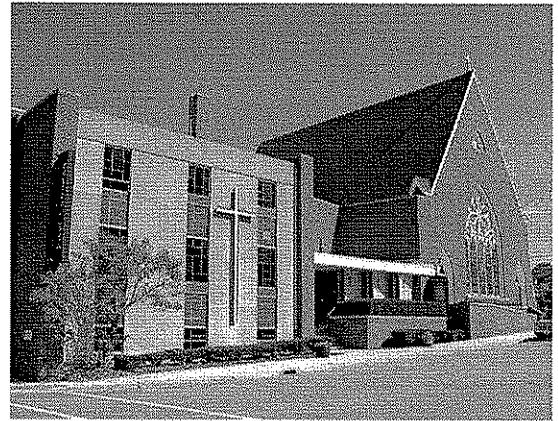


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 36 #2

January 15, 2010

## *Second Sunday after Epiphany*



*The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery.*

*Our God rejoices over God's people "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride." By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.*



Known to be hospitalized is Kry's Brose at University Hospital in Madison.

Zachary Stricker was recently hospitalized and is recuperating at home.

Thanks to Bill Castle who has taken on the responsibility of changing our Galena Avenue sign. Be sure and check out the inspirational and informative messages.

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).

### ANNUAL REPORTS



The annual report of the congregation for 2009 has been mailed. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the report and to Barb Donahue and Sarah Brose for helping to prepare the report. A very big thank you

to the crew that assembled the reports and prepared them for mailing. They were: Bev & Duke Herrling, Ruth Wardlow, Jeanette Leopold, Carol Meyers, and Norma Parkinson.

### ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010. There will be a potluck lunch after the 10:45 service and the meeting will follow. Please bring a generous dish to share and your table service. Beverages and dessert will

be furnished.

### WELCOME



The Evangelism Committee is pleased to announce that Stacey Moore will be joining the church this Sunday, January 17, at the 10:45 a.m. service. Stacey is the wife of

Daniel Moore. There will be a reception between services to greet her.

### HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

On January 12 a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti, primarily impacting its capital of Port-au-Prince and its nearly two million residents. It is believed that more than three million citizens of Haiti are affected.

The ELCA, through the Lutheran World Federation, is already responding to the critical needs of survivors in Haiti. Thankfully, the LWF offices and staff on the island were spared in the earthquake, making it possible for work to begin immediately. Staff there will focus their immediate efforts on issues of water safety and sanitation, assisting with medical triage, and providing emergency sheltering for the many who are now homeless. The ELCA has long-standing relationships in Haiti through several organizations and the Lutheran Church in Haiti.

Your gifts are needed now to make this type of rapid response possible. Your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief, will be used entirely - 100 percent - for immediate relief and ongoing recovery in Haiti.

You may use a pink envelope or a pew envelope marked, "ELCA Disaster Response," or send a check directly to ELCA Disaster Response, PO Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.

### KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group will meet on Saturday, January 16, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Those wishing to learn how to knit or crochet are welcome to join us.

### READING GROUP

The Women's Reading Group will meet on Saturday, January 30, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge. We are presently reading the book, "Two Women of Galilee" by Mary Rourke. Won't you come and join us?

### WELCA TEA



The Women of the ELCA will be hosting an afternoon tea on Tuesday, February 9. Tickets will be sold between services starting January 24, or you may reserve them by calling the church office. All are welcome - why not invite a friend to come too!

### STATEMENTS OF GIVING



Thank you for your continued support of First Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive a copy of your 2009 Statement of Giving, please call the church office and one will be mailed to you.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE?



We are still looking for volunteers to share their favorite Bible verse with our third grade students on a Sunday morning. Don't be shy, we need your help! Please contact Duke Herrling (phone: 815-235-4225 or e-mail: duke@aeroinc.net) or the church office to volunteer.

### LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR CONGREGATION GREENER

February 9-10, 2010, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, will hold "Inch by Inch: Growing a Green Congregation," to teach church leaders ways to bring environmental awareness and action to their congregations.

The Rev. Dr. David Rhoads, professor of New Testament at LSTC and a leader in environmental ministry, and Dr. Carlton Waterhouse, an expert in environmental law, are the keynote speakers. Workshops on worship, theology and place, and sustainable technologies for congregations provide practical suggestions.

Cost for the two-day conference is \$165. Register before January 15 and receive a \$10 discount. Retirees and recent LSTC grads may register for \$105. For more information or to register, visit [www.lstc.edu/leadership/](http://www.lstc.edu/leadership/) or email [leadershipconference@lstc.edu](mailto:leadershipconference@lstc.edu).

### STEWARDSHIP



Thank you to everyone who has returned their Commitment Cards and Time & Talent sheets. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please bring them to church this Sunday or mail them to the church office. Thank you.

### NEWS....



The deadline for the next First News is Tuesday, January 19. You can e-mail us your newsletter article to: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)

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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**

**JANUARY 17      SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Catechism Classes/Discussion Group

Monday      Lutheran Youth Ski Day  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday      9:30 a.m. Mary Circle  
4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle

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

Saturday      6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple  
4:00 p.m. Praise Band  
5:30 p.m. Worship

**THE PARISH RECORD**

January 9/10    Saturday 5:00-17    Sunday 8:15-116 10:45-77    Total-210    Sunday School-40    Offerings \$4,985.00