

**St. John
Lutheran Church**
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
290 7th Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
www.stjohnministries.net

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

Pastor
Stephen Weems
pastorstephen83401@gmail.com

**Director of
Christian Education**
Jacob Pralle
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-IFB7bVslQaQ>
(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

The Gospel Gazette

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

July - August
2025

"The God Who Won't Give Up"

From my Vacation Desk... okay, this is from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Find these devotions and many valuable resources at LHM.org.

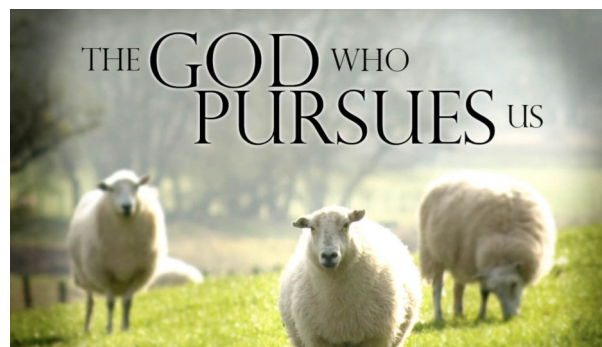
Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Isaiah 65:1-5, 8-9 – *I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by My Name. I spread out My hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke Me to My face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks; who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels; who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day Thus says the Lord: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,' so I will do for My servants' sake, and not destroy them all. I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of My mountains; My chosen shall possess it, and My servants shall dwell there."*

If you think about it, we have a very strange God. He doesn't sit in a temple, waiting for people to bring Him sacrifices. No, we have a God who chases us—who calls, "Here I am, here I am!" to people who are running away from Him, who comes down into our world searching for the very people who have rebelled against Him and are hiding from Him.

Ask your non-Christian friends: Is that the way a proper God should behave? Shouldn't He have more self-respect than to go

chasing after human beings who have made it clear they want nothing to do with Him? The gods of the other world religions don't do this. But our God—our God behaves like a lover scorned, a lover who still wants His beloved back. He is not proud, He doesn't worry about what people will say, He does not count the cost to Himself. He comes after us anyway.



And God is never more like this than when He comes down into our world as a human baby, Jesus Christ our Savior. He came for just that reason, to rescue us and to bring us home again to God. But doing that cost Him everything—years of ministry, betrayal by a close friend, and then suffering, shame, and death on a cross. All this He went through to get us back, because He loves us. And then, on the third day afterward, Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again. He appeared to those who trusted in Him and sent them out to share the Good News with anybody who will listen—that all of us who trust in Jesus can come home to God as His forgiven children, beloved, happy, and living forever.

WE PRAY: Dear Savior, thank You for chasing me. I want to be Yours forever. Amen.

*This Daily Devotion was
written by Dr. Kari Vo.*

In Him, Pastor Stephen



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

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!



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

You can listen to

The Lutheran Hour on these local stations:

KIDG: 92.1 FM and on **KID: 590 AM**

Sunday: 9:00am

KAWZ: 89.1 FM

Sunday: 8:00am

FOOD DRIVE

LET'S HELP THOSE IN NEED

Thank you to all who contribute to "1st Sunday Food Offering".

Many in our community are struggling to feed their families.

Always high-need items: 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 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



The IFCFB is asking for volunteers to walk two blocks at the 4th of July parade - just 2 blocks to collect donations for the Food Basket. There will be cans available to collect cash donations & a Venmo code if needed - no food items will be collected. Just two blocks before the parade starts then you're done AND you get your steps in as well as a free t-shirt. Please let Jane K. know if you are willing to help. Thank you!



GIVE



SERVE



GROW



ATTEND

Stewardship
A way of life

May 2025 Voters' Meeting Minutes

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

May 2025 St John Lutheran Church Voters' Meeting

May 4th, 2025 Voters in attendance: 48

Opening Prayer: Pastor Stephen

Pastors Report: See page 6.

DCE's Report: See page 5.

Board of Elders' Report: Jim W. 1) Thanks for prayers and well wishes during [Jim's] cancer treatment. 2) In the last 6 years, we've hired a DCE, upgraded our AV system, have tried new Advent and Lenten services to be more family focused. 3) It's been a pleasure to be on and work with the Board of Elders.

Treasurer's Report: Beth O. 1) Draft budget: 13k deficit to date, well under account surplus. 2) Some bank account funds transferred to Thrivent investment account this year. 3) Paid for restoration of memorial at Fielding Memorial Cemetery. 4) Updated policy on Benevolent Fund for clarity, including new forms. 5) Updated facility use policy.

Properties Report: Mark P. 1) Boiler Room: Jeff P. has been assisting in maintenance. in rebuilding of heat exchanger. Needs new parts. 2) Drainage of downstairs restrooms needed maintenance: lines snaked, and further work needed. 3) Working with Lynn on worship hall refurbishment. 4) Investigating carpet replacement still. 5) Elevator: Future parts acquisition may be difficult due to elevator age. 6) General maintenance: water lines for sprinklers all working well. 7) Working with Beth O. on funds for all projects. 8) Volunteers needed for flower beds. 9) Jill and Lynn are volunteering to paint basement. More volunteers needed. Aiming for completion within the month of May. New baseboards also to be installed and painted.

Social Ministries: Lynn W. 1) Thanks to Gloria, Shirley, Vicki, Jill, Angie, and others. 2) Would appreciate new volunteers. 3) Thanks for those bringing treats. 4) Still assisting with funerals.

New Business: By-law revisions. 1) Copy of proposed revisions have been available for review for two weeks. 2) Changes were made to promote clarity and define certain terms. 3) Quorum definition: 25% of voting members must be present to constitute a quorum. Voting members based on attendance records for services and activities. [Voters discussed various questions on how to define "voting members"]. 4) Dan K: Motion to change the definition of quorum/voting members necessary to "conduct business" to 25 percent of average Sunday service average attendance over 6 months. Motion Seconded by Josh P. (Consensus developed that attendance defined as head count on Sunday services.) Josh P. motioned to vote to Change 4 with Dan K.'s motion, motion seconded, voted, and passed unanimously. 5) Motion to reject Change 2 motioned, seconded and passed with 6 nay votes. 6) Josh P. motioned to accept Change 6, Seconded by Lynn W. with the change proposed to change wording: "Policies will be available to all members, Board of Directors, Elders, and committees." Voted, passed with 2 nays. 7) Proposed change: President and Vice president of the BOD shall serve not more than 2, 2-year consecutive terms totaling 4 consecutive years of service. Treasurer, assistant treasurer, and non-voting members withstanding, general BOD members shall serve not more than 3, 2-year terms consecutively totaling 6 consecutive years, regardless of title(s). Josh P. motioned, and Dan V. seconded, voted, and approved with 5 nays and 1 abstention. 8) Budget Proposal 2025-2026: Digital news letter switch saved 1500 dollars. Individual members without access to internet will still be provided a physical newsletter. Security services line item reduced. One time transfer for NYG chaperones. Dan V. motioned, Dan K. seconded, voted, and approved unanimously. 9) Nominees for Boards:

Board of Elders candidates: Jeff P., Dan V., Scott S. Motioned, seconded, and approved

Board of Directors candidates: Jason S. (member at large), Nathan P. (member at large), Penny S. (treasurer), Beth O. (Assistant treasurer). Motioned, seconded, and approved.

Closing prayer: Pastor Stephen.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



May 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.)

The May meeting was not held, due to the Voters' Meeting.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

MY SOUL Finds Rest In GOD

♥ Psalm 62:1 ♥



Church Camp-out!!

This year we will be at Fall Creek Campground:
at Forest Rd 076, Swan Valley (about 45 minutes
from Idaho Falls!! AND *only a few minutes to*
square ice cream!!)

*Everyone plans and brings their own food / meals, but
on Saturday evening we gather for a group potluck!*

**Group camping will start Thursday afternoon,
August 14th, & end Sunday morning
(11:00am check-out), August 17th.**

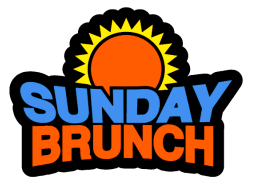
All are welcome.

Invite friends and family to camp with us!

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

Join us for fun & fellowship!

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!!

**July 6th, we will meet at O’Brady’s.
(1438 W Broadway St.)**

**August 10th, we will meet at Black Bear Diner
(1610 E 17th St.)**

Plan to join us!!

Youth News & Events

For more information on anything listed here, call or email Jacob at: 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 throughout the summer, 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 21st Century! Come eager with your grandest ideas and ready to discover what is in store for TNC!

Youth, grades 6th ~ 12th, 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 **"FOLLOW²"** 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 now in our Summer Schedule. We will meet in August and not July in lieu of the National Youth Gathering (With the strong likelihood of extra special events!) We will meet at St. John on August 11th from 5:30-7:30pm.



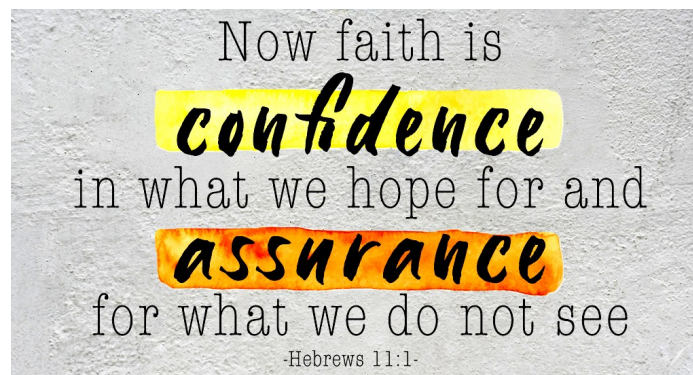
We are excited to continue our TNC Youth "AT YOUR PLACE" events! Let us know if you're interested in hosting or sponsoring a meal for a TNC Youth Night! BIG THANKS to the families who have hosted thus far!



NO HOST BRUNCH CHILDCARE! Calling all TNC Youth age 16 and older! Have you ever babysat or just had a passion to spend time with young children?! If so, we have the opportunity for you! On first Sundays of the month (occasionally second Sundays) young adults in our congregation get to know one another over brunch! Some of our young adults have families with young children and are seeking your help to make this opportunity possible! This is a paid position that simultaneously is an opportunity to make meaningful connections with the littles of St. John! See Jacob for more details!



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!



May 2025 Voter Meeting ~ DCE Report

- Blessed and grateful for another year serving at St John!
- 2025 NYG Group has more than doubled in size from our 2022 NYG group.
- We've outgrown the Hope Van during many signature Youth group events and activities!
- Grateful for Dan K, Linda H, and Pastor Stephen in casting visions for future at SJLC.
- Honored to be nominated in the SIYL Team to represent district level in leading the charge for regional leadership opportunities.

Memos from Morgan!

For more information: please contact Morgan

(mepralle.dce@gmail.com or 208-522-5650)



Step out of your comfort zone and join our Sunday School Team of Teachers starting in Fall of 2025! We will have everyone on a rotation schedule with all teaching materials given to you so that YOU are set for success! Possible ages in the room would be Pre-K to 6th Grade. Our nursery class is for 18mo-3yrs of age. Come and be a part of the faith journeys of ALL children at St. John! Contact Morgan for more details!

WE WANT YOU! During worship, some families would love to bring their children down to our nursery area. We are looking for individuals that love kids and would enjoy helping some younger families out by providing this service. Background check required. This is a paid position. If interested, please contact Morgan mepralle.dce@gmail.com



Happening in July

- 6th No-Host Brunch @ O'Brady's
- 8th Board of Elders' Meeting
- 18-25th National Youth Gathering
- 20th Board of Directors' Meeting

Happening in August

- 10th No-Host Brunch @ Black Bear Diner
- 11th TNC Youth Night @ St. John
- 12th Board of Elders' Meeting
- 14-17th St. John Camp-Out (see page 4)
- 17th Board of Directors' Meeting
- 18th NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!
- 31st TNC Youth Flash Servant Event—
@ Idaho Falls Community Food Basket

May 2025 Voter Meeting ~ Pastor's Report

- Laurie's health, slowly regaining strength.
- Thanks to: Cheryl for supporting staff and volunteers. Amazing first contact.
- Thanks to Jacob and Morgan for sacrificing old life to come to Idaho Falls to serve St John Lutheran.
- Thanks to Morgan for maintaining website and social media pages.
- Thanks to Paul and Karen for teaching confirmation classes.
- Thanks to Paul for preaching.
- Thanks to the men and women of managing business needs of St John.
- Thanks to volunteers who take on tasks unseen.
- Thanks to Elders who keep us focused on the grace of God and discipling.
- Thanks for Vision Bridge training Jacob, Dan K, Linda H, and I helping St John become a training center to help all of us assist our neighbors in meeting Jesus.