

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 Morning

Bible Study

9:30am

Men's Bible Study

7:00am
@ City Bagels

God's Work Starts in the Mess

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

~ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Who starts a devotional quoting words like this from Paul? Here's a better question: Who begins a church that includes people who are sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, practicing homosexuals, thieves, the greedy, drunks, abusive speakers, and cheats? Well, Paul was led by God to do just that. Paul entered into the messy business of sharing the love and forgiveness of God with messy people of Corinth. And God built a local church from them.

How did Paul get the idea that God's love and forgiveness radically transform people? First-hand experience. Jesus met Paul (known as Saul of Tarsus at the time) on the road to Damascus when Paul was His avowed enemy. Read Acts 9 again. His life was a mess. Jesus met him in the mess. The chapter in Acts that speaks of this meeting starts off with these words regarding Paul, he was "still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord."

Jesus did not tell Paul, "Get yourself together, Man. Clean up a bit so you will fit in somehow with my followers." No, Jesus knocked Paul off the horse he was using for his terror campaign to scare people out of trusting in Jesus. Jesus spoke truth. The evil Paul was doing he was doing to Jesus. Jesus would lead another follower to come to Paul to baptize him and to encourage and bring him care. Jesus loved Paul, poured out forgiveness, gave His own name to him as well as giving Paul the Holy Spirit.

In time, Paul would begin to look and act more and more like Jesus. No longer the persecutor murderously seeking people of faith, Paul was radically transformed by the love and forgiveness found only in Jesus. He would become a leading proponent of that faith.

Pastor Matt Peeples of Bethlehem Lutheran in Ridgewood, New Jersey, shares that Paul's experience with Jesus' love and forgiveness caused Paul to meet people where they were in life knowing that the love and forgiveness of Jesus is what begins to transform people to look and act like Him more and more.

So Jesus still meets us where we are whether we are just coming to know him by faith or whether we stand before the church and speak of Him each Sunday. He meets us fully aware of our faults, failures and insecurities, and his love and forgiveness continue to transform us. Pastor Matt exhorts, "Make space for Him to do that in other people's lives as well."

If we invite the community to bring their children to Vacation Bible School, if we serve our neighbors barbecue or breakfast, and we feast with them, they will bring their mess with them just like we did when we first came to know Jesus' love. We are invited to trust Jesus to work through the mess just like he continues to do in us because His love and forgiveness never leave a person unchanged.

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11) is true of us, and it is truly what God is still doing in our world today. Let's join Him!

Prayer: Lord, fill us with love for those in Idaho Falls who are still far from You. Create a space in our hearts to see past the mess and to see in each a person whom You created, a person You long to bring into Your family, and help us to seek from You how we might be helpful in connecting each to You. We praise You for meeting us where we were. We praise You that you did not leave us there. Amen.

In His Grace ~ *Pastor Stephen*



Please join us for our fellowship potluck luncheon at noon on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. In July, on the 9th, and in August, on the 13th. Invite your family & friends to join us!

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV



God Bless, Sheila K.



Thank you to all those contributing to **“First Sunday Food Offering”**

Your generous support of the Idaho Falls Community Food Basket is always very appreciated. If you are unable to bring donated items on the first Sunday, they can still be brought in throughout the month (except for perishable items) and placed in the grocery cart. Thank you. **Suggested items for July:** Macaroni noodles, canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, spam), peanut butter, toothpaste. **Suggested items for August:** Potatoes (fresh or dehydrated), fresh produce from home gardens (*best to take directly to the IFC Food Basket if possible* {at 245 N Placer Ave, Idaho Falls}), baby food and formula.

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

Hope Lutheran School is now enrolling for our 2019-2020 school year.

This year's theme is Joy:fully Lutheran and our theme verse is:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18(24)

This year marks some pretty significant changes to our school:

1. For the grades K-6 we are switching to a four-day school week. Students will attend classes Monday through Thursday.
2. The required school day will be from 8 am to 4:05 pm with an optional Expanded Academic Track from 4:05 pm to 5:30 pm included in the tuition.
3. The Expanded Academic Track includes our new Latin program as well as expanded S.T.E.A.M. activities including our new expanded music program.
4. Friday will be an optional Day-Camp with the morning focused on academic activities and the afternoon focused on the Bible.

We hope that these changes will make our school more accessible, as with the new model parents may be able to redirect funds they were paying towards afterschool care in the public system towards a Christian education.

Also, the staff at Hope Lutheran School would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the members of St. John Lutheran Church for the continued support you have shown us over the years.

For more information please visit www.hopelutheranschool.org



David J. Roth
Outreach Administrator
Hope Lutheran School
208.529.8080

Hosted

~A welcoming time together!

Join us July 12th & August 9th

For "Hosted - A welcoming time together"

We will meet at City Bagels (369 Shoup Ave.),
Friday evening, at 6:30pm.

Bring your favorite appetizer to share.

This is for all adults that would like to attend. Invite friends!
Beer and wine will be provided. This is a fun opportunity to
gather to enjoy fellowship & get to know one another better.

Hosted will usually be held once a month
on the 2nd Friday, so mark your calendar!!



Nursery care is available during
Sunday Worship for children infant - age 3,
from 9:15am ~ Noon.

The Financial
Summary is not
available this month.

Stewardship—it's not just about giving money.
It's about giving **everything**.

And serve each other according to the gift
each person has received, as good managers
of God's diverse gifts. —1 Peter 4:10, CEB



Board of Elders Minutes - May 2019

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

MAY Meeting (April 29, 2019)

1) Opening devotion on the conversion of Saul and prayer by Pastor.
2) Approved minutes of 4-1-19 meeting. 3) Reviewed status of Hope House. Elders aren't in an oversight position on the Hope House, but appreciated the update. 4) Pastor gave his report on NOW Start Network Conference. Ann & Jim W. attended with Pastor and visited a local dinner church. We will be given a \$1,000 grant from NOW if we start a dinner church. 5) Worship Services & Spiritual Life- No specific worship service song concerns were received by any of the elders present or Pastor. We discussed comments received from members who are concerned with the music changes after we responded to their concerns last month. 6) Member contacts and care units: Discussed a member's need for a ride to church. Asked that the Elder on duty be contacted prior to Sunday morning so a ride can be arranged if needed. Discussed other member needs and prayer request list. 7) New Business- a) Discussed if music oversight by Elders needed to change and if a music oversight committee needed to be formed. Music committee is not mentioned in the Constitution and Bylaws. Decided not to form a committee after discussion of the process that is in place at this time. We will continue to bring any specific song concerns to the Elders for review. b) Discussed Elders report for the May congregational meeting. c) Both Pastor and Cheryl will be out of town on June 19th & 20th. Cheryl will look for volunteer fill in to cover the phones, but Elders will be available for emergency calls. 8) Old Business: a)- Elders nominations for Church year 2019-20 were approved as: Todd 2014-20, Jeff 2015-21, Dan & George 2018-21, Gene Winter 2019-22. b) Discussed how current Elders and former Elders are being utilized in the worship services and the need to communicate worship service help needs.

(edited for space)

God is
our
Refuge
and
Strength



PSALM FORTY-SIX VERSE ONE

A HUGE Thank You to **EVERYONE**
who volunteered with VBS!!

If you prayed, distributed flyers, helped with crafts, snacks, water, donated funds, served as a class leader, helped prepare our grounds, or helped with any of the numerous “behind the scenes” tasks, **we appreciate each & every one of you!!** The children had a wonderful time learning that God is their Refuge & Strength and He is always ready to help when we call on Him.

None of it would have been possible without **your** help & prayers.





SCHOOL SUPPLIES



FISHing for Smiles

Last school year (2018-2019) FISH assisted 902 students. We spent less than \$10,000 providing \$45,100 in school supplies (had they been purchased at retail). This is made possible by careful shopping & the enormous outpouring of both large and small in-kind donations of supplies. As we are an all volunteer organization, only 3% of our budget goes to administrative costs. Our volunteers shopped for, packed and delivered 13,530 pounds of supplies.

Please consider helping in this effort for the upcoming school year by donating supplies and bringing them to the RCCM office at Trinity UMC, making a monetary contribution by mailing a check to FISH, PO Box 2236, IF, ID 83403 or helping pack and deliver supplies between mid August and mid September. Call Liz Herrmann at 208-522-0493 to volunteer to help with distribution. If you have any other questions, call Bev Kemp at 208-569-6149. **Thank you for helping us put a lot of smiles on children's faces as they begin the new school year!**

Did you know that St. John is part of the Stephen Ministry program?



Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times.

A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour.

If you know of someone (they do not need to be a member of our congregation) going through tough times, who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact the office.

Board of Directors / Congregational Meeting Minutes ~ May 2019

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

St. John Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting May 19, 2019 Called to order at 12:20 pm

1. Opening Prayer - Greg H. **2. Reading of the previous minutes.** Motion to accept by Bruce M., second by Dan K. Minutes approved as read. **3. Pastor's Report:** Delight in being your Pastor Just this last week, many opportunities to minister to congregation members. As I begin my 32nd year ministering in LCMS congregations, I sense God has me where he wants me. Vacation Bible School will be June 24-28: Praise Team is gathering members. Men and Coffee meets Friday mornings at City Bagel. Together we are following Jesus through Matthew's gospel. Greg Finke's book, "Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary"; Confirmation begins with the new school year. Our Licensed Lay Deacon, Paul P., & his wife, Karen, will be teaching with years of experience. Sunday Study – "A Life in Christ: An Introduction to Relationship with God": "Hosted: A Welcoming Time Together" takes place at City Bagel the 2nd Friday night each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Great time of being together & a safe opportunity to invite neighbors & co-workers to join you. **4. Elder's Report:** Elders have been assisting Pastor with visitations. Proposal for services to be held at Fairwinds in the future. Potential for additional Bible studies. Discussed possibly having communion services more often. Paul P. is working as an elder, but will not be voting. Reported that six youth and two adults are going to attend the National Youth Gathering. The elders are continuing to support the scholarship fund for those planning to go into full time church work. Elder's terms were discussed: Terms are 3 years & an elder can serve two consecutive terms. Dave V. is just completing his 2nd term. The congregation expressed their special thanks for his service. Todd M. has 1 year remaining of his term, Jeff P. 2 years, George P. and Dan V. both have 1 year and are eligible for another 3-year term. Todd M. nominated Gene W. for the BOE for a 3-year term. Second to the motion was made by Dan V. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Nomination was voted on - Passed. Revisiting of the worship music: In May of 2018 at the recommendation of Pastor & the BOE, the change was made for the Praise Team to lead the music. The elders stressed that they are not changing the Invocation, Confession & Absolution, Sacraments & the Benediction, & that they are committed to the Law & Gospel while not changing worship elements. The music is to be Biblical, proclaim the Good News, & be Christ centered. The matter of the music has been discussed at great length by the BOE & want to thank all the musicians for their dedication & time spent for the music. Organ is still available & we also have recorded music. The BOE recommend that we support their decision. There was much discussion among the congregational members. It was noted that the current process in choosing music is that Pastor & Greg H. make these choices. JoAnn B. motioned that we return to an alternating worship schedule - to hold a traditional, complete liturgical worship service with Lutheran Hymns (either with the organ or with CDs) on the 1st, 3rd, & when there is a 5th Sunday of each month; & have a contemporary service (with band instruments) the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. Elizabeth B. expressed a desire to be involved in a music decision group & suggested a blended service of praise worship & traditional. She proposed this as an amendment to the original motion. JoAnn refused the amending of her motion. Additional discussion from the congregation. Cheryl V. also proposed an amendment to JoAnn's original motion, of blending traditional and praise music in each service. This motion was also rejected by JoAnn. Dan V. called for the question, to JoAnn's motion, second by Dan K. Discussion stopped & secret ballot vote was held. Vote was 18 yes, 35 no. Motion did not pass. **5. Treasurer's Report:** Melanie M. wanted to list some of the activities that the congregation at St. John accomplished this past year, & thanks you for your support of these activities: boiler was replaced. roof was repaired, Code documentation & inspection requirements were obtained & a safety check was performed on the elevator. Funds were raised to send 6 youth & 2 adult leaders to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July. Funds were raised that would allow at least 10 kids to attend Camp Perkins at zero cost. A nursery attendant was provided during church & bible class. We maintained our giving to Fort Wayne Seminary, St. Louis Seminary, & the NW District & Synod. We supported Nichelle Dykema as she prepared for & undertook her mission to Peru. We supported Michaela B. with scholarship funds as she attends college to become a full time church worker. We supported our Hope House family. We supported Hope Lutheran School, Camp Perkins, the IF Community Food Basket, the Soup Kitchen, FISH (friends in service here), World Relief efforts, Braille, the Stephen Ministry program, 5th Sunday servant events, as well as Benevolent requests. (Continued on next page)

Melanie also wanted to thank Jackie R. for prayerfully considering & accepting the Treasurer position for next year. Proposed Budget for 2019-2020 is \$254,296.00 & that represents a decrease of \$660 as compared to our approved budget for this year. Motion to accept budget as presented by Dan K., seconded by Dan V. Discussion by congregation, then Mark P. called for the vote. Dan K. made second to stop discussion. Motion passed

6. Committee Reports

A. Social Ministries Report by JoAnn B. The special fund raiser was held on Friday, Feb. 8, to raise funds for our high school youth to attend the National Youth Gathering this coming July in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was a huge success, raising over \$6,500 and it was lots of fun too! We worked with Sheila's Human Care group to set up, serve & clean up for the 2nd Tuesday monthly potluck luncheons. St John hosted the soup suppers prior to the Wednesday evening Lenten worship services. We are thankful for the many volunteers who brought soup, rolls and desserts each Wednesday. The suppers were well attended & provided great opportunities for Christian fellowship for both St. John members as well as those from Hope Lutheran. A luncheon reception was provided for the family and friends of Val J. on Thursday, March 21 following his funeral and burial. The family was very appreciative. An Easter brunch was held in the Fellowship Hall following the Easter worship service on April 21st. Many thanks to the junior & senior high youth who helped with the meal set-up, serving and clean-up. A free-will offering was set up to assist in sending children to Camp Perkins. Carnations were handed out to all mothers following the church service to celebrate Mother's Day on May 11. The kitchen sinks have been cleaned up and all new faucets installed, as well as a new garbage disposal. Thank you Properties Committee!

B. Human Care - no report.

C. Properties Mark P. reported on the continued maintenance of the church. Contracts are in place for summer lawn care & winter snow removal. Long term plans are the windows and exterior improvements.

D. Hope House Jim W. reported that the occupant just moved out and was very appreciative of our help. There are repairs needed on the back wall and these repairs are planned for later this summer.

E. Adult Sunday School Alan M. reported that a new study will begin in approximately five weeks, with new sessions through the summer.

F. Primary Education Beth O. stated that primary education has seen a more consistent attendance in the primary and middle school classes. She appreciated all of the volunteers that have helped with teaching and leading the singing. There is room to grow and she would love to see an increase in attendance. There will be a "one room" summer Sunday school class with songs, games and lessons focusing on the Ten Commandments and the Holy Trinity. If anyone would like to help or teach please contact her.

7. Board of Directors Elections

A. Chairman Elect - Nomination of Bruce M., second to the nomination by Dan V. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion passed.

B. Assistant Treasurer - This position is currently open. There were no volunteers or nominations from the floor.

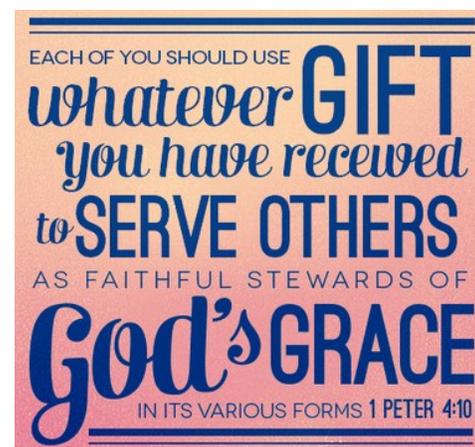
C. General Board Member / Member at Large - There are two positions open. Nominations of Sarah W. and Josh P. by Dan K. Second to the motions by Dan V. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Motion passed.

8. New Business Dave V. made the motion of moving the praise team to the back of the sanctuary within the next six months. Second to the motion by Elizabeth B. Discussion from the congregation. Vote: 6 Yes - 47 No Motion failed.

9. Outreach Committee - Jim W. reported that the Outreach committee will be hosting a community Sunday morning breakfast on June 30th to coordinate with the completion of VBS. Gathering at City Bagels - Just a reminder that all adults are welcome to City Bagels on the 2nd Friday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please bring an appetizer or snack to share to the "Lutheran Happy Hour". Beer, wine and beverages will be provided.

10. Closing Prayer - Gene W. Meeting adjourned.

(edited for space)



St. John was blessed to be able to share some benevolent funds with Tyler, who is currently serving time in prison. This donation will make his life more enjoyable while he completes his sentence. Below is a letter from Tyler, thanking us for our help. Tyler would welcome correspondence if you would like to write to him (contact the office for his address), and would like us to pray for him.

Dear St. John 3-28-19
My name is Tyler Taylor. I am a friend of Jim W. I wanted to let you all know that I received the \$130.00 the Church blessed me with to get a T.V. It means so much to me that anyone would do such a kind act and to show that there is still love outside these walls. I am so thankful that it brings tears to my eyes. I do not know how to repay you for the kindness you have showed. I still have 5 more years left on my sentence. My debt to Society. Thank you all so very much. Take care and God bless you all.
Your Friend / Brother Tyler Taylor



Camp Perkins Update

Camp Perkins has a new website design! Check it out at camperkins.org. Scroll through the new pages, and then search all the Camp Perkins videos on YouTube to get a feel for camp.

The Forest Service accepted the new Master Development Plan! This plan includes updating the cabins with bathrooms and making a few ADA accessible. It includes an expansion on the Lodge and making it accessible in the winter. These updates will make camp available to more people all year! Contact the camp office (info@campperkins.org or 208-788-0879) or use the "Donate" link on the website to set up a monthly donation to help with these improvements.

Every year, Perkins trains high schoolers in the LIT (Leadership in Training) program. These kids learn leadership skills that will benefit them through their entire life. Contact the St. John office if financial assistance would help send your child for this training & experience at camp.

The St. John campership fund is helping six children make it to camp this year! Thanks to everyone who donated. Please pray for all the campers and counselors this summer.