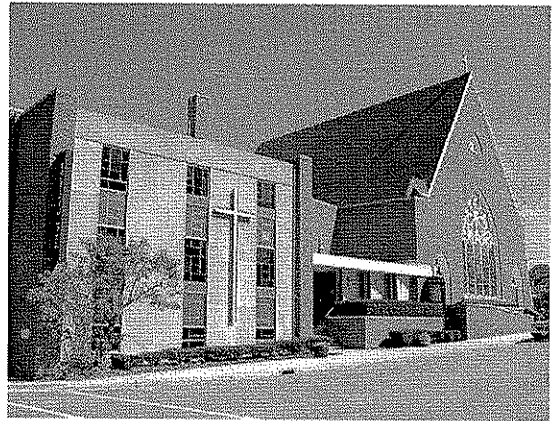


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032



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

Volume 36 #5

February 5, 2010

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal the glory of the Lord. “Who will go for us?” queries the voice of the Lord. A man of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn’t catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is the fact that we are also called.



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

Betty Stebbins had surgery this week and is recuperating at home.

Rita Anderson would like to thank the congregation for the cards she received following her surgery.

Mark Toepfer is now home from Iraq. He would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards.

We need your continued 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. Thanks to everyone who has signed up!

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).

CAN ONE YOUTH GROUP MAKE A DIFFERENCE???



That was the question posed by the youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia South Carolina over 20 years ago. Their response was YES! So they created the Souper Bowl of Caring. Now, the small drive started by that youth group to fight hunger yields over \$10,000,000 annually. This Sunday, our youth will again be participating in the Souper Bowl. We ask that you consider making a donation into one of our soup pots, which we will then give to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative to help fund their food pantry. Of course, which pot you donate to is also very important as we determine which NFL team will win the First Lutheran Souper Bowl. Will it be the Bears or the Packers? Or will some other team sneak in as this years Souper Bowl champion? One thing is certain...when you give to the Souper Bowl, everybody is a winner!!!

BREAKFAST AT CHURCH

A catered breakfast will be served between services on Sunday, February 14 in the fellowship hall. The menu will be two kinds of eggs, bacon, pancakes, pears, and chip beef on toast. A suggested donation of \$6.00 will help cover the cost. Come and have breakfast, enjoy the food and fellowship and bring your friends!

ALL ACCESS SUNDAY IS COMING!!

Have you invited someone to church lately? One of the main goals of First Lutheran's Evangelism Committee is to open our doors to more visitors and we need your help! Sunday, February 14, is "All Access Sunday" at First Lutheran. Simply put, we'd like to ask that the entire congregation invite a friend, relative, co-worker, or someone else you know to church that day. There will be a fellowship breakfast served between services at no cost to our guests. Our simple goal is to see the church full of guests on the 14th...so who are you going to invite? We'll see you on the 14th!

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

Mark your calendars - On Sunday, February 21, at 3:00 p.m. we will again participate in an ecumenical worship service at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 229 W. Washington Place. Our Celebration Choir will be singing. After the service there will be refreshments in St Joe's fellowship hall.

DRIVERS NEEDED - The Stephenson County Senior Center needs a volunteer driver one day a week. You will be driving a normal sized van, so a chauffeur's license is not necessary. Insurance coverage will be provided by the Senior Center. There are some folks outside Freeport who need to come into town occasionally and have no ride. To volunteer or for more information, call the Senior Center at 815-235-9777.

THE KNITTING GROUP will meet on Saturday, February 6, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Those wishing to learn how to knit or crochet are welcome to join us.

WELCA TEA - The Women of the ELCA will be hosting an afternoon tea on Tuesday, February 9, at 2:00 p.m. The program will be given by Harriett Gustason. Tickets cost \$5.00 and will be sold between services on Sunday, or you may reserve them by calling the church office. All are welcome!

PROJECT WORKDAY will meet on Thursday, February 11, from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Come down for part or all of the day. Lutheran World Relief has sent all the health kits in their warehouse to Haiti, so for the next few months we will be collecting items to make more. Especially needed at this time are bath-size soap, toothbrushes, and metal nail files or clippers. Donations may be left in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes. Thank you for your support!

FLOWER SHOW - Don't forget to sign up for the bus trip on March 9 for the flower show in Chicago. We will leave the church at 8:00 a.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. Cost for the bus and ticket to the show is \$40.00 and reservations must be made by February 14. You can sign-up between services this Sunday or by calling the church office. Why not invite a friend or two to come along!

READING GROUP - The women's reading group selected our next book, "A Reliable Wife" by Robert Goolrick. We will meet on Saturday, March 13, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge to share our thoughts on the book. Come and join us!

NISWO RETREATS - The Northern Illinois Synod Women are sponsoring two retreats on "Prayer. . . . Conversation with God." The overnight retreat will be held April 9-10 at Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford for a cost of \$75, which includes meals and lodging. A one-day retreat will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Streator on Saturday, March 20, for a cost of \$30, which includes lunch. Registration deadline is March 7 and registration forms are found on the bulletin board near the restrooms. Scholarships are also available. Contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow for more information.

GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

You have heard me say this once, please believe me, you will hear me say this again and again and again, "Communicate. Communicate. Communicate." What I have heard you talking about are opportunities for bible study. Well, let me tell you, your church is listening.

For those of you who are interested in a smaller group setting for adult bible study, the Mutual Ministry Committee (Arleen, Dena, Duke, Don, and Jan), is beginning a six week study on "Faith" during the season of Lent. They are open to suggestions and willing to start more groups as the need arises, but for now they are going to meet Sunday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:30 (February 21st through March 28th). They will have inserts in the Sunday bulletin(s) to gather more information, so please communicate with them.

For those wanting to study the bible in accordance with the ELCA's "Faith Initiative", please be patient we are working out some details with possible facilitators and will get back to you as soon as possible.

For those of you who would like to study as a larger group in between services, we will be studying the book of Jonah starting February 21st. I will start that group on its way, but I also want to spend time with the confirmation students, so I too will be looking for a leader to help out every couple of weeks or so. After we study Jonah, we will study the book of Ruth.

Speaking of our confirmation students...are you as impressed with them as I am? Did you tell them? They were outstanding in their leadership of worship this past Sunday and I am so looking forward to learning with them that I can hardly stand it! Praise God!

Anyhow, lets keep working together and grow strong together and when we walk out our doors together, let darkness tremble in fear at the light we shine for our Lord. Can I get an amen to that? AMEN!!!

In Christ,

Pastor Keith

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

FEBRUARY 7

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes
Youth Super Bowl Party at Arana's

Monday

4:30 p.m. Monday Afternoon Program

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday

2:00 p.m. WELCA Tea

4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Worship & Music Team

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Workday

3:00 p.m. WELCA Board Meeting

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

5:00 p.m. Worship

THE PARISH RECORD

January 30/31 Saturday 5:00-23 Sunday 8:15-112 10:45-67 Total-202 Sunday School-34 Offerings \$4,000.25