

# The Gospel Gazette

November 2017

## 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

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Pastor  
Stephen Weems

### St. John Officers

David Bush,  
Vice – Chairman,  
Board of Directors

Dave Van Haften,  
Chairman,  
Board of Elders

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### Worship

9:30 am - Sunday

Communion every  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

10:30am -  
Fellowship

10:45am -  
Sunday School  
& Bible Study

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Wednesday Bible Study

9:30 am

## Exonerated, Now

God is continually working in and through us, and he has promised to complete what he has started (Philippians 1:16). And the work God has begun in us is far deeper than behavior modification.

We live in the “already” and the “not yet.”

Many of you know I have taken on the meaningful task of memorizing the 38 verses of Romans chapter 8. That has been an amazing process, and now I am studying deeper to better understand the words I have “hidden in my heart,” and I hope to write some devotional materials for each verse of the chapter.

In the very first verse we encounter eternity-changing news: **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** This is the “already” of what God has accomplished for us. We have been brought into a close, intimate relationship with God, an accomplishment only Jesus could complete for us according to verse 3.

Keep an eye out for future Newsletter articles where we will dive into the “not yet”, or the unfolding work of God. It is his intention to more and more set our minds upon his Spirit within us and to conform our whole being to the image of Jesus. This, too, is good news of his active grace in us. That unfolding work is all predicated on verse one, a new and certain standing **in Christ Jesus.**

Paul is forcefully asserting that condemnation does not even exist for us as God’s people. That is a standing and

promise that “already” is ours in Christ Jesus. It is work accomplished, completed and finalized. And that promise and standing does not evaporate the next instance you sin; it is yours. It is yours **in Christ Jesus**, Paul’s way of speaking to those who have been made children of God through faith.

He says that for Christians there is no condemnation at all. It doesn’t exist for us. It’s not that we have moved out from under it for a while, but that it could return. No; there is no condemnation for us at all— it doesn’t exist anymore. ... The moment we come into Christ Jesus, condemnation is gone forever. There is no more condemnation left for us— it is gone. There can never be condemnation for us. There is nothing but acceptance and welcome for us! --Timothy Keller.

If you are not condemned, you will not have guilt pronounced upon you. For those who look to any other method, person, or god to be reconciled to God Almighty, judgment waits and condemnation follows. Since you are **in Christ Jesus**, your judgment day has “already” taken place. It is behind you now. It took place on a brutal hill called Golgotha just outside Jerusalem when Jesus took the Father’s judgment upon himself. God’s Word clearly tells us that Jesus’ death was ours, and his new forever-life is ours as well.

**YOU  
ARE  
EXONERATED.**

~Pastor Stephen

## Board of Directors Minutes-September 2017

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

September 12, 2017

Devotion/Opening Prayer: Pastor Stephen

Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Committee Reports (Brief):

Adult Education.-Starting (September 24) DVD series; Primary Education; Human Care; Properties; Public Relations; Social Ministry; Youth and Family Life; Stewardship; Outreach and Assimilation;

Pastor's Report:

New Bible study on Jonah Sept 24- Nov 12; New Member class in the works; Sermon series "Sola: What Matters Most"; Praise Service looking at offering it on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month; Pastor and Laurie to attend Pastoral Leadership Institute November 6-11, 2017

Elder's Report: *see Board of Elders Minutes*

Treasurer's Report:

Preliminary information only - expenses are being covered by contributions

Old Business:

Boiler- email was sent out for help waiting for response; Railing out front – contact Paul where this is at

New business:

Cheryl officially made office manager and Melanie (Treasurer of the church) are to have access to banking information; When to make congregational meeting (November 12, 2017);

Christmas luncheon (December 10, 2017)

Chair/Vice Chair- Vicki J and Jim W have offered to fill in vacancies on the board. Voting for these positions will be held on the November congregational meeting; Put in newsletter openings for board and contact information for past members who have served in those roles to get more information. Sprinkler system east side – one head is not working (postpone until Spring 2018)

Closing Prayer/adjournment

*edited for space*

*Human Care*

- ♥ Our monthly fellowship potluck luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. Everyone is welcome so bring your family and friends. Bringing a dish to share is not required, we just want to enjoy your company! :)
- ♥ Game night is Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30. You may bring your favorite game and/or snack and all ages are welcome.
- ♥ Please join your church family on Thanksgiving Day for a potluck dinner & games from 1:00-3:00 (later if we are having too much fun!) A sign up sheet will be available so we can plan on how many to prepare for and what items are coming.
- ♥ If you would like to serve in the community come help at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-2:00.
- ♥ *Colossians 3:12* ~ Therefore, as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity. ~ *God Bless, Sheila K*

## Board of Elders Minutes-September 2017

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

7:00 pm, September 11, 2017

Present: Pastor Weems, Todd M, Jeff P, Dave V

Pastor Stephen opened with a devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report:

Bible class starting September 24: "Jonah: You Can't Outrun Grace"

Timing for Sunday School and Bible classes: We recommended 10:45 – 11:45

Sermon series for October: "Solos: What Matters Most"

Planning for November and December: praise services on 2nd and 3rd Sundays

We discussed the Shut-in & Homebound ministry, and outreach to non-attending members.

Pastor is arranging a visit from Nichelle D, a NW District missionary to Peru on November 5.

Pastor discussed the Circuit Reformation Celebration on Sunday, October 29.

We considered further Elder nominations.

We reviewed a draft of Guidelines for use of the Office Manager's services.



## HAVEN UPDATE!



**1 John 3:17** "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" Thank you for your generosity in helping to support the fundraiser for the Haven. More than \$700 was raised and more than \$500 was donated in the form of household supplies and cleaning materials! The funds donated were able to buy a new refrigerator for one of their housing units. The balance of the money will go to helping to pay for the remodeling of the unit. The staff of the Haven was extremely pleased with the donations and your generosity! Thank you for your generosity, open hearts, and caring and for helping to ease the burden of some women and children who are in need. ~Ann & Jim W



## Fall Zone Event

*All Ladies are invited to a time of fellowship, food, faith-building, mission updates and celebration of the 75th anniversary of LWML.*

Saturday, November 4th,

at Hope Lutheran Church (2071 12th Street)

Registration begins at 9:00am (Coffee & Donuts provided)

Bring \$3.00 and your bible!

## Ways to Give ...

As we head into the cold winter months, several agencies are requesting donations for those less fortunate. Here are some ways you can help.

The annual Homeless Stand Down will be held Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Idaho Falls Activity Center. Donations of white tube socks, easy to carry food (granola bars, soup, hot chocolate, and tuna, all in individual packets), warm clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags are desperately needed. There will be a box in the narthex to collect donations.

The Behavioral Health of East Idaho Crisis Center is having a Holiday Giving Challenge. They need: winter hats, gloves, and shoes; fitted and flat sheets (twin long); pillows and pillow cases; laundry detergent; hygiene essentials; bottled water; snack foods (see above for ideas); flashlights and batteries; coffee; and gift cards to Walmart or Fred Meyer. Items can be taken to 1650 N. Holmes on November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-10:00am. For questions, you can contact Angie Radford at : [angieradford@optum.com](mailto:angieradford@optum.com)

*If you are unable to donate items, **Volunteer HELP is always appreciated and needed!***

*Let us come  
before him with  
thanksgiving.*

*Psalm 95:2, NIV*

From Pastor Stephen & Laurie;

Thank you, St. John,

We are so thankful to all of you for the restaurant gift certificate. We will certainly enjoy a very nice meal together. Thank you for remembering us during Pastor Appreciation Month. We want you to know that we feel appreciated regularly as you have opened your homes, your hearts and your lives to us.

We thank God for the new friendships we enjoy and for how generous you are as a congregation coming together to bless each other, our community and Laurie and me. You are generous with your prayers, time and care. We love being a part of God's people at St. John Lutheran Church!



Change Your  
Clocks Back &  
Smoke Alarm  
Batteries



## **Important Reminder!**

Daylight Savings Ends

**November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Set your clocks **back** one hour

& change your smoke alarm batteries!