

Crosswalk

Newsletter of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Thanksgiving 2007 approaches, I find myself thankful for the memories of past Thanksgivings. As a child, we would gather at my grandparents' home where there would be a large gathering of family—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. That large gathering usually broke into two groups—one gathered around the TV to watch the football games and the other in the kitchen preparing a feast. And what a delicious feast! I would actually stuff myself to the point where I would lay on the floor and moan because my stomach hurt.

While I am thankful for those memories, I also mourn the losses that have come with the passing of time. I miss those large family gatherings. We have all grown up and have gone our separate ways. Others have passed on to the Church Triumphant. I miss my grandma's cooking.

The holidays can be particularly difficult for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Where do we turn to find some strength and peace and comfort so that we can somehow celebrate and enjoy remaining family and friends even while missing deeply those who are not around anymore?

In our Holy Communion liturgy, we pray "with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory..."

Who are these "hosts of heaven?" A movie from the early 80's titled "Places in the Heart" envisions that these hosts of heaven include loved ones that have died. There is a scene that shows the congregation singing a hymn, and as they sing, it shows deceased loved ones mystically standing next to their spouse and children. Together they, as "the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven," praise God's name and join the unending hymn.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are held together and formed as the body of Christ. In Christ, we are held together with those who have gone before us, those with us now, and those who will come after us. Through Jesus Christ, we can have the strength, peace and comfort to be thankful for the memories and to be thankful for the many blessings in our lives, even while we mourn and grieve the loss of loved ones.

God's abundant blessings to you as we celebrate Thanksgiving, May the peace of the Lord be with you always,

Pastor Jeff



THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Eve Service at FELC

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 21

Bring your family and invite your friends to a time of reflection and thanksgiving. The evening's offering will go to the Idaho Falls Food Bank and F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service Here), both of which First Lutheran is a member. What a wonderful way to begin the Thanksgiving weekend!

Friday
Nov. 2
Noon to 9 p.m.

Saturday
Nov. 3
9 a.m.—4 p.m.



FAIR TRADE BAZAAR

HELP NEEDED!

- Display set up Thursday
- Cashiers, wrappers, & baggers both days
- Pack & Clean-up Sat. night



Sign up sheet in Church Narthex

Contact Church Office, 522-9301 OR
Carol Christensen, 524-1247, if you can help.

"Shop the World"



Christmas Cantata

"FOLLOW HIS STAR"

Saturday, Dec. 15: 11 a.m.
(for homebound)

Sunday, Dec. 16: 8:15 & 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
All presentations at First Lutheran

Buses will be coming from various nursing homes and assisted living facilities for the Saturday performance. If you know of anyone who needs a ride, please call Penny at 522-9301. The theme for this year's cantata is "Follow His Star" and will feature adult and children's choirs, our bell choir, instrumentalists, and narration. It is the prayer of all participants that you will find this a way to keep the true meaning of Christmas in your holiday happenings.

Discipleship (New Members) Class

This is the class for you if you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ serving in his mission through First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Maybe you know someone who might take the class if they knew someone else there. How about offering to join them so they would be more comfortable? Besides, refresher courses on the basics of our faith never hurt anyone!

Some of the topics that will be addressed in this class include:

Who was Martin Luther?

What does it mean to be a Lutheran?

What are the sacraments?

How can I use my God-given talents to serve God through the ministry opportunities available at First Lutheran?

Class will meet from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on November 7 and 14 (Wednesdays) and from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on November 18 (Sunday). New Member Sunday will be December 2.

Please call the church office at 522-9301 or send an email to office@firstluc.com to register for the class. If you have questions, contact Pastor Larry.

Ministry Team Snapshots

Pastor Jeff has primary oversight of the Christian Education, Local Missions, Outreach, and Stewardship Team Ministries. Here are highlights of a few items we are working on as we seek to praise our God and love His people:

Christian Education: + Discussed 2008 dates for the Luther Heights Day Camp and Vacation Bible School. + Finalized plans for presentation of Bibles to our 3rd graders. + Began making plans to establish a children's library.

Local Missions: + Committed to putting together Christmas baskets for people in need. + Discussed ways to invite the congregation to make material donations towards the Shepherd's Inn list of needs.

Outreach: + Made plans for advertising in the 2008 Dex and Local Pages yellow pages. + Planning on providing and serving dessert for the last new members' class. + Promoting the use of nametags at worship, especially on the 2nd Sunday.

Stewardship: + Went over a first rough draft of a stewardship letter to be sent out to the congregation. + Trying a different approach by asking for a faith pledge where the congregation will not return their pledge, but will be asked to keep it in their Bible.

LOGS FOR KINDLING A SMOLDERING FAITH

(from Pastor Larry's sermon on October 7)

FIRST LOG: Regular participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion (If the real presence of Jesus is being celebrated, why wouldn't you participate?)

SECOND LOG: Immersing yourself in the Word of God (God's Word is the bread and butter/the meat and potatoes of our life in Christ.)

THIRD LOG: Having a Spiritual Friend in your life (Even your pastor has someone in his life with which to do soul-searching/gut-wrenching work.)

FOURTH LOG: Remembering to look back from time to time so that you can confidently move forward (Seeing God's faithfulness in the past events of our lives can give us courage and confidence going forward. Remember Ebenezer.)

FIFTH LOG: Living a gracious life (How can we follow a gracious Lord and Savior as his disciples and not be gracious and forgiving ourselves?)



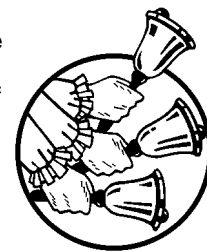
**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 4**

To Prelude or Not to Prelude

What time does worship begin for you on Sunday mornings? You may say 8:15 or 11 a.m., but actually it is about 8:05 or 10:50 a.m. because that's about the time the prelude music starts. Those moments before public worship begins are a time for you to prepare your own spirit for worship. It is a time to cease from visiting with your neighbor and turn your thoughts toward meditation and connection with your God. Here is an idea to consider. Every Sunday the back of the bulletin has a Psalm listed. Turn to the Psalm in your Bible or the front of the new hymnal where Psalms are located (p. 338). During the ten minutes before worship formally begins, read that Psalm for the day over slowly once. Then read it a second time, giving thought to the words and phrases that jump out at you. On the third time through, stop for a moment at those words which stand out the strongest to you. That may just be God's word for you for the day. Now you wouldn't want to miss that would you? So maximize your prelude time and you will find it adds a dimension to your worship that is helpful and nourishing. Then after worship when you are sharing the peace, let the noise of fellowship shake the rafters. God's grace and peace to you.

Pastor Larry

On Tuesday, November 27, First Lutheran's Glory Ringers will be presenting music at the L.D.S. church by the temple. This is the annual gingerbread house display open to the community of Idaho Falls. The choir will be playing bell music from 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please come and support our church in this community event.



Leadership Retreat: November 9 & 10

On Friday night, November 9, and Saturday, November 10, the staff, Church Council, and Ministry Team Leaders will be meeting for the annual retreat of Leaders at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Would you keep them in your prayers as they get to know each other and prepare themselves for leadership in 2008?

Emergency Fund for Magnusons

A special Emergency Fund account has been set up at FELC for any donations designated for Richard and Linda Magnuson. Linda has been under treatment for a brain tumor and they need extra help right now to pay daily expenses. Jim Dixon is heading a committee to help raise funds for the Magnusons. If you can help them in their hour of need, please note on your check or envelope that you want it to go to the Magnuson Special Account. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. God Bless you!

We will be collecting CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT OUR GINGERBREAD TREE in the Fellowship Hall again this year.



The recipients will be families whose single parents are going to school to make a better life for them. Please take a gingerbread person from the tree, starting November 4, and follow the directions on it. **We need to have the new, unwrapped gifts, with codes on each gift, here at the church by December 2.** This is such a wonderful way to help someone right here in our own community and show them that we care.

Thanks so much for always making this a successful event! For more information call Julieann @ 529-2704 or Kay @ 522-9301.

The choir wishes to thank **Laverne Stockton** for the memorial gift of her daughter Jackie Ryder which will be used to purchase new music. Also, our beautiful new green banners are in memory of Pastor Emeritus Bob Larsen. Both of these memorial gifts will be dedicated on All Saints Sunday, November 4. Please take a moment to look through the memorial books on display in our narthex.

Everyone is
invited to a luncheon
Celebrating
Pearl Zoerb's 100th Birthday
Sunday, November 4
Following Worship Services



REACHING OUT WITH OUR PRAYERS AND CONCERN FOR

- JoAnn Dugay on the death of her mother
- Pastor Harry Bainbridge—Episcopal Bishop of Idaho
- Elaine Harris' brother and sister-in-law Cliff & Liz Kunnary
- Sheila DaBell's father
- David Hayes on the death of his brother
- Bud Olson on the death of his mother
- Pastor Johnson on the death of his brother-in-law
- Roshia Adams on the death of her mother
- Stewart Harris family on the death of Adell
- LTC Paul Gronbeck in Iraq
- Laurie Skaar and family
- Family of Dick Beers
- Helen Batdorf
- Cheryl Gordon
- Mark Lincoln
- Linda Magnuson
- Bob Jones
- Kent Krotzer
- Harold Holm
- Judy Allsop
- Al Glissendorf
- Madeleine Koeppen
- Marie Mathewson



AND GIVING THANKS FOR

- Lucille Jordan's 90th birthday
- Pearl Zoerb's 100th birthday
- Marriage of Pauline Cook and Sam Alessi on September 28



Blood Drive:

November 20 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Signup in the Narthex.

Stephen Ministry: Caring for God's People (New Class in January)

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV)

Sometimes **Christ** heals sick bodies through medicine; sometimes through surgery; sometimes through physical therapy. But it is always **Jesus** who does the healing! Sometimes **He** heals sick souls through a word of assurance in prayer or in Scripture. Sometimes it is through the words of a trusted, believing friend. But it is always the risen **Jesus Christ** who brings that spiritual healing through confession and forgiveness.

God sends Stephen Ministers to bring hurting people to **Jesus!** The program reminds Stephen Ministers again and again that they may be the caregiver, but **Christ is the Cure Giver.**

The Stephen Minister comes to someone in need, not with the ability to prescribe medication – but with the power of prayer. The Stephen Minister comes not (usually!) with the advanced degree in psychology- but with the life-giving power of **God's** eternal Word in Scripture. The Stephen Minister comes not with the approval of any state medical board – but bringing the presence of the **One** who said, **"Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them"** (Matthew 18: 20 NKJV).

Stephen Ministers are trained extensively. They're committed deeply to the work to which **God** calls them. They serve in a highly structured and proven ministry. But the work they do is really the work **God** calls all Christian to do!

Prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister and serve **God** and his people. YOU can be a part of a ministry that many have already benefited abundantly from. As **Christian CARE is GIVEN ~ GOD will give the CURE.**

A new class will begin in January ~ please contact Pastor Larry, Pastor Jeff, or a Stephen Minister for information.



Youth News

Two very exciting opportunities coming this summer for youth in grades 8-12!

It is the first time that this has happened and you can be a part of it! **Any parents or caring adults who feel called to this ministry, we need you** to make these events happen! There will be an **informational meeting for youth and parents on November 4 right after 2nd worship** to give an overview of these events and answer any questions you might have. Both events will happen if we have enough youth and adults signed up. Western States will be fairly open registration but the Mission Trip number will be limited. With both events, the sooner you get your application in, the better (to assure you a spot).

Western States Youth Gathering: July 28-August 2 in Anaheim, California

Once every 3 years, this gathering is held somewhere in the west. Between 2500 and 4000 youth and adults usually attend from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and sometimes from other states, too. This summer the gathering will be held in Anaheim at the Anaheim Convention Center and Hilton Hotel.

Western States is packed full of group fun, fellowship, service, speakers, worship and music. There is a time for individual choices for exciting sessions of learning, too. The atmosphere is one of celebration and faith sharing and I don't think you will be disappointed. More than likely we will travel by bus and hopefully youth from around our cluster will join us. Applications due by December 13.

Mexico Mission Trip: June 7-15 in Tijuana, Mexico

We are planning another mission trip to Mexico. Like the last four trips, this promises to be a trip filled with fellowship and service through sharing, working, caring, learning, experiencing, worshipping, tolerating, and playing together in Christ's name!

We will leave on a Saturday and get to Tijuana the next afternoon. The 5 nights are spent in Mexico working on various service projects as well as the house. We cook our own meals. Usually on Friday we go to the beach in CA. We drive to St. George on Saturday and arrive back in Idaho Falls on Sunday. This trip can only happen if we have enough adults willing to take part in the mission, drive, and take their vehicles. Applications due as soon as possible starting November 4 until filled. A waiting list will be started.

Important: If you are considering this trip, you will need to apply for a passport right away! Everyone will need one so be sure to allow plenty of time.

I know these are two major events for our congregation to help support. It is also a lot for families to consider, but I pray that God will give us all guidance and blessings on our decisions! Don't hesitate to contact Kay at 522-9301, 525-8390, or flydirector@firstlc.com with questions or concerns.

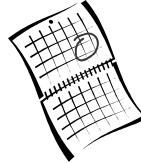
Proceeds from both of the following sales go to the Youth Activity and Travel Fund. Thanks for supporting youth ministry.

Poinsettias: We are taking orders to decorate the sanctuary and your homes again. Please sign up for poinsettias (next to the water fountain) by October 28 so that we know if we need to return unused coupons. Payment at time of order is appreciated.



Calendar Sale: Order your beautiful 2008 calendars.

They have inspirational scriptures and have smear-proof writing areas that can be written on and erased. If we have 25 ordered by the end of November, we will send off for them. Pay when calendars arrive.



Care Packages For College & Military Youth

DONATIONS FOR CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR COLLEGE AND MILITARY YOUTH ARE NEEDED!

We will be putting together care packages to send before Thanksgiving. If you are able to help, please bring any of the following items to church by Sunday, November 18: small packages of crackers (like cheese or peanut butter filled crackers), microwave popcorn, cookies, gum, chocolate bars, hot chocolate packages, pens, cups of soup, and granola bars. For more information, call Terry @ 524-2112 or Kay @ 522-9301. Thank you for helping us stay in touch with our young adults away from home!

COLLEGE AND MILITARY YOUTH INFORMATION NEEDED! Parents, we need your help! Please call 522-9301, email office@firstlc.com, or fill out a form at church giving us the information for your youth in college or the military. We plan to send care packages from the church and want to be sure they are included. We can only send to those that we know about and have current information for. Here is what we need: Name, mailing address and how long it is good, telephone, email, birthday, special dates during the year (such as finals & breaks), dietary considerations, name of college or branch of military. Please get the information to us by Sunday, November 11.

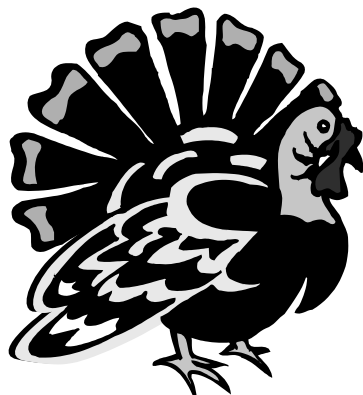
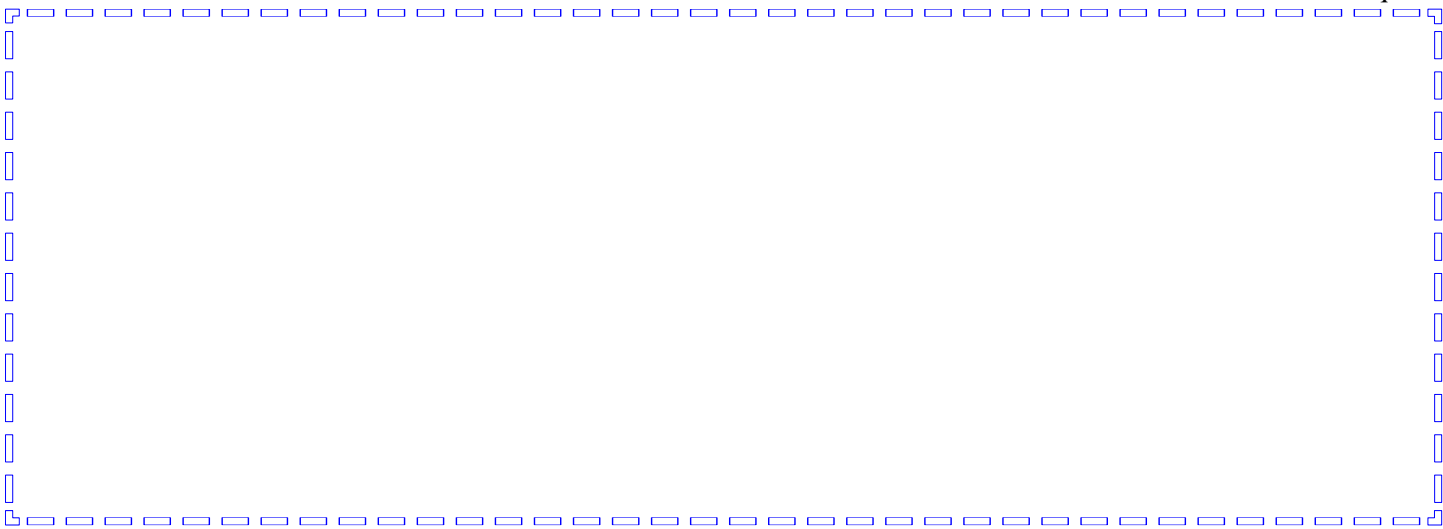
Parents and Youth: Please don't forget to RSVP (call and let us know you are coming) for youth events and activities at least 4 days prior to the day of the event. This will help us know how many adults we need and if we will have to cancel it or not. THANKS!

Crosswalk is a publication of
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NOVEMBER

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pastors	The Reverends Larry Cudmore and Jeff Nate
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
<i>Crosswalk</i> 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 knsg@dcdi.net**

SUNDAY
 SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Nov. 4: Dan 7:1-3, 15-18; Ps 149, Eph 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31 (All Saints Day)
 Nov. 11: Job 19:23-27a, Ps 17:1-9, 2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
 Nov. 18: Mal 4:1-2a, Ps 98, 2 Thess 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19
 Nov. 22: Deut 26:1-11, Ps 100, Phil 4:4-9, John 6:25-35 (Thanksgiving)
 Nov. 25: Jer 23:1-6, Ps 46, Col 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43 (Christ the King)