

**St. John  
Lutheran Church**  
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
290 7th Street  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
[www.stjohnministries.net](http://www.stjohnministries.net)

**Office Hours:**  
Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-3:00pm  
Phone: (208) 522-5650  
[office@stjohnministries.net](mailto:office@stjohnministries.net)

**Pastor**

Stephen Weems  
[pastorstephen83401@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstephen83401@gmail.com)

**Director of  
Christian Education**

Jacob Pralle  
[Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**March 9,  
Spring Forward!**

# The *Gospel Gazette*

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

March 2025

## God's Good and Gracious Intentions

*We know that God desires all whom He has created to thrive because He sent His Only Son to bring back all men and women into His family.*

*We know he wants us to thrive because He alone has planted us where all that we need for salvation and life is fully provided us.*

In worship on Sunday, February 16, we discussed Jesus' resurrection from the dead and how it has made us right with God the Father who created us. Because our risen Savior lives, we are now empowered to be Hope Brokers. When God gives us opportunity, we have reason to speak hope into the lives of those who despair.

The fallen angel, Satan, opposes God and according to Jesus **"comes only to steal and kill and destroy."** He goes on to say, **"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."** And he further magnifies his intentions by telling us he laid down his life to make it so. His death in our place on the cross has removed the penalty of our sins and has forgiven our sinfulness.

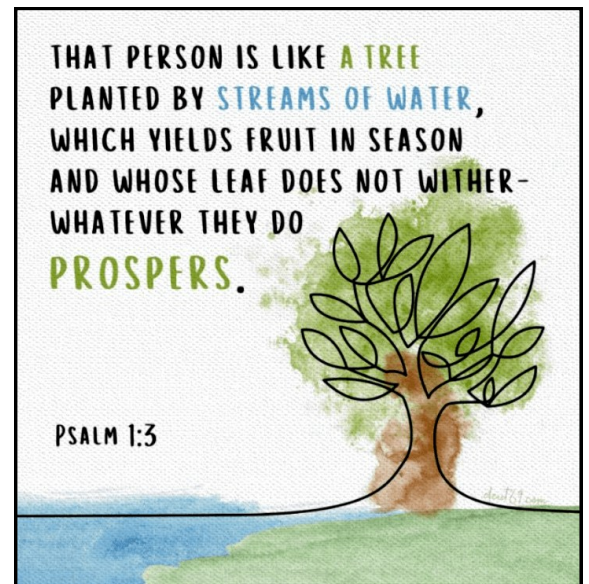
But Jesus did not remain in death for it could not hold him; he was raised by the Father to new and immortal life. His resurrection makes his promises and intentions all the more certain and secure.

Psalm 1:3 states that we who have found life in Jesus, the enfleshed Word of God [John 1:1], and our hope in the written Word God has given us are,

**...like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.**

*Psalm 1:3*

God indeed plants us where we may have a thriving and fruitful life that He alone provides. He sinks the roots of our hearts and minds into His revealed ways, purposes and promises as given us in the Holy Bible. The apostle John shares Jesus' words and his meaning with these words: **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit.** *John 7:37-39*



With Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection, the undoing of death and breakdown of life has begun. And God will finish that divine restorative work when our risen Savior returns, calls us to himself and resurrects us to new and immortal life with him.

In the meantime, we are able to lovingly and compassionately share with others that God is all about restoring their lives. He purposes good for our lives. He works His gracious will in *this* life *now*. Even more he restores us to Himself that this life in Jesus will only be the beginning of life with him into eternity.

*In Him, Pastor Stephen*

**Bunco** will be held  
Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at  
6:30pm.

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



## **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.

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



### **High need :**

*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 has 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



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!!

# Stewardship



**Serve**



**Give**



**Attend**



**Grow**

# January 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.)*

January 19, 2025 In Attendance: Pastor Stephen, Jim W., Bruce M., Lynn W., Sandy T., Ben W., Mark P., Jacob P., Beth O., Penny S., Lee M. Opening Prayer: Pastor Stephen. **Committee Reports: Pastor's Report;** See report below. **DCE Report;** See report below. **Elders Report;** See report below. **Treasurer's Report: 1)** Created Google drive and email list of BOD. Gmail needed for members to access. Shared calendar to be used for master calendar. **2)** AV budget has surplus that will be used for future AV work. **3)** 50 percent of NYG funding goal has been reached. **4)** Proposal to use memorial funds to miscellaneous tech upgrades: Board voted and approved to zero out account with memorial funds. **5)** Financial Committee and Counter training being organized. **Properties Report:** Met with carpet vendor to recarpet stairs and basement. Vendor is preparing bid as well as floor design. Aiming for May project date. **Social ministries: 1)** Potlucks being planned. **Old Business:** Facility Use and Benevolent Fund policies - Updates made to policies since last meeting. BOD voted and approved facility use policy. Benevolent Fund Policy changes are being made with understanding that corresponding by-laws changes will be made. Changes voted and approved by BOD. **New Business:** None. Closing Prayer: Pastor Stephen.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

*(edited for space)*

## January 2025 ~ Pastor's Report

**1)** Hosted was held at City Bagels January 10. Attendance in December and January was 8 & 9 participants. The next Hosted is Feb. 21. **2)** Chosen Sunday school series continues - Jim W leading. **3)** A Life in Christ began January 5<sup>th</sup>. **4)** St. John Vision Bridge Team continues. In-Person Immersion in Tacoma is Friday & Saturday, March 7-8. **5)** Yellowstone Circuit Epiphany Party was hosted by Pastor, Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. **6)** Funeral and grave side for Maxine M. was held on January 4<sup>th</sup>. **Upcoming dates to note: 1)** February 7, Hawaiian BBQ Luau fundraiser for NYG. **2)** Yellowstone Circuit Forum, Feb. 8, 10am. **3)** Hosted Feb. 21. **4)** Ash Wednesday, March 5. **5)** Lenten Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26; April 2 & 9, **6)** Maundy Thurs., April 17. **7)** Good Friday, April 18. **8)** Egg My Yard, April 19. **9)** Easter, April 20. **10)** St John BOD master calendar meeting scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Please attend if you are able & serve on either of the boards.

## January 2025 ~ DCE Report

**1)** Post confirmation youth study attendance going well. New member class going well. **2)** Junior High Snow Jam (Confirmation class retreat) January, 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Youth leader candidate position has been filled. **3)** NYG Update: Early registration \$400/person on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Current registration is at 12, up from 6 in 2022. Travel dates are July 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. **3a)** Fundraisers: D2D Nights - TNC opportunities to partner with local businesses who return support to TNC trip to NYG. **4)** Vision Bridge meeting on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. **5)** Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> for wedding of Hope members.

## January 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.)*

6:30pm, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Opening devotion from "Everyday Gospel" by Paul David Tripp. **Worship Services and Spiritual Life: 1)** Jim W. to work with Jacob P. to review and update care units and perhaps include frequent attending visitors. **2)** 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: 1)** Preparation of next year's budget. Todd M. and Jim W. will develop a draft budget for next year. **2)** Development of candidate list for open positions. The Elders are to pray about and develop a list of candidates. Responsibilities of a member an appointee to the Human Care Committee according to the St John Constitution. Scott S. presented to the BOE the proposed changes to the Facility and Benevolent Use Policies were discussed. Jim W. to provide feedback to Bruce M. on the Facility Use. **3)** Lenten services are currently being developed. We will be hosting a soup supper for March 12 - April 9<sup>th</sup> services. **Old business: 1)** New Member Class started on January 5<sup>th</sup>. **2)** Hosting A/V 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. Currently the A/V support team is working on electrical issues related to electrical grounding and electrical shorts within the facility which is causing some of the issues with the AV system. Jim W. to work with Jacob P., Dan K., Greg H., volunteers supporting the AV and members from the BOE and BOD to set a date, time and agenda when these issues are resolved. **4)** The Meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor. The next BOE meeting will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

*(edited for space)*



We look forward to seeing you at the Potluck on March 23<sup>rd</sup>! Bring a dish to share!



## Hosted!

Join us **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 are provided.



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 a host to serve each week. Please sign-up if you haven't hosted recently.** You can host a Sunday by yourself, or share the fun and 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!***



## 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!!**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at Smitty's.**  
(645 W Broadway St.)

***Please join us!!***



## PLEASE NOTE

Due to the increasing prices of mailing permits and postage, **the St. John newsletter will be going**

**digital in July 2025.** This means that 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 physical copy.* If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter by email, **please ensure your email is up-to-date with the office.** Thank you!

# Youth News & Events

For more information on anything listed here, call or email Jacob at: [Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com](mailto: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 March, 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Come eager with your grandest ideas and ready to discover what is in store for TNC!

Youth, grades 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 **"FOLLOW<sup>2</sup>"** 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 meeting on **SUNDAY** nights from **5:30-7:30pm!** We will meet in March on the **2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>.**



**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!



**EGG-MY-YARD!** – CAN. YOU. BELIEVE. IT! It's that time of year again! We knew you couldn't forget! Sneaking through yards, finding challenging hiding spots, traveling ALL OVER the greater I.F. area! The egging fun aside, imagine the excitement when you and your children/grandchildren/family wake up Easter morning to a yard covered in candy and treat filled plastic Easter eggs!!! You can even surprise a friend or family by having THEIR yard egged! Egging will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (after dark). Eggs will be filled with candy and other surprise goodies! \*\*Peanut FREE upon request!\*\* All proceeds go to our TNC Youth Group for St. John, Hope, & Crown of Life Lutheran Churches. To order, scan the QR Code, or contact Jacob and Morgan.

**All orders are due by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**



**Who / what is "The Next Chapter"?** Our group (6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> 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!

**DINE 2 DONATE NIGHT!!!** Join the TNC Youth with Food, Fun, Fellowship and FUNDRAISING!

Calling all foodies, we are raising funds for our Highschool youth to attend the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana! ***We are nearing our goal. Every dollar helps!***

Join us for our seventh D2D @ Culvers on 3701 E 25th S. (Ammon) on March 18<sup>th</sup>!



## Memos from Morgan!



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

Dear St. John family, we need your help! **When St. John posts events on social media, please share them on your page and in any groups you belong to.** This helps us reach a greater audience and can often serve as a safe way for those who are not currently part of a faith community to connect to the ministry of St. John. **Thank you!!**



# EGG MY YARD!

LET THE YOUTH GROUP OF ST. JOHN & HOPE LUTHERAN

## EGG YOUR HOUSE THIS EASTER!

Imagine the excitement when your children/grandchildren/family wake up Easter morning to a yard covered in candy filled plastic Easter eggs!

You can even surprise a friend or a family by having THEIR yard egged!

**EGGINGS** will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 19th



\$30 - 3 Dozen

\$50 - 5 Dozen

\$60 - 7 Dozen

\$80 - 9 Dozen

\*Eggs will be filled with candy pieces

\*Peanut FREE upon request



Proceeds go to fund the Youth Group and future activities.

TO ORDER, please scan, email Jacob (DCE) or call St. John at [jcpralle.dce@gmail.com](mailto:jcpralle.dce@gmail.com) / 208-522-5650

Reservation and payment is due April 13th!  
Cash. Check. Venmo.

# HAPPENING IN MARCH

- Feb. 28-Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Senior High Snow-Fest @ Camp Perkins
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> — TNC Youth Night - **St. John**
- March 5<sup>th</sup>— **Ash Wednesday** (7:00pm Service)
- March 9<sup>th</sup>— No Host Brunch @ **Smitty's**
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – TNC Youth Night – **HOPE**
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Board of Elders Mtg
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – Lent Service #1 & meal (6:30pm)
- March 14<sup>th</sup> – *Hosted!*
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors Mtg  
TNC Youth Night - **St. John**
- March 17<sup>th</sup> – Newsletter Deadline!
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – BUNCO!
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Lent Service #2 & meal (6:30pm)
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday Potluck  
**Spring Break – No TNC Youth**
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – Lent Service #3 & meal (6:30pm)
- March 30<sup>th</sup> – TNC Youth Flash Servant Event @ Food Basket  
**Spring Break – No TNC Youth**