

**St. John
Lutheran Church**
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
290 7th Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
www.stjohnministries.net

Office Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-3:00pm
Phone: (208) 522-5650
office@stjohnministries.net

Pastor
Stephen Weems
pastorstephen83401@gmail.com

**Director of
Christian Education**
Jacob Pralle
Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Deacon
Paul Petersen

St. John Officers
Carolyn Perez
Chair, Board of Directors
Jim Werner
Head Elder



Sunday
In-Person Worship
9:30am

9:30am Live-Stream:
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnidahofalls>

or:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqfTbbuM5U7-IFB7bVslQaQ>
(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

A Publication of St. John Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho

The *Gospel Gazette*

April 2024

"The Tomb is Empty & The Gate is Opened for Us!"

***Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.***
Psalm 118:19-20

There are seven Sundays of Easter beginning with The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord. The stone had been rolled away, and Jesus had walked out alive having risen from the dead.

Psalm 118 is a messianic psalm describing events of Holy Week and what is now the completed work of Christ Jesus. The Messiah calls out to the LORD to open the gates of righteousness into His presence. And the LORD did that very thing.

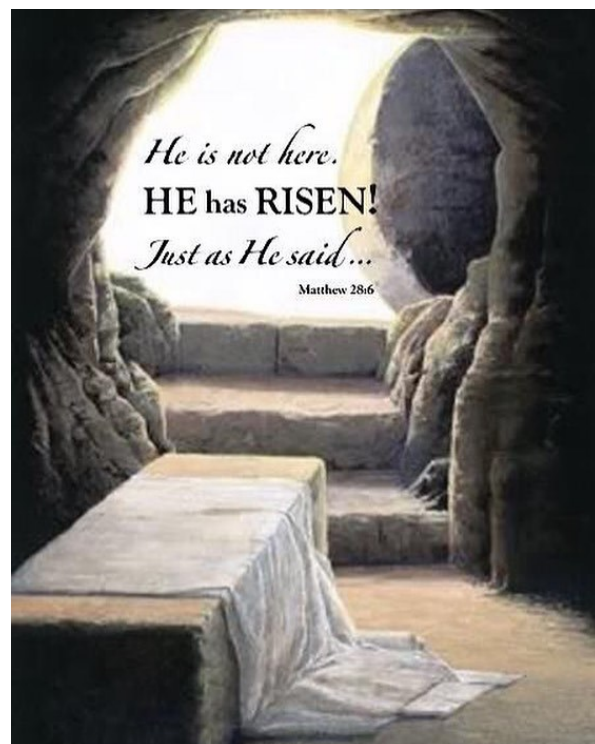
With the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, the fleeing of the others and the complete rejection and opposition of the religious leaders who should have welcomed him, Jesus placed his full trust in his Heavenly Father.

***I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation. V. 21***

This psalm, too, was a Passover psalm. It is possible that Jesus may have joined his disciples in worship with these words just hours before heading to the Garden of Gethsemane. His prayers there show Jesus' complete dependence on God the Father.

Verses 22-27 are the echoing words of the congregation sharing the Messiah's joy. And we are right to give God thanks and praise. ***"This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous enter through it."*** The barriers that kept us from God—our sin, Satan's schemes and death itself—have been torn down and removed through Jesus' death in our place and his resurrection to new life.

Our hearts may sing a new song all the weeks of Easter; indeed, our hearts may sing everyday because Jesus lives and makes his presence with us and brings us into the presence of God the Father clothed in the righteousness he has won for us.



Easter is about life and life eternal. May that be at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers knowing that in the joys and struggles ahead we are daily recipients of our Savior's love. There is life now and life to come.

**Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia.**

***In His Grace,
Pastor Stephen***

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ February 2024

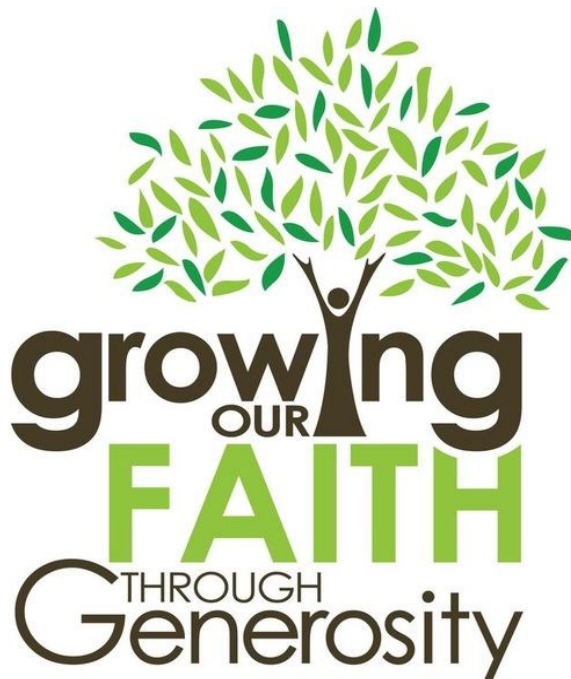
(in order to allow time for minutes to be reviewed for accuracy, the minutes are published with a one-month delay.)

Attending: Bruce M., Jim W., Suzanne S., Pastor Stephen, Beth O., Penny S., Mark P., Jacob P., Ben W., and Morgan P. Started meeting with Invocation. **Committee Reports:** (Pastor's & DCE reports page 3. Elders Report: see below.) **Treasurer's Report:** 1) Stained glass account budget surplus. 2) Gained access to parish stock portfolio. 3) Properties budget found. 4) Proposal to merge stained glass & properties. 5) VBS budget to move to Sunday School. 6) Proposal for other budget surpluses to be merged & zeroed out. 7) Move kitchen line item to rummage sale. 8) Lutheran Witness line item? 9) Basement windows to move to special improvement line item. 10) Custodial contract and lawn + snow removal contracts in violation of current by-laws. To be revised to bring in compliance. **Properties report:** 1) Looking at new carpeting. 2) Looking to reprioritize future projects. 3) Prepping heating system before summer. **Social Ministry:** Absent. **Approval of January Minutes.** Motioned and approved. **Old business:** 1) Narcotics Anonymous wants to meet at 6:30-8:15pm on Saturdays. Would need storage for coffee supplies and binder. Duration still not known. Discussed possible member sponsor to help coordinate logistics; need lead to communicate with both NA and AA. Need to make sure the same privileges are afforded to both NA and AA. Motioned and approved to allow NA to use building. To notify office manager, custodian, and yard sale crew. Security issues to be reviewed. 2) Ministerial support position contract: Maximum 20 hours per month. Contract total to equate to \$5,400.00. Contract duration 9 months starting on February 19th. Contract motioned & approved by BOD. 3) Google drive still pending. Computer to be donated for parish access. **New Business:** Mural & plaque donated in past by St. John and First Lutheran honoring departed Lutherans at Fielding Cemetery. Tree roots are shifting mural; cemetery proposes moving it. Done in 1947 in lead paint. Would be impossible to retouch. Option to repaint or leave as is. Will investigate option to preserve existing mural. Would share expenses with First Lutheran & City of Idaho Falls. Closing prayer.
(Full minutes on file in Church office) (edited for space)

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes ~ February 2024

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

Opening prayer by Jim W. (Pastor's and DCE reports see page 3). **Worship Services and Spiritual Life:** 1) Review of Care Units and calling on members of care units. Preparations for Lent & Holy week were discussed. **New business:** 1) Committee to revise Constitution and By Laws – A draft proposal to revise Self Exclusion was presented and discussed by the Board. 2) Scott will represent the BOE in discussions as the BOD develops. 3) Todd will work with Jim to develop a 24-25 budget proposal for the areas under the BOE purview. 4) Options to develop St John Ministry support for Children & Young Adults was discussed. The Elders recommended that St. John proceed with hiring contract staff support for this effort. Initial term of contract will be for nine months. Jim W. and Pastor will develop a task order contract and send out to the BOE for review. We will take this to the Board of Directors for approval. See attached notes. 5) Request for St. John to host RCCM either on Feb. 28 or Mar. 6 for a very short noon-time soup supper and worship was approved. 6) Adult Bible Class: addressed in Pastors Report. **Old business:** 1) Congregational Campout / fall retreat at Camp Perkins. Jacob to investigate the date and events further. We are looking (if possible) at the week-end of Sept 19-22. Jacob will investigate information regarding this (cost, devotionals, activities, etc.). Jacob will also look at what Grace Lutheran does for their retreats. Jim will work with Jacob to develop information and advertisement. 2) New Membership class was discussed. Pastor and Jacob are looking into this to develop some ideas. The Meeting was closed with a prayer.
(Full minutes on file in Church office) (edited for space)



Pastors Report ~ February 2024

1) Recently built all Orders of Service through Easter. 2) Recently formatted "9 Dramatic Dialogs" for Lenten worship. Jacob is partnering in getting Readers for each dialog. 3) Will turn energy now to some deep advanced prep of upcoming Sunday studies. 4) Churning new ideas on New Member / Regular-Attender studies. 5) Sunday Leadership Coverage for Pastor: I will be traveling to be with family, and will not be here March 17. Jacob to lead Wed. Mar. 13. Jacob to lead Wed. Mar. 20 with Pastor in attendance. Paul P. will lead & preaching Mar. 17. Pastor will miss Board of Directors' meeting on Mar 17. 6) Five Home visits. Yellowstone Circuit Mtg. at St. John on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, went really well. 7) Hosted - 6:30-8pm, Friday, February 9, 2024. *THIS FRIDAY*. 8) Wednesday Studies and Men and Coffee are on hiatus until after Easter.



Our next potluck will be April 28th! Bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you have dietary restrictions, feel free to bring a meal (just for yourself) that you can enjoy. Please join us for fellowship! We want to share time with you!

Director of Christian Education Report ~ February 2024

Sunday Educational Ministries: 1) Children's Sunday School: Big point of emphasis and growth in this New Year!!! Morgan & I have been work-shopping some ideas in all of our "spare time" ;D All jokes aside, we're really excited about some new Children's ministry opportunities! 2) (Post-Confirmation) Youth Bible Study: New Study: New Year, New YOU? You've got resolutions, I have resolutions - we ALL have a picture of who we want to be in 2024! Come discover your True Identity! 4 Sessions; Currently on hiatus as Jacob finishes up one more week of Confirmation! 3) Adult Bible Study: (Pastor Stephen) **Youth:** 1) THE NEXT CHAPTER (TNC) Youth now meets on Sunday Evenings from 5:30-7:30pm! 2) TNC Flash Servant Event @ I.F. Community Food Basket: Next Flash Servant Event will be Sunday, March 31st ****NOTE**** - Dan K. and Jacob are working a flexible date for this during the weekend considering it falls on Easter Sunday! **Camp Perkins:** 1) Junior High SnowJam - January 26th-28th (RECAP) NEW date this year was a GREAT success! 50+ Jr. High Youth! 7 Churches represented!!! (St. John, Hope, Grace, Friendship, Trinity Eden, Xrossway, & Beautiful Savior!) 2) Senior High SnowFest - March 1st-3rd 3) NEW Information on plans for St. John Church Camp-Out Weekend at Camp Perkins in the Fall!!! **Friends & Family Fun Nights:** 1) Need to meet soon to discuss planning for Friends & Family Fun Nights! **Young Adults: No-Host Brunch!** (Noon following worship and bible studies on First Sundays) Excited to see how this ministry opportunity will continue to grow!! Critical to continue spreading the word that we are providing early childcare for families with younger children! We want to help them be able to make this opportunity! Next No Host Brunch scheduled for Sunday, March 10th @ Location TBD!! **Area Partnerships:** TNC Youth & Grace Lutheran - Three Trees Outdoor Ministries Mission Trip opportunity. Gathering High School Youth interest. 4 have given strong feedback about desiring to go! **Youth Events @ St. John:** Looking Ahead! Senior High SnowFest @ Camp Perkins; Friday, March 1st - Sunday, March 3rd. Of special note: GRATEFUL for everyone stepping up and helping out during Jacob's "Vacation" for Cousin's Wedding!!! Special thanks to Beth O. for helping with Confirmation!!

Summer is coming!! Plan to join us for the St. John & Friends camp-out!



Reservations are set for the 2024 St. John group camp-out! *Mark your calendars* and plan to join us for as many days as your schedule allows. This year we will be at Fall Creek Campground (only about 45 minutes from I. F!! - *even closer to Swan Valley and square ice cream!!*) Everyone plans their own meals, but on Saturday evening we have a group potluck!

Group camping will start Thursday afternoon, August 15th, and end Sunday morning (11:00am check-out), August 18th. All are welcome. Invite friends and family to camp with us!



Cost per family / tent site / RV is \$15 per night.

Join us for fun and fellowship!



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!!

The next get together will be Sunday,
April 14th @ North Hi-Way Cafe
(460 Northgate Mile)

We meet at NOON

Invite friends & plan to join us!

Coffee & Conversation time after Worship is a great time to meet new friends & strengthen bonds in our St. John family! If you haven't hosted in the last six months, please sign-up to serve. You can host a Sunday by yourself, or share the fun & ask a friend to help! The sign-up calendar is located on the counter where coffee is served.



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



Bunco will
not be held
in April or May.



Please continue to be aware of “scammers” that pretend to be Pastor or other church leaders in texts and emails to try to get you to send them money or gift cards. **PLEASE, DO NOT respond to them. Delete & block them if possible!!**

BRaille SUNDAY

The Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) ministry at St. John will celebrate it's 39th anniversary on April 14, 2024. Volunteer workers from St. John, Hope and friends are an essential part of this ministry.

Our ministry center needs your help in two areas. 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.

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 14th to help us defray these expenses. If you have any questions, please contact Pam E. or Sandy B. {If you need Pam or Sandy's contact information, please contact the office of Hope Lutheran, or St. John.} Thank you.



LUTHERAN
BRAILLE
WORKERS



Thank you to all who contribute to “**1st Sunday Food Offering**”. Your generous donations to the I. F. Community Food Basket blesses those who struggle to feed their families. **For every \$1 given, the IFCFB can provide almost \$5 worth of food!!**

Needed in April:

Canned soup, dry pasta, tomato sauce & deodorant.

**Generic brands are welcome. *Please, NO GLASS containers.*

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

Youth News & Events

For more information on anything listed here, call or email Jacob at: Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com or 208-522-5650

Youth Sunday Bible Class: Identity – We think we have it all figured out, yet those doubts just seem to always creep in. What gives me purpose and meaning? Why am I here on earth? What makes me important? Who am I? Our world seems to have endless answers for these questions, but are they the right answers? Come discover that the answer may not be as complex as it seems. Let's dive deep into the heart and find that our TRUE identity is in Jesus!



PAID Position Available: Calling all TNC Youth age 16 & older! On the 1st Sundays of each month (occasionally 2nd Sundays) young adults in our congregation get to know one another over brunch! We would like to make it possible for adults with young children to attend this fellowship. This is a **paid position** that also is an opportunity to make connections with the littles of St. John! See Jacob for more details.

TNC meets on SUNDAY nights from 5:30-7:30! TNC's new meeting time is working well. We are thankful that it makes it possible for more youth to attend. It is great to have so many of you inviting friends! In April, we will meet on the 14th, 21st, & 28th. Join us for Friends and Family Night on Tuesday, April 9th!

BIG THANK YOU'S to all the families who have sponsored a meal for a TNC Youth Night!!!! If you're interested in sponsoring a TNC meal, contact Jacob!



April Calendar Dates

- 9th Friends & Family Night (*bring your family and friends!*)
- 14th TNC @ Hope
- 21st TNC @ St. John
- 28th TNC @ Hope



- 19th Weston N.
- 24th Gabrielle H.
- 25th Katrina D.
- 25th Mariah D.

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!

St John will host VBS with Camp Perkins June 24, 25 & 26!!

Please note these three days on your calendar.

We get the privilege and opportunity to teach children and their families about Jesus!! How cool is that?! Counselors from Camp Perkins will lead singing and teach Bible lessons. Please prayerfully consider serving as a class leader, snack, craft, or registration help, security, help with the BBQ, etc. The gift of your time will mean the world to those attending VBS.

In addition to helping with VBS those days, we are seeking families to help house counselors from Friday, June 21st - Wednesday, June 26th. You can choose to host for the entire time, or the time can be shared with other hosts.



Please watch for sign-up sheets. They will be in the Narthex soon!

Save Tuesday night, June 25th for the VBS BBQ!!

Friends & Family Night

Tuesday, April 9th 6PM-8PM

Come build relationships with other families and friends as we plant flowers and decorate pots!

All ages welcome!!

Bring your family & invite friends.

Soup supper provided!

Devotion time!

In the fellowship hall at St. John!

Hope Lutheran School Presents
30th Annual Dinner & Auction

WILD WEST ROUND UP

RIDE IN, BID HIGH, FEAST WELL, AND SUPPORT
HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Buy your
tickets by
April 6th!!

APRIL 13TH, 2024

LIVE AUCTION
SILENT AUCTION
DESSERT AUCTION

DOORS OPEN AT 5
DINNER AT 6:30



LIVE BAND  5

TICKETS: \$75
PER INDIVIDUAL

OR

\$550 TABLE OF 8

SCAN
For more informaion



525 River Pkwy, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Please Visit WWW.AllAboutHope.ORG