

FIRST NEWS

First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

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

Volume 51 #1

January 2024



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 January and 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.

Sunday School - Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Christmas Concert during worship on Sunday, December 10th. The congregation was truly entertained, you all are so talented and did a fantastic job. Sunday School will not be held on Sunday, December 31st. We will resume on Sunday, January 7th. We look forward to seeing you all next year. All children are welcome to participate.

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, Mark Netherland, Jay Nevenhoven, Reuben Pearson, Margarite Potthoff, Debbie Rousch & family, Phyllis Seffrood, Sue Sellen, Vic

Shields, Mary Smith, Wayne Smith, Jerry Stalcup, Cindy Terpstra, 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.

ACTIVITIES



Lunch With Pastor Keith – You are invited to join Pastor Keith at noon on Tuesday, January 2 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, January 2 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 January 6 & 20 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. 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.

Bunko - The monthly Bunko group will gather on Thursday, January 18 from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Martin Luther Room. No reservations are needed, and beginners are always welcome. Come on down and bring a friend. All have a fun time!

Project Day - Project Day will meet on Thursday, January 11 & 25 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



January 2024 Lunch Outing

Thursday, January 4th
11:30 am

Cimino's Little Italy
421 Challenge St., Freeport

There is a sign-up sheet on Melissa's door. Rides are available by contacting Judy Castle.

Circle - Two women's circles will gather on Tuesday, January 16th for bible study and fellowship. 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.

Worship Volunteers				
Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
January 7	Nancy & Steve Olson	Volunteers Needed	Barb Statdfield	Vicki Johnson
January 14	Sandy Helms & Mary Meyers		Barb Statdfield	Judy Kaufman
January 21	June Brandt & Esther Eden		Barb Statdfield	Gail Diehl
January 28	June Brandt & Esther Eden	↓	Barb Statdfield	Jeff Cowman



November Attendance			
Date	Sunday 9:00	Facebook Live	Sunday School
November 5	75	26	111
November 12	54	17	136
November 19	61	20	137
November 22 Thanksgiving Eve	70	NA	145
November 26	59	22	159
Total	319	85	688



November Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$20,078.58	\$232,864.78
Total Expenses	\$20,046.89	\$238,881.06
Income Less Expenses	\$31.69	-\$6,016.28

FACC – You are AWESOME! First Lutheran collected 147 boxes of cookies and crackers, 103 items for the Christmas baskets, and presents for 18 people. Your generosity is so wonderful and I am sure you contributed to helping a lot of people have a brighter Christmas. Thank you. As of today, I do not have a donation list for FACC for 2024. I will share January's item as soon as I do.

2024 Altar Flowers- If you are interested in signing up for Altar Flowers for 2024 the flower chart is in the copyroom on the bulletin board. The cost is \$23. Please submit your altar flower fee to the church in an envelope marked altar flower. Thank you.

Annual Report – Reminder that it is time to begin working on your reports for the annual report. All reports are due to Melissa by Wednesday, January 10th. The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th following worship. Watch for more details



BABY SHOWER!

Sunday, Jan. 7th at 1:00 pm
First Lutheran Fellowship Hall.

Help us celebrate with Janelis (Anelis) Melgara and Orlando Salinas the upcoming birth of their new baby. We will celebrate with cake, coffee, and gift opening.

If you are not sure what to get or cannot make it to the shower but would like to contribute toward the purchase of a new crib and mattress that would be wonderful. Checks can be made to Cindy Connell and given to Cindy or Melissa in the office. A sign-up sheet will be on Melissa's door. We will try to get a list of needed items to Melissa if you need ideas. Please come and help celebrate this joyous occasion.

Celebration Choir – Will **NOT** rehearse on January 4th. Rehearsals will resume on January 11th.

Crop Walk - What delightful news I have for you today! The fundraising for the 2023 CROP Walk = \$25007. !!!!! First Lutheran shared in that "victory!" \$865. ! What a blessing for those around the World, as well as in our own community, who experience food insecurity. This also means that \$6251 will be returned to our community to support the 4 food pantries we chose this year: FACC, Amity Day Care, Hearts that Care (Mt. Calvary), and Cedarville UMC. Thank you, our Faithful Servants. We cannot be successful without your support. Peace. - Linda tk



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. It is so important for the Future of First Lutheran that everyone gets involved.

Please take some time and think of how you could contribute to First Lutheran. The church offers lots of activities and committees that could use your help. Please consider joining even one of these. It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a village to improve a church. This is an important meeting and we hope you will all plan to attend.

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.

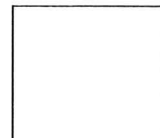
The deadline for the February issue of First News is Friday, January 19.



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 12:00 Lunch with Pastor 12:00 NA 6:30 Luther N Brew	3 6:30 NA	4 11:30 Lunch Out at Cimino's 6:00 Worship Meeting NO Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 NA	6 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
7 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	8 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 12:00 NA	10 6:00 Council 6:30 NA Annual Reports Due	11 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30 NA	13 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
14 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	15 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 9:30 Mary Circle 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:00 NA	17 6:30 NA	18 1:00 Bunko 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30 NA First News Info Due	20 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
21 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	22 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 12:00 NA	24 6:30 NA	25 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal First News Sent	26 6:30 NA	27 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
28 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Annual Meeting	29 7:00 Boy Scouts	30 12:00 NA	31 6:30 NA			

Postmaster:
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First News is published monthly by First Lutheran Church

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January Birthday's					
1/2	Stacey Moore	1/15	Pam Hoffman	1/23	Bob Dwyer
1/3	Carrie Tresemer	1/16	Zaya Love	1/24	Kristof Leopold
1/5	Denise Kinney	1/18	Gayle Ashman	1/25	Susan Sellen
1/6	Louis Lane	1/20	Brad Heilman	1/26	Deloris Stewart
1/8	Melody Schulz		Jamie Nielsen	1/27	Jalynn Coffee Brianne Love
1/10	Donna Beyer Rylee Field	1/21	Daniel Arana Betty Conder	1/29	Kali Schweertman Betty Simler
1/11	Carsten Brandt		Paige Kerr	1/30	Aubrey Michelle Olson Elizabeth Rainwater
1/13	Craig Cuplin Lisa Johnson-Thake	1/22	Martin Murray	1/31	Jane Klemm Alyssa Moore
Anniversary's					
1/3	Brad & Rochelle Heilman		1/17	DuWayne & Martha Pople	
1/6	Gene & Sharon Wall		1/27	Brian & Jan Butterfield	