



INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTER OPPORTUNITY

Overview

These are exciting times for First Evangelical Lutheran Church (FELC) as we seek to replace our current Intentional Interim Minister (IIM) who has taken a full time pastoral position at the conclusion of his contract commitment with FELC in August. FELC wants to continue his efforts in evaluating our strengths, weaknesses, and Christ centered goals for the future. One key task for our congregation will be to call a senior pastor who matches our needs as identified in our transition process. A seasoned IIM or experienced transition pastor is highly desired. Our current IIM will have a year's worth of valuable personal discernment regarding FELC that will be passed on to the new candidate. With God's help in this search, we know there are gifted and qualified candidates. If you see this as an opportunity in your personal ministry, our contact information is provided at the bottom of this page.

The Congregation



First Lutheran is a thriving congregation with a membership of representative age groups and a majority of retired and semi-retired families and individuals. We are known as a friendly and active church in which all people are welcome. We enjoy and encourage many forms of music including a bell choir, a vocal 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 in advancing the biblical knowledge and participation of our youth through greater contact and involvement with youth within our church and in the community. Women's and men's ministries, small-large group Bible studies, care facility reading programs and Stephen Ministry program are priorities which we intend to continue to pursue. Special events like bicycle rodeos, benefit concerts, fair trade bazaars and Bar-B-Ques, have been especially successful in reaching out to our community. The competent staff and committed council are proud to be a part of this dynamic congregation. We are looking forward to a future that will be led and guided by the word of the Lord as we meet the spiritual needs of current and future worshippers.

The Church



First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a well established fellowship affiliated with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ with a mission of "Praising our God-loving His People". Worship services are on Sundays at 10:15 am. We welcome all and are blessed to be able to share with others our love for the Lord. Sunday worship is also live streamed with an average "in person" attendance of 75 and "live stream" 60. There is often special music from one of our choirs or from members who wish to share their musical gifts. We are a Christ centered, mission driven, traditionally grounded, and congregationally focused church. First Lutheran is served by a talented staff of four, 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.

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 61,000 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's interim pastor's confidence for pastoral ministry must have its foundation in his/her trust of all God promises people through Jesus Christ. First Lutheran's vision stems from this faith. With the Lord's guidance, we pray God will provide an Intentional Interim Minister who agrees with the congregation's direction and will work diligently to develop it. An interim who is eager and willing to work with others and competently delegates responsibility will bless the congregation. This will require a person who has not only had several years of experience, but also has had leadership opportunities working with multiple staff members. Our interim pastor should have an excellent grasp of Scripture with the skills to proclaim and teach the true Word of God effectively and memorably with a broad spectrum of ages and knowledge. We pray, if you apply, that you feel you're blessed with these gifts.

The Next Step



Please submit your information to:
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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 to welcome 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 coalesce the congregation with an approach which meets the needs of multiple age groups and maintains a commonality of Biblical importance.
- A challenge will be to assess the various needs and perceptions as seen by the congregational members for the future of the church. The opportunity is great as there is much enthusiasm to work together to develop a process to encourage youth involvement, Bible studies, women's and men's programs, community involvement, outreach, and fellowship.
- Financial and building facility concerns are always to be a part of the congregation's challenges. We are blessed to have a wonderfully functional debt free facility which with prudent, loving, attention and maintenance should continue to provide us with a spiritual space with room for several years of growth. We are also blessed with a financial committee and a giving congregation who have been willing to come forward in times of financial need.
- The COVID19 has been a challenge for everyone! For our congregation it caused a separation from one another, from church, from relationships, and in some cases a pause in spirituality with the Lord. This challenge has residual affects with people who became comfortable with not attending church services and activities. The opportunity that arises is that it is a wonderful time to make personal visitations 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 which partly explains why it is difficult to attract elementary and teenage students to attend church and participate in Bible studies and activities. Young adults have the children necessary to conduct a viable church youth program. The opportunity is huge to attract new young families to church and our congregation is very enthusiastic about this endeavor.
- An area of our outreach efforts which has fallen short, involves the attention given to the needs of single people within and outside of our church. There has virtually been no focus upon any spiritual or fellowship opportunities designed for singles. The challenge will be to communicate to those interested in establishing a relationship that is meaningful and spiritually satisfying, a sense of belonging and fulfillment.

