

290 7th Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
www.stjohnministries.net

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-3:00pm
Phone: (208) 522-5650
office@stjohnministries.net

Pastor

Stephen Weems
pastorstephen83401@gmail.com

DCE Intern

Jacob Pralle
Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com

St. John Officers

Joshua Perez
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Gene Winter
Chairman,
Board of Elders



Sunday

In-Person Worship
9:30am

9:30am Live-Stream:
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnidahofalls>

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqfTbbuM5U7-IFB7bMsIQaQ>

**Communion every
1st & 3rd Sunday**

10:30am - Fellowship

10:45am

*Adult Bible Class
*Confirmation
*Sunday School
*High School Youth

**Wednesday
Bible Study**
10:00am

We have two Christmas
Eve Services this year.
Please RSVP to the one
you plan to attend so we
avoid overcrowding.

What the 'Dad's on Duty' can teach us about God the Father

Our experience with good fathers – even when they are not our own – can point us to God the Father.

I share this article from 1517.org written by Scott Keith, the Executive Director of 1517 and Adjunct Professor of Theology at Concordia University, Irvine. This website has links to many resources that may be valuable in your own personal study & understanding. **Enjoy!** ~ *Pastor Stephen*

Dad's on Duty: After a violent week of fighting at a Louisiana high school, parents knew something had to change. So a group of dads decided to show up not just for their kids – but for the whole student body – to help maintain a positive environment."

This tweet filled my text threads this week. Once you've written a book on *Being Dad*, people tend to send you all manner of "dad" related items and news stories. So, I wasn't surprised when I found myself watching the video, being engaged, and wondering why we don't see more of these stories.

But stories like these always leave me in a conundrum. How are these snippets of grace related to the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ Jesus to an ailing world? The fact is, the story, as a stand-alone, is not. It is a story of well-meaning men – dads and fathers – who saw a need for calm, controlled, positive, and quite frankly, masculine in the best way, interdiction into a very negative and even dangerous situation. This is a story of the often important and even more often overlooked need for more "father presence" in the world.

So, let me tackle this in two parts. Part one will address father presence in general, and part two will address that presence as a reflection, poor as it may be, to the love of the Father, as in the first person of the Trinity for his children.

The fathers in the story gave of their time and risked their safety to bring calm, security, and peace to a high school that had literally gone mad with violence and disruption. How did they do it? They simply

were present. They deescalated through presence, redirection, and positivity. You see, men on a mission have a presence about them. This presence demands respect without being violent or threatening. When determined and caring men share a common goal of bringing security to an insecure situation, their presence can have a positive impact. I touch on this in *Being Dad* where I tell the story of Pete.

So too, in our lives, we sometimes encounter men like someone I once knew – we'll call him Pete. We all knew there was something different about Pete, something that made him stand out. To be honest, from his physical appearance, there wasn't much that was different about him, at least nothing that any man today would find reason to boast about. In fact, Pete was unassuming in his stature and looks. He was somewhat shorter than most men, was beginning to lose his hair, and had a peculiar habit of running his tongue along his upper teeth before he would speak. If you were to pass him by in a hurry, you would hardly give him a second thought. And yet, if you were to spend just a few moments with him, you would find that there was truly something different about him. Pete possessed a strange ability to transform a room simply by walking into it. His presence, his calm and purposeful movements, and his words always changed the dynamic of whatever space he occupied.

What seems to have happened in this high school in Louisiana was that a group of Petes gathered together because they were invested in solving a problem for their children who were being hurt & frightened. These Petes not only changed a room simply by being there; they changed the culture of an entire school, and good on them for doing it. Their common interest in protecting and caring for their families was all it took to solve that problem. (*continued*)

Now how does this relate to the gospel of Christ, or the presence of the Father, our Father in heaven? The magic that a good dad, or a group of them, brings into the lives of his children is not the same as what God has shown us in Christ; but it is a significantly powerful analogy to it. In theological terms, this is called an *analogia entis*, or an analogy of being, something that provides a comparison between two proportions. The theologian Thomas Aquinas claimed that our human language, as we try to explain God, is neither univocal (using the same word in precisely the same way) nor equivocal (using the same word in different ways). Instead, as we, in our feeble way, try to discuss and understand who God is or what he is like, we use analogical language and denotative definitions. As an example, when I say that "God is good" and "these dads are good," I do not mean the same thing. As the Scriptures tell it, God is good in a completely unique way. Yet when I say, "these dads are good," neither do I mean something that is exactly the opposite of what it is meant when I say, "God is good." These two statements are rather meant analogically. That is, I am using an analogy to get the point across or point to something or someone - in this case, a good father.

Our experience with good fathers – even when they are not our own – can point us to God the Father. God shows us a glimpse of himself when he grants us pictures of good earthly dads. In this case it is the notion that the very being, or *entis*, of good fathers like these offers an analogy by which we understand in a limited way, almost like a foggy picture of God. A child can point to a father that is good and say: God is in some way like that.

These dads went to this school to ensure everyone that things could be, and were going to be, okay. At the core of our universe is the Father, who has made all things right in Christ. He will come through on his promises to save us for the sake of Christ. Good dads of all stripes (even if it's not your dad) are a picture or analogy of God to children. These dads made good on their promises to be there for everyone's children. And the little bits of magic that they provide can reflect God's love for us all in Christ.



Did you know that St. John is part of the Stephen Ministry Program?



Stephen Ministers: Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, **confidential**, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with them once a week for about an hour. St. John currently has 10 trained Stephen Ministers. **Care Receivers:** Care receivers are people - congregation members **and others** in the community (a person does not need to be a member at St. John to receive care) - who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life - experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or any life crisis.

**If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the care
of a Stephen Minister, please contact the office.**

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes ~ October 2021

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

Minutes for 10/04/21 Opened meeting at 7:00 pm at St John. Those present, Dan V., Jim, Mike, Pastor Stephen, and Gene.

Opening Devotion by Gene. Report on Natural Church Development from Dan K. Approved minutes of 09/20/21. Discussed the Pastor's Report. No DCE intern's report. Waiting on results of covid test.

Worship Services and Spiritual Life: Family night had 10 adults and 7 children. October 19 next one.

Discussed covid precautions and response. Triad update. Discussed Advent services and soup suppers.

Member contacts and care units: Pastor visited and communed with Grace and her daughter and met with Russel. **Membership Actions:** None

Old Business: Oktoberfest is October 30. Dan and Mike will check with Jacob, Deb and the North Hi-Way Cafe to firm up the plans. Trunk-or-Treat October 31 at First Lutheran. Gene met with the Sunday night AA group. They will be meeting in fellowship hall at 7pm and discussed facility use. Next meeting 11/01/21 at St. John 7:00 pm. Adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:50 pm.

Human Care



You are invited to share Christmas Brunch with your St. John family on the 12th. Please bring a dessert to share. Lynn would appreciate having some extra helpers in the kitchen that day. Please contact her or the office to let us know you are willing to help serve. Dinner will begin immediately following Worship, around 10:45 ~ 11:00am.

Join us for St. John's monthly Potluck!!! We are blessed to be able to share in this time of fellowship each month. ** The potluck will usually be held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next potluck is Sunday, January 9th.

All are welcome. Bring a "dish to pass" and invite your friends!!

Thank you to all those who contribute to "First Sunday Food Offering". Your generous support of the IF Community Food Basket is such a blessing to those who struggle to feed their families. The Food Basket accepts donations all month long. Presently, the **greatest need** continues to be **funds to purchase food**. The food basket is able to use monetary donations to purchase food in bulk for pennies on the dollar.



Suggested items for November: Canned vegetables (green beans, carrots, tomatoes, & corn), canned soup (any type condensed), beef stew, diapers. ***Generic brands are welcome.***

Please mail financial contributions to P.O. Box 2236, Idaho Falls, ID 83403



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ October 2021

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

10/17/2021 Attending: Josh P., Pastor Stephen, Bryan N., Jackie R., Gene W., Brandy G.-P., Lynn W., Mark P., Suzanne S. September Minutes Approved. **Pastor's Report:** **a)** Natural Church Development- Dan K. is willing to give updates. October. Four Triads are meeting. In the works: A time in the fall to share Triad successes and give interested people what they need to begin their own. **b)** Membership Requests: Transfer papers have been received from Crown of Life, Rigby, ID, for Mary and Ron T. Pastor met with Paul F. regarding membership: no request at this time. Randy & Debra K. are attending regularly. They recently returned to I.F. **c)** Sunday Bible Studies: 8-Session Learning "Christians: It's Not What You Think". Attendance has been very strong Session 6 is Oct. 17 will be led by Alan M. Children's Sunday School is running Sunday Nursery: Cheryl is trying to contact a high schooler who is interested in serving the nursery on Sundays. Jacob P. has begun a Sunday study for post-Confirmation youth. Local churches are considering sponsoring a Will Graham Conference. **d)** Website Update: Craig M. is waiting on Pastor for direction. He will meet online with Cheryl next week to help her with additions & updates. **e)** Summer Nights to Prayer: All four meetings were lightly attended. **f)** Member Contacts: Communion & Devotions shared with Grace & Patti B.; Ruth J.; Shirley P. & Margarethe E.; Russel R.; Tally P. was not available. **g)** Crown of Life: St. Anthony Lutheran couldn't serve 10/10 as their deacon has Covid. Pastor Stephen drove there following Sunday's sermon at St. John. Todd M. finished the service out as liturgist. Jim W. will lead at Crown 10/17 Pastor Stephen will lead at Crown 10/24 **h)** Advent Services will be celebrated Wednesdays at St. John in partnership with Hope Lutheran. Soup Suppers: December 1, 8, 15. Christmas Eve, 12/24, is a Friday night. No Christmas Day service. Crown of Life has been asked if they would consider coming to St. John for worship on Dec. 26. **i)** Family Night: 9/21 was great! Upcoming Dates: Oct. 19, Nov. 9 & Dec. 14!! Expanded to Friends & Family Night! **j)** 1,000 Young Leaders: Training The Next Generation of Passionate Believers - Starts November 1, 2021. Ben W. will sign up soon. **k)** Communion spacing at the rail: Don C. reported that folks at times did what they have always done. But it seemed orderly & not too long while allowing some extra spacing. **l)** Celebration of Life and Graveside Services were held for Cecilia W. **m)** Oktoberfest will be a catered meal set for 4:30 to 7pm, Saturday, October 30. Reformation Day is October 31. On October 31 St. John is joining 1st Lutheran in sharing a Trunk-or-Treat with the community. **Elder's Report:** **1)** Polling Questions For Church Development - Weakest link was small groups. **2)** Sunday Night's AA group will meet in Fellowship Hall. **3)** Christmas services: 5 & 7 PM on Christmas Eve - based on Reservations. **4)** Donations or budget line item for Family night expenses. **Treasure's Report:** See Treasurer's Report (Financial Summary) via Jackie R.: Possible online statement viewing/printing. **Social Ministry Report:** Potluck was low attendance. Holiday meals: Advent by Candlelight potential for next year. **Properties:** Winterized sprinkler system. Boiler repaired (circulation pump). Potential bookstore leak to be investigated. Basement windows replacement possibility and research what is needed for improvement. **Old Business:** Broadway sign structure is very weather degraded repair/improvement (Gene W.). Hope Lutheran School usage approved for emergencies. Security Team (recruiting, first responder designated individual, investigating camera security system) **NEW BUSINESS:** Congregational meeting & lunch - November 14th at 10:45. Hope House Dishwasher needs replaced funding to come from HH account approved budget line #710.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



SAVE THE DATE!!

Hope Lutheran School Annual Dinner & Auction

February 26, 2022.



This event is an evening of food, fun & fellowship as you support Christian Education. Watch for more details as the event draws closer. If you are not able to attend this fun evening, please consider donating a homemade dessert, a special item, a "theme" basket, or anything that could be auctioned to raise funds. Hope's office can help you with ideas. Donations are tax deductible.

Youth News & Events

Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com or [208-522-5650](tel:208-522-5650)



YOUTH GROUP (Name NO LONGER TBD) ~ Youth grades 6-12, are invited to join *The Next Chapter (TNC)* – the new name of our Youth Group here at St. John! Our group will be based off the book of Acts, chapter 29. *But 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 and Paul, we too are challenged to write *The Next Chapter* of His Church. This doesn't end with chapter 28, it truly is just the beginning! We will meet on December 7th & 16th to discuss hot topics amidst good fun, food, and fellowship! We will decide January's meeting dates during the meeting on the 16th. Contact Jacob with any questions.



JUNIOR HIGH SNOWJAM @ Camp Perkins. *What on earth could there be to do at Camp Perkins in the middle of winter?* How does tubing, broomball on the frozen lake, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bonding with friends, and an amazing time with Jesus sound?! This what to expect of Camp Perkins – Winter style! We'll be shuttled over the snow two miles into camp in a fully equipped van with tracks and skis. Spend our time worshiping, studying God's Word, sitting by a warm fire, and playing in the snow! We will be bringing youth, 6th-9th grade, for this weekend getaway on January 7th-9th! Registration is now open until December 20th. If interested, & for more details, contact Jacob at the above email or call the office.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING REGISTRATION-A-THON MEETING:

This coming July, we will be taking High-school age Youth to the *In All Things* LCMS National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas!!! We will be proceeding through the process by nailing down all of our registration paperwork. Loads more information about fundraising, events, etc. will also be announced! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, December 12th at 5:30pm! Contact Jacob with any questions.



YOUTH BIBLE CLASS: We're meeting every Sunday, challenging each other to "Think Like Jesus" & digging deep in the Bible to find answers to our difficult questions! Join us!!

Happy Birthday to our youth celebrating
birthdays in December & January!!



Brayden Holt ~ December 8th
Kaeanna McKinney ~ January 24th



the
TRUE GIFT
OF
Christmas
IS NOT IN THE
PRESENTS
BUT IN *His*
presence



"Coffee & Conversation" after Worship is a valuable time where we can strengthen & form relationships! It is a great bonus when we get to enjoy hot coffee / tea & sometimes a small treat while visiting. **Please sign-up for a Sunday (or more!) when you are available to host.** You can host a Sunday by yourself, or recruit a friend to help.

If you haven't served as a host before, call Lynn W. or Cheryl in the office. We are happy to answer any questions. The sign-up calendar is located on the counter where coffee is served. Treats are optional, and can be either homemade or store-bought. Thank you.