

**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

June 2025

Counsel of the Counselor of Counselors

I was able to share this devotion, an excerpt from Paul Tripp's year-long devotional book titled, *Everyday Gospel: A Daily Devotional Connecting Scripture to All of Life*, with two groups this last week. This is a great reminder that God has formed us for a relationship with him and delights in speaking daily to us. And he knows we need his daily counseling. I hope you enjoy. Tripp's book is a great devotional to consider purchasing.

1 Chronicles 28–29

Your life is always shaped by the counsel you seek, listen to, and follow.

God creates people with the need for counsel. Immediately after creating Adam and Eve, God begins to talk to them. He does this because he knows that they need truth, which they will never discover on their own, in order to make proper sense of who they are and what they have been created to do. God has never stopped counseling his people. This is why he has given us his word, so that we would know him, ourselves, the nature of the world we live in, and how we are meant to live. We are meant to live under the guidance and counsel of the Counselor of counselors, as he speaks to us in his word.

Everyone is being counseled by someone all the time. You may be counseled by your parents, a friend, or a mentor. In fact, you can't really have a relationship without the give-and-take of counseling. Perhaps you are being counseled by Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, and you don't even know what a huge shaping influence they are having on your life. The counsel that we hear, that captures our hearts and minds, and that we allow to shape our identity, meaning, and purpose is very important.

So I have a question for you. If you were about to die and your son were about to succeed you in the work you had given your life to, what would be your final words of counsel to him? What identity would you want to instill? What confidence would you like to give? What success would you like him to seek? What hope would you like to impart?

First Chronicles 28:9–10 preserves for us David's final words of counsel to his son Solomon: *"Know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. Be careful now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."* There may be no better words of counsel in all of Scripture. Here are the four life-shaping things that David wants Solomon to know and allow to shape his life:

1. Serve God with a whole heart and willing mind. Give your heart to the Lord, which will then shape everything you do.
2. The Lord searches hearts and knows every thought and plan. You will never fool the Lord. He knows your heart better than you do.
3. If you seek him, you will find him. The Lord is gracious, tenderhearted, loving, and kind, and he will never hide from those who seek him.
4. Be strong and do what the Lord has chosen for you to do. Don't let anything inside of you or outside of you keep you from doing what God has called you to do.

I can't think of better advice than this. Keep God central in all you think, desire, and do. Remember that he knows your heart, and don't let anything keep you from serving him. May God give each one of us the grace to follow these wise words of counsel. And may our lives be a hymn to the glory of our Lord as we do.

For further study and encouragement:
Proverbs 15:22

Tripp, Paul David. *Everyday Gospel: A Daily Devotional Connecting Scripture to All of Life* (pp. 158-159). Kindle Edition.

In Him, Pastor Stephen



**Join us for the Potluck
on June 22nd! Bring a
dish to share during
this time of fellowship!!**



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 fully digital NEXT MONTH. 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. This is the last month that a printed copy will be mailed.

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

FOOD DRIVE

LET'S HELP THOSE IN NEED

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

Stewardship



Serve



Give



Attend



Grow

April 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.)

Attendees - Jacob P, Lee M, Mike S, Bruce M, Sandy T, Lynn W, Jim W, Penny S, Beth O

04 13 2025 Palm Sunday

1. Opening Prayer - Jim W.
2. Approval of minutes of Mar - Not available
3. Committee reports

Pastor Stephen (see report later in newsletter)

DCE, Jacob P. (page 5)

Elders, Jim W.

3 Candidates to Vote on @ Spring Voter's Meeting: Dan V., Jeff P. (Re-Elect) - 2nd Term, Scott S. (Re-Elect) - 2nd Term
1 Member to leave the Board of Elders

Treasurer, Beth O.

\$90,000 moved over to Thrivent Investment account: a) Help for covering differing operating funds. b) Better returns on monies and investment funds.

Benevolent Fund POLICY: Adding approved notion to policy form for Final (Usable) Copy.

Facility Use POLICY: Adding approved notion to policy form for Final (Usable) Copy.

Large Donation received to continue funding "Pastor's FUND" for PLI-Vision Bridge & Morgan P. DCE Contract.

Properties, Mark P. a) Lynn W. – Carpet on hold for upstairs (elevator), proceeding with downstairs fellowship hall. b) Lynn W and Church decor team to paint downstairs fellowship, Foregoing \$7,000 bid estimate to paint from previous sanctuary painter.

UPDATE on the Elevator Safety - Recalls compliance for next year annual inspection.

- 1 More information needed
- 2 Bruce M. to check-in on

Social Ministry, Lynn W.

EASTER BRUNCH - Prep on Saturday (19th) Morning Make-your-own Breakfast Sandwich and Mini Waffles.

- 1 Congregational Meeting Brunch: Make-your-own Sandwich.
- 2 Discussion on Potluck Sundays: a) Advertise Potluck Sundays further in-advance b) Reminders sent-out further in advance.
- 3 Discussion on Hosted Advertising: Proposal to have regular reminders to be sent out by Cheryl in the office.
- 4 Raise to Praise Events
- 5 Bulletin Emails to EVERYONE on Thursday, not just those serving. Worship Words & Links to be continued sending out Saturday/Sunday time period for updated LINKS and OOS to reflect Thursday Worship Team changes and reflections.
- 6 Lynn W & Church Decor team to work with Bruce M on getting historical SJLC blueprints framed for Downstairs fellowship hall renovation.

Old Business

- 1 Bylaws - final discussions on changes for the bylaws to be presented at the May congregational meeting.
- 2 Budget for next year approval: Clarified total increase from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026 Fiscal Year budget was an increase of \$1700. Proposed Budget - Motioned - Seconded - VOTE APPROVED unanimously
- 3 Discussion on PLI-Vision Bridge funding incorporation

New board members for 2026

Beth O. (Treasurer) Nomination and Re-Elect	Jason Shepherd (Member at Large) Nomination and Elect
Sandy T. possible candidate for Vice-Chair	Jared D. possible candidacy
Dan K. possible candidacy	Sarah W. or Zak W. (Vice-Chair) possible candidacy
Nathan P or Phil P possible candidacy for Member at Large	

Discussion on adding more than just necessary 3 for Member at Large positions.

New Business

Other business prior to May Voters Meeting? New POLICIES (No vote or approval needed) Information period on Benevolent & Facility Usage

Next meeting date is the voters meeting May 4, 2025. Closing. Mike S. motioned to adjourn, seconded, and moved.



Bunco will be held Tuesday,
June 17th, at 6:30pm.

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



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!

HAPPENING IN JUNE

- 7th Joint BOE/BOD Meeting for both out going and incoming Board members
- 8th No Host Brunch @ Dixie's Diner
TNC Youth Night @ St. John
- 15th Father's Day
- 16th NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 17th Bunco!
- 22nd Potluck / VBS Training
- 23rd-27th "IMMOVABLE" VBS 2025
- 26th VBS BBQ (6pm)



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 June, 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 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 June 8th 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!!**



10th Maddex R.



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!

April 2025 ~ DCE Report

Sunday Educational Ministries: 1. Children's Sunday School (w/ Morgan) Early Childhood Sunday School Program! Ages 18 months – 3 year olds!!! 2. PAID Nursery Position 3. Post-Confirmation Youth Bible Study: TNC CHOICE! 7 youth have been a regular part of this! Praise be to God!! 4. NEW Member Class: A Life in Christ (Pastor Stephen) 5. Adult Bible Study: The Chosen – Huge thanks to Jim for leading and for Todd filling in!!! **Youth:** 1. We are meeting on SUNDAY nights from 5:30-7:30! We will meet in April on the 13, 19, 25 & 27. 2. TNC Flash Servant Event @ I.F. Community Food Basket! According to Dan K., our service continues to meet the food basket at a time where there are record numbers in need! Next Event: Sunday, June 29th. **Young Adults:** No Host Brunch! (Noon following worship and bible studies on First Sundays) Next No Host: April 11th @ TBD. Critical to continue spreading the word that we are providing early childcare for families with younger children! **2025 National Youth Gathering:** New Orleans (July 18th-25th) 1. 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:** Egging will take place the evening of April 19th (after dark!). Encourage folks to get their orders in!!! Dine2Donate is on hiatus in April for the "Raise to Praise" Event at City Bagels on Friday, April 25th!!! The 7th D2D at Culvers in Ammon (1st Time) on March 25th yielded \$540! Praise be to HIM! Dine 2 Donate Events will continue to take place once a month leading up to NYG in July! **Special Notes:** Jacob Continuing Education: Conferences: NOW LCMS District DCE Conference – May 3rd-8th, 2025 @ Leavenworth, WA. This causes Jacob to miss Spring Voters Mtg. – Will have prepared report to share!

Memos from Morgan!

For more information: please contact Morgan

(mepralle.dce@gmail.com or 208-522-5650)



Sign-Up for “Immovable” VBS 2025

Are you signed up for VBS yet? ALL children ages K-6th Grade (for 2025-2026 Academic Year) are welcome to join us at St. John for a week of fun, fellowship, and learning of Jesus!

WHEN? June 23rd- June 27th from 9am-12pm.

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 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 ASAP! Please scan the QR codes!

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

Please SHARE!



Volunteer Registration Link



Child/(ren) Registration Link



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

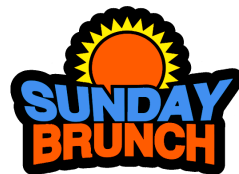
You can listen to
The Lutheran Hour on these local stations:

KIDG: 92.1 FM and on KID: 590 AM

Sunday: 9:00am

KAWZ: 89.1 FM

Sunday: 8:00am



Young Adult Fellowship

Young adults (single, married, all are welcome!)
are invited to join us each month for
“No-Host Brunch”.

Early child care is available!!

In June, we will meet at Dixie's Diner.
(2150 Channing Way)

Plan to join us!!

April 2025 ~ Pastor's Report

- **Sunday Morning Studies:** 1) "The Chosen", Sunday mornings: Jim W is leading these sessions of Season 4. Thank you, Todd M. for jumping in when needed. 2) "A Life in Christ", began January 5th. Session 10 will be our last session. We tackle it on Palm Sunday and may need to finish up the Sunday after Easter.
- **Funerals / Memorials:** There will be a memorial service for Connie M. on Friday, May 9. Pat M. is experiencing health difficulties in AZ. Her sons reached out to Pastor Stephen.
- **St. John Vision Bridge Team:** Dan K., Jacob P., Linda H. and Pastor Stephen continue in our work together as it intensifies with the promise of great blessings to St. John.
- **Lenten Wednesdays** conclude this Wednesday. Several Guests have been joining us on Sundays. We rejoice that some have returned and plan to worship with us again.
- **Home Visits:** serving George & Kathy P., Martin & Madeline S.; Kent C.; Yvonne L.; Wilma T.; and Tally P.
- **Yellowstone Circuit Mtg.:** was hosted March 20, 2025, at St. John by Pastor Stephen.
- **UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:**
 - Lenten Wednesdays, April 9
 - Hosted, Friday, April 11, 6:30pm
 - Palm Sunday, April 13
 - Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7pm
 - Good Friday, April 18, 7pm
 - Egg My Yard, April 19
 - Easter, April 20. Communion will be served with two continuous lines. Brunch will be shared after the service in the Fellowship Hall.
 - Raise to Praise, Friday, April 25, 6:30pm @ City Bagels to fund National Youth Gathering
 - Congregational Mtg, Sunday, May 4, following worship
 - Confirmation Sunday, Sunday, May 25
 - Join St. Boards Mtg. to settle on 2025/2026 Master Calendar. **[It will be most helpful if outgoing AND incoming members can come together for this very helpful planning meeting.]**
 - Pentecost Sunday, June 28
 - VBS, Last Week of June, 23-27
 - National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 18-25



April 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, April 8th, 2025 Opening devo: A short video by J. Peterson on the "Amazing Story of the Crucifixion" was shown.

Pastor's Report: See above

DCE Report: See page 5

Worship Services and Spiritual Life:

A Review / Assignment of Care Units and of families in the congregation were discussed and prayed for

New business:

The Draft By-Laws were reviewed and sections relevant to the BOE were discussed. A review of the candidate list for the open elder positions was discussed. It is disappointing that a number of men were approached to serve on the board and all declined. Jeff P and Scott S. volunteered to stay on for a second term. Dan V. has agreed to be nominated for the vacant position. (There is concern that it is the same 6 men that are willing to serve as elders. This is not healthy for the congregation.) Preparations for the May Voters' Meeting were discussed.

VBS is on track again this year.

The next Elders meeting is scheduled for May 13th.

Old business:

A New Member Class started on January 5th and will continue through April. Pastor is leading the class.

Hosting AV support team meeting was discussed. The Elders would like to assess our successes and potential areas of improvement for this new on-line ministry. Jim W. has set up a meeting on May 7th to discuss things with Dan K, and volunteers supporting the operation of the AV.

The Meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)