

The Gospel Gazette

Easter is Yours

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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-
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

This month we have an excerpt from an article by Emeritus Pastor, Ryan Couch shared on 1517.org. The website provides amazing resources for study & encouragement.

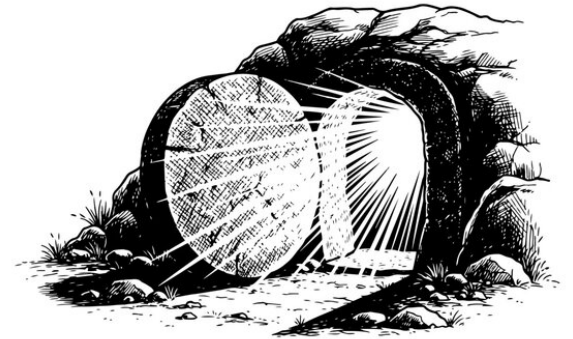
The Grave Is Behind You
Paul calls baptism a burial. If this sounds severe, it's because it is: death must precede resurrection.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

In baptism, God declares the end of all your self-led projects. When God combines his Word with water, he puts to death the self that chases worth through success, approval, control, and comparison. We assume the Christian life means climbing out of who we used to be. But resurrection does not come from improvement. It comes from death and new life.

Which is why the Easter proclamation speaks to real lives: the man replaying conversations he can't undo; the woman carrying resentment she cannot release; the parent haunted by mistakes they can't do over; the believer worn down by the same returning sins.

The resurrection means your ultimate problem is no longer ahead of you. The grave is not waiting for you. It is behind you. You are living from a life already given rather than one you must achieve yourself.



The Power That Raised Jesus Is Already at Work

Paul says this happens through "the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." That same power is for you. We expect resurrection power to look dramatic, but most of the time, it's quiet and even hidden. The addict makes it through one more day. Someone offers forgiveness without first receiving an apology. You get out of bed when grief says don't. The world may call that coping, but Scripture calls it life breaking through death. The risen Christ is present now, forgiving your sin, sustaining faith, and creating hope in the midst of despair.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia. And because he lives, your story is no longer ruled by sin, fear, or death—but by a promise stronger than the grave. In him, you are alive.

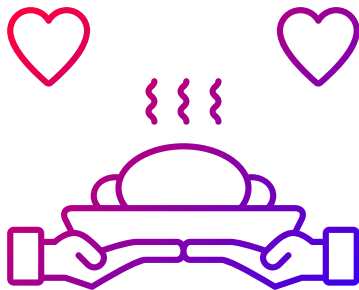
~ Pastor Stephen



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!

The voters' meeting will be held May 17th.
St. John's Social Ministry Team will provide a light lunch.
Please plan to attend this important meeting. *Your voice is valued and needed!!*



Thank you to all who brought dishes for our Easter feast! There was plenty and everyone had a great celebration.

We are heading into the summer months when many will be traveling and enjoying the great outdoors. We will resume our potlucks in September!

FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF *God's Gifts*

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, May 8th,
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, May 19th 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 is on hiatus for May.

Morgan's Memos

READY, SET, GO!

Vacation Bible School 2026

Calling all children ages K-5th Grade (for 2026-2027
Academic Year) to join us at St. John for a week of
fun, fellowship, and learning of Jesus! This year VBS
will be held June 22nd- June 26th from 9am-12pm.
Mark your calendars! 5 DAYS of Music, Bible Time,
Games, & Crafts!

To make this a great week, we are in NEED of
volunteers for several positions. Volunteers must be
6th grade (2026-2027 school year) and older to
assist with VBS for the week. 6th Graders will
automatically be put with an adult class leader as
they will be LITs (Leaders in Training).

Please consider volunteering as we could use all
gifts/talents! If interested, please contact myself or
Jacob Pralle (DCE).

Sign-Up is NOW OPEN on our website (or in person)
until the week of VBS for children AND volunteers!

Please take a pic and SHARE!

Please scan the QR codes!



Volunteer Registration Link



Child(ren) Registration Link

March 2026 ~ Pastor's Report

- Baptisms - Reaffirmation of Micheline D.— Feb. 25
 - Baptism Ladd H.—Feb. 26
 - Baptism Jaycee F.— Mar. 8
 - Baptisms of Isaiah & Noah— March 29
- Jen P. has been called to God's side. Services in Rochester will take place soon.
 - Jacob and Morgan are very missed here. They have great love for all here and are full of gratitude to be with their family at this time.
- House Blessing for Micheline D.— Mar. 8

Pastor is holding a New Member / Refresher Class. We will have three 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. Session Two to meet Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prep for the Session by Reading Chapter 5-9. Fellowship Hall

Session Three to meet Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will complete our discussions Sunday Study— Our Ephesians Study finishes up soon. We have a three-session video and discussion series to study before beginning a new book of the Bible.

- The Yellowstone Circuit Next meets Mar.19 @ Faith, Pocatello
- Hosted is 6:30 PM Fri. Mar. 13 @ City Bagels
- Men & Coffee is set to meet at Starbucks (near Cabela's) March 6 & 27

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

June 22-26, 2026 VBS



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.

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.)

March 10, 2026

1. Opening Devotion led by Todd from Daily Devotions "Do What I Do"
2. Attendees: Bob, Scott, Dan, Todd, and Pastor
3. Minutes from the February 3, 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Pastor's Report- see above. We reviewed four different baptisms planned in February and March. Reviewed Sunday School, New Member Classes, Lent and Holy Week activities and needs. Elders assigned to services.
5. DCE Report- Jacob excused from meeting and reporting
6. Reviewed Elder Care Unit needs and calls as well as worship visitors followup status.
7. Reviewed and approved 2026-27 Elder Budget Items. Todd to deliver to the Board of Directors.
8. The meeting closed with prayer and the next meeting set for April 14th.

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 coming up on the final stretch of our School Year Schedule in May! We will be meeting on THURSDAY evenings from 5:30-7:30! – We will meet in May on the 7th, 14th, & 21st.

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! – YOU

“Who do I want to be?” “How am I doing?” “How can I grow and change?” “Who am I?” Have you ever asked yourself these questions? If so, you are not alone! As another school year comes to a close, these questions often swirl and can leave us with even more questions than answers. Join us for a 4-lesson deep dive as we reflect on who we are, who we want to be, and the amazing plan that God has for all of our lives! The truth is that you’re the most “you” when you are who God created you to be. Praise be to him for we are “fearfully and wonderfully made!” (Psalm 139) So, who are you? We can’t wait to learn more!



27th MacKinsey O.



VBS VOLUNTEERS – WE NEED YOU!

Are you a TNC Youth with a passion for teaching?! Or maybe you just love cute little kids! We have just the opportunity for you! St. John’s VBS is June 22nd through the 26th. You will have the opportunity to pair up with the younglings and help teach them about Jesus! We have many needs for a fun week, and there is without a doubt a special spot for you!

Don’t miss out on this incredible occasion! For more information contact

Jacob Pralle. Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com

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.)

March 15, 2026

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

Meeting called to order: Meeting called to order by Mike at 12 noon. Opening prayer by Todd.

Motion to approve February minutes as read by Beth, seconded by Todd. Motion carried, minutes approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: (provided) All budget requests must be to the treasurer by March 27th. The Board will vote on the budget next meeting so it will be ready to be presented at the voters meeting. Lynn asked that Advent by Candlelight be listed separate from Social Ministries.

Pastor's Report: (full report provided) Excitement was expressed about the number of baptisms in the last month. Reminder to those Board Members providing soup for the Advent service: Mike, Jason, Sandy, Carole and Lynn.

DCE Report: (no report)

Elder's Report: Todd said the Elders are continuing with their care unit updates and how to assimilate visitors to members. They have revised plans for Easter Services and discussed budget needs for the upcoming year.

Properties Report: (no report)

Social Ministries: Carole noted that she has purchased five hams for the Easter potluck. She mentioned that she will be gone a lot this summer and will have to have someone cover her responsibilities.

Old Business: Reminder that we need to clear the budget for the upcoming voters meeting. A \$1,500 donation was received for the National Youth Gathering. Sandy mentioned that she will be traveling a lot through October and will not be available for Board meetings. It was mentioned that maybe Board meetings could be rescheduled or the possibility of her attending through a zoom meeting. Mike will be attending Board meetings through May.

President and Vice President positions will now become a two-year position with the Vice President no longer moving into President. Sandy will be the last Vice President to move into the position of President.

It was noted that two spouses in voting positions cannot serve on the Board of Directors. Nominations are needed by the next board meeting for Vice President and one Member at Large. Deb K. was mentioned as a possibility for the Member at Large position.

New Business: Jason will check with Mark about the Security System. He mentioned it can be either a stand alone or a subscription option, but cannot be wireless because of the signal. There is the possibility of using the same cameras.

Next Meeting- Sunday, April 19, 2026

Closing: Motion made by Beth to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lee. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned 12:55 pm