

Crosswalk

Newsletter of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Dear Friends in Christ,
 Back in the late-1980s at Shepherd of the Valley, we were going through our usual dip in summer offerings, and I had the responsibility of being the treasurer. It was getting to the point of having to decide what bills to pay and which ones we could hopefully put off for another week. There was no joy in that task.

We had an interim pastor at the time, and as we were discussing the financial situation at a church council meeting, this interim pastor said something I have not forgotten. He said, "I have never seen a church struggle with finances when it was excited about God and what God was doing in their life. People who are excited about what God is doing in their life naturally give back to God."

That statement became my guiding principal when it comes to matters of stewardship. Stewardship is not ultimately about money, but it is ultimately about the ministries that are supported by the time, talent, and treasure of the people of the congregation. People who are excited about God and what God is doing in their life and the life of the congregation naturally want to participate, through time, talent, and treasure, in the ministry given to us by Christ.

I'm not sure what to make of the attendance and offering numbers from Easter:

	<u>Easter 2006</u>	<u>Easter 2007</u>
7:00	60	71
9:00	290	236
11:00	262	238
	612	545

Worship attendance down by 67 in 2007

Offering received on Easter Sunday 2007: \$8,824.54

Weekly average needed to meet budget: \$9,725.23

Deficit difference: \$900.69

As a former treasurer, Easter Sunday was one of those days when I knew we would get caught up a bit on the budget. It's more than a little spooky to me that it didn't happen for us here this Easter.

The average monthly offering needed to meet budget (\$505,712 total) and fund the ministries outlined in that budget is \$42,142.67.

Our offering in January was	\$28,980.91
Deficit difference:	\$13,161.76
In February:	\$36,743.00
Deficit difference:	\$5,399.67
In March:	\$36,378.31
Deficit difference:	<u>\$5,764.36</u>
Total deficit:	\$24,325.79

I'm not sure what to make of the deficit in offerings and attendance. Again, it really is not the numbers themselves that are important, but it is the people and the ministries represented in the budget. This budget containing \$505,712 "worth of ministry" was passed by only 72 people. We have a baptized membership of 818, a confirmed membership of 482, and an average worship attendance of 274. I'm still pondering what it means in regards to support for the ministries we do together that only 72 were present to vote on that budget and those ministries.

Additionally, I wonder about the premise of that interim pastor in regards to stewardship. Is it true that people who are excited about what God is doing in their life naturally give back to God? Could it be that people who are excited about God do not necessarily naturally participate in the ministries of the congregation through sharing their time, talent, and treasure? Or could it be that there are things happening or not happening in the congregation or the larger church body (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) that is diminishing the level of excitement that people might have for what God is doing in their life and the life of the congregation?

Are these even the right questions? Could it be that we are simply not as big a congregation as the membership numbers tell us? And as a result, do we simply have too large of a budget and too many ministries we would like to support and just do not have the number of people needed to support those ministries with their time, talent, and treasure?

My intention here is not to write a guilt-inducing letter. I don't want anyone to give to the mission of Christ because someone made them feel guilty. Many are doing all they can in giving of their time, talent, and treasure to God. Thank you! I have prayed about our budget deficit during our prayers in worship on a couple of occasions, and I will continue to pray about it. My intention is to make sure you are aware of our financial situation, its impact on our shared ministry, and to invite you to pray as well.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Jeff



May at FELC

Worship

There will be lots of wonderful worship experiences during May. On **Sunday, May 6**, at both the 8:15 and 11 worship services, our young adults will be leading. Our El Shadai youth choir will be providing special music.

On **Sunday, May 13**, both the 8:15 and 11 services will be a music emphasis Sunday. The service will be music and scripture. We hope you'll plan to celebrate Mother's Day in this way.

Summer worship

FELC will be having one worship service at 9:30 a.m. during the summer months. This begins on Memorial Day, May 27, and continues through Labor Day, Sept. 2. It always seems such a blessing to bring our "8:15 congregation" and our "11:00 congregation" together for worship.

God gives so many gifts of recreation in the summer and they sometimes take us away from church attendance, so the worship and music team has decided to offer Holy Communion each Sunday during the summer months. We hope you'll come as regularly as you can and be part of the Family of God!

Thank yous

Thank you to all the people that have been and are praying for Linda (Magnuson). For those who don't know, she had surgery on April 7 for a large brain tumor that turned out to be a Grade 4 tumor, also known in the medical field as a Glioblastoma tumor. It is the most aggressive and cancerous tumor a person can get. — Maggie

Thank you so much for all the time and effort you put in our lovely dinner you provided after Dad's service. We realize how much time you all spent making this such a special time for us and those that knew Dad. You each serve such a wonderful ministry. — The George Wehmann family

Reflections on Worship

A great way to prepare for worship is to read beforehand the Biblical texts that are assigned for the coming Sunday. You can find the readings for each Sunday in May listed on the back of this newsletter.

As you take a look at those readings, you will notice that the Gospel readings will be coming from John. During these Sundays of Easter, we will be looking back in John to some of the teachings of Jesus before his resurrection. Knowing that he is risen to life, we look back at these teachings of Jesus to gain a deeper understanding of what he has taught us and how to apply those teachings to our life.

You will also notice that the readings for the Sundays of Easter will include the Book of Acts and Revelation. We will be hearing about the lives of the apostles and the community where they lived and ministered in those days following Christ's resurrection. What an impact made by the resurrection of Christ! And what an impact Christ makes as we look ahead to the last days in the readings from Revelation.

On the last Sunday in May, we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Comforter. The Holy Spirit, promised to us by Christ, is sent to us and is active in our life, the life of our congregation, and the life of our world. Thanks be to God for Christ's Resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit!

Come and worship! Christ is indeed truly worthy of our worship!



Sound System Update

The committee tasked with improving the sound system recently met with a representative from the Twin Falls Music Center. We expect a proposal by May 1. In the meantime, the Church Council will be asked to approve the expenditure of \$3K-\$4K to get an analysis and design from a Boise company. Once these different proposals are received, the committee will evaluate them and determine the next step.



Yard Sale

May 5, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Our annual yard sale to help provide camper scholarships is coming up soon! This is a very important ministry event that enables many campers to go to Luther Heights each summer. Last year, we were able to provide 60 significant camperships. This is due to your wonderful generosity! Please bring your items, in good shape for resale, to the fellowship hall from April 30 to May 3. You do not need to mark them with prices. Please come and join us for the sale and bring a friend!

Remember, you may find a real treasure! If you have questions or would be willing to help, please call Carol Christensen at 524-1247 or the church office at 522-9301. Thank you in advance for your support!

All people wanting or considering joining First Lutheran are invited and asked to attend an Orientation Luncheon

First Lutheran Church Orientation Luncheon

Sunday, May 6

Following the 11 a.m. worship service (approximately 12:15)

12:15 – 12:45: Lunch

12:45 – 1:40: Introduction to the Lutheran Church
Break

1:50 – 2:45: Introduction to First Evangelical Lutheran Church

We hope that you will be able to commit these 2 ½ hours to learn more about what it means to be a Lutheran and to learn about the ministries of First Lutheran.

By attending the Orientation Luncheon, you are under no obligation to join First Lutheran. The purpose of the luncheon is simply to give you some basic information about Lutherans and First Lutheran to help you better understand your own faith and mission in life.

To help us in planning the lunch, please RSVP by May 2 by contacting the church office at 522-9301 or office@firstlc.com.

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Jeff at 522-9301 or send an e-mail to pastorjeff@firstlc.com.

New hymnals

FELC will begin the process of purchasing the new ELCA hymnal during the next few months. The hymnal is cranberry in color and is called Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

The Worship and Music Team is pleased to note that we have already received memorial monies from Milo Forbord and another substantial anonymous gift.

To date, 80 hymnals have been purchased. We will need a total of about 300 hymnals to fill out our pew racks.

The books cost \$20 each. If you would like to donate money for the new hymnals please use a blue pew envelope and mark it "hymnals." We aren't in any hurry and ask for your prayers as we move forward into the future. Penny Dixon and the Worship and Music Team



Vacation Bible School Coming this summer — July 16-19!

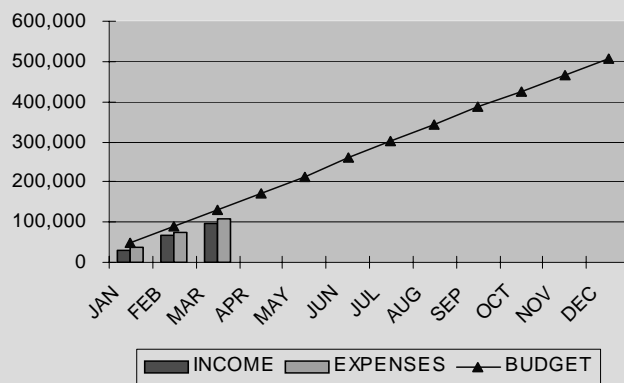
Mark your calendars and reserve the dates. Youth from 3 years old to grade 5 are invited to attend and youth in grades 6 to 12 and adults are needed to help. More details will be coming soon. On Friday, we will not have regular VBS but hope everyone will come and join us for a concert by the African Children's Choir at 7 p.m.

Current Month:	MARCH	
Current Month Income		33,002.70
Current Month Expenses		33,420.32
Difference		(417.62)

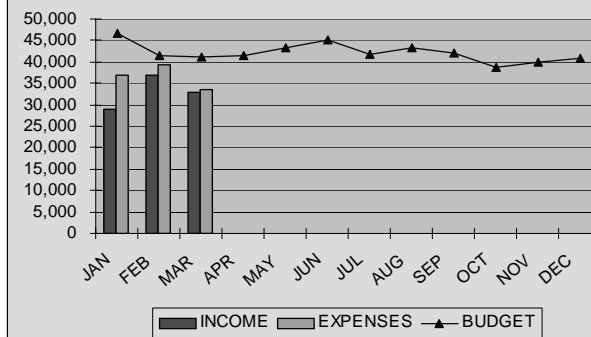
Year to Date Income		98,744.00
Year to Date Expenses		109,644.29
Difference		(10,900.29)

Budget Comparison 2007		
Year to Date Income		98,744.00
Year to Date Budget		129,213.07
Difference		(30,469.07)

General Fund Cumulative Summary - 2007



General Fund Monthly Summary - 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Garage Sale set-up (Fellowship Hall) 8:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 9:30 AM Choir 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship w/ Communion 2:00 PM God and Me (Classroom) 2:00 PM Thrivent Leader Training (Lounge) 3:30 PM God and Family (classroom)	30 6:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM AA	1 Garage Sale set-up (Fellowship Hall) 9:00 AM Happy 9:30 AM Stitches 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 12:00 PM Happy Stitches Bible Study 6:00 PM Bells 7:00 PM MM Mtg 7:30 PM El Shadai Choir	2 Garage Sale set-up (Fellowship Hall) 9:00 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Esther Circle 2:00 PM Text Study 4:00 PM Book Club (Lounge) 7:00 PM Confirmation	3 Garage Sale set-up (Fellowship Hall) 9:00 AM Kindermusik 9:00 AM Preschool 9:00 AM Sew Fun 10:00 AM Kaffeeeklatsch 2:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group 3:15 PM Kindermusik 7:00 PM SM Cont Ed/Supervision	4 Garage Sale set-up (Fellowship Hall) 9:00 AM -12:30 pm Kindermusik 11:30 AM King's Men	5 Garage Sale 9am-5pm 10:00 AM Youth Worship Practice
6 8:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 9:30 AM Choir 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship w/ Communion 12:30 PM BUD Club, DIT, TGIF (grades K-8) 2:00 PM God and Me (Classroom) 3:30 PM God and Family (classroom) 6:00 PM Mexico Meeting @ Kay's	7 7:00 AM YLIFE Coffeehouse (9th-12th) 6:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM AA	8 9:00 AM Happy Stitches 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 5:00 PM Outreach 6:00 PM Glory Ringers 6:30 PM Finance 6:45 PM C&C Mtg. 7:30 PM Chair Mtg 8:00 PM Team Mtg	9 9:00 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Esther Circle 2:00 PM Text Study 7:00 PM Confirmation-2nd Project due	10 9:00 AM Kindermusik 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Kaffeeeklatsch 3:15 PM Kindermusik	11 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM -12:30 pm Kindermusik 11:30 AM King's Men 1:00 PM "Out TO Lunch Bunch" @White Water Grill	12 9:00 AM Lord Teach Us to Pray (Lounge)
13 Mother's Day 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Choir 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - Sr. Quilts 3:30 PM God and Family (classroom)	14 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 8:00 PM AA	15 9:00 AM Happy Stitches 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 6:00 PM Glory Ringers 7:30 PM Executive Council	16 9:00 AM Preschool 2:00 PM Text Study 7:00 PM Confirmation 8th grade only	17 9:00 AM Kindermusik 9:00 AM Preschool 9:00 AM Sew Fun 10:00 AM Kaffeeeklatsch 12:00 PM Regional Pastors (Lounge) 2:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group 3:15 PM Kindermusik 7:00 PM SM Cont Ed/Supervision	18 9:00 AM -12:30 pm Kindermusik	19 7:30 AM Men in Mission - Breakfast @ Fairwinds
20 8:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 9:30 AM Choir 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship w/ Communion - Confirmation 3:30 PM God and Family	21 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 8:00 PM AA	22 9:00 AM Happy Stitches 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 7:30 PM Council Mtg.	23 9:00 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Preschool Party (fellowship hall) 11:30 AM Life Line Screening 2:00 PM Text Study	24 9:00 AM Kindermusik 10:00 AM Kaffeeeklatsch 11:30 AM Sr. Lunch 3:15 PM Kindermusik	25 9:00 AM -12:30 pm Kindermusik	26
27 Pentecost 9:30 AM Worship	28 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 PM AA	29 9:00 AM Happy Stitches	30 9:00 AM Newsletter Folding 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 2:00 PM Text Study	31 10:00 AM Kaffeeeklatsch 3:15 PM Kindermusik	1 9:00 AM -12:30 pm Kindermusik	2

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - May 2007

DATE	ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS	LITURGISTS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	READER	GREETERS	USHERS & COORDINATORS	COUNTERS
May 6* 8:15 am	Youth Sunday					Kevin Kooda#	Briam Johnson, Bill Hulse
May 6* 11:00 am	Youth Sunday					Jim Dixon#	Briam Johnson, Bill Hulse
May 13 8:15 am	Anna Christensen+, Sarah Abbott, Hannah Abbott	Music emphasis none needed	None Needed	None Needed	Jeanna Ritter, Harrison Duling	Dick Lindquist#, Jim Jackson, Scott Berger	Lindquists
May 13 11:00 am	Hailey Weatherby+, Taylor Weatherby, Monica Hulse	Music emphasis none needed	None Needed	None Needed	Jessica Harris, Whitney Wilmes	Alan Kirsch#, Gordon Rhiger, Jerry Townsend	Lindquists
May 20* 8:15 am	Hannah Johnson+, Kali Greenwald, Kyle Greenwald	Steve Galbraith	None Needed	Vicki Krogstrand	Paul and Donna Amundson	Dave Sheldon#, Mike and Beth McIlwain	Katainens
May 20* 11:00 am	Audrey Thorne+, Kaisa Katainen, Jori Katainen	Steve Galbraith	None Needed	Elaine Harris	Jill Woltermann	Greg Dornfeld#, Greg and Kathy Katainen	Katainens
May 27 9:30 am	Krista Stanley+, Sarah Novak, Allison McIntosh	Joel Hubbell	None Needed	Joy Hubbell	Susan Hulse	Dick Johnson#, Rick Bolton, Bill Hulse	Briam Johnson, Bill Hulse

*=Holy Communion, +=Cross Bearers, # = Coordinator

May Birthdays

Dumais, Trevor	1	Rippel, Olga	5	Cook, Emily	12	Caudle, Jesse	22	Styhl, Gary	27
Leaf, Kay	1	Backstrom, Rhett	7	McIlwain, Mike	12	Crumley, Benjamin	23	McIntosh, Allison	28
Smith, Linda	1	Hale, Jason	7	Ryan, T.J.	13	Malone, Gina	24	Wilnot, Bailey	28
Caudle, Amanda	2	Shotnokoﬀ, Sheryl	7	Doornbos, Jeffrey	14	Johnson, Marlene	25	Jessmore, Peggy	29
Katainen, Kaisa	2	Barrett, Cathy	8	Gillespie, Elizabeth	14	Nelson, Ryan	25	Rhiger, Paula	29
Koeppen, Madeleine	2	Koepplin, Carolin	8	Baumgart, Nancy	15	Walsh, Stuart	25	Stolworthy, David	29
Jessmore, Natalie	3	Rounds, Brian	8	Duff, Sawyer	17	Reuter, Walt	26	Conquergood, Travis	30
Vucovich, Marilyn	3	Kimery, Geremy	9	Backstrom, Leslie	18	Sheldon, Diane	26	Hayes, Karen	30
Dopp, Abby	4	Mason, Carole	9	Treutel, Cody	18	Dillon, Matthew	27	Adolph, Vikki	31
Zander, Darcee	4	Griffith, Karen	10	Magnuson, Richard	19	Hill, Katherine	27	Duff, Nancy	31
Guilford, Hillary	5	Latin, Harold	11	Weatherby, Greg	19	Horton, Suzette	27		
Hubbell, Joy	5	Cherry, Shane	12	Holm, Harold	20	Nate, Jeff	27		

Luther Heights Camp!

Here are four easy steps to get registered!

- 1) Choose a date to go from the brochure. (Pastor Jeff there June 23 to 29, Pastor Larry w/van there July 8 to 13, Kay w/van there Aug. 5 to 10)
- 2) Get your registration filled out with the \$40.00 deposit and turn it into the office/Kay. To get the scholarship from church, we need to have your registration in by May 10: **but** to get the early registration discount from camp (\$25), you must have your registration into Kay by April 30 so that she can have them postmarked by May 1.

Please do not send your registration directly to camp if you would like a campership.

- 3) After turning in your registration to Kay, put your child's name on the Luther Heights poster outside the office. Use this list to coordinate rides to and from camp. Sign up for rides with Pastor Larry or Kay (first come first served) in the church office.

- 4) Get ready to go and have a great time!

Note: The amount of camperships will be determined by the number of campers going to camp and the amount raised at the Luther Heights Garage Sale on May 5. You will be notified of your campership amount that will be sent directly to camp. You may want to wait to get that amount before you send in your balance to Luther Heights.

Luther Heights day-trip

Submit a deposit of \$20/person (refundable) to the office by May 25th to reserve your seat!!

We are planning a DAY TRIP to see and experience Luther Heights Bible Camp. Take advantage of a great opportunity for families, new members, seniors or anyone else to visit Luther Heights this summer and experience a day with campers. ***We will take a tour of the camp, worship, relax and play with the campers at Luther Heights.***

A charter bus will drive us through Stanley on the way to camp and then through Sun Valley on our way back home. Lunch will be provided at the camp and later we will enjoy a barbecue in the park in Hailey! The day will be relaxing and fun for all. Our goal is to form a group of 40 or more, and the cost will be \$45/adult (less for children). We are planning the trip for **Wednesday, Aug. 8** when seventh- and eighth-grade intermediate campers are at the camp.

Youth in grades 7-12 — Youth-led worship opportunity!

You have an awesome opportunity to help lead worship at both services on May 6! We will be doing all of the service from start to finish, so many are needed. There will be speaking and nonspeaking roles to fill. A mandatory practice will be held in the sanctuary on May 5 at 10 a.m. Parents please make sure you or your youth let the church office or Kay know who is participating by May 2.

YELS (Youth Empowered for Leadership and Service)

This is a new Leadership Experience for youth who will be entering grades 9-11 offered by our Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board. Jeanna Ritter, Emily Cook and Kay Sawyers are members of this board. It will be a combination of wonderful aspects of our Leadership Training School (music, youth-led workshops, co-ops, small groups) and servant events all happening at Shoshone Base Camp near Coeur d'Alene from July 8-11. We can only take up to 4 youth and 1 adult, so this is a limited registration with almost all cost covered. Parents, encourage your youth to take part in this wonderful and worthwhile event! Please let Kay know by May 13 if you are interested.

Mexico News!

Hola and Gracias! Wow, by the time you get this newsletter, we will only be about five weeks away from our mission trip! The last several months have been a wonderful time of getting to know one another better and start really discovering what true Christ-like service is. We are awed by God's faithfulness to this mission and to us. He has certainly put it in this congregation's heart to support us. We have the funds needed for the house/gas/insurance/etc. due to your overwhelming generosity! We continue to meet and plan and still need your help in the following ways.

- Prayer for the team (travel, safety, health, strength, understanding, patience, faithfulness, integrity, etc.) our family in Mexico, Northwest Outreaches Ministry, those we meet along the way, and our host churches.
- Food donations. Sign up on the list in the narthex by what you would like to donate and bring it to the church by May 30.
- Tool donations/loans. Sign up on the list in the narthex by what you would like to donate/loan and bring it to the church by May 30.
- Prayer

As you can see by our lists, we ask to be hemmed in by prayer. A tentative schedule will be available so that you can pray for what we are doing each day. Again, thank you for your support and help. Please know that in some way, each of you go along with us in this journey of Christ-like service!

Luther Heights Bible Day Camp 2007

Last year's camp ministered to more than 52 of our children, their friends and other children within our community. This year's Day Camp will be as exciting and wonderful.

Please prayerfully consider where you may be of help in the following areas:

- Host Homes
- Counselor Helpers (7th grade and up)
- Sit-there Moms, Dads, Grandma's and Grandpa's, adults

Provision of snacks, drinks, paper goods
We are offering a limited number of

scholarships this year, so please sign up early. Cost of attending this weeklong day camp is \$62. Registration will continue through June 10.

The Day Camp Kickoff will be held June 17 at 12:30 p.m. From June 18 – 22, parents will drop their campers at First Lutheran on the east side of the church property at 9 a.m. and will pick them up promptly at 3 p.m.

Please contact Jodi Eldridge with any questions regarding Day Camp, becoming a Host Home, Sit-there Volunteers or a Youth Helper, at 745-9045.



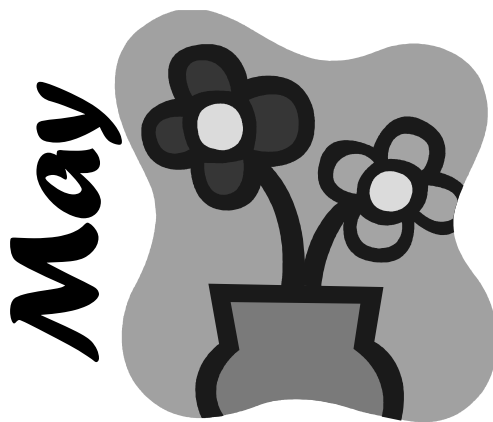
A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all who have helped in ANY way with the youth programs this year. Believe me when I say, you are a true blessing. We have a huge responsibility to minister to them, and it takes all of us!

Crosswalk is a publication of
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	<u>Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</u>
Pastors	The Reverends Larry Cudmore and Jeff Nate
Pastor Emeritus	The Reverend Robert W. Larsen
Visitation Pastors	The Reverends John Piirto and Alton Johnson
Director of Music Ministries	Penny Dixon
Director of Youth Ministries	Kay Sawyers
Parish Assistant	Sarah Johnson
Secretary	Kymm Swiston
Custodian	Warren Hill
Bookkeeper	Elaine Harris
Financial Secretary	Suzy Hersh
Christian Preschool Directors	Wendy Cudmore and Diane Yonk
Crosswalk Editors	Tiffany Aldinger and Karen Guilford
Put news items for the Crosswalk in the "Newsletter" box at the church office OR e-mail items to: tiffanyaldinger@hotmail.com and kmsg@dcdi.net	

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS	Apr. 29: Acts 9:36-43; Ps 23; Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30 May 6: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 148; Rev 21:1-6; John 13:31-35 May 13: Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67; Rev 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 May 20: Acts 16:16-34; Ps 97; Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26 May 27: Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b; Rom 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
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