

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
office@stjohnministries.net

Pastor

Stephen Weems

St. John Officers

Jim Werner
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Todd Mary
Chairman,
Board of Elders

All Worship Is Temporarily Suspended

Elders will update
as the situation with
the pandemic
evolves. Thank you.

9:30am - Sunday

Communion every
1st & 3rd Sunday

10:30am - Fellowship

10:45am
Sunday School
& Bible Study

Wednesday
Bible Study

9:30am

We're All In This Together

Tug O' War each year at the Prince of Peace Lutheran School picnic at the city park was always something to look forward to just before summer. Win or lose there's something to be said for working hard together as a team. Little League baseball and basketball with the Prince of Peace Pirates taught me that a team win is better than solo accolades.

God has certainly wired us to be interdependent. My skills and experience benefit you, and, trust me, yours benefit me!

One bright spot during this battle with Covid-19 has been the reference in broadcast public service announcements, individual posts on Facebook and even electronic traffic signs placed by the city of Idaho Falls stating,

"We're all in this together."



People pulling together for the mutual benefit of each other is refreshing even as we see and hear of the stress experienced by individuals, families, businesses, churches, schools, healthcare

providers and government leaders. Seeing people work together is uplifting and encouraging even as we experience the stress of this battle ourselves.

An even greater encouragement that refreshes and uplifts the mind and spirit are Jesus' own words, words of promise. Only one crucified and raised for us can promise such things:

"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

If you ever played team sports and had some hard training, perhaps you heard your coach say, "Take Five." By that your coach meant, "Catch your breath. Relax a few minutes." You came to know that there was more to come, but the break was needed.

Well, take five! Take these five promises from God & let them bring you refreshment. Let each encourage and uplift you.

- *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).*
- *The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing (Zephaniah 3:17).*
- *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).*
- *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).*
- *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you (John 14:16-17).*



Challenge: In your daily walks, take one verse at a time and memorize these promises of God. I know as you work phrase by phrase and come back again and again to solidify these words in your memory, God will speak to you even more deeply about how precious these truths are for you today and always. Let his Spirit quiet your heart and mind.

In His Grace,
Pastor Stephen

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ March, 2020

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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - 3/24/2020 The meeting was held via a phone conference call.

The meeting was opened with a prayer. **Treasurers Report:** A copy of the February Financial summary is attached. Giving for February was \$17,187. Our expenses were \$18,999. Our expenses exceeded our donations by \$1,812. We are still positive from the start of the year. **Pastor's Report:** See Attached. Some discussion followed regarding the community self-isolation & the chance that we would be able to hold Easter services. Right now it does not appear that we will be able to do so, but will follow the State's orders. **Elders' Report:** Todd provided a summary of the elders' activities. **Properties:** Weimer Heating and Air conditioning has ordered the exhaust fan that will be installed in the church. The fan should arrive in about 2 weeks. They will install the fan after that. **Open Business Items:** a) Church security / safety plan: A plan has been drafted and has distributed it to the BOD and Elders for review and comment. The Board is waiting on responses and comments from the Elders before proceeding. The Board plans to hold a special information meeting with the congregation concerning the plan and how to support aspects of it. While the Elder on duty needs to be involved, this cannot be seen as only additional duties for the Elder. Support must be found in members willing to help out. b) New officer recruitment - we have identified several members we are hoping will be willing to serve on the Board next year. Contact will be made in the following weeks. We are seeking people to fill the positions of assistant Treasurer, Vice chair and two members at large. c) Preparation of next year's budget:- Jackie will be sending out budget planning documents to the Church's organizations to plan for next years' budget. We hope to have a draft budget together by the 1st of April. We expect the budget to be very close to what it is currently. **New Business:** a) DCE intern planning and study - A special joint meeting was held between the BOD and BOE. Discussion centered around investigating the possibility of hiring a Director of Christian Education Intern next year. The need as well as how the congregation must support such an effort was discussed. A draft job description is being prepared. Further discussion with the members is being planned. b) Friend to friend connections - some discussion followed concerning the need to stay in touch with friends & families of St John during this time of physical distancing. Some ideas as to how to accomplish this were discussed. We need to have everyone making an effort to be in touch and provide help during this very unusual time. The next BOD meeting will be held on April 20th, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The date for the Spring Congregational meeting will be determined when it is once again safe to gather. Pastor led the group in a closing prayer.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)

Board of Elders Minutes - March, 2020

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

March minutes. The Elders held meetings on March 2nd & 17th 2020 as summarized below.

Discussed worship service practices and public gatherings at St. John and how to respond to coronavirus concerns. Initial decisions were to eliminate the practice of Sharing The Peace and the use of the Common Cup in communion. After federal and state government recommendations were issued to limit the size of public gatherings, the elders met on 3-17 to consider options on public gatherings. The decision was made to suspend Sunday Services as well as group gatherings for Bible Study, Braille, Confirmation Class, & Recovery Group meetings. We will be consistently evaluating the situation with goals of returning to regular services as soon as safely practical, protect those most at risk, and helping the medical community by following all recommendations to help control the spread of the virus.

Pastor will prepare communications to members and elders will be contacting members to keep the congregation informed. We will coordinate efforts to provide pastoral care to the congregation. The office will be staffed by Pastor and Cheryl but we ask everyone to respect social distancing and to seek alternatives to in person meetings when possible.

Approved transfer requests for Mary S. and Trevor S. to Hope Lutheran, and Tanner S. to Zion Lutheran.

Discussed Church Security Plan proposed by Board of Directors. Elders will coordinate with the BOD and Security Team at worship services and support the implementation of this plan.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

(edited for space)



The Potluck will not be held in May.



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.*



Give

Serve



Attend

Grow

Stewardship
a way of life



We eagerly look forward to when restrictions are completely lifted and we can freely come together for worship and gather safely. Please see the note on the calendar page explaining plans to resume worship. **During this time of isolation, we encourage everyone to call their neighbors, friends, & family to visit, to make sure they are doing well and not in need of supplies, and to lift one another in prayer.** If you hear of someone in need of assistance please contact the office, and 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 for the afternoon.

Watch for more details as the date draws closer!



Hosted
A welcoming
time together!

Hosted will NOT be held in May.

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

Nursery care is available
most Sundays during
Worship Service & Bible Classes
for children infant - age 3,
from 9:15am ~ Noon.



Vacation Bible School will NOT be held at St. John this summer.



We continue to work together to best handle safety amid the Covid-19 pandemic in a manner that prioritizes the health of people in our community and in our church family.

We have been blessed to have amazing volunteer participation each summer, and there may still be ways for all of us to bring a blessing to the children and families close to St. John.

We have a small team scheduled to brainstorm creative ways to bring a blessing in place of a week-long gathering on campus. We hope to partner again in 2021 with Camp Perkins team leaders. Please keep the children and families impacted by this change in your prayers.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Due to continuing corona virus concerns the Board of Directors is postponing the May Voters' meeting until we receive additional guidance from the state. Pastor and the Elders will then determine what activities and group meetings we can hold to stay in compliance and keep everyone safe.

We do plan on holding a "Spring" voters meeting.

To that end, the Board has been recruiting members to serve on the Board and has drafted a proposed budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. A detailed copy of the proposed budget is available. It can be emailed to you, or you can get a copy from the office to review. We are also preparing a draft agenda which will be sent out as soon as it is complete.

In the mean time please know that we are working to keep everything functioning during this time of separation. Your prayers are very appreciated! Please stay safe and healthy!

Jim Werner, Chairman of the BOD



There is still time to receive a discount on camp prices! There are also a limited number of scholarships available. Camp Perkins offers week-long camps for kids of all ages, family camps, and weekend retreats. They have many options to fit your schedule. Go to CampPerkins.org to find the dates for camp that work for you. There are also special add-on camps (with an additional charge) that you can choose to add to your week.

Register soon to take advantage of early registration discounts!

2020 Summer Camp Pricing

Through May 15: \$350

After May 15: \$360

Final Balance Due June 15