

# The Gospel Gazette

## God's Mercy Has Not Been Exhausted

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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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SANDY TAYLOR  
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TODD MARY  
HEAD ELDER

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-  
LFB7BMSLQQA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQFTBBUM5U7-LFB7BMSLQQA)  
(CLICK ON "LIVE" TAB)

COMMUNION EVERY  
1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY

10:30AM - FELLOWSHIP

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

WEDNESDAY  
BIBLE STUDY - 10:00AM

The steadfast love of the Lord  
never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
~Lamentations 3:22-23

I do not know if you sometimes awaken like I do. My mind quickly centers on urgent demands or requirements of the day. "How will I get it all done?" Those are just the urgent ones with a deadline near. Additional rest or sleep seems preposterous. "Might as well get up and get after the day."

I find that a simple gratitude list of things for which I give God thanks is a tremendous help to me. Recently in our Sunday study, we spoke several times of giving God thanks for the small and great things that he has given to and done for us. Especially things we might be prone to pat ourselves on our back for. Gratitude to God keeps our hearts and minds focused on the truth that *all* we have is from him.

For me it is also a reminder that God blessed me through recent days and in specific ways yesterday. It allows me to remember that God holds today as well. I can rest in him because of his steadfast love.

The words from Lamentations give us something for which to give God thanks *everyday*. His mercies are new everyday. The thrust of the sentence construction in Hebrew, the language these promises were written, is "Yahweh's mercies are finished not; therefore; we are finished not." Everyday God does not punish us for our rebellion and sin. The debt of our sin has been paid in full in Jesus. There is no debt collection to fear for what we deserve has been satisfied in Jesus' death in our place, and because he lives, we have a reason to give him thanks and praise with each new day.



In His Mercy,  
*Pastor Stephen*



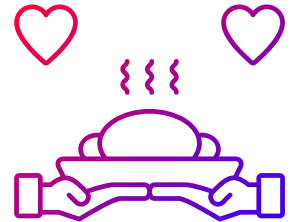
Coffee & Conversation after Worship is a great time to meet new friends and strengthen bonds in our St. John family!

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!

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Enjoy your summer! We know many will be traveling and enjoying the great outdoors. Be safe and have lots of fun!

We will resume our potlucks in September!



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## Financial Summary as of May 2026

Thank you for your faithful donations. Meeting our budget allows us to share the Gospel Good News of Jesus!! Prefer to automate your giving? Simply go to the St. John web site: <https://www.stjohnministries.net> and click on the "Online Giving" button in the banner on the home page. You can also download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. You can choose to give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift as often as you like. If you have any questions, please call the office.



# 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.)

05/17/2026 Congregational meeting – 47 members present

Opening Prayer and devotion, Pastor Weems

Welcome, Chairman BOD Mike S.

Lee M. is ending his term

Committee Reports,

Elders, Todd M. – Nominations for BOE to include Jim W. in July (MMSA)

Current BOE, term ends: Todd M. (Chairman) June 2027, Bob B. June 2027, Jeff P. June 2028, Scott S. June 2028, Dan V. June 2028 (each term is 3 years, limit of 2 terms)

Nick P. is new Camp Perkins delegate

DCE, Jacob P., new families; St John is doing its own VBS program – our 2<sup>nd</sup> year - June 22-26, 2027

Pastor Stephen Weems – recognized staff, increased bible studies, increased attendance, recognized the work of the triads

Assistant Treasurer, Beth O. – Budget Our contributions exceeded our expenses this year; budget is about 3% higher than last year; Altar fund went a little over purchasing in bulk; we have 18% of our congregant members – our congregant membership number 326 members according to District; nursery fund is increased to cover paying help; insurance amount is increased; custodial contract is increased to include taxes; property taxes double this year; \$366,886k to \$378,764k; MMSA to pass the budget for 26/27 as presented.

Properties, Mark P. – carpet was installed, no new projects on the books; elevator can use some new door latches, but can only be upgraded if the entire system is updated to current regs and standards. It is still approved for use. ~\$100k to replace or ~\$20k to do minor upgrades.

Social Ministry, Carole D. – Vicki put on the meal today for the committee; \$2,500 set aside for upgrading new appliances.

Nominations for BOD, Mike S. – MMSA for this slate of officers

Vice President, Mike S. (wants to be removed from AV schedule)

Member at Large, Debra K. Member at Large, Jennifer L.

New Business – no new business Closing, Pastor Weems – closed at noon.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

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Thank you to all who contribute to “1<sup>st</sup> 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, July 9<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 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 is on Summer Hiatus!  
We'll see you in September!



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!!

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm - Dixie's Diner  
(Channing Way)  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm - North Hi-Way  
Cafe (Yellowstone Hwy)

Morgan's  
Memos



**THANK YOU - 2026 VBS Volunteers!**

WOW! What a successful VBS we had last month... over 60 kids! Thanks be to God for placing each and every single one of YOU, our volunteers, in all the different areas of VBS! This would be impossible without all of you.

Thank you for spending your time, energy, and giving of your talents toward showing the love of Jesus to every child that walked through our doors! You are all seen and we are grateful.

*For those who were not able to join us this year, we ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of next year's adventure!*

Next year's VBS will be June 21-25, 2027.



**Want to be a servant leader?  
Teach Sunday School!**

Crazy to believe ... but the school year is already right around the corner. With that being said, our Sunday School year will be kicking off shortly in September and we are looking for some Sunday School Teachers to help with coverage, assistance, etc.

If you like kids, like to share the love of Jesus, and would like to serve in this way, please contact Morgan or Jacob.

# Calendar Dates

## July

- 4<sup>th</sup> - 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America!!
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Board of Elder's Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> - Church Campout @ Fall Creek
- 10<sup>th</sup> - 5:00pm BOD meeting @ City Bagels  
6:30pm Hosted! @ City Bagels
- 12<sup>th</sup> - No-Host Brunch @ Dixie's Diner
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors' Meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - TNC Youth Night @ St. John

## August

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors' Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> - No Host Brunch @ North Hi-way Cafe
- 13<sup>th</sup> - TNC Youth Night @ St. John
- 14<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm Hosted! @ City Bagels
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors' Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> - September Newsletter Deadline!!
- 30<sup>th</sup> - TNC Youth Servant Event @ I.F.  
Food Basket

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## 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.)

**May 11, 2026 6:30pm**

1. Paul led opening devotion on the Festival of Ascension, "Where is Jesus"
2. Attendees: Bob, Jeff, Scott, Todd, Pastor, Jacob, Paul
3. April meeting minutes were reviewed and approved
4. Pastor's Report- Pastor updated elders on recent baptisms. He reported that Wednesday and Sunday adult bible studies are well attended and going well with good discussions. The three part Paul Tripp video study is now complete and plans are to start a new book study on James.
5. DCE Report- Jacob updated elders that he has been reconnecting with Youth Group and Family Life members since his recent personal leave. Groups are going well and have summer schedules set. Planning for VBS is going well.

### Worship Services and Spiritual Life:

1. Reviewed Care Unit assignments and recent visitors.
2. Reviewed May Congregational Meeting agenda for Elders report. Nominating Jim Werner to join the Elders.
3. Assistance for Pastor on shut-in visits/ communion was discussed and plans made for elders to work with pastor on visits. Discussed Elder lead communion practice elder led visits.
4. New Member Sunday discussed and will be planned for by June 6th.
5. New Member packet reviewed and discussed. Will continue to work on the information provided.
6. BOE/ BOD Joint Calendar Planning meeting Saturday June 6th, 9:30am. Elders plan to attend.

### Old business:

1. Review List of elder Duties (Dan to update AV information)
2. Men's Quarterly Gatherings- Gene Winter has agreed to head
3. Status of Vision Bridge- Next steps by June Church planning meeting

Next Meeting- June meeting will be the Joint Planning meeting on June 6th. Next meeting scheduled July 14th.

Closing prayer led by Pastor

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

# YOUTH NEWS



Who / what is “The Next Chapter”? Our group (6<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, are invited to join The Next Chapter (TNC)** –The St. John, Hope, & Crown of Life Youth are in the “heat” (LITERALLY) of our summer schedule after a wild and exciting Year 5!!! A huge thank you to all the TNC Youth who stepped up to the plate and were active servant leaders during this year’s SJLC 2026 READY. SET. GO! VBS! Join us this summer for more unique servant event opportunities! We are now in our Summer Schedule. We will be meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm.

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

## YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS! YEARLY WRAP UP & TNC CHOICE!

Per our namesake, we recognize that like Peter and Paul, we too are challenged to be a part of *The Next Chapter* of Christ’s Church. Starting up again this summer, we will dig into a variety of topics as we carve out this new era of the church! We will also put a bow on a few of the Bible Studies leftover from this school year! Post-confirmation age Youth will get to explore, challenge, and choose from a wide variety of dilemmas that followers of Christ face in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Come eager with your grandest ideas and ready to discover what is in store for *The Next Chapter*!



## DINE 2 DONATE NIGHTS ARE BACK!!!

Join the TNC Youth with Food, Fun, Fellowship and FUNDRAISING! Did you know that food can be a vital contributor to faith formation?! Calling all foodies, we’ve missed our nights out together and are beginning to raise funds for our High School youth to attend the upcoming 2028 National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas! In the months ahead, we will continue to hold regular “Dine 2 Donate Nights” where local businesses will support our TNC Youth’s upcoming trip to the NYG! Join us for our first night out @ Culvers on 946 Pancheri Dr. in July (DATE TBD)

