ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
~LCMS~
290 7TH STREET
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83401
WWW.STJOHNMINISTRIES.NET

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY 11:00AM - 2:00PM
TUES-THURS. 9:00AM-3:00PM

PHONE: (208) 522-5650
OFFICE@STJOHNMINISTRIES.NET

PASTOR
STEPHEN WEEMS
PASTORSTEPHEN83401@GMAIL.COM

DIRECTORS OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
JACOB PRALLE
JCPRALLE.DCE@GMAIL.COM
MORGAN PRALLE
MEPRALLE.DCE@GMAIL.COM

DEACON
PAUL PETERSEN

ST. JOHN OFFICERS
SANDY TAYLOR
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TODD MARY
HEAD ELDER

SUNDAY
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:30AM

9:30AM LIVE-STREAM:
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STJOHNIDAHOFALLS

OR:
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

November 2026

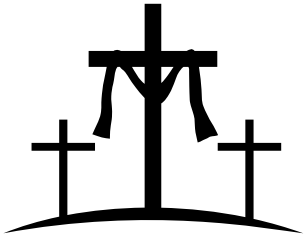
The Gospel Gazette

There Was Only One Black Friday

I was looking through a collection of quotes and phrases that I collected through the years. I found this reading in saved words from 2020. Paul Tripp titles this short work "There Was Only One Black Friday." It caught my attention because I love, love, love a good deal! I tried the morning after Thanksgiving once with Laurie. We were back home before the kids woke up and had purchased nothing. However, when I see a 15% off, 50% off or clearance offer with no shipping fee, I might just be on my way to suffering from carpal tunnel from scrolling for something I simply "need."

There are many more thoughtful resources that point to Jesus on his website, paultripp.com.

In Tripp's words shared here, we find what we truly need. We find the best offer imaginable. And it is found in the finished work of Jesus who died and rose again. Enjoy!



There Was Only One Black Friday

There was only one Black Friday.
It was not the day after Thanksgiving.
It was not a day when self-oriented consumers bumped into,
climbed over,
pushed into,
screamed at,
and hated the other consumers who were in their way.
No, all the action of the one Black Friday was on a hill of death
outside the city
where three souls hung on crosses
--two criminals and the Messiah.
Christ doing what he came to do
& what the world was desperate for.
That Friday the world went dark,
the Father turned his back, graves opened, and the veil ripped in two.
The Son carried the Father's anger.
Death was offered
so life could be given.
Darkness fell so light would shine.
Payment made;
freedom given;
redemption accomplished.
There was only one Black Friday.
No need to shop anymore for a Savior.



REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 31st

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!



VOTER'S MEETING

Please mark your calendar for the congregational lunch and Voters' meeting. The meeting will be held Sunday, November 15, following the Worship Service.

Following Worship, you are all invited to a delicious lunch hosted by the Social Ministries Team. Scrumptious delights will include fried chicken, mashed potatoes and country gravy, coleslaw, dinner rolls, fresh fruit, tantalizing pies and cookies.

Please stay for the meeting with the Board of Directors after your meal. We value your participation!

TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

Stewardship

A WAY OF LIVING



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!!



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

Hosted

A welcoming time together!

Join us on Friday, November 13th 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 November 17th at 6:30pm. Please let Gloria E. know if you are coming. Bring $5 to play and a snack to share!



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!!

Join us November 1st at 12:30pm. We will meet at Abracadabra's on Channing Way.

Morgan's Memos



Dear Parents of Sunday School Children,

As we begin rehearsing for the Sunday School Christmas Program, it is vital that each child is attending every practice, as this helps the child be confident and ready for their part.
Please assist us in having your children to Sunday School every Sunday, except in the case of illness. We appreciate your help in making the Children's Program a great proclamation of the Wonderful News that Jesus is born!!
Thank you.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

On Sunday, December 20th, the children of St. John will share the great Christmas Story of Jesus, God's one and only Son, coming into the world. Afterwards, we will enjoy a shared luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.
Therefore, Holy Communion will be shared on December 6th & 13th .

Communion will not be offered on December 20th.

September 2026 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.)

September 15, 2026

1. Opening Devotion "Just One Thing" from Daily Devotions
2. Attendees: Todd, Jeff, Dan, Scott, Bob, Jim, Jacob, Pastor
3. Minutes from the August 11, 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved
4. Pastor's Report- See Attached. Pastor reviewed his current and upcoming activities. Deacon Paul Petersen will cover preaching during vacation time.
5. DCE Report- Jacob reported on the successful Rally Day for Sunday School and the many other activities of the congregation. Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Next Chapter Youth Group will be starting back this next week. We are in need of an additional High School Sunday School teacher to assist this year.

Worship Services and Spiritual Life:

1. Review of Care Units Elder and Pastor contacts were discussed. Member needs and prayer requested also reviewed.
2. Review of visitors and potential members. Discussed the many visitors that we have had and how to contact. Pastor is going to meet with potential members to complete the Profession of Faith process so that they can be presented for Communicant Membership status.

New business:

1. Review of Membership Records. Jim has agreed to review our church membership records and present a plan to update at a special meeting of the elders.
2. Received update on Hope House from Jim. Current resident has moved out and the next approved resident was presented by Jim and Pastor. Jim will review the status of the house and additional help may be needed to prepare it for the next resident. A note of thanks from the departing resident was read. This mission continues to be a blessing to the community.
3. Update received from Jim that the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission was not a listed charity on the Idaho Falls "Giving Machine" but is listed on the Rexburg "Giving Machine". Approved that congregation should be made aware of this change.

Old business:

1. Review List of elder Duties- Reviewed and updated (Subsequent to meeting, Scott agreed to update and distribute the list for final approval).
2. Men's Quarterly Gatherings- Gene/ Scott/Jim. Potential ideas discussed. Tabled
3. Status of Vision Bridge- Meeting this week with the original four.
4. Assistance for Pastor on shut-in visits/ communion. Elders will be available if needed.
5. New Member packet review. Tabled

Next Meeting- Scheduled Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30pm Jim will do Opening devotion.
Closing prayer

(Full minutes on file in Church office) (edited for space)

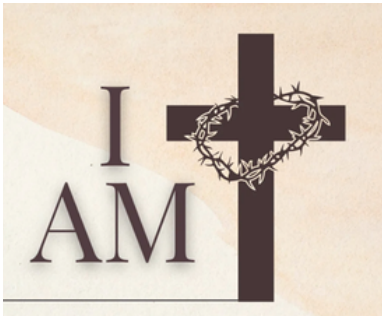
YOUTH NEWS



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 about to dig into a faith-deepening Year 6 as The Next Chapter!!! Join us this year as we explore all the depths our NEW Theme – "Roots" Did you know that the greater Idaho Falls area has a combined total of 18 middle and high schools?! Moreso, our community has an additional 15 private and public charter schools. We quite literally are spreading roots all over! Like the apostle Paul, we too are challenged to rally together such a wide ecosystem of believers! "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ROOTED and built up in him!" (Colossians 2:6-7). We can't wait to see where the Lord will strengthen relationships and grow new ones together through our shared faith in Jesus! We will be meeting WEEKLY on THURSDAY nights from 5:30-7:30! *(With exception for special events and school breaks)* **We will meet in November for South Idaho H.S. Retreat and on the 12th & 19th.**
We are excited to bring back our special TNC Youth "AT YOUR PLACE" events throughout the school year! Let us know if you're interested in hosting or sponsoring a meal for a TNC Youth Night! A BIG THANK YOU to all the families who have hosted thus far!

YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS!



At first glance, the phrase, "I am" doesn't seem like much more than just a greeting or simple introduction. However, when God spoke to Moses from the flames of the burning bush, he revealed exactly who He IS through the power of His name! Join us for a reboot of this 4-week series as we explore the character of Jesus and how is death and resurrection impacts all of humanity! We are taking an even deeper dive into this title ahead of our 2026 High School Fall Retreat! (see below!) As He said, "this is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations" (Exodus 3:15). Come and see how the power of His name still transcends generations and makes an everyday difference!



TNC HIGHSCHOOL FALL RETREAT –
CALLING ALL HIGHSCHOOL TNC YOUTH!

Join us for the FIRST EVER Twin Falls Edition of the South Idaho H.S. Fall Retreat! We will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Twin Falls, Idaho with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ throughout South Idaho for an action-packed weekend filled with Fun, Food, & Faith Growth! Where we don't get together very often, weekends like this remind us of our distinct Lutheran heritage that we all share! We will be spending the weekend in Twin Falls celebrating that unique heritage under our theme, I AM! It is a FULL weekend filled with Escape Rooms, Swimming, Service Projects, Roller Skating, Worship, and so much more! Join us on November 6th–8th with many other local Lutheran churches throughout Idaho for a weekend of discovering who Jesus reveals himself to be and who God has made YOU to be! Cost for the weekend is $75, see Jacob to register and for more details!

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.)

Board of Directors Minutes -September, 2026

In Attendance: Pastor Stephen, Mark P, Paul B, Todd M, Jacob P, Penny S, Deb K, Sandy T, Jennifer L and Lynn W.

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

Approval of Minutes: July and August minutes were reviewed. Mark motioned to approve, Penny second. Motion passed

Committee Reports: Pastor's Report (full report provided - see last page)

DCE, Jacob Pralle's Report (full report included - see last page)

Treasurer's Report: Report not available due to the absence of Beth. The accountant did provide an updated account and is working hard to reconcile. Penny reported the budget is balanced.

Proceeds from Thursday and Friday yard sale is $6200. Tomorrow (Saturday) all items that will fit in a bag will sell for $5. Large items are being put aside to be sent to Big Horn Auction. Pastor mentioned that we should maybe look at restocking the Hope House with newer updated items available in the garage sale.

Elder's Report: Elders have not met but are scheduled for the coming Tuesday. 1) They will discuss the AV problem. Dan K. mentioned that there might be a local person who can work on the AV system. 2) The current tenant of Hope House has moved out and a new one is moving in. 3) They are planning to start a men's group that will meet quarterly for fellowship. 4) Elders are working with Pastor for the new member recognition.

Properties Report: 1) Carpet has been replaced as necessary and the sewer project is basically completed. 2) Mark proposed that Paul B. be installed as chairman of Properties. 3) Paul contacted George from HoleShot and he has offered to donate an item to the fundraiser dinner auction. 4) Jason is still looking into the security system for the church, but this is on the back burner for now.

Social Ministries: Potluck is scheduled for Sunday Sept. 27th. No one knows for sure when Carole is returning so Sandy and Lynn will set up for the potluck if she has not returned by then.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: Beth has a proposal to update the AV. Dan K. met with two gentlemen from Garden Studios, who are local and work on AV systems. They looked at our system and were impressed with the quality. They were able to fix several problems within the sound board. It appears thy can help with our system and also offered to fill in if we are in need of someone to operate the AV system. We will not be contracting the installer from out of town to avoid the expensive travel fees. The plan is to work in the future with Garden Studios. There is currently $2,400 in the AV budget. Pastor is requesting a new split in his salary. This is just a line item change in the budget, no change in his salary. Todd motioned to make the change, second by Mike. Motion passed. Jacob mentioned he may also be changing his in the near future.

Mark made the motion for Paul B. to chair the Properties Committee. Mark said he will cover for him when they travel to Florida. Second to motion by Penny. Motion passed. Congratulations Paul!

Sandy requested that the Board of Directors meet next month before Oktoberfest. Date was scheduled for Oct. 11th, immediately after Bible Class.

Voters Meeting scheduled for Nov. 15th - lunch will be served.

Discussion was held about the details of the fundraising dinner and auction scheduled next weekend.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2026

Closing

Motion to adjourn by Mike, second by Deb. Motion passed

Meeting Adjourned 5:59 pm. Closing Prayer by Sandy.

(Full minutes on file in Church office) (edited for space)

Calendar Dates

- **November 1st - No Host Brunch – Abracadabras (Channing Way)**
- **November 5th – No TNC Youth – H.S. Retreat Week**
- **November 6th-8th – TNC High School Fall Retreat (Twin Falls)**
- **November 10th – Board of Elder's Mtg**
- **November 12th – ACT (Artists w/a Common Thread)**
  TNC Youth Night – St. John
- **November 13th - HOSTED!**
- **November 14th - Hope Lutheran's Holiday Fair 9am-4pm**
- **November 15th – Fall Congregational Mtg. with Meal**
- **November 16th – *DOUBLE ISSUE Newsletter Deadline!***
- **November 17th – BUNCO!**
- **November 19th - CPS (Colored Pencil Society)**
  TNC Youth Night – St. John
- **November 26th – Thanksgiving Day – 3:00pm Friendsgiving Meal**
  No TNC Youth
- **November 29th - TNC Youth Flash Servant Event @ Food Basket**

- **December 1st - Friends & Family Night – White Elephant BINGO**
- **December 4th – Advent by Candlelight**



Pastor's Report September 2026

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Sep.16 Vision Bridge Core Mtg
Sep. 19 Dinner & Auction for Sewer Project
Sep. 20 Board Member Recognition
Oct. 16 St. John Oktoberfest
Oct. 20-22 South Idaho Pastor's Conference Dr. Jeff Gibbs Speaker
Oct. 25 New Member Recognition UPDATED
2027 Vacation Bible School June 21-25, 2027

Baptisms: Sean P. would like to be baptized soon.

Sunday Study: We have a 3-Part study by Paul Tripp, titled "Mining Treasure" beginnings Sep. 20

Men & Coffee is set to meet at City Bagels on Sep. 25

Pastor's upcoming vacation dates Sept. 25-29 / Nov. 9-22

Paul Petersen will provide coverage Sep. 27, Nov 15, Nov 22

Funerals— None

The 10 a.m. Wednesday study has had very good attendance and excellent conversations in the series, *Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School.*

Yellowstone Circuit Mtg has not been finalized for Sept.

DCE's Report September 2026

Sunday Educational Ministries: Children's Sunday School (w/ Morgan)

- BACK & BETTER THAN EVER after Summer Break!
- Children's Christmas Program & Dinner will be Sunday, December 20th
- Nursery S.S. Class w/ our Nursery Attendants – Brandy P. & Tonya S.

Post-Confirmation Age Youth Bible Study

- I AM! – At first glance, the phrase, "I am" doesn't seem like much more than just a greeting or simple introduction. However, when God spoke to Moses from the flames of the burning bush, he revealed exactly who He IS through the power of His name! Join us for a reboot of this 4-week series as we explore the character of Jesus and how is death and resurrection impacts all of humanity! We are taking an even deeper dive into this title ahead of our 2026 High School Fall Retreat!

Adult Bible Study: Mining for Treasure – Paul David Tripp (Pastor Stephen)

- **Confirmation:** We are back in action and continuing to build off our continued meetings that we had throughout the summer in lieu of Jacob being gone in Minnesota! Our confirmation class has had some cool developments and has grown by 3 this year! Class Total: 9 Potential!

Youth: THE NEXT CHAPTER (TNC) Youth Group; we are back in our School Year Schedule. We will be meeting in September following Rally Day on the 17th & 24th.

- TNC Flash Servant Event X I.F. Community Food Basket! - Continues to be impactful for our Youth to see their service having a big impact for folks with food insecurities in our community! Next Event: Sunday, November 29th.
- Southern Idaho High School Fall Retreat is coming up FAST! – I AM
- Big emphasis on maintaining the growing momentum of this event!
- Special for this event to happen in Twin Falls for the first time (hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church). We will be there November 6th-8th!
- Excited to build new relationships with the Twin Falls Lutherans & continue growing this annual event!

Young Adults: No Host Brunch! (12:30pm following worship and bible studies on first or second Sundays)

- Next No Host: September 8th @ North Hi-Way Cafe
- 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!