

**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**  
Carolyn Perez  
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**

**Voters' meeting**  
**after Worship,**  
**May 5th**

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

# The *Gospel Gazette*

May 2024

## Mutual Encouragement at Home

In Bible Study on Sunday mornings we are watching the series, *The Chosen*. The genre is historical Christian fiction. The producers want to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. In class we discuss the portrayal of the biblical characters and biblical events and look at what we know of them from God's Word.

There is a beautiful interaction to begin the series between the child Mary Magdalene & her father.

**Dad:** What do we do when we are scared?

**M.M:** We say the words.

**Dad:** Adonai's [the Lord's] words from the prophet.

**M.M:** Isaiah.

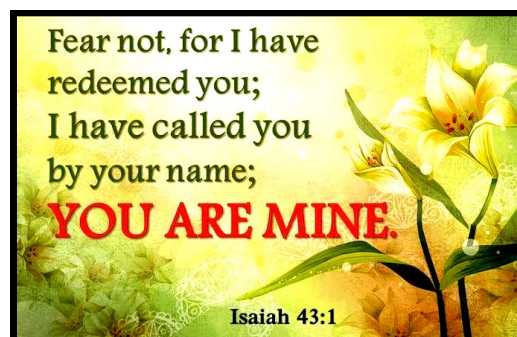
**Dad:** The Prophet Isaiah, right!

*But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine."  
[Isaiah 43:1]*

As Mary has great difficulties as an adult, the series provides flashbacks in which Mary remembers her dad's confidence in God's Word, and her thoughts are once again directed to our powerful, merciful and redeeming Heavenly Father.

Martin Luther was fond of teaching people to pray the Word of God back to him. He shared this idea: An important step in daily prayer that is often overlooked is that after meditating on the Scripture, take time to 'pray the text' before moving on to more free-form prayer.

We can pause before dinner as individuals or families and share a short verse or portion of God's Word, thank Him for a particular quality or blessing, and then ask His blessing on our home and food.



Perhaps start with Isaiah 43:1. Daily say this verse out loud, ponder together its meaning and use it to thank God. For example, "Lord God, we are so grateful to belong together as a family, and we rejoice that You claim us as Your own. We belong to You, and we thank you for the gift of each other and the gift of this food You have given for us to share. We pray in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Amen."

One could dwell on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 all month. Colossians 3:13, John 15:12-13 are also wonderful verses that will guide you to consider God's provision and presence in your life and to thank Him.

God's great grace in Jesus  
& Bon Appetit!

*Pastor Stephen*

**History Matters!** We are pleased to report that the National Park Service has approved our application to include the St. John Lutheran Church building on the National Register of Historic Places. This formal recognition of the historical and architectural significance of our building, completed in 1949, was just over three years in the making and required support from the City of Idaho Falls Historic Preservation Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, support during the application preparation by a professional architect and an architectural historian, and letters of support from Mayor Rebecca Casper and State Representative Linden Bateman. The gothic design, world-class stained glass, and the fact that we have maintained the historical integrity of the building over many years played no small role in our successful listing. The place we meet to worship is an Idaho Falls iconic landmark. **Stayed tuned for an announcement about a celebration event in the near future.** ~ Bruce M.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ March 2024

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

In Attendance: Carolyn P., Mark P., Suzanne S., Jim W., Jacob P., Penny S., Beth O., Brandy G.

Carolyn opened the meeting with prayer. **Committee Reports:** See Pastor & DCE Report on next page. See Elders' report below. **Treasurer's Report:** 1) Closer to having books balanced. 2) Investment fund added to monthly budget sheet. 3) Approved changes from February will be reflected in April's summary sheet. 4) Stained glass balance moved to properties. 5) Asphalt project moved to special properties projects. Budget proposals discussed, motioned, approved, by board. **Properties:** 1) Custodial and lawn contracts are being drafted. 2) Large project list to be made. **Social ministries:** Absent. **Old Business:** Graveyard mural to be investigated. **New Business:** BOD terms are ending: 2 members at large. Secretary position in review. Closing prayer: Jim

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

*(edited for space)*

**Thank you** to all who contribute to "1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Food Offering". Many in our community are struggling to feed their families. **For every \$1 given, the IFCFB can provide almost \$5 worth of food!!**



**Needed in May:** Ramen noodles, mac-n-cheese, canned meat, **MONEY!!**

\*\*\*Because donations have been down and the number of patrons has greatly increased, **THE FOOD BASKET HAS SPENT MORE FOR FOOD IN THE FIRST 3 MONTHS OF 2024 THAN WAS SPENT IN ALL OF 2023.** \*Generic brands are welcome.

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

## Board of Elders Meeting Minutes ~ March 2024

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

Opening prayer by Jim W. See Pastor & DCE Report on next page. **Worship Services and Spiritual Life:** Review of Care Units and calling on members of care units. Preparations for Lent and Holy week were discussed. **New business:** Preparation for May Voters' meeting. **Old business:** 1) Congregational Campout / fall retreat at Camp Perkins. We are looking at the weekend of Sept. 19-22. Jacob will investigate info. regarding this (cost, devotionals, activities, etc.). Jacob will also look at what Grace Lutheran does for their retreats. Jim will work w/ Jacob to develop information & advertising. 2) Elders recommended to proceed with a contract to hire Morgan P. in a ministry support role. Options to develop St. John Ministry support for Children and Young Adults is provided as attached. A task order contract was prepared and forwarded to the Board of Directors (BOD) for review and approval. 3) Next year's budget was discussed, and a proposal developed to submit to the BOD. Motion to approve the FY 24-25 Budget requests for the 100 Elders sections and 800 Administration sections were made by Todd M. and seconded by Dan V. Motion was approved. Meeting was closed with a prayer.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

*(edited for space)*



## Pastors Report ~ March 2024

1) Lenten Mid-week Worship has had good attendance. MANY THANKS to all our readers! 2) Morgan P. is now under contract for 20 hours per month! 3) Paul P. LLD will be more available to share his skills among us! You will see him leading worship more often. 4) Churning new ideas on New Member / Regular Attender studies. 5) Exploring Discipleship Paths for the Fall: Dwelling114.org tools / Redletterchallenge.com tools/ etc. 6) Sunday Leadership Coverage for Pastor Vacation / Travel Mar. 11-19, 2024. Jacob to lead Wed. PM Mar. 13 & Wed. PM Mar. 20 with Pastor in attendance. Paul P. will lead & preach Mar. 17. Pastor will miss BOD on Mar 17. 7) Home visits with Margarethe E. / Martin & Madeline S. 8) Yellowstone Circuit Mtg at Grace/Faith, Pocatello, Mar 21, 2024. 9) SIPC at Immanuel, Twin Falls, April 6-8, 2024. 10) Hosted—Canceled for March. 11) No Wed. Studies or Men and Coffee until after Easter. Easter Brunch Mar. 31, 2024. No Potluck on March 24. 12) Narcotics Anon. begins using the Fellowship Hall Sat. Mar.5, 2023.

### Big Events Ahead:

- March 31, Easter Worship & brunch. We will have a photo booth to mark the day.
- May 5, Voters' Meeting • May 19, Confirmation Day
- June 8, Joint Boards Calendar Planning Meeting • June 24-28, 2024 VBS
- June 25, evening VBS Barbecue • August 15-18, RV & Tent Campout Falls Creek Campground
- September 8, Rally Day • October 4, Oktoberfest!

## St John will host VBS with Camp Perkins June 24 ~ 28!!

*\*Please note these days on your calendar.\**



We get the privilege and opportunity to teach children and their families about Jesus!! How cool is that?! Counselors from Camp Perkins will lead singing and teach Bible lessons. We are stepping out in faith by returning to a 5 day VBS!

Please begin to pray and consider how you can free up time to come together as a team to bless children in our community. There are many ways to serve: as a class leader, snack, craft, security, registration help, setting up / cleaning up at the BBQ, etc. The gift of your time will mean the world to those attending VBS.

In addition to helping with VBS, we are seeking families to help house counselors from Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. You can choose to host for the entire time, or the time can be shared with other hosts.

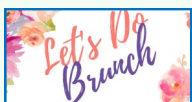
**Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex in May!**

**Save Tuesday night, June 25<sup>th</sup> for the VBS BBQ!!**

## Director of Christian Education Report ~ March 2024

**Sunday Educational Ministries:** Children's Sunday School (w/ Morgan). Morgan and I have been work-shopping some ideas in all our "spare time"! All jokes aside, we're really excited about some new Children's ministry opportunities! Gearing up to evaluate the current thoughts of volunteer S.S. teachers, & begin recruiting others! **THE NEXT CHAPTER (TNC) Youth Group:** TNC Youth meets on Sunday Evenings from 5:30-7:30pm! In March, we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>. Breaks on March 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> for Spring Break & Easter! TNC Flash Servant Event @ I.F. Community Food Basket. Next Flash Servant Event will likely be on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> prior to the start of Egg-My-Yard 2024. Jacob was able to work this out with a NEW contact from the Food Basket. **EGG-MY-YARD 2024:** Egging will take place the evening of March 30<sup>th</sup> (after dark!). Encourage folks to get their orders in!!! **Camp Perkins:** Sr. High SnowFest. TNC Youth did not attend. No High-School Registrations. **St. John Fall Perkins Camp-Out:** Met with Brett & Eileen L. (Camp Directors) on 2/29/24. Pricing & Programming. We get to decide what we exactly want to do! **Friends & Family Fun Nights:** Meet THIS Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to plan April F & F Fun Night! **No Host Brunch!** (young adult gathering at noon on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays) Critical to continue spreading the word that we are providing childcare for families with younger children! We want to help them be able to make this opportunity! **Special Notes:** GRATEFUL for everyone stepping up and helping out while Jacob was snowed-in and without power this past weekend!!! **Jacob Continuing Ed.** – Conferences: NOW LCMS District DCE Conference – April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ Camp Lutherhaven.





## 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!!

Due to the Voters' Meeting May 5<sup>th</sup>, and Mother's Day the following Sunday, we will not meet in May. We look forward to resuming our fellowship time in June!!

Bunco will NOT be held in May.



**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!***

Please continue to be aware of "scammers" that pretend to be Pastor or other church leaders in texts and emails to try to get you to send them money or gift cards. **PLEASE, DO NOT respond to them. Delete & block them if possible!!**



## *Join us this summer for the St. John & Friends camp-out!*

Reservations are set for the 2024 St. John group camp-out! *Mark your calendars* and plan to join us for as many days as your schedule allows. This year we will be at Fall Creek Campground (only about 45 minutes from I. F.!! - *even closer to Swan Valley & square ice cream!!*) Everyone plans and brings their own meals, but on Saturday evening we have a group potluck!

Group camping will start Thursday afternoon, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and end Sunday morning (11:00am check-out), August 18<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Invite friends and family to camp with us!

Cost per family / tent site / RV is \$15 per night.

**Join us for fun & fellowship!**



## St. John offers care-giving 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 usually 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 for them.**

Contact the office to be put in touch with a care coordinator.

# 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: Easter Miracles**—We all know the true miracle of Easter. The empty tomb and the resurrection of our Savior Jesus! However, do you know how MANY miracles occurred during the passion week? There may be more than you would think at first! Join us for this 4-week post Easter study where we take a deeper dive into the miracles that took place during Holy Week. We will discover how the hopeful, selfless, and sacrificial love of Jesus creates miracles in our day to day as well!



**PAID POSITION AVAILABLE:** Calling all TNC Youth age 16 & older! On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of each month (occasionally 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays) young adults in our congregation get to know one another over brunch! We would like to make it possible for adults with young children 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.

**TNC Youth** are concluding an exciting Year 3!!! Alongside our theme, "Better Together", we've grown closer as the Next Chapter of God's church! Join us as we finish the school year with an action-packed month of May! We are meeting on SUNDAY nights from 5:30-7:30! We will meet in May on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup>.

**BIG THANK YOU'S** to all the families who have sponsored a meal for a TNC Youth Night!! If you're interested in sponsoring a TNC meal, contact Jacob! We have also started our special TNC Youth "**At YOUR Place**" events! Let us know if you're interested in hosting "**At YOUR Place**" this summer or in the coming year! We look forward to seeing you at TNC Youth Nights!



## May Calendar Dates

- 5<sup>th</sup> TNC @ St. John
- 12<sup>th</sup> TNC @ Hope
- 19<sup>th</sup> TNC @ St. John

**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!

## Memos from Morgan!

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



**THANK YOU**, my family in Christ, for again extending a warm welcome as I begin serving our St. John family in a new capacity!! I am beyond blessed to serve with all of you and excited to see where God leads our congregation! Blessings to you all this May!!

Do you like helping children learn? How about helping them learn about Jesus and His great love? If so, I would love to have you join our Sunday School Team of Teachers as we are always looking for loving and determined individuals to join our rotation schedule. All the teaching materials and support is given to you so that **YOU** are set for success! P.S. You may be someone I view as a perfect fit for joining this ministry. *Don't be surprised if I approach you regarding this opportunity!*



Have you visited St. John's website lately? I recommend you check out the website as I have made several changes to spice things up and have more information for potential church-seeking individuals. There is still plenty to do but so far it is looking GREAT!

Website: [www.stjohnministries.net](http://www.stjohnministries.net)



## Employment Opportunities, Summer Camps, & ways to support Camp Perkins!

**SUMMER HEAD-COOK (seasonal position)** - We are looking for a Head-Cook from approximately May 15 – August 13, 2024. (start and end dates are negotiable).

- Salary is based upon experience and room & board is included.
- For more information, contact [Eileen@CampPerkins.org](mailto:Eileen@CampPerkins.org), call [208-788-0897](tel:208-788-0897), or go to <https://www.campperkins.org/cookatcamp.html>.

**COUNSELOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE** We are looking for **2-3 male counselors**.

**SUMMER PROGRAM FACILITATOR** We are looking for an individual that helps facilitate and lead the overall program.

**HEALTH CARE VOLUNTEER(S)** - We are seeking EMT's, nurses, and doctors to serve as Health Care Volunteers this summer. Primary responsibilities include collecting and passing medications as needed, and overseeing the general health of the campers and staff, but also can be involved in the life at camp in many varied ways, as you feel comfortable. We may also have a need August 4-9 or June 23-28.

For more info, contact [Signe@CampPerkins.org](mailto:Signe@CampPerkins.org) or visit <https://www.campperkins.org/volunteer.html>

**CAMP PERKINS SPRING WORK WEEKEND - May 24-27** - Grab your chainsaw, shovel, and broom and head up to Camp Perkins to help prepare the camp for summer at this free event. Great for individuals, friends, and families! FREE for all! Register at [www.CampPerkins.org](http://www.CampPerkins.org).

**CAMP PERKINS FRIENDS & FAMILY RETREATS!** Planning a family vacation? Come to Camp Perkins & enjoy swimming, canoeing, archery, crafts, campfires, s'mores, & more! Kick back with those closest to you for a week or weekend, enjoying leisurely free time or taking part in Camp events! \*Prices vary by age and housing. Visit [CampPerkins.org](http://CampPerkins.org) for info.

**Week-long:** June 30-July 5 or July 21-26 (Cabin or RV space available)      **Weekend:** August 2-4

**CAMP PERKINS NEEDS LIST:** Be a Camp Perkins hero and help use get ready for the summer! Check out our Amazon List and other ways to help Camp Perkins this summer! has several items that we need for this summer on our list! We appreciate you! Visit [www.CampPerkins.org/Donate](http://www.CampPerkins.org/Donate)

**Go to [www.CampPerkins.org](http://www.CampPerkins.org) to register for Summer Camps!!**



The Potluck will NOT be held in May. Our Social Ministry team is graciously providing refreshments for the Voters' meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May falls on a holiday weekend.  
*Plan for a Potluck in June!*



Save the date: The next  
Friends & Family Fun Night  
will be on **Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>!**  
*Bring your friends!!*