



# Crosswalk

Newsletter of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho



**August** is that intersection of seasons - summer beginning to give way to fall, vacations drawing to a close, and school events showing up on calendars. August hints at a new rhythm of life just ahead; despite the “dog days” that make us pant from the scorching heat, we begin to notice the shorter days and cooler evening temps. This intersection of seasons foreshadows life’s transitions that come with each season.

For me, the intersection and transition of August is a reminder of how God moves with us through every season of life. In Galatians 5, Paul writes, “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” These words remind us that faith is not just a static belief we hold but a daily walk. Our faith is a dynamic relationship with the living God who “sets the stars in their courses” and “sends the rain in due season.” With

God’s Holy Spirit in our life, we can navigate life’s intersections and manage life’s transitions with hope and confidence, rather than with fear and despair.

As the school year approaches, as ministries gear up for a busy fall, and as the world continues to challenge our faith and hope, we are invited to walk in step with the Spirit. Fearing transitions can close us off from God’s Spirit. But Faith confidently invites God’s Spirit to be part and parcel to the intersecting seasons of our life. This invitation to walk with God’s Spirit transitions desolate intersections into fruit-bearing hubs in our lives. And what a farmer’s fruit stand it is, with the Spirit bearing the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!

What might it look like to walk in the Spirit this August? Perhaps it’s spending a few extra minutes in prayer each morning, asking God to guide your day. Perhaps it’s reaching out to a neighbor who is lonely or in need. Perhaps it’s volunteering with a ministry in our community or helping prepare FELC for fall programs focused on bolstering the proclamation of the gospel through worship, song, study, or service.

Even small steps, when guided by the Spirit, can lead to big changes - not only in our lives but also in the lives of those around us. Every time we head into transitions with the faith and focus of keeping “in step with God’s Spirit” it can lead to producing large fruits - not only for our lives but also for the lives of those around us. As your pastor, I invite you to reflect on how God is calling you in this season. Let’s enter the coming months with open hearts, ready to be led by the Spirit and to share the love of Christ with all we meet.

In Christ,

Pastor Mike





## Missions

# Penny Power

It's almost that time of year when FISH seeks volunteers to help with school backpacks.

**FISH** volunteers pack and deliver backpacks to schools in District 91 and District 93.

We also help through **Penny Power** to purchase items for these backpacks.

This year penny power raised **\$439!** Nice job!

That's a great help for buying supplies!

Each backpack is filled with items requested by the teachers to help students succeed in the classroom.

The backpacks, after they are filled, are delivered to the requesting schools to be given to the student before the start of the school year.

The backpack program is ongoing throughout the year.

If **you** would like to help pack or deliver please contact the church office!



**Penny Power** for August will go to Meals on Wheels.

This organization delivers approximately 220 hot meals daily during the week and cold meals for the weekend to home-bound seniors and disabled adults in Bonneville County.

(FYI: Right now they are looking for cooks and drivers - both paid positions.)

**July 4th** at First Lutheran is a time to welcome those who park in our parking lot or sit on our church lawn or even across the street to view the amazing fireworks.

We gave out over **140** bags of popcorn, water and glow bracelets!

A number of people said they come back to our location every year.

The church is open to anyone who needs to use the restrooms.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and security individuals who made this event at our church so successful!





## Missions



We are beyond grateful for your dedication to and support of



**Camp Magical Moments**

Cancer Camp for Kids, Inc.



Thank  
you!



Dear First Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your generous financial donation and providing a delicious meal for us. Because of your support, we're able to enjoy so many amazing activities at camp - like the ropes course, swimming, rock climbing, paintballing, archery, and so much more. These experiences create unforgettable memories, build confidence and bring so much joy to all of us. We're truly grateful for your kindness and belief in what we do!  
Love, Your Friends at CMM



## Announcements



**Pictured Above: Our FELC softball team praying prior to their last softball game of the season.**

### **Scrapbooking and Craft Day Returns!**

Gather up your scrapbooking or craft supplies for summertime all-day craft binges in the fellowship hall. We will meet from 9 AM to 8 PM on the third Saturday of August.

The last date is

**August 16.**

Come when you feel like it.

Stay as long as you want.

Bring whatever craft appeals to you.

Bring a sack lunch and a snack to share.

For dinner, we have a husband of one lady who likes to cook for us.

This will be a great time for fellowship and for exercising our creativity uninterrupted - with lots of elbow room and table space.

Your friends are also welcome!

For questions, contact Marda Kirkwood at [Marda@q.com](mailto:Marda@q.com).



### **ATTENTION MINISTRY TEAMS... IT'S BUDGET TIME!**

Council has set the annual fall congregational meeting for Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Finance team needs to have a proposed 2026 FELC budget to council by **September 15th**.

This means

*all FELC ministry teams need to have their proposed budget requests for 2026 submitted in writing to the Finance team by Sunday, **August 10th**.*

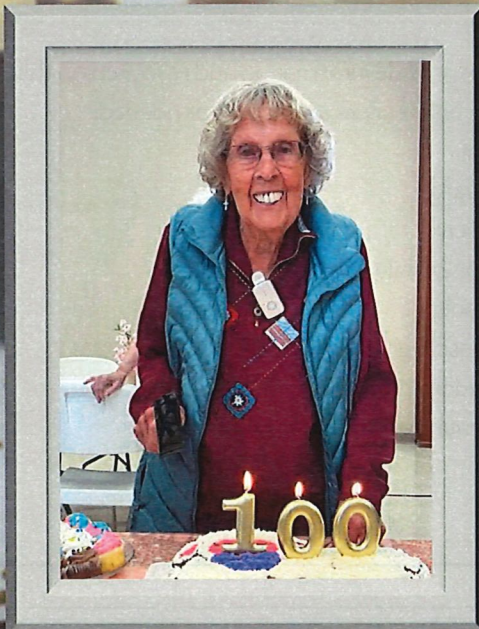
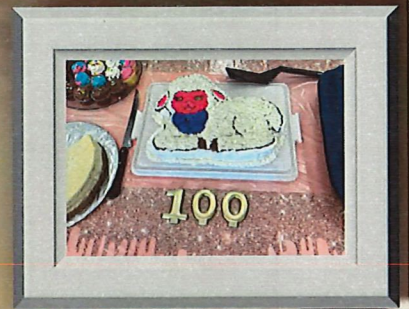
### **HEALTHY CHURCHES DON'T JUST HAPPEN**

In the past few years FELC has enjoyed a growing Sunday School, youth group program, worship attendance, and ministry budget. If you're aware of the spiritual landscape of our nation, these blessings aren't the norm for most congregations. The number one reason for all this is God's blessings. God's Spirit is moving in our community and amongst our members to make FELC a "light on a hill" that draws people into God's amazing grace and liberating truth. The second reason FELC enjoys these blessings is our members, and especially our leaders, who are dedicated to being good stewards of God's gifts. Our leaders know that "to whom much is given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48) and intentionally work together to create a leadership atmosphere of joyful devotion, earnest prayer, and servant leadership. FELC is currently looking for four members who would be willing to steward FELC's blessings and nurture this Christian leadership style for a three-year term (November 2025 - November 2028). If interested, please contact our nominating chair, Chris Brooks.



## Happy Stitchers

**The Happy Stitchers helped Betty Neal celebrate her milestone 100th birthday on July 8th. She passed away on July 25th, 2025. Betty was a long-time member of FELC and will be missed!**



### The Happy Stitchers make quilts, sure!

We have also been donating “critter quilts,” dog beds, and cat beds to the Snake River Animal Shelter.

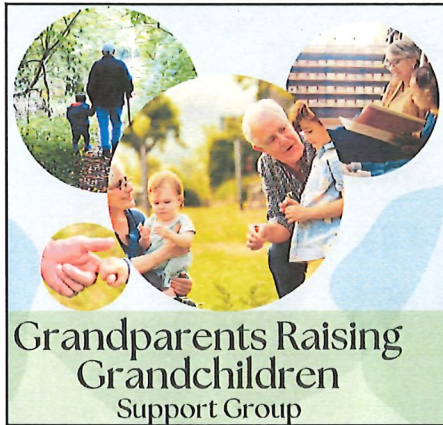
We don't want to waste any of the resources that are donated to us, so we use fabric scraps that are too small for other projects, other fabric tidbits and batting scraps for stuffing, fleece scraps that are not big enough to use in pieced quilt backings, and specially-donated dog- or cat-themed fleece.

We can show God's love to animals and provide them some comfort while they are under the Shelter's care.





## Stephen Ministry



**Connect with other Grandparents and receive support!**

**Support Group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm.**

**Located: Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership**

**935 E. Lincoln Rd. Idaho Falls, ID 83401**

**For questions or to sign up please contact the group facilitator 208-522-5370 ext. 203.**

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Program was started to educate, support and encourage grandparents raising their grandchildren and other relative caregivers of minor children in our service area.



We can provide information and resources in the below areas and others as needed:

- Legal
- Financial
- Medical
- Respite/Child Care
- Schooling
- Counseling
- Emotional issues
- Parenting and advocacy skills

For More Information visit:  
[www.eastidahoaging.com](http://www.eastidahoaging.com)

### STEPHEN MINISTRY at FELC is 20 years old.

Did you know FELC has had an active Stephen Ministry program for the past twenty years? People often ask, "What exactly is Stephen Ministry?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the "AFTER PEOPLE." Stephen Ministers are there:

- ♦ *after the phone call you hoped you'd never get*
- ♦ *after the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life*
- ♦ *after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you*
- ♦ *after the gavel does down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away*
- ♦ *after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck*
- ♦ *after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do"*
- ♦ *After your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.*

Stephen Ministers are the "after people," ready to come alongside you, or your friend, or relative and provide comfort and support for as long *after* is needed. For more information on FELC's Stephen Ministry program contact our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Annick Dixon or Pastor Mike.



## Worship & Music



### PRAISE BAND SEEKING RHYTHM INSTRUMENTALISTS!

Our **praise band** continues to improve and expand; last year we added a guitarist, vocalist and violinist.

We're so glad God directed those talented people our way!

Unfortunately, we are still lacking instrumentalists that

**"keep the beat,"** such as a drummer or bass guitarist.

If you have such talents that you'd like to share

(don't worry if those talents are rusty, we'll

help knock off the rust in a graceful way),

contact our Praise Band Director, Steve Galbraith

or Music Director, Michelle Hanson.



### Have you ever thought about how cool it would be to be a handbell ringer?

Okay, probably not. But if you have wondered if you might like it, here's your chance to try in a non-threatening environment.

(Non-threatening as in we don't plan to play during worship.)

We're offering a **FREE HANDBELL CLASS** to teach the basics of handbell ringing to anyone who's interested during the next couple of months. Although the class has started you are welcome to come join us on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. You can just show up, but it would be nice if we knew you were coming...Our hope is that we can find and develop some ringers to eventually join the

**For His Glory** ringers. The more ringers we have, the more interesting and fulfilling music we can play. If you are interested, please contact either Paul Bayless or Michelle Hanson.



**There are a number of concerns/excuses that people offer for not even trying to play. Two of the most common are addressed below.**

**I can't read music.** While being able to read music is helpful, it is not a requirement, and we can work through that. I know at least one person who has successfully auditioned for a competitive bell choir who couldn't read music.

**I'd be afraid to make a mistake in front of all those people.** It happens to all of us; I don't think we have ever played a piece perfectly, and the reality is that very few people in the congregation recognize that. And the intent here is not to play during worship, but to see if we have some people who might be interested in continuing to learn. Also, we don't set choirs or their individual members up for failure – that's not praising God





## Sunday School



### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE!

#### **We have a good problem!**

We have more students; *that's a good thing!*  
*The problem is, now we need more volunteers!*  
Last year our elementary age Sunday School class would often have 12 or more students from age 6 to sixth grade.

Because of this growth and challenging range of ages, this fall we hope to divide the elementary age Sunday School into two groups:

Early Elementary (K-2nd) and Upper Elementary (3rd-6th).

We plan on having three teaching teams for each age group. These teams could rotate their responsibilities so no team has to teach more than twice a month. FELC insists on teams (2-deep leadership), not just because it's good for the classroom environment and eases the burden for teachers, but it also provides a safeguard for both our staff and students. That means we need a minimum of 12 volunteers (6 teams of 2) for our fall Sunday School Staff. The good news is we already have commitments from 9 individuals. It's not even September and we're only three people short of a full staff. Is God nudging you to "let the children come to him" through helping with Sunday School? If so, contact either our Christian Education Chairperson, Kim Dean, or our Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Bateman.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

With the continued growth of our Sunday School we want to express our thanks to the following members who've agreed to serve on our Sunday School Staff as part of the teams for our Early Elementary School classes this fall:

**Karen Bateman, Carole Mason, Stacey Wilson, Cara Dahlberg & Barbara Valentine.**

We also wish to thank the following members who've agreed to serve as one of the two teams for our Upper Elementary Sunday classes this fall:

**Debbie Knauff & Linda Lerum and Matt & Amanda Sullivan.**

We wouldn't be able to expand this important ministry without your time and efforts!

Just as a reminder, at FELC we're committed to "**2-deep leadership**" which safeguards both our staff and students. We're still looking for one or more volunteers for our Upper Elementary Sunday School Staff.

If you're able to volunteer as a lead teacher, assistant, or substitute contact either our Christian Education Chairperson, Kim Dean or our Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Bateman.



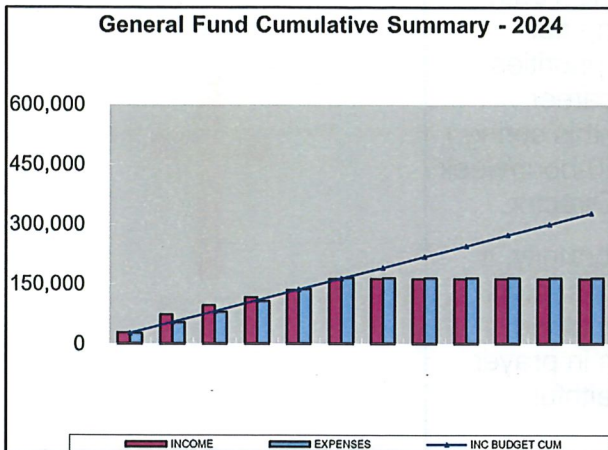
### SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF ORIENTATION

An **orientation/training session** has been set for our Sunday School staff on **Sunday, August 24th**, following the worship service.

Staff will receive the fall schedule, be encouraged to "crunch calendars" with their fellow teams to set their teaching dates, get their roster of students, as well as be introduced to FELC's fall curriculum, teaching resources, and safety protocols.

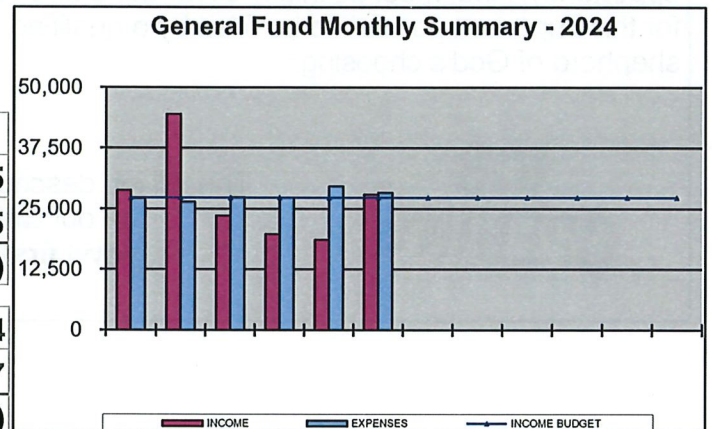


## Finance



<b>Budget Comparison 2025:</b>		
Year to Date Actual Income		<b>163,052.94</b>
Year to Date Budget Income		<b>163,500.00</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(447.06)</b>

Year to Date Actual Expenses		<b>165,342.37</b>
Year to Date Budget Expenses		<b>185,784.46</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(20,442.09)</b>



<b>Current Month:</b>	<b>June</b>	
<b>Current Month Income</b>		<b>27,945.65</b>
<b>Current Month Expenses</b>		<b>28,301.25</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(355.60)</b>

<b>Year to Date Income</b>		<b>163,052.94</b>
<b>*Year to Date Expenses</b>		<b>165,342.37</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(2,289.43)</b>

## Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS # = Gluten-free server	LITURGISTS/ READERS	GREETERS	USHERS # = Coordinator	COUNTERS	STREAMING	ALTAR GUILD
3-Aug	Natalie Meyer#, Diana Murphy, Deb Nowatzki	Liturgist: Sheryl Schaffer	Anne Mitchell Beth Nicholas	Jim Sahr# Cal Miller, Lisa Swenson	Lisa Swenson Janice McBride	Dianne Bush	Ginny Conricode Jan Galbraith
10-Aug	Diane Sheldon#, Debra Holst, Beth Nicholas	Liturgist: Steve Galbraith	Diana Murphy Lewis Murphy	Dave Sheldon# Phil Forbord, Paul Worth	Phil & Tessa Forbord	Paul Bayless	Ginny Conricode Jan Galbraith
17-Aug	Cathy Abreu#, Shawn Cleverly		Michelle Cleverly Mary Hanek	Richard Magnuson# Scott Berger, Geri Magnuson	Paul Bayless Lisa Swenson	Paul Bayless	Ginny Conricode Jan Galbraith
24-Aug	Cathi Bean#, Elaine Bengston, DiAnn Brown	Reader: DiAnn Brown	Mary Pilkington Sheryl Schaffer	Gary Holst# Tom Pilkington, Greg Stultz	Greg & Kathy Katainen	Paul Bayless	Ginny Conricode Jan Galbraith
31-Aug	Linda Lerum#, Debra Hogg, Cheryl Swenson	Reader: Debra Hogg	Diana Murphy Lewis Murphy	Ryan Dixon# Cal Miller, Tom Pilkington	Paul Bayless Lisa Swenson	Paul Lerum	Ginny Conricode Jan Galbraith



### **FULL-TIME FELC YOUTH DIRECTOR OPENING:**

Our congregation and especially our youth have been blessed these past 2 years to have Dustin Jackson serving as our Part-Time Youth Coordinator. While it was hoped he might transition into being our Full-Time Youth Director, financial commitments and family priorities make it a wiser decision to continue pursuing his plumbing career. (Congratulate him on achieving journeyman plumber status this spring.) Some of the good news is Dustin will be staying on as our 10-hour/week Youth Coordinator during our search for a Full-Time Youth Director.

So, it's time to get the word out about our important job opportunity. If you're friends with us on Facebook, please like, share/repost our job opening post. Talk to young adults or concerned parents about the opportunity. And, most definitely cover our church and youth in prayer for this important position to be filled by a qualified, caring, faithful shepherd of God's choosing.

**JOB  
OPENING**

The full job description is available  
on our website at  
[www.firstlc.com](http://www.firstlc.com)



**Pastoral Acts** officiated by  
Pastor Mike Knauff

#### **Memorials:**

7/12/2025  
Marty Huebner

7/21/2025  
John Catanese

### **REACHING OUT WITH OUR PRAYERS AND CONCERN FOR...**

#### **HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?**

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email [office@firstlc.com](mailto:office@firstlc.com). All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

#### **OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES:**

For the friends and family of long-time church member, Betty Neal who passed away on July 25th.



#### **PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:**

Donna Amundson; Betty Benjamin (Lisa Mullinix's mother); Dean & Carla Benson; Dick Carr; Jamie Castro; Dale Clements; Becky Cole; Wendy Cudmore; Joan Douglas; Bernadette Farrington (Annick Dixon's mother); Diane Hackman; Jack Heier; Patricia Hill (Martha Wentzel's mother); Beverly Hudman (Larry Hudman's mother); Ann Hurley; Jeff Hustad; Mia Jones; Bev Kemp; Hailey Kinghorn; Mary Krippner; Steven Krippner; Harlan Lerum; Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Tim Metcalf; Jay Meyer; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (Larry Hudman's sister); Heidi Neis; Josh Neis; Heidi Peoples; Priscilla Rainey; Bob Scarr; Laura Schoonmaker; Wendy Schoonmaker; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson (Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son); Marie Warwick; Daniel Young.

#### **PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:**

Craig Bukowski; Adam Craig; Keith Evans; Eric Gratzke; Alton Helm; Jack Hogan; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.



# Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
 						
					1 <u>Happy Stitches</u> <u>Stay-In Retreat</u>	2 <u>11:00 am</u> <u>Betty Neal</u> <u>Memorial</u>
3 <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>12:00pm</u> Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Shofar Meeting <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	4 <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting/Library	5 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>12:00pm</u> Happy Stitches' Bible Study <u>6:00pm</u> Abi Lerum Court of Honor - Picnic Shelter <u>6:30 pm</u> Handbell Class - Classroom #8	6	7 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>10:00am</u> Kaffeeklatsch <u>7:00pm</u> Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	8 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	9
10 <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>12:00pm</u> Executive Council meeting/ Lounge <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	11 <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting/Library <u>7:00pm</u> Worship & Music Team Meeting	12 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>12:00pm</u> Care & Concern Meeting <u>6:30 pm</u> Handbell Class - Classroom #8	13	14 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>10:00am</u> Kaffeeklatsch <u>3:00pm</u> Finance Team Meeting	15 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	16 <u>9:00am</u> Scrapbook & Craft Day <u>9:00 am -</u> <u>8:00 pm</u>
17 <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	18 <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting/Library <u>7:00pm</u> Council Meeting/ Classroom #2	19 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>12:00pm</u> Happy Stitches' Bible Study <u>6:30 pm</u> Handbell Class - Classroom #8	20	21 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>10:00am</u> Kaffeeklatsch <u>7:00pm</u> Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	22 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	23
24 <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	25 <u>10:00am</u> Staff Meeting/Library	26 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>6:30 pm</u> Handbell Class - Classroom #8	27 <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study/</u> <u>Library</u>	28 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>10:00am</u> Kaffeeklatsch	29 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	30
31 <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	1 September  <u>Labor Day -</u> <u>Office Closed</u>	 				



Crosswalk is a publication of  
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 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

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 Website: [www.firstlc.com](http://www.firstlc.com)



**Summer Office Hours**  
**Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Friday Closed**

Pastor	Mike Knauff
Music Director	Michelle Hanson
Youth Coordinator	Dustin Jackson
Church Administrator	Liisa Mills
Bookkeeper	Greg Stultz
Financial Secretary	Wendy Schoonmaker
Director of Christian Preschool	Barbara Carlson

**Bring items for the Crosswalk to the church office**

**OR**

**e-mail items to: [office@firstlc.com](mailto:office@firstlc.com)**

**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
**10:15 am In-Church Worship &**  
**Church Live @firstlc.com**



		First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	Festival
<b>SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS</b>	<b>Aug. 3</b>	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Psalm 49:1-12	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21	8th Sunday after Pentecost
	<b>Aug. 10</b>	Genesis 15:1-6	Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40	9th Sunday after Pentecost
	<b>Aug. 17</b>	Jeremiah 23:23-29	Psalm 82	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56	10th Sunday after Pentecost
	<b>Aug. 24</b>	Isaiah 58:9b-14	Psalm 103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17	11th Sunday after Pentecost
	<b>Aug. 31</b>	Proverbs 25:6-7a	Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14	12th Sunday after Pentecost