



# FIRST NEWS

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032

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

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Volume 50 #4

April 1, 2023

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Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all, we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.



Sunday, April 2nd is Palm Sunday

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



## WORSHIP

**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 10:30 am. Grab a cup of coffee and a donut and come join us. Everyone is welcome.

**Easter Flowers** – Due to the rising cost of flowers we are going to try something a little different for the Easter flowers. We are asking members to donate a flowering plant. Your plant can be brought to the church on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> during office hours 9:00 am – 2:00 pm or when you come to worship at 7:00 pm, or on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (please come to the Jackson St. door. Someone will be there to take your flowers for you). We will still be doing an in honor of page in our Easter bulletin. There is a sign-up sheet included with this newsletter and they are available in the Sunday bulletin. Every plant you bring is yours to take home or you can donate it and it will be given to a shut-in. Plants can be taken following the Easter Service.

**Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday** - We will meet upstairs in the worship room after service for a bible story and snack. Then we will head down to the sanctuary for an Easter Egg Hunt! All kids are welcome!



Lenten Schedule		
Date	Time	Activity
March 29	11:30 am 12:15 pm	Soup Lunch Worship
April 2	9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship
April 6	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
April 7	7:00 pm	Good Friday
April 9	9:00 am	Easter Sunday

**Usher / Greeters Needed** – Usher / Greeters are needed for April. The sign-up sheet is on the Narthex on the Usher stand. Please consider giving a little of your time to help us at worship with this very important but very simple task. Thank you.



## PLEASE INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Members and Friends who need extra prayers** – Marilyn Rice, Ruth Wardlow, Lori Brobst, Bill Frakes, Betty Mennenga, Pastor Milt Whitney, Debbie Rousch & family, Jennifer Stees, Wally VanRaalte, Jill Rongere, Ruth Wardlow, Sue Sellen, Tracy Love, Jerry Schleicher, Aubrey Olson, Linda Orton, Connie Bartels, Donna Dwyer, Wayne Smith, Larry Reel, Tina Chamberlin, Sharon Smith, Gail & Bob Willis, Inga Love, Fred Busker, Pastor Keith, Mary Smith, Bob Last, Connie Keehn, Jack Becke, Jay Nevenhoven, Gail & Marv Harris, Sean Lane, Carole Busjahn, Mary Lee Gerbode, Beth Luke, Lane Last, Joann LeBaron, Darin Davis, Sharon Janicke, Reuben Pearson, Jesse Baldwin, Lauren Diehl, Jerry Stalcup, 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, Jean Sorn, Elsie Schoop, Shirley Washburn, Betty Tormohlen, Audrey Stees, David Parks, Phyllis McLain, Margaret Althoff, Nadine Strohecker, Dee Burstrom, Shirley Diestelmeier, and Larry Seffrood.

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





## 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. April 4th is the next gathering date, arrive at 6:30 pm. No reservations are needed.

**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.

**Knitting Group** - First Lutheran's knitting group meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Wall of Yarn shop on Stephenson Street. Come join us on April 1st & 15th from 10:00 am to 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 on Thursday, April 27th from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. We will **not** meet on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> due to the WELCA Spring Gathering. 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 are also collecting lightweight bath towels (darker colors preferred), bath-size soap, nail clippers, and wide toothcombs for Lutheran World Relief kits. 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, April 20th 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!

**Lenten Soup Lunches** – March 29<sup>th</sup> will be the last soup lunch for 2023. The WELCA ladies have served us weeks of yummy lunches, if you have not been able to attend you do not know what you are missing and still have one more opportunity. The weekly menu is corn meal muffins, cookies, and your choice between chili or the soup of the day. Bring a guest and enjoy a light lunch and fellowship before the worship service at 12:15 pm. All are welcome! A free-will offering will be taken.



## WELCA

**Circles** – the ladies' circles will meet on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Mary Circle meets at 9:30 am and Rebecca Circle will meet at 10:00 am. Both groups meet in the lower level of the church. All women are welcome and bible study material is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Holtum or Judy Castle.

### Ladies Lunch

April 7, 2023

White Pines State Park Lodge

Meet at First for Carpool at 10:30 am

Lunch at 11:00 am

Sign-up sheet on Melissa's door

Call Judy Castle with any questions



### ATTENTION LADIES AT FIRST, CONCERNING UPCOMING GATHERINGS FOR WELCA

Northern Illinois Synodical Women of the ELCA 2023 Retreat

Women at the Well is the theme.

The retreat will be held at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center

**Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Cost \$25

Ladies, please obtain registration forms on the bulletin board by the lady's restroom.

Judy Castle will be going and will carpool to the event. Please let her know if you are interested in going.





### Northwest Conference of WELCA Spring Gathering

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 9:30 am to 12 pm

Deer Ridge Retreat Center, 3085 W Forst Road, Freeport, IL  
An awesome Brunch will be served at 10 am and Pastor David Decker will speak on the ministry at Deer Ridge.

Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the hallway at church.

The registrations are needed by April 3rd. The cost is \$20.

Come and have fellowship with other Lutheran Ladies at our conference.

Any questions call Judy Castle. 815-291-1928



#### **February Financials**

	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$1,9532.55	\$44,937.08
Total Expenses	\$20,079.16	\$45,338.42
Income Less Expenses	-\$546.61	-\$401.34



#### **February Attendance**

Date	Sunday 9:00	Facebook Live	Sunday School
February 5	80	116	20
February 12	81	95	26
February 19	60	72	12
February 22 (12:15) Ash Wednesday	25	157	
February 22 (7:00) Ash Wednesday	Service Cancelled Ice storm		
February 26	84	73	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>81</b>

Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Worship Assistant
April 2	Roger & Dena Kampmier	Volunteers Needed	Eric Hoffman	Jeff Cowman
April 9	Roger & Dena Kampmier		Eric Hoffman	Vicki Johnson
April 16	Roger & Dena Kampmier		Eric Hoffman	Judy Kaufman
April 23	Steve & Nancy Olson		Duke Herrling	Gail Diehl
April 30	Steve & Nancy Olson		Bev Herrling	Dena Kampmier



**Important note for electronic givers through VANCO** - If you donate your offerings through our electronic giving program with VANCO each month, and if you had a checking account with Midwest Bank, please contact the office or the church treasurer. Since the bank has now changed to Green State Credit Union, the bank routing number and account numbers have been changed, and we need to update our church records to reflect these changes. You can call the office with your new account number or update the information on the authorization form found on the tract rack outside the copy room. Thank you for assisting us in making these changes to your account.

**FACC** –For March First Lutheran was asked to collect Pork and Beans, as of March 21<sup>st</sup> we have collected 110 cans. That is awesome! Thank you to everyone who participated. For April, we have been assigned to bring canned chili. You are welcome to bring your items with you to worship or drop them at the church Monday – Friday from 9:00 to 1:00. Thank you in advance for helping with this worthy cause.

#### **Shirley Diestelmeier has a new address:**

Friends and family are invited to send letters and cards.

Shirley Diestelmeier

C/O Bickford of Iowa City, Room 111

3500 Lower West Branch Road

Iowa City, IA 52245

#### **Joseph R. Sorn ✝ 1931 - 2023**





May God grant peace to his memory comfort to his family and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to His glory.

#### **Diane Rondeau ✝ 1952 - 2023**

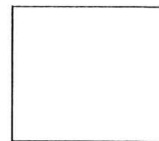
May God grant peace to her memory comfort to her family and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to His glory.



# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
2  9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study	3 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 12:00 NA 6:30 Luther N Brew	5 6:30 NA	6  Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7  Good Friday 10:30 Ladies Lunch 6:30 NA 7:00 Worship	8 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
9  9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School & Easter Egg Hunt	10 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 12:00 NA	12 4:00 Endowment Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting 6:30 NA	13 9:30 WELCA Spring Gathering 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00—2:00 Easter Flower drop off 6:30 NA	15 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 10:00—12:00 Easter Flower drop off 12:00 NA
16 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study Quarterly Meeting	17 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 9:30 Mary Circle 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:00 NA	19 6:30 NA	20 1:00 Bunko 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30 NA	22 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
23 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study	24 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 12:00 NA	26 6:30 NA	27 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30 NA	29 7:30 Bible Study 9:00 WELCA Retreat 12:00 NA
30 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study Good Shepherd Sunday						

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The next quarterly congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Please join us!



April Birthday's					
4/2	Sophia Castle	4/11	Cynthia Connell	4/22	Noah Kavran
4/3	Eli Schweertman		Savannah Heitter	4/23	Alex Moore
4/4	Tanesha Bland	4/13	Daniel Hoffman	4/24	Betty Bawinkel Roger Hurlbut
	Joshua Pontius		Eric Hoffman		
4/5	Jessica Gerstner	4/15	Milt Whitney	4/27	Brian Meiborg
	Donald Heilman	4/17	Elias Castle	4/28	Elizabeth Hayenga
4/6	Owen Calam	4/19	Delores Nevenhoven		McKayla Rimington
	Reuben Pearson			4/29	Nicolette Johnson
4/9	Jay Nevenhoven	4/21	Brittney Gerstner		
			Elsie Schoop		
April Anniversary's					
4/6	Aubrey & Arleen Olson	4/12	Terry & Martha Love		
4/30	Mike & Barb O'Grady				