

FIRST NEWS

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

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

Volume 50 #9

September 1, 2023

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Test me, LORD, & try me,
examine my heart & my mind,
for I have always been mindful
of your

UNFAILING LOVE

& have lived in reliance on your
FAITHFULNESS.

Psalm 26:2-3

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) 232-4825 or the church office at (815)235-9790

A Message From Pastor Keith



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

Are you looking for something to do? Maybe you are bored? Maybe you are just plain lonely? Maybe you want to do something, but you no longer like to drive at night. How about considering this personal invitation from me to you...

Starting Tuesday, September 5th, and then the FIRST Tuesday of every following month, at NOON. You are invited to meet me in the fellowship hall for Lunch With Pastor Keith.

Neither the church or I will be providing any of your food. Bring whatever food you would like to eat and join me for some fellowship time. There will be NO set agenda. We can tell each other stories, talk about faith, talk about life, ask each other questions, play a game, or whatever we think might be mutually enjoyable.

The only purpose for our getting together is to ENJOY each other's company and take our POSITIVE experience back into the world.

I'll be there whether you decide to come, or not. No pressure, or worries, either way.

Much love,
Pr. Keith

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 must 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. If you choose to watch it on the website, you must 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 a.m. Grab a cup of coffee and a donut and come join us. Everyone is welcome.

Usher / Greeters Needed – Usher / Greeters are needed for September and October. The sign-up sheet is in 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.

Sunday School - Rally Sunday will be held at Read Park on Sunday, September 10th from 10:30 am to Noon. We will be at the playground and the Pavilion. Come and enjoy food and fun! Everyone is welcome! Any questions contact Ms. Vicki at 920-988-4797.

Parade – The children of the church are invited to participate in the Freeport Homecoming parade on Wednesday, September 20th at 5:00 pm. We are planning to have a vehicle for the children to ride in. If you would like to participate please contact the church office at (815)235-9790 or Ms. Vicki at (920)988-4797.

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS



Members and Friends who need extra prayers – Jerry Anderson, Jesse Baldwin, Connie Bartels, Sarah Lower Borstad, Tina Chamberlin, Darin Davis, Lauren Diehl, Hank Fortney, Mary Lee Gerbode, Ryan Griffith, Gail & Marv Harris, Sharon Janicke, Pastor Keith Johnson, Judy Kaufman, Theresa Kavran, Tom Klemm, Sean Lane, Bob Last, Lane Last, Joann LeBaron, Beth Luke, Kevin Madsen, Kay Mammoser, Raymond Marschang, Jay Nevenhoven, Reuben Pearson, Margarite Potthoff, Larry Reel, Jill Rongere, Debbie Rousch & family, Sue Sellen, Mary Smith, Sharon Smith, Wayne Smith, Jerry Stalcup, Wally VanRaalte, Corrine Wallace, Ruth Wardlow, and Gail & Bob Willis.

Members and Friends who need skilled care - Margaret Althoff, Dee Burstrom, Fred Busker, Shirley Diestelmeier, Donna Dwyer, Harriett Gustason, Charles Janicke, Phyllis McLain, Jean Sorn, Audrey Stees, Jennifer Stees, Nadine Strohecker, Betty Tormohlen, Shirley Washburn, and Pastor Milt Whitney.

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

A Message from the Music Coordinator / Choir Director



I want to extend a very warm, and enthusiastic welcome to everyone - come join the Celebration Choir! No experience is necessary. We're all learning together and it's always about progress, not perfection, as we serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through musical worship. Our first rehearsal is Thursday, September 7, from 7-8 p.m. with our first choir performance on Rally Sunday, September 10.

"Respecting the old while embracing the 21st century." Currently, we have one "blended" service per week to serve the needs of our congregation. At present it is approximately 75-80% traditional/20-25% contemporary music. We continue to welcome young people, and young families to First Lutheran - the future lifeblood of the church. Our Evangelism committee and community outreach are working diligently to welcome a diverse membership. Last year we began the tradition of a musical celebration of Black History Month, and we continue to explore African American Spirituals and African songs from our hymnal, as well as choir compositions by African American composers. This year we will begin a more active exploration of songs in our hymnal including Hispanic and other cultures.

We perform the first three Sundays of the month and holidays, with two in front and one in the loft per month, subject to change based on congregation needs. We rehearse before the Sunday services that we perform at 8:30 a.m. and on Thursdays from 7-8 p.m.

We would love to hear from you! MusicAt1stLutheran@gmail.com or 815-821-5229. Here's to a great and wonderful 2023-24 choir season! Lisa Nadig

ACTIVITIES



activity

Evangelism – Thank you to the Evangelism team for all the hard work they did planning for the fair, movie nights, and the neighborhood BBQ. All the events were a success! We thank everyone who volunteered their time to help with these activities. Our hardworking Evangelism team is back at work and planning lots of great activities for the fall. They will continue with movie nights and are adding additional movies as well as adult-only ones. In addition to movie night, they would like to represent First Lutheran in the Freeport High School Homecoming parade on Wednesday,

September 20 at 5:00 p.m. We are asking for people to volunteer to be in the parade. Plans are still underway but we will have opportunities to ride or walk which will make it easier for people of all ages to participate. A sign-up sheet is in the entryway on Galena St. by the glass doors. We have to submit our entry by September 11th so please sign up ASAP. This is a great opportunity for the community to see how much we all love First Lutheran and invite others to come and share God's love.

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. The men will meet on September 5th at 6:30. No reservation is necessary.

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 will meet on September 2nd and 16th at the Wall of Yarn shop on Stephenson Street. Come join us from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 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, September 14th and 28th from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. We are tying quilts and lap robes, and can always use large pieces of material or bedsheets, for quilt backings. 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, September 21st 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!



REMINDER!

September 9, 2023

At 2:00 pm

Church Basement Ladies

at Timberlake Playhouse

Carpool is available and will leave the church parking lot at 1:00 p.m.

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

WELCA



Circles – Two women's circles will gather on Tuesday, September 19th for bible study and fellowship. If you're interested, just stop down and join us. Mary Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Martin Luther Room, and Rebecca Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bible study materials are available for everyone who comes.



Ladies' August Lunch Outing

The Muse on Cedar Creek

395 W. Cedarville Rd., Cedarville

September 8th

11:30 am

The sign-up sheet is on Melissa's door. Carpooling is available.

Contact Judy Castle if you have any questions.

Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA 2023 - On September 20th through September 24th, Jan Butterfield, June Brandt, Esther Eden, and Judy Castle will be attending the Eleventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA. It will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix AZ. The theme is "JUST LOVE" and the gathering will be looking at how we can stand with those on the margin and how the Women of WELCA can start the "all new work" that Christ is calling us to do. Pray for these ladies as they travel and gather with others to learn to follow Christ's call to love with justice.

Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
September 3	Sandy Helms & Mary Meyers	Volunteers Needed	Brad Heilman	Dena Kampmier
September 10	Sandy Helms & Mary Meyers	Roger & Dena Kampmier	Brad Heilman	Gail Diehl
September 17	Duke & Bev Herrling	Brad & Rochelle Heilman	Brad Heilman	Judy Kaufman
September 24	Duke & Bev Herrling	Volunteers Needed	Brad Heilman	Jeff Cowman

July Attendance		
Date	Sunday 9:00	Facebook Live
July 2	62	178
July 9	76	100
July 16	66	98
July 23	68	110
July 30	58	189
Total	330	675

July Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$23,394.26	\$145,830.64
Total Expenses	\$17,363.65	\$156,622.15
Income Less Expenses	\$6,030.61	-\$10,791.51

NEWS



Church Scrapbooks – Does anyone happen to have one of the church scrapbooks at their house? If you borrow a church scrapbook please notify the office that you have it and please limit your time to read it to 3 weeks. You are more than welcome to borrow it again at a later time. Thanks for your cooperation.

Property Committee - The Property Committee needs a chairperson to replace the current Chairman, Tom Klemm. If you would be interested in knowing more about the position, please contact the church office or Tom Klemm.

FACC – For August we have been assigned to collect canned mixed vegetables. As of August 22nd, we have collected 67 cans. Only 18 more cans to reach our goal. For September we have been assigned chunky soup. Since we did so well with our goal for August should we raise the bar? Let's try for 95 cans. I think that is a doable number. Let's try. 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.

Your Help Is Needed Please - STEPHENSON CO. Agriculture in the classroom needs our help. The Stephenson County Farm Bureau is requesting donations of empty toilet paper rolls. They have several activities that they would like to share with the youth of our county but cannot do so without empty T.P. rolls. If you can help, place your empty rolls in the container marked FARM BUREAU near the FACC box. The cut-off date will depend on the response they get. Sandy Helms will take the rolls to the farm bureau office. Thanks for your help.

Crop Walk – This year's Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, October 1st. Since First Lutheran does not have many walkers who would participate we have chosen to raise money for the Crop walk by having a special offering day on October 1st. Watch for more information

Free Books – Ruth Wardlow is doing some downsizing and has some books she would like to share with interested people. Below is a list of books. If you would like any of these books please call Ruth at (815)232-4825.

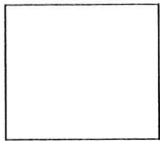
- 1) Finding Your Strength In Difficult Times – David Viscott
- 2) God's Word of Life – From the NIV Women's Devotional Bible
- 3) Prayers of Comfort – Healing Words of Hope
- 4) 101 Famous Poems – Compiled by Roy J. Cook
- 5) How to Study the Bible for Yourself – Tim LaHave
- 6) My Little Book of Prayers – Little Golden Book
- 7) Book for Faith Lenten Journey – Henry F. French
- 8) A Story A Day 'Til Christmas – Nan Roloff
- 9) The Illustrated Children's Bible – Retold by Geoffrey Marshall-Taylor
- 10) Stories of the Christ Child – Mary Alice Jones
- 11) Cruden's Complete Concordance
- 12) Final Gifts – Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley
- 13) Walking the Bible – Bruce Feiler
- 14) The Bare Bones Bible Handbook – Jim George

The Stephenson County Genealogical Society- is trying to complete its collection of area school yearbooks. They are kept in the history room at the Freeport Public Library. All books must be in good condition. If you have a yearbook you'd like to donate, please contact Sandy Helms. She has a list of what towns are needed and details on the years needed for 5 area schools. Thanks for your help.

Northwest Illinois Air Show – Representatives from the air show are looking for people to volunteer their time to help at the air show on Saturday, September 16th. All volunteers receive free entry and free lunch for their participation. If you are interested in helping or have questions you can contact Mark at (815)519-3729 or Briana at (815)238-7815.

If life gets too hard to stand...KNEEL

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September Birthday's					
9/1	Emily Cowman Sonya Dunham Dave Netherland	9/13	Carole Andres Marvin Beyer Nevaeh Paul	9/19	Carol Netherland
				9/20	Kenneth Chamberlin Judy Kaufman
				9/21	Wyatt Reese
9/3	Deloris Burstrom	9/16	Robert Willis	9/24	Landen Kampmier Connie Long
9/5	Sharon Janicke	9/17	Laurene Busjahn Sherry Simler Barrick Tormohlen	9/27	Alexandra Diehl Dena Kampmier
9/7	James Ammentorp				
9/12	Shirley Diestelmeier				
		9/18	Aaron Lovell	9/29	Lisa Heilman
September Anniversary's					
9/4	Don & Ingrid Heilman	9/23	Paul & Barb Hickey		
9/8	Robert & Gail Willis	9/26	Jeff & Cindy Cowman		
9/10	Jim & Judy Castle	9/27	Ed & Connie Long		
9/22	Bill & Heather Castle	9/30	Mark & Mary Boyd		



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 NA	2 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study	4 Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 12:00 NA 12:00 Lunch With Pastor 6:30 Luther N Brew	6 6:30 NA	7 Office Closed 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8 Office Closed 11:30 Lunch Outing @ "The Muse" 6:30 NA	9 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA 2:00 "Church Base- ment Ladies"
10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Rally Sunday @ Read Park	11 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 12:00 NA	13 6:00 Council Meeting 6:30 NA	14 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15 Office Closed 6:30 NA	16 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
17 9:00 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday School	18 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 9:30 Mary Circle 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:00 NA	20 5:00 Homecoming Parade 6:30 NA Triennial Gathering	21 1:00 Bunko 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 NA	23 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday School	25 7:00 Boy Scouts	26 12:00 NA	27 6:30 NA	28 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30 NA	30 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA