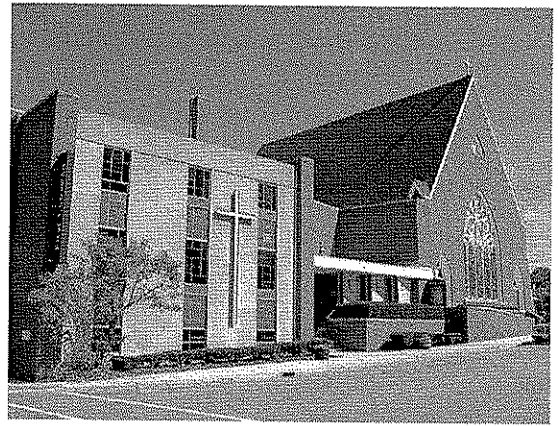


First News

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

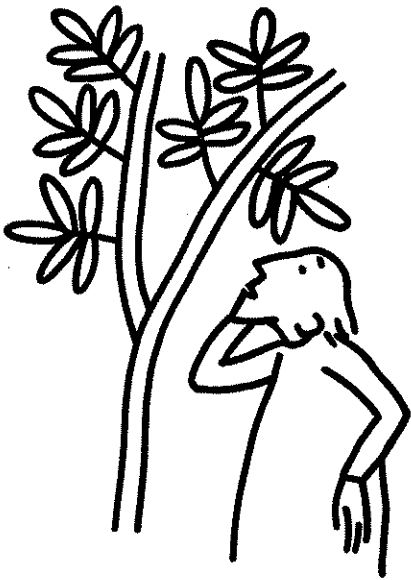


**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 36 #9

March 5, 2010

Third Sunday in Lent



The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!



Leon Heitter would like to thank Pastor Johnson and Pastor Whitney for their prayers and visits. Also, thanks to everyone for the beautiful cards he received following his recent surgery.

Mathew Rampenthal has returned home safely from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. He would like to thank everyone for their prayers.

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).

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES



Midweek services continue this Wednesday, March 10, with services at 12:15 and 7:00 p.m. The Lenten supper will begin at 6:15 p.m. Thanks to the Faith Bible Study group for coordinating this

week meal. We will be having barbeque sandwiches. All you need to bring is your own table service, everything else will be furnished.

EASTER LILIES



It's time to order your lily for this year's Easter services. Please use a pink multi-purpose envelope or a pew envelope for your donation and indicate if they are to be given in

memory or in honor of your loved ones. The cost this year is \$9.75.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Join us in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. as Pastor Johnson leads the "Jonah

and Ruth" Bible study series. Everyone is welcome!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE?



Thanks to Pastor Johnson, Duke & Bev Herrling, Nancy Olson, Jan Butterfield, Steve Withington, Barb Reichert, JoDeen Bunker, and Greg Zeigler for volunteering to share their favorite Bible

verse with our third grade students on a Sunday morning. We still need seven more volunteers, so 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.

BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

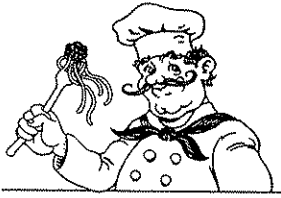
Interested in another opportunity to

learn and grow in your faith? The ELCA's Book of Faith Initiative may be just what you're looking for.

"The purpose of the Book of Faith Initiative is to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world."

Plans are underway to start a Bible Study group using the Book of Faith approach. If you are interested, you can email your name and contact information to friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com or call the church office at 815-235-9790.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH THIS SUNDAY!



Spaghetti Lunch

The First Lutheran Youth Group Will be having their annual "All You Can Eat Spaghetti Lunch" this Sunday, March 7, from noon to 2:00 p.m. For just \$5 per person or \$20 per family, you'll feast on all the spaghetti you can eat, plus salad, garlic bread, and dessert! The proceeds will go toward our 2011 Mission Trip savings account. Tickets will be available at the door. Bring a friend and your appetitell!

FLOWER SHOW

We still have room for two more people for the bus trip on March 9th to the flower show in Chicago. We will leave the church promptly at 8:00 a.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. Cost for the bus and ticket to the show is \$40.00. Call Ruth Wardlow or Jan Butterfield if you are interested.

PROJECT WORKDAY

Project Workday will meet on Thursday, March 11, from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Come join us for part or all of the day.

HEALTH KITS FOR HAITI

We have made up 55 Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief and hope to complete at least 20 more before we deliver them to the warehouse later this month. We still need a few items - wide-toothed combs and metal nail files or clippers - in order to do this. If you would like to help, please leave your donations in the WELCA box located near the mailboxes. Thank you for your support!

READING GROUP

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

GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,



*Pastor's
Message
for Lent*

I'm looking out my window and am amazed at just how beautiful the day is this particular Wednesday. The sun is shining, I can hear birds chirping, and the grass is peeking out from underneath it's blanket of snow. All indications point to new life, a new creation is on it's way.

As we continue on our Lenten journey together, let us remember just what lies ahead for humanity. New life is on it's way. But you know what? New life isn't here just yet. As a matter of fact there is still some dying that has to take place before we all get to enjoy the SON rising before us.

If I may offer something for you to think about this week...

What does, "Let the glory of the Lord rise among us," mean to you? I hope you look me up and tell me what you think in the days to come.

In Christ,

Pastor Keith



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Freeport, IL 61032

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Elwyn Euler, Custodian
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Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor
Gordon Tormohlen, 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

MARCH 7

THIS WEEK AT FIRST
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Catechism Classes, Adult Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Spaghetti Lunch
4:00 p.m. Faith Bible Study

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

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. WELCA Bus Trip to Chicago Flower Show
4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. NW Conference Pastors Meeting in Lanark
12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Services
6:15 p.m. Lenten Supper

Thursday 10:00 a.m. Workday
6:30 p.m. Praise Band, Bell Choir & Kids of the Kingdom Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Friday 12:00 p.m. 7th, 8th, 9th Grade Lunch with the Pastor
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

February 27/28 Saturday 5:00-20 Sunday 8:15-110 10:45-73 Total-203 Sunday School-68 Offerings \$4,744.00
Wednesday, February 24 12:15-26 7:00-24 Total-50