church." In fact, just last night one of the girls called her mom for a ride home - and said: "...come pick me up at my church." Our cooking sessions may not be "Martha Stewart" material and may even be a little on the chaotic side at times, but what wonderful opportunities we have to "care and share."

Neighborhood Ministry Committee Members,

Callie Arendt	
Deb Elzinga .....	(815) 232-7506
Meta & Mike Ridgway .....	(815) 233-6403
Diane Rondeau .....	(815) 232-3007
Pat Schutte .....	(815) 238-0775
Don & Laurie Swanson .....	(815) 232-7526
Joanne Van Natta .....	(815) 232-6567
Cindy Worster .....	(815) 235-8066