

Pastor

Stephen Weems
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**Director of
Christian Education**

Jacob Pralle
Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com

St. John Officers

Bryan Northcutt
Chairman,
Board of Directors
Jim Werner
Head Elder



Sunday

In-Person Worship
9:30am

9:30am Live-Stream:
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnidahofalls>

or:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqfTbbuM5U7-IFB7bMslQaQ>

Communion every
1st & 3rd Sunday

10:30am - Fellowship

10:45am

- Sunday School
- Confirmation
- Youth Study
- Adult Bible Class

**Wednesday
Bible Study 10:00am**

Advent by Candlelight
Thursday, Dec. 15th
(NEW Date)

Christmas Eve
7:00pm

Advancing Thanksgiving

In the last two weeks there have been many prayer opportunities for asking God for his healing care. There have been eight St. John members this week alone recovering from surgeries; not one of the procedures was a minor medical office visit. Each will require God's care to bring full mending and will require His loving presence as the mind and soul are affected by what our bodies experience as well.

Spend some time in Psalm 42 which was written for shared worship in the temple in Jerusalem. This and Psalm 43 are closely related and together include the lament of a temple singer who has been cut off from worship with others due to circumstances that have kept him away from Jerusalem. The writer likely had experienced the effects of drought, and he likens that experience to the thirst and longing for God and His people. **As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.** (vv.1-2).

The writer, too, is fully upfront with God that the longings of his heart and soul are for joy and ease to return as he is presently in the midst of suffering.

Illness and pain can knock us off balance, too. The writer says, **Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.** (v.7).

I recall times growing up in California of being broadsided by coastal waves and feeling like a ragdoll in the powerful, tumbling breakers. When we are in need of healing—be it a need for healing of the soul, mind, body or relationship—our steps feel uncertain, unsteady and even threatening at times. We can feel tossed about without a sense of control. These feelings can also come to family members and friends who witness the difficulty.

Even at that, the Psalm writer advances confidence and thanksgiving. I say “advances” because he may not feel confident yet, and he may not feel thankful in the moment. He advances confidence and thanksgiving because of his faith in a gracious and powerful God whom he believes will restore. **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.** (v.5). And again he praises God with these words: **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.** (v.11).

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.”

Romans 5:8-9

Jesus, the One who is our salvation and our God, has advanced to us His grace, mercy and forgiveness. Paul tells us, **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.** (Romans 5:8-9).

That advanced love from Jesus causes us to Advance Him Thanksgiving as we lift up our needs and the needs of our fellow members, family members and friends who need His attentive care as well.

In His Grace, Pastor Stephen

Deadline Extended!!



If you are new to our church family, have moved, have a new email / phone number, or had **any** other changes since last January, please let the office know so we can make sure we have your current and correct information listed. If you don't have a picture in the 2022 directory or your family has changed / grown, we would like to have a picture for 2023. If you need a picture taken, Cheryl would be happy to take one on Sunday (*or come by the church during the week if that is easier*). Please have all updates & pictures to the office by Monday, December 5th. *Thank you!*

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes ~ October 2022

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

Oct. 11th, 2022. Pastor Stephen started us with prayer. Opening devotion was led by Jim W. Pastor's Report: Attached. DCE Report: Attached. **Worship Services & Spiritual Life:** *Assignment of Elder Care Units* (Dan V). Dan will send out a list of members to the Elders by Thursday. The elders are to review the list. We will meet either by Zoom or in person to make care unit assignments. *Acolyte roster & training* (Jacob) Everything is in process. Jacob will coordinate with Paul. *Usher volunteers & training* (Jim) An usher duties paper was developed. Some modifications still needed. A list of members who are potential candidates was generated. Will coordinate with Dan K. and make contact to see if they are available to help. *New member approval:* None. *Confirmation Class:* Class has started. There are 2 in their second year & 4 in their first year. **New business:** *Octoberfest:* planning is in full swing. Looking at games for children. *Voters meeting:* Jim W. will identify a list of items to present to the voters meeting as to what the BOE are working on. Major theme is that everything is going well. *Commissioning Event for Jacob:* Jacob has received his call papers! A motion was made by Dan V. to have the installation service on Nov. 13th in conjunction with the Sunday Worship Service. Motion was seconded by Jeff P. Motion passed. St John is tentatively planning to hold a different type of Lenten service next year. Elders were asked to pray and think about alternative forms we could explore that would provide a greater interest to the congregation. We will discuss at the next meeting. **Old business:** Discussion of proposed changes to Elder responsibilities in By-Laws. This is a continuing effort that is currently being reviewed and discussed by the Elders. Preparation and status of Call Papers for Jacob - Action is complete! Additional participation for supporting Elders role on Sundays. The Elders reviewed the list and will make contact with those we feel could help us in this effort. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 1. A closing prayer was offered by Jacob.

(Full minutes on file in Church office)

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Blessed
to Be a
Blessing

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ~ October 2022

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

10/23/22 - Attending: Pastor Stephen, Bryan N., Jacob P., Carolyn P., Jim W., Mark P., Ben W., Lynn W., Suzanne S.

Pastors Report: 1) Oktoberfest had over 100 people (special thanks to Vicki J., Sandy & Troy T.) 2. Sunday study for adults: *Nurturing Your Faith: Forgiveness* produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries began October 9th. 3) Triad studies began on October 16th and will be going over "The Gospel Disciple Life". **DCE Report:** 1) Sunday school: adult class; triads have started & are going well, children; Brandy, Deb, & Morgan are volunteering. Pastor, Abby, & Jacob are putting together a Christmas program called "Light a Candle" (CPH). Post-confirmation study; struggling with regular attendance. 2) "The Next Chapter" (TNC) program is growing. Meets weekly on Mondays from 6-8 PM at St. John & Hope, with an average of 12-15 youth in attendance. Pumpkin Carving on Monday the 24th. New Study Idea: "Not a Fan" program was discussed. Camp Perkins has set dates for Junior High SnoJam (Confirmation Retreat) January 6-8th. Senior High Snofest (TNC Youth Trip) March 3-5th. 3) Friends and family nights are coming back on a quarterly basis. Next one is November 15th (Bingo night). 4) Ryan S., DCE from Grace Lutheran & Jacob are still meeting on a regular basis. "Regionalization plans" have begun for state wide youth activities. South Idaho / Logan, UT Fall Retreat planned for November 4-6th. 5) Jacob and Pastor met on October 11th with Eben Eddy and James "JT" Taylor from the Youth Commission International to discuss Christian community / leadership opportunities for youth in IF. 6) Jacob's commissioning set for November 13th, paperwork is all set. 7) Acolyte Training coming up for 10 youth. **Treasurers report:** (see previous page) Beth and Bryan have noticed that giving/spending report in bulletin can be misleading in certain months. Reporting figures differently in bulletin was discussed. **Properties:** 1) Bathroom sinks & fixtures were updated recently. Fixture in altar guild room installed; needs eventual refurbishment. 2) Discussed moving Braille room. 3) Mark P. and Dan K. have been working on upgrading sound system. 4) Basement window barriers – need upgrading. 5) Carpet funds are at 6K – need to look at carpet options soon. **Elders Report:** 1) Elders will be assigning new care units. 2) Looking for new ushers; training to be held next month. 3) Voters meeting November 20th, Elders may only have a couple topics to bring up there. Lunch to be held on that day. 4) Advent to be held jointly with Hope at St. John. Looking for different order of worship for upcoming Lent Season. 5) Bruce still working on historic status for building. **Social Ministries Report:** 1) Hosted had 24 in attendance! 2) Bunco going well. 3) Christmas brunch being planned. 4) Advent by Candlelight being planned. 5) Seder meal being planned. 6) Discussed annual garage sale event. **Security Team Report:** 1) CPR training discussed again – complete package costs \$1,100. 2) Cameras are working well; one has been installed in the kitchen. Looking into 4 new cameras for basement. **Old Business:** 1) Draft of building usage policy was sent out. Discussed figures for a required deposit. 2) Discussed possibility of Hope School using St John's facilities; preschool potentially to be held at St John. Discussed having St John's members at Hope School events for outreach. 3) "Adopt a family" discussed for Hope tuition model in future. Bryan N. to attend Hope Lutheran 50 percent of Sundays for school related business. Carnival at Hope school is Thursday night. Suzanne is spearheading moving Braille room elsewhere; took measurements. Is now discussing with Mark on plans to move. **New Business:** "Youth with a Mission" being investigated to potentially support. More information needed.

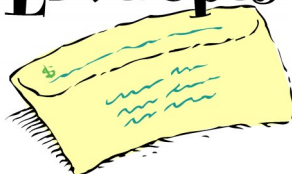
(Full minutes on file in Church office)

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St. John is no longer using the boxed sets of Offering Envelopes. Instead, please use the envelopes provided in the pews.

Offering Envelopes



If you would like a set of pew envelopes labeled with the Sundays of the Church Year, please email or call the office. Thank you.

"Coffee & Conversation"
after Worship is a valuable time to meet new friends and strengthen bonds in our St. John family!

It is an extra blessing when we have refreshments to enjoy.



There are always spaces available on the calendar where we are in need of a host!

You can host a Sunday by yourself, or share the fun & ask a friend to help! The sign-up calendar is located on the counter where coffee is served. Please take a Sunday to host. **Treats are optional, & can be homemade or purchased. Thank you!**

Youth News & Events


For more information on anything listed here, call or email Jacob at: Jcpralle.DCE@gmail.com or 208-522-5650

Who / what is "The Next Chapter"? Our group is based off the book of Acts, chapter 29. But wait, there are only 28 chapters in Acts?! The book of Acts tasks us with understanding how we can be directed by the Holy Spirit and the role of Jesus' lessons in our lives. God's mission did not end after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Like Peter and Paul, we too are challenged to be a part of The Next Chapter of His Church. This doesn't end with chapter 28, it truly is just the beginning!

TNC NEWS: Youth grades 6th to 12th, are invited to join The Next Chapter (TNC). We are meeting WEEKLY! We will meet during December on the 5th & 12th, and in January on the 9th, 23rd, & 29th from 6:00-8:00. See Jacob or contact by email for more details!



YOUTH SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS: Join us as we continue diving into our ROOTS! We will dive headfirst into life's big questions, yet more importantly, we will seek to find God's BIG ANSWERS! Bring all of your thoughts and wonders and prepare to come away equipped to answer those big questions!

JUNIOR HIGH SNOJAM @  **CAMP PERKINS** Lutheran Outdoor Ministries What on earth could there be to do at Camp Perkins in the middle of winter? How does tubing, broomball on the frozen lake, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bonding with friends, and an amazing time with Jesus sound?! This what to expect of Camp Perkins – Winter style! We'll be shuttled over the snow two miles into camp in a fully equipped van with tracks and skis. Spend our time worshipping, studying God's Word, sitting by a warm fire, and playing in the snow! We will be bringing youth, 6th-9th grade, for this weekend getaway on January 6th-8th! Registration is now open until December 21st. If interested, and for more details, contact Jacob



Important dates for December:

- 5th - TNC Youth Night - @ HOPE
- 11th - Children's Christmas Program ("*Light a Candle*") during Worship, followed by Christmas Brunch. (Bring a dessert to share!)
- 12th - TNC Youth Night -@ St. John
- 19th - Christmas Break! No TNC Youth
- 26th - Christmas Break! No TNC Youth

Important dates for January:

- 2nd - Christmas Break! No TNC Youth
- 6th- 8th - Junior High SnoJam @ Camp Perkins
- 9th - TNC Youth Night - @ HOPE
- 16th - MLK DAY (No School) - No TNC Youth
- 23rd - TNC Youth Night - @St. John
- 26th - I.F. LookUp Launch Event (6:00pm) (see enclosed flyer for details!)
- 29th (**Sunday**) - TNC Youth & Family Night - Snow Sledding!!! (1:30-5pm)



You can listen to The Lutheran Hour on these stations:

KAWZ: 89.1 FM ~ Sunday: 8:00am

KID: 590 AM ~ Sunday: 9:00am

KIDG: 92.1 FM ~ Sunday: 9:00am



Human Care



Thank you to all those who contribute to “**First Sunday Food Offering**”. Your generous support of the IF Community Food Basket is such a blessing to those who struggle with food insecurity. The Food Basket accepts donations all month long. Presently, the **greatest need** continues to be **funds to purchase food**. The food basket is able to use financial donations to purchase food in bulk for pennies on the dollar.

ESPECIALLY NEEDED IN DECEMBER: Cake mixes, gravy mixes, pie filling, yams, marshmallows for putting in holiday boxes.

Needed for January: Applesauce, canned fruits (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail), diapers.

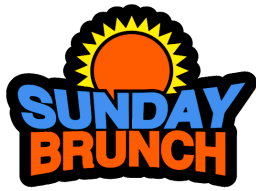
***Generic brands are welcome. ***Please, NO GLASS containers.

Please **mail** financial contributions to **IFCFB, P.O. Box 2236, Idaho Falls, ID 83403**

If you have any time to give, the IF Community Food Basket warehouse, (located at 1895 N. Boulevard), can **always use help wrapping diaper packages**. They also need help packing large family bags, as well as help with many other light / small jobs. Just show up and the staff will happily find a job for you!! Thank you for any amount of time you are able to share.



NO HOST



New Fellowship Opportunity!

Young adults (single, married, all are welcome!) are invited to join us for a new time to gather; "No Host Brunch". Our first get together will be December 4th at Perkins on Channing Way. We will meet at 11:00am.

We will meet at NOON on January 1st, 2023 also at Perkins!

This will be a time to get to know one another better while enjoying a great meal together!

Invite friends and plan to join us!



Join us as we celebrate Christmas with a meal and fellowship. Brunch will be held immediately following the Children's program on December 11th. Everything for the main meal will be provided.



All are welcome.

We ask that everyone bring a dessert to share!



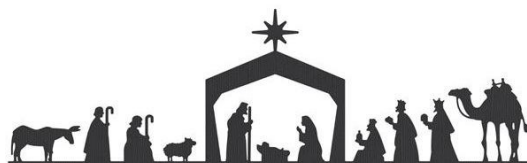
St. John offers care-giving through the Stephen Ministry Program

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 9 trained Stephen Ministers.

Care Receivers are people - congregation members **and others** in the community - who receive care from a Stephen Minister. A person does not need to be a member at St. John or of any faith community to receive care. Care receivers are people struggling through a difficult time in life - experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or any life crisis.

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

Christ, Our Savior is Born



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