Dear Family of Faith at FELC,

It seems that we no longer have put away the Thanksgiving table settings and niceties, hidden away the stretchy pants for another day of feasting, and made it through the demands and challenges of extended family time that this thing called "Advent" springs into our midst. Advent is a "churchy" thing...most in our culture don't move through it, or even know what it is. We

church folks get help doing so: Those who show up on a Sunday morning will receive a set of candles and a daily devotional, along with the suggestion that we fashion for our home a wreath of any sort, put a candle representing each of the 4 weeks of Advent into it, and add (get it? "Add-vent?") a brief candle lighting and devotional reading/prayer to our daily habits as a way of counting down to the celebration of the birth of Jesus—"the reason for the season" as even popular and public signage likes to put it.

Advent, as most in our religious tradition have heard countless times, literally means "coming". It is a season of anticipation, preparation, joy, and hope as we mark the days of a holy-day season which promises to make for a most meaningful



Christmas: the very birth of our Salvation. There you have it: a summation of what we are up to as those who believe that God somehow put on skin, came to dwell among us, cleaned us up, and delivered us in acceptable fashion to the Almighty.

What does it all "Add" up to really? Well, it means we get it. We understand that amidst the cookies, the Amy Grant Christmas album, the endless and troublesome strings of lights, trees and greenery lies the salvation of the entire world as we know it: Jesus. And God does not enter with tanks and legions of armies, but in a manger...angels singing...and not arriving at first to the rich and powerful, but to ordinary, working-class, blue-collar shepherds pulling another night shift, minding their own business as usual.

Simply understanding and believing just this "Adds" something to the month, doesn't it?

We are blessed by our faith—enriched, warmed, touched. Saved, in fact! We have received this gift via God's Spirit at work in a beautiful creation and world, and through the lives of parents, friends, siblings, pastors, SS teachers, youth group leaders, and other caring adults who have passed it on to us. We "Add" to our celebrations our thanks to God for souls such as these who've pointed us to God.

For all these reasons, we call this season "Ad-vent." Get it? Rephrasing a popular, even Biblical, thought: To those whom much has been "added," much is expected. What a privilege...

Pastor Rick

Volume 120— Issue 12 December 2021

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A Message from Your Council President

President's Letter to the Congregation. Jerusalem and Into Judea!

Acts 1:8 ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Question from this passage? Where is your Jerusalem, your Judea, your Samaria?

In Acts, as Christ is lifted up to Heaven, he instructed his Disciples to be his witness. To them, Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria had a specific meaning. Jerusalem was where they lived, where they were comfortable with their families and fellow believers



in Christ. Judea was their neighborhood, where they worked, where they walked amongst others perhaps not quite like them. Samaria was the place they avoided. The bad neighborhood they were willing to go around rather than go through. The Congregation of FELC met last Sunday and approved a new church council and a new annual budget. So where do we go from here? Well, where are we now? What is our Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria?

<u>Our Jerusalem</u>: The body of believers which is our Church has experienced healing over the last 18 or so months. Pastors Grundmann and Nelson working with the Church Council have concentrated on healing the people and advising the Council on evaluating, re-defining and reaffirming our mission, working to get back on track as a Church. I recorded in the Annual Report a significant number of projects and accomplishments, products of the Church over the last year. Many of these concentrated around healing our Jerusalem. The one topic I think on everybody's mind today is the search to fill the Pastoral Vacancy in our Jerusalem. The Call Committee continues to make great progress as they further refine the list of applicants. The Congregation can take hope in successful completion of this Call.

<u>Our Judea</u>: FELC has also worked toward ways we can take Jesus to our neighbors. People who live around us, co-workers, people connected by our schools, sports, and hobbies. People we meet as we walk through life. Our adult Sunday school hour has been devoted to bolstering our understanding of the Bible, how it works in our lives and preparing us for when we take that journey through our Judea. The Outreach and Evangelism committee has worked for about a year and has given the Council a list of recommendations some of which have already implemented.

<u>Our Samaria</u>: FELC has opportunities now where individuals are witnessing to their Samaria. To date, we have supported those witnesses, but have not focused specifically on developing this area to the extent possible.

<u>FY22</u>: I am assembling a list of discrete goals and projects to place before the new FELC Council on December 13th. These will involve both Council, as well as Committee action. Some may require a special congregational vote. Please, let me know if there are specific needs you see so I can add them to the list. This list is concentrated more right now on our Jerusalem and Judea. Samaria is not forgotten. It will be an outgrowth of our Discipleship development. Topical areas or projects the FELC Council will address this year include, in general and in no specific order:

- Staff/Volunteer needs: Youth Director, Music and Choir Directors, Assistant Pastor, sound and video, etc.
- Evaluation and improvement of Programs and Committees: Including Worship & Music, alternative service styles, Youth Ministry, Men's and Women's Ministry and development of small group opportunities.
- Development of Outreach and Evangelism at FELC. Training volunteers, planning community events, creating opportunities to witness to people who will never enter our Church.
- Developing a welcoming atmosphere for members and guests every Sunday. Concentration on greeters, fellowship, and follow-up with guests. How do we make the facility itself more welcoming?
- Actively developing members as Disciples and equipping them to witness in their Judea.
- Physical upkeep and modifications to our Church properties. This includes general equipment upkeep as
 well as possible modifications to the Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, Classrooms, etc. One topic
 I hear frequently is improving the quality of sound in the sanctuary. Another is a controversial increase in
 the use of technology.
- Evaluating and updating the administrative structure we work to; i.e., what changes do we need to make to our constitution, by laws and policies to better align with the LCMC/NALC and our mission?

Galatians 6:9: 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Your Council President Harlan F. Lerum II

Sunday School







Thank you for making our Trick or Treat through the Bible such a great success. Jim Sahr, Paul Bayless, Ellie Lerum, Patti Chapin and Carole Mason.

Advent means "arrival" or "coming." It is a season of expectation and hope. Believers across the world spend the weeks before Christmas preparing for that day of beauty and light. What an exciting time of year! Here are two ideas to celebrate Advent each day!

A new twist on the old construction paper chain is to make a Name of Jesus chain. The Bible uses many different names for Jesus, for example, Immanuel, Prince of Peace, and Bread of Life. Each name of Jesus tells us something more about him. Write the names on strips of paper, turn them into a chain, and then have the children tear off one piece each day as Christmas approaches. Take some time to talk about what each name tells you about Jesus.

Names to use on the chains:

Wonderful Counselor- Isaiah 9:6

The Everlasting Father- Isaiah 9:6

The Firstborn - Colossians 1:15

Lamb of God- John 1:29

Bright and Morning Star- Revelations 22:16

Immanuel- Matthew 1:23

Light of the World- John 8:12

The Word- John 1:1

King- Zechariah 9:9

Lily of the Valley-Solomon 2:1

Savior-John 4:42

Ancient of Days- Daniel 7:9

Alpha and Omega- Revelation 22:13

The Mighty God-Isaiah 9:6

The Prince of Peace- Isaiah 9:6

Unspeakable Gift- 2 Corinthians 9:15

Good Shepherd- John 10:11

Messiah- Mark 8:29

Holy One- Mark 1:24

Dayspring-Luke 1:78

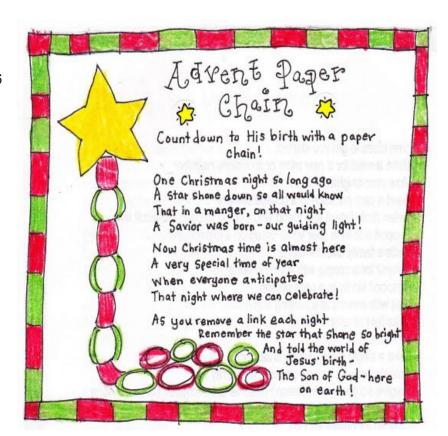
Servant- Matthew 12:18

Rose of Sharon-Solomon 2:1

Friend- Matthew 11:19

Shiloh- Genesis 49:10

God with Us- Luke 2:1



Sunday School continued

Bible Verse countdown to Christmas. These cards will fit right in with the Elf on the Shelf! The Elf brings a card each day or put a card under someone's dinner plate and have them read it to the family. Enjoy!

Come join us at Sunday School for a Nativity Scavenger Hunt on Dec. 5th and Nativity Escape Room on the 12th! Hope to see you there.



Announcements

The Fellowship Team will be purchasing packaged treats for the December 12th Christmas Cantata Program. In lieu of making homemade cookies and breads, we are asking for contributions to help purchase packaged cookies, pastries and other items.

Thank you for your consideration as we share God's message during this Holiday season with each other and the community.





The church Office will be open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 - Noon December 20th- 23rd and December 27th - 30th.

Women's Ministry Monthly Bruncheon

December 4th brunch will be at Diablas Kitchen at 10:30 am. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!! We will start with a small devotional and prayer, followed by great food and company. Please R.S.V.P. to Elizabeth Miner at 208-201-3623.



Blessings to you this Christmas! Your Church Library has on display many Christmas books for your enjoyment. There are short heartwarming stories of goodness, angels, and Christmas joy along with poems, games, songs, recipes and inspirational books that can be checked out and shared with your family and friends. Merry Christmas from your Library Mouse.







"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN." Luke 2:4

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Worship and Music

First Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to our

2021 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 12th at 10:15 am, 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm also online at www.firstlc.com



Free-will monetary offering for Idaho Falls Community
Food Basket, Soup Kitchen and Meals on Wheels

Following Idaho COVID-related guidelines; seating may be limited

Missions

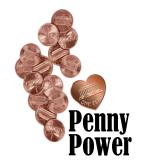


The Happy Stitchers filled 9 Operation Christmas child boxes

For 25 years Samaritans Purse has been collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivering them to children in need around the world. Again this year we have been a part of this very special Mission

and have filled 47 Shoeboxes. Thanks to everyone who makes this a priority for a child to experience the love of God at Christmas in a tangible way.

Thanks to our Christmas box elves who put together 15 boxes!

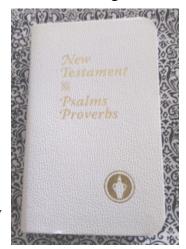


Penny Power Supports the Gideon Auxiliary in November

The Gideon Auxiliary is composed of wives of Gideon men. The wives have their own part in this important ministry. If you have seen a Bible in your doctor's waiting room,

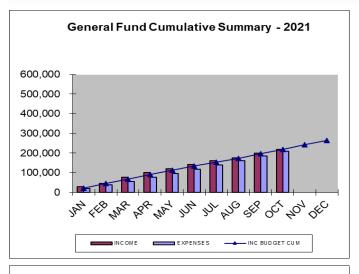
it is very likely that it was provided by the Gideon Auxiliary, since it is the Auxiliary that places these Bibles into the waiting rooms of doctors, dentists, vets, and other medical professionals. The Idaho Falls Gideon Auxiliary also travels up to Rexburg three times per year to give special New Testaments (with white covers) to the nursing graduates at BYU-Idaho. This year, the Auxiliary provided appreciation gift bags to the staffs at two local hospitals. The bags contained a white New Testament, an appreciation card, and candy. In addition the Auxiliary gives Bibles to women who are in shelters or in prison.

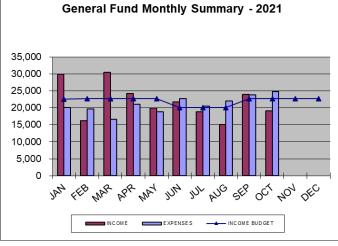
And, just like their Gideon husbands, the Auxiliary members carry pocket-sized New Testaments to give out to people they meet in their daily lives to whom they witness.

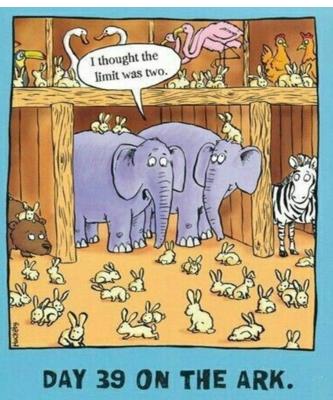


December Penny Power funds will be given to St Vincent de Paul to help provide Christmas baskets to those families in need. Thanks kids!

Finance







Current Month:	October	
Current Month In	come	19,094.08
Current Month Ex	kpenses	24,758.46
Differe	nce	(5,664.38)

Year to Date Income	219,301.51
Year to Date Expenses	209,918.73
Difference	9,382.78

Budget Comparison 2021		
Year to Date Income	219,301.	51
Year to Date Budget	218,971.	00
Difference	330.	51

From Financial Secretary, Wendy Schoonmaker

We are not ordering 2022 offering envelopes for all members. If you want envelopes, please let me know at simplygiving@firstlc.com or call 208-520-8713.

It is time to remind all members of the Vanco Simply Giving program. You are able to enroll in no cost automatic contributions from your checking or savings account with a choice of weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donations. You are able to designate where your contributions are given. Member Enrollment and Authorization forms are available from the church office. If you are already enrolled and wish to make changes to your contributions to be effective in 2022, please complete a new Member Enrollment and Authorization form. If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-520-8713 or simplygiving@firstlc.com

Please submit all receipts for in-kind contributions to me no later than December 20th to be included on your 2021 statement.

All 2021 monetary contributions must be received and included in the last counter's deposit from Sunday, December 26th.

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM No Adult Bible Study/Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM No Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM King's Men 1:30 PM Cantata Choir Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM NO Youth Group/Youth Room	9:30 AM Staff Meeting/ Lounge	30 9:00 AM Happy Stitchers 9:00 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Bell Practice	1	9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch 3:45 PM TOPS - Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	3	4 11:00 AM Women's Ministry Luncheon BRUNCH
5 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School (PreK-6th grade) 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:15 AM Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM King's Men 1:30 PM Cantata Choir Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group/Youth Room	6 9:30 AM Staff Meeting/ Lounge 7:00 PM Executive Council meeting/ Lounge	7 9:00 AM Happy Stitchers 9:00 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Bell Practice	1:00 PM Women in	9 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch 3:45 PM TOPS - Weight Loss Group 6:30 PM Finance Meeting/Lounge	10 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	11 11:00 AM Cantata Dress Rehearsal
12 10:15 AM Cantata Presentation 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall 4:00 PM Cantata Presentation 6:30 PM Cantata Presentation Angel Tidings	13 9:30 AM Staff Meeting/ Lounge 6:30 PM Property Team Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting/ Fellowship	14 9:00 AM Happy Stitchers 9:00 AM Preschool 1:00 PM Care & Concern Meeting	15 9:00 AM Preschool 1:00 PM Women in Prayer/Lounge	16 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM Preschool Program/ Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch 3:45 PM TOPS - Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	17 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE (12 Noon) 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	18
19 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM NO Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group/Youth Room	20 Office Open till Noon 9:30 AM Staff Meeting/ Lounge	21 Office Open till Noon No Preschool/ Christmas Break 9:00 AM Happy Stitchers 12:00 PM Happy Stitchers' Bible Study	22 Office Open till Noon No Preschool/ Christmas Break 1:00 PM Women in Prayer/Lounge	23 Office Open till Noon No Preschool/ Christmas Break 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch 3:45 PM TOPS - Weight Loss Group	24 Christmas Eve/ 4:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion 7:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day/ Office Closed Merry Christmas
26 10:15 AM Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall	27 Office Open till Noon	28 Office Open till Noon No Preschool/ Christmas Break 9:00 AM Happy Stitchers	29 Office Open till Noon No Preschool/ Christmas Break 1:00 PM Women in Prayer/Lounge	30 Office Open till Noon No Preschool/ Christmas Break 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch 3:45 PM TOPS - Weight Loss Group	31 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Friends in Stitches/ Fellowship Hall	



Thanks & Prayers

The Fellowship team extends a heartfelt "Thank **You"** to those who attended the Annual Meeting and generously slipped money into our kitty. We truly felt the outpouring of love and will do our best to provide snacks for "Friends in Fellowship" coffee hour. If anyone has suggestions or wants to help on occasion, please stop by the kitchen after church and talk to me. Thank you again!

Kathy Katainen, Fellowship Chair

Dear Friends

Behind every senior on a Good Samaritan Society campus, there is an army of people dedicated to his or her well-being of body, mind and spirit.

And because of your recent donation of \$100, you are among our most generous partners.

Thank you so very much!

Supporters like you make it possible to purchase needed equipment, provide training for employees, beautify and build up the places residents call home and more. As always, 100% of your gift will share God's love in the local community you care about most.

Thank you for caring for those who rely on the Good Samaritan Society for health, healing and comfort. To learn more, visit good-sam.com/foundation.

With gratitude,

Ali Langseth

Executive Director, Good Samaritan Foundation

REACHING OUT WITH OUR PRAYERS AND CONCERN FOR...

Those who are ill:

- Crystal Duncan (Trisha Storer's niece)
- Brent Thyssen (Ellie Lerum's Dad)
- Greg Davis (Jim Sahr's nephew)
- Dorothy Sowa (Bev Novak's mom)
- Steve (Julie Sundberg's brother)
- Debbie Brown (DiAnn Brown's sister-in-law)
- Bobby Jo Stiener (Elaine Harris's cousin)
- Laura Hundley (Dave and Diane Sheldon's daughter)
- David Douglas (Bev Novak's brother)
- Mickey Kunnary (Elaine Harris's niece)
- Dan Lance (Cal Miller's brother-in-law)
- Christina Townsend
- Marie Cleverly
- Annette Hendrickson

poor

amaritan

- Evelyn Mac Pherson
- Devore/Brooks Family
- Jyl Jackson
- Dieter Tretzen
- Jean Lysfjord
- Mark Reisenburg
- Debbie Holden

Friends and family serving in the military: Andrew Mitchell, Marc Schoonmaker, Tyler Donnelly, Adam Craig, Keith Evans, Mike Stultz, Skylar Hudman, TJ Litteer, Garrett Marchington, Kyle Skeen, Thomas Butler, Jorden Butler, Alton Helm, Eric Gratzke, Mike Monroe, Jody Townsend, Breanna Townsend Craig Bukowski, Michael Smith, Jack Hogan.

Worship Assistant Schedule

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS & LITURGISTS	GREETERS	USHERS & COORDINATORS # = Coordinator	COUNTERS	ALTAR GUILD
Dec 5	Judy Sahr,Kim Bermensolo	Michelle Cleverly	Jim Sahr#	Lisa Swenson	Jan Galbraith,
10:15 am	Sheryl Schaffer (Liturgist)	Kathy Reisenburg	Lisa Swenson, Scott Berger	Alicia Coburn	Cathi Bean
Dec 12	(Cantata)	Anne Mitchell	Jim Sahr#	Phil & Tessa	Jan Galbraith,
10:15 am		Mary Pilkington	Phil Forbord, Paul Worth	Forbord	Cathi Bean
Dec 12 4:00 pm	(Cantata)	Sheryl Schaffer Diane Sheldon	Dave Sheldon# Greg Stultz, Cal Miller		Jan Galbraith, Cathi Bean
Dec 12	(Cantata)	Michelle Cleverly	Jim Sahr#	Paul Bayless	Jan Galbraith,
6:30 pm		Judy Sahr	Dick Magnuson, Lisa Swenson	Lisa Swenson	Cathi Bean
Dec 19	Shawn Cleverly, Bev Thomas	Jan Galbraith	Greg Dornfeld#	Paul Bayless	Jan Galbraith,
10:15 am	Andy Wentzel (liturgist)	Mary Pilkington	Ryan Dixon, Greg Stultz	Andy Wentzel	Cathi Bean
Dec 24 4:00 pm		Michelle Cleverly Anne Mitchell	Greg Dornfeld# Phil Forbord, Herm Hackman		Jan Galbraith, Cathi Bean
Dec 24 7:30 pm		Bev Novak Kathy Reisenburg	Gary Holst# Paul Worth, Scott Berger		Jan Galbraith, Cathi Bean
Dec 26	Debra Holst, Bev Thomas	Jan Galbraith	Dick Magnuson#	Greg & Kathy	Jan Galbraith,
10:15 am	Bill Lockman (Reader)		Scott Berger, Herm Hackman	Katainen	Cathi Bean

Crosswalk is a publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church 455 West Sunnyside Road

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











Sunday Worship Schedule 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am In-Church Worship & Church Live @firstlc.com

Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Friday Closed

Interim Pastor Rick Nelson
Church Administrator Heide Larsen
Bookkeeper Greg Stultz

Financial Secretary Wendy Schoonmaker
Director of Christian Preschool Barbara Carlson

Put news items for the *Crosswalk* in the "Newsletter" box at the church office OR e-mail items to: office@firstlc.com

		First Reading	Reading	Second Reading	Gospel	Festival
SUNDAY		Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6	Second Sunday of Advent
SCRIPTURE LESSONS	Dec 12	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18	Third Sunday of Advent
	Dec 19	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrew 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	Dec 26	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52	First Sunday after Christmas