

St. John Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9-3pm

Phone: (208) 522-5650

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E-mail: office@stjohnministries.net

Pastor

Interim Pastor Stephen Weems

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Licensed Deacons

Fred Griffel

Dan Kahl

George Perez

Mark Petersen

Jim Werner

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St. John Officers

Dan Vetter, chairman

Board of Directors

Mike Thom, vice-chairman

Board of Directors

Dave Van Haften - chairman

Board of Elders

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Worship

9:00 am - Sunday Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

10:45 am Sunday School
& Bible Study

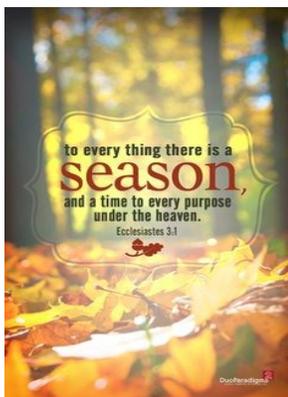
Communion every 1st & 3rd Sunday

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Wednesday Bible Study

9:30 am

led by Pastor Stephen Weems



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

The Gospel Gazette

SEPTEMBER 2016



Better Together

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Well, summer is almost over. The kids will be soon back in school and our young adults off to college. I hope you were able to complete all your plans and trips. As life returns to a more "normal" pace, I hope you will join me in recommitting and refocusing our thought to getting into the Word and making a time for worship and bible study a more regular event in your weekly activities.

Perhaps over the course of the summer or the year we've lost some of our joy and enthusiasm for the cause of Christ. Perhaps some of our priorities are out of focus. Here are three suggestions: three perspectives to consider.

1. Re-establish your relationship with God and Christ. It's very possible to be a "Christian" but not have a real "relationship" with your Heavenly Father. The Bible says: "*Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.*" (James 4:8). God desires to be near you, but the relationship must be mutual. It's also important to know that you must put God first, to have a proper relationship with Him.

So, step #1 is to draw near to God. Re-commit yourself to God and Christ. Fully—with "*all your heart, soul, mind, and body.*" **100%**.

2. Commit to everyday Bible reading study and/or listening. We communicate to God *in prayer*, but God communicates to us *through His word, the Bible*. And all of it is important. Jesus said: "*Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4) Did you catch the phrase "every word?"

Failure to understand this will result in spiritual decay. Trying to live your spiritual life without daily ingesting of God's word is like trying to live your physical life without eating enough food. What happens? You gradually become weaker and weaker until death occurs. Remember, if your faith is weakening, increased faith comes through the word of Christ in the Bible (Romans 10:17).

3. Stay in close touch with other spiritually minded true Christians. Isolation is the first phase of spiritual death. Just as the lion seeks to devour those on the fringes of the herd—the weak and young—so Satan desires those who are on the fringes of the church and have become weak and isolated. The Bible says "*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" (1 Peter 5:8)

Get in touch and stay in touch with other spiritually minded Christians, and seek to continually grow in Christ. I commit to do the same.

Finally, we at St. John again find ourselves in the unfortunate situation of looking for another shepherd. We wish Pastor Guse and family all the blessing and favor from God. However, now we will need to pray for and support our elders and church leaders as we begin the Call process once more. Coming together as a congregation is essential to this effort.

Jim W., Licensed Deacon

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 2016

- ◆ The Board of Elders met August 8 and discussed Pastor Guse’s acceptance of his Call to The Southeast District of the LCMS, and the pending arrival of Pastor Stephen Weems, our Fill-in Pastor from St. John’s LCMS in Denver, Colorado. Pastor Weems and his wife will be in church on Sunday, August 28 , God willing.

GOD KNOWS

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD. . . Jeremiah 29:11-14a (ESV)

Have you ever heard of the “FUD Factor”? The FUD acronym stands for Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt. The term refers to a technique used in sales, marketing, and (surprise, surprise!) politics to make people uncomfortable or uncertain, and, maybe, look for something new.

Pastor Travis has accepted a call to The Southeast District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod after having served us for about three years. Many of us at St. John have been through a number of pastoral vacancies (I think this is my sixth). For some of us, this is our first vacancy—at St. John, anyway. Either way, some of us might be feeling a little bit of uncertainty, possibly some doubt, and maybe even a smidgen of fear. It’s a natural reaction, and might even be helped along by the devil, who would love for us to go looking for something new.

Another phrase some people use a lot, usually entirely too casually is “God knows,” as in “God knows when my car will be fixed” or “God knows what we’ll do without you.” That’s not one of my speech habits, but here are some things God does know:

God knows who our next pastor will be.

God knows when he will arrive.

God knows what we’ll do until our next pastor arrives.

God knows our hearts.

God knows our sins and the power of our sinful nature.

God knows our salvation is sure in His Son Jesus Christ.

God knows our lives, down to our last earthly breath, and to eternity.

God knows our prayers and our needs even before we ask.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD.” Here, the Hebrew word “you” is plural—God is talking to His people. We at St. John are God’s people, with all our fears, uncertainties, and doubts, but He has plans for us, “plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” *Dave V. for the Board of Elders*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 2016**Approval of minutes from last meeting**

No minutes from previous meetings were available for review. Will review and approve in September.

Committee Reports

Social Ministry (Vicki) is coordinating the farewell dinner for Pastor Travis on August 21. Coordination is ongoing for Sunday School kickoff in September
 Adult Education (Alan M.) - No report
 Human Care (Sheila K.)- No report
 Properties (Paul C.)- No report
 Public Relations (Kristi T.)- No report
 Youth and Family Life (Zak & Sarah W.)- No report
 Primary Education- No report

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Travis is cleaning out his office in preparation for turnover activities to Pastor Weems

Elders Report- Dave V. reported that primary discussion at Board of Elder's meeting focused on pastoral transition. A decision was made to pursue simultaneous efforts of establishing a call committee, as well as initiate discussions with Hope Lutheran about opportunities for common ministry.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved, to provide Pastor Weems with an increase to the previously proposed salary, by an amount of \$83 per week, to match recent salary actions by his home congregation.

Treasurer's Report - Melanie M. provided the financial summary.

Old Business

Sign west of town- No action

Parking lot / front steps - Physical work appears to be complete, still waiting for final financials to be settled

Board vacancies which need to be filled - Member at Large, Assistant Treasurer, Board Secretary

New business

Pastor Weems housing - Dan reported that an unfurnished apartment has been secured for Pastor Weems. Pastor Travis has offered the use of his home furnishings to furnish the apartment for Pastor Weems.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allow Pastor Travis to take ownership of the laptop he has been using since arrival at St. John, as well as two older microphone stands, in exchange for the use of his home furnishings.

Discussion of potential ministry opportunities in conjunction with Hope Lutheran was mentioned. Dan will seek 2-4 individuals who are willing to discuss future ministry and organizational collaborations, including but not limited to potential conjoining of congregations with Hope Lutheran members



The Sunday School will be having a Rally after church on Sunday, September 11th on the front lawn. It will be fellowship and a welcoming for Pastor Weems and his wife. There will be refreshments and games for the kids. There will be no Bible study that day. Sunday School and Bible Class will resume on Sunday, September 18th after the worship service. Please join us for this special time.





SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

What better way to do this than join our Sunday School Team as a teacher. **We NEED you!** No experience is necessary and a curriculum is provided. This year you will be able to choose from a variety of teaching tools to use in your lesson. There is a short video for the students to watch that will set up the lesson. There is also an upbeat music video you can use during your teaching time. If you don't have easy access to the Internet, a lesson will be provided for you. It takes just a small amount of planning time during the week and you will always have a helper in the room with you. The more volunteers we have the less each person will have to teach. Our goal is for our teachers to teach 1 time every 3 months unless of course you want to teach more. A brief and informative teacher orientation will take place Saturday, September 10th at 10:00am. Sunday School officially starts September 18th. Please contact Beth at 208.201.5212, if you would like to serve!



BOARD POSITIONS

Volunteers are needed to fill three positions on the Board of Directors: Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Member at Large until the end of June 2017. Please consider volunteering for these positions. If you are interested, please contact Dan Vetter 523-7123.



If you are on Facebook and check it regularly, please consider helping to manage the St. John Lutheran Church Facebook page. If you are interested, please call the office at 522-5650 or email the office at



CHILD CARE WORKERS NEEDED

Hope Lutheran School has several openings for part-time child care workers. Various hours are available. If interested, please contact Hope Lutheran at 529-8080.

SAVE THE DATE!

Watch for further information on the Hope Lutheran School auction. It is going to be held on Saturday, October 22nd. More exciting details to follow!



BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Wednesday, September 7, 9:30 a.m., the Wednesday morning Bible Class will begin a new study led by Pastor Stephen Weems. Please come and join us for study and fellowship.

HOPE HOUSE

Everything is going well with our tenant in the hope house. Andrew is doing well and work for him is also going well! In order to foster relations with Andrew, I am looking for some help. It would be great if some of the ladies (or men) of St. John would be willing to prepare one meal a month to give to Andrew.

Please let me know if you would be interest in helping out! Call me if you have any questions. *Jim W.*

CHOIR PRACTICE

We rehearse in the sanctuary immediately after Adult Sunday School (about 11:35) on the first and third Sunday of every month beginning Sunday, September 4. We usually sing in the Worship Service on the fourth Sunday of the month and Christmas Eve and Easter. Join us if you love to sing. Questions? Call Dave, 522-4165

HUMAN CARE

- ◆ Thank You for donating school supplies to FISH, they were so thankful for St. John's generosity. Last year they donated over 800 backpacks filled with school supplies to families in need.
- ◆ Please remember The Community Food Basket (formerly the IF Food Bank) when you are shopping for groceries. See letter below.
- ◆ If you have any surplus vegetables or fruit, please consider taking them to the local shelters, Community Food Basket, Soup Kitchen or to the church since there are many hungry people in our community.
- ◆ Please join us for our monthly Potluck luncheon on Tuesday, September 13th at noon. Everyone is welcome, so please bring a dish to share and invite your family and friends for great food and fellowship.
- ◆ Game night is the third Friday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. Weather permitting, we may do outdoor games as well. All ages are welcome, bring your favorite game and healthy snack for a fun evening.
- ◆ Our church serves in the community on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the local Soup Kitchen located at 301 S. Boulevard, phone number 557-5750. You may come help anytime during the hours of 10:30-2:45 pm.
- ◆ The Red Cross Blood Drive will be scheduled for November. Please look for further details in the October newsletter.

Thank-you and God Bless, Sheila

COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET

August 2016

Greetings to our many supporters, partners and volunteer servants in Christ. We are so honored to serve our many friends and neighbors who are food insecure. Thank you for making our work possible through your time, talent and treasure, and prayer support.

The past year has been a whirlwind of favor and abundance. At a recent Operations Committee meeting, I presented a six-page report on the many accomplishments and events since early 2015 that are now shaping our future. I would be happy to share this report with anyone who has an interest in our work and accomplishments. Please email me at the address below for a copy.

Through July 31st, we have served 5,765 families, including 22,484 individuals; about 40% of those individuals are under 18 years of age. I am so pleased to announce that because of an abundance of certain free food available through "The Emergency Food Assistance Program" (TEFAP), we have doubled our distribution of rice, pasta and noodles, raisins, milk and cereal through the summer months when our client's children are home from school.

Please visit our new website at www.FeedIdahoFalls.org. We now take donations online, and have a great new interactive shopping experience called "Virtual Supermarket", found under the Ways to Give tab. You may find the Virtual Supermarket to be a great way to teach your children or grandchildren about shopping to support the Community Food Basket.

I am available for presentations about the Community Food Basket to any group, club, church or business. Please contact me for more information.

In His service, Bud Langerak Executive Director

Director@CommunityFoodBasketIdahoFalls.org (208) 709-3773 (no text)



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**



Greetings from Camp Perkins!

As our campers and many of our staff head back to school this fall, we just want to say thanks for a great summer! We are so blessed by the amazing community brought together this summer! And a huge thanks to the summer staff that outshine the stars and the sun to come and serve the One!

34 summer staff
620 campers
14 Day Camps in communities
570 campers at Day camp
175 Family Campers
1 Savior
Immeasurable Blessings!

UPCOMING RETREATS AND EVENTS

Fall Work Weekend - Oct 7-9 - Help us get Camp Perkins ready for the winter! This is a FREE event! Register early!

Women's Fall Retreat: Oct 14-16 - This retreat is designed to be an encouragement and bring spiritual renewal to women of the West. There will be time for Bible study and devotion, praise and worship, hiking and playing, sitting and relaxing, or treat yourself to a massage. Our speaker this year is Amy Hubach, DCE.

Jr High Snow Jam: Jan 6-8, 2017 (tent) - Take a weekend away to play in the snow and study the Word with friends.

Women's Crafting Retreat: Jan 13-15/16 or Feb 10-12/13, 2017 - Grab your scrapbooks, quilts, and sewing machines. Muster all of your creativity and get ready to craft your weekend away. Relax and even have a massage! 2 or 3 nights in the comfort of the Retreat Center.

Family and Friends Winter Camp: Feb 3-5 - Join us for tubing and snowshoeing, snowman-building contests, and games by the fire. Bring your own snowmobiles or rent them from Smiley Creek Lodge. Space available in cabins only. Pricing based on lodging and age: see website for details.

Men's Winter Weekend: Feb 24-26 - Steak, hot wings, movie night, snowshoeing, skiing, tubing, and facilitated Bible study and faith growth time. **Clint Kunze**, from Shoshone Base Camp in Northern Idaho, will be our facilitator.

Sr. High SnowFest: March 3-5 (tent) - Take a weekend away to play in the snow and study the Word with friends. This retreat is planned and led by Sr. High Youth!

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JOB OPENINGS

Seasonal Staff (Fall/Winter/Spring)

Camp Perkins hires 2-3 college age or older individuals for seasonal employment. Length of employment can be variable. Seasonal staff assist with the day-to-day operations of the camp during the fall, winter, and spring seasons and help to make guests of camp as comfortable as possible. Responsibilities include housekeeping and food service, in addition to some maintenance, office and program assistance as needed. This position requires flexibility and adaptability, and the ability to be a team player, a self-starter, and to function as a servant-leader. Benefits include on-site, full room and board and a salary of \$250-300 per week. See website for more details - www.CampPerkins.org.

Site Director (Maintenance & Operations)

Camp Perkins is seeking a Site Director. This is a year-round facility with lots of seasonal dynamics that create challenges and opportunities to test your problem solving skills, your planning ability, and your mentoring enthusiasm. This position calls for a jack-of-all trades, but master of some. A little plumbing, carpentry, vehicle maintenance, electrical, and a whole lot of plain ol' "it broke so I get to fix it". It also requires project management, directing of volunteer crews and appropriate logging of maintenance tasks.

This position incorporates strong administrative, supervisory, and facilities and construction management roles. Basic skills in or an aptitude to learn vehicle maintenance, plumbing, electrical, appliance repair, and carpentry are necessary. Additionally, an ability to manage volunteers and staff are beneficial. This position requires living on-site year-round.

This is a full-time, salaried position. Email your resume to Signe@CampPerkins.org by Sept 1. See website for Job Description: www.CampPerkins.org.