

FIRST NEWS

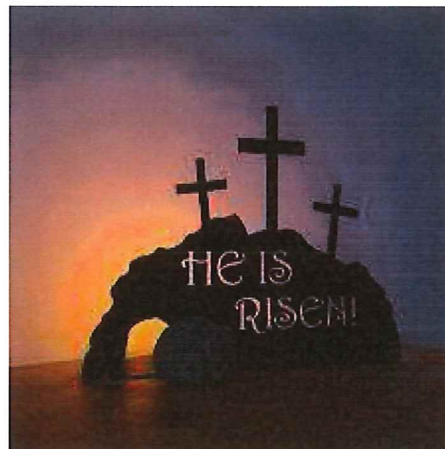
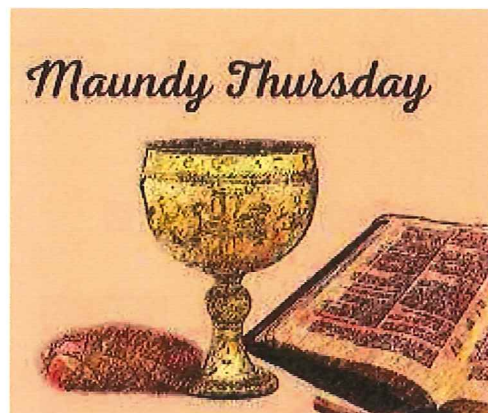
First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

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

Volume 51 #3

March 2024

Lent



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 join us. Everyone is welcome.

Usher / Greeters Needed – Usher / Greeters are needed for March and April. 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 –The WELCA ladies will be serving a soup/chili lunch every Wednesday at 11:30 am during Lent. Chili will be served and soup of the day. Dessert and beverages will also be included. We hope you will join us.

- March 6th Chicken Salsa
- March 13th Vegetable Burger
- March 20th "Surprise"

Lenten Worship Schedule

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)

**Lenten
Schedule**

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". If you have any questions please contact the church office or Dena Kampmier.



Eucharist Ministry Team - We are resuming taking communion to the nursing homes and homebound. If you were part of this team in the past or are interested in joining this team, please contact Brad Heilman, Bob Neuendorf, or the church office. Thank you!!!! This is such a rewarding way to help. The people who are unable to attend church are very appreciative of the visit and receiving communion.

During Lent let us find concrete ways to overcome our differences

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS



Members and Friends who need extra prayers – Jerry Anderson, Jesse Baldwin, Connie Bartels, Donna Beyer, Sarah Lower Borstad, Tina Chamberlin, Darin Davis, Lauren Diehl, Betsy Endress, Mary Lee Gerbode, Ryan Griffith, Gail & Marv Harris, Kevin & Lisa Hunziker, Sharon Janicke, Theresa Kavran, JoAnn Kohn, Bob Last, Lane Last, Joann LeBaron, Terry Love, Beth Luke, Kevin Madsen, Kay Mammoser, Raymond Marschang, Adam Mendel, Jay Nevenhoven, Reuben Pearson, Elizabeth Peschel, Margarite Potthoff, Debbie Rousch & family, Phyllis Seffrood, Sue Sellen, Vic Shields, Mary Smith, Wayne Smith, Jerry Stalcup, Wally VanRaalte, Corrine Wallace, Ruth Wardlow, Kathy Wilkin, 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 serving in the Military - Seth Heilman, Tyler Kennan, Aiden Kerr, Owen McVicker, Jeff Meiborg, Kaydin Rabey, Madison Scafe, and Derrik Triem.

ACTIVITIES



Movie Outing – on Sunday, March 3rd you are invited to attend a movie outing to the Lindo Theater to view the movie “Ordinary Angel”. You can view the trailer at www.classiccinemas.com. We will meet in the Lindo lobby at 1:45 and the movie begins at 2:05. Following the movie we will gather in Fellowship Hall for pizza, pop, and discussion. If you plan to attend please sign-up on Melissa’s door. If you have any questions please contact Dena Kampmier or the church office.

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, March 5 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 March 2 & 16 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 Herring for more information.

Bunko - The monthly Bunko group will gather on Thursday, March 21 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. A fun time is had by all!



Project Day - Project Day will meet on Thursday, March 14 & 28 from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. Sewing skills are not required to help with some projects. We are starting to collect items for Personal Care Kits, needed are lightweight bath towels (dark colors preferred), bath-size soap, combs (wide-tooth preferred), and nail clippers. 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, March 1
11:30 am

Big O's on the Hollow
1931 Illinois Rt. 75 East
Sign up on Melissa's door.

Contact Judy Castle with questions or for a ride.

Circle - Two women's circles will gather on Tuesday, March 19th for bible study and fellowship. If you're interested, just stop down and join us. Mary Circle will meet at 9:30 am at the home of Judy Castle, and Rebecca Circle will meet at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Bible study materials are available for everyone who comes.



Women's Conference

NW Conference of the Women of the ELCA - will be having a Spring Gathering on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 9:30 am, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton, IL. Registration is at 9:30 am and Brunch will be served at 10:00 am. The event costs \$15, and registration forms must be mailed by March 25, 2024. The speaker will be Pastor Twila Schock speaking on MOSAIC: A Ministry of the church that provides services to people living with disabilities in our congregations and society. Pastor Twila is VP for Church Relations & international Programming for

Mosaic. Carpooling from First Lutheran will be available. Sign-up sheet on Melissa's office door. Any questions call Judy Castle at 815-291-1928.



Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA

2024 Spring Retreat

Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

LOMC, 1834 S IL route 2, Oregon, IL 61061

The theme of the day will be, **EMOTIONAL HEALTH - WELL-BEING and FAITH**, Creating calm in a world full of chaos. The Bible study and worship will be led by Pastor Jennifer Ohman-Rodrigues from St John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island, IL.

Retreat Half Scholarship Applications and Retreat registration from the WELCA bulletin board by restrooms. Anyone interested in carpooling or have questions about the event please call. Judy Castle. (815-291-1928)



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the food, calls, cards, and visits, and thank you to the knitting group for the prayer shawl. – Marian Ewalt.

January Attendance			
Date	Sunday 9:00	Facebook Live	Sunday School
January 7	52	141	26
January 14	33	201	Cancelled due to weather
January 21	64	130	23
January 28	69	154	17
Total	218	626	66

January Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$27,786.33	\$27,786.33
Total Expenses	\$24,668.59	\$24,688.59
Income Less Expenses	\$3,117.74	\$3,117.74



Worship Volunteers				
Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
March 3	Dena and Roger Kampmier	Brad & Rochelle Heilman	Darius Simler	Dena Kampmier
March 10	Steve & Nancy Olson	Volunteers Needed	Darius Simler	Judy Kaufman
March 17	Steve & Nancy Olson	↓	Darius Simler	Jeff Cowman
March 24	Dena and Roger Kampmier		Darius Simler	Gail Diehl
March 28	Sandy Helms & Mary Meyers		Barb Statdfeld	
March 29	Bev & Duke Herrling		Barb Statdfeld	
March 31	Bev & Duke Herrling		Darius Simler	Dena Kampmier

FACC – For February we were asked to collect spaghetti and/or alfredo sauce, as of February 23rd we collected 38 jars of sauce. For March we have been assigned to collect canned Pork and Beans. All items can be placed in the bin by the coat racks. Thank you in advance for your participation. Your generosity is appreciated.



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.

Suggestion Box – The council of First Lutheran Church is asking for positive suggestions to help move First Lutheran forward. You will find the suggestion box and forms in the Galena St. entryway. Please give us your positive suggestions, and place them in the suggestion box. All suggestions are confidential and will only be read by the council. 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.

The deadline for the April issue of First News is Monday, March 25th.

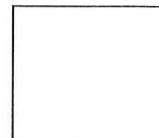


Congratulations to Danny Chamberlin and Emily Mirocha who were married on February 2, 2024. We wish you a wonderful faith-filled life together.

Jerry Anderson † 1944 - 2024

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.

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March Birthday's					
3/1	Darius Simler	3/13	Grace Bennett	3/21	Aiden Kerr
3/3	Janet Shields		Donna Morton	3/23	Audrey Last
3/4	Bill Frakes		Evelyn Simler	3/24	Angela Baldwin Rebecca Pearson
3/5	Joe Banderet	3/14	John Brobst	3/29	Kayleigh Bennett Bella Olson
	Gail Diehl	3/15	Sally Moore		
	Payton Kayes	3/16	Sally Hoffman		
3/7	Arlo Trickel	3/17	Esther Eden	3/30	June Brandt Jordan Pontius Cynthia Terpstra
3/8	Megan Kortemeier		Ruth Wardlow		
3/9	April Butt	3/18	Destiny Statdfeld		
3/12	Jerry Anderson Victor Shields	3/20	Rochelle Heilman	3/31	Judy Brady
March Anniversary's					
3/18	Ron & Diane Rimington				
3/21	Dave & Carol Netherland				
3/29	Allen & Lisa Heilman				

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11:30 Lunch @ Big O's 6:30 NA	2 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
3 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour 1:45 Movie @Lindo	4 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 12:00 NA 6:30 Luther N Brew	6 11:30 Soup Lunch 12:15 Worship 6:30 NA	7 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 NA	9 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
10 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	11 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 12:00 NA	13 11:30 Soup Lunch 12:15 Worship 6:00 Council 6:30 NA	14 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 NA	16 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
17 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	18 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 9:30 Mary Circle 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:00 NA	20 11:30 Soup Lunch 12:15 Worship 6:00 Property 6:30 NA First News Deadline	21 1:00 Bunko 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 NA	23 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour Palm Sunday	25 7:00 Boy Scouts First News sent	26 12:00 NA	27 6:30 NA	28 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Worship	29 6:30 NA 7:00 Worship	30 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
31 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour Easter Sunday						