



connect

JANUARY 2024

Services of Worship

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am
- Spencer 6:30pm

Spencer Congregation:

Parish Office

210167 State Hwy 13
 Spencer, WI 54479
 715-659-5158
 Email: sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

Riplinger Congregation:

W1776 2nd Avenue, Spencer

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/sjlcSpencer
www.facebook.com/Riplingerchurch/

YouTube

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

Pastor Jeff Siegel

Email: sjlcpastor13@gmail.com
 Cell: 715-615-2458

Office Hours:

Mondays 9am to 1pm
 Wednesdays 5 to 9pm
 Also available by appointment

Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Nieman

Email:

jennyfaith659@gmail.com

Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath

Wednesday 5:30 to 9 pm

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

For immediate assistance, call or text Pam at 715-507-0549

Deadlines

- Weekly email:
Tuesdays 9am
- Sunday announcements
Wednesday 5pm
- Monthly newsletter:
20th of each month

ANNUAL MEETING

Riplinger

January 21, 2024 following 11am worship

Spencer

January 28, 2024 following 9am worship

Notes of THANKS

December 19,

As we approach the manger this Christmas, we have the opportunity to share in giving the Christ child the gifts of the magi. I wanted to thank the following people for doing this in the following ways recently:

For everyone who signed up to help serve during one or more of our Christmas services and for those who have volunteered to lead worship and/or provide a message: Al & Gail Jincinsky, Jenny & Rudy Nieman.

For Jenny Nieman and Marsha Martens for their role in leading the Children's Christmas program this year together with the parents who support the effort and especially the kids who were so cute, talented, and courageous in sharing the Christmas story for us. YOU can watch the program [here](#).

For Lori Kops for organizing and coordinating our Giving Tree this year and all who helped make this happen behind the scenes, through giving, shopping, etc. The families were very appreciative, grateful, and relieved by your generosity and love.

For Al & Gail Jincinsky for donating and installing a large 70" TV in the fellowship hall that can now be used for a variety of purposes.

For all who have been spreading goodwill and cheer and for all who are prayerfully discerning whether God is calling them to serve on the Church Council next year, in one capacity or another.
 Pastor Jeff.

PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER

Readings (AM Worship)

January 7

Genesis 1:1-5
Romans 6:1-11
Mark 1:4-11

January 14

Pastor will be at Districts.
Joan Bruss is sharing the message.

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18
John 1:43-51

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Due to the numerous activities occurring in the building we are asking that the first person to arrive after it snows, please shovel a few swipes in front of the door and at least one side of the sidewalk by the bell tower. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy New Year Friends!

It was a joy to finish the year with you all over Christmas! I would like to thank everyone for helping with serving at the services, for your behind-the-scenes work, and for bringing friends, family, and others to worship! We touched over 300 people through our combined Christmas Services this year! Now, we are called to pray that the Christmas messages will work in the hearts of all who came, changing each heart from within. Likewise, please pray that each one follows the signs God provides, back into his loving arms. By God's grace, we now have 3 worship times each week with differing formats, empowering us to provide options that best meet the needs of our new seekers! Please speak well of each and pray for all of them :).

As a reminder, we have:

9am Spencer Blend of traditional and contemporary worship, weekly communion, and message.

11am Riplinger Traditional worship, 2nd Sunday communion with communion rail, and message

6:30pm Spencer Simplified Contemporary worship, weekly communion, and interactive Bible study

As we adjust to the new year, we are wise to reflect on the gift of grace that has made us new creations in Christ (II Corinthians 5:16-21)! This new life is one of living as a forgiven sinner, having peace with God through the cross of Christ! It is a loving relationship we have been given by God and one in which each of us is called to offer those around us, as his ambassadors! One way to do that is to share our Christmas message with those who may have missed it! This year, we have made it easy for you to do this :). Many of you may have already posted to our social media sites the selfie pictures we took during the services - great job! You can also share the links to our three different Christmas messages:

Christmas Eve Morning ([link](#)) Christmas Eve ([link](#))

Christmas Day ([link](#))

As we look forward to following Jesus together, the Scriptures remind us that what matters most is "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6)! God's love is described in I Corinthians 13:1-13. I would invite each of you, including me, to read this full chapter each week, even each day, as it will help shape our growth in faith and service. In the end, living out this aspect of God's divine nature is what will draw others to and help them see our savior and risen king (John 13:33-34)!

I love you all,
Pastor Jeff

UPCOMING EVENTS



Council Positions

In preparation for congregation elections at the annual meeting in January, we are in need of nominations for all of the positions listed below. Any active,

confirmed member is eligible to serve. Active members have attended worship and financially contributed in the past 2 years. You may indicate your own interest or nominate other individuals from the congregation by contacting [Rudy Nieman](#). All names submitted will be contacted to secure a commitment and willingness to serve if elected.

Your job is to seek out individuals to help you fulfill the duties of your position. In no way, are you responsible for carrying out every responsibility on your own. All terms are 14 months unless otherwise specified.

Vice-Chair (2 years - 1 year as Vice chair followed by 1 year as Chairperson) - The first year of this position as vice chair has the primary responsibility of learning the topics and issues before taking over the second year as the chair; preside at meetings in absence of the chair and serve on the executive and nomination committee.

Recording Secretary Keep accurate minutes of meetings of the Congregation Council and of the congregation; keep an accurate record of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, and any updates or changes as they occur; maintain an accurate list of membership of all committees and boards; conduct correspondence as necessary. Serve on the executive and nomination committee.

Financial Secretary Receive all incoming contributions; Deposit all contributions into the appropriate financial institution with deposits designated for specific budget categories. Serve as chair of the counting committee.

Worship Director Works with the pastor and volunteers to prepare and organize meaningful worship services that inspire, uplift, and encourage. This includes

helping with the planning and coordination of ecumenical worship services.

Beyond Our Doors Director Work with volunteers to help members of the congregation understand and respond to needs within the community, the nation, and the world so that the congregation can demonstrate God's love and serve those in need. This includes support in the following: Community Outreach Meal for Everyone (COME), food pantry, giving tree, community care walk, Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, and other local, national, and international needs as they arise.

Congregational Care Director Work with volunteers to facilitate and encourage activities which support and care for all members of our Congregation. Coordinate new member orientation, assist with visitor follow up, arrange visits with members of the congregation who are hospitalized, home bound or reside in long term care facilities.

Food, Fellowship and Fellowship Director Work with volunteers to plan and organize ways to celebrate as a congregation together to build strong relationships. Organize church wide function and other functions as needed to promote and encourage the congregation to share their talents, food and blessings.

Buildings and Grounds Working with volunteers, this position is responsible for the overall care, maintenance, and improvement of the church's facilities and grounds to ensure a safe and well-maintained facility.

Cemetery Committee (3 persons for a 3 year term) - responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church cemetery.

Audit Committee (2 people)- responsible for going through a few months of the church finances.

Spencer's Annual Report will be available before January 14.

In agreement with Brenda Newman, Riplinger's Annual Report will be available at the Annual Meeting.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CHANGE PROPOSAL

Questions: Please contact Spencer's Chair Person: Rudy Nieman 715-223-9579 or a council member.

Church Constitution & Bylaws



The Council will be proposing a constitutional amendment on January 28 at the annual meeting. The proposal is to change the financial responsibility of St. Johns of Spencer from 70% to 75%. There are a few reasons to consider this amendment. First consider the amount of time, resources, and utilization of Pastor that the Spencer congregation consumes. During one week Spencer conducts 2 worships services, 3 bible studies, 1 of which Pastor leads, (4 if Men's meets that week) and Cross Training which is primarily Spencer youth. Riplinger has 1 worship service. Second, with worship in mind, Spencer has an average attendance of roughly 76 people at the 9am service and 23 people at the 6:30pm service vs. Riplinger average attendance of 15 people.

Third, take into account the active membership lists with Spencer at roughly 285 and Riplinger at 40.

As Christians, we are called to take care of God's creation and spread the word of God. It is no secret the activities and membership of St. John's Riplinger have diminished. This proposal would reallocate about \$6,000 of expenses from Riplinger to Spencer. As the membership of Riplinger has decreased so has the amount of money flowing in. While this proposal is unprovoked, I believe this act would be in good love to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rudy Nieman



UPCOMING EVENTS



Gwen Thomas would appreciate help taking down and cleaning up Christmas decorations following 9am worship on January 7. Thank you!

POINSETTIAS LOVINGLY PROVIDED BY:

Helsten Children in honor of Robert and Audrey Helsten.

Wayne and Charla Hagen in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Ron and Karen Seefeldt in memory of our family Alfred and Freida Hendrickson, Arnold and Violet Seefeldt, Darlene and Milton Dommer, Delores and Wilbur Buse, Ardy Hendrickson.

Inez Fosberg in memory and honor of friends and family, past and present.

Janet Ammons in memory of my husband, and in celebration of four children and families.

Allen and Gail Jicinsky in memory of our grandmothers.

Randi Thompson in memory of Gary Thompson and Lisa Thompson.

Susan Howe in memory of my brother Boots Maring.

Roger and Darlene Shupe in memory of Riley Shupe, Harold Hederer, and Randy Hederer.

Karen Grieser and family in loving memory of my loving husband Gary, son Kevin Grieser, and parents of Gary and Karen.

Nancy Dietsche in memory of my husband Ron, my parents Norman and Eleanor Mellenthin, and my sister Karen Larson.

Petie Martens in memory of Leon and Jean.

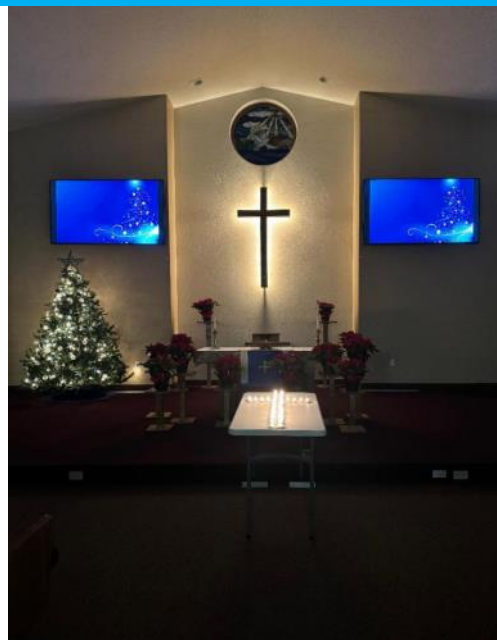
Mary and Alan Seefeld in celebration of the life of Dustin Weiler, Michelle Seefeld, and Emily Weiler.

GIVING TREE



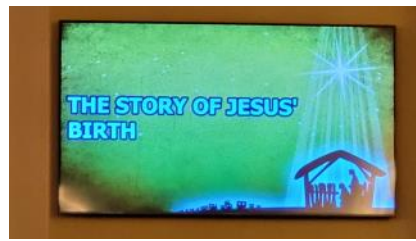
A heartfelt HUGE thank you to all those who contributed to the Giving Tree this year and thank you to the scrip program for donating Kwik Trip cards as well. The five families each expressed their extreme gratitude. Thank you for being a blessing this Christmas,
Lori Kops

BLUE CHRISTMAS



Our Blue Christmas service offered a time of reflection and love from our community for those struggling this holiday season and a time to be reminded of Jesus' love. Thank you to everyone who helped spread the word, attended, or served in any way.

CHILDRENS PROGRAM



Thank you to these young people for providing us with the story of Jesus' Birth in worship on December 17. If you were unable to attend and would like to see the wonderful job they did, you can watch it [here](#).

OFFERING ENVELOPES UPDATE



To be good stewards of our resources and make the job of our financial secretary and counting committee members easier, we have made a change to our offering envelope system.

The new giving number your family has been assigned will no longer change yearly. Please use the envelopes in your mail box beginning January 7. Please return old envelopes to the office.

When your envelope supply is running low, please contact the [office](#) and I will get you more offering envelopes.

Because of this change, please ignore the date or calendar week on your envelope, Meaning if your envelope says the first week of January and you are using it the third week of December, your offering will be entered for the third week of December. The same is true for Lenten and Christmas envelopes.

All money received will be considered a regular offering and used for the ministry and mission of the church unless it is designated for one of the following council-approved 2024 giving categories

- Regular Offering
- Building Fund
- COME
- Sunday School/VBS
- Club 52/Mission Trip

If you have any questions or need envelopes, please feel free to contact Pam Hardrath at 715-507-0549 or sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY/MISSION TRIP

Questions: Please contact out Minister of Faith Formation Jenny Neiman jennyfaith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636



**Sundays, 10am
for all youth age
3 to Grade 5.**



**Cross Training for
Middle Schoolers,
Wednesdays,
6:30pm, optional
supper at 6pm.**



**LIVE for High
Schoolers,
Wednesdays,
6:30pm, optional
supper at 6pm.**

**Volunteers are needed to provide
meals, serve and clean up on
Wednesday's, 6pm for our Cross
Training and LIVE students. Please
[sign up here.](#)**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



We will be sending 12 participants to the annual Districts Youth Conference in Green Bay this year: Pastor Jeff, Jenny Nieman, Pam

& Travis Hardrath, Rachel Nieman, Kyler Hardrath, Ryan Hardrath, Nathan Gronski, Kaitlin Radue, Liam Pluger, Ariana Krueger and Tahneya Anderson. Please include this group in your prayers, for safe travel to and from; deep spiritual conversations en route and during the event; impactful worship and seminars and closer relationships with Jesus for all of them.



February 7 at 8pm, is the next planning meeting for the Mission Trip scheduled for June 15 to 22 in Lincoln, IL. If you are interested in going, there is still room.



2024 Basket Raffle The basket raffle will begin on February 14. If you would like to donate a themed basket for the raffle, the mission trip participants would be grateful! Baskets or items to add to a basket can be brought to church and placed in Jenny's office.



Club 52 Fundraiser the participants going on the mission trip will be sending out letters to family and friends asking for their support. If you would like to contribute to Club 52, there are Club 52 letters on the bulletin board, you can fill in a youth's name or can leave it blank and it will go to the fund for the entire trip. Thank you for your support!



Save the Dates! May 2 & 3, 2024 will be the Rummage Sale. A trailer will be available in April to put your donations in.

DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.
Isaiah 41:13

Pastor Ponderings with Pastor Jeff

Wednesdays, 6:45pm

NOTE NEW TIME!

We will not meet January 3.
Questions contact Pastor Jeff

MEN'S MINISTRY

January 11 & 25, 6:30pm,
Travis Hardraths shop-
213462 State Highway 13.
715-507-0548 for more
information.
BRING A FRIEND!

rightnow MEDIA

Right Now Media is a FREE online resource sponsored by St. John's. Experience the world's largest customizable library of biblical video

resources. They even have a KID section with great things for your kiddos to enjoy. To create your own account so you can explore this extensive website follow this link from our website: <https://www.stjohnsspencer.com/right-now-media>

Not sure where to start? Check out this series on Grace. It's a word we've heard since the very first step in our faith journey – but do we really believe in God's grace?

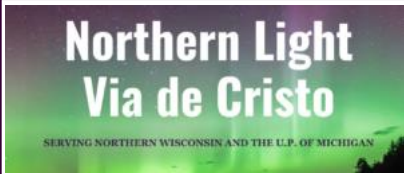
Grace raises eyebrows. It begs questions. Grace turns everything upside down. In this series by Andrew Farley your invited to discover a revolutionary perspective on God's grace every healthy Christian should have and celebrate the good news of the Gospel to the fullest.

Life is too short to miss out on God's best – and what you don't know can hinder you from experiencing Jesus in every area of your life. So, if you've ever felt weighed down by religion, thought there must be more to your faith than just following rules, or even ached to know God loves you (and not just hope He does!), then these sessions are for you.

This thought-provoking series will challenge you to dismiss the lies you've believed and to make up your own mind about how big God's grace really is. Explore it [here](#).

NO REGRETS **MEN'S MINISTRY**

February 3, Men's No Regrets, This years theme is FEARLESS. Men explore exactly how to build their life on the solid foundation of God and His Word. There will be group worship, compelling messages from leading pastors and teachers, testimonies of how other men have done it and seminars on the topics of most interest to you. Take advantage of this day to avoid the distractions of life and renew their dependence on Christ, the solid rock on which we stand. Knowing Him is the answer to life's greatest challenges. if you are interested in attending this event, check out their [website](#) or contact Travis Hardrath, 715-507-0548.



March 7 to 10, Forest Spring Camp and Conference Center, Westboro.

By grace, with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal call, assisting them to influence their environments with the gospel.

We invite anyone 21 or older to come and enjoy a weekend of spiritual growth in your knowledge and relationship with the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A VIA DE CRISTO WEEKEND IS THREE DAYS LONG... BUT LASTS A LIFETIME
There is nothing secret about Via de Cristo (Way of Christ). Its aim is to zoom in for an extreme close-up of the teachings of Christ so that we, who are enveloped and entranced by the brilliance of the secular world, can experience His love.

It is a short course about Jesus and our Christian faith. It begins on Thursday evening at 7:00 and ends on Sunday about 4:00 p.m. During the three days of Via de Cristo, attendees listen to 14 talks given by laypeople and clergy. Following each talk, small group table discussions focus on the main points of the talk. In an overlapping fashion, the talks present various aspects of the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as an ideal.

The basic atmosphere of Via de Cristo differs greatly from the individual solitude of a retreat. It is a very structured weekend, where the teachings of Christ are discussed in an atmosphere of joy.

For more information, there is a flyer in the brochure rack or talk to Jenny Nieman, Rudy & Amanda Nieman, Travis Hardrath, Teri Schorer, Penni Cloud, Bob & Glenda Fellenz, Karen Grieser, Allen & Gail Jicinsky.



SHUT IN ADDRESSES

Grace Maines
Touch of Home
9787 Ives St.
Marshfield, WI 54449

Marshfield Health Services
Linda Marchinek
814 W. 14th St Room 13
Marshfield, WI 54449

Muriel Oelrich
211763 Mystyc Avenue
Spencer, WI 54449

LaVilla Schilling
W143 Cloverdale Road
Colby, WI 54421

Lois Block
402 Dehne Drive
Colby, WI 54421

Jim Schmutzler
N11245 Maple Street
Spencer, WI 54479

Doris Seefeld
312 Dehne Street
Colby, WI 54421

Pat Miller
N9934 Groveside Ave
Spencer, WI 54449

UPCOMING YOUTH CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST SPRINGS



Young people can expect life-changing moments and memories that will last a lifetime. These may occur during bible teaching sessions, campfire conversations, or at one of Forest Springs' many program areas.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

MELTDOWN
Grades 6 to 8
February 16 to 18

WINTERTAINMENT
Grades 8 to 12
January 5 to 7

FIRST ADVENTURE
Grades 1 to 3
June 17 to 20

KID'S QUEST
Grades 2 to 5
June 12 to 15

JUNIOR CAMP
Grades 3 to 6
June 16 to 22
Grades 4 to 6
June 30 to July 6

TAKE 7
Grades 6 to 8

June 23 to 29
JUNIOR HIGH
Grades 7 to 9
June 30 to July 6

SUPERHIGH
Grades 9 to 12
July 7 to 13

Youth wilderness trips to scenic locations throughout Wisconsin (and beyond) also available for Middle and High School Students.

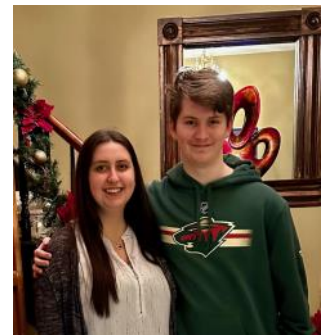
For more information
forestsprings.us/youth/adventure

BLESS US
in this new year, Lord.

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to our church family
Todd and Ellen Brinkman.



Welcome to our church family, Paul
Leezer. His wife Jodi and children
Gracie and Matthew are members.

January BIRTHDAYS

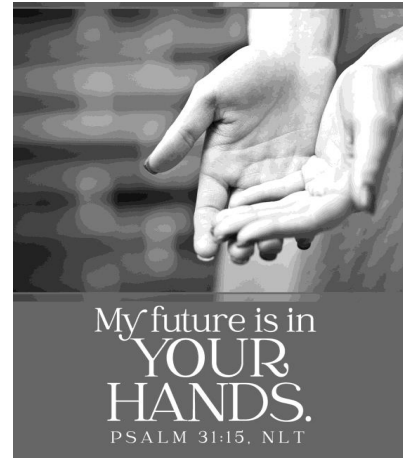
January ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| 4 | Bridget Cloud | 18 | Andrew Anderson |
| 5 | Payton Porter | | David Buse |
| 6 | James Hopfensperger | | William Nigon |
| | Aubrey Wiernik | 21 | Patty Behrens |
| 7 | Jonathon Berres | | Danica Weber |
| | Arianna Gorst | 22 | Lucinda Hardrath |
| 8 | Jayson Dekarske | | Karen Seefeldt |
| | Audrey Hopfensperger | 23 | Kevin Gaetz |
| 9 | Marsha Martens | 24 | Patty Soltow |
| | Camdyn Vogel | | Maria Seefeld |
| 10 | Peggy Labrensz | 25 | Corey Seefeldt |
| 11 | Leila Seefeld | | Justin Burns |
| 12 | Jerry Marten | 26 | Kylie Gilmore |
| | Sam Nigon | 28 | Joseph Matter |
| 14 | Adeline Nieman | | Paisley Wiernik |
| | Cohley Vogel | 30 | Derek Buse |
| 15 | Britney Porter | | Peggy Christopherson |
| | Qwyntyn Schmidt | | Troy Hardrath |
| 16 | Barb Seefeld | | Les Dommer |
| 17 | Allen Jicinsky | 31 | Nathan Gronski |
| | Donald Newman | | |

May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------|
| 9 | Wayne & Charla Hagen | 42 years |
| 14 | Donald & Dorene Newman | 68 years |
| | Gerald & Dorothy Marten | 34 years |
| 15 | Nick & Krystle Tomczik | 8 years |
| 18 | Brad & Lori Helsten | 17 years |
| 23 | Dave & Tracy Weber | 18 years |

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.



PRAYER list

Those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in care facilities:

Kathy Dietsche, Barb Dommer, Grace Maines, Linda Marchinek, Pat Miller, Muriel Oelrich, LaVilla Schilling

Those with health concerns: Lois Block, Owen Buse, Dale Fehrenbach, Wayne Hagen, Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Mandi Herron, Susan Howe, Shaun Kornusky, Sandy Lemmens, Dave Lucht, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans, Doris Seefeldt, Tammi Schiferl, Darin Thompson, Rich Wilke.

Those with cancer: Wayne Vaughn, Judi Andrew, Nikki Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne

Hendrickson, Sue Johnson, Parker Klimmer, Tim Komarek, Michelle Oelke, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner, Wayne Vaughn.

Those serving in the military: Tyler Klemment

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like Pastor Jeff to know, please contact him via phone call or text message at 715-615-2458. The hospital will not share information regarding your admission to the hospital.

For any updates on these prayer requests or additional prayer concerns, please contact the office at sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or text/call Pam at 715-507-0549.

Please contact the office if you are available to serve in open spaces. Thank-you!
sjloffice13@gmail.com



SERVING IN WORSHIP

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28	February 4
Greeter	Amanda Gronski	Nancy Dietsche	Susan Howe Inez Fosberg	Bob & Glenda Fellenz	Robert Haas
Usher	Allen Jicinsky	Rudy Nieman	Wayne Hagen	Travis Hardrath	Milt Viergutz
Usher	Nathan Gronski	Keith Schmidt	Harry Vogel	Ryan Hardrath	Brad Helsten
Tech	Camdyn Vogel	Devyn Schmidt	Tracey Ackman	Kyler Hardrath	Teri Schorer
Sound	Jenny Nieman	Adryan Schmidt	Camdyn Vogel	Jakob Soback	Randi Thomas
Reader	Gail Jicinsky	Rudy Nieman	Wayne Hagen	Glenda Fellenz	Jenny Nieman
Communion Assistant	Amanda Gronski	Cindy Weiler	Jule Vogel	Rudy Nieman	Jenny Nieman
Acolyte	NEEDED	Mason Gilmore	Cohley Vogel	Zoey Hardrath	Janika Helsten
Hospitality	Gail Jicinsky	Heather Vogel	Lori Kops	Penny Vinnedge	Teri Schorer
Riplinger Reader	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Joan Miller	Dommer Family	Brenda Newman



**Sermons Are
Online**

YouTube
[https://
www.youtube.com/
@StJohnsSpencer](https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer) or
www.stjohnsspencer.com

Attendance	Spencer 9am	Riplinger 11am	Spencer 6:30pm
November 5	58	9	22
November 12	75	42	32
November 19	63	23	19
November 26	77	14	25

Community Thanksgiving Service, November
22: 152 attendees



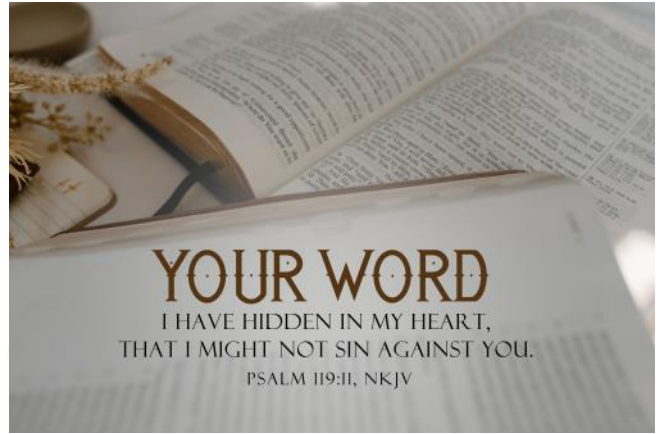
January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	1	2 4:30pm Rising Dance	3 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	8 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	9 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting	10 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings	11 6:30pm Men's Group	12 3:00pm Districts Youth Conference	13 Youth Districts Conference
14 Youth Districts Conference 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	15 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	16 4:30pm Rising Dance	17 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings	18	19	20 6:00pm OA Lock in
21 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Annual Meeting 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	22 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	23 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:00pm COME Meal	24 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings	25 6:30pm Men's Group	26	27
28 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	29 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	30 4:30pm Rising Dance	31 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings	<p>Due to the numerous activities occurring in the building we are asking that the first person to arrive after it snows, please shovel a few swipes in front of the door and at least one side of the sidewalk by the bell tower. Thank you for your cooperation.</p>		

DAILY

BIBLE

VERSE



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Isaiah 40:30-31	2 2 Corinthians	3 Psalm 98:1	4 Romans 8:18	5 Isaiah 43:19	6 Ephesians 4:22-24
7 Deuteronomy 7:13	8 Jeremiah 29:11	9 Proverbs 23:18	10 Psalm 31:23-24	11 1 Peter 1:3	12 Lamentations 3:22-23	13 Romans 5:5
14 Ezekiel 11:19	15 Colossians 3:9-10	16 John 10:14	17 James 4:13-14	18 Philippians 3:14	19 John 16:33	20 Habakkuk 3:19
21 2 Peter 1:3	22 1 John 3:1	23 Psalm 121:2	24 James 4:8	25 John 13:35	26 Matthew 7:1-2	27 2 Timothy 4:7
28 Psalm 147:3	29 Matthew 22:37-38	30 Psalm 4:8	31 Isaiah 40:11			

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MINUTES SPENCER

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes,
November 14, 2023, 6:30pm

Approved on 12-12-2023

Attending: Pastor Jeff, Rudy Nieman; Wayne Hagen; Teri Schorer, Pam Hardrath; Jenny Nieman, Travis Hardrath, Marsha Martens

Absent: Mary Seefeld, Heather Vogel

Call to order by Rudy Nieman at 6:30pm

Opening Prayer: *Ephesians 4: 2-3 by Rudy Nieman*

Being open to jumping in and trying new ideas, leading by example.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting Date January 28, 2024 following worship
- Right Now Media Renewal was approved by Wayne and seconded by Travis, approved on the condition that we do more promotion through the next year to grow usage.
- Pam made a motion to accept the Council Job
- Description revisions as written, Marsha seconded, approved.
- Teri made a motion to allow the Cheerleader French Toast Breakfast to be held here on January 14, Wayne seconded, approved. A building use policy will be sent to Mrs. Winkleman.
- 2024 Budget information was handed out. Each director will provide amounts for their areas prior to the December council meeting.
- Pam made a motion to accept the proposed mission trip fundraising plan- basket raffle during Lent (Feb 14-Mar 24); Rummage Sale May 2 & 3; Club 52 now until trip June 15 to 22. Marsha seconded, approved.
- A motion was made by Teri and seconded by Pastor, to approve new members Nick, Krystle, Montana Tomczik and Liam Pluger.
- Shut-in visits were discussed. It was decided all shut-volunteers will need to provide a background check.
- Many positive remarks in the community regarding Pastor Jeff. Discussed the importance of supporting him in our mission.

Old Business:

- Christmas Eve Sunday- Spencer 9am/4pm/6pm; Riplinger 2pm
- Christmas Monday- 9am. Pastor Jeff is reaching out to those willing to share message for 9am worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

REPORTS:

Pastor Jeff

PASTORAL MINISTRY:

- 4 Sunday Services & messages at both congregations (Silver/Polka)
- * Posting message scripts and videos weekly
- 3 Sunday Night Services with interactive teaching (*new*)
- 1 Hospital Visit with planned follow-up
- 12+ Shut-in Visits
- 1 Wedding
- 3 Funerals/Graveside services from September (*sorry, forgot to add last month*)
- 2 nonmember funerals
- 2 Baptisms & 3 Baptismal prep sessions
- 1 Annual LCMC Convention Oct. 1-4

○ SERVING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE:

- 1 Pet Blessing Event
- 1 Trunk or Treat Event
- 5 Meet & Greet Pastor Groups
- 2 Men's Groups
- 6 Bible Study Groups as participant (Mon & Wed)
- 3 Bible Study Groups as leader (Wed)
- Weekly collaboration with Jenny and Pam re: youth and church operations
- 3 Supper times with youth on Wed. nights + Q&A after youth group
- 3 Meetings re: special services (Thanksgiving/Pet Blessing/Polka Service)

IN THE WORKS:

Forming a team to launch a Senior's Ministry! Please call me if you're interested!

MISC. & OUTREACH:

- 2 Meetings with Pastor Tim & hosted 1 area LCMC pastor's meeting
- Many contacts and/or visits with members, visitors, and drop-ins
- Provided 1 graveside service for an external family in October
- Participated in homecoming week campfire for youth in the church's yard (Sept)

NOTE: In collaboration with Jenny, youth, & others, this year's youth program is using a curriculum designed to help youth personalize their relationship with Jesus by using their Bibles, thinking/asking questions, praying with their own words, & participating in church. They are actively signing up for roles in all 3 of our Church services. They've already led the call to worship & offered congregational prayers during the new 630pm service! Did I mention they sing with the joy of the Lord & are inviting their friends & family to come to youth group & church? They are amazing! I'm grateful for Jenny's engaging leadership with our youth, Pam's detailed logistics, parents providing meals & leading discussion groups, & all who are helping in various ways, including prayers!

Secretary (Pam Hardrath)

Jenny made a motion to approve the October Council Minutes; Marsha seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer (Teri Schorer)

Recap: Income \$15,863.32 total expenses \$9,997.85 positive balance of \$5,865.47

Minister of Faith Formation (Jenny Nieman)

Jesus And Me

December 17, 9 am, we'll have a Christmas program.

Cross Training

- This year's series Following Jesus is going well, each week the youth dig deep into several Scripture passages with their small groups to unpack the theme for that particular night. We begin each Wednesday night with a very small worship, recap the week before, and then dig into the theme for the night while relating it to their lives currently, finally, youth are dismissed to their small groups to keep digging into the Bible and talking through each specific Scripture for the night.
- Small group leaders are Penni Cloud, Nick Tomczik, and Brad Helsten.
- Middle school families have been continuously encouraged

to sign up to serve as an acolyte 2-3 times during this school year. Youth were also encouraged to sign up to serve in other areas of worship or ministries of the church.

- Youth are looking at their sports schedules and family calendars to pick a date for a lock-in.

LIVE

- High schoolers have been using the Following Jesus series, following the same pattern as Cross Training youth do. Leaders this year are Amanda Gronski and Leah Nieman.
- High school youth were given the current Time and Talent surveys, they filled out the forms, data was collected, and will be added to the final lists that will be given to all appropriate council directors.
- Youth are looking at their sports schedules and family calendars to pick a date for a lock-in.

Districts Youth Conference Jan. 12-14, Green Bay

Districts Youth Conference- we currently have 6 middle/high school youth registered, there is room for more, deadline to register is Dec. 1.

2023 Mission Trip

- The last meeting held, Nov 8, the youth who were interested in going on the trip picked a trip location- next summer's trip will be to Lincoln, Illinois June 16-22. All planning meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm. All middle school students and high school students are eligible to participate in the trip. To reserve a spot, students and chaperones must fill out a registration form and give a \$50 non-refundable deposit. The first fundraiser will be the basket raffle which will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 if anyone would like to donate items or an entire basket please have it to church by Feb. 11. Rummage Sale dates are May 2 & 3.

Items Needing Action

Proposed Mission Trip Fundraising Plan- Basket Raffle during

Lent (Feb 14-Mar 20); Rummage Sale May 2 & 3; Club 52 now until trip

Worship (Mary Seefeld)

No report submitted

Building and Grounds (Travis Hardrath)

- Due to the number of activities happening in the building, the first person to arrive is encouraged to shovel out a swipe in front of the doors and the sidewalks by the bell tower.
- Midway Plowing is hired to snow plow and sprinkle salt if needed in the parking lot.
- Sand has been mixed with the salt to put on the ice.
- Two new urinal valves ordered through Amazon to replace and fix the current ones that are sticking.
- Old lawn mower is ready for winter. New lawn mower has been cleaned up and put away.

Food, Fellowship and Fun (Heather Vogel)

Pastor appreciation Sunday, October 8, large card and cupcakes.

Polka Service brats, root beer floats for October 22.

Congregational Care (Marsha Martens)

Sent out sympathy cards, visited shut-ins, prepared Thanksgiving cards for shut-ins.

Beyond Our Doors (vacant)

Scrip cards \$50 for Krisan and Grant Strejc (house fire), Doug

Blunt (thyroid cancer), and \$100 to Owen Buse (health issues).

Vice Chair (Wayne Hagen)

Hearing great things in the community regarding Pastor Jeff.

Rudy reminded everyone we should all play a part in helping support him.

Chair (Rudy Nieman)

Discussed through meeting

Next Meeting: December 12, 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn by Teri, Travis seconded; motion carried.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath

NOVEMBER TREASURERS REPORT SPENCER

**St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for November 2023**

Monday, December 11, 2023						Page 1 of 1
Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
301.000	General Fund Balance					
301.100	General Balance	53,527.56	13,252.00	11,846.43	0.00	54,933.13
302.000	Special Funds Balance					
302.001	ARK Balance	1,008.73	28.00	0.00	0.00	1,036.73
302.005	Fall Harvest Dinner Balance	280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.00
302.102	Globe Money Balance	76.95	12.00	0.00	0.00	88.95
302.120	Technology Balance	833.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	833.61
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	5,344.24	30.00	0.00	0.00	5,374.24
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,881.53	30.00	0.00	0.00	1,911.53
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
302.180	COME Balance	1,963.97	30.00	0.00	0.00	1,993.97
302.195	Fellowship Hall Balance	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
302.800	Seminary Fund Balance	2,039.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,039.91
302.100	Memorial Gifts Balance	3,460.41	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,460.41
302.105	Building Fund Balance	44,240.29	750.00	0.00	0.00	44,990.29
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	5,961.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,961.02
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,235.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,235.19
Total		<u>\$121,879.41</u>	<u>\$19,132.00</u>	<u>\$11,846.43</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$129,164.98</u>

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Treasurer's Report as of November 2023 for General Operating Fund

Monday, December 11, 2023

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	11,842.00	87,334.69	120,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	1,410.00	16,593.57	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	0.00	7,404.21	8,000.00
441.060	Building use	0.00	1,425.00	500.00
	Total Income	\$13,252.00	\$112,757.47	\$128,500.00
Expenses				
500.000	<i>Wider Mission</i>			
500.010	Tithe	0.00	5,864.49	12,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$5,864.49</i>	<i>12,000.00</i>
510.000	<i>Worship</i>			
510.030	Copyrights	0.00	632.00	750.00
510.050	Community Worship Services	0.00	750.00	850.00
510.070	Instrument maintenance/service	0.00	0.00	500.00
510.100	Worship Supplies	38.94	1,218.84	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$38.94</i>	<i>\$2,600.84</i>	<i>3,100.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	1,395.00	3,500.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	0.00	1,508.89	600.00
520.000	<i>Faith Development</i>			
520.010	Birth to 3	0.00	234.94	300.00
520.020	Children's Ministry (SS, VBS, GIFT, etc)	(30.00)	169.87	500.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	(10.00)	289.76	750.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	0.00	1,032.40	500.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	43.80	285.65	500.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	35.00	200.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$3.80</i>	<i>\$2,047.62</i>	<i>2,750.00</i>
520.080	Right Now Media	0.00	0.00	1,320.00
530.000	<i>Social Concerns</i>			
530.010	Kitchen License/COME	0.00	513.00	
530.020	Mission Projects expenses	0.00	502.58	
	<i>Total Social Concerns</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,015.58</i>	
540.000	<i>Fellowship & Care</i>			
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	0.00	279.24	500.00
540.020	Care Resources	0.00	213.95	100.00
540.030	Events	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Fellowship & Care</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$493.19</i>	<i>800.00</i>
560.000	<i>Office</i>			
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	51.25	1,354.97	1,000.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	162.97	1,432.67	1,475.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	0.00	846.80	750.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	0.00	1,892.24	2,000.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	0.00	1,588.62	2,000.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$214.22</i>	<i>\$7,115.30</i>	<i>7,225.00</i>
570.000	<i>Administration</i>			
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	250.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	87.55	942.41	1,200.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	576.99	4,800.47	5,000.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	0.00	1,986.99	1,500.00

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Treasurer's Report as of November 2023 for General Operating Fund

Monday, December 11, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
570.080	Leadership Study Materials/Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$664.54</i>	<i>\$7,729.87</i>	<i>8,050.00</i>
580.000	Buildings & Grounds			
580.020	Electricity	407.76	4,246.95	4,000.00
580.030	Natural Gas	0.00	2,426.62	2,000.00
580.040	Holding Tanks	0.00	350.00	1,000.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	0.00	1,279.06	1,250.00
580.065	Cleaning	0.00	0.00	750.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	0.00	1,783.77	1,500.00
580.080	Snow Removal	0.00	2,445.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	0.00	245.19	500.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$407.76</i>	<i>\$12,776.59</i>	<i>14,000.00</i>
590.000	Staff			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	2,759.17	12,416.26	23,650.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	1,925.00	8,662.50	8,000.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	9.99	300.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	900.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	724.86	2,537.01	14,300.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	358.34	1,791.70	2,425.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	1,591.60	
590.210	FICA	337.55	2,353.05	2,700.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	174.00	2,262.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	300.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	2,863.00	14,569.94	15,600.00
590.260	Staff Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$9,441.92</i>	<i>\$47,994.05</i>	<i>72,475.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	1,075.25	7,441.75	7,680.00
590.285	Medical Insurance (Minister Faith Formation)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	\$11,846.43	\$97,983.17	\$133,500.00
	Difference	<u>\$1,405.57</u>	<u>\$14,774.30</u>	<u>(\$5,000.00)</u>

