



PASTOR OPPORTUNITY

Overview

These are exciting times for First Evangelical Lutheran Church (FELC) as our work with our Intentional Interim Minister is in its final chapter. FELC is ready now to begin our search for a pastor who matches our needs, hopes, and vision as identified in our transition processes. With God's leading, we know there are gifted and qualified pastoral candidates who will sense God's call to this ministry and geographical area. If you see this as an opportunity you may be open to explore and consider, our contact information is provided at the bottom of this page.

The Congregation



First Lutheran is a thriving congregation with a membership of varied age groups, the majority being semi-retired and retired families and individuals. We came into being in 1898, and are known in the community as a friendly and active church in which all people are welcome. We enjoy and encourage many forms of music including vocal choirs, a bell choir, and various musical groups and events. The quilting group has existed for many years and contributes significantly to the church as well as the community. We look forward to continued blessings as we grow in in Biblical knowledge, and the participation of more and more children and youth within our church and in the community. Women's and men's ministries, small and large group bible studies, care facility reading programs, and an active Stephen Ministry are in place. Special events for the community like bicycle rodeos, benefit concerts, fair trade bazaars and barbeques have been especially successful in reaching out to our community. Our talented staff and committed council are strong partners in this dynamic congregation. We look forward to a future, grounded in the Word, that feeds the spirit of current and future worshippers.

The Church



First Evangelical Lutheran Church is affiliated with both the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and North American Lutheran Church (NALC), with a mission of "Praising our God-loving His People". Currently, our worship service is on Sundays at 10:15 am, preceded by an Education Hour for adults and children. Sunday worship is also live streamed with an average in-person attendance of 75-100 and a live stream attendance of 60. We are a Christ centered, mission driven, traditionally grounded, and congregationally focused church. First Lutheran is served by a talented staff of four in addition to our Intentional Interim Pastor, and governed by a Church Council of sixteen men and women. Financially, First Lutheran is in a solid position with a yearly budget of \$330,000 and no indebtedness.

The Location



Idaho Falls is located along the Snake River surrounded by beautiful mountains. A close proximity to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks make this a great location for many outdoor activities. Around 65,000 people call this town home. There are three major hospitals, excellent schools, several colleges and a variety of shopping.

The Candidate's Qualifications



Above all, First Lutheran is seeking a pastoral candidate whose foundation is in his/her trust of all God promises through Jesus Christ. First Lutheran's vision stems from this faith. With the Lord's guidance, we pray God will provide a pastor who feels an affinity with the congregation's vision, needs, and hopes and will work diligently to move forward with it. A pastor who is eager and willing to work with others, shares leadership, and competently supports and encourages the ministry of others will bless the congregation. We are seeking a pastor who has had a minimum of several years of experience, but also has had leadership opportunities working with multiple staff members. Our pastor should have an excellent grasp of Scripture with the skills to proclaim and teach the Word of God effectively and memorably to a broad spectrum of ages and faith experience. If you feel you're blessed with these gifts, and you are open to considering this call, please contact us for our congregational profile and/or further information.

The Next Step



Please submit your resume, or mobility paperwork, and letter of interest to:
callcommittee@firstlc.com
455 W Sunnyside Rd. Idaho Falls ID 83404
208-522-9301

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES

- The state of Idaho has been listed as the second fastest growing state in America and Idaho Falls has felt the impact of that growth. With hundreds of new residents coming to our city monthly, we are challenged to provide for and attract those families to become a part of our faith community. The opportunity is great in our welcome of new followers of the Lord to FELC.
- FELC has had several pastors in a short time which has proven to be a challenge. It is time that everyone would like to feel a sense of consistency and focused direction. The opportunity will be to build up, bring together, and move forward with the congregation using an approach which meets the needs of multiple age groups, faith experience, and maintains a solid grounding in the Word.
- A challenge will be to assess the various needs for the future of this church, and to rally its current members around them. The opportunity is great, as there is much enthusiasm to work together to encourage increased youth involvement, Bible studies, women's and men's programs, community involvement, outreach, and fellowship.
- Maintaining financial health and upkeep/improvements of our campusbuilding facility remain a part of the congregation's challenges. We are blessed to have a wonderfully functional, debt-free property and facility which with prudent, loving attention and maintenance should continue to provide us with space for our spiritual growth for many years to come.
- The days of COVID19 have been a challenge! For our congregation, it caused a separation from one another, from relationships, and in some cases a pause in spiritual connection with the Lord. This challenge has residual affects with people who became comfortable with not attending church services and activities, or viewing them from afar. The opportunities that arise is an increased expertise in social media venues, and it is now a wonderful time to make in-person connections a priority. Our congregation, like others, is in need of fellowship with each other, the church, and a pastor who can bring people and their thoughts and prayers together.
- FELC, like many congregations, is seeing fewer young adults attend church than have attended in the past. This presents multiple challenges in attracting elementary and teenage students to attend church and participate in Bible studies and activities. The opportunity is huge in the area of attracting and reaching new young families to church; our congregation is very enthusiastic about this endeavor.
- We have a keen interest in addressing the needs of single people within and outside of our church. The challenge will be to provide attractive opportunities for support, encouragement, and fellowship for this group that are meaningful and spiritually satisfying, providing a sense of belonging and fulfillment.

