

The Gospel Gazette

As You are Going... Make disciples

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SUNDAY
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:30AM

9:30AM LIVE-STREAM:
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
STJOHNIDAHOFALLS](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

*Today, an excerpt from Pastor Matt Peoples and
The Kairos Network*

There is one word in the Great Commission that I think can unintentionally make mission feel more complicated than it needs to be: **Go**.

Jesus tells His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

When most of us hear the word go, we naturally think about leaving. We think about going somewhere else, finding a new place, adding a new activity, or doing something we aren't already doing. For a lot of Christians, that can make mission feel intimidating before we ever get started. We know Jesus has called us to make disciples, but we aren't quite sure where we are supposed to go or how we are supposed to fit mission into an already packed schedule.

But what if we have been thinking about go in the wrong way? What if Jesus was never telling you to go find a mission, but rather reminding you that you are already in the place He wants you to do mission?

"As You Are Going"

I learned Greek in seminary, but I am not what you would call a Greek scholar. There are very few places in Scripture where I would have any business telling people how something should be translated. But there is one place where I think a slight shift in how we hear the words can make a significant difference in how we understand our calling.

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gathers His disciples and tells them that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. Then He gives them the words we know as the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

The word translated go carries the sense of "as you are going."

That may seem like a small difference, but read the Great Commission that way: "As you are going, make disciples."

Suddenly, the emphasis begins to shift. Instead of immediately asking, Where do I need to go?, we can begin by asking, Where am I already going? Mission no longer has to begin with finding another place to be or another thing to add to our schedule. It can begin by recognizing that God may already have us exactly where He wants to use us.

You Don't Need to Find a Mission Field

We have a tendency to think of mission as something that happens through special programs, organized events, or particular ministry opportunities. Those things can certainly be part of mission, but mission isn't limited to them. If Jesus' words are understood as "as you are going," then the ordinary places we already inhabit begin to look different.

Mission can happen at the soccer field when you take your kids to practice—or the football field in our case. It can happen when you drop your kids off at school, when you head into work or school yourself, when you go to the gym with the same group of people you regularly work out with, or when you simply walk through your neighborhood and meet your neighbors. These aren't places you need to add to your life. They are already part of it.

That changes the question. Instead of constantly asking, Where else does God want me to go?, perhaps we should begin asking, How can I become more intentional where God already has me?

Matt Peoples is an LCMS pastor who now leads with The Kairos Network. The St. John Vision Bridge team is already working with tools from this important discipling group. Check out the information and resources found on their website.

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 next potluck will be held on Sunday, October 25th. If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a casserole or main dish. I-Q, please bring a dessert. R-Z, please bring an appetizer, salad, or side dish. If you have food sensitivities, just bring a meal for yourself that you are able to enjoy. Please join us for this time of fellowship!

You are invited to join us Friday,
October 16th for St. John Lutheran's
6th Annual Oktoberfest celebration!



Join us at 2705 E. 17th St. (Pearl Health Clinic) for an evening of fellowship while celebrating our German Heritage. Doors open at 5:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6pm. We will enjoy brats, potato salad, sauerkraut, dessert and more!! Beer (as well as other beverages) will be served.

Share the fun & invite friends!

Please Bring a Dessert to share!!

Tickets: ON SALE NOW!!

Adults (12 & up) = \$20

11 and under = \$10

\$60 - family (2 adults) of 5/more



All funds raised will support youth activities.
Please purchase your tickets by Tuesday, October 13th.
Thank you!



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!!



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



Join us on Friday, October 9th
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 in October
20th at 6:30pm. Please let Gloria
E. know if you are coming. Bring
\$5 to plan and a snack to share



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!!

Join us October 11th at 12:30pm.
We will meet at Dixie's Diner on
Channing Way.

Morgan's Memos

"SPOOK-tober" Pumpkin Carving & Painting!

Sponsored by the Friends
& Family Team of St. John.



You can't believe it and neither can we...it's spooky
season! Come join us on Tuesday, October 27th
from 6pm-8pm for a night of Pumpkin Carving
and/or Painting! **ALL AGES!** All you need to do is
bring a pumpkin and your favorite carving tools!
Paints and paint brushes will be provided.

Walking Tacos will be served for dinner. Have a
night off from cooking! Invite your friends and
families! Any questions or concerns please
email Morgan or Jacob.

Rooted & Raising St. John Moms' Group!

Calling all moms of St. John and our
community! We are starting up a
new group at St. John for all TYPES
of moms with kids at ANY stage! This
will be a time for us to gather for
coffee, community, and
conversation. Kids are always
welcome. Do you have a mom friend
that doesn't attend St. John? Please
invite them! Let's help this group
grow into something special.

Meetings will be bi-monthly. Watch
for the date to be announced!

Message Morgan for information
or any questions.



October Calendar Dates

- October 1st – TNC Youth Night – St. John
- October 8th –
ACT (Artists w/ Common Thread)
TNC Youth Night – St. John
- October 9th - HOSTED!
- October 10th – Vision Bridge Kick-off Event
Sat. 9am-11am
- October 11th – No Host Brunch – 12:30pm
Dixie's Diner (Channing Way)
- October 13th – Board of Elder's Mtg. 6:30pm
- October 16th – St. John 6th Annual Oktoberfest
@ Pearl Hall 5:00pm
- October 18th – Board of Directors Mtg
- October 19th - Nov. Newsletter Deadline!
- October 20th – BUNCO!
- October 22nd – CPS (Colored Pencil Society)
- October 25th – Sunday Potluck
- October 27th – Friends & Family Night
“Spook-tober” Pumping Carving Event!
- October 29th - TNC Youth Night – St. John
- November 6th–8th – TNC High School Fall
Retreat (Twin Falls)

August 2026 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.)

August 11, 2026

1. Attendees: Todd, Dan, Bob, Jim, Pastor Stephen, Jacob
2. July 14, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved
3. Pastor's Report- See Attached. Pastor updated elders on congregational activities since the last meeting and planned September schedule. Reviewed needed help for upcoming vacation schedule.
4. DCE Report- See Attached. Jacob updated the elders on children's and Youth Group activities.

Worship Services and Spiritual Life:

1. Reviewed elder care unit contacts and member needs. Updated prayer needs of members.
2. Review list of recent visitors and potential members.

New business:

1. Reviewed issues with A/V system and discussed the need for help from a programming consultant.
2. Jim W. to be added to Sunday Elder duty rotation on non-communion Sunday's.
3. Jim updated elders on status of Hope House. Current resident is moving out in September. Will update on any needed improvements in September.

Old business:

1. Review List of elder Duties
2. Men's Quarterly Gatherings- Gene/ Scott/ Jim to work on activity
3. Status of Vision Bridge-
4. Assistance for Pastor on shut-in visits/ communion
5. New Member packet review. Suggestion, add photos of elders

Closing prayer.

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 about to dig into a faith-deepening Year 6 as The Next Chapter!!! Join us this year as we explore all the depths our NEW Theme – “Roots” Did you know that the greater Idaho Falls area has a combined total of 18 middle and high schools?! Moreso, our community has an additional 15 private and public charter schools. We quite literally are spreading roots all over! Like the apostle Paul, we too are challenged to rally together such a wide ecosystem of believers! “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ROOTED and built up in him!” (Colossians 2:6-7). We can’t wait to see where the Lord will strengthen relationships and grow new ones together through our shared faith in Jesus! We will be meeting WEEKLY on THURSDAY nights from 5:30-7:30! *(With exception for special events and school breaks)* **We will meet in October on the 1st, 8th, & 29th!**

We are excited to bring back our special TNC Youth “AT YOUR PLACE” events throughout the school year! Let us know if you’re interested in hosting or sponsoring a meal for a TNC Youth Night! A BIG THANK YOU to all the families who have hosted thus far!

YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS!

At first glance, the phrase, “I am” doesn’t seem like much more than just a greeting or simple introduction. However, when God spoke to Moses from the flames of the burning bush, he revealed exactly who He IS through the power of His name! Join us for a reboot of this 4-week series as we explore the character of Jesus and how his death and resurrection impacts all of humanity! We are taking an even deeper dive into this title ahead of our 2026 High School Fall Retreat! (REGISTRATION COMING SOON!) As He said, “this is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations” (Exodus 3:15). Come and see how the power of His name still transcends generations and makes an everyday difference!



TNC HIGHSCHOOL FALL RETREAT – CALLING ALL HIGHSCHOOL TNC YOUTH!

Join us for the FIRST EVER Twin Falls Edition of the South Idaho H.S. Fall Retreat! We will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Twin Falls, Idaho with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ throughout South Idaho for an action-packed weekend filled with Fun, Food, & Faith Growth! Where we don’t get together very often, weekends like this remind us of our distinct Lutheran heritage that we all share! We will be spending the weekend in Twin Falls celebrating that unique heritage under our theme, I AM! It is a FULL weekend filled with Escape Rooms, Swimming, Service Projects, Roller Skating, Worship, and so much more! Join us on November 6th–8th with many other local Lutheran churches throughout Idaho for a weekend of discovering who Jesus reveals himself to be and who God has made YOU to be! Cost for the weekend is \$75, see Jacob to register and for more details!



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.)

August 16, 2026 In Attendance: Mike S, Sandy T, Penny S, Beth O, Todd M, Mark P, Jennifer L and Lynn W.

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm by Sandy .

Opening prayer by Pastor Stephen

Approval of Minutes: Minutes will be approved by email.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report (provided) Penny and Beth met with the new accountant who apologized for not meeting our needs and said the new budget should be available soon. Beth said she checked the bylaws and found a yearly audit is not required if an accountant is employed to manage our budget.

Elder's Report: Elders met the previous Wednesday and reviewed policies and procedures. They welcomed Jim Werner. They are looking to increase member care and their support of Pastor. They discussed the frequent problems with the audio/visual system in the last month and have contacted specialists on how to trouble shoot the system. The cost for this was quoted at \$11,600 from the company that developed and installed the system. They have searched both on line and locally for support, but there really is not anything available. The elders would like the board to seriously consider funding the repair. There is currently \$2,500 in the AV fund. Elders are reviewing new member packets. Jim is continuing to oversee the Hope House which will have a new occupant in September. One individual is currently being interviewed.

Properties Report: Mark reported the sewer project is going well. All the water and toilets are now working but there are still projects that need to be completed. Final costs are expected by the coming Monday or Tuesday. After repairs are completely finish they will do the final cleaning of the areas compromised, replace carpet, etc. These repairs will have to be approved by the budget.

Mark and Judy will be stepping down from Properties and Paul B. will be taking over. Mark is planning to work with Paul for the transition through the sewer project, approximately two months. Paul is considering creating a manual for Properties. Mark will cover for Paul while he is in Florida for three months each winter.

Social Ministries: No report. Carole is still on vacation.

Old Business:

Approval of the minutes received on-line for July was made by Mike, second by Todd. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Discussion for the storage of garage sale items.
- \$9500 has been donated so far toward the sewer fund raising.
- Board will approach Vickie about a reception for new member recognition.
- Discussion on the issue of the noise created by the fans in the overflow room. It was decided the elders will turn off the fans in the back and additional fans placed in the front of the chapel.

Closing

Motion made by Mike to adjourn the meeting, second by Mark, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 1:20 pm

Closing Prayer by Jacob

Tables of Eight



What is Tables of 8?

Tables of Eight is an opportunity for couples/singles to share a meal with other members of the congregation four times over a course of year. The emphasis of these gatherings is on fellowship. Our goal is to simply get to know our church family better and invite the Holy Spirit to be present among us as we break bread.

How does it work?

When you sign up, you will be placed in a table group of eight. Each group will have a coordinator who will initiate the conversation to schedule your first dinner date. The dinner is provided by the whole group with each person being assigned a different dish for each gathering: main dish, salad, dessert, side, and drinks. Group members will rotate the opportunity to host as well. When you host, we encourage you to invite a couple/single individual to join you and your group as well.

What about kids?

We would like to keep the focus on adults gathering. It may be that there are kids in the hosts home, and that is fine. Certainly, as a group, you can explore the possibility if / when / how to include any children.

If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact Jeff or Kellie P. (Listed in the directory. If you need their contact information, please call the office.) We are hoping this could be an experience of blessing as we seek to find ways to connect members across our congregation and find our way in deeper relationship with one another as siblings in Christ.

Signups will be during the month of October
with group assignments given out the first week of November.