



# The First Word

**First Lutheran Church  
324 North Third Street  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
815.758.0643**

**[www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org](http://www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org)**

## April 2010

### In This Issue

Pastor's Page ..... Page 2  
 In the Family ..... Page 3  
 Children's Ministry.. Pages 4-5  
 Vacation Bible School Page 6  
 Youth Ministry..... Page 7  
 Calendar ..... Pages 8-9  
 Council Highlights ..... Page 10  
 Women's News.... Pages 10-11  
 Getting to Know You .Page 12  
 April Birthdays..... Page 14  
 Love INC News ..... Page 14  
 Staff and Council ..... Page 15



## **Holy Week and Easter Schedule (April 1 - 4)**

### **Maunder Thursday**

**2:00 PM** - Worship in the Sanctuary  
(with Holy Communion)

**7:00 PM** - Worship in the Sanctuary  
(Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar)

### **Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

**7:00 PM** - Worship in the Sanctuary

### **Easter Vigil**

**7:00 PM** - Worship  
(begins in the Atrium)

### **Easter Sunday**

**9:00 AM and 11:00 AM**

Holy Communion will be served at both services

### **Easter Brunch**

Served from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### Dates to Remember

King of Kings.....	March 28
Good Friday Children's Event.....	April 2
Annual Garage Sale.....	April 24
Pancake Breakfast .....	May 8
Book Discussion Group.....	May 11

April 2010



*...these things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.'*

John 20:31

During Lent a number of years ago, at Wednesday evening worship, my pastor illustrated his sermons with images from Renaissance art, paintings which graphically depict Jesus' suffering, humiliation, and horrifying death.

And I was deeply moved. During those Lenten services, I came to appreciate the enormity of the sacrifice Jesus made for us—for the whole world—and for ME. I was overwhelmed thinking that anyone, let alone the Son of God, would make such a huge sacrifice for ME. I hadn't done anything to deserve such a sacrifice. But God did it anyway. Jesus died for ME/us, so that I/we could be forgiven of my/our sins and given a fresh start in a new relationship with God.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Having had this experience, I really think it helps one gain perspective to take time to observe Lent and Holy Week. But not that many people seem to do so. Maybe it's because Lent and Holy Week are seen as the time when we put away our 'alleluias' and get all serious and somber. I have to admit that it seems much more appealing to rush to Easter and bask in the joy of the resurrection, rather than paying so much attention to the cross.

But in order to get to Easter, Jesus had to first go to the cross. And in order to follow him, so do we. Because without the cross—as horrible as it is—there is no resurrection. Without the cross, there is no forgiveness of our sins. Without forgiveness of our sins, we cannot receive the gift of new life, eternal life, in the kingdom of God. Without the cross, there is no 'saved by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ.' Because without the cross there is no Easter.

The Good News is that because of what Jesus did for us, because he, the Son of God, willingly gave up his life on the cross, everyone who believes in him is forgiven and receives the gift of eternal life in the kingdom of God! WHAT A BLESSING it is to be loved by God! And what a blessing it is to be a blessing to others by sharing God's love! That is our purpose as a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ—that's why we are here—that is our mission—to be a blessing to others by sharing God's love.

So filled with thanksgiving and joy this Easter, I ask you to please consider the amazing and abundant ways in which God has blessed you, and pray about how you can share God's love and be a blessing to others.

*... as the Father has sent me, so I send you.*

John 20:21

**Blessings,**

**Pastor Roy+**

We welcomed to our Christian Fellowship, **Chace Andrew Kuhns**, son of Christian and Amy Kuhns, as he received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 14.

Congratulations to **Sara Katrine Dashner** who was united in marriage to Jonathan Adrien Amara on March 6 in Pre-St-Gervais (a suburb of Paris), France. We also congratulate **Amy Wallin** and Kevin Hager who were married at the church on March 13.

Congratulations to Jeff and Betsy Countryman on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Cora Elizabeth, born on March 23. The proud grandparents are **John and Cheryl Countryman**.

Congratulations to **Loren and Cathy Foelske** who celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 27.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Larry Anderson, Heidi Hietanen, Lois Johnson, Dave Kothrade, Barbara Lindus, Rod Lothson, Dan and Hazel Metzger, Sharon Retrum, Al Ritzman, Keith Setchell**, and Bruce Brennan (husband of **Mary K. Brennan**).

## Annual Garage Sale

Spring is here! Clean out those closets, dust off those cluttered shelves and box it up for the Annual Garage Sale on April 24. If you need someone to pick up these "treasures" for you, please call the Church Office at 815-758-0643 or call **Jan Womack** at 815-762-0051. No clothing, please.



Volunteers are also needed to sort items the day before the sale and helpers are needed the day of the sale, too. Come join the fun and help reduce our building debt in the process.

## A Special Note

Dear Friends,

As we begin final preparations to leave on April 16 for our mission of teaching teachers in Tanzania, we send our heartfelt "**Thank you very much**" for your good wishes, promises of prayers, and financial donations for our work. If you still wish to contribute, please send your check to First Lutheran and write "Tanzania Mission" on the *memo* line.

To receive e-mails of our experiences and perspectives, please send your e-mail address to us at: [mswadle@earthlink.net](mailto:mswadle@earthlink.net)

God's Peace,  
**Sharon & Mike Wadle**

## Dog-walker Needed

Is there anyone in the First Lutheran family who would take on the job of "dog-walker?" (This unusual request is made by Mary Bradtmueller.)

I have a small shitzu mix dog who needs to be walked morning, late afternoon, and evening. And, if you like to take long walks, hook her up and take her. She is a sweet, loving dog who is very responsive to kindness. Payment will be discussed by both parties. Please call me at 815-756-9324 if you are interested. My address is 319 Manning Drive (on the south side of town).

**Mary Bradtmueller**

## **Cross Walk Sunday Workshop Updates**

### **Rotation 8 — Holy Week**

On March 28 and April 11, and April 18 the students will recognize the importance of Holy Week and Jesus' sacrifice. They will create a map showing the important locations and events of Holy Week in Apostle's Art Studio, put on a drama and create a scrapbook showing Jesus' journey through the week in Peter's Theater, and publish a book about Holy Week in Living Word.

### **Rotation 9 — Doubting Thomas**

On April 25, May 2, and May 16 the students will discover that seeing is not always believing. They will watch "*He Is Risen*" in Scripture Cinema, read Thomas, the Doubting Disciple and perform an experiment in Living Word, and produce a TV show about the Doubting Thomas story in WWJD Good News Station.

Please consider leading our little disciples through one of these fun workshops. They only last three weeks and are a lot of fun! Sign up in the Atrium, on the Communication Card during worship, or contact **Stephanie Corn** with any questions.

**Thank You!** A big thank you to our Rotation 7 workshop leaders: **Debbie Kish, Bryan Taylor, Breanna Hanson, Allison Hunter-Rosene, and Jessica Wellman**. We couldn't do it without you!

**Greeting Schedule** — The Tiny Tots class is scheduled to be greeters on Sunday, April 18. The class will meet approximately 20 minutes before the start of the service. See you then!

## **First Communion Instruction**

All children in second grade or above who have not received Holy Communion are invited to attend instruction classes this spring. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 10:20 – 11:20 AM during the regular Cross Walk Sunday hour on April 25 and May 2. They will be held in Classroom B (next door to the music room). Parents are invited and encouraged to attend with their son or daughter. Students will receive their First Communion on Sunday, May 16. Please call the Church Office to register or for more information.

## **Cross Walk Wednesday News**

We have completed five weeks of Lenten Family Time in which our kids and their parents learned about the faith practices of prayer, acts of kindness, and service. Thanks to the following people who shared their time and talents: **Tarryn Thaden** taught us about p\*o\*p\*c\*o\*r\*n prayers; **Elsa Glover** showed us how we can use art as a form of prayer; **Debra Burgin** taught us how to make beautiful cards, some of which have been sent to our homebound members; and **Cathy Foelske** and **Sharon Williams**, with help from **Jean Callary**, guided us through the assembly of health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our group put together about 90 kits!

Our regular programming will resume on April 7 and it's a pizza night! On April 14, the Kindness Klub groups (grades 2-6) will be going to DeKalb Rehab and Nursing Home to assist with the evening bingo game. Our final gathering will be on April 28, with ice cream sundaes to close out the evening.

## Calling All Children!

**What:** GOOD FRIDAY Children's Ministry Event

**Who:** All children, ages three through sixth grade and their friends

**When:** April 2; 9:00-10:45 AM

**Where:** First Lutheran Church Social Hall

**Why:** To share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection through music, art, drama, and cooking; to have fun!



**Advance sign-up is requested by March 30 to make sure we have enough food and that our activities are age appropriate.**



Additional caring youth and/or adults will be needed for breakfast, making prayer pretzels, a simple craft project, and the egg hunt. Some tasks can be done during the week before the event. Please consider helping out. Call the Church Office at 815-758-0643 to sign-up. Thank you!

## First Lutheran Sends 170 Health Kits to LWR

Wow! Thanks to the generosity of many people and the caring hands of many more, **170 health kits**, **14 layettes** (made by the Friday Tres Dias Women's Prayer Group) and **10 quilts** were taken to Elgin to begin their journey to places around the world. Thanks to the following people who contributed much to the whole endeavor: the Project Ladies for making two quilts and donating fabric for 8 others made by **Sharon Wadle**; the Naomi Circle for donating funds to purchase extra needed items to complete the health kits; **Cathy Foelske** and **Nita Challengren**, for making 10 kits each; **Jan Womack** and **Sharon Wadle** for collecting items for 40 kits; **Cathy Foelske** and **Sharon Williams** for helping with the Lenten Family service project to assemble kits; **Mike and Sharon Wadle** for transporting all the items to Elgin. Cross Walk Wednesday kids and parents assembled approximately 90 kits on March 10, and even our 3 year olds helped by counting bandages! These kits were blessed during worship on March 14.



**The need is ongoing!** We will continue to collect items for health kits, quilts and layettes throughout the year. Bring your donations to the Church Office, or drop them off by the display in the Social Hall. Thank you!

## Vacation Bible School IS Coming!

Be a part of Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran as we set sail for the high seas **June 21 - 25**. We will meet each day from 9:00 AM - NOON at the church. This summer, we're setting sail for VBS fun on the High Seas! Kids will feel the sea spray on their face as sails snap overhead. They'll experience the deep rolling waters of God's love. It's easily the best time they will have all summer. Don't miss the ship — register now to be a part of this High Seas Expedition VBS! Kids at High Seas Expedition will learn something new about God's Word each day: God's Word is true, comforting, surprising, life-changing and for everyone.



As we plan and prepare for High Seas Expedition, our team would cherish your prayers. Pray that God gives us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff members to step forward to join the team. And pray that God begins working in the hearts of the parents and their children who will come to High Seas Expedition!

To pre-register and/or volunteer to help out, contact our VBS Coordinator, **Teresa Lange**, [ttmelange@comcast.net](mailto:ttmelange@comcast.net) or log on to our VBS website [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/firstdekalb](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/firstdekalb). Watch for more information about this exciting ministry event!

### Reminder



#### Mother's Day Program

at 10:30 on May 9  
(presented by all Cross Walk kids)

#### NO Cross Walk

Wednesday, Joyful Noise Choir,  
or Faith Trek on:

March 31 - Holy Week

**NO Cross Walk Sunday on:**

April 4 - Easter

### From the Endowment Committee

We recently approved some financial support for two mission trips: Pr. Roy Nelson's mission trip to Guatemala on January 15-25 and Nicole Billips' mission trip to Guatemala where she helped build the School for the Saints with Lutheran Campus Ministry at NIU in March 2010.

This is a good time to thank those persons who had the foresight and wisdom to establish the Endowment Fund and those that have given financially to the fund. Thank you.

The Committee

## To my supportive and loving church family,

As many of you already know, I recently went on a mission trip to Guatemala with Lutheran Campus Ministry of NIU. On this trip I was able to help continue the building of the school they have down there: La Escuela de Santos. I learned how to lay tile and grout and I also was able to paint a few desks too! I had a blast working with all the great students who came on the trip. I just want to send out a letter of appreciation to everyone who donated and prayed for me and this trip. I feel so blessed and loved to have such wonderful people that support me. First Lutheran has always been my rock and having so much support has really helped me to grow in my faith journey. I have been able to experience so much of God's world through First Lutheran and have been able to meet and serve God's people as well. I am so honored to be a member here and to know you all. Thank you again, with all my heart. Thank you for your blessings and love and encouragement all throughout my faith journey. I'm glad to be home and glad that the trip went so well. But I know it wouldn't have gone as well if it weren't for all your prayers and support. Thank you, First Lutheran. Thank you, my family.

**Nicole Billips**

## Youth News

**Meal and a Message** will meet every Wednesday in April.

**Sunday School** will meet every Sunday, except Easter, April 4. On March 28, April 11, and April 18 we will be serving as rotation leaders for the Cross Walk Sunday programming. We will be doing Peter's Theater. If you are around on any of these Sundays, be prepared to have a lot of fun with the younger kids!

**The Easter Breakfast** is April 4. We need people to make stratas (recipe provided) and people to serve. If you are around and are involved in youth ministry in any way, please be prepared to help. We will decorate for the Easter Breakfast on Saturday, April 3, from 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON.

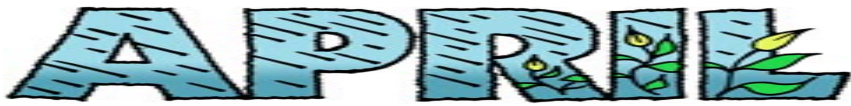
**Field Trip to Shabbona State Park** - Both the Sr. and Jr. High Youth Groups will go hiking at Shabbona State Park on Sunday, April 18, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. If you are interested in going, sign up is required by April 11.

**March for Babies** - The Sr. High Youth Group will join the Longeville Family in the March of Dimes March for Babies Walk on Saturday, April 24. Get ready to put your walking shoes on for a good cause!

## Worship Notes

Thanks to the following people for helping to enhance our midweek Lenten worship: **Nicole Billips** and **Liz Peregrine** for serving as cantors for *Holden Evening Prayer*; **Jacob Marx** and **Aaron Russell** for voicing the puppets; **Meghan Hanson**, **Isaac Hietanen** and **Ben Nelson** for serving as puppeteers; **Joe Baumgart**, **Harold Grafe** and **Dick Sjolund** for speaking the voice of God; and to **Isaac Hietanen** for playing flute.

**Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 2!** Local pianist Jim Hendricks will offer special music during worship and present a concert at 7:00 PM.



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>10:20 AM</b> Adult Forum <b>1:00 - 3:00 PM</b> Jr. & Sr. High Bowling at Mardi Gras Lanes <b>3:00 PM</b> Kings of Kings	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Mothers of Preschoolers <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>31</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes	<b>1</b> <b>2:00 &amp; 7:00 PM</b> Maundy Thursday Worship <b>8:00 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>2</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Good Friday Children's Ministry Event <b>7:00 PM</b> Good Friday Worship	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Easter Vigil
<b>4</b> <b>Food Pantry Donations</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Easter Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Easter Breakfast <b>11:00 AM</b> Easter Worship	<b>5</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b> <b>12:00 NOON</b> Linen Ministry Team Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Ministry Team Meetings <b>8:00 PM</b> Executive Committee	<b>7</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>5:30 PM</b> Cross Walk Wednesday Activities <b>5:30 PM</b> Meal & A Message <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Prelude - Women's Bible Study <b>2:00 PM</b> Naomi Circle <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Aluminum Can Collection</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>10:20 AM</b> Adult Forum <b>11:20 AM</b> Praise Kids Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Mothers of Preschoolers <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Congregation Council	<b>14</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>4:30 PM</b> Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> Cross Walk Wednesday Activities <b>5:30 PM</b> Meal & A Message <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:00 PM</b> Kindness Klub Bingo Outing <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes	<b>15</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>10:20 AM</b> Adult Forum <b>11:20 AM</b> Praise Kids Choir Rehearsal <b>1:00 - 4:00 PM</b> Sr. High Youth Group to Shabbona State Park	<b>19</b> <b>12:00 NOON</b> Linen Ministry Team Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:30 AM</b> Northeast Conference Pastor's Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>4:30 PM</b> Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> Cross Walk Wednesday Activities <b>5:30 PM</b> Meal & A Message <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Prelude - Women's Bible Study <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>6:30 PM</b> Needlework Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>8:00 AM - 2:00 PM</b> Annual Garage Sale <b>9:00 AM</b> March for Babies Walk — Sr. High Youth Group will walk
<b>25</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>10:20 AM</b> Adult Forum <b>11:20 AM</b> Praise Kids Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Mothers of Preschoolers <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Night Out at Ruby Tuesday's	<b>28</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>4:30 PM</b> Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> Cross Walk Wednesday Activities <b>5:30 PM</b> Meal & A Message <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:00 PM</b> GED Classes	<b>29</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>

## Highlights of the March Council Meeting

- Discussed the beginning chapter in the book Ask, Thank, Tell, and reflected on the concept that all we have belongs to God. We also discussed the difference between “membership” and “discipleship” as it relates to our attitudes toward stewardship.
- Formally received **Katie Heminway** into the membership of First Lutheran Church
- Received a thank you note from the Northern Illinois Synod thanking us for our \$50,847 in Mission Support for 2009
- Received a thank you for our gift of \$2,882 to the ELCA Disaster Response Fund, earmarked for Haiti relief
- Heard that the Stewardship Mission Team is going to do a special mailing and phone campaign this Easter season
- Discussed our 2010 mission goals, which will focus on:
  1. Increasing volunteerism within the congregation
  2. Increasing our visibility within the community
  3. Increasing our outreach efforts to others
- Heard that a date will be set in April for spring cleaning
- Heard an update from **Cathy Foelske** on our Parish Nursing Program. Our nurses have lined up visitors for our homebound members and are working to line up volunteers who will provide transportation to worship for those who are in need of it.

## Women's News

### Prelude Bible Study ...



This Bible study for women is held on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of each month. We begin the morning at 9:00 AM with coffee and conversation for the early arrivals. Our study begins about 9:15 and we conclude our time together by 10:30 AM. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans on the second Thursday morning of the month. On the fourth Thursday, we are discussing articles of interest from *The Lutheran Magazine*. The group is open to all women interested in digging into God's Word and connecting with other women of faith. This is not a closed group. We are always delighted to welcome new women to our study. So come, join us!

## Women's Night Out ...

Are you one of those women who love to go out to eat and let others do the cooking for you? Are you one of those women who enjoy just getting together with other women to talk about anything and everything? If so, you really ought to come to "Women's Night Out" on the fourth Tuesday night of each month! We get together for good food and good conversation at a variety of restaurants in the DeKalb-Sycamore area. There is no set agenda; the evening is purely social. You order what you want and pay for what you order. Our next night out will be Tuesday, April 27, at 6:00 PM at Ruby Tuesday's. Please call the Church Office by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup> to let us know you'll be coming. We'll call the restaurant and get the table reserved!

## Book Discussion Group

If you like to read, this group is for you! Women read the book on their own and then join other women in discussion about the book. They generally meet from 12:00 – 1:30 PM



on the second Tuesday every other month in the Community Room. Each woman brings her own copy of the book and a sack lunch to enjoy while discussing the book.

The next book discussion group date is set for Tuesday, May 11 at noon. The book of the month is "*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

"I can't remember the last time I discovered a novel as smart and delightful as this one, a world so vivid that I kept forgetting this was a work of fiction populated with characters so

utterly wonderful that I kept forgetting they weren't my actual friends and neighbors. Treat yourself to this book please—I can't recommend it highly enough." — *Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love*

## Project Group

Every Tuesday morning beginning at 8:30 AM in the Social Hall, a group of faithful, dedicated women gather to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They have a lot of fun together as they cut, stitch, and tie pieces of fabric together to make quilts. They are a creative bunch and have made hundreds and hundreds of beautiful quilts over the years to benefit others. This group of women would love to welcome new people any time. They work hard but take a coffee break about 10:00 AM and conclude their morning projects by 11:30 AM.

## Needlework Group

Women, this is another fun group at church to be a part of. The group gathers on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at church. Each one attending brings their own projects to work on (knitting, crocheting, etc). All are invited!

## Mothers of Preschoolers

Another wonderful ministry that takes place at our church is MOPS. This organization is for all mothers of preschoolers. MOPS meets in the Social Hall every other Monday, September – May, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. All moms enjoy fellowship and an inspirational program while care is provided by loving attendants for all children. This group is open to all young women in the community. Please call the Church Office for more information.

## Getting to Know Our Members



This month our “getting to know you” family is the Longevilles: John, Louella (Lou), Jacqueline (J.C. – age 11), and Jaden (age 2).

John, Lou, and J.C. became members of First Lutheran Church in April of 2004 after attending a few months at the invitation of J.C.’s friend Jessica Long who, along with her mom Nancy, had been encouraged by a children’s sermon of Pastor Marilyn’s to invite their friends to church. John calls their membership the result of “neighborly evangelism.” Lou, J.C., and Jaden were

baptized here — Lou and J.C. in 2004 and Jaden in 2008.

John, Lou, and J.C. moved to Cortland from Aurora in 2001, a move they describe as being from “hustle and bustle” to “relative tranquility.” John and Lou grew up in western Illinois, John in Atkinson, an historically Belgian farming community, and Lou in Cambridge, a Swedish farm town.

The Longevilles are a family of athletic sports nuts. John said, “Anything to do with a ball and we will be there to participate or ‘spectate.’” They enjoy spending time outdoors gardening and watching the many birds attracted to their backyard bird haven. Because of their interest in sports and the outdoors, they would like to see a fitness or sports related ministry get started at First Lutheran.

Lou is an RN and has worked in several hospitals including the Neuro floor at St. Francis hospital in Peoria. After J.C. and then Jaden were born, she took a job with Grimm’s Medical Supply of St. Charles and still enjoys the flexible work hours they offer as well as the ability to work from home with baby Jaden helping out.

John is a 20-year plus veteran of selling industrial engines to equipment manufacturers, a job that lets him enjoy travel to “exotic” destinations like Detroit, Quincy, Peoria, Michigan City, and Kalamazoo.

A favorite Bible verse of the Longeville’s is 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 that begins “May God our Father and the Lord Jesus give you grace and peace” and ends with “He is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his son Jesus Christ our Lord.” A favorite and admittedly teary-eyed part of the church service is when the babies are walked around after their baptism and the congregation sings “I was there to hear your borning cry”.

This “faith story” was shared by John Longeville: “From the moment we were asked by the Long family to join them at worship, to the very first handshake from Gerry Sanderson at the door, we have felt a strong connection to Jesus and to the people of First Lutheran Church. We hope as we live out each day we can pass that connection on to others.”

## March for Babies

The Longeville Family is honored to have been named the March of Dimes, March for Babies Ambassador family for DeKalb County. We will be doing interviews, personal appearances and spreading the word about the March for Babies cause. Of course we will also be leading off the March for Babies walk at Hopkins Park on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

We would like to invite our church family to join us that day. There is no charge for the walk and we guarantee fun, food, and an emotionally fulfilling day. You can sign up on our web site noted below or just let John or Lou know you want to walk and we will take care of your registration.

Again this year we will be hosting the Social Hour after worship on April 11 to benefit the March of Dimes. All donations made during the Coffee Hour will go to the March of Dimes team Longeville fundraising effort. The money raised will help save premature and sick babies. Premature birth is the number one cause of newborn death and the biggest threat to babies' health today, and through 'March for Babies' the March of Dimes is funding important research to find out why premature birth happens and what can be done to prevent it.

We have joined the over 7 million compassionate people across the country who support the 'March for Babies' each year. Won't you please help us in this worthy cause? With your support, there's hope.

With Love,

The Longeville's  
John, Lou, J.C., Jaden

Our personal webpage to join our team or to make a donation is [www.marchforbabies.org/jadenL](http://www.marchforbabies.org/jadenL). You can make a donation at any time payable to the March of Dimes and give it in person to John or Lou Longeville and we will make sure you get your tax deductible receipt. OR EVEN EASIER—make your check payable to First Lutheran Church and under memo write 'March for Babies.' The March of Dimes mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

### Troop 33 Pancake Breakfast



Our Boy Scout Troop 33 will hold their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 8 from 7:00 to 10:30 AM in the Social Hall. The menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, and juice. Tickets are available from any scout and may also be purchased at the door.

Proceeds will help pay for Scouting activities this summer. Please come to the breakfast and support the boys.



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Kristin Young                                    | 11. Kari Burrignt<br>Debra Prellwitz<br>Meghan Riel  | Bonnie Hudson<br>Jace Kitchen                                     |
| 3. Rylee Levine<br>Robert Morphis                   | 12. Marilyn Bazeli<br>Stephanie Corn<br>Lori Johnson<br>Patrick Looney<br>Matthew Prellwitz<br>Bradley Sanderson | 23. Don Hudson  |
| 4. George Jaros                                     | 13. Zachary Riel<br>Shannon Smith  | 24. Heather Black<br>Suzanne Grafe<br>Aimee Levine<br>Shelby Wood |
| 5. Madison Marten<br>Janice Nelson<br>Olga Waldhier | 14. Susan Kerschke<br>Sofia Talley   | 26. Alyssa Jensen<br>Bonnie Ruder                                 |
| 6. Cliff Golden                                     | 16. Mary Bradtmueller<br>Lu Lothson  | 28. Philip Hartman<br>Keith Kish<br>Eleanor Yaeger                |
| 7. Jenna Scheri<br>Ryan Scheri                      | 18. Ruth Jacobs  | 29. Liam Garvey<br>Ryne Kerschke<br>Jacob Marx<br>Wayne Russell   |
| 8. James Worrell                                    | 19. Vicki Scheel   | 30. Brett Benson<br>Scott Willey<br>Shelly Williams               |
| 10. Jennifer Sanderson                              | 22. Rory Burrignt<br>Deborah Fisher  |   |

## News from Love INC

All are invited to the Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) Annual Banquet, held on Saturday, April 10, at 6:00 PM at St. Mary's Memorial Hall, 322 Waterman Street in Sycamore. There is no set cost for the meal. Those attending are encouraged to make a financial pledge in any amount to support God's work through this wonderful and desperately needed ministry. First Lutheran partners with Love INC through our Linen Closet ministry.



**The Linen Closet** continues to receive donations of new and gently used items, many of which are brought in by people from outside of our congregation. This ministry is spreading farther and wider than any of us ever imagined! Praise God! In addition to helping clients through Love In the Name of Christ, we are also building partnerships with the DeKalb Housing Authority and Safe Passage. Here is a summary of the items that have been given out since March 1: 17 pillows; 12 comforters; 7 fleece throws; 1 bedspread; 31 blankets; 35 sheet sets; 38 single sheets (either fitted or flat); 4 mattress pads; 33 pillow cases (in addition to the sheet sets); 38 bath towels; 20 hand towels; 23 wash cloths; 20 kitchen towels; 21 dish cloths; and 3 place mats. A very special thanks to everyone who has contributed either their time and/or donations.

## First Staff

### Senior Pastor

Marilyn G. Hanson

Pastor@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

### Associate Pastor

Roy Nelson

RevRoy@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

### Administrative Assistant

#### Financial Secretary

Lynn Schmidt

Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

#### Comptroller

Matt Morfoot

Support@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

### Director of Youth Ministries

Liz Botts

liz\_botts@yahoo.com

### Cross Walk Sunday Coordinator

Stephanie Corn

Education@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

### Music Ministry Coordinator

### Cross Walk Wednesday Coordinator

#### Children's Music Director

MaryJean Nelson

Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

### Organist

Mark Mackeben

mark.mackeben@gmail.com

### Adult Choir Director

John Feken

### Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

### Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

### Custodian

Bill Colvin

### Security

Howard Jacobson

## Congregation Council

Paul Letheby, President  
Bob Snow, Vice-President  
Cathy Foelske, Secretary  
Bill Sanders, Treasurer

Randall Baker  
Joyce Davidson  
Barbara Henson  
Keith Kish  
Trent Lange  
Stan Lindahl  
Barbara Schrader  
Tarryn Thaden

## Ministry Team Chairpersons

### Endowment

Arlyn Strike

### Evangelism

Mary Colvin & Sue Grafe

### Finance

Dorothy Thorsen

### Faith Formation

### Personnel

Jim Womack

### Property

Keith Setchell & Jan Womack

### Social Ministry

Jack Cress & Harold Grafe

### Stewardship

John Longeville

### Worship/Music/Fine Arts

Jean Nelson, Music Coordinator

### Youth Ministry



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
324 NORTH THIRD STREET  
DEKALB IL 60115**

**Non-Profit Org  
Presort Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
DeKalb, IL  
Permit No. 43**

**Worship Schedule**

**Sunday Worship**

**9:00 AM**

**Cross Walk Sunday**

**10:20 - 11:20 AM**

**Cross Walk Wednesday**

**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Church Office Hours**

**8:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Mon. - Thurs.**

**9:00 AM - NOON - Friday**

**Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**