

Services of Worship

Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am

Mondays

- Spencer 6:30pm



Pastor Ritchie Cole

Email: sjlc13pastor@gmail.com

Phone: 920-216-4292

Spencer Congregation: & Parish Office

210167 State Hwy 13

Spencer, WI 54479

715-659-5158

Email: sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

Riplinger Congregation:

W1776 2nd Avenue

Spencer, WI 54479

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/sjlcSpencer

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/spencerst.johns/>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer>

Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Nieman

Email: jennyfaith659@gmail.com

Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath

Wednesday 5:30 to 9 pm

Email: sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

For immediate assistance, call or text

715-507-0549

Deadlines

- Weekly email: **Tuesdays 9am**
- Sunday announcements: **Wednesday 5pm**
- Monthly Newsletter: **Monthly on the 20th**

Connect

August 2026

August 3 to 15: Pastor Ritchie will be on vacation. Pastor Bill Rice will share the message on August 9. If you need emergent Pastoral care, please contact Pam at 715-507-0549 and she will put you in touch with a Pastor.

Every Wednesday, 8pm, Faith Around the Fire, Middle and High Schoolers

August 12, 6pm. COME Planning Meeting

August 18, 5:30pm, Board Meeting

August 19, 1pm, Riplinger Ladies Circle



Serving: Pizza Ranch broasted chicken, macaroni salad, corn, banana cream or lemon cake. Volunteer to serve or donate food [here](#).

August 30, 6-8pm, High School Youth Night with Grace Lutheran & Hope Lutheran.

**The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.**

HABAKKUK 3:19, NIV



9am Worship at Spencer
11am Worship at Riplinger

August 2

Isaiah 55:1-5
Romans 9:1-13
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

Pastor Bill Rice will share the message
Job 38:4-18
Romans 10:5-17
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Romans 11:1-2, 13-15, 28-32
Matthew 15:21-28

August 23

Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 11:33-12:8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



Weekly Email Link

If you do not currently receive our Wednesday weekly email, newsletter and other electronic communications and would like to, please email the office for the link; sjlcoffice13@gmail.com
Thank you!!



Greetings in Christ!

The month of August is typically the hottest of the months in Wisconsin. The corn is tall, the tassels appear, the crops are all approaching maturity. School will start before the month ends. We begin to gear up for the fall, football begins, the pennant races are exciting to follow (go Brewers!). We work to fit the last of our vacation time into the calendar. This is the lull before the storm. Soon, everything gets busy again. It is easy to think how busy we are right now, but in truth, we have less going on now than most of us will next month. So, while we have a little less going on, perhaps it is a good time to establish some new habits. The experts tell us it takes a month-to-six weeks to establish a pattern in our life. Assuming this to be true, then we could have a new habit established by the time the Packers play their first regular season game. How about a habit where we spend some time with God every day? In the narthex area of St. John's Spencer and in the cubbie hole/mail slots area at St. John's Riplinger we have "Daily Texts". These are not like "Portals of Prayer" or "Daily Bread". These are books with an Old Testament Bible Verse and a New Testament Bible Verse for each day of the year. This is followed with a short prayer and then options to read the Bible in either a 2-year cycle, or a 1-year cycle, whichever you prefer. I use the 2-year cycle, and to do all the readings each day takes less than 20 minutes. If you're feeling especially ambitious, these books also have Luther's Small Catechism and Explanations as well as Luther's method of praying "T.R.I.P." which is Thanksgiving, Regret, Intercession, Purpose. Other items in this book include Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran Pastor in NAZI Germany who was arrested and executed for being the Spiritual Advisors to those who attempted to assassinate Adolph Hitler) and his method of meditating on Scripture, and other helpful hints. This book has a lot of ideas to help you build new, positive habits in your life. Take a look and give it a try. Go with God, Pastor Ritchie

UPCOMING EVENTS



August 3 to 15.

We pray Pastor Ritchie's time away
will be refreshing and relaxing!

Pastor Bill Rice will share the
message on August 9.



COME MEAL HELP

Meal Prep Brainstorming Session And Informational Meeting

August 12th at 6pm

Anyone interested in brainstorming a new way to facilitate and serve
the Community Outreach Meal for Everyone (COME) is encouraged
to attend.

For two decades, this ministry has provided a free nutritious, hot meal to
anyone who chooses to attend. More than just serving food, our goal has
always been to nourish both body and soul by offering hospitality,
fellowship, and a welcoming place for our community.

Each month, we prepare approximately 100 meals for both
dine-in guests and carryout.

The meal is served on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 5 to 6pm.

Our longtime meal coordinator, who has faithfully overseen the planning,
preparation, and serving of the meals, will be stepping down after the
August meal.

If you feel called to learn more, attend this meeting or contact
Peggy Labrensz, 715-383-5699, labrepjl@gmail.com or
Rudy Nieman, 715-223-9579, rudynieman@yahoo.com



Summer Fun Nights

Wednesdays at 8pm.

All 5th-12th graders and their friends are invited
for bonfires, games, and a short outdoor worship.
Bring a lawn chair, wear shoes to run/play games
in and dress according to the weather.

Questions, contact Jenny at 715-613-3636 or jennyfaith659@gmail.com



Youth Night

St. John's in Spencer, Grace Lutheran in Nasonville,
Hope Lutheran in Edgar.

BON FIRE, GAMES, SNACKS, WORSHIP AND LOTS OF FUN

August 30, 6 to 8pm
Hosted by: St. John's
210167 State Hwy 13, Spencer

QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JENNY:
jennyfaith659@gmail.com
www.stjohnsspencer.com

SHARE YOUR GIFTS!



Cherokee Park Worship, Potluck & Fun Day

Please contact Peggy Labrenz if you are interested in helping to plan a fun day, worship, picnic style potluck at Cherokee Park. 715-383-5699 or labrepjl@gmail.com

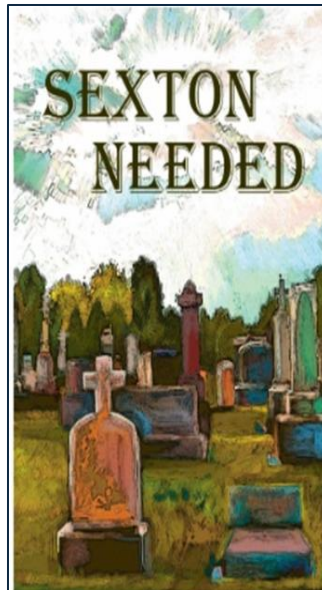
The LORD will guide you continually...
You shall be like a watered garden, And like
a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Isaiah 58:11, NKJV

FAITHFUL FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY & SOCIAL GROUP

**Interested in being part
of Faithful Friends
(a group focused
on those 60+)
and/or cofacilitating
activities or a
Bible Study?**

Please let:
Faye Lang 715-650-8898
Peggy Labrenz 715-383-5699
Rudy Nieman 715-223-9579 know.



The Sexton is a member of the Cemetery Board, appointed by the chair of the congregation. The sexton facilitates the purchase of gravesites, keeps and updates detailed maps of the cemetery, including the layout of the lots and individual plots, coordinates casket and urn opening and closing with the funeral home or family and coordinates monument placement with the monument company. If you would like to learn more, please contact Rudy Nieman, 715-223-9579;

rudynieman@gmail.com

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tech: run computer for projection during worship; need to arrive 30 minutes early to be prepared and begin slideshow.

Sound: operate the sound board during worship adjusting settings as needed; need to arrive 15 minutes early to be prepared.

Hospitality: bake 3 dozen treats, coffee, juice and serve hospitality following worship.

Sermon Recorder Needed: As you may have noticed, our Sunday sermons haven't been posted on our YouTube channel recently. We're looking for two or three volunteers to take turns recording the message during Sunday morning services. These recordings are not only shared on our YouTube channel but are transcribed and shared with our shut ins as well.

TRAINING PROVIDED.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

Please let Pam Hardrath know if you would like to be added to the schedule, 715-507-0549, sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

Questions, contact our Minister of Faith Formation, Jenny Nieman,
jennyfaith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to everyone who helped with the five Wednesdays of VBS. Each night was filled with Bible story, games, crafts, and Bible songs. Those that helped: Ryan Hardrath, Melissa Steuber, Jeremy Lewis, Rachel Nieman, Jordan Bonnar, Bailey Chamberlain, and Danica Plaskey. Fifteen kids attended each of the VBS nights.



Mission Trip 2026

Five youth and four adults left Spencer headed to Barnesville, MN on July 19. The week's theme was Illuminate- John 1:5; The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. During the week, each participant worked on freshening up a resident's home by scraping old paint off houses, decks, improving the safety outside of the homes by strengthening railings and decks; and building new decks and steps. 270 participants from 16 churches in 11 states from 2 countries (US and Japan) formed 45 crews of workers, they worked at 34 homes for a total of 8,100 hours of service and altogether completed 100% of the work that was assigned. Throughout the week, participants donated 2,632 nonperishable food items to be given to the Dorothy Day food pantry and CAPLP. On the evening of Friday, July 24, the residents joined the 270 participants to celebrate the work that was done and to say their final goodbyes to the work crews they have come to know and love throughout the week. It was a grand celebration and a highly emotional ending to a great week of service and growing in faith for everyone. St. John's participants traveled back on July 25, led worship and shared their experiences on July 26. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us during the week, prayed for safety and growth and supported us throughout the year.



UPDATES



Special Congregation Meetings

July 19, the meeting was adjourned without a vote taking place to approve the revised Cemetery Constitution. More information coming soon.

August 2, by unanimous vote the congregation approved for Spiritual Care: Glenda Fellenz and Dave Buse; Liaison, Travis Hardrath; and Recording Secretary: Teri Schorer to serve until the next Annual Election. They will join Spiritual Care: Rudy Nieman; and Liaisons: Peggy Labrensz and Faye Lang. At the Board Meeting on August 18, a new chair and vice chair will be appointed.



Amazement Ministry Update:

Amazement Ministries has been hired. Their team is reviewing our current constitutions and will be providing input to the appropriate boards.

Amazement Ministries prefers to have a central contact from each location they partner with. If you have a concern, please reach out to a board member or Pastor Ritchie and they will discuss your concern with the Amazement Ministries team and get back to you. If your concern is confidential, please reach out to a board member or Pastor Ritchie, letting them know it is confidential and they will provide you with contact information. If you have any questions, please reach out to a board member.

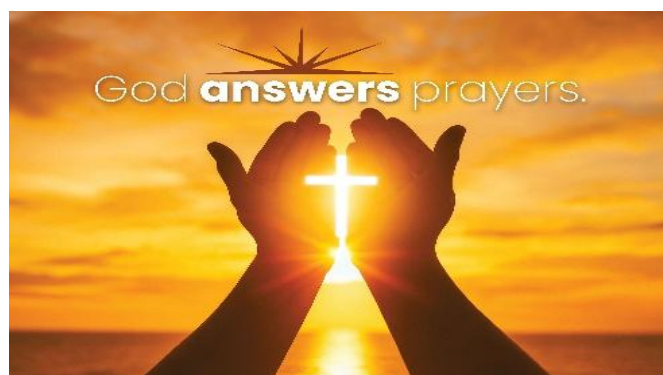




1	Wayne Hempel
2	Dorene Matter
3	Lorna Cole
	Cindy Weiler
	Jasmine Ertl
4	John Meacham
5	Paul Leezer
6	Gloria Seefeld
7	Abigail Wilke
10	Inez Fosberg
	Trevor Ertl
	Devyn Schmidt
11	Charles Bruesewitz
	Paige Lawrence
12	Amanda Schjoneman
	Daniel Wilke
	Aurora Gerber
14	Mary Ott-Kilty
16	Gail Jicinsky
	Jenny Leonhardt
17	Jerry Neumann
	Alec Cook
18	Elizabeth Meacham
20	Larry Hamus
	Ramsey Schjoneman
21	Lois Block
	Amy Schmidt
	Sophia Bant
23	Nancy Dietsche
24	Scott Shupe
	Eric Craft
25	Ryan Griepentrog
26	Roger Shupe
27	Wyatt Bauer
28	Rhonda Weix
	Rachel Nieman
	Kinley Krause
31	Kyler Hardrath
	Leroy Burns



1	April & Rod Smazal	17
2	Jeremy & Ashley Vogel	18
5	Jayson & Vicki Dekarshke	3
7	James & Audrey Hopfensperger	55
13	Travis & Ashley Stroetz	10
14	David Kilty & Mary Ott-Kilty	8
20	Jeff & Holly Weyer	21
21	Alan & Mary Seefeld	44
24	Thomas & Penny Vinnedge	24
26	Jim & Peggy Christopherson	37
27	Randy & Dorene Matter	38
31	Matthew & Amy Schmidt	24



PRAYER LIST

Those with short-term health concerns: Hannah & River Rossow, Jeffrey Klement, Karen Winkler, Dale Fehrenbach, Norman Snorheim.

Those with long-term health concerns: Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Wayne Hempel, Susan Howe, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Tammi Schiferl, Darrell Schillinger.

Those with cancer: Candyce DeNoble, Wayne Hendrickson, Ross Rucker, Cliff Taylor, Tom Steiner.

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Lois Block, Audrey Helsten, Grace Maines, Doris Seefeld.

Please contact the office if you are available to serve in open spaces. Thank you!

silcoffice13@gmail.com



	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Greeter	Bob & Glenda Fellenz	Faye Lang	Inez Fosberg	Bob Haas	Lori Kops
Usher	Brad Helsten	Jim Christopherson	Milt Viergutz	Brad Helsten	Jim Christopherson
Usher	Paul Leezer	Janine Luepke	Alan Seefeld	Paul Leezer	Harry Vogel
Tech	Ryan Hardrath	Bruce Luepke	Tracey Ackman	Pam Hardrath	NEEDED
Sound	Travis Hardrath	NEEDED	Mary Seefeld	Janika Helsten	NEEDED
Reader	Glenda Fellenz	Jim Christopherson	Milt Viergutz	Glenda Fellenz	Lori Kops
Communion Assistant	Lori Helsten	Ashley Stroetz	NEEDED	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel
Basket Bearer	NEEDED	Brooklynn Stroetz	NEEDED	NEEDED	Cohley Vogel
Hospitality	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED	Pam Hardrath	Lori Kops
Riplinger	Trish Porter	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Heidi McBride	Brenda Newman

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer>



Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger
June 7	56	16
June 14	19	20
June 21	28	30
June 28	37	16

Save the
Date!



26 Kuester Family Reunion 9:00am Worship at Spencer, Led by Mission Trip 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	27 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	28 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 5:00pm COME Meal 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	29 8:00pm Faith Around the Fire	30 6:00pm Secretary in office	31 Pastor's Day Off	1 Pastor's Day Off
2 9:00am Worship at Spencer; Special Congregation Meeting 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	3 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	4 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation	5 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 8:00pm Faith Around the Fire	6 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 6:00pm Secretary in office	7 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation	8 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation
9 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion	10 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	11 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation	12 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 6:00pm COME Meal Planning Meeting 8:00pm Faith Around the Fire	13 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation 6:00pm Secretary in office	14 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation	15 Pastor Ritchie on Vacation
16 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	17 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	18 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30pm Board Meeting	19 Secretary in office 1:00pm Riplinger Ladies Circle 6:00pm Secretary in office 8:00pm Faith Around the Fire	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 Pastor's Day Off
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30 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:00pm High School Youth Night	31 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	1 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours	2	3 6:00pm Secretary in office	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Pastor's Day Off

An electronic copy of our calendar can be found on
our website:

<https://www.stjohnsspencer.com/calendar>

Spencer Church Board Contact Information

Spiritual Care:

Rudy Nieman rudynieman@yahoo.com

Glenda Fellenz rglfellenz@gmail.com

Dave Buse buse@live.com

Liaisons

Peggy Labrensz labrepil@gmail.com

Faye Lang faisy1946@gmail.com

Travis Hardrath tpkrh4@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Teri Schorer tschorer82@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Kris Ovans goobervns@hotmail.com

Riplinger Council Contact Information

President: Brenda Newman riprider53@gmail.com

Vice President: John Meacham ijmeacham@msn.com

Secretary: Trisha Porter porter440@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Karla Kilty karlakilty2@gmail.com

Member 1: Sharon Hamus sharonhamus@gmail.com

Member 2: Dave Newman riprider56@gmail.com

Member 3: Jane Meacham ijmeacham@msn.com

SHUT IN ADDRESSES

Lois Block 402 Dehne Drive Colby, WI 54421

Audrey Helsten 106469 Highway 153 Spencer, WI 54479

Marshfield Health Services Grace Maines 814 W. 14th Rm. 403 Marshfield, WI 54449

Doris Seefeld 312 Dehne Street Colby, WI 54421



Spencer Board Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2026

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Wayne Hagan at 6:03pm.

Those present are Wayne Hagan, Peggy Labrensz, Faye Lang, Pastor Ritchie Cole and Rudy Nieman. Visitor: Kris Ovans- discussed some concerns on where she is supposed to put various funds that come in and she doesn't always have a clear account to put the funds in. Some options were given, including creating new accounts if necessary, and discussing with Pastor, or someone else when those funds come in and how to handle individual cases. Will look into possibility of getting special envelopes for various unique events, such as fees for youth classes and events.

Discussion regarding Rudy's position on the board. He was originally approached about filling an open Spiritual Care position. Then, when the Recording Secretary became vacant, it was a question regarding what position he would fill. It was decided that Rudy is filling one of the Spiritual Care positions and by default, he will be the Acting Chairman of the Board until the next election.

Peggy, Wayne and Teri Schorer will be signers on the various bank accounts moving forward. Pastor will take care of getting the appropriate documentation to the bank and making sure everything is set up moving forward.

The sound boards for the Fellowship Hall have been ordered and we are waiting on their delivery.

We will have a special meeting on July 19, 2026, which has previously been announced to have the congregation vote regarding a new constitution for the cemetery which addresses concerns previously raised. It has been brought up by Rudy that any proposed changes on a constitutional item need to be made by a committee of at least 11 people. This constitution was proposed by a committee of 5. This also applies to the constitution committee for the proposed amendments to the churches constitution.

It was agreed that if we gain 11 members signatures on the proposed changes it will meet the standard. Previously it was decided we needed to have Certificates of Insurance from the organized groups who use our facilities on a regular basis. This is a normal procedure when a third party is using facilities such as ours. We have sent a letter to these organizations requesting this information be in our hands no later than July 31, 2026.

Repairman was out to look at the dishwasher to determine why it had suds after a rinse cycle. It was determined we were using the wrong type of sanitizer. We had a bottle of the correct sanitizer on hand so this has been resolved. The "sudsing" type of sanitizer is to be used for wiping counters, etc. A wish list of items we are looking to purchase for the church will be posted on the bulletin board for people to review. Discussion about making some of these items into "Capital Campaigns".

In new items, Operation Christmas Child was brought up by Peggy. She has received a letter regarding this project and has discussed it with Pastor Ritchie earlier. It is a program run by Samaritan's Purse, which is a reputable Non-Profit organization. Peggy will be looking for volunteers to move this project forward.

Meeting adjourned 7:23pm

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Ritchie Cole



Checking Account Balance: \$23,740.13

Income: \$6,398.00

Expenses: \$16,941.09

Difference (\$10,543.09)

Riplinger Quarterly Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Brenda Newman.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. John Meacham made a motion to file report for audit. Second by Keith Porter. Motion approved.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: We received a letter from Zion Lutheran Church in Colby, requesting a transfer for Amanda Blair.

There will be a meeting on July 29th at 10 am to discuss future worship services. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Karla Kilty is checking on better rates for the church property insurance.

Motion made to adjourn by Dave Newman. Second by John Meacham.

Motion approved.

Recording Secretary,
Trish Porter

