

## St. John Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

290 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

[www.stjohnministries.net](http://www.stjohnministries.net)

### Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday  
9:00am-3:00pm

Phone: (208) 522-5650  
[office@stjohnministries.net](mailto: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  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

10:30am - Fellowship

10:45am  
Sunday School  
& Bible Study

### Wednesday Bible Study

9:30am

### Important dates

December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Dinner

January 15<sup>th</sup>  
Deadline to change info  
for new directory.

See pages 2 & 3 for  
more information.



In Mission Points  
with Pastor Stephen

## Our Attentive King Reigns Graciously

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. *Luke 23:27-28*

The last Sunday of the church year, The Feast of Christ the King, is such a perfect lead into a new church year in which many of our readings come from the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew goes to great lengths to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the promised king, and that he will call God's people to himself and reign graciously over us forever.

In the Gospel for the last Sunday of the church year, Luke describes Jesus' walk to Golgotha where he willingly gave his life as a ransom for the world. So heavy was the burden that our Rescuer carried that the Roman soldiers conscripted Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross to which Jesus would be nailed. Luke describes a multitude of onlookers who follow and women who mourn and lament what is happening to Jesus. Even in such agony and experiencing unimaginable pressure, the Savior notices these women and speaks to them.

This king will be coronated on a cross. This is a different king. He is not an earthly king coming in temporary power and might who will do whatever it takes to draw power

to himself. This king will suffer, and bleed, and give his life that others may live. That you may live.

This king stopped and noticed these women mourning his imminent execution; this king notices your life too. This king notices our lives together as his Church, too. This king will call us to himself and will join himself to us throughout the end of 2019 and throughout 2020. He will speak words of forgiveness over us. He will remind us of the price he gave that we would be reconciled to God the Father. He will affirm that we are children of the Heavenly Father with him. This is a different king. This is The Reigning King of the World, The Reigning King of All things.

For He has  
**rescued** us from the  
dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the  
**kingdom** of the  
**Son He loves,**  
in whom we have  
**redemption,**  
the forgiveness of sins.

*Colossians 1:13-14*

You and I have been brought into his kingdom forever, and he reigns graciously over us today and all of our tomorrows.

*In His Grace, Pastor Stephen*



**Calling all Singers!** We are looking for people to sing with the Choir on Christmas Eve. We will only have **3 short rehearsals** (20 to 30 minutes) that will be held after Bible Class on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup> so attendance at each is important. No prior experience is necessary - just the desire to sing to our Lord. Call the church office to let us know you will be joining, or if you have questions.

## Christmas Dinner

**SAVE THE DATE!** Plan to attend the annual Christmas Dinner on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, that will be held immediately after Bible Classes.

Please bring your favorite Christmas dessert, candy, or cookies to share.

The social ministry team is providing everything for the meal.

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth!!



## Congregational Meeting Minutes ~ November 3, 2019

1. The meeting was opened with a prayer.
2. **Pastors Report:** a) The confirmation class has 11 students attending b) St John has sponsored 4 community dinners. We have 2 remaining for this period. We are averaging about 32 people per meal. The plans are to take what we have learned from these dinners. Assess what has worked and what needs to be changed for the future. We are planning on applying for a grant. c) Advent services are coming up. They will be held jointly with Hope at St John.
3. **Elders Report:** a) The mission for the Elders is to support worship life and services. b) Todd encouraged the members to reach out to the Elders when needed. c) The elders thank the praise band and musicians for their time and efforts. d) Additional Elder training is being provided.
4. **Missional Communities:** a) Youth Gathering: Julie V. talked about the youth gathering. Several of the young women attending are now attending a teen Bible study. b) Braille Workers: Pam told about the mission of the Braille group. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the LCMS. They make 5 different books of the Bible in Braille. c) Stephen Ministry: Stephen ministers receive 52 hours of training. The mission area has been ongoing for 4 years now. The group meets twice a month for continuing training. The group has contributed more than 400 hours working with care receivers per year. They currently have 10 members active in the ministry.
5. **Hope House:** Tonya shared what it means to be able to live in the Hope house and how she is using this time to earn a degree. It has been a tremendous blessing to her and has relieved her of much stress knowing her family is safe.
6. **Praise Team:** God has blessed St John with a number of people with musical talent. There are currently 11 musicians and singers. The team leads the worship songs for 3 out of the 4 weeks in a month.
7. **Scholarship:** Letter from Michaela B. read.
8. **Security / safety planning:** a) The Board is currently working on developing a plan for emergency preparedness & building security. b) The Board has reviewed federal recommendations and parts to be considered in making a plan. c) IFPD has met with members of St John and did a walkthrough of the facility, noting items we should consider to improve safety and security. d) The next step is to draft a security / safety plan. e) We are looking for people who would like to help in this process and help draft a document.
9. **Properties Report:** Mark P. provided an update of the recent properties actions. a) The elevator has been inspected and has passed. b) The sprinkler system has been winterized. c) The roof has been repaired. d) We have a new janitor cleaning the facility and she is doing a great job. e) The boiler system has been repaired and is in operational condition. f) The parking lot will need to be sealed / resurfaced soon. The estimate to complete this is about \$3,500. g) A major project coming up will be repairing the framing on stained glass windows in the Church.
10. **Treasurers Report :** Contributions have exceeded expenses for the months of August and September. However, donations to date are below the monthly approved budget.
11. **Social ministries:** A congregational Christmas dinner will be held on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.
12. **Closing Prayer :** Pastor Stephen lead the closing prayer.

(edited for space)



Please join us for our fellowship potluck luncheon at noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. This month, December 10<sup>th</sup>. In January, the 14<sup>th</sup>. Invite your family & friends to join us!

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ~ Romans 15:4  
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 amazing & always very appreciated. If you are unable to bring items on the first Sunday, they can be brought in throughout the month (except for perishable items) and placed in the grocery cart. As you may have heard, the annual food drive that the Boy Scouts hold fell 20,000 pounds short of what they collected last year. In light of this, we will be taking donations whenever you are able to bring them, not only on the first Sunday. Thank you.

**Suggested items for December:** Chili, canned beans (black, kidney, garbanzo), macaroni & cheese, deodorant. **Suggested items for January:** Applesauce, canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail), diapers. \*\*\**There is no preference to brand names of donated items. Generic brands are welcome.*

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 - October 2019

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

October 7, 2019

Advent services will be held jointly with Hope at St. John on Dec. 4, 11, 18.

Confirmation class started 9-22-19 with 10 youth. Paul & Karen P. are leading and may occasionally need additional help.

Fairwinds Retirement center has a full time leader for their Sunday worship services. St. John will provide backup leaders when needed.

Discussed the need / interest in adding an additional bible study class.

Following up with potential leaders.

Choir leader addressed. Contacted Vicki J. and she has agreed to lead a seasonal choir for Easter & Christmas.

Continued discussion of potential DCE Intern. Received information from NOW District to discuss with BOD.

Working with BOD on Security Policy.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

*(edited for space)*

**Important!!**

**Church Directory**

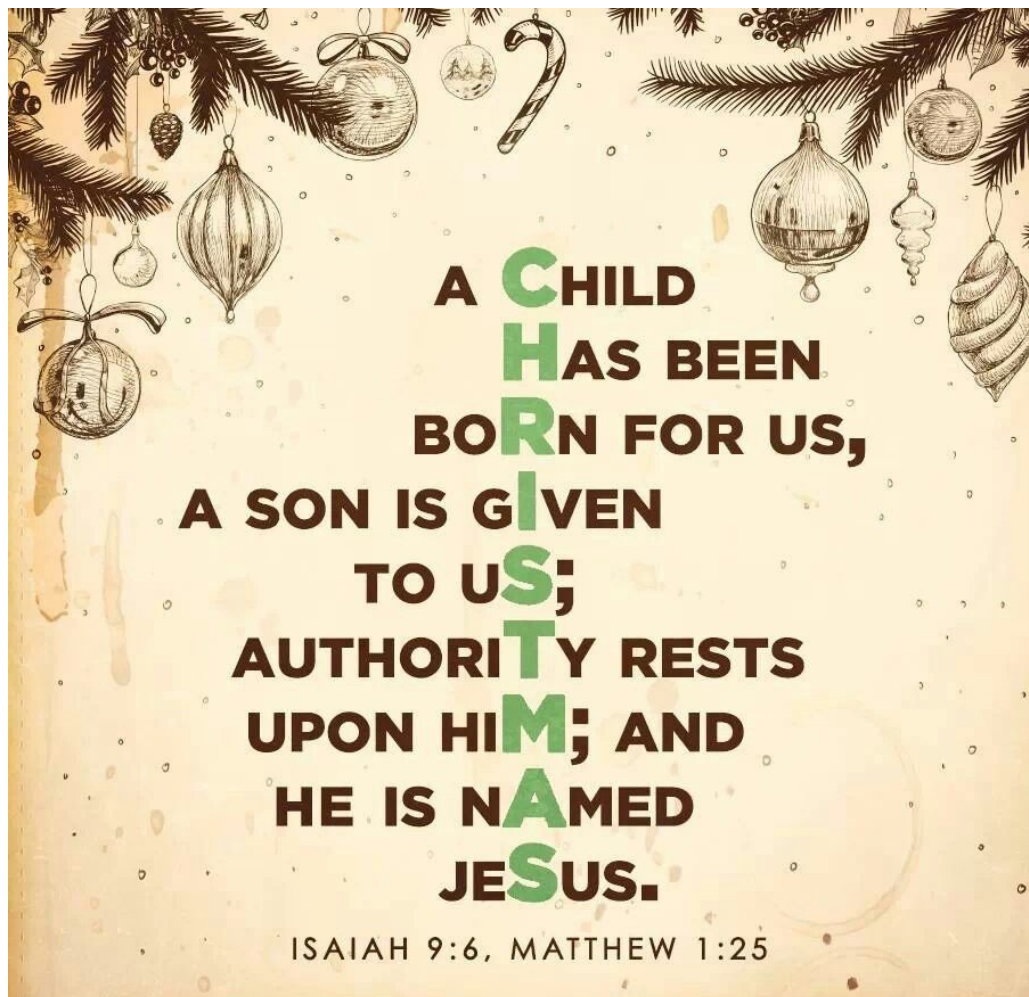
**UPDATE**



**Directory Update**

A new directory will be printed in January 2020.

Please call or email the office by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** if any of your information (phone, address, email) needs changed or corrected. **Thank you.**



## BENEFIT concert

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Bar J Wrangler Christmas  
Benefit Concert** for the  
Idaho Falls Rescue Mission is Thursday,  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm at the Colonial Theater.

Tickets are available to purchase online at  
<http://www.idahofallsarts.org/bar-j-wranglers>



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

**Stephen Ministers:** Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, **confidential**, 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 them once a week for about an hour. St. John currently has ten Stephen Ministers.

**Care Receivers:** Care receivers are people - congregation members and others in the community - who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life - experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis.

If you, or someone you know could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact the office.

**Hosted**  
*A welcoming  
time together!*

Join us December 13<sup>th</sup>  
& January 10<sup>th</sup>

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

Bring your favorite appetizer to share.  
This is open to all adults that would like to attend.

## Invite friends!

Beverages are provided. This is a **fun** opportunity to gather to enjoy fellowship and get to know one another better. **Hosted** will usually be held every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, so mark your calendar!!

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

