

**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

Save the Date!!
The Potluck is
September 22nd!

The Gospel Gazette

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

September,
2024

Jesus Joins Us

He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Mark 6: 48-52

In July our Gospel reading brought us into the boat that the twelve disciples were laboring in all night to row across the sea of Galilee because Jesus sent them ahead. Jesus stayed behind to spend time in prayer with his Heavenly Father. Mark, the Gospel writer, tells us that Jesus intended to pass them by as He caught up with them by walking on the sea.

But the disciples caught sight of him and were terrified. Out of compassion Jesus enters the boat with them. We might be surprised to see the disciples in a state of terror and with hardened hearts. But this understanding we are given of their thoughts, emotions and heart-condition gives us hope.

We might wonder to ourselves, "How could they be fearful?" After all, in the chapters leading to this account on windy seas, the twelve have seen Jesus cast out demons, heal the sick and diseased, and heal those with diseases that isolated them from healthy people. He healed withered limbs and skin diseases. He healed a woman who had sought medical help for twelve years, he fed over five thousand people from five small loaves and two fish, and he raised to life a twelve-year-old girl who had died. And still the disciples were terrified and their hearts were hardened.

R. Alan Cole writes: *Hardness of Heart is that lack of spiritual perceptivity, that lack of readiness to learn. Smallness of faith is a failure to remember God's working in the past and to apply that knowledge of his nature to our present problems.*

The twelve were eyewitnesses of Jesus' teachings, miracles and authority yet they did not apply all of this to the anxiety-producing hours of their own lives. This is good news for us because of how Jesus dealt with them. In love he still came

compassionately to them in their unnecessary fear. He still came to them in their immature faith and discernment.

And Jesus does not cast them aside in their failure. He gets into the boat and continues to teach them through his words and actions of his abundant grace, mercy, forgiveness and love. And Jesus continues to do so for us when we become fixated on our own troubles even when they feel insurmountable and far too numerous to even attempt to unravel.



The disciples would grow in faith and understanding. They would grow in hope and certainty. They would benefit again and again because Jesus climbed in and shared with them his presence.

And Jesus continues to share his presence with us. His work is not done in us, but his love is enough to grow us and to make us more and more certain of his unlimited love for us. **We are loved!**

In His Grace, Pastor Stephen

Join us for
Rally Day,
immediately
after Worship
on **Sunday,**
September 15th!



We will serve refreshments, sing songs and have a bouncy house for the children to enjoy.

Rally Day is the perfect time to get back into regular Sunday Studies for all ages. **Bring friends!**



Women's Fall Bible Study!

Meant For Good: A Study of Joseph by Donna Snow

"In this study, we will look closely at Joseph's character, faithfulness, patience, and forgiveness. His life reflected the Gospel themes of goodness, provision, and God's covenant promise for the faithful. God gave Joseph's life a purpose beyond his circumstances, and he does the same for us."

Please join us for this exciting study!!

Time: Wednesdays, 1:00pm, starting on September 11, in the Fellowship Hall of St. John, lasting for 8 weeks.

Book: *Meant For Good, A Study of Joseph*, by Donna Snow

Cost: \$11 (books are available now!)

Contact: Linda H. to sign-up (call the office if you need her contact information), or with any questions.

Dear family of St. John,

I want to ask you a big favor. When anyone mentions something work related to me on a Sunday morning, it is *very difficult* for me to stay focused on Worship.

If you need to speak to me about a work matter, please leave a note on my door or in my box, a voice-mail, or send an email. I will do my best to help you on Monday! If it is an **emergency** that needs taken care of that moment, I am happy to help! *Thank you so much!!* Cheryl

St. John offers care through the Stephen Ministry Program

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer confidential, high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister provides care to one person at a time, meeting with them once a week for about an hour.

Care Receivers are people - congregation members **and others** in the community - who receive care from a Stephen Minister. A person does not need to be a member at St. John (or of any faith community) to receive care. Care receivers are people struggling through a difficult time in life - experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or any other type of life crisis.



If you, or someone you know, could benefit from meeting with a Stephen Minister, please let them know that *this care is available to them.*

Please contact the office to be put in-touch with a care coordinator.

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

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



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://](https://www.stjohnministries.net)

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.



July Board of Directors' Minutes

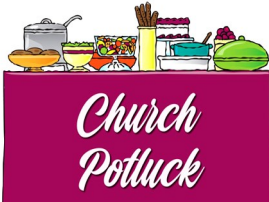
(in order to allow time for minutes to be reviewed for accuracy, the minutes are published with a one-month delay.)

July 21, 2024 In Attendance: Pastor Stephen, Jacob P., Bruce M., Mark P., Paul P., Beth O., Penny M., Mike S., Lee M., Lynn W.
Opening Prayer: Paul P. June Minutes: motioned and approved

Committee Reports: **Pastor's Report:** 1) Morgan was great help with VBS. 2) Ideas for VBS next year. 3) Chosen series going well. 4) Mid-week Study: Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School going well, almost finished. 5) Thinking of new member study; 15-20 prospective members. 6) Pastor and Jacob preparing a "red-letter" study. 7) Home visits going well. 8) 6-month calendar planned. 9) Hosted going well, good discussion. 10) BBQ went well. 11) St John camp out at Fall Creek August 15th-18th. **DCE Report:** 1) New Children's Ministry ideas: Please consider volunteering for future events. 2) Chosen is going well. 3) Excited for Jesus "Stories" post confirmation class; been going well. 4) The Next Chapter: went to Heise Hot Springs. 5) Good turn out with helping with VBS. 6) VBS: 30+ volunteers throughout the week. 7) 10 TNC Youth. 8) New VBS Approach: Create our own VBS for 2025. 9) NHR and VBS BBQ was a hit; over 100 people attended. 10) Friends and Family night: good turnout for volleyball. 11) No Host Brunch at Black Bear Dinner on Sun August 11th. 12) 2025 NYG fundraising: D2D night (Dine 2 Donate). Culvers (Pancheri and Ammon) July 23rd from 4-8pm. More restaurants lined up. 13) No Potluck this month. 14) Thanks for everyone that was a part of joint meeting. 15) Jacob was nominated to be the S. Idaho representative on a NOW District Youth Leadership Initiative Team. 16) Ryan, Tim, and Jacob partnering for Camp Perkins. 17) Jacob family vacation July 24th-August 5th. **Elder's Report:** Family Need policy discussed. **Treasurer's Report:** 1) Hired Accountant retired, new one has taken over. 2) Closer to balanced this month. 3) Accountant has added investment portfolio to be represented in next year's budget. **Properties Report:** 1) General maintenance: Sprinklers fixed. 2) Boiler has been worked on by Jeff. **Social Ministries:** Thanks for help with Elaine O.'s funeral. **Old Business:** 1) Mural restoration in progress. Will coordinate split payment with First Lutheran after invoice is received. 2) Benevolent fund discussed previously. 3) Help with security team still needed. **New Business:** None at this time. Closing prayer.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



Join us for this month's potluck on Sunday, September 22nd
Bring a dish to share, or a dish (for yourself) that you are able
to enjoy if you have food intolerances.

We look forward to spending time with you!!

HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER!

- ♦ 2nd Labor Day (office closed)
- ♦ 6th Men & Coffee 7am @ Moose Ridge Coffee (1157 Pier View Drive)
- ♦ 8th TNC Youth 5:30pm @ St. John
- ♦ 10th Board of Elders' Meeting 6:30pm
- ♦ 13th Hosted!! 6:30pm @ City Bagels (369 Shoup Ave.) Bring friends and an appetizer to share. Adults only please.
- ♦ 15th Rally Day (NEW DATE!!)
After Worship on the front lawn.
Invite friends!
- ♦ 15th Board of Directors' Mtg. @ NOON
- ♦ 15th TNC Youth 5:30pm @ Hope
- ♦ 16th NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- ♦ 17th RCCM Mtg. 10am
- ♦ 17th Bunco! 6:30pm in Youth Room
- ♦ 20th **Dine 2 Donate @ Red Robin**
(2450 E. 17th St.) 11am—11pm. Must tell server that you are there for TNC
- ♦ 22nd Potluck after Worship
- ♦ 29th TNC Youth @ St. John



DINE 2 DONATE NIGHT!

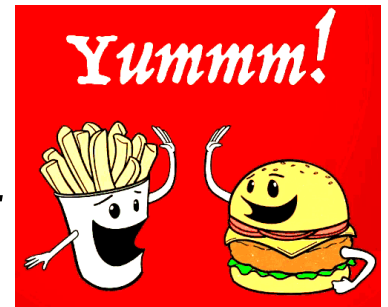
Join the TNC Youth with Food, Fun, Fellowship and **FUNDRAISING!** Did you know that food can be a vital contributor to faith formation?! Calling all foodies, we are raising funds for our Highschool youth to attend the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! Throughout the year, we will hold "Dine 2 Donate Nights" at various restaurants.

We are thankful for the local businesses that are helping support our TNC Youth's trip to the NYG!

Join us (*and invite friends!!*) us for our
third D2D "12 HOUR MARATHON"
at Red Robin (2450 E. 17th St.)
on September 20th from 11am-11pm.

**For St. John to receive a portion of your purchase YOU MUST
TELL YOUR SERVER YOU ARE THERE FOR TNC!!**

YUMMM!!! LET'S EAT!



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 September, we are meeting at
Cedric's (1260 W. Broadway St.)**

Plan to join us!!



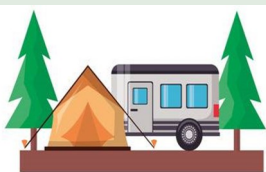
Coffee & Conversation time after Worship is a great time to meet new friends & strengthen bonds in our St. John family! If you haven't hosted in the last six months, please sign-up to serve. You can host a Sunday by yourself, or share the fun & ask a friend to help! The sign-up calendar is located on the counter where coffee is served.

Treats are optional, and can be homemade or purchased. Thank you!



Hosted!

Join us Friday, September 13th, for an adult evening of fellowship at City Bagels (369 Shoup Ave.) Invite friends and bring an appetizer / dessert to share. Beverages are provided.



A fantastic time was had by all at the church camp-out in August. Watch upcoming newsletters for information on the 2025 camp-out!

Youth News & Events

For more information on anything listed here, call or email Jacob at: Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com or 208-522-5650

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS: Jesus' "Stories" – Lets close up the summer season! Just because school is back in session and the weather is getting cooler, doesn't mean there isn't still time for camping, campfires, and ...?! **STORIES!!** Nothing makes a more memorable time with friends around the campfire like stories! Jesus was the master storyteller! Join us for the conclusion of our summer study where we take a deep dive into Jesus' parables and get to bottom of the TRUTH behind those captivating stories! We will continue to discover how the parables had multiple levels of meaning for His original listeners and still prove prevalent for us as his followers today!



**WE'RE
HIRING**

PAID POSITION AVAILABLE: Have you ever babysat or just love to spend time with children?! If so, we have an opportunity for you! On the 1st Sunday of each month, (sometimes 2nd Sundays) young adults in our congregation get to know one another over brunch! Our goal is to make it easier for adults with young kids to attend this fellowship. This is a **PAID POSITION** that also is an opportunity to make connections with the littles of St. John! See Jacob for more details.

Youth **entering** grades 6th ~ 12th, are invited to join **The Next Chapter (TNC)** – The **MOMENT. IS. HERE.** St. John, Hope, & Crown of Life Youth are ramping up for a life-changing Year 4 as **The Next Chapter!!!** 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 on SUNDAY nights from 5:30-7:30pm! In September we are meeting on the 8th, 15th, & 29th. We are excited to continue our special 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! We look forward to seeing you at TNC Youth! See Jacob Pralle or contact by email (listed above) for more details!*



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!

Memos from Morgan!

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



RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPT 15th! Join our Sunday School Team of Teachers starting this month through the end of May! A rotation schedule will be used along with all teaching materials given to you so that YOU are good to go! Possible ages in the room would be Pre-K to 6th Grade. OR if you are interested, our nursery age kiddos (18mo-3yrs) are also looking for teachers who have a heart to serve them (rotating schedule)! Come and be a part of the faith journeys of ALL children at St. John!

NURSERY TOY-DRIVE! For the start of the new education year, Morgan is looking for donations of gently used children's toys to spruce up the nursery and overflow room toy collection. If you have any toys that you think would be a blessing to the children of St. John, please drop them off in the spare Sunday School room downstairs on the right.



WE WANT YOU! During worship, some of our families would love to bring their children down to our nursery area. We would love to find some individuals who want to serve in this way and be on a rotating schedule with a couple other individuals. Background check required. This is paid position.

Other ways to support outreach ministry in our local area!



**GAME NIGHT
CASINO ROYALE
2024**

COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET FUNDRAISING EVENT!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$100 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 5PM-9PM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE





IDAHO FALLS RESCUE MISSION BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURING



@ THE COLONIAL THEATRE IN IDAHO FALLS
26 SEPTEMBER 2024 PURCHASE TICKETS @
THURSDAY - 7:00 PM IDAHOFALLSARTS.ORG



Join Us for a Benefit Concert Supporting the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission
 Featuring Acclaimed Christian Artist Jason Gray

The Idaho Falls Rescue Mission serves an average of 260 people daily, with 80 to 100 individuals finding shelter each night. As our community grows and the cost of living rises, the challenges of hunger and homelessness increase. We need the support of our local community to continue providing hope and essential services.

**YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE**



Thank you to all who contribute to "1st Sunday Food Offering". Many in our community are struggling to feed their families.

Needed in September:
 cereal, canned soup, canned pasta, **monetary donations!!
 Generic brands are welcome.

****Since donations have been lower and the number of patrons needing help has greatly increased, the Food Basket has spent more on food in the first half of 2024 than was spent in ALL of 2023.**

*****For every \$1 given, the IFCFB can provide \$4.35 worth of food!!**

PLEASE MAIL
 financial contributions to:
 IFCFB, P.O. Box 2236,
 Idaho Falls, ID 83403