Volume 125 - Issue 11
November 2026

CROSSWALK

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

From Election Tuesday to Thanksgiving Thursday

November brings us at least two "blessed days:" Election Tuesday and Thanksgiving Thursday. Many people might not think of both of those as blessed, especially since Election Day can be a bit of an "unmentionable" subject in the church. We know that people sitting in the same pews may hold polar opposite political views. Sometimes it seems easier simply not to talk about politics at all. Yet, with midterm elections upon us, I think this is a good time to remember that simply the freedom to choose our leaders and have a voice in our government is itself a blessing- one that many people around the world do not enjoy.

We may disagree about how best to use that freedom, but we can be thankful that we have it. I also think most of us agree we should use our political freedoms wisely by taking our civic responsibilities seriously and participating thoughtfully. And as Christians one more important thing is remembering that those with whom we disagree are still our neighbors. Our faith calls us to treat one another with respect, pray for our elected leadership, and to seek the welfare of the communities in which God has placed us.

And then comes Thanksgiving Thursday! Perhaps the days following an election are an especially good time to prepare our hearts for Thanksgiving. Regardless of which candidates win or which party gains the advantage, there is still much for which we can give thanks. We have families and friends, communities to call home, opportunities to serve, and a host of freedoms often take for granted. We have the ability to speak, to worship, to gather, to make choices, and to work toward a better future.

Of course, as Christians, we know that our greatest blessings do not come from an election, a political party, or a government. They come from God. And that brings us to an even more remarkable choice. Long before we ever chose God, God chose us.



God chose to come into our world, not with the power and authority we might expect from an earthly ruler, but in the humble person of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to love us, forgive us, serve us, and ultimately to sacrifice his life for us. At the cross, we see just how far God's love is willing to go for the sake of his people. That is a blessing beyond anything we can win at the ballot box. It is a gift we could never earn and a love we could never deserve. It is grace, freely given, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And what do we do with a gift like that? We give thanks! But our thanksgiving should be more than a prayer before the holiday meal. Our thanksgiving can become a way of life. Because Christ has loved us, we seek to love others. Because Christ has served us, we look for opportunities to serve our neighbors. Because Christ has forgiven us, we learn to extend forgiveness. And because Christ gave himself for us, we offer our own lives in faithful service to him.

So, as we move from Election Tuesday toward Thanksgiving Thursday, perhaps we can make that journey with a renewed sense of gratitude. We can give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, even when we disagree about how to exercise them. We can pray for our nation and its leaders, remembering that our calling as Christians is not limited to one election or one political party. And we can give thanks above all for the God who chose us, loved us, and gave himself for us in Jesus Christ.

We may not all agree on Election Tuesday, but we can all give thanks on Thanksgiving Thursday - and every day - for the One who chose to love us first.

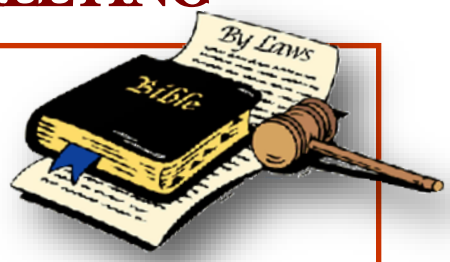
In Christ,

Pastor Mike



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saint's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Rehearsal **10:15am Worship** **11:30am Fellowship Hour** 11:30am King's Men Rehearsal 12:00pm ERT and Shofar Meeting	10:00am Staff Meeting	9:00am Preschool 9:00am Happy Stitchers 12:00pm Gathering in Grace Ladies' Bible Study 1:00pm Preschool 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #930 6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal		9:00am Preschool 9:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Kaffeeklatsch 1:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	10:00am - 4:00pm Friends in Stitches	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Rehearsal **10:15am Worship** **11:45pm Congregational Meeting**	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting	9:00am Preschool 9:00am Happy Stitchers 12:00pm C&C Meeting 1:00pm Preschool 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #930 6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9:00am Preschool 10:00am-2:00pm Newcomers Club of IF Holiday Lunch 1:00pm Preschool 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 5:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	9:00am Preschool 9:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Kaffeeklatsch 1:00pm Preschool 5:00pm Finance Team Meeting	10:00am - 4:00pm Friends in Stitches	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Rehearsal **10:15am Worship** **11:30am Fellowship Hour** 11:30am King's Men Rehearsal	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	9:00am Preschool 9:00am Happy Stitchers 10:00am RCCM Meeting 12:00pm Gathering in Grace Ladies' Bible Study 1:00pm Preschool 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #930 6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9:00am Preschool 1:00pm Preschool 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 5:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	9:00am Preschool 9:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Kaffeeklatsch 1:00pm Preschool 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	10:00am - 4:00pm Friends in Stitches	
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Rehearsal **10:15am Worship** **11:30am Fellowship Hour** 11:30am King's Men Rehearsal	10:00am Staff Meeting	9:00am Happy Stitchers 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #930 6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal ~ No Preschool ~	2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 5:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	Office Closed	10:00am - 4:00pm Friends in Stitches	
29	30					
9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Rehearsal **10:15am Worship** **11:30am Fellowship Hour** 11:30am King's Men Rehearsal	10:00am Staff Meeting					

Annual Congregational Meeting



The annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 8th**, following worship. We will be voting on new officers, council members, and the 2027 budget.

Please join us; child care will be available, and a main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Voting members are those confirmed members who have both:

- Communed in this congregation a minimum of 9 times during the12 months prior to the congregational meeting (as recorded on the friendship pads), and
- Made a contribution of record to this congregation during the 12 months prior to the congregational meeting. Members under the age of 18 may use their parents' contribution to fulfill this requirement.

New Members - Save the Date!

new members class

We're pleased to report Pastor Mike currently has four families in the new member class. We hope to officially receive these families on Sunday, December 6th during the worship service and have a fellowship dinner in their honor that evening from 5 to 7pm. Council members are asked to bring a soup to share, Ministry Team Chairs (and team members if attending) are asked to bring bread or dessert. We hope to have an enjoyable evening helping our new families get to know us ...and us them. Pastor Mike will once again have one of his 'Stupid Name Games" for the ice breaker. :-)

Ministry Teams don't forget your "Swag Bag" items!

Sew Much Love for our Graduating Seniors!

Happy Stitchers' Graduation Quilts

Graduation is a big milestone, and the Happy Stitchers would love to send our graduating seniors into their next chapter wrapped in love! Each eligible senior is invited to receive a personalized queen-size quilt, lovingly designed and sewn by our quilting group.

Who is eligible?
You must be graduating from high school in **2027**, and you, your parent, guardian, or grandparent must be a **voting member of FELC**.

Ready to get stitched into the plans?

- **November–December 2026:** Submit your name to the office administrator.
- **January 1, 2027:** The Happy Stitchers will mail you a letter requesting your favorite colors and Bible verse.
- **February 1, 2027:** Return your completed letter by this date. Because each quilt takes time to create, **requests cannot be accepted after February 1**.

The quilts will be presented during worship on **the first Sunday of May 2027**.
We look forward to stitching together a gift of faith, comfort, and love for your journey ahead!

WEDNESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, in the library.
Questions? Contact Carole (caroleplwm982@gmail.com) or Marda (Marda@silverstar.com).

GATHERING IN GRACE LADIES' BIBLE STUDY



1st & 3rd Tuesdays from 12:00-1:30 in the library.
If you would like more Information, please contact Linda Lerum.

THURSDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

9AM ON THURSDAYS: COME JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY.
STAY FOR  KAFFEEKLATSCH!



ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Details can be found at BSFinternational.org

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

November 1st: The Golden Calf

November 8th: The Ark of the Covenant and its Tabernacle

November 15th: The 10 Spies

November 22nd: Fiery Serpents

The Vine & Pages Christian Book Club



***Beginning November 10th*:** Looking for a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, grow in faith, and enjoy good books? Join The Vine & Pages Christian Book Club, a new Women's Ministry gathering open to all adult women. We'll meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the home of Heather Catanese. Each month, we'll select a book written by a Christian author, giving everyone a month to read before we gather for discussion, fellowship, and a glass of wine. Bring a light snack to share and come ready to exchange ideas, encouragement, and recommendations for future books.

For location information or to RSVP, please contact Heather by call or text at (208) 521-2565 or email mrs.catanese@gmail.com. *If interest is strong, we may start a second group that meets another evening to accommodate more participants.*

A-Maize-ing Coincidence!

Despite having to postpone our youth event due to rain, we were blessed with perfect weather on our second attempt. Our 6th through 12th graders had fun "getting lost" together at the New Sweden Farms Corn Maze. This year's theme was One Nation Under God. The irony was definitely not ***lost*** on us as we navigated our way through a Jesus shaped maze. We enjoyed fellowship and the opportunity to discuss how Jesus is always our way out when we are lost.













UPCOMING...



Trunk or Treat/Chili Cookoff

Keep an eye out next month to see who has bragging rights for our Chili cook off and Trunk or Treat challenge!

Operation Christmas Child

The children will be packing Operation Christmas child boxes on Sunday, November 22 during Sunday school.

Christmas Pageant Kickoff

November 29th at 9am, during Sunday school. This is open to all Children and parents who are interested in participating in this year's Christmas Pageant that will be held on December 20th during worship Service. We will be providing scripts and selecting our cast. Please let Heather know if your child wishes to participate but can't attend the meeting. Rehearsals begin December 6th During the Sunday School hour. (regular Sunday School will be on break from November 29th and resume January 3rd.

PENNY POWER

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
Gifts of Love

KIDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Penny Power for September was sent to Lutheran World Relief to buy animals that will be given to families in need in far away countries. We talked about God's Provision during Sunday School and asked the children what animals they want to purchase based on the amount received. A goat, chickens, a pig...?

How a-BAAAH-t ALL OF THE ABOVE?!!

$2,420 was raised and used to purchase a variety of packages:

1x - |**2 Goats + 1 Hen & 6 Chicks**|

3x - |**Herd of 13 Animals**|

6x - |**5 Tree Seedlings**|



November **Penny Power** will be used to purchase items to fill boxes for **Operation Christmas Child.** You kids will be able to see just how many boxes you are able to send to boys and girls for a special Christmas.

This year the **Advent Offerings** will be given to the **Idaho Falls Rescue Mission**. They work to meet the needs of the hungry, homeless, and hopeless. Each program they offer is designed to meet the needs of the men, women and children who come through their doors.

Missions

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

Thank You from China Service Ventures!

China Service Ventures sends heartfelt thanks to FELC for our **$3,000 gift** supporting Chinese Christians who share the love of Christ through:

- A mobile chiropractic ministry serving poor and elderly Chinese immigrants in the United Kingdom.
- English instruction for children of pastors in mainland China.
- Camps for children of newly arrived immigrants in the greater Los Angeles area.
- Missionaries serving in mainland China at great personal risk.

Your generosity supports these ministries and encourages those faithfully serving their communities. Thank you for helping extend Christ's love around the world!

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey T. Nellermoe

Jeffrey T. Nellermoe

Executive Director

Worship & Music



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER WE OBSERVE ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

All Saint's Day is Sunday, November 1st. During the worship service portion of the "Prayers of the People," we will be lifting up in prayer the names of faithful loved ones that were called to the saints in light this past year. Family members are invited to light a candle in their memory when their loved one's name is read aloud.

Christ the King Sunday: November 22nd

As autumn gives way to Advent, we celebrate the One whose reign never ends.

Christ the King Sunday marks the final Sunday of the Church Year. The Church year began with the promise of Christ's coming and now concludes with the joyful proclamation that **Christ reigns over all creation.** We'll lift our voices in praise to Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who reigns in glory and grace. Together we'll look forward to the coming Advent season, when we again await our King's return in glory.

The Lord reigns forever; He has established His throne for judgment. — Psalm 9:7



- † **Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am**
- † **King's Men Rehearsal 11:30 am**
- † **Handbell Rehearsal Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**
- † **Praise Band Wednesdays at 5:00 pm**

THE ADVENT SEASON BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

It's beginning to look a lot like… Advent.

Christmas is coming. Advent reminds us there's meaning in the meantime.
The calendar is filling up, the shopping lists are growing, and Christmas has probably already taken over a few aisles at your favorite store. But beginning **Sunday, November 29**, we're making room for Advent - a season of waiting, watching, preparing, and praying. We'll prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth and look forward to his promised return. And somewhere between the errands and the wrapping paper, we'll practice slowing down long enough to remember who we're celebrating.

The Great Exchange: Heaven's Greatest Gift. Grandma's Best Recipe

Join us on Wednesday evenings for the beautiful **Holden Evening Prayer** service as Pastor Mike explores this year's Advent theme, **"The Great Exchange."** At Christmas, God gives us his Son, who takes what is ours and gives us what is his - a gift we could never earn, wrapped in grace.
Over three weeks, we'll explore the exchange we could never make for ourselves, the gift God freely gives, and how receiving his love changes what we have to share. And because some exchanges involve a little more butter and sugar, we'll also have some fun with Christmas cookies. Favorite recipes, familiar traditions, and the stories behind them give us another reason to linger around the table. Come for soup, stay for worship, and see what cookies have to do with **The Great Exchange.**

Help Us Light the Way

We're looking for individuals and families to read and light the Advent wreath during worship. This year's readings follow the Germanic tradition of the Prophet, Bethlehem, Shepherds, and Angel candles. Sign up at the **Welcome Window** if you'd like to help.
While you're there, pick up an **FELC Advent Devotional Booklet**. It includes the candle readings, encouragement for the season, and ideas for meaningful traditions at home. Take an extra to share with a friend, neighbor, or family member.

Your Crockpot's Moment Has Arrived!

Our simple soup suppers are back! Dust off those crock pots, find your favorite recipes, and join us for a warm meal before worship.

Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16
Soup & Bread |6:30 pm|
Holden Evening Prayer |7:15 pm|

Advent worship offerings will support the **Idaho Falls Rescue Mission**.
Come hungry. Bring a friend. Give yourself a little room to breathe.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Help us prepare FELC for the season of Advent and the joy of Christmas! Our annual Hanging of the Greens is an opportunity to come together, enjoy fellowship, and fill our worship space with the beauty of the season as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's birth.

Many hands make light work, and we'll need plenty of help putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church. Whether you have a gift for arranging decorations or simply a willingness to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us!

Watch your bulletin for the decorating date and time.

Let's make the season bright together!

FELC'S MUSIC GROUPS PRESENT A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Celebrate the joy of Christ's birth through music! Under the direction of Michelle Hanson, FELC's four music groups—the Grace Note adult choir, For His Glory Ringers, the King's Men, and the FELC Praise Band—will come together for an uplifting Christmas Concert.

Join us in FELC's sanctuary on **Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 p.m.** as we continue a cherished tradition of gathering our church and community to celebrate our newborn King, Jesus Christ. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to share in this joyful afternoon of Christmas music. An offering will be received to support the **Idaho Falls Rescue Mission**.



Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS # = Gluten-free server	LITURGISTS/ READERS	GREETERS	USHERS # = Coordinator	COUNTERS	STREAMING	ALTAR GUILD
Nov 1	Natalie Meyer# Cheryl Swenson, Deb Nowatzki, Bev Thomas, Kim Bermensolo	Liturgist: Sheryl Schaffer	Diana & Lewis Murphy	Jim Sahr# Lisa Swenson Ryan Dixon	Lisa Swenson Paul Bayless	Paul Bayless	Debra Holst Diana Wagner
Nov 8	Cathi Bean# Diana Murphy, Beth Nicholas, Shawn Cleverly, Ginny Conricode	Liturgist: Steve Galbraith	Michelle Cleverly Jan Galbraith	Scott Berger# Phil Forbord Paul Worth	Phil & Tessa Forbord	Ian Dahlberg	Debra Holst Diane Sheldon
Nov 15	Diane Sheldon# DiAnn Brown, Debra Hogg, Carole Mason, Pat Christenson	Liturgist: Deb Nowatzki	Mary Hanek Mary Pilkington	Richard Magnuson# Geri Magnuson Tom Pilkington	Debra Holst Beth Nicholas	Paul Lerum	Debra Holst Cathi Bean
Nov 22	Linda Lerum# Kim Bermensolo, Bev Thomas, Diana Murphy, Cheryl Swenson, Pat Christenson	Reader: Pat Christenson & Liturgist: Paul Bayless	Geri Magnuson Mary Hanek	Ryan Dixon# Scott Berger Greg Stultz	Greg & Kathy Katainen	Randy Kay	Debra Holst Deb Nowatzki
Nov 29	Cathi Bean# Shawn Cleverly, DiAnn Brown, Carole Mason, Ginny Conricode, Deb Nowatzki	Reader: Marda Kirkwood	Mary Hanek Geri Magnuson	Gary Holst# Phil Forbord Paul Worth	Lisa Swenson Paul Bayless	Paul Bayless	Debra Holst Jan Galbraith

WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please prayerfully consider these opportunities to support worship at FELC:

Altar Guild: Prefer working behind the scenes? Help prepare Communion, care for the altar, change banners, and prepare for baptisms, funerals, and special services. Men and women are welcome, training is provided, and two people serve together each month.

Worship Volunteers: We also need Communion assistants, Scripture readers, greeters, and acolytes to tend the candles and carry the cross. These are separate roles from Altar Guild, although many members currently fill several needs.

Communion Assistants Especially Needed: Some volunteers serve two or three times a month while also supporting other ministries. More volunteers would help share the responsibility and prevent burn-out. Without additional help, we will likely move to **one continuous Communion station instead of kneeling at the rail, beginning in January 2027**.

Serving is a meaningful way to share God's love and care for our church family.
Please contact the church office to volunteer or learn more.

Thank you and God Bless!
Cathi Bean

Care & Concern

How Can We Pray For You?

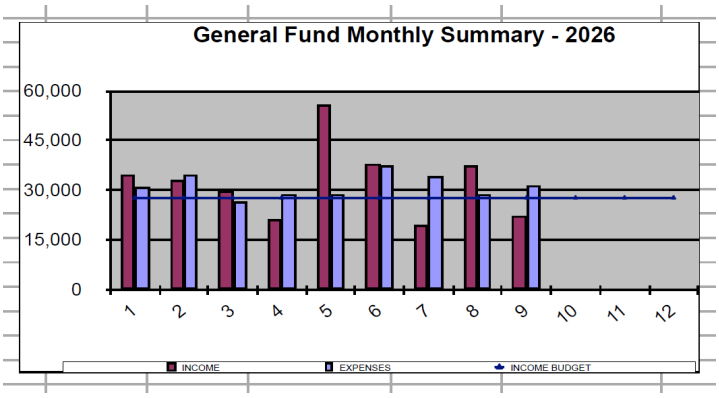
If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

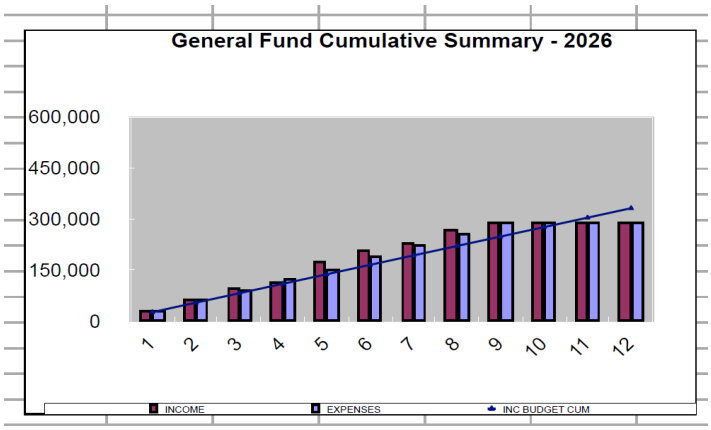
Prayers for those who are ill, recovering, or going through a difficult time: Donna Amundson; Tom Amundson; Charlotte Benson; Dean Benson; Bill Boyd; Shayla Berry; Kevin Call; Jeannie Campbell; Bailey Chamberlain; Carol Clark; Tracy Coburn; Devyn, Corden & Elias Cox; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Janet Dean; Laura Dean; Millie Dean; Joan Douglas; Josephine Fife; Sharon Gilbert; Jo & Al Glissendorf; Diane Hackman; Steve Hammond; Grayson Hansen; Josie Holtz; Charles Hunt; Ann Hurley; Lexi Jensen; Vickie John; Mary Krippner; Pat Lance; Austin Leger; Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Adara McClure; Bob McGee; Vicky Mickelson; Cal Miller; Wendy Morgan; Bob Neff; Josh Neis; Don Newman; Heidi Parker; Mary Pilkington; Mark Pischer; Patricia Richardson; Julie Sagnimeni; Laura Schoonmaker; Betty Smith; Jason & Kelly Smith; Joyce Stultz; Julie Sundberg; Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Chris Weaver; Joyce White; Daniel & Sarah Young

Our Christian Sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Linn Watson, Jacki Potter's mother, who passed away October 15th.
- Family and friends of Wendy Morgan, Larry Hudman's sister, upon her passing on October 15th.
- Family and friends of John Davis, Paul Davis's brother, who passed October 18th.

Finance





Current Month:	September	
Current Month Income		22,380.91
Current Month Expenses		31,504.21
Difference		(9,123.30)
Year to Date Income		291,511.64
*Year to Date Expenses		289,917.50
Difference		1,594.14
Budget Comparison 2026:		
Year to Date Actual Income		291,511.64
Year to Date Budget Income		249,375.00
Difference		42,136.64
Year to Date Actual Expenses		289,917.50
Year to Date Budget Expenses		285,225.00
Difference		4,692.50

Crosswalk is a publication of
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lcmc Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
NALC North American Lutheran Church

Praising Our GOD
Loving GOD's People

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Friday Closed

Pastor	Rev. Mike Knauff
Music Director	Michelle Hanson
Family Minister	Heather Catanese
Church Administrator	Julie Sagnimeni
Bookkeeper	Greg Stultz
Financial Secretary	Wendy Schoonmaker
Minister of Welcome	Rev. Larry Cudmore
Preschool Director	Barbara Carlson

Bring items for the *Crosswalk* to the church office
OR
e-mail items to: office@firstlc.com

Sunday Worship Schedule

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