

The Gospel Gazette

He is Not Here

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TODD MARY
HEAD ELDER

SUNDAY
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:30AM

9:30AM LIVE-STREAM:
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
STJOHNIDAHO FALLS](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnidahofalls)

OR:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
CHANNEL/UCQFTBBUM5U7-
LFB7BMSLQAQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQFTBBUM5U7-LFB7BMSLQAQ)
(CLICK ON "LIVE" TAB)

COMMUNION EVERY
1ST & 3RD SUNDAY

10:30AM - FELLOWSHIP

10:45AM
· SUNDAY SCHOOL
· CONFIRMATION
· YOUTH STUDY
· ADULT BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY
BIBLE STUDY - 10:00AM

I just got off a call that I made to ask someone to forgive me. Calls or in person conversations like that one are not easy to make. This professional had called me Friday to let me know that a needed business transaction did not come through. Simple enough. Happens everyday. But the timing was such that businesses in the Eastern and Central timezones were now closed for the weekend, and that botched transaction would jeopardize a very important meeting coming today, Monday. She had had no control over the error.

She told me that she has big shoulders and that she understands the frustration. Yet, I had used her as a verbal punching bag and had not treated her as a person in the earlier call nor had I treated her like the professional she is. Though she may have heard much worse from other customers in the past, that does not matter. It was my heart-felt desire and responsibility to clear the air.

She was very, very gracious.

And I am very, very relieved.

In Matthew 28:5-6, the angel who rolled back the stone sealing the entry to Jesus' borrowed tomb said to the two Marys: **"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."**

Even though the 11 disciples had all run for their lives when Jesus was arrested. Even though they abandoned him to face his great difficulties alone, the angel told the Marys to tell them that Jesus would meet them in Galilee.

The relationship was not over. He still wanted to greet them personally—their faces to his risen face! All this because "he is not here, for he has risen" from the dead and is alive to love and serve his people and to call others into relationship with him until one day he returns and takes all followers to himself.

So we can attempt to receive forgiveness and pardon from others when we have wronged them. We can because we know the One who was made new and whole is all about the business of making all things new and whole. And we can go to him daily when we have failed to live as he desires us to, and we can know for certain that he is there to restore our relationship with him and make it new and whole again. He forgives.

Yes, Jesus did not remain in the grave. His mighty and loving Father raised him from the dead. And Jesus has promised that we will not remain in our own graves. He has promised to raise us to immortality and to make us new and whole for eternity.

May Our Savior be ever praised!

~ Pastor Stephen



March 29 - Palm Sunday - 9:30am
April 2 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm
April 3 - Good Friday - 7:00pm
April 5 - Easter - 9:30am



Coffee & Conversation after Worship is a great time to meet new friends and strengthen bonds in our St. John family!

In order to offer this time of fellowship, we need individuals to serve as a host each week. Please sign-up if you haven't hosted recently. You can host a Sunday by yourself, or share the fun & ask a friend to help! The sign-up sheet is located on the counter where coffee is served.

Treats are optional, and can be homemade or purchased. Thank you!

The Social Ministries Team is in need of more women **and men** who want to serve the Lord, our members, and friends. Yes, men do look good in aprons and they are good cooks too! We need more volunteers to ease the load. Our services include Sunday coffee & fellowship; congregational potlucks; Easter and Christmas buffets; and lunches for Celebrations of Life/funerals/memorials. "It Takes A Village" for this Team effort. Please pray on it and if the Holy Spirit guides you to join the Team, please contact Carole D. She is listed in the directory, or call the office to get her contact information.

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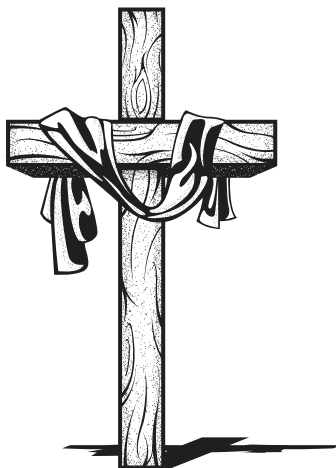


This year Easter Sunday will be celebrated after Worship with all our best family potluck dishes. Everyone will be a huge part of this Resurrection Day feast. The Social Committee will supply the Easter ham & rolls, and the congregation is asked to bring enough to share with family and friends according to your last name as follows:

A-H: Appetizer / Salad / Side Dish

I-Q: Casserole / Main Dish

R-Z: Dessert



Thank you to all who contribute to “1st Sunday Food Offering”.

Many in our area struggle to feed their families.

Always high-need items:

Cereal, canned pasta, peanut butter, chili, canned stew,
canned tuna or chicken, canned vegetables and ***monetary donations!

Generic brands are welcome.

***Since donations have been lower and the number of patrons needing help have greatly increased, the Food Basket is spending considerably more than in years past.

All donations are very appreciated!

***For every \$1 given, the IFCFB can provide \$4.80 worth of food!!



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

**PLEASE MAIL financial contributions to:
IFCFB, P.O. Box 2236, Idaho Falls, ID 83403**



Join us Friday, April 10th, at 6:30pm
for an adult evening of fellowship at
City Bagels
(369 Shoup Ave.)

Invite friends and bring an appetizer
/ dessert to share. Beverages will be
provided. Hope to see you there!



Bunco!!

Bunco will be held
Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30pm.
Bring \$5 and a snack
to share for "half-time"!



Young Adult Fellowship
Young adults (single, married, all are
welcome!) are invited to join us each
month for "No-Host Brunch".
Child care is available!!

No Host Brunch is on April 12th,
beginning at 12:30pm @ O'Brady's!
(1438 W Broadway St.)

Morgan's Memos

Vacation Bible School 2026

Calling all children ages K-6th Grade (for 2026-2027
Academic Year) to join us at St. John for a week of
fun, fellowship, and learning of Jesus! This year VBS
will be held June 22nd - June 26th from 9am-12pm.
Mark your calendars! 5 DAYS of Music, Bible Time,
Games, & Crafts!

To make this a great week, we are in NEED of
volunteers for several positions. Volunteers must be
7th grade (2026-2027 school year) and older to assist
with VBS for the week. Please consider volunteering
as we could use all gifts/talents! If interested, please
contact myself or Jacob!

SAVE THE DATE

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CAMP-OUT
WILL BE HELD JULY 9-12!
PLAN TO JOIN US FOR AS MANY DAYS AS YOUR
SCHEDULE WILL ALLOW.



Braille Sunday

The Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) ministry at S. John will observe it's 41st anniversary on April 12th, 2026. Volunteers from St. John, Hope and friends are an essential part of this ministry.

The ministry center needs your help in two areas. The Braille books are sent worldwide free of charge. We ask for your prayers that the books that we send out will arrive at their destination. We also need your financial help to cover the cost of supplies, including the heavy duty paper, binding materials and mailing boxes. All materials we use at our ministry center are provided by LBW headquarters in Yucaipa, CA. However, headquarters would like each ministry center to cover their expenses.

There will be a special door offering on Sunday, April 12 to help us defray these expenses. If you have any questions, please call Pam E. (in the friends section of the directory). Thank you for your support.

February 2026 ~ Pastor's Report

- Baptism - Jaycee F. to be baptized in February.
- we will be holding a New Member / Refresher Class. There will be two 4-hour sessions using the book, "Getting to Know Jesus," using the Six Core Teachings of the Bible to Grow in a Deeper Relationship with Jesus. Written by LCMS pastor, Paul Schult.
- Sunday Study— Our Study on Ephesians is going well with good attendance.
- The Yellowstone Circuit next meeting is Wed. January 21 at Hope Lutheran
- Pastor's December jury duty: never had to report in person!
- Grateful for Paul for leading when I was away with family and for taking on leadership portions when I had a cold.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

- Lenten Series "Prayers of the Passion"
 - Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday 7pm "Let This Cup Pass" (Young Woman & Adam)
 - Feb 25 - Mid-Week Lenten Dinner and Worship 6:30-7:15 "Why Have You Forsaken Me?" (Woman & Mary)
 - Mar 4 - Mid-Week Lenten Dinner and Worship 6:30-7:15 "Father, Forgive Them" (Woman & Soldier)
 - Mar 11 - Mid-Week Lenten Dinner and Worship 6:30-7:15 "Jesus, Remember Me" (Woman & Crucified Thief)
 - Mar 18 - Mid-Week Lenten Dinner and Worship 6:30-7:15 "Into Your Hands" (Woman & Judas)
 - Mar 25 - Mid-Week Lenten Dinner and Worship 6:30-7:15 "Simon, I Have Prayed For You" (Woman & Simon Peter)
- Holy Week Series "Amazing Grace"
 - Mar 29 - Palm Sunday "Grace for the Fearful" (Narrators & Peter)
 - Apr 2 - Maundy Thursday "Grace for the Loveless" (Narrators & John)
 - Apr 3 - Good Friday "Grace for the Guilty" (Narrators & The Thief)
 - Apr 5 - Easter Sunday "Grace for Those Who Yet Lament" (Narrators & Mary Magdalene) • June 22-26, 2026 - VBS

YOUTH NEWS



Who / what is “The Next Chapter”? Our group (6th –12th grade) is based off Acts, chapter 29. Wait, there are only 28 chapters in Acts?! The book of Acts tasks us with understanding how we can be directed by the Holy Spirit and the role of Jesus’ lessons in our lives. God’s mission did not end after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Like Peter & Paul, we too are challenged to be a part of The Next Chapter of His Church.

This doesn’t end with chapter 28, it truly is just the beginning!

Youth entering grades 6th - 12th, are invited to join The Next Chapter (TNC) –The St. John, Hope, & Crown of Life Youth are diving into a life-changing Year 5 as The Next Chapter!!! Join us this year as we raise the banner of our NEW Theme – “Tell the Story!” Paul tells us how we are “letters from Christ...written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God on tablets of human hearts!” (2 Corinthians 3:3) We can’t wait to harness the power of OUR stories by bringing hearts together to grow further in our faith in Jesus! We are continuing our School Year Schedule in the New Year! We will be meeting on **THURSDAY evenings from 5:30-7:30!** – We will meet in April on the 9th, 16th, & 23rd.

We are excited to continue our TNC Youth “AT YOUR PLACE” events! Let us know if you’re interested in hosting or sponsoring a meal for a TNC Youth Night! BIG THANKS to the families who have hosted thus far! *We look forward to seeing you at TNC Youth! See Jacob Pralle or contact by email for more details!*

YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS! – DECISIONS

From what we binge-watch to who we hang out with, every decision we make points our lives in a certain direction. How do we know that we’re making the right decisions? How do we know if the decisions we’ve made are wrong and have us going far off the right path? You are not alone in this debacle! From middle to high school to adulthood, we are all surrounded by choices every day, and not all of them lead where we want them to go. Join us for this 4-week series as we breakdown decision making and see how they shape the story of our lives and our walk with God. Come, slow down, and we’ll discover how when we invite God into these choices, he truly makes our paths straight! (Psalm 5)



VBS VOLUNTEERS – WE NEED YOU!

Are you a TNC Youth with a passion for teaching?! Or maybe you just love cute little kids! We have just the opportunity for you! St. John’s VBS is June 22nd through the 26th. You will have the opportunity to pair up with the younglings and help teach them about Jesus! We have many needs for a fun week, and there is without a doubt a special spot for you!

Don’t miss out on this incredible occasion! For more information contact Jacob Pralle.



Board of Elders' Meeting Minutes

(in order to allow time for minutes to be reviewed for accuracy, the minutes are published with a one-month delay.)

February 3rd, 2026

1. Opening Devotion led by Todd. "Do What I Do" from Daily Devotions
2. Attendees: Scott, Dan, Jeff, Todd, Paul
3. Minutes from January 13, 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved
4. Pastor's Report - See page 5
5. DCE Report- Jacob was excused from meeting as he is with his mother. Elders discussed with pastor how Jacob's responsibilities were being covered during his absence.

Worship Services and Spiritual Life:

1. Reviewed updated care units and some changes will need to be made this month. Elders agreed to make contact with each care unit member before the May congregational meeting.
2. Reviewed visitors and potential members with Pastor in preparation for his New Member/ Refresher class. Paul is planning on assisting pastor with this class.

New business:

1. Reviewed list of Elder Duties for Sunday services. Working to update the list and get distributed to all who serve as Elder on Sundays.
2. Congregational nominations for LCMS officers were discussed in Elder's meeting and Board of Directors. No nominations were brought forward in either meeting or made to LCMS.

Old business:

1. Reviewed the recent benevolent request that was sent by a member to Pastor and Todd. We feel that this request was successfully handled and that the benevolent account now has funds to address future requests. The Benevolent Committee is not formally established but is operational under the direction of the board of directors. An elder is needed for this committee, but none has been assigned at this time.

2. Men's Quarterly Gatherings- Potential Contacts

3. Status of Vision Bridge

Meeting closed with prayer.

Board of Directors Minutes

(in order to allow time for minutes to be reviewed for accuracy, the minutes are published with a one-month delay.)

February 22, 2026

In Attendance: Todd M, Lee M, Beth O, Mike S, Sandy T, Pastor Stephen, Jason S, Mark P, Carole D, Lynn W.

Meeting called to order: Meeting called to order by Sandy at 11:55 am. Opening prayer by Pastor Stephen

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve January minutes with two corrections by Sandy, second to motion by Jason.

Motion carried, minutes approved as corrected.

Committee Reports: Pastor's Report (full report provided, see page 5)

DCE, Jacob P's Report (No report - Jacob with his mother / family)

Elder's Report: The Elders are supporting Pastor in Jacob's absence with assistance from Paul. They are looking at visits to new members and providing them with information as requested. Each Elder now has a list of persons in their care unit.

There has been a Benevolent request to the Elders and Pastor - With donations from members of the congregation, the amount of this request has been lessened and has increased the amount in the Benevolent fund.

A check list has been created for the duties and functions of the Elders during services. The Board of Elders is currently well staffed, but are asking for suggestions of younger men to call instead of calling older past Elders. Elders will finalize their budget at the next meeting. *(continued on next page)*

Board of Directors Minutes (continued)

Properties Report: New floor installations are complete. Budget wise, all the money has been spent for this project, and costs did not exceed the budgeted amount. Mark will meet with Beth for distribution of the final payments. There has also been a \$5,000 special donation made to the properties budget.

Jason is researching security camera upgrades, still in the design stage. Mark and Jason will meet with Dan K. for additional information. Monies might have to be moved from the AV account to fund this upgrade.

There are no plans for upgrades to the elevator at this time. It is fine in the current condition and passes inspection, as long as we don't make any changes. To bring the elevator up to the new manufacturer's requirements would cost \$20,000 so we should be looking at options for a future elevator. Mark would like to approach Bruce asking him to consider the possibility of obtaining grant money through the National Registry.

Treasurer's Report: (provided) A \$25,000 donation has been received, putting the budget in a good place. Beth and Penny have been meeting with the accountant to work on the separate account. Some budgeted monies may need to be moved in the future. A year to date was provided. Mike asked if there were any changes that needed to be made in the budget or separate line items for next years budgeting. We have spent about 85% of our budget - year to date (June 30th) so we are below budgeted spending. All budget requests must be to the treasurer by March 27th.

The matter was discussed about the credit cards that were not working at the National Youth Conference. Beth is going to contact the kids who attended and see how much of their card did not work so they can be reimbursed from the youth account. When the cards are reactivated those amounts will then be reimbursed to the youth fund.

Jill W. volunteered to head up a committee for youth fund raising and budgeting. Sandy offered to call youth workers from her previous congregation that have experience in this area for advice. She will then meet with Jill to discuss options for creating this committee for our youth. Beth recommended that this new account fall under "special accounts." This would relieve the responsibility of fund raising and accounting for youth events from Jacob. Jill will provide their proposal to the Board for consideration.

Social Ministries: Carole placed an announcement in the newsletter inviting people to join or participate in the committee, but has not received any response of persons wanting to join. Potlucks have been changed to every other month with none in the summer months. She would like to have the Easter and Christmas brunches now potlucks to cut back on work. Social Ministries will still provide luncheons for the voter's meetings. Pastor recommended early announcements of this change so members are well informed that they will need to bring food.

Old Business: BOD Documents - everyone please check their access to the Google drive.

New Business: Committee planning - Sandy recommended having a meeting after one of the services presenting all of the church committees: their purposes, needs and how someone can join or participate. It was suggested this should be scheduled after the voters' meeting.

Discussion about filling open committees. Lynn made the motion to nominate Janet B. for the Outreach Committee and Jennifer and David L. for Stewardship. Second by Beth. Motion passed. The Board will find the position descriptions before approaching them.

Lee's term as Member at Large ends this year and the Board needs to nominate a replacement. Please come to the next meeting with ideas for nominees to this position.

Security concern: Sunday school is asking for either ushers or elders to open all of the doors before services. Pastor felt it best if the ushers would take care of this and that they would need a separate set of keys. Lee said this would not be a problem.

There are currently three outside groups using the facility, and none have signed the Building Usage Agreement. These groups need to be approached and usage agreement signed. It was suggested the fee be waived for these groups.

The Elders will be providing soup for the Wednesday worship Service March 4th, the Board of Directors will provide soup Wednesday, March 18th. Board volunteers for soup: Mike, (thanks Abby) Sandy, Lynn and Carole.

A member of St. John has expressed the desire to help a family or person in need. Carole recommended possibly the occupant of the Hope House. Pastor or Zak W. might also have suggestions.

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 15, 2026

Motion made by Beth to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sandy. Motion Carried. Closing prayer by Mark. Meeting Adjourned 1:35 pm