

# The Gospel Gazette

NOVEMBER 2016

## 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

Mike Thom, vice-  
chairman Board of  
Directors

Dave Van Haften,  
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

Count  
YOUR  
Blessings!



## A Strength for Each Other in Jesus

*Therefore encourage one another  
and build one another up, just as you are doing. ~1  
Thessalonians 5:11 ESV*

I want to begin this note with God's call to bring good into each other's lives, and it is fitting to end the note in the same way. What caught my attention in Paul's words to the people of Thessalonica are the words, "**just as you are doing.**"

I see God's people at St. John living this out all the time. Keep that going!

**Just Sunday** about 40 people of St. John gathered with Lynn & Gene Winter & family to encourage, celebrate and to ask God's blessing upon their newly opening business, City Bagels & Bakery. As a community of faith you were saying, "We are in your corner, and we want what is best for you as a family and as members of our faith family. We want you to receive a return on your labor and investment, and we want the community to be blessed in the process."

We have opportunity to band together to serve the neighbors of St. John on Monday, October 31, as well. **Trunk or Treat** returns with grilled hotdogs and open car trunks that offer Halloween Treats to neighbor families. What a great way to be on mission together in Jesus' name to spoil those near us and to demonstrate that we care about them and that they are welcome here.

I love how our Braille volunteers and our Wednesday morning Bible study participants make it a point of enjoying some **coffee together** after serving and learning together. It is in these times that we can be catalysts for good in each other's lives.

Here's a practical way I can encourage you to build one another up: **share your gratitude with our deacons**, past and present.

These men have taken on meaningful training so that God's people at St. John continue to be served in Word and Sacrament.

With patience and encouragement from their family members, each has served in public and quiet ways to make sure the grace of God stays front and center in our interactions together.

**Share your gratitude** with those who volunteer in self-giving ways. Let an acolyte know you love to see her serving God in this way. Let a Sunday school teacher know that you are aware that her time with the children on Sundays is just a small portion of the effort and time that goes into sharing with our kids that they are completely loved in Jesus. Let a youth leader know that you see him opening his life so that the youth may know they are valued by us and by God. Did God touch your heart through music in worship? Let that person know. Send a note or take that musician to coffee and take some time to be specific.

The verses below from Hebrews follow some amazing teaching on how God's Son, Jesus, has reconciled us to his Father once and for all and that we stand in God's grace because of Jesus' work. The writer then shares that God uses us to spur one another to be ever mindful of God's grace that continues to be poured out upon us and to serve him with grateful lives. The writer shares that this is important because Jesus is coming back. May our hearts and lives be ever expectant!

Don't be silent. If you see someone serving in small and ordinary way, **share your appreciation.**

Biblical scholar, Paul Kretzmann, wrote of the following verses, "While we are still walking in the flesh, we must take into account our own and our neighbor's weakness, and for that reason, in a tactful way, incite and stimulate one another to love and excellent works. ~Pastor Stephen

*We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things. We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.*

~Hebrews 10:24-25 GW

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 2016

*\*\*Pending approval*

**Pastor Report:** Pastor Stephen reported on how sermons and studies have been received and discussed upcoming series and worship services along with how people are being cared for in the St. John community.

**Primary Ed report:** Attendance average of 10 kids. We will be sad to lose the Erin & Mike T. family, they will be moving to Montana.

**Public Relations:** Kristi would be like to have someone else step up to do this position. She doesn't think the dollars we are spending on the phone book ad is worth it. We should be putting that money into website.

**Elder Report:** See elder report

**Thanksgiving Day** dinner will begin at 12:00pm.

### Treasure's Report:

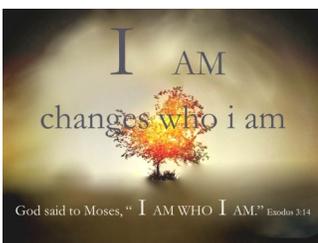
- Our contributions for September exceeded our expenses by \$3,725.00.
- Cumulatively, our expenses have exceeded our contributions by \$19,613.78. This was primarily due to the parking lot repaving project paid for in August.
- Our contributions are below our budgeted expectations but our expenses are tracking very closely to our budgeted expectations.
- We briefly discussed how to encourage giving in the summer months when we usually see a drop in our monthly contributions. (Thrivent has a program called Simply Giving which allows members to give even if they are out of town or on vacation.)
- David B. brought up that he and Elizabeth have checks sent directly to the church from their bank.
- Melanie also received bids for new blinds for Pastor's office.

**Youth and Family:** Zak W. reported that the Jr. and Sr. High Saturday nights are successful. It has become an outreach, as many non-member and believers are joining the group and participating. They are planning a community activity once a month. Sunday morning has been a challenge to get participation. We need more adult leaders and this is not happening. He has reached out the Whitney at Hope Lutheran for possible joint activities. They are seeking suggestions for a possible fundraiser in the spring or even this fall. Zak would like to post pictures of the youth on the St. John Facebook page. He would need administrator privileges to do this.

### Old Business:

- Sign west of town – Nick O. is pushing to update the name and put website and phone number of the church on it.
- Parking Lot/ front steps: Need to work on hand rails. Bob B. was thinking of having two hand rails with opening in the middle to accommodate funerals.
- Board Vacancies: Still needed Assistant Treasurer and Vice Chairman. A name was mentioned as a possibility for Vice Chairman.
- Hope Lutheran is looking to call a pastor in February. Dave has also said that St. John has set a goal of February to call a pastor.
- November Voter's meeting is scheduled for November 13th. Jim will discuss the Hope House. Three amendments need to be voted on to amend the constitution. The district sent information that this needs to be done by March 15, 2017. *Edited for space.*

### I AM Changes Who i am: 8-Part Sermon Series



Jesus' very good friend and follower, John, records many of the miracles that Jesus performed. In John 20:30-31 he writes, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." When we read of these signs, it is natural to wonder who is this miracle worker. In this sermon series we hear Jesus explain who he is in his own words. His answers change who we are as his redeemed people.

## BOARD OF ELDERS MINUTES –OCTOBER 2016

Pastor Weems gave his report, including an update on the Foundations sermon series, Sunday morning Bible study centered on 1 Peter, and ongoing ministry as he continues to get to know members and friends of St. John.

Dave noted that discussions regarding potential joint ministry with Hope Lutheran are a low key activity as we (SJ and the Call committee) explore our own vision and mission through the call process for our next pastor. The Call committee has been in contact with the Northwest District and is currently working through the congregational self examination process. Dave believes that a call could be extended early in 2017.

The Board accepted the following membership actions:

- transfer Pastor Guse and his family to King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia
- transfer Laura Lee V. to Hope Lutheran Church
- reinstate Eleanor S. into membership at St. John

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. The Board has a strong desire to work with our deacons to find areas where their experience and interests may continue to bless the ministry at St John.

Greg provided an update of the preaching schedule through November. Fred G. will lead worship and preach on October 9 and Jim W. will lead/preach on November 20.

Advent services and soup suppers are tentatively planned but need to be coordinated with Hope Lutheran.

The next Board of Elders meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

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The Call committee has met several times, and begun preparing information for submission to the Northwest District. As we began this task we came across several sources warning of mistakes congregations make in the call process. It's worth some consideration to reflect on some of these ways we might try to impose our will, rather than God's on this task.

First mistake: We don't commit to prayer from the beginning.

- The Call Committee needs your prayers. We begin and end each meeting with prayer, but we as a congregation need to humble ourselves before the face of God as we all seek to do his will.

Second mistake: We try to compensate for the shortcomings of previous pastors.

- We focus on what a Pastor should be, rather than on the weaknesses of others.

Third mistake: We have unrealistic expectations, looking to a new Pastor to solve every problem in the congregation.

- We know that God will call the right Pastor for St. John—not a superman problem solver, but the man God has planned for us.

Fourth mistake: We don't communicate with the congregation.

- We intend to have an update in every newsletter until this work is done. If you have questions, please ask.

Please pray that God will lead the committee and the congregation.

*Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. Proverbs 19:21 [ESV]*

The Call Committee: David B., Don C., Chuck H., Vicki J., Mark P., Jackie R., and Dave V.



### VOTERS MEETING

Our semi-annual voters meeting will be on Sunday, November 13th following Bible Class. A baked potato bar will be provided by Social Ministries.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Christmas dinner is planned for December 11th following Bible Class. Social Ministries will provide the main dinner. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite Christmas dessert or cookie. Help with set-up on Friday, December 9th at 10:30am and clean-up following the dinner would be appreciated.

### HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

We are holding a book fair at Barnes & Noble on November 12<sup>th</sup>. When you purchase items from Barnes & Noble, they will donate a portion of your purchase to our school. The proceeds will be used to support our library.

## Hope Lutheran Church

### Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00am-4:00pm

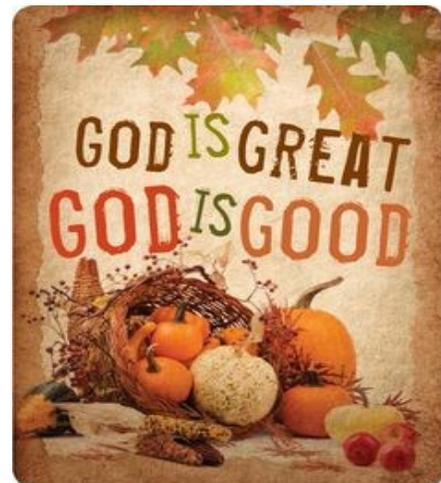


Over 25 Booths and Exhibits  
Crafts and Artwork  
From Southeast Idaho

Cinnamon Rolls  
Soup  
Sloppy Joes  
Pie A-la-mode  
Beverages

Served All Day!

**FREE ADMISSION**

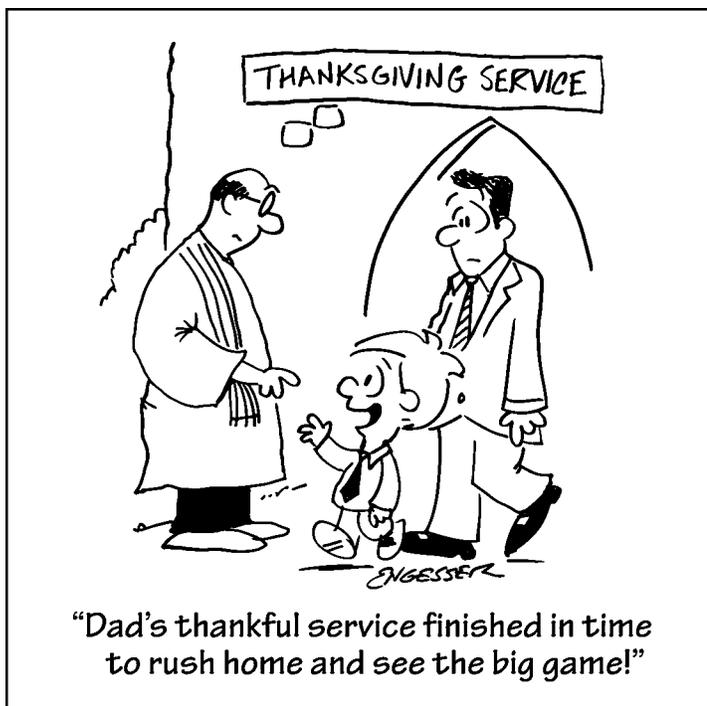


## HUMAN CARE

- Thrivent Action Team activity for Project Linus will be held at St. John Lutheran church on Thursday, November 3, from 10:00-4:00pm. Thrivent will be providing the fabric and no experience is required to make the fleece blankets. We just cut the fabric and tie knots! Project Linus gives these blankets to children under the age of 18 that are experiencing any kind of trauma. Lunch will be provided, please come spend whatever time you can with us!
- The Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Monday, November 7th from 3:00-7:00pm in the church fellowship hall in the basement. Call Sheila at 524-6180 or schedule online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) sponsor code: SJLC If you have questions concerning donating, call 1-800-RED CROSS.
- Our monthly fellowship potluck luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 8th at noon. Please make an effort to invite any veterans, so we can give them our appreciation for their service.
- Game Night is the third Friday of every month which is November 18th starting at 6:30pm. All ages are welcome and you are encouraged to bring your favorite game and snack.
- The Soup Kitchen located at 301 S. Blvd. 557-5750, they can use your help setting up, preparing, serving and clean-up. Our church is responsible for the fourth Tuesday of every month which is Tuesday, November 22 from 10:30-2:30pm or so. This is a great opportunity to serve in our community.
- We are serving a potluck dinner at St. John Lutheran church on Thanksgiving Day from noon to 4:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, please spread the word and sign up on the sheet at church, so we can have an idea of how many to plan for and what you are bringing. Games and family movies will be available and maybe even watching football! This is also an outreach to the homeless in our community, please make them feel loved and welcome.
- There will be a box in the Narthex to collect rulers, pencil sharpeners and dark large bath towels for Lutheran World Relief. This ministry is being collected by the LWML.

Thank you and God Bless, Sheila

*Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*





## Giving to Camp Perkins

### Two Online Donation Choices

<https://www.camptrak.com/ctw/donor/donorexpress.aspx>

1. **Donor Express:** Make a one-time gift with no login.
2. **Create a login** so you can access your account, see your giving history, set up recurring gifts and pledges, and donate without re-entering your contact information each time you give online.

### Importance of Gifts

Camp Perkins exists because dedicated camp friends give generously of their time, talent, and treasures in service to our King. Thank you to all who tirelessly serve and joyfully give.

Fees cover only about half of the true cost of camp. Gifts from congregations and individuals enable us to keep camp affordable for most families. Some youth need additional financial assistance in order to attend camp. No one is turned away because of financial difficulties.

### Your Gifts

- Provide camperships to young people and families who need financial assistance to attend camp.
- Maintain and improve the facilities.
- Assist with the development of new programs.
- Strengthen Camp Perkins for future growth and development.

### To Donate

- Make a gift online through our website using a debit or credit card.
- Set up automatic monthly gifts from your debit or credit card. Call our office for assistance.
- Set up automatic monthly gifts from your bank account through your bank's Bill Pay.

### Mail a check to:

Camp Perkins  
219 S. River St, Ste 203  
Hailey, ID 83333

### Donation Options

Most Critical Needs (Annual or General Fund)

The Annual Fund supports the general operations of Camp and is essential to keep Camp running. Annual Fund gift clubs (see below) have been established to recognize individuals who provide a strong base of support on an annual basis.

Become a Friend, Ally, Partner, or other contributor by making a donation to Camp Perkins. Your gifts are helping give children, families, and adults a Christ-centered experience that can change their lives.

### Campership Fund (For the Children Fund)

At Camp Perkins, we believe that every child, adult, and family should have the opportunity to experience Christ in community with others. Gifts to the FTFCF help children attend summer camp.

### Endowment Fund

Camp Perkins has a general endowment fund. The principle of these funds is protected while a portion of the interest/earnings will be distributed each year for ministry once the fund reaches \$500,000. The long-term health of this ministry is dependent upon the growth of these funds and the addition of new funds. Gifts through wills or estate plans are one avenue that helps grow the endowment. For more information on how you can make an endowment gift to Camp Perkins, please contact our office. **Phone:** (208) 788.0897

### Donate Tangible Items

*Camp Perkins always needs a variety of items. Items might include things like craft supplies for summer camp, tools for general site maintenance, bedding or paint supplies for the Retreat Center, or vehicles to send out more Day Camp teams to congregations. For a specific list of Camp Perkins needs, please click on the Items to Donate link.*