

FIRST NEWS

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

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

Volume 51 #2

February 2024

*"Lent is a time of
going very deeply into
ourselves... What is it
that stands between us
and God? Between us and
our brothers and sisters?
Between us and life,
the life of the Spirit?
Whatever it is, let us
relentlessly tear it out,
without a moment's
hesitation."*

—Catherine Doherty



Lent Begins February 14th

Caregivers give emotional support when a member is in need. If you know of anyone who could benefit from a Care Giver's visit, don't hesitate to get in touch with Ruth Wardlow at (815) 232-4825 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 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, scroll to the bottom of the home page and choose the service you want 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 February. 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.

Lent – February 14th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. (Please see the below Lenten Worship Schedule). The WELCA ladies will be serving a soup/chili lunch every Wednesday at 11:30 am beginning on Ash Wednesday. Chili will be served and soup of the day. Dessert and beverages will also be included. We hope you will join us.

- February 14th Chili and Garden Cheese Soup
- February 21st Chili and Chicken with Rice
- February 28th Chili and Tortellini Soup

Watch the March newsletter for the March soups of the day.

Lenten Worship Schedule

February 14	12:15 & 7:00	(Ash Wednesday)
February 21	12:15	
February 28	12:15	
March 6	12:15	
March 13	12:15	
March 20	12:15	
March 24	9:00	(Palm Sunday)
March 28	7:00	(Maundy Thursday)
March 29	7:00	(Good Friday)
March 31	9:00	(Easter)

Easter Flowers – Enclosed in this newsletter you will find the order form for Easter flowers. All orders and money are due to the office by Thursday, February 29th. You are welcome to put your orders in the Sunday offerings. Please mark your envelope "Holiday Flowers". Order forms will also be available in the Sunday bulletin on February 11th, 18th, and 25th. If you have any questions please contact the church office or Dena Kampmier.

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, Laith Dougherty, Marian Ewalt, Mary Lee Gerbode, Ryan Griffith, Gail & Marv Harris, Kevin & Lisa Hunziker, Sharon Janicke, Pastor Keith Johnson, Theresa Kavran, JoAnn Kohn, Bob Last, Lane Last, Joann LeBaron, Beth Luke, Kevin Madsen, Kay Mammoser, Raymond Marschang, Donna Morton, Jay Nevenhoven, Arleen Olson, Reuben Pearson, Margarite Potthoff, Debbie Rousch & family, Phyllis Seffrood, Sue Sellen, Vic Shields, Mary 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, 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 Scape, and Derrik Triem.

ACTIVITIES

Lunch With Pastor Keith – You are invited to join Pastor Keith at noon on Tuesday, February 6 for lunch in the Martin Luther Room. Bring your lunch and spend some quality time with Pastor and the rest of his guests. He hopes to see you there.

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 Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. 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 meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Wall of Yarn shop on Stephenson Street. Come join us on February 3 & 17 at 10:00 am and bring a project of your choice to knit or crochet. We are always looking for people to knit prayer shawls and prayer squares. We have a supply of yarn and patterns you may use if you are interested. Just contact Jan Butterfield or Bev Herrling for more information.

Bunko - The monthly Bunko group will gather in the Martin Luther Room on Thursday, February 15 from 1:00-3:00 pm. No reservations are needed, and beginners are always welcome. Come on down and bring a friend. A fun time is had by all!

Project Day - Project Day will meet only once this month, on Thursday, February 8 from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Sewing skills are not required to help with some projects. We can always use large pieces of material or bedsheets, to use for quilt backings. Donations may be left in the WELCA box next to the mailboxes. All are welcome to come for part or all of the day. Bring your lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour.

WELCA

LADIES LUNCH

Friday, February 2

11:30 am

La Patrona

1725 Ihm Blvd.

(Old Diamond Daves)

Sign up on Melissa's door.

Contact Judy Castle with questions or for a ride.



Circle - Two women's circles will gather for bible study and fellowship on Tuesday, February 20th. If you're interested, just stop down and join us. Mary Circle will meet at 9:30 am in the Martin Luther Room, and Rebecca Circle will meet at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Bible study materials are available for everyone who comes.

A BIG THANK YOU!!!!

We would like to say Thank You to those who were present at our Baby Shower, as well as to those who were not able to attend. We do not have Baby Showers in Nicaragua, so this was extra special for us and Addison Esther, our baby girl. Addison Esther arrived on Saturday, January 13th. Everything went well and we are doing fine. Thank you again for all your gifts, prayers, and love we feel from within the church. - Orlando and Janelis

Phyllis M. McLain ✝ 1924 – 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.

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, February 1st & 2nd. If you need to contact the church you can call Pastor Keith directly or leave a message on the church voice mail and your call will be returned ASAP. The messages will be checked throughout the day. Thank you.

Worship Volunteers				
Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
February 4	Nancy & Steve Olson	Volunteers Needed	Gail Diehl	Dena Kampmier
February 11	June Brandt & Esther Eden		Gail Diehl	Judy Kaufman
February 18	June Brandt & Esther Eden		Gail Diehl	Jeff Cowman
February 25	June Brandt & Esther Eden	↓	Gail Diehl	Gail Diehl

December Attendance			
Date	Sunday 9:00	Facebook Live	Sunday School
December 3	55	26	230
December 10	130	26	270
December 17	108	27	320
December 24	40	NA	109
December 24 (7:00)	98	NA	180
December 25	?	NA	210
December 31	46	NA	120
Total	477	79	1439

December Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$28,142.04	\$261,006.82
Total Expenses	\$21,423.01	\$260,304.07
Income Less Expenses	\$6,719.03	\$702.75

FACC – The 2024 donation list has arrived. For February we have been asked to collect spaghetti and/or alfredo sauce. For January we were assigned canned ravioli, etc. We got a late start but are still collecting those items as well. Thank you!!

2024 Altar Flowers- There are still open dates for 2024. If you are interested the charts are on the bulletin board in the copy room.

The 2024 Annual Meeting – will be held on Sunday, January 28th in Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:30 am. We will be discussing our new Council members and other committee members, issues and concerns anyone may have, as well as making plans for the 2024 year. This is an important meeting and we hope you will all plan to attend. **A potluck will take place following the meeting. Please bring a dish to share. Table service and drinks will be provided.** The annual reports are available at the church. If you would like one and can not get to the church please contact Melissa and she will make arrangements for you to receive it.

Suggestion Box – The council of First Lutheran Church is asking for positive suggestions to help move First Lutheran forward. You will find a suggestion form in this newsletter. Please add your positive suggestions, return them to the church, and place them in the suggestion box in Fellowship Hall. All suggestions are confidential and will only be read by the council. Extra forms are available at the church and will be collected through February. Thank you for your participation.

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.

Contribution Statements – If you would like a copy of your 2023 financial contributions please contact Melissa and she will be happy to get it for you. You can reach her by email at firstlutheranchurchfreeport@gmail.com or by phone at (815)235-9790.

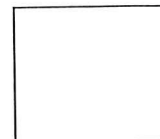
Endowment Gift Giving Sunday – is scheduled for February 18th during coffee hour. We invite you to attend.

The deadline for the March issue of First News is Tuesday, February 20th.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Choir Rehearsal Office Closed	2 11:30 Lunch @ LaPatrona 6:30 NA	3 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
4 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 WELCA Board	5 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 12:00 Lunch with Pastor 12:00 NA 6:30 Luther N Brew	7 6:30 NA	8 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30 NA	10 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
11 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study	12 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 12:00 NA	14 Ash Wednesday 11:30 Soup Lunch 12:15 Worship 6:00 Council 6:30 NA 7:00 Worship Choir After Worship	15 1:00 Bunko	16 6:30 NA	17 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
18 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study Endowment Gift Giving	19 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 9:30 Mary Circle 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:00 NA First News Due	21 11:30 Soup Lunch 12:15 Worship 6:30 NA	22 No Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30 NA	24 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
25 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Bible Study	26 7:00 Boy Scouts First News Sent	27 12:00 NA	28 11:30 Soup Lunch 12:15 Worship 6:30 NA	29 7:00 Choir Rehearsal Suggestions Due Easter Flowers Due		

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
First News
First Lutheran Church
303 S. Galena Ave.
Freeport, IL 61032



First News is published monthly by First Lutheran Church

Keith Johnson, Pastor
Melissa Scace, Office Manager
Elwyn Euler, Custodian
Brad Heilman, Lay President

Judy Castle, Volunteer Coordinator
Jeffrey Wall, Bell Choir Director
Teresa Parkinson, Choir Accompanist

Telephone: (815) 235-9790, Fax: (815) 801-7004

Website: www.firstlutheranfreeport.org

Email: firstlutheranchurchfreeport@gmail.com

Birthdays					
2/2	Jarett Terpstra	2/11	Diane Rimington Barb Statdfield	2/21	John Statdfield
				2/22	Bethany Dickman
2/3	Marvin Harris Jeffrey Meiborg	2/12	Mary Ann Elmer	2/23	Heather Castle
		2/14	Daniel Moore	2/25	Payton Meier
2/4	Cynthia Cowman	2/15	Graysen Lamm	2/27	Donna Frakes
2/5	Martha Pople	2/19	Mary Kaufman Pamela Morrison	2/29	Arleen Olson
2/6	Shirley Kelly				
2/8	Jeffrey Hayenga				
Anniversary's					
2/1	Jarrett & Cynthia Terpstra				

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First Lutheran Church

In keeping with our mission statement, the council of First Lutheran Church is dedicated to making First Lutheran a vibrant, welcoming place to worship and celebrate Jesus Christ. They would appreciate suggestions that could help them to obtain their goal. Please share your positive ideas and suggestions on how to help First Lutheran move forward (activities, adding members, advertising, etc.). If you are willing to be contacted regarding your ideas and/or suggestions, please include your contact information below. Your suggestions will be collected starting at the upcoming congregational annual meeting on January 28, 2024. These suggestions will be accepted throughout the Month of February. The council will tabulate the results and prepare objectives for the coming years. Your participation is appreciated. Thank you. – First Lutheran Council.

[illegible]

Contact Information: (Optional) _____

If you need more room, please use the back side of this page. All suggestions will be shared with council members only!

Please place your form in the suggestion box located in Fellowship Hall.

Easter Flowers 2024

Easter is approaching, and it is time to place your Easter Flower order. Please fill out the order form and return it with payment to the office or place it in the collection plate in an envelope labeled "Easter Flowers" by



Thursday, February 29th.

Flowers and Prices

\$11.00	# of plants	\$12.00	# of plants	\$13.00	# of plants
Tulips		Lilies		Kalanchoes	
Hyacinths				Rieger Begonia	
Jonquil				Mum	
Total					
Total Due \$					

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please check one.

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Name(s) _____

Please print clearly and use the backside if needed.

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