

FIRST NEWS

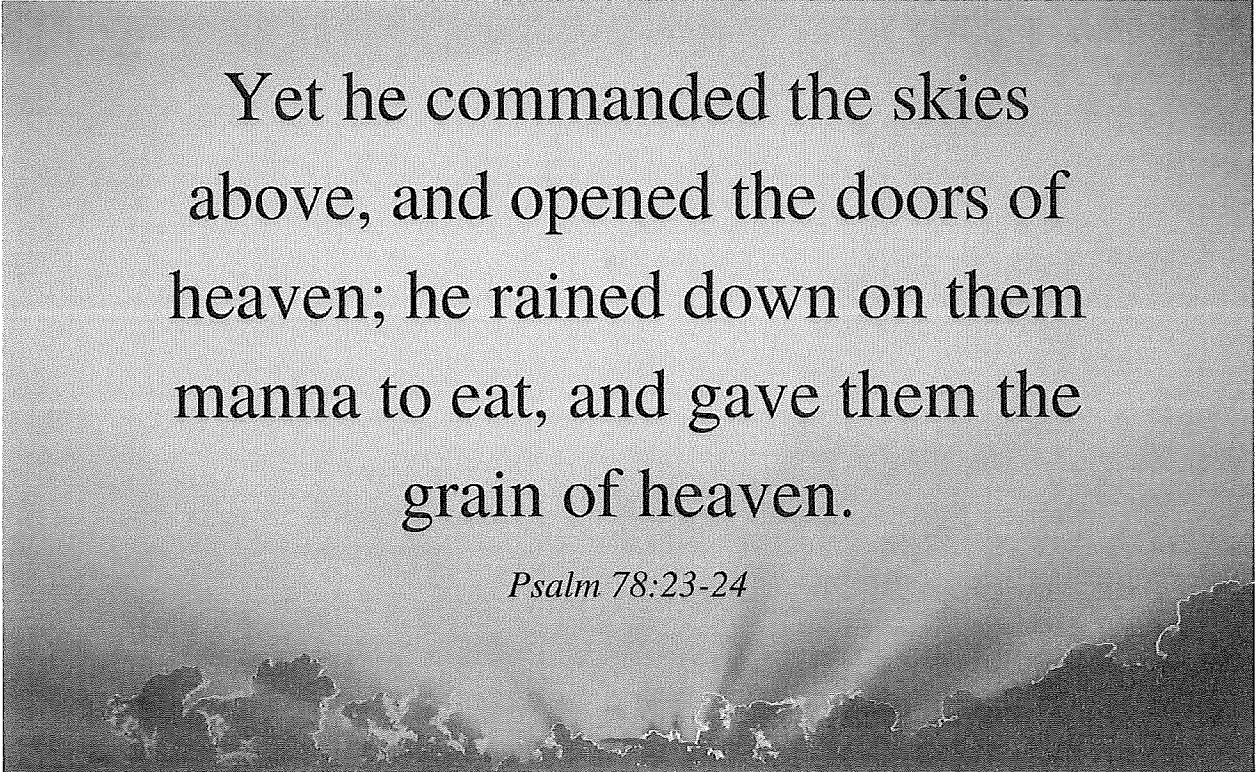
First Lutheran Church
Freeport, IL 61032

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

Volume 51 #8

August 2024

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread that comes from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.



Yet he commanded the skies
above, and opened the doors of
heaven; he rained down on them
manna to eat, and gave them the
grain of heaven.

Psalm 78:23-24

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



A NOTE FROM PARSON BARB

Thank you for the warm welcome and especially for the brunch after my first service. It is always true that the best cooks turn up in church kitchens and First Lutheran is no exception. Apart from a stubborn microphone, the transition has been off to a fine start and again my thanks go out for your patience.

We already have a lot going on. The first week was an installation fest as your council president installed me as your interim minister. Then, in a similar fashion, I had the honor of installing our Call Committee. Vacation Bible School brought 19 kiddos to our doors, praise God. I believe they thought the best part was the game time, especially with the opportunity to throw water balloons and get sprayed by the sprinkler. There was also some sprinkling of sorts as I had a chance to visit with them on baptism, the storms of life, and how we can serve one another. But my most favorite moment was during one of the baptism discussions where one of our children dipped their finger in the font, put the sign of the cross on my forehead, and reminded me that I too am a child of God.

We do not know how long our time together will be, but I know that God has great plans for this place we call First Lutheran. I take the words of our installation prayers to heart – “Bless us with courage and kindness, patience and tenacity, good humor and great hope, so together we are able to do immeasurably more than we could have asked for or imagined on our own.” I will work hard to follow those instructions as we travel together along this journey.

Blessings,
Parson Barb



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 cannot 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 watch it on the website, scroll to the bottom of the home page and choose the service you want to view.

Sunday Bible Study –You are invited to join us for a casual, comfortable, informative bible study every Sunday in the Martin Luther Room at 10:30 a.m. Grab a cup of coffee and a donut and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Usher / Greeters Needed – Usher / Greeters are needed for August. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex on the Usher stand. Please consider giving a little time to help us at worship with this crucial but simple task. Thank you.

Celebration Choir – The choir will begin rehearsing on September 5th. If you are interested in knowing more about joining the choir please contact Teresa Parkinson.

Sunday School – In September the children will begin gathering for Sunday School following worship. The teachers have asked for some mentors to help with the classrooms occasionally for special projects. This is a great way for you to be more involved with our program but not have a weekly commitment. If you would be interested please contact the church office or Jennifer Slater. Thank you.

Save The Date – Rally Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 8th beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Read Park. More details to come.

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS



Members and Friends who need extra prayers – Jesse Baldwin, Connie Bartels, Donna & Marvin Beyer, Sarah Lower Borstad, Lori Brobst, Tina Chamberlin, Kristen Davis, Lauren Diehl, Laith Dougherty, Mary Lee Gerbode, Ryan Griffith, Sally Hall, Gail & Marv Harris, Sharon Janicke, Theresa Kavran, Jane Klemm, Norma Klentz, JoAnn Kohn, Bob Last, Lane Last, Joann LeBaron, Dee Linder, Terry Love, Beth Luke, Kevin Madsen, Kay Mammoser, Raymond Marschang, Reuben Pearson, Margarite Potthoff, Marilyn Rice, Debbie Rousch & family, Phyllis Seffrood, Sue Sellen, Mary Smith, Wayne Smith, Jerry Stalcup, 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, and Betty Tormohlen.

Members and Friends serving in the Military - Seth Heilman, Tyler Kennan, Aiden Kerr, Jonathan Kerr, Owen McVicker, Jeff Meiborg, Kaydin Rabey, Madison Scafe, and Derrik Triem.



ACTIVITIES

Luther N Brew – Do you enjoy pizza and conversation? Then today is your lucky day. Join the men of First Lutheran on the first Tuesday of every month at Cannova's Italian Cuisine, 1101 W. Empire St., Freeport. The men will meet in August on Tuesday, August 6th at 6:30 p.m. No reservations are needed.

Saturday Morning Bible Study – Every Saturday morning at 7:30 a group from First Lutheran gathers at Amigo's restaurant, 306 N. Galena Ave. for breakfast and bible study. The group studies the lessons from the upcoming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join. For questions please contact Bob Neuendorf.

Knitting Group – Are you a knitting and or crochet person? If the answer is yes, bring your project and join the ladies from First Lutheran for a morning of knitting/crocheting at the "Wall of Yarn" at 14 W. Stephenson St., Freeport. The group meets at 10:00 on the first and third Saturday of each month. For August they will meet on the 3rd and 17th. We hope you will join us. If you have any questions please contact Jan Butterfield or Bev Herring. The group has patterns and yarn available for making prayer squares and shawls. Your help with these projects would be appreciated.

Project Day – The project group needs some more volunteers. This is a fun and easy way to make some new friends, and be productive while gathering with others. This group meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10:00 – 3:00 in the Martin Luther Room. You can come for the whole day or just a few hours. Sewing skills are not needed. We spend our time putting together and tying quilts for donation. If you will be with us over the lunch hour please bring your lunch. Currently, the group is collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Items needed include 70-count spiral notebooks, scissors, 24-pack crayons, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, and erasers. We are also in need of large pieces of material or bedsheets to use for quilt backs. All donations may be left in the WELCA box next to the mailboxes. For August the group will meet on the 8th and 22nd. Please contact Jan Butterfield with any questions.

Bunko- The third Thursday of every month is Bunko Day. The women of the church meet at 1:00 p.m. for an afternoon of fun, conversation, and treats. Bring yourself and your friends and join us, everyone is welcome. No Bunko experience is needed. We will be happy to teach you and it is easy to learn. August, Bunko Day is August 15th.



WELCA

Circle – Mary & Rebecca circles will resume again in September. Watch for details in the next issue of First News.

LADIES LUNCH

Friday, August 2

11:30 a.m.

Cedar Inn

Cedarville, IL

Rides are available

Sign up on Melissa’s door if you plan to attend

Contact Judy Castle for more information or questions



Northwest Conference WELCA 2024 Afternoon Fall Gathering – This will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 8393 S Derinda Road, Elizabeth, IL. Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. Program: Pleasant Hope Music (Mai Family) (Gospel, Bluegrass, Country). Refreshments and fellowship after the program. Registration forms are on the WELCA bulletin board by the ladies' restroom. The cost is \$10. Carpool available. For questions contact Judy Castle at 815-291-1928.

NIS Women's Convention – This will take place on September 21, 2024, at Zion Lutheran Church, Kewanee, IL. Registration forms and information are on the WELCA bulletin board.

THANK YOU

Many times I tell people "Have a blessed day". I would like to thank the following people for helping me to have many blessed days last week. VBS could not have happened without the following people's help. Thank you, Judy, Jan, Nick, Barb, Jen, Kelsey, Esther, June, Parson Barb, Beth, Donna, Becca, Pastor Callie, and Sylvia Bomgarden. Without your help, VBS would not have been possible. – Lorie Arendt



June Attendance		
Date	Sunday	Facebook
June 2	76	107
June 9	63	76
June 16	56	48
June 23	69	44
June 30	57	74
Total	321	349

June Financials		
	Current Month	Year to Date
Total Income	\$26,961.45	\$127,295.09
Total Expenses	\$17,286.34	\$101,597.31
Income Less Expenses	\$9,675.11	\$25,697.78

Worship Volunteers				
Date	Altar Guild	Usher	Reader	Assisting Minister
August 4	Bev & Duke Herrling	Gail Diehl	Darius Simler	Judy Kaufman
August 11	Dena & Roger Kampmier	Roger & Dena Kampmier	Brad Heilman	Gail Diehl
August 18	June Brandt & Esther Eden	Volunteer Needed	Brad Heilman	Dena Kampmier
August 25	Rochelle & Brad Heilman	Volunteer Needed	Brad Heilman	Jeff Cowman

FACC –For July we were asked to collect soup of all kinds, as of July 14th we have collected 94 cans. We still have one more Sunday. Search your cupboards or add a can or two to your grocery order. Let's see how many cans we can add to our total. The less fortunate in our area thank you. For August we have been assigned to collect canned vegetables of any kind. Let's set a goal of 150 cans. If we each bring in two cans we will meet that goal and more. Thank you in advance for your participation. Your generosity is appreciated.

Suggestion Box – The council of First Lutheran Church is asking for suggestions on what you would like to see and have in our future pastor. All suggestions are confidential and will be forwarded to the Call Committee. 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. Thank you for your participation.

The deadline for the September issue of First News is Tuesday, August 20th.

Accompanist Needed – First Lutheran needs a piano accompanist for church services and/or the adult choir. There are fliers on the table in the Galena St. entryway. Please feel free to take some and share. Your help in getting the word out is appreciated. Please contact Teresa Parkinson with interest or questions.

Church Women United of the Freeport Area is inviting our Sisters of Faith (men too!) to celebrate our Human Rights Day of Recognition on Friday, August 2, 2024. The afternoon will start with a potluck at noon, followed by the program at 1:00. For the potluck, please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. This event takes place at Krape Park in the shelter house atop Flagstaff Hill. If one cannot make it for the potluck, one is still welcome to attend the program. Our speaker for the program is Nick Gliha, representing Church World Service, who will tell us about the programs offered through this mission, including the CROP Walk! CWS offers support locally, nationally, and globally.

Parson Barb's office hours are:

Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
She is available on other days by appointment only.

You can reach her at:

Church office (815)235-9790

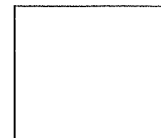
Cell Phone (708)937-3546

Email at pastoroffirst@gmail.com

Pastor Milton L. Whitney † 1925 – 2024

May God grant peace to his memory
comfort to his family and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to His glory.

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August Birthday's					
8/3	Susan Fago Tim Lovell	8/12	Roger Kampmier Betsey Lashley Tom Parkinson	8/24	Martha Love Ryan Murray Steven Olson
8/5	John Moore			8/26	
8/6	Lauren Diehl Kathy Murray	8/14	Ross Simler	8/27	JoEllen Kunkle Barbara Reichert Allison Lomison
		8/15	Charles Janicke		
8/7	Theresa Meier DuWayne Pople	8/20	Lianne Dunham Jayda Griffin Karina Korosec Nancy Olson	8/28	Kelsey Bollon Donna Dwyer Carl Kunkle Edward Long
8/9	Mike O'Grady				
8/10	Joan Schulz				
8/11	Sarah Brose Paige Hoffman Dawn Pontius	8/21	Lucas Lane Gene Wall		
		8/22	Greg Dunham		
		8/23	Barbara Hickey Harlow Pues		
August Anniversary's					
8/6	Marvin & Gail Harris	8/22	Charles & Sharon Janicke		
8/8	Daniel & Stacey Moore	8/29	Bill & Judy Brady Duke & Bev Herrling		
8/10	Roger & Carole Hurlbut Don & Sandie Tresemer				

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 11:30 Lunch @ Cedar Inn 6:30 NA	3 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
4 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	5 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 12:00 NA 6:30 Luther N Brew	7 6:30 NA	8 10:00 Project Day	9 6:30 NA	10 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
11 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	12 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 12:00 NA	14 6:00 Council Meeting 6:30 NA	15 1:00 Bunko 1:00 WELCA NW Conference	16 6:30 NA	17 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitting 12:00 NA
18 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour Blessing of Backpacks	19 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 12:00 NA Newsletter Info Due!	21 6:30 NA	22 Project Day	23 6:30 NA	24 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA
25 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Coffee Hour	26 7:00 Boy Scouts First News Sent	27 12:00 NA	28 6:30 NA	29	30 6:30 NA	31 7:30 Bible Study 12:00 NA