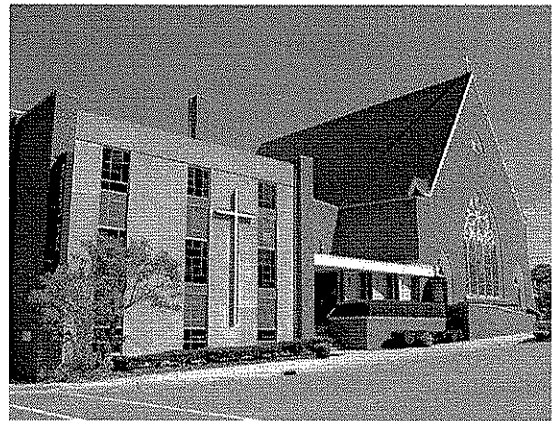


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 36 #3

January 22, 2010

## *Third Sunday after Epiphany*



*The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*



Known to be hospitalized is Norma Smith at FHN Memorial Hospital.

We need your help to staff the church nursery during the 10:45 a.m. service. Check out the sign-up sheet posted on Peg's office door.

Altar flowers are needed for February 21 and March 28. Sign up on the flower chart in the entryway or call the church office.

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 Kryss Brose (815-233-4410).

### ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Meeting will be held this 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.

### 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.

### 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 are \$5.00 each and will be sold between services this Sunday,

January 24, or you may reserve them by calling the church office. All are welcome - why not invite a friend to come too!

### CROSSTOWN CLASSIC

The Crosstown Classic will be held on Sunday, January 31, at Aquin High School, 1419 S. Galena Avenue. All proceeds from this benefit will go to the Mike Pontius fund. There will be an all-you-can-eat taco bar from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The "big game" featuring alumni from Aquin High School vs alumni from Freeport High School will begin at 2:00 p.m.

### PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, January 28, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Come down for part or all of the day and bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour.

For the next two months we are collecting items for sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief. Donations of 3-4 yard pieces of cotton-blend material, large spools of thread (300 yds.), packages of sewing needles, and buttons (at least 6 of a kind), may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes.

### MEETING CANCELLED

The Visiting Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, has been cancelled.

**THE DEADLINE** for the next issue of *First News* is Tuesday, January 26. Calendar and volunteer information for February is needed at that time. You can e-mail us your newsletter article to: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)

## BUS TRIP



### You're Invited!

WELCA is planning a bus trip to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show on Tuesday, March 9, 2010. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and return at 6:30 p.m.

There will be more than 25 gardens to see, some landscaping, 100 vendors of gardening, landscape and horticulture products. New this year is the Horticulture Competition which involves three categories: houseplants, window boxes and photography. Also, a chance to take in the rest of Navy Pier - eating establishments, retail stores, children's museum, etc.

Please make your reservations now. You may invite friends to go with you. Payments will need to be paid by February 14. The cost is \$40 per person which includes ticket and bus.

Call Ruth Wardlow 815-232-4839, Jan Butterfield 815-233-4515, or the church office 815-235-9790.

## HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the ELCA Disaster Response for Haiti. Your contributions totaled \$840.00. You may still contribute by using a pink envelope or a pew envelope marked, "ELCA Disaster Response," or by sending a check directly to ELCA Disaster Response, PO Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.

## YOUTH GROUP

First Lutheran's Youth Group (for all 5th-12th grade students) will meet this Sunday, January 24, in the Youth Room from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. See you there!



## GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Have you ever heard the commandment, "You shall not bear false witness?" Have you really ever stopped and thought about all the commandment is saying to you?

In the world we live in we seem to have a very short attention span. We try to shorten things and speed things up faster and faster and faster. Why, I've even watched someone start cursing their computer because it wasn't fast enough. When I asked them how fast they were expecting their computer to respond they told me that it was a "few seconds" too slow.

In our need for speed, we have taken "false witness" and turned it into "don't lie about someone." Slow down people, there is much more expected from us all concerning this command. Think of a courtroom, witnesses indeed testify and for this they surely must tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. However, we must remember that witnesses also make charges against someone as well.

Have you ever heard the saying, "If you don't have something nice to say, then don't say anything at all?" Well, our commandment not only says that, but adds, "and stay with your brother or sister until you have something good to say about them." I can't tell you how many times I hear people talk negatively about someone, especially when that person is not there to defend themselves. Heck, even criminals don't have to put up with that kind of abuse, even they have the right to face their accuser.

The next time you feel like saying something that will tear down your brother or sister in the eyes and ears of another, don't! Instead take your time and say something that will build them up in the eyes and ears of their neighbor. Have a great day, you wonderful people of whom I am so blessed to know.

In Christ,  
Pastor Keith

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**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**JANUARY 24**      **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes  
12:00 p.m. Potluck & ANNUAL MEETING  
3:00 p.m. Youth Group

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

Tuesday      4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

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

Thursday      10:00 a.m. Workday  
6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom, Bell Choir, Praise Band Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry at Olson's  
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Friday      6:30 p.m. NA Teen Meeting

Saturday      6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple  
10:00 a.m. Reading Group  
5:00 p.m. Worship

**THE PARISH RECORD**

January 16/17 Saturday 5:00-19 Sunday 8:15-87 10:45-97 Total-203 Sunday School-32 Offerings \$4,416.95