



FIRST NEWS

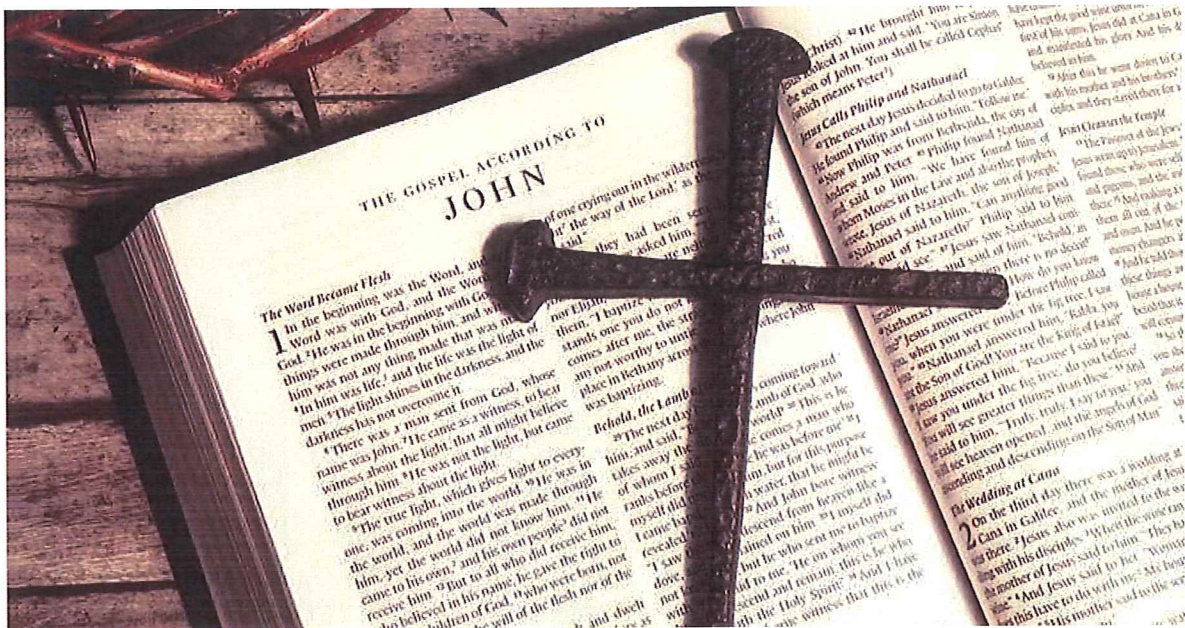
First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

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

Volume 51 #4

April 2024

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.



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

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

We continue working with the Northern Illinois Synod, regarding the placement of an interim pastor. As you may be aware, the roster of eligible Interim pastors is in short supply. In the meantime, we will work with Pulpit Supply pastors, until an interim becomes available.

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Jen Beamsley (Assistant to the Bishop) will join us on April 28, 2024, to lead us in Worship. During coffee hour she will be leading a forum for the congregation and starting the call process for a permanent pastor.

Once the forum is complete, we will put together a call committee, and start the official process.

Thank you to the Pastors who have answered our call and led us in worship since February, Pastor Jeff Clements, Pastor Karen Tews, and Pastor Brian LeBaron. We have enjoyed having them as our Guest Pastor. Pastor Brian LeBaron will continue to lead us in worship through Holy Week and Easter.

Pulpit Supply Pastors are available for Sunday worship only. If you are in need of pastoral care during the week please call the church office, we have Pastors available to help you.

Brad Heilman
Lay President

Preaching Schedule April - June		
Pastor	Month	Dates
Pastor Frank Lay	April	7
Pastor Carol Soderholm	April	14
Pastor Ralph Kuespert	April	21
Pastor Jen Beasley	April	28
Pastor Frank Lay	May	5 & 12
Pastor Brian LeBaron	May	19
Pastor Carol Soderholm	May	26
Pastor Frank Lay	June	2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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.

Lenten Services



March 28	Maundy Thursday	Worship 7:00 p.m.
March 29	Good Friday	Worship 7:00 p.m.
March 31	Easter	Worship 9:00 a.m.

Usher / Greeters Needed – Usher / Greeters are needed for 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.



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.

Altar Flowers – on occasion the people who purchase the altar flowers will leave them for donation to our shut-ins. We need people to help deliver these flowers. Flowers are usually delivered on Tuesday or Wednesday. Also, we need people to help deliver the Easter flowers that are left for donation. Any flowers left after Wednesday, April 3rd will be donated to a shut-in. If you are willing to help with delivery please notify Dena Kampmier or Judy Castle. Thank you.



Good Shepherd Sunday - Good Shepherd Sunday is April 21st, and this is the day to lift up the programs and ministries of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Last year LSSI provided care to over 50,000 people through counseling, foster care, affordable senior housing, support for adults with developmental disabilities, prison ministry, and more. If you would like

to participate in this special day of giving, envelopes are available in the narthex for you to send a gift directly to LSSI. You may also use a pew envelope, mark it "LSSI", and the church will forward all donations to them. Matching funds are available through the synod for all gifts received. Thank you for your support and prayers for this social ministry organization of the three ELCA synods in Illinois.

Sunday School – The Sunday School teachers have worked together to plan a fun-filled rest of the year. On March 31, Easter, there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children. For April they plan to have regular classes. The Sunday School year will end on May 5th with a play day at the St. Joseph's playground. We hope you will join them and bring your friends.

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Members and Friends who need extra prayers – Jesse Baldwin, Connie Bartels, Donna Beyer, Sarah Lower Borstad, Tina Chamberlin, Darin Davis, Kristen 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, Dee Linder, Terry Love, Beth Luke, Kevin Madsen, Kay Mammoser, Raymond Marschang, Adam Mendel, Jay Nevenhoven, Reuben Pearson, Margarite Potthoff, Marilyn Rice, 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 Scace, and Derrick Triem.

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. The men will meet on Tuesday, April 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.

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



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 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 Herring for more information.

Project Day - Project Day will meet on Thursday, April 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 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, April 5

11:30 am

Rafters

9426 W. Wagner Rd., Lena, IL.

Sign up on Melissa's door. (Carpooling available)

Contact Judy Castle with questions.



Circle - Two women's circles will gather on Tuesday, April 16th 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 Arleen Olson, and Rebecca Circle will meet at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Bible study materials are available for everyone who comes.

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 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 all of the prayers. – Jay Nevenhoven

THANK YOU

Pastor Brian LeBaron is available for Hospital calls, crisis intervention, and funerals. He can be reached at (815)541-4207 or you can call the church office and we can reach him for you.



February Attendance			
Date	Sunday 9:00	Sunday School	Facebook Live
February 4	93	21	189
February 11	140	26	201
February 14 (12:15) Ash Wednesday	37	NA	162
February 14 (7:00) Ash Wednesday	21	NA	93
February 18	68	16	380
February 21 (12:15)	34	NA	129
February 25	62	17	285
February 28 (12:15)	20	NA	101
Total	475	80	1540

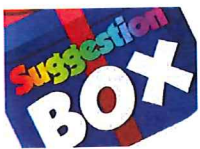


February Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$18,725.20	\$46,511.53
Total Expenses	\$19,947.44	\$44,616.03
Income Less Expenses	-\$1,222.24	\$1,895.50

Worship Volunteers				
Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
April 7	Dena & Roger Kampmier	Barb & Mike O'Grady	Eric Hoffman	Judy Kaufman
April 14	Nancy & Steve Olson	Volunteers Needed	Eric Hoffman	Gail Diehl
April 21	June Brandt & Esther Eden	↓	Eric Hoffman	Jeff Cowman
April 28	June Brandt & Esther Eden		Eric Hoffman	Dena Kampmier

FACC – For March we were asked to collect canned Pork and Beans. As of March 21st, we have collected 80 cans. For April we have been assigned to collect canned chili 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.

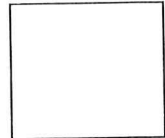
The deadline for the May issue of First News is Friday, April 19th.

Directory Update

Joann Kohn
3117 Kunkle Blvd.
Freeport, IL 61032

The office will be closed on Monday, April 1st. If you need to contact the church please leave a message on the church voice mail and we will return your call at our earliest convenience, or follow the directions on the message if you have an emergency.

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

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Judy Castle, Volunteer Coordinator
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April Birthday's					
4/2	Sophia Castle	4/11	Cynthia Connell	4/22	Noah Kavran
4/3	Eli Schweerman		Savannah Heitter	4/23	Alex Moore
4/4	Tanesha Bland	4/13	Daniel Hoffman	4/24	Betty Bawinkel
	Joshua Pontius		Eric Hoffman		
4/5	Jessica Gerstner	4/15	Milt Whitney	4/27	Brian Meiborg
	Donald Heilman	4/17	Elias Castle		
4/6	Owen Calam	4/19	Delores Nevenhoven	4/28	Elizabeth Hayenga
	Reuben Pearson				
4/8	Kinsley Reese	4/21	Brittney Garcia		
4/9	Jay Nevenhoven				
April Anniversary's					
4/6	Aubrey & Arleen Olson		4/13	Todd & Grace Bennett	
4/12	Terry & Martha Love		4/30	Mike & Barb O'Grady	



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	<i>2</i> 12:00 NA 6:30 Luther N Brew	<i>3</i> 6:30 NA	<i>4</i> 9:30 NW Conference 6:00 Worship Team No Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i> 11:30 Lunch at Rafters 6:30 NA	<i>6</i> 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
<i>7</i> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	<i>8</i> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<i>9</i> 12:00 NA	<i>10</i> 6:00 Council 6:30 NA	<i>11</i> 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>12</i> 6:30 NA	<i>13</i> 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
<i>14</i> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	<i>15</i> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<i>16</i> 9:30 Mary Circle 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:00 NA	<i>17</i> 6:30 NA	<i>18</i> 1:00 Bunko 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i> 6:30 NA Newsletter Info Due	<i>20</i> 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
<i>21</i> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour Good Shepherd Sunday	<i>22</i> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<i>23</i> 12:00 NA	<i>24</i> 6:30 NA	<i>25</i> 10:00 Project Day 7:00 Choir Rehearsal Newsletter Day	<i>26</i> 6:30 NA	<i>27</i> 9:00 Synod Women Retreat 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
<i>28</i> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour Pastor Beasley Forum	<i>29</i> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<i>30</i> 12:00 NA				