

The Gospel Gazette

October 2018

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

Worship

9:30am - Sunday

Communion every
1st & 3rd Sunday

10:30am - Fellowship

10:45am -
Sunday School
& Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study

9:30am

Uphill

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

Let me begin with this fact: *I do not like riding uphill.*



Ashton, Idaho, is host to the oldest all-American dog-sled race when conditions are right in February. So we knew late summer is the time to get our trail rides in because the weather will turn. Jim and Ann, friends and fellow bike riders, invited me to join them on a gravel-bed section of the Ashton-Tetonia Trail that makes use of a repurposed rail line. We would cross two train trestles (beautiful!) and would then decide if riding to the third one would be a part of our day before turning to ride back.

One landowner removed public access to the trail on his land, and we followed the detour along a dusty, dirt road to a county road with rolling hills to get back to the open section. "Rolling," means hills. Did I tell you I don't like riding uphill? The abandoned rail line was a low, uphill grade all the way already. That's enough uphill for me to start with. But the detour was hilly. At times I lowered my visor, let the sweat pour, and focused on just the three feet of gravel road ahead and tried to keep spinning. I focused my thoughts on the return ride; it promised to be 95 percent downhill. Yay!

I love the opportunity to get excellent exercise doing what I enjoy, and I love exploring new outdoor vistas.

But this was uphill.

In our intentions of joining Jesus in the redemptive work that he now leads us in, there are many joys along the way. But portions of the journey are uphill and some of the grades are steep. Life pressures step in; some who join us lose their mission focus, and we carry more for a time; it can take lots of energy to say no to really good opportunities that will keep us from the best work God has for us; and there are times our energy levels are simply not what we would want them to be.

In the uphill stretches of mission work with Jesus, we call out for a deeper experience of his presence with us because we never go alone. And in Peter's words we set our hope *"fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* With unwavering focus we settle our minds on the grace God will pour out along the journey, and we long to see others refreshed by Him! And we focus on the culmination of his redemptive work when Jesus returns to gather us.

We have a God who pours out his grace upon us, who pours out his grace through us, and who promises to return and gather us into his presence. THAT focus can keep us moving forward with Him.

Prayer: *Lord God, in the uphill sections of joining you on your mission, keep me focused on how you work for my good, how you work for the good of others through me, and renew my energies in the truth that you will return to gather me to yourself along with all your people. Amen.*

~ Pastor Stephen

- ♥ Please join us for our fellowship potluck luncheon at noon on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. This month, it is on the 9th of October. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your family and friends to get to know our church family better.
- ♥ The next Red Cross blood drive is Tuesday, October 23rd from 2:00-7:00. You can sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code **SJLC**, or watch for the sign up sheet at church. If you can help by volunteering that day as a greeter or with refreshments your help will be greatly appreciated!
- ♥ The soup kitchen can really use your help! Our church serves on the 4th Tuesday of every month. The address is 301 South Blvd. and the phone number is 208-557-5750. It starts at 10:30 for set up and cooking, at noon we serve and begin clean up, ending around 2:00 or so.
- ♥ If you want to send devotions to anyone in prison you can do so by calling Our Daily Bread at 616-974-2210 and they will mail it for free.
- ♥ **If you have any extra fruit or vegetables please take them to any of the following:**
 - ♥ Ruth House Women's shelter - 3130 S. Yellowstone Hwy. 208-419-0808
 - ♥ Haven Women's shelter - 2480 S. Yellowstone Hwy. 208-523-6413
 - ♥ City of Refuge Men's shelter - 840 Park Ave. 208 552-5575. A meal is served each day at 6:00pm for the community.
 - ♥ Community Food Basket - 245 N. Placer Ave. 208-524-0994
 - ♥ Soup Kitchen - 301 S. Blvd. 208-557-5750. A meal is served each day at noon for the community.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ Romans 15:13

God Bless, Sheila K. :)

Board of Elders Minutes - August 2018

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

Present: Pastor Stephen, Todd M., Jeff P., Dave V., Dan V., and George P.

Pastor led an opening devotion and prayer.

Pastor led discussion and training on visitation.

We assigned elders to care units and made plans for visitations.

Continued the discussion on worship music.

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The financial report is not available this month.

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Board of Directors Minutes - August 2018

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

8/21/2018 - In attendance: Gene W.*, Jim W.*, JoAnn B.*, Mark P.*, Linda H., Jackie R., Todd & Melanie M., Pastor Stephen, Kellie P., Alan M.* (*via Zoom)

Opening: Gene

July BOD Minutes: motion by Linda to approve minutes, seconded by Jim, passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Adult Sunday School: Alan M. - Sunday Morning classes until end of September with Jim and Gene. Need to build on the positive energy that is happening here at St. John would like to have nurse attendant for both Sunday service & Sunday school. See a need to hire a part-time person to focus on Youth (activities/Bible Studies)

Social Ministries: JoAnn B. - Request to purchase a commercial grade garbage disposal on the three sinks, as well as see about fixing the water pressure in the same sink area. (Task has been turned over to Mark & Judi P. to investigate). Rally Day September 9.

Sunday School: Deb M. - Rally Day September 9. Summer attendance average was four students.

Human Care: N/A

Youth & Family Life: Zak W. - They are stepping down as chair however will still do occasional study nights, coffee runs on Sundays, Saturday night live. Put in the bulletin/newsletter the need to fill this position; Are they still wanting to help organize National Youth Gathering? (Pastor is checking with them).

Properties:- Mark & Judi are going to do a walk through of the church to make a list of items that need to be addressed, and then identify short/long term goals

Financial Secretary - N/A

Elders: Training on home visits; Redistribute care units; Focus on shut-ins this month; Fall membership class/confirmation class in the works; Discussion on worship service music—the elders have given themselves the goal to have recommendation by the November Congregational meeting.

Treasurer: July started the new fiscal year; Contributions exceeded our expenditures; Both contributions and expenses were below budget for July.

Pastor's Report: Current class 9-week study on Faith: "What are you hoping for?" Baptisms 2 (Tegan W. & Kaizleigh W.). Vacation in January. Circuit Pastors/Deacons meeting September 13. Jr. Youth trying to organize a hike for some time soon. Hope House is going well. Interaction with the community - Dan K. visited with the director of the Idaho Falls Rescue Mission which is restarting, it will no longer be tied down by government subsidies and rules. Life Groups-continuing to meet /working on forming new groups. Sermon Series-continuing Ephesians "Value Unfolding" until September 2. Funerals/Memorials-there have been two (Rev. Bill Dietz & Henry Winterfield).

Membership Items- Bill & Joan C. are looking to join St. John.

Old business: Boiler-80% done, needs to put on the front, ignite, and trial run, and looking into other heating issues. Roof inspection-turn over to Mark P. Church insurance - options are being obtained. Church security - Gene is in the process of researching who has received the training and what else needs to be done. 5th Sunday activities-want the group to meet again within the next few weeks to plan one for September, - this will be one of the focuses of the mission of St. John. Nursery during Sunday school - Is Carolyn P. willing to organize this? Gene & Jim will check. Remote meetings - working well (Zoom). Elevator inspection update - according to the state we need to have an inspection contract, Mark P. will contact Cheryl V. and will investigate.

New business: Attic fans - help with cooling the building during the hot summer months (Mark P. will look into this). Garbage disposal (Mark P.). Nurse Attendant for Church Services & Sunday School - will start with Sunday School. Hiring a part-time worker to work with youth. Workman's comp - we need coverage Todd M. is investing and taking care of this at this time, it will be an additional expense. Review of custodial contract (Mark P. will check into this).

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Crown of Life Lutheran invites you to “Denim, Dinner & Dancing” October 5th from 6-9pm in the Rigby Middle School Cafeteria. Dinner is BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, bean salad & a drink. They will have live music from the Old Time Fiddlers, a silent auction (including a rifle to be auctioned!), a “50/50” drawing, dancing, and much more. Children are welcome & encouraged to attend. Cost is \$10.00 per person, or \$25.00 per family. **All proceeds go to send kids to Camp Perkins.** Come enjoy great fellowship & support a wonderful cause!



Thank you to all who have been bringing in items for “**First Sunday Food Offering**” Suggested items for October: Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail), Granola Bars, Oatmeal (large canister), and Feminine Hygiene Products.

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



The annual Homeless Stand Down will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at the Idaho Falls Activity Center, (1575 N Skyline Dr., Idaho Falls). To help those individuals in need we are asking for donations of tuna and/or chicken pouches, white tube socks, and bath towels. Other items necessary for cold weather include sleeping bags, winter coats, and other warm clothing items. All *clean and gently used* items are welcome. Your donated items can be placed in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity in helping the less fortunate in our community.