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Monday-Thursday  
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# The Gospel Gazette

As many of you already know, Pastor Stephen had (unexpected) open heart surgery on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. We are giving praise to God and pleased to report that he is healing well and has been released from the hospital. We ask you to continue to keep Pastor & Laurie in your prayers, and to refrain from visiting at this time as we want to guard them both from illness. If you have any questions, please call the office. Thank you.

## "The Value of the Body"

This Daily Devotion was written by  
Dr. Kari Vo, of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

*But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as He has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:35-42*

In Western cultures we have a tendency to treat the human body as if it were not very important. Quite a few people, even Christians, think of the body as something we should be glad to leave behind at death—a barrier between us and God. They imagine that in the life of the world to come, people will be purely spirits, without bodies at all.

But this isn't what God says. God made us to be spirit and matter both. He likes our bodies, and He considers them to be part of us. In fact, God Himself chose to take on a body—when He was born among us as the baby Jesus, our Savior.

It was through His body that Jesus saved us, when He lay down His life for us on the cross. It was in His body that Jesus rose from the dead—not just a spirit or a ghost, but a living Man again. He keeps His body to this very day—He has not laid it aside. It will be His forever.

And that is the joyful promise that Jesus makes to us, everyone who believes in Him. We too will have our bodies back again, on the day when He returns and remakes the universe. Just as Jesus keeps His body for all eternity, so we will have our bodies—free from sin and sickness and death, perfect and wonderful. At that time we will finally see what a human being is supposed to be—body and soul in perfect harmony, the whole human race in incredible diversity and beauty. No one will need to be ashamed or afraid or in pain. We will be like Jesus, and with Jesus—and nothing could be better.

Do we know the details of exactly how this will all work? No. Paul makes it clear that there will be some differences from what we know now—as he says, the garden plant isn't exactly like the seed that was planted. Things will be different. But God has His plans, and they involve glory. Our bodies have been redeemed by Jesus, just as our souls have—and so our bodies will glorify God and be a source of joy to us forever and ever.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, thank You for giving me my body, and help me to look forward to what You're going to do with it in the resurrection. Amen.

### Pastor

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

### DCE Intern

Jacob Pralle  
[jcpalle.DCE@gmail.com](mailto:jcpalle.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-IFB7bMslQaQ>

**Communion every**  
**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

**10:30am - Fellowship**

### **10:45am**

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

**Wednesday**  
**Bible Study**  
**10:00am**

Happy March St. John Family! This month I'm happy to share something I learned in the 1000 Young Leaders program that comes from Scottish historian Niall Gerguson's book "The Square and the Tower". Within the book, he talks about two different networking structures that have greatly influenced mankind. The first is "the square" which is driven by innovation. These types of structures are characterized by simple rules, low budgets, commonly held beliefs, and fostering an environment where anyone and everyone can be a leader. The second structure is called "the tower", which is driven by institution. In it we find complex rules & regulations, hierarchy, large budgets, and more rigidly established beliefs.

In one of our lessons, we learned that the early church of Paul's time looked a lot more like "the square". The church was a network of believers with little resources, yet they had their faith in common. Paul invited all to be leaders and to open their homes to enable more sharing of the gospel. As the church grew and Christianity became the state religion in the Roman Empire, the church began to look more like "the tower". The church became a sustained movement, had a stable structure, and ample funding. Yet with these improvements came downsides; the church became an institution where corruption and abuse could hide within. While the great schism of 1054 and the protestant reformation were great efforts to correct some of these problems, the church has continues to share characteristics of "the tower" to this day. While this isn't necessarily bad, changing demographics and cultural values are in some ways returning the church to a more square-like structure. Some of these changes may feel disruptive, but I believe there is a great opportunity here to learn from the disciples of the early church.

This month I would invite you to read three passages: Acts 16:6-15, Acts 19:8-10, and 1 Corinthians 4:14-17. Ask yourself, how is the church starting to look similar to the early church? What can I do to be a leader in the church of the future? Thanks again, St. John family, for this opportunity to be a part of 1000 Young Leaders.

Yours in Christ,  
Ben W.



## Board of Elders Meeting Minutes ~ January 2021

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

Board of Elders minutes for 01/03/22

Opened meeting at 7:00pm at St John. Those present; Dan, Jim, Mike, Pastor Stephen, Jacob & Gene. Opening devotion by Gene. Approved minutes of 12/06/21. Discussed Pastor's Report and DCE Intern Report.

**Worship Services and Spiritual Life:** December Family night reviewed, 49 in attendance. Reviewed Christmas Brunch, monthly potlucks are after Sunday school. Discussed Advent by Candlelight. Discussed NYG fund raisers, Dinners, Date Nights, Garage sale. Triad Update – Discussed Triad informational time. Discussed music during confession time, no changes made. Decided to return Communion entry/exit to pre-Covid process.

**Member contacts and care units:**

Scott S. considering Elder status. Don C. considering Head Usher. Stephen visited Ruth J.

**Membership Actions:** None

**Old Business:** Jacob provided us with his resume. Did not receive any recommendations for ways Jacob could improve as DCE intern. Did receive one phone call to support JP for DCE.

**New Business:** Hope House use discussed to be used by outside organization to house refugee family. No other support would be supplied by St John. Moving forward with plans for DCE. What is needed?

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

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 is now held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. **The potluck is Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.** In April, it will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

***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 March:** Pork & beans, chili, beef stew, baby food and formula.

\*\*\*Generic brands are welcome.\*\*\* Please, NO GLASS JARS.

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



## **Did you know that St. John offers care-giving through 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.**



GIVE



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ATTEND



GROW

# Stewardship

RECOGNIZING GOD'S GIFTS &  
GIVING BACK IN GRATITUDE

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ January 2022

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

**1/16/2022** Attending: Josh P., Pastor Stephen, Bryan N., Jackie R., Suzanne S., Mark P., Brandi G-P. December minutes approved **I. Pastor's Report** • Newsletter Submission Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, for the next month mailing. Earlier is always better!! • **Natural Church Development** The Health Team has conducted several interviews with groups. • **Membership Requests:** Jeremy K. and his sons. Transfer papers from Grace Lutheran, Albuquerque, NM (LCMS), were requested by Jeremy and have been received at St. John. Austin K. would welcome adult confirmation training • Regular Guests: Paul F. healing from surgery John- from the neighborhood, Kathryn- from the neighborhood, Michelaine- from Crown, Larry & Susan S.- from Crown New Membership Class offering in Partnership with Elders begins March 6. • **Pastor Continuing Education:** Best Practices in Ministry held in Phoenix, Arizona. Away from SJLC February 15-19 • **Vacation:** February 20-28. Return to office March 1, 2022. **Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Rigby.** Paul P. and Jim W. have been tremendously helpful in leading worship at Crown and at St. John when I am at Crown. Coverage: January 16 at Crown - Paul and January 23 at SJLC - Paul. Pastor covers Crown January 23. Coverage at Crown February 20 - Jim and February 27 - Jim. Coverage at SJLC February 20 - Paul and February 27 - Paul • **Sunday Bible Studies:** "Forever: You Can't Live without It" is a 10-part study by Paul David Tripp. The study began November 21 & will finish February 20 at the earliest. Children's Sunday School: Some new materials for older children have been received from CPH. **Sunday Nursery:** Cheryl V. is trying two moms who voiced interest in sharing this care of children. • **Advent by Candlelight** was spectacular. Jill and Lynn W. did a fantastic job leading! Music by Greg H. & Belle S. Eleven tables of 6 with 12 Servers. Possible bigger venue next year! • **Member Contacts:** Dec. Pastor met with Betty M., Grace B., and will meet with Kathryn and with Russell & Lisa. Pastor Met with Betty M. and family. Betty passed January 3<sup>rd</sup> under hospice care at Fairwinds. • **Advent Services** were celebrated at St. John in partnership with Hope Lutheran Church with excellent attendance from both churches. Christmas Eve, 12/24, saw strong attendance. Services 12/26 went well at SJLC and at Crown. Thank you, Dan V. for finishing out the service at SJLC Strong attendance 1/2/2022 • **Future Dates:** Lenten Dates: Ash Wednesday, March 2. Midweek Service & Soup Supper at Hope Lutheran: March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6. Maundy Thursday: Seder Meal, April 14 Good Friday: April 15 Easter: April 17 -Can we join for one service? • **New & Renewed ministries** have been going strongly. Jacob P., DCE Intern, continues to grow in serving and many have joined their energies and skills to his. Potluck Lunch is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday following Bible Studies We are hoping attendance increases as this new day and time take hold. Friends & Family Night! Dec 14 had 49 in attendance. It WAS FUN!!!! Next, Tuesday, January 18, 6 p.m. Hosted: A Welcoming Time Together: Was held Friday, January 14, 6:30 p.m. at City Bagels • **1,000 YOUNG LEADERS:** Ben W. is benefitting greatly from his training. • **Northwest District Convention** has been rescheduled for June 9-11, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. Pastor has arranged flights hotel stay for Gene W. and himself. • **Memorials:** Shirley M. Shirley passed away 12/05/2021. A service was held 12/16/2021 at 11 a.m. honoring her and Anthony. Ricky V. passed away Dec. 16. An interment ceremony was held Thursday, 1/13, 2022. Betty M. funeral & interment was held Saturday, 1/15/2022. **II. Youth/DCE • No Report III. Elder's Report** • Hope House Discussion • Meeting with Hope about Youth • Membership Class starting March. **IV. Treasure's Report-** See Financial Summary via Jackie Riddle • \$2,129.95 over Expenses • Concordia giving is based on Membership Count • \$500 for Fire-side room. **V. Properties Report:** Met with Engineering Firm to determine Cooling of Sanctuary in Summer • 3 possible options for cooling / heating options (new registers) • Still investigating new windows for basement **VI. Security Team** • SWAN Security Cameras installed but still need tweaked • Team Meeting January 20, 2022. **VII. Old Business:** DCE Call Potential- Examine Benefits Package requirements and costs should a call be desired. • Requested DCE Intern Evaluation by Board Members as part of Jacob's training. Submit to Gene W. • **Policies-** Use of church building as a Wedding Venue for Sister Congregation whose member is being married and in good standing while a Pastor from a Sister Congregation is required to officiate. Gene will work on drafting an official policy • Drafting a Funeral Luncheon policy necessary for future events • Motion stating church equipment not to be loaned out or leave the premises. Passed. **NEW BUSINESS** • Giving Envelopes- Transition to less costly general Giving Envelopes. Pastor closed in prayer.



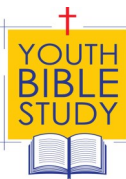
# Youth News & Events

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



## THE FOUR C's CLOVER DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION

Feeling a little green? Join us for an Irish themed meal to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>! Like the four-leaf clover, we will be celebrating Christ, Corned Beef (*chicken for those who prefer it*), Cabbage, and Community! All proceeds from the meal will be donated towards the Youth fund to attend the National Youth Gathering! Be ready for Green beer & St. Paddy's cheer! With the theme of the season, we look forward to making our Youth feel lucky, blessed & all the rest! See Jacob or Morgan Pralle for tickets!! We are also looking for donations of baked goods to support our Dessert Auction. Please let Jacob or Morgan know if you are willing to donate a dessert.!



**YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS:** We're meeting regularly each Sunday, challenging each other to "Think Like Jesus" and seeking to answer many of life's difficult questions! Bottom line, it's not enough to just know what you're supposed to believe. Post-Confirmation age youth are welcomed to come eager and ready to challenge their faith!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE BUDDIES:** St. John has a *NEW* opportunity awaiting for youth 10<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> grade! You will have the opportunity to pair up with one of the younglings & help them learn how to use their Bibles! However, you are not required to be in charge! This is a great way to share the love of Jesus! For more information contact Jacob P. or Beth Owings (cava3906@yahoo.com)



Youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, are invited to join The Next Chapter (TNC) – Our Youth Group here at St. John has *EXPANDED*! We have added another page to the next chapter in partnering with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Hope Lutheran! Our group is 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 be a part of *The Next Chapter of His Church. This doesn't end with chapter 28, it truly is just the beginning!* We

have identified our weekly meeting time on Mondays from 6:00-8:00 to discuss hot topics amidst good fun, food, and fellowship!

»→»→»We will meet this month on the 7<sup>th</sup> @ our activity location, the 14<sup>th</sup> @ St. John, and the 28<sup>th</sup> @ Hope Lutheran. (**No Youth Group on the 21<sup>st</sup> for Spring Break**). See Jacob or contact by email (listed above) for more details!



Happy Birthday to youth  
celebrating a birthday in March!!

*Colton Northcutt ~ March 13<sup>th</sup>*



## Friends & family FUN night

St. John is providing monthly opportunities for Lutherans in Idaho Falls and surrounding areas to join in family-friendly gatherings in which we share a meal, a devotional time for children, a separate devotion time for adults, some fun and some creative pursuits, too!

Friends & Family who are not connected with a church are **MORE than welcome!**

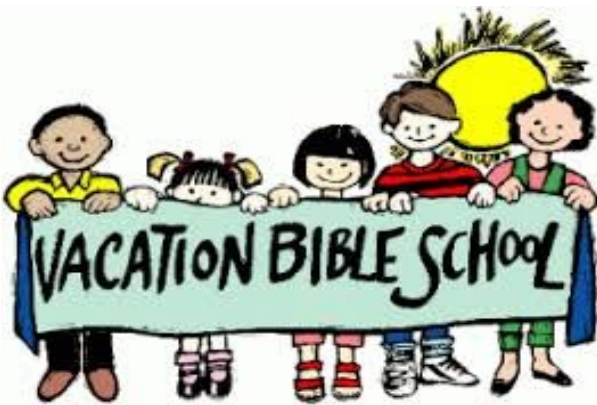
Our evenings are scheduled as follows:

- We meet for a meal at 6pm.
- Children & adults separate for a short devotional / learning time.
- Families come together for an activity and often a craft!
- We begin leaving about 8pm.

**March:** Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a craft for Easter, and as always, to enjoy lots of laughter and fun together!

**April:** Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, we plan to once again enjoy the competition of BINGO!! So have your BINGO skills ready.

**May:** Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Kickball & BBQ picnic at Hope Lutheran.



St. John is once again partnering with Camp Perkins to offer  
**Vacation Bible School**  
to our church family & community this summer!

**VBS will be held  
June 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Plan to attend (mandatory) training on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> (following Bible Study) to be able to help during VBS.

**The success of VBS depends on many volunteers like you,** so please mark your calendars & plan to give of your time to teach kids (& their families!) about Jesus!!

**You can listen to  
The Lutheran Hour  
in Idaho Falls on  
these stations:**

**KAWZ:** 89.1 FM Sunday: 8:00am

**KID:** 590 AM Sunday: 9:00am

**KIDG:** 92.1 FM Sunday: 9:00am



"Coffee & Conversation" after Worship is a valuable time to meet new friends or strengthen bonds in our St. John family! It is an extra blessing when we have coffee, tea & sometimes a small treat to enjoy.

We give thanks for everyone who has taken a Sunday (or many) to serve. **We are always looking for volunteers to host.** The more people who take a turn to host, the better! You can host a Sunday by yourself, or ask a friend to join in.

The sign-up calendar is located on the counter where coffee is served.

**Treats are optional, and can be homemade or store-bought. Thank you!**