

FIRST NEWS

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

*Through worship and loving service,
We make Christ known to all*

Volume 47 #2

February 26, 2020

First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.



The deadline for the next issue of First News is Friday, March 20, 2020.

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, please contact Ruth Wardlow (815) 232-4839 or the church office at (815) 235-9790.

Activities

Luther N Brew – will be held on Tuesday, March 3, at Cannova's restaurant, 1101 W Empire St. Arrival at 6:30, dinner at 7:00. All men are welcome to join for Pizza and discussion.

Knitting Group - The knitting group will meet on Saturday, March 7 & 21 from 10:00-12:00 p.m. at "Wall of Yarn". Stop by and bring a project of your choice to work on and bring a friend or two as well.

Reading Group - The reading group will meet on Tuesday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge to share our thoughts on the book "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott. All are welcome to join us!

Project Day - We will gather next on Thursday, February 27 from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room, and next month we'll meet on March 12 & 26. We are collecting supplies for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief, and items needed include bath towels, bath-size soap, nail clippers, wide-tooth combs, and toothbrushes. Donations may be left in the WELCA bin located next to the mailboxes. All are welcome to come down for part or all of the day.

OWLS – The ladies will meet on Thursday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the Country Junction. No reservations are necessary. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (815)235-9790.

Bunko - Our next Bunko day is Thursday, March 19, and we'll meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Anyone is welcome to come and join in the fun.

Walk with Pastor – is held every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Mall. Feel free to bring a friend or two or three. Everyone is always welcome.

Breakfast – The next congregational breakfast will be served on Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. The March breakfast will feature Reuben brunch casserole, fruit, breakfast bread or muffins, orange juice, and coffee or tea. We hope you can join us.

Family Fun Night – Our next family fun night activity will take place on Saturday, March 28 from 1:30 to 4:00 at Skate Station 7016 US 20 West. Come and bring your friends and family for an afternoon of roller skating. Admission and skates will be provided. (When you arrive let them know you are with First Lutheran). If you would like snacks, please bring your own money. A free-will donation will be taken to help cover the cost of future activities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Offerings for Lent - During the season of Lent, we will be collecting donations for Lutheran Disaster Response. Your donations will be helping people all over the world who have been experiencing natural disasters. Please take a Lutheran Disaster Response envelope or place your donation in an envelope marked "Disaster Relief". Your donation will make a difference.

FACC –The monthly collection item for February is spaghetti sauce, as of Sunday, February 23 we have collected 199 cans. Thank you to everyone who has donated. For March we will be collecting canned tomatoes. Thank you.

World Hunger Sunday - The next World Hunger Sunday is March 22. Please use a World Hunger pew envelope or place your donation in the basket in Fellowship Hall. All donations will be sent to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you for your support of this program!

Baby Bottle Fundraiser – The Freeport Pregnancy Center’s “Change for Life” baby bottle fundraiser is almost complete. Please remember to return your bottles to the church by the end of the second service on Sunday, March 1. Thank you to those who participated. The mothers and babies thank you!!

Cygnet - Cygnet Monday afterschool program continues until the end of the school year. All kids are welcome to join us, as well as any adults. We still need cooks to prepare some meals. There is a signup sheet on Melissa’s door. Thanks to all for your continued support in this ministry. - Meta Ridgway

Soup Lunches - On Wednesdays, during Lent, the women of the church will again be serving a light lunch, with your choice of either chili or soup of the day. This year we are beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, and continuing through April 1st. Lunch will begin at 11:30, prior to the 12:15 worship service. All are welcome to come and don't forget to invite a friend or two. We hope to see you there!

Easter Brunch – The Evangelism team will be hosting an Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. They are asking for people to volunteer to make a requested dish, help with set up or clean up, or serve. If you are interested in doing any of these please contact Pam Hoffman or the church office for more information. Thank you!!

WELCA

Northwest Conference Spring Assembly

Women of the ELCA

March 28, 2020

9 am to Noon

First Lutheran Church, Freeport

Save the date, March 28, 2020, for the Northwest Conference Spring Assembly which our church, First Lutheran, will be hosting. The Spring Assembly meeting is a gathering of women from all the Northwest Conference churches. We will be serving brunch and have a program as well as **good fellowship with our sisters** from other churches. Registration at 9 am, brunch served at 9:30 am and program to follow. The program is "Doors Open Wide" with Maribel Harvey sharing how the "Dow" House is ministering to young girls and their babies in the community. Please see the flier and registration forms on WELCA bulletin board

CIRCLE – Tuesday, March 17

- ❖ Mary Circle will be meeting at Arleen Olson’s home.
- ❖ Rebecca Circle will meet at the church.

Church Women United

World Day of Prayer

Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, 602 S. Chicago Ave., Freeport

Bible Study, February 28, 9:30 a.m.

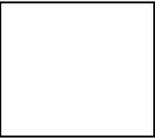
World Day of Prayer, March 6

Theme: Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk.

January Attendance and Offerings					
Date	Saturday 5:00	Sunday 8:15	Sunday 10:45	Total	Offering
4/5	15	60	28	103	\$ 2954.43
11/12	5	51	25	81	\$ 1461.00
18/19	14	65	37	116	\$ 1681.00
25/26	10	67	56	133	\$ 2175.00
January Electronic Offerings					\$ 6514.50

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

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First Lutheran Church
303 S. Galena Ave.
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This week at First Lutheran		
March 1	8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship Bible Study/Sunday School Worship
March 2	9:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Walk with Pastor Cygnet Boy Scouts
March 3	12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	NA Evangelism Girl Scouts Luther N Brew NA
March 4	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Caregivers Soup Lunch Worship NA Worship
March 5	11:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	OWLS Kids of the Kingdom Celebration Choir
March 6	6:30 p.m.	NA
March 7	6:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	MBA Knitting NA Worship
March 8	8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Worship Sunday School/Bible Study Breakfast Worship Venture Crew