



# FIRST NEWS

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032

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

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Volume 49 #12

December 1, 2022

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At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians, he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table, we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.



Sunday, December 4th is the Second Sunday of Advent

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 at (815) 232-4839 or the church office at (815)235-9790

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### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR**

Greetings fellow disciples of Christ,

Wow! Can you believe that the season of Advent is almost here? Notice that I didn't say the season of Christmas? You see, theologically, they are not the same season. Christmas signals the birth of the Christ. Advent is all about the waiting for that anticipated birth.

How will you spend your time waiting? Will you spend it worrying about having enough money to buy everyone the presents you want to give them? Will you spend it worrying about which family members still get along and can be invited to Christmas dinner? Will you spend it worrying about whether you should go to your, or her, side of the family for opening presents, and should that be on Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day?

Or, will you spend this Advent season preparing your heart to make way for the presence of the Lord? To really think about what the birth of this child means for the sake of the whole world? Either way, may the JOY that is coming enter your hearts, and may you truly enjoy the holiday season. Don't skip over Advent, but have a very Merry Christmas!

Much love!

Pr. Keith & Vicki

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### **WORSHIP**



**We are aware that there are issues with the Sunday morning Facebook live video and sound. We have a plan that we are currently executing and will have a new and improved video and sound very soon. Please continue to tune in on Sunday morning at 9:00 am to participate in our service and hear Pastor Keith's message. Thank you for your patience and we are excited to share our new and improved streaming system with you.**

**Streaming** – Sunday morning services are available to watch live on Facebook at 9:00 a.m. You can view this by clicking on or typing in this address <https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranfreeport>. Once you are on the page you will need to click on the video. If you are not able to watch us live at 9:00 a.m. you can view the recorded version of the service at the same link or by going to the First Lutheran website [www.firstlutheranfreeport.org](http://www.firstlutheranfreeport.org). If you choose to watch it on the website you will need to scroll to the bottom of the home page and choose the service you would like to view.



**Sunday Bible Study** – You are invited to join us for a casual, comfortable, informative bible study every Sunday in the Martin Luther Room at 10:00 am. Grab a cup of coffee and a donut and come join us. Everyone is welcome.

**Two People to Greet and Usher on Sundays** - The duties of greeters and ushers are being combined.

Thank you to all who have signed up so far. We are currently accepting volunteers for December. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. This is an easy way to help. If you can help greet people coming into the church, pass out bulletins, answer questions, and make people feel welcome please sign up.



**Coffee Hour Treats** – We currently have a treat sign-up sheet for Sunday morning coffee hour. If you are interested in providing treats, please sign up or contact Bob Neuendorf for more information.

### **PLEASE INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Members and Friends who need extra prayers** – Tracy Love, Dave Moe, Jerry Schleicher, Aubrey Olson, Linda Orton, Connie Bartels, Donna Dwyer, Ruth Plowman, Shirley Diestelmeier, Wayne Smith, Larry Reel, Tina Chamberlin, Sharon Smith, Gail & Bob Willis, Inga Love, Fred Busker, Pastor Keith, Cindy Heitkam, Mary Smith, Kelly Jo Czerneck, Bob Last, Connie Keehn, Jack Becke, Jay Nevenhoven, Gail & Marv Harris, Tim Shields, Sean Lane, Carole Busjahn, Mary Lee Gerbode, Beth Luke, Lane Last, Joann LeBaron, Lynne Wild, Darin Davis, Sharon Janicke, Reuben Pearson, Jesse Baldwin, Lauren Diehl, Jerry Stalcup, Dee Burstrom, Theresa Kavran, Raymond Marschang, Sarah Lower Borstad, Kevin Madsen, Ryan Griffith, Hank Fortney, and Kelly.



**Members and Friends who need skilled care** - Charles Janicke, Harriett Gustason, Joe & Jean Sorn, Elsie Schoop, Shirley Washburn, Betty Tormohlen, Audrey Stees, Pastor Milt Whitney, David Parks, Phyllis McLain, Margaret Althoff, Nadine Strohecker, Diane Rondeau.

**Members and Friends who are serving in the Military** - Aiden Kerr, Seth Heilman, Jeff Meiborg, Madison Scace, Derrik Triem, Owen McVicker, and Tyler Kennan.

### **CHOIR**



**Accompanist Wanted (We need your help getting the word out)** - First Lutheran seeks one or more accompanists to work with our adult choir as well as weekly services. We offer competitive pay, a well-established musical tradition, and an excellent work environment. Please direct your resume and references to: [musicat1stlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:musicat1stlutheran@gmail.com). **(Fliers are available from the church if you know anyone interested or have a place you would like to display one. Contact Melissa or Lisa. Thank you for your help in getting the word out.)**

**Choir Christmas Party** – December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 – 8:00. Following choir rehearsal we will join together for a celebration. Lisa will share some Gluhwein and everyone is invited to bring something if they wish.



<b>Christmas Services</b>	
December 24 – Christmas Eve	4:00 pm
December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight service	7:00 pm
December 25 – Christmas Day	9:00 am

**Poinsettia** – We are currently taking orders for poinsettias for Christmas. All orders are due to the church office on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas services and can be taken home following the Christmas day service. We will hold the remaining poinsettias at the church until Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Any plants left after that day will be donated to a shut-in.



### **The Christmas Schedule for Sunday School**

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - The Christmas Program will be at the beginning of the service.

We will be having our Happy Birthday Jesus Party after service.

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - No Sunday School.

Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School resumes

Have a very Merry Christmas and share God's love for you with friends and family! ❤️

### **ACTIVITIES**

**Luther N Brew** – The first Tuesday of every month the men of First Lutheran are invited to gather at Cannova's restaurant, 1101 W. Empire St., for pizza and conversation. December 6<sup>th</sup> is the next gathering date, arrive at 6:30 pm. No reservations are needed.



**Knitting Group** - First Lutheran's knitting group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Wall of Yarn shop on Stephenson Street. Come join us on December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am-12:00 pm, and bring a project of your choice to knit or crochet. We are always looking for people to knit prayer shawls and prayer squares. If you are interested, we have a supply of yarn and patterns you may use. Just contact Jan Butterfield or Bev Herrling for more information.

**Project Day** - Project Day will meet once this month on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. We continue to work on making and tying quilts and lap robes, and can always use large pieces of material, or bedsheets, for quilt backings. We also collect lightweight bath towels throughout the year, darker colors preferred. Donations may be left in the WELCA box next to the mailboxes. You are welcome to come for part or all of the day; just bring your lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. We look forward to seeing you!!



**Bunko** - The monthly Bunko group will gather on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Martin Luther Room. No reservations are needed, and beginners are always welcome. This is an easy-to-learn game and a fun time is had by all! Come on down and bring a friend!

**Saturday Morning Bible Study** – Everyone is welcome. This group meets at 7:30 a.m. on Saturdays at Amigo's restaurant, 306 N Galena Ave. We study Bible lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Please feel free to join us. If you have questions, please contact the church office or Bob Neuendorf.

### WELCA



**Circle** – The Ladies Circles will meet on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Rebecca Circle** will meet in Fellowship hall at 9:30 am for bible study.

**Mary Circle** will meet at Judy Castle's home (2674 Royal Oaks Dr.) at 10:00 am for brunch and bible study. Please contact Judy Castle if you have any questions.



### White Elephant Bingo and Luncheon

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran

Everyone is invited to join in on the fun at our White Elephant Bingo event and lunch on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fellowship hall.

Lunch will be catered and a charge to cover that will be collected (the cost will be known closer to the event.) We ask you to bring a wrapped white elephant gift for prizes when we play bingo. Join in on the fun afternoon playing bingo.

There is a sign-up sheet on Melissa's door.

Any questions please call or text Judy Castle at 815-275-1928.

### THANK YOU!

**A note from Sunday School** – Thank you all for the donations of juice boxes. The children and teachers appreciate your generosity.

### UPDATES



**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Christmas holiday. If you need to contact us please call (815)235-9790 and leave a message, if you have an emergency please call Pastor directly.**

**Annual Report** - It is time to begin thinking about preparing for the Annual report and the Annual meeting. The information for the annual report is due to Melissa by Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact the church office at (815)235-9790. The meeting will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for updates regarding the meeting.



**Endowment** - It is that time of year again. The Endowment committee began accepting applications on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications are available on the Church's website and must be turned in NO LATER than November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you, or an organization you know of wishes to apply, please help us get the word out!

**End of the Year Offerings** – Please note if you wish your offerings to be credited to the year 2022, they should be turned in by Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support of the ministries of First Lutheran.



October Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$18,752.76	\$201,990.16
Total Expenses	\$19,938.55	\$202,930.81
Income Less Expenses	-\$ 590.31	-\$ 940.65



## Attendance



November Attendance			
Date	Sunday 9:00	Facebook Live	Sunday School
November 6	80	44	58
October 13	71	52	11
October 20	74	65	16
October 27	NA	NA	NA
<b>Total</b>	225	161	85

Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
December 4	Sandy Helms & Mary Meyers	Volunteers Needed	Nick Connell	Judy Kaufman
December 11	Steve & Nancy Olson		Nick Connell	Gail Diehl
December 18	Steve & Nancy Olson		Nancy Holtum	Jeff Cowman
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm	Esther Eden & June Brandt		Nancy Holtum	Vicki Johnson
December 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm	Dena & Roger Kampmier		Nick Connell	Vicki Johnson
December 25	Roger & Dena Kampmier		Nancy Holtum	Dena Kampmier



*First Lutheran will be contributing to the baskets as well as having gift tags. Our contribution to the baskets is canned fruit. This will also be our item for collection for the month of December. We need to collect 75 cans by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Because of the shortened time to collect in December, we will begin collecting cans of fruit now in addition to our November items of crackers and cookies. A box marked FACC basket collection will be near the glass doors on Galena St. If there are any questions please contact Melissa at (815)235-9790.*

*As we have done in the past we will have gift tags on the Christmas tree near the glass doors beginning Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Please choose your gift tag and record the number you took on the sign-up sheet. All gifts should be under \$25 and returned to First Lutheran by December 11<sup>th</sup>. The gift should be wrapped and your original gift tag should be attached.*

*Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity in helping a person who is less fortunate feel loved on Christmas.*

**Stewardship Appeal** - Over the past few weeks emails and bulletin inserts have been shared with you based on the book, "Embracing Stewardship". We've read that God is the owner of all that is, that God has entrusted into our care some of his possessions, and that how we manage what we've been entrusted with impacts our relationship with God. You should have received in the mail the Time & Talent Sheet and Commitment Card for 2023. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can faithfully serve God through the ministry of the First Lutheran Church. We would appreciate your returning these materials as soon as possible. Thank you in advance and God Bless You.



**What the Flip** – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. This event is a fundraiser for CONTACT of Northern Illinois and all proceeds from the event will be donated to CONTACT. This event is a playoff of the TV show Flea Market Flip. If you are interested in participating by donating a flipped item (all items will be judged and auctioned) please contact Melissa in the church office for a copy of the rules and a registration form, due by October 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend the event please call Candy at 815-233-4402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

First News

First Lutheran Church

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Freeport, IL 61032

First News is published monthly by First Lutheran Church

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December Birthday's					
12/5	Tyler Fago	12/16	Marlene Haas	12/21	Bev Herrling
12/7	Shirley Kampmeier		Angela Haynega		Addison Long
			Kaydin Rabey		
12/8	Emmett Calam	12/19	Connie Regez	12/23	Janice Seivert
12/11	Carole Hurlbut				
12/13	Teresa Parkinson	12/20	Marlene Atz	12/28	Jacqueline Meiborg
12/15	Inga Love		Zackary Parkinson		Meredith Withington
December Anniversary's					
12/8	Darius & Sherry Simler				