

The Gospel Gazette

December 2016/ January 2017

St. John Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Stephen Weems
Pastor

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Office Hours: Mon-Thursday
9-3:00pm

St. John Officers

Dan Vetter, chairman
Board of Directors

Dave Van Haaften, chairman
Board of Elders

Worship

9:00 am - Sunday Worship
Communion every 1st & 3rd Sunday

10:15am - Fellowship
10:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Bible Study
(1st & 2nd Peter)
led by Pastor Stephen Weems

Wednesday Bible Study

9:30 am
led by Pastor Stephen Weems

HITTING THE RESET BUTTON

by Pastor Stephen Weems



It is not uncommon for our days to start out with every indication that it will be a day of smooth sailing. Life though, like sailing, rarely provides a 24-hour period in which the winds and seas are optimum. Even when

conditions are superb, there may be troubles with the vessel that make the journey difficult.

Like waves of the sea, our emotions, attitudes and energy levels can fluctuate when we face hurdles. Just today writing an inspiring (You be the judge of that!) newsletter article was one of three top-priorities on my self-imposed to-do list. An early request came in to the office that would take me from these three goals for a time, but that need is manageable. Then the printer that was running flawlessly gave me trouble on another project causing its delay and costing valuable time trying to troubleshoot and arrange for a back up. The backup and the backup to the backup failed each taking more valuable time.

These changes to my schedule are hardly threatening winds or daunting waves; nevertheless, I can feel my emotional energy being put to the test. I must confess hitting the Reset Button was necessary by the time I sat down to the keyboard to create. [Not a bad deal really; I was able to practice what I want to share.]

In the sermon a few Sundays ago I mentioned a Reset Button that is available to us as God's people everyday at any time. When you and I experience emotions, self-talk and attitudes that have the potential to sidetrack our efforts, we can stop and commend ourselves *and* the difficulty (great or small) to our gracious God.

Perhaps your day is moving along nicely and you leave a conversation feeling unfairly treated or disrespected even though you asserted yourself well and let your thoughts be heard. That experience may play over and over again in your mind sapping you of energy for needed tasks ahead. Left to stew you may find yourself far less present for important people in your life. In a figurative sense we can hit the Reset Button, and let God provide His needed care.

We can pause and pray. "Lord, this has the potential to steal so much from me today. I want to hit the Reset Button with You." And in prayer you share the experience and ask God to help you put all of it in proper perspective. You commend the difficulty to Him and open yourself to His gracious and loving care and direction.

Another very helpful tool in the process is to have a Reset verse(s) from Scripture that you discuss with God in prayer. In fact, I encourage you to become a collector of those words from God that give you trust, words that convey His love and promises. In the verse pictured in this article, Psalm 15:2, you can say something like this to God: "Lord, *You* are my strength; therefore, I do not have to be strong in myself right now. Will You help carry this? *You* are my salvation; I don't have to find ways to save myself. No, Lord, You are enough for me in this and in everything!"

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*The LORD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;
He is my God, and I will praise Him;
My father's God, and I will exalt Him.
~ Exodus 15:2*



Hit the Reset Button and take your needs to Jesus in prayer. Take some of God's Word and discuss with Him how he has given you hope. Jesus' friend, Peter, shares, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Peter knew what anxiety was all about, and Peter knew He could trust Jesus with it. Like Peter we have reason to trust that our Lord cares for us for He gave his last breath on a cross that you and I would be reconciled to His Father. Because of Jesus' work, we truly are children of God, and God cares for His own.

Become a Collector of Reset Button Verses

Here are texts that people shared on the Facebook page for St. John. Perhaps these are words that will bring hope and comfort to you, too.

Psalm 127, Psalm 139, Matthew 7:7-11, Psalm 46:10 and Proverbs 3:5-6

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). While I am still weary, Jesus invites me to come to Him. While I am still burdened, Jesus invites me to come to Him. He does not tell me to get myself together, learn to deal with frustrations, and learn to manage the stress and then come. He says come.

Take Him at His Word. You can trust Him.

BIBLE STUDIES

New Sunday Bible Class beginning in January

Mark P. will be teaching a class by Dr. Joel Biermann, he is a Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, starting on Sunday, January 8, 2017. The class title is "*Woman and Man According to God's Plan.*" The class is taught by Dr. Biermann and is 8 hours of video. Mark will extend this class to 16 weeks with a 30 minute section of video followed by 30 minutes of discussion. This would take the class to April 30, 2017. Please join us!

The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis'

"After the resurrection, when Jesus used Scripture to explain who He was and why He came, where did He start? In the Old Testament. And this is where *'The Promised One'* begins to look for Christ, finding Him in the people, promises, and patterns of the Old Testament scriptures. Author Nancy Guthrie shows how the book of Genesis points us to the person of Christ."

When: Tuesday evening, 6:30 – 8:00pm, weekly, for eleven weeks, starting on January 10 (Tentative dates: Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; February 14, 21, 28; March 14, 21, 28; April 4)

Where: St. John Lutheran

Book: *'The Promised One'* by Nancy Guthrie (There is some reading and homework during the week.)

Leader: Linda H.

As we move from Advent to Lent, please join us as we go to the beginning and see how God's plan unfolds.

Please contact Linda (email: lhughesquilts@gmail.com) to let her know you would like to participate, so she can order a book for you.

BOARD OF ELDERS MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2016

Dave opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Pastor Weems gave his report, including the following:

- Update on the “I Am Changes Who I Am” sermon series
- Advent services are planned for November 30, December 7 & 14 at St. John, to be led by Pastor Stephen (Hope will have a separate service)
- Sunday morning Bible study centered on 1 Peter (continued)
- Jim W. to preach on November 20
- New Year’s Eve service (Elder-led) will include communion
- Jack C. wedding on December 18, 2016
- Ongoing ministry as he continues to get to know members and friends of St. John

Dave noted that discussions with the leadership at Hope Lutheran, regarding potential combination of our two ministries in the future, are focused on the question as to “is such a combination wise, or even viable?”

The Board accepted the following membership actions:

- Accepted into membership Jill W. and daughters
- Reinstatement of Erin L. into membership

The Board discussed the continued service of those currently serving our congregation as licensed Deacons in light of the termination of the Deacon ministry within the Synod by 2018 Northwest District. The Board will send correspondence to District President Linnemann and Pastor Dinger (Grace Lutheran, Pocatello) summarizing how St. John plans to utilize the service of our deacons and others (e.g., elders) in Word and Sacrament ministry at St. John.



The Call Committee has nearly completed the Congregational Self-Study. This document has several sections addressing various aspects of our community and our congregational life together; it will be used by NW District President Linnemann to assist in advising us in calling a pastor. We plan to have the completed Self-Study available for you by Sunday, December 11. We ask that you give it thoughtful, prayerful review and return comments to us by Sunday, January 1. We will consider all your comments and suggestions.

We also ask that you nominate to us any pastoral candidate you believe the congregation should consider.

You can give your comments to me or to any member of the Call Committee.

Dave V., ddvh@cableone.net, for the Call Committee:

David B.	Don C.
Chuck H.	Vicki J.
Mark P.	Jackie R.



ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS DINNER

Plan on coming to our annual Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 11th following Bible Class. Social Ministries will provide the main dinner. Bring you favorite Christmas dessert or cookie. Help is NEEDED for set-up on Friday, December 9th at 10:30am and clean-up following the dinner would be appreciated.

CELEBRATE THE *JOY!*

Come join us as we celebrate our Savior's birth at the Annual Christmas Cantata held at Zion Lutheran Church in Ashton, Idaho This year there will be two different times offered: Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. and December 23rd at 7:00pm. Zion Lutheran Church is located on 9th and Main in Ashton.

Thank you!

I want to thank the following people that helped with our boiler overhaul this summer. First, let me say, that I am sorry for getting this thank you out so late. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with this effort: Mark P., Nick P., Bob B., Don C., Bob F., Brian H., Dave M., and David B. If I have left any one off this list, please forgive my old memory.

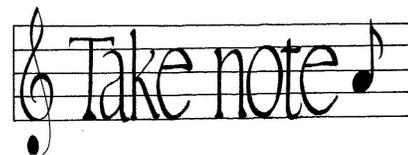
~Matt (your humble church boiler man)

SCRIP ORDERS

Scrip is a great way to get Christmas gifts and at the same time help Hope Lutheran School. They order on the first and third Mondays. The next order will be placed the 5th of December. If you are looking to use gift cards for Christmas shopping, or to give cards as gifts please consider ordering through the school at 529-8080.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come "*Celebrate the Child*" with us Sunday December 18th. The children of our Sunday School will lead us in a part of our worship that day. Parents and grandparents, please have them here 15 minutes before service.



Would you like to sing in the Choir on Christmas Eve? You can, you know. Join us! We rehearse after the Sunday School classes at ~11:35 am on the first and third Sundays of every month. We usually sing in the Worship Service on the fourth Sunday of the month and on Christmas Eve. We always welcome new singers, and you don't have to have experience in a choir. Contact Dave.

HUMAN CARE

- * Thank you to everyone that participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive. Our goal was 15 and we got 13. Our next blood drive will be March 13th.
- * On Friday, December 2 from 9:00am-1:00p.m., we will be having a Thrivent Action Team activity putting together blankets for Project Linus. Lunch will be provided. No experience is necessary, so please bring your friends for a fun service project that benefits our community. Thank you to all of you that helped with the last Project Linus activity!
- * Our fellowship potluck luncheon will be on Tuesday, December 13 at noon. Everyone is welcome and this gives us time to visit and get to know each other better. If you are unable to bring a dish to share, do not worry just come!
- * Game night is Friday, December 16 starting at 6:30p.m. All ages are welcome and you may bring your favorite game and snack to share.
- * Our church is responsible for serving at the local Soup Kitchen on the 4th Tuesday of the month, which is the Tuesday, December 20th. Please consider coming to help from 10:30 - 2:30p.m.



January

- * Our fellowship potluck luncheon will be on Tuesday, January 10th at noon. Please bring your family and friends to celebrate the New Year!
- * Game night is on Friday, January 20th starting at 6:30p.m.
- * Soup Kitchen Tuesday, January 24 from 10:30-2:30p.m.



The **Gospel Gazette** is a newsletter published for members and friends of St. John Lutheran Church. If you do not wish to receive a newsletter, please email the church office. The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Monday of each month. The December/January and July/August are combined newsletters. Any article or submission received after the deadline cannot be guaranteed to make it into the intended issue, and may be either held until the following issue or omitted entirely. The editor reserves the right to edit all articles and will make every effort to maintain the intent of the article consistent with the intent of the author. Please email articles to the church office at office@stjohnministries.net

Christmas Cantata

Adult, Children, Bell Choirs, Instruments, Narration
First Lutheran Church 455 W. Sunnyside, Idaho Falls



Sunday, December 4th 8:15 am, 11:00 am, & 6:30 pm
Hand Bell Prelude begins 10 minutes prior

Sunday, December 11th 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Hand Bell Prelude begins 10 minutes prior

*The public is cordially invited, Child care provided
Free-will monetary offering for Idaho Falls Food Bank & Soup Kitchen*



Merry Christmas

*God's Grace in
the Holidays!
Pastor Stephen*

*Have a Blessed
Christmas!
Calli*