

St. John Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-3:00pm

Phone: (208) 522-5650
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Pastor

Stephen Weems

St. John Officers

Jim Werner
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Todd Mary
Chairman,
Board of Elders

Worship

9:30am - Sunday

Communion every
1st & 3rd Sunday

***Worship resumes
May 31st.

Fellowship, Sunday
School, Bible Study
and Confirmation
will resume at a later
date. Thank you.

June 14th Voter's Meeting

11:00 am
Please read last
page to prepare
for the meeting.
Thank you.

This devotional is reprinted from Lutheran Hour Ministries. The website at lhm.org offers daily devotions. You may subscribe to have one emailed to you each day with the option to listen rather than read. They also offer 18 years of archived devotions & MANY more quality resources!

While He (Jesus) was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." And when He came to the house. And all were weeping and mourning for her, but He said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand He called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once.

Luke 8:49-51a, 52-55b

About two years ago, a family went to Disney World in Orlando. There, the youngest of the family spotted one of the characters: Snow White. If you've been to Disney World, you know children simply mob those characters. That was certainly the case for this beautiful lady. She was hugged; she was questioned; she was photographed.

But the little boy in this family kept his distance.

No, it wasn't that he was too old for such things, nor was he disinterested. Truly, the lad wanted to get close to her just like all the other kids. He wanted to, but he was afraid. He wondered, suppose Snow White doesn't like me? Suppose Snow White tells me to go away?

Now you can understand why the boy just stood stock-still and stared.

The morning might have ended that way, but Snow White saw that little boy and worked her way over to him. Soon she stood by his side, bent down, and gave that little boy the hug he wanted: the hug he needed so desperately.



That hug was a transforming moment. After that the boy knew he was special; indeed, everybody around knew he was worth loving.

My friends, please believe me when I say that is what Jesus has done for you. He has seen you, all alone, by yourself. He saw you and came to you. Born in Bethlehem, He came, not to hug you or hold you. No, He did far more. He lived for you. He died for you. He rose for you. He came so the world may know -- so the gates of hell might know -- you are a person who is loved and saved.

Sadly, too many Christians act as if Jesus has done nothing for them. They look just as sad and despondent as do the people of this world.

That should not be.

To you, Jesus says, "In whatever bad situation, frightening circumstance, or directionless day you find yourself, do not doubt, but believe." If Jesus can heal the sick, raise the dead, feed the thousands, and still the storm, He can help you.

More than that, He has helped you in the past, and He will continue to help you through all your tomorrows. This is the Christ's commitment to all who have been brought to Him in faith.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, forgive me when I doubt You are there to hear me, comfort me, and provide assistance. Grant me a clearer vision and a deeper appreciation of Your commitment and love. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,
Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour®
Lutheran Hour Ministries

*In His Grace,
Pastor Stephen*

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ April, 2020

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

4/20/2020 The meeting was held via phone conference call. The meeting was opened with the reading of Psalm 42:1-5 and prayer. **Treasurers Report:** A copy of the March Financial summary is attached. Giving for March was \$24,024. Expenses were \$18,117. Donations exceeded expenses by \$5,907. Our balance is still positive from the start of the year. **Pastor's Report: a)** We have been providing At-Home-Worship materials & links for four weekends. There has been some very good reaction to the YouTube recordings of Led Worship & Sermons. The number of views has been strong on YouTube & Facebook. Data on how many materials are used by the 90+ who receive weekly emails is not known. **b)** Zoom meetings continue for Elders, BOD, Men & Coffee (Friday Mornings), and discussions on Calling a DCE intern Candidate from one of the Concordia Universities. Next meeting on DCE discussions will be with those who serve our children & youth, Parents & Grandparents. That meeting is 4/22/2020. **c)** No reports of St. John members battling Coronavirus. **d)** A new item to consider. Deb M has decided not to lead VBS this summer. She suggests that St John not hold VBS this year as many of our volunteers are in the vulnerable category for the corona virus. She suggests letting Camp Perkins keep the \$500 deposit that we paid them last June. We are a Camp Perkins partner congregation & the camp will be hurting from the self isolation like so many groups. If things return to a more normal environment (with confidence) in the fall, St. John could hold an outdoor meal and invite VBS families to join the rest of the congregation. Another suggestion is to have a way to honor 2020 graduates (when public worship is safe again). **Elders Report:** Please see report below. **Properties: a)** Weimer Heating & Cooling is tentatively scheduled to install the sanctuary exhaust fan either Wednesday or Thursday of this week. They will also install the air conditioning unit in the confirmation classroom. **b)** The wasp nest by the parking lot door was removed. **c)** The graffiti in the alley has been cleaned & painted over. A big thank you to Dan K. for his help. **d)** The sprinkler system is ready to be turned on when we think it's time. No other major issues have been brought to our attention at this time. **Open Business Items:** Discussion followed Pastor's report regarding community self-isolation & the recommendation not to hold VBS this year. The Board agreed that we would not hold VBS, but will look for options to provide to neighborhood and Church families during that time, and let them know we plan on holding VBS again next year. The Board discussed hosting a neighborhood outdoor meal & agreed that would be a good thing to do. The Board discussed and recommended that we recognize all Graduates to mark their achievement. Jim W and Pastor will meet to discuss and plan these events. **Church security / safety plan:** A plan has been drafted & distributed to the BOD and Elders for review & comment. The Board is waiting on responses from the Elders before proceeding. Jim W. & Bruce M will meet to discuss implementation plans and activities. **New officer recruitment:** We have had several people volunteer to serve as members for next year's Board. Contacts are still being made to find someone to fill the remaining open member at large position. **Preparation of 2020-21 budget:** A draft budget was proposed to the Board for approval. After review, a motion was made to approve the proposed 2020 - 2021 budget as presented to the Board by Linda H and seconded by Bruce M. Motion was approved by a voice vote. We expect to make copies of the budget available to the congregation within the next two weeks. **New Business:** Delay of May voters' meeting - following some discussion on what guidance we can expect from the state and when we might know something more, the Board recommended that we postpone the planned May voters' meeting. A new date has not been set. Once we receive guidance from the State we will plan on announcing the date of the meeting then. Jim W will work with Cheryl V. to make sure the delay is made known to the congregation. **DCE intern planning and study:** Zoom DCE discussions will be with those who serve children & youth, Parents & Grandparents. That meeting is Wednesday, 4/22/2020.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

Board of Elders Minutes - April, 2020

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

April 6, 2020 & April 27, 2020 meetings

- Reviewed plans received from the Board of Directors for the possibility of adding a Director of Christian Education in the near future. Elders are in support of the plan and are committed to working with the BOD committee to finalize proposed job duties for DCE.
- Agreed to resume Sunday worship service May 31st, Pentecost Sunday. Safety of the congregation & congregational demographics were considered along with the need for following recommendations from the CDC and the State of Idaho. Reviewed plans for providing proper protection for the congregation and the support needed to most safely start services. We recognize that we can gather earlier than this date, but that does not necessarily mean we should if it is not safe. We encourage those most vulnerable to continue to isolate. Online & Email Worship Service will continue so that members who are not comfortable returning to group services have an option.
- Reviewed member needs, new elder candidates, and Elders budget items.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



The Potluck will not be held in June.



Thank you to all those contributing to "First Sunday Food Offering". Your generosity in support of the I. F. Community Food Basket is such a blessing to those who struggle to feed their families. In addition to **dealing with a major shortage in donations this year, needs continue to increase due to layoffs from the COVID-19 pandemic.** If you are able, please continue to share your blessings.

Right now, the greatest need is **funds to purchase food.** The food basket is able to purchase food in bulk for pennies on the dollar. Please mail financial contributions to **P.O. Box 2236, Idaho Falls, ID 83403**

****There is no preference to brand names of donated items. Generic brands are welcome.*

SHARING
GOD'S
GIFTS



We eagerly look forward to when we can worship & gather safely in larger numbers without restrictions. ***During this time of isolation, we encourage everyone to call their neighbors, friends, & family to visit, ensure they are doing well, check if they need supplies, and to lift one another in prayer.*** If you hear of someone in need of assistance please call the office. We will try to connect them with available resources. Thank you.

Mark your calendars for August 27th – 30th

St. John is still planning to host a group camping weekend at Falls Creek Campground (near Swan Valley). There are spaces in the reserved group campsite for both "Tent-ers" and "RV-ers". You can choose to stay one night, two, or all three.

We will also hold a potluck dinner with those who want to come up Saturday afternoon.

Watch for more details as the date draws closer!



Hosted
A welcoming
time together!

Hosted will NOT be held in June.

We look forward to meeting when it is safe to gather in larger numbers.



NURSERY

Nursery care will once again be offered when Bible Study and Sunday School resume.

Congregational Voters Meeting: The Spring Voters' meeting is scheduled for June 14.

The meeting will be held immediately following worship (approximately 11:00 am.) Because we will still be in phase 2 of Idaho's recovery program no luncheon will be provided and we will be following safe distancing guidelines. An agenda for the meeting will be available by May 31st. Copies of the agenda and proposed budget will be sent out by e-mail and will also be available at the Church office.

The main items to be discussed and voted on at the meeting are as follows:



- Election of BOD Officers and Elder nominations
- St. John Proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
- Support for hiring a DCE intern next year
- Adoption of the Church security / safety plan

Because of concerns of spreading the Corona Virus, an Absentee ballot will be made available to those who would like to vote but would prefer to not participate in large gatherings. The Absentee ballot will provide voting on the four major motions identified above. The ballot will contain the motions being voted on and a place for voting yes or no. The Absentee ballots will be available on June 7th and can be picked up at the Church office. The signed ballot must be delivered to the Church's office manager by Thursday, June 11th to be counted / recognized at the meeting. If you have any questions of concerns please contact Jim W. or Cheryl (office manager) for additional information. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School: A virtual VBS will be held June 22-24



E-mails & other invitations will be sent out to members and to our community. The **GO! Curriculum** is a 3-day "backyard" VBS that is custom made for churches & families during the COVID-19 shutdown. The VBS program is very user friendly so any family can easily do it at home. With minimal preparation, easy to follow instructions, and a video that leads kids step-by-step through each day, we hope many families will find this VBS program a quarantine-friendly solution. More information will be made available soon. We hope to resume our normal VBS program at St. John next year.