



Crosswalk

Newsletter of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho



Proverbs 22: 6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The start of every new school year can be seen as the start of another adventure! Kids take on the challenges of learning new skills as well as navigating new territory, whether that's new classrooms, hallways, or buses. Hopefully, it's an adventure that encourages and entices them to take on more adventures in life as they grow. The skills they master along with the knowledge they acquire can be the "sure foundation" they rely on later in life. Conversely, the lack of skills they master or the knowledge they fail to obtain can end up being the "cracked foundation" they're hampered by later in life. Very few would argue that a good education is a waste of time. In fact, most people argue that a thirst for learning, combined with a good education, are key ingredients to a productive life.

I believe the writer of Proverbs was well aware of the key ingredient that a child's education plays in their adult life. His words of "train up a child" allude to much more than the skills a child learned on his parent's farm, mother's kitchen, or father's workshop. Because schooling (learning the "Three R's - Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic) back in those days often took place in one of two places, the home or the local synagogue, I believe he was also alluding to what I call the "4th R" - Relationship with God.

For centuries, parents wanted their children to master reading to be able to read THE BOOK... The Holy Book... The Bible. The knowledge found and life skills acquired by knowing and following God's will, were considered that "sure foundation" that helped adults manage their adventures in life. Even if they couldn't read, write, or add they could be "trained up" in God's Word just by hearing the stories and seeing the living examples of folks who'd been "trained up" in God's will. This insight often led them to a relationship with God that could help them navigate "the way they should go" in life rather than wander aimlessly, or worse, be led down destructive pathways in life.

We live in a world where children (and adults) are being "trained up" by their "blue screens," not their Bibles. As a result, we're seeing more reports of youth and adults who are depressed and aimless in life. We're seeing more people who are being led down destructive pathways, whether that's self-destructive or socially destructive. There are many experts and gurus out there with suggestions about how to improve our current state: more government spending/less government spending, more laws/less laws, more guns/less guns,... the list goes on.

I'd like to suggest the humble advice of the writer of Proverbs, let's "train our children (and ourselves) up in the way we should go" meaning let's get back to Bible basics and *the all-important* "4th R" - a relationship with God. Speaking of that "back to Bible basics," this fall the Christian Education and Discipleship Teams are encouraging me to undertake a challenge I've wanted to meet for over 30 years of my ministry.

For years I've seen the need for a comprehensive three-year curriculum for children, youth, and adults that walks through the "Top 100 Bible Stories." Many Bible teaching resources being published today are "shiny" or "cutting edge" but "cherry pick" stories and lack continuity with the Bible as a whole. There's also a lack of resources for families to learn Bible stories at their appropriate age levels in a way that they can talk and share about learning "God's way to go" through life together. There are many things dividing up families (activities, schedules, finances, sports) but Sunday mornings could be one of those unifying things where there's a shared experience that helps build a "sure foundation" together.

I ask for your prayers as I work with my "educational consultants" in creating this curriculum, that it may fulfill God's purposes and nourish God's people. I ask for your patience as it pulls me away from my musical ministry in order to concentrate on my educational ministry at FELC. Perhaps you can prayerfully consider "standing in the gap" for me by offering your musical talents during my fall absence? Finally, I ask that you prayerfully consider ways that you can continue to train yourself up in the way God would have you go.

God's Blessings to you,
Pastor Mike



"Train up a child in the way he should go - but be sure you go that way yourself."

- Charles H. Spurgeon



Penny Power



Penny Power collection for June was given to the **Wounded Blue and K9 resilience.**

Christa Trinchera, daughter of Dale and Jan Waaler, is also the Resilience Officer for the Swan Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Swan Valley plans to build a Resilience room for their Fire House and Christa is helping them in this process.

Penny Power was spent on an infrared large size heating pad that is used with many of the items that will be in their resilience room and a large bag of instant IV hydration packets.

Thanks to the many who give each week to Penny Power for this gift to Swan Valley Volunteers.

From Jan Waaler - Mission Team Member



THE
WOUNDED BLUE



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.

Our kids are helping to feed those in our community!
You are making a difference!

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

Missions

Thank you!

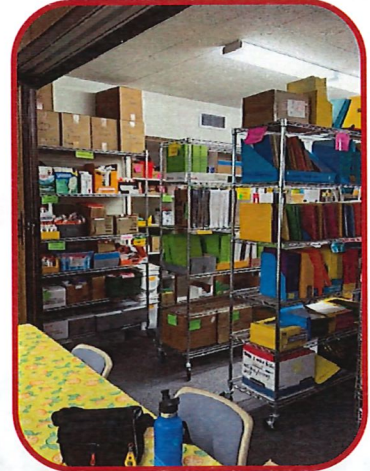
Through your help **FISH** has delivered **400** backpacks so far!

Friends in Service Here (**FISH**), a local community organization that we serve and support through Penny Power donations, has filled 400 backpacks this year.

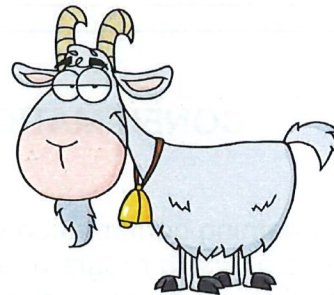
Each backpack is filled with items requested by the teachers to help students succeed in the classroom.

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, operated through FISH, is ongoing throughout the year.

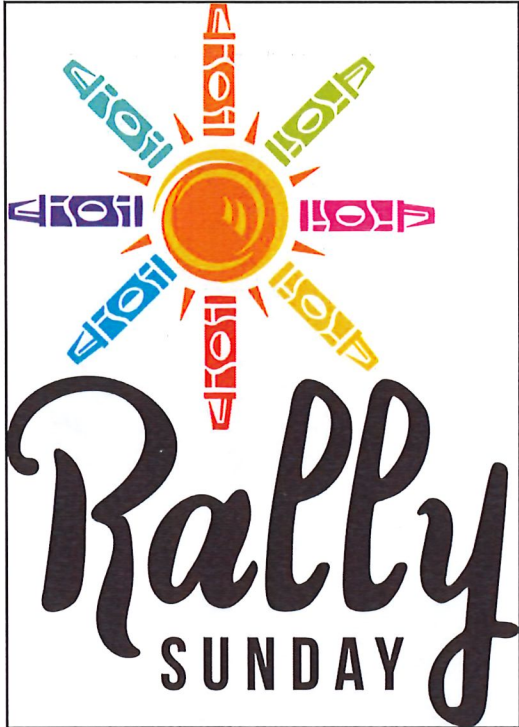
Thanks to our members who donated, packed and delivered these backpacks!



In **September**, you kids will be using your **Penny Power** funds for **Lutheran World Relief** and purchasing farm animals that will make a big difference in the lives of families in countries a long, long way from Idaho.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

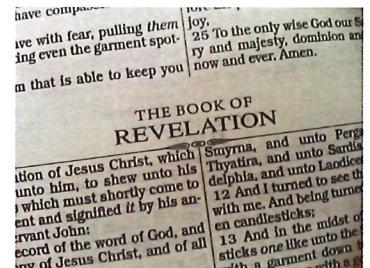


September 7th

- + Adult Forum 9:00 am (see info below)
- + Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- + Sunday School 9:00 am (see next page)
- + Confirmation Class 9:00 am (see below)
- + King's Men Rehearsal 11:30 am
- + Handbell Rehearsal Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
- + Praise Band Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

END TIMES AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION: A LUTHERAN VIEWPOINT

Many Christians hear about "rapture" and "tribulation" from popular books of TV preachers but have never heard the Lutheran perspective clearly explained. Did the "Left Behind" series get it right? Not hardly! This four-week course taught by Pastor Mike will outline the traditional Lutheran biblical viewpoint about the end times. We'll focus on "myth busting," discussions for hope in Christ, and connection to current events. The course starts on Rally Day, Sunday, September 7th and goes through Sunday, September 28th. Pr. Mike would like to know how many are attending to have enough materials for everyone; a sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Window.



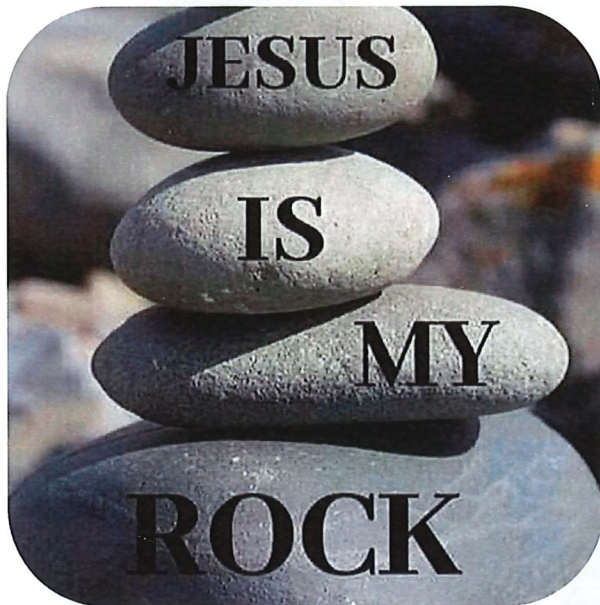
CONFIRMATION CLASS



This year's upcoming confirmation class is small enough in number that it makes offering confirmation as a "youth program" as a Sunday afternoon event with a lesson, shared meal, game time, and small group discussion less viable. So, we're going to offer confirmation the more traditional way, namely as a once-a-week lesson without the meal, game, or small group discussion. This class will be offered during Sunday School for the Junior and Senior High Students. The majority of our Senior High students who have been through confirmation only had instruction on the Old and New Testament. This year's curriculum will be on Luther's Small Catechism so it will be a "fresh" topic, not just for the incoming students but also the returning ones as well. The good news for the Senior High Students is if they miss a class they won't be assigned make-up homework.

Parents, if you have a student in 6th-8th grade that you want participating in confirmation, please let Pr. Mike or the church office know.

Join Us For Sunday School



We live in uncertain times and need solid footing in this world. Thankfully, Jesus Is Our Rock on which we can take our stand.

That is our Sunday School theme for this year, "Jesus is our rock!" and the theme for our Rally Day celebration. We'll be gathering around "Ebenezer" in the courtyard, painting pavers, playing scissors, paper, rock and maybe even enjoying a little "rock candy."

Haven't met "Ebenezer" yet? Come Sunday, September 7th and we'll introduce you to old "Ebenezer!"



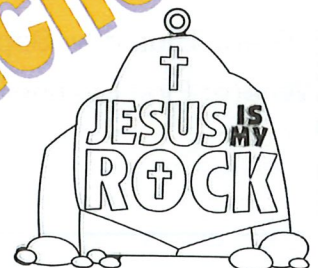
Decorating Pavers



Scavenger Hunt



Suncatchers



Stephen Ministry



Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

We all experience challenges in life - times we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficult situation.

If you or someone you know needs a caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages, please contact Pastor Mike Knauff or Annick Dixon.



Stephen Ministry would like to invite the congregation to attend a presentation by **Age Well Connections**. James Johnson and Jason Atkinson have a lot of experience helping individuals and families navigate through the many aspects of aging. They are committed to making the process of finding care solutions simple and stress-free. Whether you're exploring aging at home or transitioning to a care facility, they connect you with trusted resources for ADA transportation, home accessibility equipment, home health and hospice care, legal services, specialized support, and more. They work closely with the Alzheimer's Association and Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership.

Stephen Ministry would like to invite the congregation and anyone else who might benefit from this presentation to join us.

When: Thursday, September 18, 2025 (7:00-8:00 PM)

Where: First Evangelical Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall



Worship & Music

Help Wanted!

We need some more volunteers to help with our worship services. For a typical Sunday morning worship service, we need:

- † One liturgist or reader
- † Two greeters
- † Three ushers
- † Five or six Communion assistants
- † Two altar guild members
- † One streaming technician



That's fourteen or fifteen volunteers each week. Thanks to attrition, we could use help in all areas, but the greatest needs are for more communion assistants and a liturgist. Most of these positions are not hard to do (*training is available*), and are a great way for newer members to become involved and meet their fellow congregants. It would be wonderful if we had enough people that everyone would only need to be scheduled once a month. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact the Worship and Music ministry team chair, Paul Bayless.

Are you hiding musical talents?



Our vocal choirs could use more singers,
and our handbell choir could use more ringers.

Or, perhaps you play an instrument and
would like to play it during worship?

If any of this strikes a chord with
you (*pun definitely intended*),
please contact our

Music Director, Michelle Hanson, for more information.



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. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

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; Dale Clements; Becky Cole; Wendy Cudmore; Joan Douglas; Bernadette Farrington (Annick Dixon's mother); Al Glissendorf; Diane Hackman; Jack Heier; Patricia Hill (Martha Wentzel's mother); Beverly Hudman (Larry Hudman's mother); Larry Hudman; Ann Hurley; Jeff Hustad; Mia Jones; Bev Kemp; Hailey Kinghorn; Mary Krippner; Steven Krippner; Harlan Lerum; Minna Liddell (Carol Schuette's mother); Allan Magnuson; Geri Magnuson; Mike Martin; Tim Metcalf; Jay Meyer; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (Larry Hudman's sister); Heidi Neis; Josh Neis; Don Newman (Richard Magnuson's cousin); Heidi Peoples; Priscilla Rainey; Bob Scarr; Laura Schoonmaker; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson (Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son); Deborah Vavra; Marie Warwick; Daniel Young.

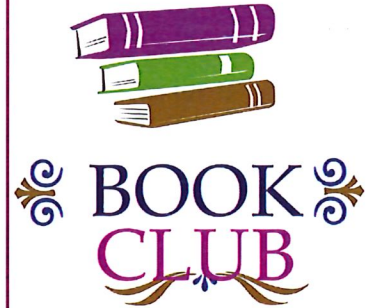
PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

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.

Announcements

The **Wednesday Ladies Bible Study** will begin again with a new name:

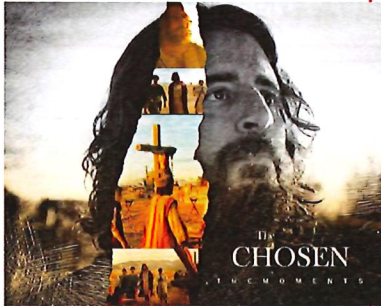
LADIES BOOK CLUB starting up again this fall. Beginning Wednesday September 10th from 2:00-3:00 pm in the church library, we will be studying the Good Book beginning with stories in the Old Testament. New story each week and we only meet for one hour with no homework required. Please join us when you can.
-Marda Kirkwood & Carole Mason



The Chosen Discussion Group Continues:

The popular Christian livestream/movie series "The Chosen," which tries to respectfully depict the life of Jesus and his disciples, will be releasing its fifth season to live stream and DVD on Sunday, September 28th. That allows us to start up our "watch and talk" discussion group. It will be led by Pr. Mike, and will meet on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Youth Room.

The Chosen Season 5, has eight episodes that are about 50 minutes in length. To view all 8 episodes, we'll start on Wednesday, October 1st and go through Wednesday, November 19th. The good news is we have comfy chairs, tasty snacks, good discussion, and you don't have to watch the first few seasons to get something out of it. Folks have reported being inspired and intrigued by just watching a random single episode!



COMING SOON! OUR INQUIRER'S CLASS

new members class

Pastor Mike is scheduled to start our inquirer's class on Sunday, October 12th and it will be held for six weeks ending on November 16th. We will meet in the church library.

If you're interested in finding out more about what a "Lutheran Christian" is... this is your chance. You don't need to commit to joining to be part of the study and questions are highly encouraged. However, if you are interested in becoming part of our FELC church family, this is your opportunity. The class is designed to cover at a glance some of the basic foundational parts of Christianity:

- ♦ What's so Amazing about Grace?
- ♦ What is the authority of ancient scripture in a modern day world?
- ♦ What's so important about Baptism and Communion?

As well as inform folks as to the history and inner workings of FELC.

Those considering membership need to attend at least four of the six classes.

Contact Pastor Mike or the church office if you're interested in attending. Knowing how many are attending, and if there are nursery needs, helps the office staff a nursery, get the right size room to meet in, and have enough materials.

Announcements



Nursery

FIRST LUTHERAN'S VOLUNTEER-STAFFED NURSERY

Our nursery took a break during the summer since many of our volunteers were enjoying well-deserved vacations. We are currently making plans to open the nursery during worship again this fall. We hope to have enough volunteers for an 8-week rotation, which would mean serving once every other month. However, since we require "two-deep" leadership this will require 16 volunteers. The good news is we're close!!

Every additional volunteer gets us closer to fulfilling the age-old adage "Many hands makes light work!" This is such an important ministry for young families, and especially for our

growing congregation that wants to continue welcoming young families. If you can help, please contact our Family Ministry Chair, Steve Hickman or the church office.

Blessing of the Quilts will be September 28th during worship service. The sanctuary will be filled with colorful quilts to be blessed before they are distributed in the community.



"We are wrapping the world in God's love, one quilt at a time!"



A special thanks to all the saints that helped with the recent funeral meals held in the Fellowship Hall. You are all so wonderful by helping in the kitchen, setting up and decorating tables, plus supplying delicious desserts! This gathering for the families could not happen without your help. God's blessing to you all and with special thanks from the Funeral Meal Committee!

Come join Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for a new study. Encounter God. Build Friendships.

There is now literally a study for everyone in Idaho Falls.

Women and children ages 0-17: Wednesdays at 9:30 am at Calvary Baptist

Women: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Christ Community

Men: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Saint John's

BSF is an interdenominational, international group that seeks to *Magnify God and Mature His People*.

For more information, talk to Linda Lerum 208-569-2588

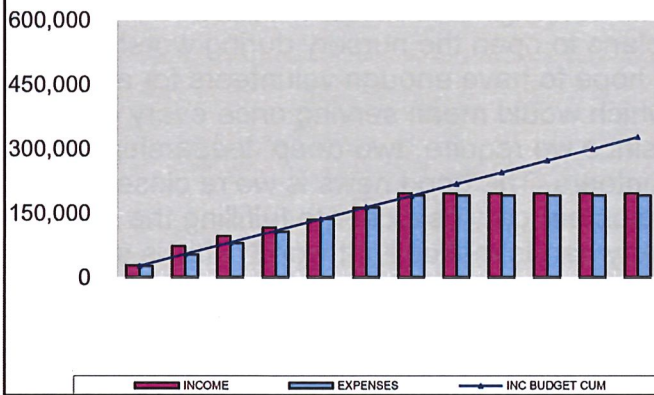
Or go to <https://www.bsfindernational.org/> to sign up.

First class is September 10th.

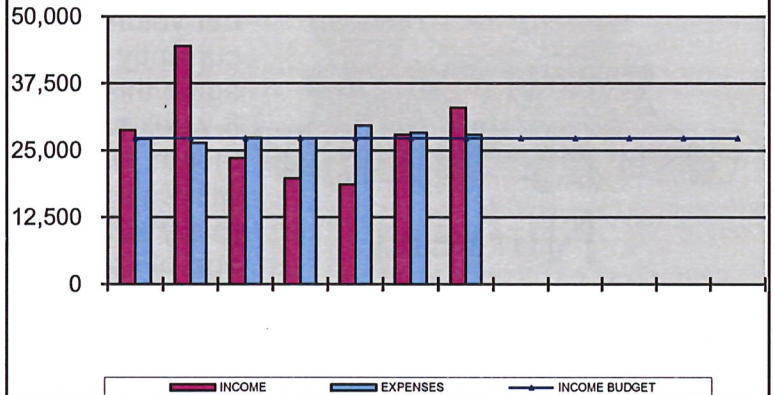


Finance

General Fund Cumulative Summary - 2025



General Fund Monthly Summary - 2025



Budget Comparison 2025:		
Year to Date Actual Income		196,041.84
Year to Date Budget Income		190,750.00
	Difference	5,291.84

Current Month:	July	
Current Month Income		32,988.90
Current Month Expenses		27,965.09
	Difference	5,023.81

Year to Date Actual Income		196,041.84
*Year to Date Actual Expenses		192,320.77
*Year to Date Budget Expenses		216,748.53
	Difference	3,721.07



Year to Date Actual Expenses		192,320.77
Year to Date Budget Expenses		216,748.53
	Difference	(24,427.76)

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1 <u>Labor Day - Office Closed</u>	2 <u>9:00am</u> <u>Happy Stitches</u> <u>12:00pm</u> <u>Happy Stitches' Bible Study</u> <u>6:00pm</u> Girl Scout Troop #930	3 <u>5:00pm</u> <u>Praise Band</u>	4 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>9:00am</u> Preschool Orientation <u>10:00am</u> <u>Kaffeeklatsch</u> <u>7:00pm</u> <u>Stephen Ministry Team Meeting</u>	5 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	6
	7 <u>Rally Day</u> <u>9:00am</u> Adult Forum/Library <u>9:00am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>9:00am</u> Sunday School <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>11:30am</u> King's Men Rehearsal <u>12:00pm</u> Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Shofar Meeting <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	8 <u>10:00am</u> <u>Staff Meeting/Library</u> <u>7:00pm</u> <u>Common Ministry Team Meeting</u> <u>7:00pm</u> Worship & Music Team Meeting	9 <u>9:00am</u> <u>Happy Stitches</u> <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>12:00pm</u> <u>Care & Concern Meeting</u> <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>6:00pm</u> Girl Scout Troop #930 <u>6:30pm</u> <u>Handbell Rehearsal</u>	10 <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>2:00pm</u> <u>Ladies Book Club - Library</u> <u>5:00pm</u> <u>Praise Band</u> <u>5:00pm</u> Finance Team Meeting	11 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>10:00am</u> <u>Kaffeeklatsch</u> <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool	12 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall
13	14 <u>9:00am</u> Adult Forum/Library <u>9:00am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>9:00am</u> Sunday School <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>11:30am</u> King's Men Rehearsal <u>12:00pm</u> Executive Council Meeting/Lounge <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	15 <u>10:00am</u> <u>Staff Meeting/Library</u> <u>7:00pm</u> Council Meeting/ Classroom #2	16 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>12:00pm</u> <u>Happy Stitches' Bible Study</u> <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>6:00pm</u> Girl Scout Troop #930 <u>6:30pm</u> Handbell Rehearsal	17 <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>2:00pm</u> <u>Ladies Book Club - Library</u> <u>5:00pm</u> <u>Praise Band</u>	18 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>10:00am</u> <u>Kaffeeklatsch</u> <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>7:00pm</u> Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	19 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall
20	21 <u>9:00am</u> Adult Forum/Library <u>9:00am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>9:00am</u> Sunday School <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>11:30am</u> King's Men Rehearsal <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	22 <u>10:00am</u> <u>Staff Meeting/Library</u>	23 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>6:00pm</u> Girl Scout Troop #930 <u>6:30pm</u> Handbell Rehearsal	24 <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>2:00pm</u> <u>Ladies Book Club - Library</u> <u>5:00pm</u> <u>Praise Band</u>	25 <u>9:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>10:00am</u> <u>Kaffeeklatsch</u> <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool	26 <u>10:00am</u> Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall
27	28 <u>Blessing of the Quilts</u> <u>9:00am</u> Adult Forum/Library <u>9:00am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>9:00am</u> Sunday School <u>10:15am</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>11:30am</u> Fellowship Hour/ Fellowship Hall <u>11:30am</u> King's Men Rehearsal <u>4:00pm</u> Round About Brass Practice	29 <u>10:00am</u> <u>Staff Meeting/Library</u>	30 <u>9:00am</u> Happy Stitches <u>9:00am</u> Preschool <u>1:00pm</u> Preschool <u>6:00pm</u> Girl Scout Troop #930 <u>6:30pm</u> Handbell Rehearsal			

Crosswalk is a publication of
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 455 West Sunnyside Road
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Tel: (208) 522-9301

E-mail: office@firstlc.com
 Website: www.firstlc.com



Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday Closed

Pastor	Mike Knauff
Music Director	Michelle Hanson
Youth & Family Minister	Heather Catanese
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

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 am Adult Forum
10:15 am In-Church Worship &
Church Live @firstlc.com



		First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	Festival
SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS	Sep.7	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33	13th Sunday after Pentecost
	Sep.14	Exodus 32:7-14	Psalm 51:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10	14th Sunday after Pentecost
	Sep.21	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13	15th Sunday after Pentecost
	Sep.28	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31	16th Sunday after Pentecost