

**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
Bruce Mincher
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-IFB7bMslQaQ>
(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

The *Gospel Gazette*

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

April 2025

The Best Lent EVER

The Best Lent Ever

It starts with the ashes of Ash Wednesday reminding us that because of sin we will one day return to the substance from which God created human beings when He breathed life into Adam. It ends with Good Friday, when we are reminded of the suffering, torment and death of Jesus in our place. The day Jesus was damned in our place that we may never be damned for eternity.

Oh, but Easter is a coming!

I want to share with you the last paragraphs of Pastor Seth Moorman's article, "Just Another Forty Days?" He reminds us to not miss Jesus in Lent, to not miss the finished work of Christ, and to not make this season more about ourselves than him.

You can find the entire article at 1517.org along with podcasts, videos and many other offerings that will bless your faith and point to Our Savior Jesus.

1517 is a nonprofit organization that exists to declare and defend the Good News that you are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone.

Repentance is More Than a Season

Jesus' resurrection is not merely a historical fact—it is a personal reality. Because he lives, you live (John 14:19). Therefore, repentance is not limited to a season. The entire Christian life is one of turning away from sin and turning back to God. Repentance is the recognition that his life was given because of your sin—that by your own doing, you had lost him as the foundation and center of your life. Yet by his mercy, he restores what was lost and makes you new.

Job's Confession: A Lenten Proclamation

This brings us to Job, whose suffering was beyond comprehension. He lost everything—his health, his wealth, and his family. Yet, in the midst of despair, Job made one of the clearest confessions of faith in all of Scripture:

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth." (Job 19:25)



This is the heart of Lent. Not our loss, but his life. Not our suffering, but his victory. Even in ashes and dust, Job proclaimed what every Christian confesses: Christ is our Redeemer, and he lives.

Lent, then, is not centered in us but in him. It is just another forty days—but in these days, we are reminded of the truth that shapes all of life:

Jesus lives for you.
Jesus lives in you.
Jesus lives through you.

This is Lent, and this is life—the daily dying and rising, the rhythm of repentance and faith, the certainty that our Redeemer lives.

In Him, Pastor Stephen



- April 13th **Palm Sunday @ 9:30am**
- April 17th **Maundy Thursday; upstairs @ 7:00pm. (no meal)**
- April 18th **Good Friday; upstairs @ 7:00pm (no meal)**
- April 20th **Easter Worship @ 9:30am; followed by Easter Brunch**



Bunco will be held Tuesday, April 15th, at 6:30pm.

Bring \$5 and a snack to share for "half-time"!

Last months' winners were: Debbie W. - High Score, Sandy T. - Most Buncos, and Gloria E. - "Booby" prize. Join us this month!!



Please continue to be aware of "scammers" that pretend to be Pastor or other church leaders in texts or emails to try to get you to send them money or gift cards.

PLEASE, DO NOT respond to them. DELETE and BLOCK them if possible!!

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

Many in our community are struggling to feed their families.

Always high-need items:

Cereal, canned pasta, peanut butter, chili, canned stew, canned tuna or chicken

***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



BRaille SUNDAY

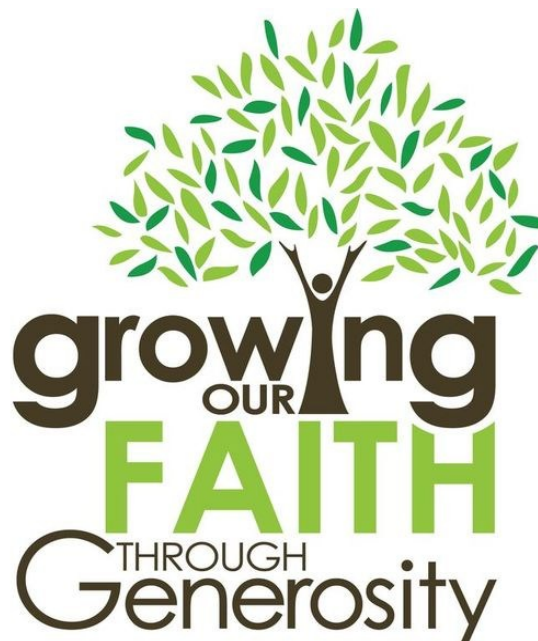


**LUTHERAN
BRaille
WORKERS**

The Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) ministry at St. John will observe it's 40th anniversary on April 27, 2025. Volunteers from St. John, Hope and friends from our community 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 own expenses.

There will be a special door offering on Sunday, April 27th 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.



February 2025 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.)

Feb 16, 2025 In attendance: Sandy T, Lynn W, Lee M, Bruce M, Mike S, Jim W, Penny S, Beth O, Jacob P, Stephen W, Mark P. Meeting was opened with prayer. **Reports:** **Treasurer:** **1)** The board voted to move monies from the Checking account into the Thrivent Money Market account to earn more interest. **2)** Newsletters will be going digital primarily, beginning in July. The next few newsletters will be paper to determine who needs to have printed copies in the future. Paper calendars can be made available in the church front entry. **Properties:** **1)** Carpet subcommittee picked out carpet and got bids for the upstairs and downstairs areas. Red carpet to remain. The bids came in slightly under the amount that has been saved up for the project. Samples being sent so the subcommittee can verify the color choices. Looking at May for installation. **2)** Surge protector installed on the electrical panel to protect the power coming into the church. **3)** Organ is working again. Had a hum. **Social Ministries:** **1)** There was one funeral. **2)** We will have an Easter Brunch. **Old Business:** **1)** By-law revisions. Will be removing prescriptive information on Committees and Roles by making Ministry Job Descriptions and descriptions of committees. Looking at terms for members on the Board of Elders and Board of Directors. The subcommittee will be meeting before the next BOD meeting. A draft will be provided at the next BOD meeting. Meeting was closed with prayer.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

February 2025 ~ Pastor's Report

1) The Chosen Sunday mornings— Jim W. is leading these sessions of Season 4. The group that started with Season 1 insisted on continuing. **2)** A Life in Christ (New Member class) began January 5th & is well attended. We are having some really good conversations around the tables. **3)** Funerals / Memorials: A funeral service for Margarethe E. took place at St. John, Friday, Jan. 31, followed by a graveside ceremony. Social Ministries did a Fantastic job!!!! **4)** St. John Vision Bridge Team: Dan K, Jacob P, Linda H & Pastor Stephen continue to work hard in the Vision Bridge learning provided by Pastoral Leadership Institute. **5)** Lenten Materials have been chosen for our family-friendly devotional style worship and meal. "Silent Witnesses." We will hear interviews with The Thorn, The Robe, The Nail, The Spear, The Shroud and The Stone. **6)** Several Guests have been joining us on Sundays. We rejoice that some have returned and plan to worship with us again. Home Visits made for—Martin; Madeline; Kent C; Yvonne L.

February 2025 ~ DCE Report

1) TNC Choice is Revelations for the post-confirmation Sunday school. **2)** TNC youth - snow-jam was attended by 4 girls and chaperoned by Nick Petersen (*Thank you!*). The Sr. High Snow-fest is coming soon & may need a chaperone. **3)** The Nursery paid position may have a candidate. **4)** March 30, flash servant event. **5)** Friends and Family night made Valentines and delivered to shut-in members. **6)** NYG - getting ready to buy plane tickets. Earned \$5,000 at the Hawaiian Luau!

February 2025 Board of Elders' Minutes

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

6:30 pm, Feb. 4th, 2025

Opening devotion. Pastor's Report: See Above. DCE Report: See Above. **Worship Services and Spiritual Life:**

1) Lenten services will again be a Soup Supper followed by devotional. The BOE will sponsor the March 12 service. Jim W. will coordinate with the BOE for them sponsoring March 19. Mar. 26 and Apr. 2 will be catered. For April 9 we will have a signup sheet. **2)** Jim W. to work with Jacob P. to review and update care units and perhaps include frequent attending visitors. Jim W. to work with the office manager to have individual families notified via email or letter as to who is their Elder. **New business:** **1)** Preparation of next year's budget. Todd M and Jim W developed a draft budget for 2025-2026. **2)** Proposed Office Schedule **3)** Changes to Newsletter **4)** Self-Employment **5)** Development of candidate list for open positions. **Old business:** **1)** A New Member Class started on January 5th and will continue through March. Pastor is leading the class. **2)** Hosting AV support team meeting was discussed. The Elders would like to assess our successes and potential areas of improvement for this on-line ministry at St John. Jim W to work with Jacob P., Dan K., Greg H., and volunteers supporting the AV and members from the BOE and BOD to set a date, time and agenda when these issues are resolved. The Meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



Coffee & Conversation
time 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 someone 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 and 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!

PLEASE NOTE



Due to the increasing prices of mailing permits & postage, **the St. John newsletter will be going digital in July 2025.** This means that instead of a print copy, you will receive your newsletter by email or through our website. *For members without computer access, please notify the office and we will make arrangements to get you a printed copy.*

If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter by email, **please ensure your email is current with the office.** Thank you!

Memos from Morgan!

For more information: please contact Morgan (mepralle.dce@gmail.com or 208-522-5650)

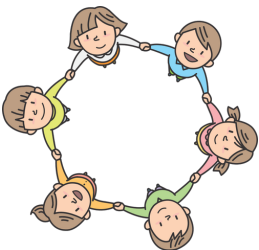
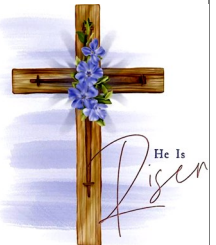


Advertising on St. John Social Media Pages!! Social media is here to stay so let's do our best with communicating about what is happening at St. John in every way possible!! If you are a part of a group that would like your group information to be advertised or are hosting an event, please contact me. The better we advertise, the better the turn out for your group or event! Please view the chart below to see how frequent advertisements would be posted on Facebook for your event/group depending on the meeting frequency.

Event/Group Frequency	# of Advertisements Per Month
Weekly (recurring)	3x or 4x total: each week (day before event/group)
Bi-Weekly (recurring)	2x total (every other week, day before event/group)
Monthly (recurring)	2x total
Special Event (or a One-Time Event)	1x a week and 2x on the week of event

With advertisements being posted on Facebook, we ask that you **share** the event/group post within your **own** social media circles i.e. own profile, groups, pages, etc. in order to further spread the word of the event/group. By doing this, we have a higher chance of sharing with those who may not know Jesus yet!!

Easter Photo Booth! If you are looking to get that perfect Easter family photo, couple photo, or selfie this Easter season, look no further! The St. John Easter Photo Booth will be set up in the downstairs Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, April 13th and ending Sunday, April 27th. Please plan accordingly so you do not miss your chance at an awesome Easter photo!



Vacation Bible School 2025 Calling all children ages K-6th Grade (for 2025-2026 school year) to join us at St. John for a week of fun, fellowship, and learning of Jesus! This year VBS will be held **June 23rd- June 27th from 9am-12pm.** Mark your calendars! 5 DAYS of Music, Bible Time, Games, & Crafts! **Registration will open in May!** To make this a great week, we are in **NEED of volunteers** for several positions. Volunteers must be 7th grade (2025-2026 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 Pralle (DCE).

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: 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. Continuing in March, we will dig into a variety of topics as we carve out this new era of the church! Post-confirmation age Youth will get to explore, challenge, and choose from a wide variety of dilemmas that followers of Christ face in the 21st Century! Come eager with your grandest ideas and ready to discover what is in store for TNC!

Youth, grades 6th ~ 12th, are invited to join **The Next Chapter (TNC)** – The MOMENT. IS. HERE. The St. John, Hope, & Crown of Life Youth are in the midst of a life-changing Year 4 as TNC! Our Theme for 24-25 is **"FOLLOW²"** We are embarking on a discipleship journey for Jesus! BE. A. PART. of this special movement as we continue to grow as followers of Christ! We are meeting on **SUNDAY** nights from 5:30-7:30pm! We will meet in April on the 13th, 19th, 25th, & 27th.



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!

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 19th (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 or Morgan.**

All orders are due by Sunday, April 13th.



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!

You're Invited to the 31st Annual Hope Lutheran School Dinner & Auction

Theme: Margaritaville

When: May 3, 2025, Doors open at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm

Cost: \$75 per ticket or a table of 8 for \$550.

Food choices: Chicken Parm or Hawaiian Pork

Where: Holiday Inn & Suites, 3005 South Fork BLVD, Id. Falls

Tickets are for sale at allabouthope.org or see Jamie in the Hope Lutheran office before 3pm Monday to Thursday.

We are accepting donations for our silent auction and raffle.

Donation items can be dropped off at the office anytime.

Call the office at 208-529-8080 to inquire about sponsorships.

Hosted!

Join us **Friday, April 11th, 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!



EGG MY YARD!

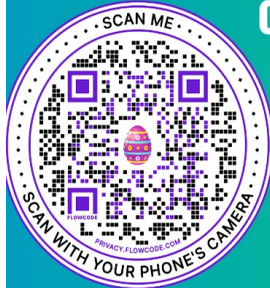
LET THE YOUTH GROUP OF ST. JOHN & HOPE LUTHERAN

EGG YOUR HOUSE THIS EASTER!

Imagine the excitement when your children/grandchildren/family wake up Easter morning to a yard covered in candy filled plastic Easter eggs!

You can even surprise a friend or a family by having THEIR yard egged!

EGGINGS will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 19th



\$30 - 3 Dozen
\$50 - 5 Dozen
\$60 - 7 Dozen
\$80 - 9 Dozen



*Eggs will be filled with candy pieces
*Peanut FREE upon request

Proceeds go to fund the Youth Group and future activities.

TO ORDER, please scan, email Jacob (DCE) or call St. John at jcpralle.dce@gmail.com / 208-522-5650

Reservation and payment is due April 13th!
Cash. Check. Venmo.

HAPPENING IN APRIL

- 2nd Lent Service with meal (#4) @ 6:30pm
- 8th Board of Elders @ 6:30pm
- 9th Lent Service with meal (#5) @ 6:30pm
- 11th *Hosted!* @ City Bagels @ 6:30pm
- 13th Palm Sunday @ 9:30am
- **LAST DAY TO RESERVE EGG MY YARD**
- No-Host Brunch ON HIATUS for April
- Board of Directors @ Noon
- TNC Youth Night at St. John @ 5:30pm
- 15th **Bunco!!**
- 17th Maundy Thursday (upstairs) @ 7:00pm
- 18th Good Friday (upstairs) @ 7:00pm
- 19th Egg My Yard 2025!!
- 20th **Easter Worship @ 9:30am** followed by Easter Brunch.
- 21st Easter Monday—OFFICE CLOSED
- 22nd Newsletter Deadline
- 25th Raise to Praise NYG Fundraiser @ City Bagels (must purchase tickets)
- 27th TNC Youth Night at Hope @ 5:30pm