

The Gospel Gazette

Beloved

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
-LCMS-
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ST. JOHN OFFICERS
MIKE SHIRTS
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TODD MARY
HEAD ELDER

SUNDAY
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:30AM

9:30AM LIVE-STREAM:
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
STJOHNIDAHO FALLS

OR:
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

Shared here is a devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries. It is a good start to Lent for us as we focus on why we need a Savior for 40 days so that we may rejoice more fully together on Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Because he already passed through death to eternal life, we are now promised the same. Visit LHM.org to find meaningful and plentiful resources to benefit your daily walk with Jesus. —Pastor Stephen

Lenten Devotions were written by Dr. Kari Vo.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)

I love the name God gives to Jesus at His Baptism. He calls Him beloved, and what better name could there be for Jesus? What else could we call the One who loved us enough to come down from heaven to rescue us from the power of evil;—and to do that at the cost of His own life?

At this point Jesus is just beginning His ministry. He will spend three years teaching and healing and caring for broken people, and training His followers to do the same. And then He will willingly

go to the cross for our sake;—breaking the power of sin, death, and the devil through His own death and resurrection.

Jesus knows what's coming. We do, too. Let's walk with Him through these days of Lent, following our beloved Lord who has made Himself the Servant of the Lord Isaiah wrote about;—the One who saves us all.



WE PRAY: Dear Lord, I love You. Set my heart on You to follow and trust You forever. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

- * Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized?
- * Why was John disturbed?
- * What do you know about your own Baptism?

*** See page 6, under "Pastor's Report" for all the important dates during the Lenten season. ***



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.

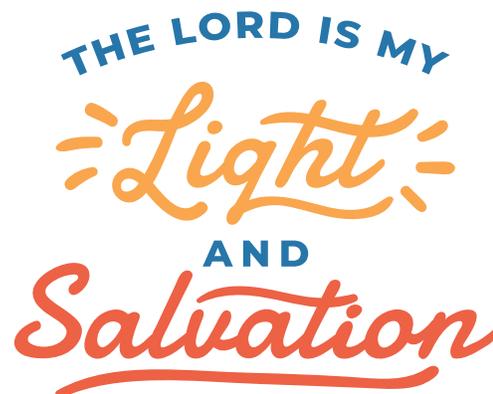
Treats are optional, and can be homemade or purchased. Thank you!

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.



The potluck is a great time to join in fellowship while enjoying a delicious meal. Please join us Sunday, March 22nd for our next fellowship meal.

We ask that if your last name begins with A-H, please bring a main dish, meat, soup or casserole; I-Q, please bring a dessert; R-Z, please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish. If you have food intolerances, just bring a meal for yourself that you can safely enjoy.



PSALM 27:1



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, March 13th, 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, March 17th 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 will NOT be held in
March. Plan on joining us in April!

Morgan's Memos

Thank You Paint Team!

Please help me say thank you to all the
individuals involved with getting the
painting done in the nursery! We had such a
great team and would not have got
it done without all their help. We are truly
grateful for all of them, their hard work, and
for helping create a space for the future
generations of St. John.

Check out the paint job when able!
More updates coming soon...



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.



Benevolent Fund

Request for Contributions

In 2025 the people of St. John were able to help parishioners with several financial needs due to hardships through the St. John Benevolent Fund. There are needs now and there will likely be additional opportunities to bring care to others in 2026.

If you are able to contribute to this fund above and beyond your regular giving, it will be used to bless other individuals and families. Checks can be written to The St. John Lutheran Church (Please designate "Benevolent Fund" in the Memo).

The Benevolent Fund requires possible recipients to request financial assistance by filling out a formal request available through the office. There is a small team that reviews the requests to ensure the funds will be a benefit to recipients and will be stewarded well.

Thank you for considering this request,

The St. John Board of Directors

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

~Jesus' words recorded in John 13:35

January 2026 ~ Pastor's Report

- Baptism - Jaycee F. to be baptized in January.
- 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.

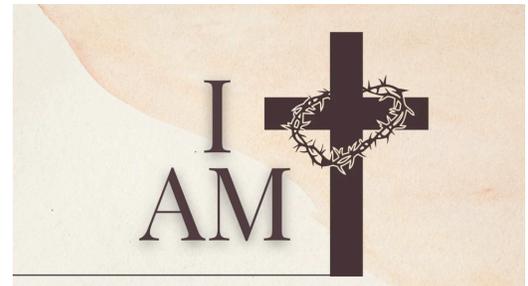
This doesn’t end with chapter 28, it truly is just the beginning!

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 March on the 5th, 12th, & 19th.

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!

YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS! – I AM

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 this 4-week series leading up to Easter as we explore the character of Jesus and how his death and resurrection impacts all of humanity! 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!



EGG-MY-YARD! – CAN. YOU. BELIEVE. IT! IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! WE KNEW YOU COULDN’T FORGET!

Sneaking through yards, finding challenging hiding spots, traveling ALL OVER the greater I.F. area! The egging fun aside, imagine the excitement when you and your children/grandchildren/family wake up Easter morning to a yard covered in candy and treat filled plastic Easter eggs!!! You can even surprise a friend or family by having *THEIR* yard egged!

Egging will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 4th (after dark). Eggs will be filled with candy and other surprise goodies! ****Peanut FREE upon request!**** All proceeds go to our TNC Youth Group for St. John, Hope, & Crown of Life Lutheran Churches. To order, scan the QR Code, or contact Jacob and Morgan. All orders are due Sunday, March 29th.



January 2026 ~ DCE Report

- Sunday Educational Ministries: a) Children's Sunday School (w/Morgan) b) Bible Adult / SS Parallel Class - picking up some attendees. c) Nursery SS class with new nursery attendant, Brandy P. d) New post-confirmation age youth bible study - Carolyn P. and Beth O. Adult Bible Study: Ephesians (Pastor Stephen)
 - Youth a) TNC Youth will begin meeting weekly on Thursday evenings in January 8, 15, 22 and 29. b) TNC Flash Servant Event X - IF Community Food Basket - next event March 29. c) The annual caroling extravaganza was on Dec. 18th and was well attended.
 - Friends and Family Night, Tuesday, Feb. 10th - "What can you Fondue"
 - Young Adults: a) No Host Brunch - next No Host: Feb. 8th at Dixie's Diner. b) Meal Train effort for David and Emily A. who are expecting their second child on Feb. 17th.
- Camp Perkins: Junior High SnowJam coming up Jan. 23-25. Likely to be one of our largest groups yet! Adult leaders from St. John for SnowJam - adult leaders attending, Nick P.

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.)

January 13th, 2026

1. Opening Devotion led by Dan. "Comedians" from Lutheran Hour Ministries
2. Attendees: Scott, Todd, Dan, Jeff, Bob, and Jacob (Pastor & Paul excused, illness).
3. Minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Paul had emailed in one change to the discussion notes regarding LCMS Licensed Deacon program. Minutes were approved with the change made.
4. Pastor's Report was emailed by Pastor and reviewed and are attached. Elders reviewed planned Lenten and Holy Week services.
5. DCE Report was reviewed with Jacob.

Worship Services and Spiritual Life:

1. Reviewed care units and made changes based on discussions to best align the members with an assigned Elder. Also incorporated the new church directory with the care unit assignments.
2. Review of visitors and potential members. Directory includes some regular visitors who have expressed interest in membership and Elder contacts were assigned.
3. Reviewed idea for 5th Sunday Organ music, singing, and communion. Tabled until Jeff can get more information. 2026 5th Sunday's include 3/29, 5/31, 8/30, 11/29
4. Bible Classes were discussed and attendance has been good. New Member Class has been scheduled by Pastor on Saturday February 21 and March 21.

Old business and Items for future discussion

1. Update list of Elder Duties for Sunday service
2. Benevolent request review- Pastor and Todd to meeting to develop a plan ASAP and report back to Elders
3. Men's Quarterly Gatherings- Potential Contacts
4. Status of Vision Bridge

Next Meeting: February 10th

Closing prayer.



PLEASE HELP US LOCATE: During Advent by Candlelight, two medium size stainless-steel stockpots were used to heat water for the tea. Those two pots are nowhere to be found. If you borrowed them, or know where they are, please return them to the St. John kitchen. They belong to a member. Thank you.

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.)

January 18, 2026

In Attendance: Sandy T, Penny S, Todd M, Lee M, Jason S, Pastor Steven, Beth O, Carole H and Lynn W.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve December minutes with two corrections by Penny, second to motion by Lee.

Motion carried, minutes approved as corrected.

Committee Reports:

The Elders and Pastor have received a request for housing security and it being considered to go through the Benevolent Fund. This family would like to remain anonymous. Beth recommended this request go through the Benevolent Fund and made a motion for the needs of the Fund be announced in the bulletin and newsletter to the congregation asking for donations. Second to the motion by Sandy. Motion passed. Requests to the Benevolent Fund is under the Elders and Human Care and at this time there is not a committee chair for Human Care. The importance of the Board of Directors filling both Human Care and Stewardship Committees which have been vacant for a long time was brought up by Lynn.

Properties Report (Unavailable)

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

New budget need to be completed by March and approved by April to be presented to the congregation at the voters meeting in May. It was noted that nursery care costs were covered this year by special funds, but needs to be budget for in the coming year. It was also noted that there are going to be expenses for updating the elevator this year.

Social Ministries

Lynn introduced Carole D., the new chairman of Social Ministries. She also made the recommendation that the board review the "Use of the Facility Policy" for members. There were some problems with one of the past events where church supplies were used.

Old Business

It was noted that Pastors request for the change in his housing allowance is handled by the Board of Elders and not the Board of Directors. The treasurer will work on this request with the Elders.

Todd said the Elders would get recommendations of synod board nominees from Pastor and Jacob.

New Business

No new business

Next Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026

Closing

Motion made by Sandy to adjourn the meeting. Second by Todd. Motion Carried.

Closing prayer by Todd. Meeting Adjourned 1:10 pm