



The First Word

**First Lutheran Church
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February 2009

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February 25
2:00 PM
7:00 PM

An Event for the Whole Family!

Shrove Tuesday



PANCAKE SUPPER and Cake Auction!

February 24

**5:30 PM — PANCAKES &
SAUSAGE**

6:15 PM — CAKE AUCTION

Dates to Remember

Dells Quake	February 6-8
Service of Remembrance and Healing.....	February 14
Variety Show.....	February 22
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Ash Wednesday	February 25
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February 2008

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



Mark 1:9-11

It's cold and windy. Dark when I get up and dark when I come home. I'm tired of shoveling snow and slipping on ice. The thrill of Christmas is past and the bills have arrived. The winter doldrums have descended. I just want to hurry up and get to spring and Easter! Yup, going right from Christmas trees, presents, Santa and the baby Jesus, to dyed eggs, jelly beans, the bunny and the risen Christ would be so much easier (and more fun) than spending this time sloggling through these dark cold months of January and February—this 'in between' time of the church calendar called 'Epiphany.'

Sometimes I fear that because of the post-Christmas 'let-down,' we can treat Epiphany like that—as an 'in between' time of the church year that we have to go through to get from the wondrous birth of our Lord and Savior to his glorious resurrection. My concern is that, in our winter doldrums, we just might miss the wondrous things God is saying to us, those wondrous things God wants us to know, as we read and study the scriptures during this time of Epiphany.

The season of Epiphany is so much more than the time that fills the gap between Christmas and Lent. This year the 'bookends' for Epiphany, as we read through the Gospel of Mark, are the Baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration of the Lord. At both of these monumental events in the life of Jesus, 'a voice' comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus to be God's Son, the Beloved.

I was taught in seminary that when a portion of the Bible is 'bracketed' by God's voice, one should pay particular attention to what the text within the 'brackets' is saying—because the message is likely to be rather significant. And in the Gospel of Mark, the text 'between the brackets' calls all people to come and see Jesus for themselves and to follow him. Jesus extends the invitation to come and meet him, learn from him, and follow him. And Jesus instructs his followers to 'go and tell' people about him, inviting them to come and see so they can meet him for themselves, learn from him, and receive his invitation to follow.

Jesus calls us to 'fish for people' by extending the invitation to come and meet him. To invite others is to follow Jesus. Because Jesus, 'God's son, the Beloved,' wants to share the gift of salvation by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ, with EVERYONE. And he left the inviting to us—until he returns.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And

(Continued on page 3)

Congratulations to DHS senior **Hannah Brennan** who was recognized by the Illinois State Scholar program for outstanding academic achievement and for being Rotary "Student of the Month" for December.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Marie Maxwell** who passed away on December 28, to **Howard Jacobson** and his family at the death of his brother, to **Mary Colvin** and her family at the death of her aunt, and to **Diane Gomez** and her family at the death of her father. May God comfort those who mourn.

Congratulations to **Kermit and JoAnn Nordeen** on the celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary on February 20.

Congratulations to **Kristen and Tyler Tindall** on the birth of their son, Caleb Richard, born on January 12 (proud grandparents are Jim and

Service of Remembrance and Healing

Last year on February 14 tragedy struck our community with the fatal shootings at Northern Illinois University. This year we gather on that date to remember and seek healing. On February 14 at 2:30 PM

First Lutheran will host a Service of Remembrance and Healing which will include prayer, scripture, meditation, and anointing with oil for healing. At 3:06 PM (the time of the shootings one year ago) we will ring the tower bells for three minutes to remember those who were slain and those who were wounded in body and spirit by the shooting. At that same time, memorial wreaths will be placed at the site of the future memorial in front of Cole Hall at the University by President Peters. Everyone from the university and the community is invited to join us for this service.



This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. EXODUS 12:14, NRSV

Donna Peterson) and to **Greg and Stefanie Sullivan** on the birth of their son, Jackson.

Please remember to keep **Jim Womack** in your prayers as he travels to Rwanda and Tanzania this month.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Faith Anderson, Dale Benson, Barbara**

Lindus, Joyce Nelson, Millie Peterson, Wendy Stern, Emmett and Dorothy Youngren, Carl Funk (father of Cathy Foelske), Elaine Lawrence (Gerry Sanderson's sister), Christina Setchell (daughter-in-law of Ron and Jan Setchell), and Wendy Merkel (daughter of Harold and Sue Grafe).

(Continued from page 2)

there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Mark 9:2-7

In Christ,
Pastor Roy+

Thanks to all who helped with Christmas Worship!

Lessons and Carols at 4:00 PM —

- the 13 Sunday School children who portrayed characters in the nativity story: **Ryan Kothrade** and **Max Lange** – the prophets Isaiah and Micah who foretold the birth of Jesus; **Morgan Karolus** – Mary; **Tavis Parker** – Joseph; **Rachel Gray, Linnea and Audrey Kothrade** – angels; **Travis deOliveira, Evan and Cameron Taylor** – Wise Men; **Meghan Hanson, Christopher Johnson and Elliott Lange** – shepherds. Characters appeared in the chancel during selected scripture readings and gathered around the manger during the singing of Silent Night.
- **Jan Womack** for her help with costumes and to **Bridget Callahan** for sitting with the kids and cueing entrances.
- **Mark Mackeben** for serving as organist and our youth who shared their musical talents to provide additional accompaniment for some of the carols: **Liz Peregrine, Isaac Hietanen** and **Rachel Hunter-Rosene** – flute; **Allison Hunter-Rosene** – clarinet; and **Ben Nelson** and **Pastor Roy** – trombone.
- **Liz Peregrine** and **Nicole Billips** for singing during the offering.
- **Judy O'Connor** and her family – son **Ethan**, daughter **Kristin**, and grandchildren **Drew** and **Hillary** – for singing *I Wonder As I Wander*.
- **Naomi Morphis, Liz, Nicole, Judy,**

Ethan, Kristin, Drew and **Hillary** for singing the first verse of *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.

Candlelight Service at 11:00 PM —

- **Linnea Baumgart** for singing *O Holy Night*
- the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir for their special music
- **Judy Neumann** for leading the carol sing

Christmas morning at 10:00 AM —

- **Katie Mooney** for playing her flute during the offering
- all who brought bells to ring during the hymns

Our Christmas worship experiences were enriched by the sharing of your talents. Thank you!

Lenten Worship Brings Changes

The season of Lent has a different sound and feel than the other times in the church year. It is traditionally thought of as a time for personal reflection and repentance. Our Sunday morning worship will reflect the shift in mood and tone. Setting 10, which will give shape to our worship, is a simpler liturgy. The Alleluias and Hymn of Praise are put away until Easter morning. The Gospel Acclamation speaks of God's kindness and mercy. Periods of silence offer us the chance to slow our thoughts down. During Lent the postludes at the end of the service will be omitted. The absence of music after the benediction gives you permission to leave quietly, perhaps after a few moments of prayer or pondering what you have heard and experienced during worship.

Sr. High News



Super Bowl Canned Food Drive! Members are asked to bring in canned food/non-perishable items to support the Youth Group's Canned

Food Drive. All food collected will be donated to the local food pantry. Bring in your food items and place them in the box of the team you are cheering for. Boxes are located in the Atrium and results of our friendly competition will be announced at the beginning of service on Sunday, February 1.

Parents Night Out! The Sr. High Youth Group will host a Parent's Night Out on Saturday, February 14, from 5:00 - 10:00 PM as a fundraiser for the 2009 Youth Gathering. Interested parents need to sign up their children by February 10 so we can plan for dinner. A suggested donation will be \$5.00 per child per hour or \$10.00 per family per hour. The sign-up sheet may be found on the youth bulletin board outside the Social Hall.

Sledding at Russell's Woods - The Sr. High Youth Group will go sledding at Russell's Woods in Genoa on Saturday, February 21, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. If there is no snow we will go ice skating downtown instead. Please sign up by February 15. We will need a parent volunteer to help with driving.

Jr. High News

The Jr. High Youth Group will attend the NIU Men's Basketball Game on February 15 at 2:00 PM. Cost is \$3.00 per person. Sign up is required by February 10. A parent volunteer is needed to go along with us. We will

meet at First Lutheran at 1:30 and return after the game is over, probably between 3:30 and 4:00 PM.

Wisconsin Dells ... Here We Come!

The weekend of February 6-8, a group of First Lutheran youth will be headed to the Wisconsin Dells to attend the Youth Quake. This year's theme is based on Ephesians 4:4-6 and will provide our youth with an awesome experience for growing in their faith. The event will be held at the Kalahari Resort in the Dells. Attending from First will be Junior Highers **Madison Bauling, Isaac Hietanen, Ben Nelson, and Nick Aase**; accompanied by Senior High guides, **Danny Engstrom and Megan Barber**; and chaperoned by **Pastor Roy and Jean Nelson**. Please pray for this group as they travel and as they participate in all the Quake activities.

Shrove Tuesday

Come celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper hosted by the Jr. High Youth Group. A Cake Auction will follow dinner and



Shrove Tuesday activities. The Cake Auction proceeds will go to the Jr. High Youth Group. Crafts and games will be going on throughout the evening. Cost will be \$3.00 per person; children five and under are free. Tickets may be purchased at the table in the Atrium following Sunday worship. If you are interested in donating a cake for the auction, please talk to Liz Botts.

Highlights of the Congregational Meeting

The 150th Annual Congregational Meeting of First Lutheran was held on Sunday, January 25, 2009 following the 9:00 AM Worship Service. Congregation President **Tarryn Thaden** presided over the meeting that was attended by 95 voting members. The following items are highlights of the meeting:

- Approved the minutes of the January 27, 2008 Annual Meeting.
- Elected **Cathy Foelske, Paul Letheby, and Bill Sanders** to a three-year term on the Church Council; elected **John Corneille and Bob Skabo** to a three-year term on the Endowment Committee; **Dale Benson, Debra Burgin, Wenke Hansen, and Teresa Lange**, to a one-year term on the Nominating Committee; and elected **Carolyn Dienst and Tarryn Thaden** as 2009 Synod Assembly voting members.
- Elected the following members to a two-year term on our committees: Evangelism – **Julie Karolus**; Finance – **Jean Callary, Dorothy Thorsen, and Pat Smith**; Learning/Growth – **Bryan Taylor**; Property – **Don Franzene and Bob Schmidt**; Social Ministry – **David Kuhn**; Youth Ministry – **Gerry Aase and Jerilyn Faivre**.
- Reviewed the Financial Report as presented by our Treasurer, **Stan Lindahl** and our Comptroller, **Matt Morfoot**. Total offerings received for 2008 were \$502,183.16; total ministries supported were \$528,953.73 leaving a deficit of \$26,770.57.
- Heard the report of **Pastor Marilyn Hanson**. She began by stating that we have just completed another fabulous year of mission and ministry and affirmed the large number of lay volunteers who have served so faithfully. She recognized her fellow staff members and all those who had served on the Church Council during the past year. She also noted that 24% of the congregation's income in 2008 was given to support ministries beyond our church doors, an amazing witness to the congregation's passion for mission. Pastor Marilyn talked about two specific actions the council took this past year; namely, adopting a Reconciliation Ministry Process and requesting intervention from the Northern Illinois Synod to assist us in becoming a healthier congregation. She then talked about her hopes for putting together a long-range planning team to do some visioning for the next five to ten years. In closing, she thanked the congregation for the privilege of serving as pastor at First Lutheran.
- Heard the report of **Pastor Roy Nelson**. He talked about how wonderful it has been to celebrate 150 years of ministry and mission here at First. While we fondly remember our past, we look forward to a rich future filled with ministry and mission for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We don't just talk about doing ministry here, we get out there and do it! We were among the first of the churches in the community to respond with help after the shooting at NIU last 2-14, and we continue to provide support. Pastor Roy also invited everyone to check out our new website, another way we are reaching out with the Good News and inviting people to 'Come and See.' In closing, he said he is humbled and honored to be a fellow worker in God's kingdom with all of you.
- Adopted a budget of \$503,313 for 2009 plus an additional 2% of our envelope offering designated for synodical support. This brings our total synodical support to 12% of our envelope offering.

Shrove Tuesday ... A Family Event!

Join us on Shrove Tuesday, February 24, for a Pancake Supper and Cake Auction. Serving begins at 5:30 PM with the Cake Auction beginning at 6:15 PM.

Ash Wednesday, which falls this year on February 25, marks the beginning of Lent. This season of the church year is considered to be a solemn time. Lent provides an opportunity to think more honestly about how our sins separate us from God. God desires that we repent and turn away from our sins. Acknowledging our sin and asking for forgiveness helps us to turn back towards God. Jesus bears the burden of our sin on the cross. Through God's great mercy we become free to be people of God.



The original meaning of “shrove” meant to hear confessions. Since Lent was regarded as a serious time for penance (confessing), people did not have parties or eat rich foods such as butter, milk, and eggs. In order to use up those items so they would not spoil during Lent, the day before Ash Wednesday became the day to eat foods such as pancakes. This tradition has grown over time to include elaborate parties and parades and the consumption of many rich foods. Shrove Tuesday is more commonly known as Mardi Gras, which is French for “Fat Tuesday.” The Spanish name, “Carnival,” means “to take away meat.”

This event, sponsored by our Jr. High Youth Group, will be a fun time for the whole family! Money raised through the cake auction will be used to support youth activities. Come and ...

- eat pancakes and sausage
- decorate a mask
- help decorate an “alleluia” banner
- enjoy time with your church friends or get to know someone new
- bid on one of the fabulous cakes that will be auctioned
- bid to pie the Youth Director and Pastor Roy
- bring a friend or neighbor

We'll end the celebration with a noisy parade to the sanctuary for a brief time of worship and prayer. Tickets for Shrove Tuesday can be purchased from a junior higher at the table in the Atrium following worship. Cost will be \$3.00 per person; children five and under are free. If you're willing to bake a cake for the auction, please sign up at the ticket table. This year's categories will be:

- movie themes
- board games
- sports themes
- religious themes
- music themes

Chase the winter doldrums away!!
Bring the family for an evening of fun at
First Lutheran's

Variety Show

Sunday, February 22

6:00 PM

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Snacks and beverages will be served

We are still looking for someone to serve as the emcee. Some fun and entertaining acts are being planned, but there's room for more! Deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 15.

If being on stage is not your thing, there are plenty of ways you can still be involved. We need help with:

- stage crew (to set up and take down the stage)
- set-up crew (tables and chairs in the Social Hall)
- stage manager (help put the program together)
- food crew (plan/prepare refreshments)
- hospitality crew (serve refreshments, greet people as they enter)
- clean-up crew

Sign up, by February 15, at the display table in the Atrium or via the bulletin insert if you plan to attend and/or can be part of one of the work crews. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 815.758.0643.

Guest Preachers in February

First Lutheran will welcome **Jeff Mikyska**, the intern pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Sandwich, to our pulpit on Sunday, February 1. Jeff is a student at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and doing a fourth year internship at Salem. When Pastor Carol Gates left Salem to accept a new call last fall, Pastor Hanson was contacted by the seminary to serve as an off-site supervisor for Jeff. His presence at First will give Pastor Hanson a chance to hear him preach before she writes his mid-term evaluation and members of First to hear another voice in the pulpit. Come and welcome Intern Jeff on Sunday!



Guest Preachers

Jim Womack will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 22. Jim, who is a member of the Gideons International, is currently in Rwanda and distributing Bibles in that country. Before his return to the States, Jim will be traveling to Tanzania, Africa to visit **Randy and Carol Stubbs** and family. We will look forward to hearing Jim preach and to hear his stories from Africa. Jim will also be doing an Adult Forum that day for those who would like to hear more about his adventures and the work of the Gideons. The Gideons International is an interdenominational association of Christian business and professional men who are members of Protestant/evangelical churches. They have distributed Bibles in more than 180 countries around the world.

Ash Wednesday February 25


The Lenten season begins on February 25 this year. We enter this penitential season of the year with a solemn call to fasting and repentance on Ash Wednesday, which begins our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. We will offer two worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday, a service at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. There will be Holy Communion offered at both services, as well as an Imposition of Ashes. The sign of ashes on our foreheads suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending, however, is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

We will hold a soup supper each Wednesday night throughout the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday. A free-will offering will be taken for the meal. Members of the Stewardship Ministry Team will host the first soup supper. Serving will be continuous from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. We encourage families with young children to arrive at 5:30 PM as there will be activities planned for them to do together after the meal. Confirmation students will meet with their guides at 6:00 PM for small group discussion time and then worship together at 7:00 PM. Senior Highers will eat together, meet for conversation, and conclude the evening with worship as well.

A special mailing highlighting all of our planned activities and worship opportunities for Lent will be mailed in mid-February. Please plan to join us our Lenten journey this year.



First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Food Pantry Donations 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of Council and Committee Members 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education Hour 11:20 AM SS Staff Meeting 11:20 AM New Member Lunch Discussions 11:30 AM Children's Choir	2 6:00 PM GED Classes 6:30 PM Financial Peace University Class 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM DeKalb/Sycamore Bell Choir Meeting	3 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Learning/Growth Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings	4 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 12:00 NOON Tri-Congregation Meeting at FUMC 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Activities 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes	5 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	6 3:30 PM Jr. High Youth leave for Youth Quake Dells Youth Quake at the Wisconsin Dells for Jr. High Students	7
8 Sr. High Can Collection 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Baptism 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education Hour 2:00 PM Jr. Highers Return from Youth Quake	9 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers 6:00 PM GED Classes 6:30 PM Financial Peace University Class 7:00 PM Boy Scout Court of Honor	10 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council	11 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Activities 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes	12 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	13	14 1:00 PM Tri-Congregational Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Healing at Kishwaukee Hospital 2:30 PM Service of Remembrance and Healing 4:30 PM LCM Prayer Vigil 5:00 - 10:00 PM Parents Night Out
15 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education Hour 10:20 AM Stephen Ministry Forum 11:20 AM New Member Lunch Discussions 11:30 AM Children's Choir 2:00 PM Jr. High Youth to NIU Men's Basketball Game	16 6:00 PM GED Classes 6:30 PM Financial Peace University Class 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	17 8:30 AM Project Group 9:30 AM Pastor's Conference Meeting 6:00 PM Women's Night Out at Eduardo's Restaurant	18 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Activities 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes	19 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Diakonia Retreat 1:00 - 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth sledding at Russell's Woods
22 9:00 AM Worship with Reception of New Members 10:00 AM New Member Reception 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education Hour 10:20 AM Adult Forum 11:30 AM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Variety Show	23 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers 6:00 PM GED Classes 6:30 PM Financial Peace University Class 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	24 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:15 PM Cake Auction 	25 Ash Wednesday 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 2:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30 - 6:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	26 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	27	28 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast

Council Highlights for January

- Heard a brief presentation by **Denise Rode** regarding the Diakonia Program of the synod as well as the activities planned on the NIU campus for the upcoming February 14 anniversary.
- Approved the 2009 proposed budget, as amended, for presentation at the Annual Meeting.
- Affirmed the e-mail vote to hire **Bill Colvin** for the custodian/maintenance position at First Lutheran, effective January 1, 2009.

Getting to Know ...

The Evangelism Committee, in a effort to become better acquainted with members of First Lutheran, is starting a monthly biography insert. This idea was developed by our late congregation member, **Marie Maxwell**. Marie was a strong evangelist. She felt getting to know each other was one way to strengthen our church family and bring more people into the church. Marie was always the first to make a visitor feel welcome and share her story. If you have not filled out a questionnaire, please help yourself to one located in the Narthex.



Virginia (Jinny) Hall

Jinny is a retired music teacher that has been in the DeKalb area since 1938. Born in Belvidere, IL, Jinny came to the area as a child with her family. When Jinny isn't enjoying a nap, she reads, sings in our choir, and enjoys television. When asked what her faith means to her, Jinny's response is "I have two families, my immediate family and my church family. I wouldn't have reached this place in time without either and hope to continue as long as I can with both." One of Jinny's favorite songs goes "Til he returns or calls me home here in the power of Christ I stand." Next time you see Jinny be sure and say HI !!!

RISE WITH THE GUYS MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 28

8:00 - 9:30 AM

IN THE SOCIAL HALL

COME ON! GET UP!
and have breakfast with the guys!

All are welcome!

Call the Church Office with
your reservation by February 25.

Lenten Small Group Study



During the six-weeks of Lent, we are asking you to give up one hour a week and join a small group for a

study that will help you listen for God's call in your life, strengthen your faith, overcome your fear of following, manage failure, and trust God. This six-week small group study is based on, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, by John Ortberg. It will be led by Mr. Ortberg (via DVD) and facilitated by a small group leader. So, come on! Just as Peter trusted Jesus enough to step out of the boat, take a chance walking on the risky waters of faith. Small groups, which meet on various days, at different times and either at church or in people's homes, are forming now. If you are interested, please call the Church Office, sign up in the Atrium, or check the box on the Ministry Communication Card in the Sunday bulletin.

Faith and Life: A Lutheran Perspective New Member Lunch Discussions

Whether you are considering becoming a member of the



body of Christ here at First Lutheran or just curious about the Lutheran view on faith and life, please join Pastor Roy in the Social Hall on February 1 and 15 at 11:20 AM for a light lunch and group discussion to find out more about who we are and what we are all about. Childcare will be provided.

After the conclusion of the *Faith and Life* series, during the 9:00 AM worship on Sunday February 22, we will welcome into the faith community all who attended and desire to become members of the congregation. Please contact the Church Office to let us know if you are planning to attend.

Financial Peace University Offers Classes

written by David Kuhn

I am so excited and encouraged by the positive changes the Financial Peace University classes have had on the participants that I am offering two more 13-week classes beginning in February. Monday evening classes begin February 2, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, at First Lutheran and Wednesday evening classes begin February 4, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Masonic Temple on South Fourth and Fairview in DeKalb.

The first two lessons in each class is an open house to all — and FREE! It is an opportunity to see what FPU is all about at no cost but your time. And, in those two free lessons, we will cover the easy to understand baby steps for getting out of debt. The cost is \$99.51 per person or couple for a lifetime membership. You can take the course as many times as you would like over your lifetime for no additional cost.

Thrivent Build Update

On Sunday afternoon, January 18, over fifty people crowded into the small Habitat for Humanity house in Kingston. The front half of the house — an open living, dining, and kitchen area — was filled with well-wishers who participated in a short house dedication and blessing ceremony conducted by Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County. As part of the ceremony, Michael, Michelle, and Christine Venditti were given a Bible, bread and salt, and the keys to the house. They also received two beautiful quilts, one of which was made by our own **Joyce Gardner**.



The Venditti's are now settling into their home, which has two bedrooms, a full basement, and appliances including a washer and dryer. Unforeseen delays necessitated a rush to complete the house by the December 31 deadline set by Thrivent for Lutherans, so landscaping and the completion of the driveway and some of the walkway will need to wait for warmer weather. Your Thrivent Build coordinators — **Jim Johnson, Jim Luebke, and Susan Callahan** — thank everyone who helped make this project a success by contributing financially or with on-site help. Because Thrivent will be working with our local Habitat affiliate to build a second house this year, we invite you to learn more about how you can help another deserving family own an affordable home.

Stephen Ministry Adult Forum - February 15

In Acts 6, Stephen was chosen by the Apostles to provide practical, caring service for people in the early Christian community who were in need. Stephen Ministry is a Christ-centered lay ministry of trained caregivers who work with their pastors to provide care for people with various needs.

On Sunday, February 15, the Social Ministry Team will introduce the congregation to Stephen Ministry during the Adult Forum. The presenter will be a trained Stephen minister who is active in this caring work in their congregation. Please come and see, and decide whether you would like to get involved in doing caring work through Stephen Ministry at First Lutheran Church.

A Plea from the Social Ministry Team

The Social Ministry Committee is asking you to consider giving \$1.00 to Safe Passage, DeKalb County's domestic violence and sexual assault agency. Giving to Safe Passage's "Donate-a-Dollar Fundraiser" is a way to minister to those in need in our community by helping to replace funding lost in recent state and federal budget cuts. During difficult economic times, domestic violence increases and the need for Safe Passage is even greater. A donation box may be found on the glass table in the Narthex between now and February 8.

Hope Haven Needs Volunteers

The chart for Hope Haven volunteers is posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. Volunteers are asked to help provide a portion of the meal (a main dish; a vegetable or salad; or dessert and milk). First Lutheran is responsible for the second Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Carrie Engstrom** at 758-2588 or sign up today! Thank you in advance for helping with this worthwhile community project.

Congregational Resourcing Event Saturday, March 7



Congregational Resourcing Event

The Congregational Resourcing Event of the Northern Illinois Synod will be held on Saturday, March 7 at Kishwaukee College, beginning with registration at 8:30 AM. The theme this year is – “Word of God. Word of Life.” Dr. Matthew Marohl, Associate Professor of Religion at Augustana College and a member of the ELCA Committee on the “Book of Faith” Initiative will be the keynote speaker.

The Resourcing Event is one of the synod’s finest yearly events. Church Council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, and leaders – just

about everyone in the congregation – can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. Worship, speakers, workshops, displays, and lunch are all part of the day’s activities. The synod registration deadline is March 1 and the cost is \$17.00 per person (which includes lunch). The church will cover the registration cost for all those serving on the council or on one of our committees. Registration forms may be picked up in the Church Office and should be returned no later than February 24. We will then submit all the forms together. For further information on workshops, schedule, directions, or to register go to www.nisynod.org/cre/index.html

Diakonia Retreat

The 2009 Diakonia Retreat will be held at First Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 21, beginning with registration at 8:30 AM. The program, The Book of Faith Initiative, will be presented by Anna Marsh, Administrative Assistant for the Book of Faith Initiative. The day ends at 4:00 PM with a closing service and Eucharist.

The \$15.00 registration fee includes program, materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and beverages. To register, mail or e-mail your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and congregation to **Denise Rode**, NIS Diakonia Chairperson, 2800 Country Club Lane, DeKalb or drode@niu.edu

Reservations are due by February 13. Contact **Denise Rode** with any questions.

**As we turn the calendar
to February ...
make "Prelude"
part of your week!**

Women's
BIBLE
STUDY



Women, come join us for a Bible study on the second and fourth **T h u r s d a y** mornings of each month. This Bible study, led by Pastor Marilyn and geared especially for women, will meet in February on the 12th and 26th, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Our February topics will focus on the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad (on Leading Change) and Lydia's story (on Pioneering Leadership). The Bible study is held upstairs in Classroom A, coffee and goodies are always served, and newcomers are always welcome. Check us out!

Women's Night Out!

'Women's Night Out' will meet next on Tuesday, February 17, at 6:00 PM at Eduardo's Restaurant in downtown DeKalb. These dinners are based on the simple concept that we just want to get together for fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Women of all ages are invited.

Ten women enjoyed January's 'Night Out' at O'Leary's. Please plan to join us in February at Eduardo's Restaurant; call the Church Office by noon on the 17th if you plan to attend.

**Book Discussion
Group Meets in March**



The Book Discussion Group will meet next on Monday, March 2, at 12:00 NOON in the Community Room. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee will be discussed.

To Kill a Mockingbird is a masterpiece of American literature, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1961. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, it takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. **Barbara Henson**, retired Sycamore High School literature teacher, will lead us in the discussion!

All those attending are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion of this great book!

**Sunday School
Service Project on
February 15!**

Please Note: YES, there is Sunday School on February 15. All classes will be working on Easter decorations for the residents at DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center. Further information will be coming home with your children.



In the January issue of The First Word, some biographical information of Pastor Erland Carlsson was shared. He officiated at the founding of our own church in 1858:

Did You Know ...

... that having lost his church in the great Chicago fire (1871), Pastor Carlsson set out to collect funds for a new structure by appealing in person to Lutheran congregations all the way to New York City? He later returned to Sweden (for the first time) to continue this mission. The King was so impressed by his manner that he tried to keep him there!

... that while the first worship service in his rebuilt sanctuary was held on Christmas Day, 1872, he resigned in 1875 after 22 years there? He accepted a call to the Andover Swedish Lutheran Church, where he spent the next 12 years. It is in the same community in western Illinois as the Jenny Lind Chapel, the mother church of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

... that between 1854 and 1875, Pastor Carlsson organized 10 congregations in three states: Indiana, Minnesota, and Illinois? The last church is in Cambridge, Illinois, southeast of Rock Island and close to Bishop Hill.

... that he was also president of the Augustana Synod from 1881-1888? He also chaired the committee to found what became known as the Augustana Hospital in Chicago — now merged with Lutheran General.

... that he served on the boards of two colleges: Bethany (Kansas) and Augustana? He was also the first

president of the Illinois Conference of the Synod. He earned many honors and served in many other capacities. Today his statue stands on the campus of Augustana College.

... that when Pastor Carlsson died at age 71 in October 1893, seventy-five carriages brought mourners back to his former Chicago church for the memorial service? Three thousand people gathered inside and out for the bi-lingual service and tributes celebrated by the leaders of the Augustana Synod. Darkness had fallen when the long funeral cortege reached Graceland Cemetery where he is buried, the final committal service read in his native Swedish.

written by **Corinne Johnson**

Sources:

Augustana Heritage Newsletter, Fall 2005, Spring 2006

The Augustana Story, Erling and Granquist, 2008

Newsletter Deadline

Just a reminder, the deadline to submit articles and information for The First Word is on the 20th of each and every month. Articles should be brief and may be edited.

Newsletter articles for the March issue should be in to the Church Office by Friday, February 20. Articles may be e-mailed to: Office@FirstLutheran DeKalb.org or dropped off in the Church Office. Thank you.





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|---|---|--|
| 1. Joyce Klein
Nolan Lindahl
Evan Skinner | 7. Samantha Hammond
Jeanna Hunter
Jackie Winfield | 18. Vera Bergren
Ralph Chaplin
Robert Johnson |
| 2. Debbie Benson
Mary K. Brennan | 8. Mary Jean Bauling | 19. Chad Looney |
| 3. Jean Campbell-Peterson
Scot Hallgren
Richard Hansen
Elizabeth Peregrine | 10. Jesse Cole | 20. Margaret Dierking
Andrea Holder
Paige Partridge |
| 4. Allison Peterson
Otta Ritzman
Donald Sibigroth | 11. Trent Lange
Paul Yamber | 21. Melinda Henson
Tyler Peterson
Lou Scheri
Mary Stach |
| 5. Nicole Billips
Debra Quinn | 12. Paula Bryner
Laina Scheri | 23. Amy Feyerherm
Steve Hardenbergh
Dylan Votaw |
| 6. Joyce Gardner
Quinn Peterson
Sharon Retrum
Abigael Riel | 13. Blair Hallgren
Lois Johnson
Kayla Kittleson | 25. Carla Hardenbergh |
| | 14. Karl Faivre
Emma Moore | 26. Dee Anderson
Christopher Hartman
Judith Thorson |
| | 15. Zachary Aase
Kevin Faivre
Adam Karolus
Elliot Lange
Lisa Primrose
Daryl Rolland
Bob Schmidt | 27. Roberta Burke
Jeanette Gommel |
| | 16. Rick Campbell-Peterson
Mary Colvin | 28. Sean O'Connor
Takoda Peifer
Jill Sanderson |
| | 17. Berla Buhk
Tiffany Burdick
Christine Jouris | 29. Ryen Probasco |

Comptroller Report for December 2008

	December Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	December Budget
Income	\$98,637.76	\$502,183.16	
Expenses	\$73,444.58	\$528,953.73	\$47,182.63
Ahead/(Behind)	\$25,193.18	(-\$26,770.57)	

Attendance Figures for December 2008

	9:00 Sunday
December 7	181
December 14	237
December 21	237
December 28	191

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

Music Ministry Coordinator

Children's Choir Director

MaryJean Nelson
Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Liz Botts
liz_botts@yahoo.com

Adult Choir Director

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

Custodian

Bill Colvin

Security

Howard Jacobson

Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church ...

*Hearing, Living, and
Sharing God's Word
Together*

2009 Congregation Council

Cathy Foelske

Barbara Henson

Stan Lindahl

Kayla Kittleson

Trent Lange

Paul Letheby

John Longeville

Caroline Peregrine

Bill Sanders

Karen Schramer

Bob Snow

Tarryn Thaden

Ministry Teams at First

Endowment Committee

Evangelism Committee

Finance Committee

Learning/Growth Committee

Personnel Committee

Property Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Stewardship Committee

Worship/Music/Fine Arts Committee

Youth Ministry Committee