

**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

Voter Meeting
May 4, 10:45am

The *Gospel Gazette*

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

May 2025

"JOYFUL"

A Joyous Easter, St. John! Our God who promised to restore and make new is true to His promises, and Jesus is the living proof having walked through death for us and all humanity. Jesus is Risen!

Romans 5:10-11: For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

As the hymn "My Redeemer Lives" reminds us:

He lives to bless me with his love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

Shared below is an issue of Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries written by Dr. Kari Vo.

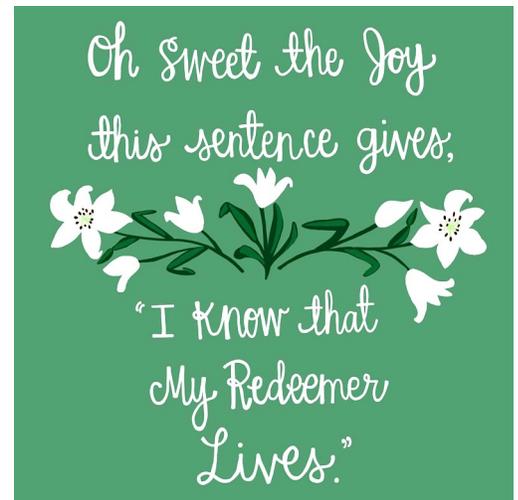
That very day two [believers] were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem ... Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth ..." *Luke 24:13, 15b-19a*

Picture these two believers, so earnestly explaining all about Jesus' suffering and death, to Jesus Himself, not recognizing Him at all. How did they miss the nail holes in His hands?

And what of Jesus? Why does He let the confusion go on for hours until He breaks the bread for dinner—and vanishes, as they finally know Him?

I think it was joy. I think it was love and happiness and a sense of humor, as Jesus enjoys an afternoon relaxing with two people He loves, who are stubbornly refusing to believe He's alive again. They won't trust the women's testimony. And so Jesus gets to exercise His sense of humor, hiding His identity, teaching them what the Bible says about Him—and waiting for the truth to dawn.

This is the kind of God we have, One who loves us so dearly that He dies and rises again for us—all so He can enjoy, not just an afternoon, but all eternity with us, His people. And it starts today—now—for all of us who trust in Him.



WE PRAY: Lord, draw me closer to You every day, and bring me to know You indeed. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

- * Why do people joke and laugh when they are happy?
- * What do you know about God's sense of humor?
- * Are you glad to know that Jesus likes spending time with you?

In Him, Pastor Stephen



Bunco will be held
 Tuesday, May 20th,
 at 6:30pm.

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

Therefore, my beloved brothers,
 be **steadfast, immovable**, always
abounding in the work of the Lord,
 knowing that in **the Lord** your labor is
not in vain

1 Corinthians 15:58(ESV)



You can listen to
The Lutheran Hour on these local stations:

KIDG: 92.1 FM and on **KID: 590 AM**

Sunday: 9:00am

KAWZ: 89.1 FM

Sunday: 8:00am

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

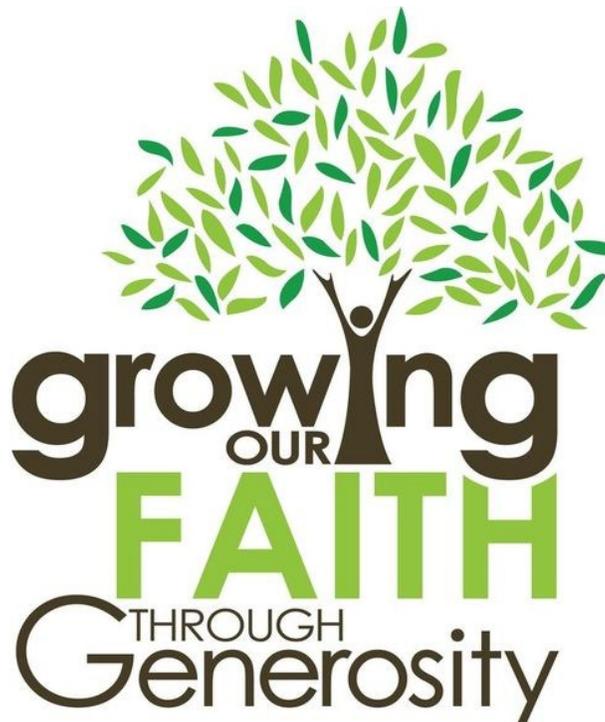
***monetary donations! *Generic brands are welcome.**

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



March 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.)

March 16, 2025 In Attendance: Bruce M., Lynn W., Penny M., Beth O., Mike S.

Elder's Report: a) Draft of revision of by-laws is almost finished. b) Approved Elder's portion of budget. c) New candidates for Board of Elders being considered. d) Pastor and Jacob are continuing Vision Bridge and are preparing to share with Board of Elders. e) Board to review status of sound system. **Treasurer's Report:** a) Money moved from general account to Thrivent account. b) 2/3 of funds required for NYG raised. c) Budget: 1) Sunday school budget being reduced. 2) Insurance increased slightly this year. 3) Elevator fees went up. 4) Property tax raised slightly. 5) Postage budget reduced. 6) Security budget reduced. 7) Budget changes motioned and approved by BOD.

Properties: absent. **Social Ministries:** Helped Karen G. with memorial service. **Old business:** a) By-laws revision: many changes made to be presented at members meeting. b) By-law changes discussed on 3/16 by BOD motioned and approved. c) Future changes will need to be approved again. d) Any changes must be made within 1 week; motioned and approved. e) Member-at-large and vice-chair needed for upcoming BOD term. Next meeting 4/13

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

March 2025 ~ Pastor's Report

1) The Chosen Sunday mornings: Jim W. is leading these sessions of Season 4 and there's very good feedback on how he draws out Scripture through questions and discussion. 2) A Life in Christ began January 5th. Numbers have been low recently & attendance sporadic. Session 8 is next week. Great refresher for us of the blessing of our Synod teachings. 3) Funerals / Memorials: There was really good attendance at an open house for Al G. His family was honored and blessed by so many friends, neighbors and church family members. 4) St. John Vision Bridge Team— Dan K, Jacob P, Linda H & Pastor Stephen benefited from the In-Person Immersion in Tacoma last Friday & Saturday, March 7-8. We are working to come up with plans we can choose from that allow St. John to become a training center for Disciples who make disciples. As a team we are beginning to share what we have been learning with others. 5) Ash Wed- Lenten Materials have been chosen for our family-friendly devotional style worship and meal. "Silent Witnesses." We will hear interviews with The Robe, The Nail, The Spear, The Shroud and The Stone. Five mid-week sessions begin Wednesday, March 12. 6) Several Guests have been joining us on Sundays. We rejoice that some have returned and plan to worship with us again. 7) Home Visits made for—Martin & Madeline; Kent C; Yvonne L., Wilma T. 8) Morgan P's social media announcements have been a blessing on our website and on Facebook. 9) Important upcoming dates: a) on June 7, 9:00am, there will be a Joint St. John Boards Mtg. to settle on 2025/2026 Master Calendar *[It will be most helpful if outgoing AND incoming board members can come together for this very helpful planning meeting.]* b) VBS, to be held last week of June, 23-27. c) National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 18-25.

March 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, Mar. 4th, 2025 Opening devotion Paul D. Tripp. Pastor's Report: See above. DCE Report: See page 5.

Worship Services and Spiritual Life: a) Jim W to work with Jacob P. to review and update care units and perhaps include frequent attending visitors. b) 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:** a) Preparation of next year's budget. A draft budget for the areas developed by the BOE was presented. All elders present agreed to submit the draft budget to the BOD.

b) Development of candidate list for open positions. 4 men were identified as candidates. Jim W. to contact them to see if they would be willing to serve. c) Lenten services will again be a Soup Supper followed by devotional. The BOE will sponsor the March 12th service. The BOD will sponsor March 19. Mar. 26 and Apr. 2 will be catered. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be set out for April 9. **Old business:** a) A New Member Class started on January 5th and continues through April. Pastor is leading the class. b) 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 to discuss. This will be after Easter. The Meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



Serve
ONE
ANOTHER
IN
love

GALATIANS 5:13

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
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!***

PLEASE NOTE



**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.* **This month, you will receive
both an email and printed copy. Please let us know if
you do not receive an email copy.**

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

Hosted!

Join us **Friday, May 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!

St. John Church Camp Out



Church Camp-out!!

This year we will be at Fall Creek Campground: at Forest Rd 076, Swan Valley (about 45
minutes from Idaho Falls!! AND *only a few minutes to square ice cream!!*)

*Everyone plans and brings their own food / meals,
but on Saturday evening we gather for a group potluck!*

**Group camping will start Thursday afternoon, August 14th, & end Sunday morning
(11:00am check-out), August 17th.**

All are welcome. Invite friends and family to camp with us!
Cost per family / tent site / RV is \$15 per night.

Join us for fun & fellowship!

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 May, 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 beginning our TRANSITION to our SUMMER Schedule throughout May! We will be meeting at least once a month throughout the summer! (With the strong likelihood of extra special events!) We will meet this month on May 18th from 5:30-7:30pm.



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!



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 23rd through the 27th. 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! We also look forward to the 1st St. John Lutheran VBS hosted exclusively by St. John in some time!! Don't miss out on this incredible occasion! **For more information contact Jacob!!**



27th MacKinsey O.



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!

March 2025 ~ DCE Report

Sunday Educational Ministries: 1) Children's Sunday School (w/ Morgan) and Early Childhood Sunday School Program! 2) PAID Nursery Position UPDATE 3) Post-Confirmation Age Youth Bible Study; 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. 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! **Youth:** 1) THE NEXT CHAPTER (TNC) Youth Group is continuing on our school year schedule. We will meet in March on the 2nd, 9th, & 25th. 2) Senior High SnowFest RECAP 3) TNC Flash Servant Event X I.F. Community Food Basket! According to Dan K., our service continues to meeting the food basket at a time where there are record numbers in need! **Young Adults: No Host Brunch:** (Noon following worship and bible studies on First Sundays) Critical to continue spreading the word that we are providing early childcare for families with younger children! We want to help them be able to make this opportunity! **2025 National Youth Gathering** – New Orleans (July 18th-25th) GROWTH CELEBRATION & UPDATE—NYG 2022 we had a group of 6... Our group now is up to 13! Praise be to God!!! **EGG-MY-YARD 2025** – Who can YOU egg this year?! Egging will take place the evening of April 19th (after dark!). Encourage folks to get their orders in!!! **"1st EVER – Hawaiian BBQ @ Pearl Hall Friday, RECAP: BEYOND grateful for Jeff & Kellie P. who coordinated this first ever event! -Raised \$5,000.00!!!!!!** **Events:** PLI (Vision Bridge) Immersion #2 (Tacoma) – Mar 7th & 8th. **Special Notes:** Jacob Continuing Education – Conferences: NOW LCMS District DCE Conference – May 3rd-8th, 2025 @ Leavenworth, WA

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!!



Vacation Bible School 2025

Calling all children ages K-6th Grade (for 2025-2026 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 23rd- June 27th from 9am-12pm**. Mark your calendars! **5 DAYS** of Music, Bible Time, Games, & Crafts! **Our theme will be revealed on Sunday, May 4th, at worship!**

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).

Sign-Up is NOW OPEN until the week of VBS for children AND volunteers! Please SHARE!



Please scan the QR codes!

Volunteer Registration Link



Child(ren) Registration Link

HAPPENING IN MAY

- 4th Spring Voter Meeting
- 4th-8th Northwest District DCE/YFM Conference @ Leavenworth, WA
- 6th-8th South Idaho Pastor's Conference
- 9th *Hosted!!*
- 11th Mother's Day
- 13th Board of Elders' Meeting
- 18th TNC Youth Night @ St. John
- 19th NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 20th BUNCO
- 25th Confirmation Sunday