

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

October 21, 2008

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K
CURRENT REPORT**

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 21, 2008

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

0-20800
(Commission File Number)

91-1572822
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(509) 458-3711

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX

EX-99.1

EX-99.2

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INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On October 21, 2008, Sterling Financial Corporation (Sterling) issued a press release and financial supplement thereto regarding its results of operations and financial condition for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. The text of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and the financial supplement is included as Exhibit 99.2 to this report. The information included in the press release text and the financial supplement is considered to be furnished under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Sterling will include final financial statements and additional analyses for the period ended September 30, 2008, as part of its report on Form 10-Q covering that period.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibits are being furnished herewith:

| Exhibit No. | Exhibit Description |
|-------------|--|
| 99.1 | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated October 21, 2008. |
| 99.2 | Financial supplement of Sterling Financial Corporation. |

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL
CORPORATION**
(Registrant)

October 21, 2008

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

Date

Daniel G. Byrne
Executive Vice President, Assistant
Secretary, and Principal Financial
Officer

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