

Services of Worship
Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am



Connect

February 2025

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

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
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com
 To contact our emergent need pastor or for immediate assistance, call or text Pam at 715-507-0549

- Deadlines**
- Weekly email: **Tuesdays 9am**
 - Sunday announcements:
Wednesday 5pm
 - Monthly newsletter:

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.



Pictorial Directories have arrived!

They were put in your church mailbox. If you have any concerns, please reach out to Pam, sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or 715-507-0549. Thank you for your patience.

More information throughout the newsletter!

February 5 at 8pm, Mission Trip Planning Meeting

February 11 at 6:30pm, Spencer Council Meeting

February 16 following worship:

Special Congregational Meeting regarding task force

February 23, Bible Camp Sunday

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundays, JAM and Mom's Connect at 10:15am

Tuesdays, Psalms Bible Study at 6:30pm.

Wednesdays, Life Lessons Bible Study at 9am

Optional Supper at 6pm for Cross Training and LIVE families

Cross Training and LIVE at 6:30pm.

Thursdays, February 6 & 20, Men's Group at 6:30pm.

SAVE THE DATE

FEB. 23 - MARCH 16, 2025



Donations of hygiene and cleaning supplies make it possible for local crisis agencies to concentrate their limited financial resources on providing qualified staff, safe housing, nutritious food, education, and counseling to those they serve.

There will be a donation box near the office door. Thank you!

Most Needed Items

DENTAL CARE

Soft Toothbrushes*
 Toothpaste*
 Dental Floss
 Denture Care
 NO Mouthwash

FIRST AID

Children's Pain Meds
 Pedialyte
 Band-Aids
 Rubbing Alcohol
 Hydrogen Peroxide
 Anti-Diarrheal Meds
 Antacids
 Antibiotic Ointment
 Cold Meds
 Liquid Benadryl
 Sun Screen

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Laundry Soap*
 Dish Soap*
 Garbage Bags*
 Floor Cleaner*
 Bleach
 Cleansers
 Sponges
 Disinfectant Cleaner*
 Toilet Cleaner and Brushes
 Dryer Sheets
 Rubber Gloves

PERSONAL CARE

Hand Soap*
 Body Wash*
 Bar Soap
 Deodorant (unscented)*
 Razors*
 Shaving Cream
 Cotton Balls
 Q-tips
 Moisturizer/Lotions
 Contact Solution
 Lip Balm
 Hand/Foot/Body Warmer

BABY CARE

Diapers & Pull-Ups (sizes 4-6)*
 Wipes*
 Baby Bottles
 Sip Cups
 Baby Lotion
 Baby Shampoo
 Rash Ointment

HAIR CARE

Shampoo*
 Conditioner
 Hair Brushes
 Combs
 Clips & Elastics
 Style Products
 Head Lice Treatment
 Textured Hair Care

PAPER PRODUCTS

Toilet Tissue*
 Facial Tissue
 Paper Towels*
 Feminine Care Pads*
 Tampons*

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

Readings
(subject to change)

February 2

Jeremiah 1:4-10
1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13
Luke 4:31-44
Spencer
Message: Heather Vogel
Assisting: Ashley Stroetz

February 9

Isaiah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 14:12b-20
Luke 5:1-11
Spencer
Jenny Nieman

February 16

Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
Spencer:
Heather Vogel

February 23

Genesis 45:3-15
1 Corinthians 15:21-26; 30-42
Luke 6:27-38
Penni Cloud

For God
so loved
the world.

JOHN 3:16



By Mike Bradley - LCMC - January 21, 2025 Printed with permission.

Emotional, relational, and spiritual health, and long-term sustainability. This is my hope and prayer for our association as I move toward retirement from my position as LCMC's service coordinator. That may not seem to be something that needs to be stated, but just look around. Long-term health and sustainability for associations and denominations cannot be assumed, nor taken for granted. How many once healthy and mission-minded associations have found themselves in now unhealthy and unsustainable positions?

In the years ahead, three keys for LCMC's health and long-term sustainability will be: 1) remembering who we are, 2) remembering what we're called to, and 3) remembering where we're going. My focus in this article is on remembering who we are.

First, we must remember that we are a team. We are not a team of teams, but one team, a kingdom of God team! It's been said that LCMC is a big tent that welcomes different expressions or nuances of what it means to be Lutheran, and this is true. However, like any great team, we acknowledge and incorporate the different strengths and gifts that each player (or groups of players) bring to the team. A good team is a coming together of different strengths, gifts, and points of view to accomplish a common mission. And a good team can always accomplish more than any gifted individual. A key to LCMC's health and long-term sustainability will be honoring, encouraging, and learning from one another, and functioning as one team: a kingdom of God team.

Remembering who we are will also mean remembering our name and what it says about us. We are LUTHERAN Congregations in Mission for Christ. It is important that we remember this and not only safeguard our Lutheran theological distinctives, but seek to intentionally teach and proclaim them in such a way that they are understood and embraced by members and leaders in our congregations. Our Lutheran theological distinctives are not some dusty old dogma, but rather, are essential keys for effective ministry and mission in the world today.

We are Lutheran CONGREGATIONS in Mission for Christ. We are an association of congregations. The impetus, authority, and responsibility for ministry and mission lies with the congregations of LCMC, not with a hierarchical office at a national level. As our mission statement declares, we exist to connect and encourage Lutheran congregations in the mission of the Gospel and to develop healthy leaders for that mission. Let us continue to be intentional in living out this essential aspect of who we are in the years ahead. We are Lutheran Congregations IN MISSION for Christ. We are an association of congregations that says we are committed to the Great

Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment. However, if we are not careful, we, like other associations and denominations before us, will fall prey to settling for this being an aspirational, rather than an actual value. Let us continue to encourage one another in living out the mission that God has given us in all the creative and diverse ways represented by our congregations, districts, and fellowships.

We are Lutheran Congregations in Mission FOR CHRIST. It's all about Jesus! It's all about God and His glory, not ours. Together, as a team, we serve the Risen Saviour and His purposes and His agenda in the world today.

Remembering who we are will be essential if we are to experience God's ongoing work of increasing our capacity for health and maturity as individuals and congregations. And it will be an essential key to a long-term sustainability.

God Bless You All!]

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTE

It has been brought to my attention that the January 19, "Absentee Ballot" vote was unconstitutional. Per Chapter 16, thirty days notice must be given to the congregation. This affected the council election as absentee ballots were counted. I am trying to contact those involved and the corrections will be communicated to the congregation via our protocols. I deeply apologize for making this error. Council will work on the written notice and hold the vote again in a special congregational meeting as this was proposed by congregation members.

Your brother in Christ,

Rudy Nieman, Council Chair

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE (MSP)

VOLUNTEER TO BE ON THE MINISTRY SITE PROFILE TASK FORCE BEFORE FEBRUARY 16.

What is the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)?

Our MSP assesses both congregations' needs and creates a written report available to the prospective candidates.

What is included in a Ministry Site Profile?

Previous MSP's will be provided for reference. Some portions of the MSP will be completed individually by each congregation.

- Listing events or developments that are important from the history of our congregation.

- Building Information

- Congregational Demographic Trends

- Ministry Programs, Structure and Future

Some portions of the MSP will be completed jointly by both congregations and may require input from joint councils.

- Pastor Job Description including emphasis in leading / focusing on which areas of ministry.

- Candidates desired personal characteristics.
- Candidate's minimum qualifications.
- Candidate's knowledge, skills and abilities.
- How will the congregation provide support (vacation time, continuing education, sabbatical, staff support, etc)

After the MSP is completed, it will be reviewed by the councils and congregations for input, adjusted as needed and then a Call Committee will be called.

Any active member of the parish can serve on the Ministry Site Profile Task Force. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Secretary, Pam Hardrath sjlcoffice13@gmail.com, 715-507-0549; Spencer Council Chair Rudy Nieman, sjlchair13@gmail.com, 715-223-9579; or Riplinger President, Brenda Newman, riprider53@gmail.com, 715-212-5886. A date will be set for the first meeting where a chair and secretary will be chosen.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting – February 16.

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on February 16. The purpose of this meeting is to pause and review the Council Restructure Task Force, initiated on January 26.

During the Annual Meeting on January 26, a motion was made, approved, and passed with a two-thirds majority vote to establish a task force to restructure the council format.

Following the meeting, a congregation member raised concerns to Council Chair Rudy Nieman regarding a constitutional violation in forming the task force. As a result, the council convened a Closed-Door Special Meeting on January 28 to review the matter and confirmed that the formation process did not align with constitutional requirements. Given the importance of this initiative, the task force will be temporarily paused while its structure and timeline are revised to ensure compliance.

Per our Constitution, at least 11 active members

are required to form a Council Restructure Task Force. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please contact the church office at sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or Council Chair Rudy Nieman at sjlchair13@gmail.com. The council will review and approve participants at the February 11 Council Meeting so that the task force can commence promptly.

A designated council member will be available to provide guidance, answer questions, and supply relevant materials, including past council outlines, LCMC council examples, and our Constitution. Once the task force completes its proposal, it will be submitted to the council for review, with a maximum review period of 60 days. The council does not intend to delay this process unnecessarily.

Following council review, the proposal will be shared with the congregation, allowing a 30-day review period. A Special Congregational Meeting will then be scheduled for a vote on the proposed council restructuring.

Your participation and engagement in this process are greatly valued.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

Additional Council Elections:

Spencer:

Financial Secretary: Kris Ovans

Cemetery Committee:

Newly Elected: Paul Leezer

Rudy Nieman

Treasurer: Brad Helsten

Sexton: Allen Jicinsky

Bryan Helsten was elected as the Building and Grounds Director and resigned on January 28, 2025.

Riplinger:

Cemetery Committee/Treasurer:

Dave Newman

Additional Spencer Business:

Voting for approval of the roofing project was put on hold. The congregation would like additional quotes including those from area Amish and Mennonites.

Voting for approval to use Thrivent Funds for Fellowship Hall sound panels was approved, provided we move forward with the cheapest option.

Spencer's Full Treasurer's Report will be shared on the electronic copy of the newsletter.

Newsletters can be accessed on our website.

Along with the full Treasurer's Report you can also find the approved Council Minutes in the Newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

I John 1:7: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. NIV



MISSION TRIP PLANNING MEETING

February 5, 8pm

for anyone middle school and older interested in going on the Mission Trip to Scranton, PA, July 20 to 26. Contact person- Jenny Nieman 715-613-3636
jennyfaith659@gmail.com



Mark your calendars for Lenten Soup Suppers beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5 through April 9. To volunteer, or sign up to provide food, please [use this link](#) or sign up on the bulletin board.



Bible Camp Sunday

Parents bring your summer calendars with you to worship on February 23 - it's BIBLE CAMP SUNDAY! The Sunday

where St. John's, Spencer gives extra discounts in addition to any early bird discount that camp offers, for registering kids for some time at summer Bible Camp. NOTE: IF you are considering signing your youth up for Bible Camp at Forest Springs Camp in Westboro you may want to do so ASAP as they have been filling their camps fast the last few years. Here's the link to see what spaces are available for this summer: <https://forestsprings.us/current-openings>

Maundy Thursday, March 17 worship is at Spencer. Good Friday, March 18 worship is at Riplinger.



Butter Braid Fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship Fund.

The annual Butter Braid fundraiser will begin February 19 and ends on March 4. You can

order from youth in the entry way February 23 & March 2. Proceeds will go to the Bible Camp Scholarship fund to help send kids to Bible Camp and aid youth to attend retreats and conferences. Delivery will be March 19.

Weather Policy

Our policy for weather-related cancellations and closures is for the safety and well-being of the staff, volunteers and participants in our many activities, including Sunday worship. We are aware that holding church activities when roadways are hazardous may endanger the staff and volunteers who travel in order to help lead such activities, as well as those who may choose to participate. Accordingly, our policy is always to put safety first.

St. John's Lutheran Church
210167 State Highway 13, Spencer

**FREE
HOT
MEAL**



Menu:
Pizza Ranch Broasted Chicken
Baked Beans
Corn
Fruit Salad
Assorted Bars or Cookies

Worship Service Cancellation

In inclement weather or extreme temperatures (-25 or colder), the Worship Leader and Council Chairperson will make a decision whether or not to cancel worship service. This decision will be made by 6:30 am prior to worship on Sundays and by 4:30pm during the week. The cancellation information will be found on our Facebook page, via phone message on the church voicemail and via email to the congregation. Updates will be posted by Pam Hardrath or Jenny Nieman.

Please [use this link](#) to sign up online to serve or donate items for the COME Meal.

MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

You who are young, be happy while you are young,
and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Ecclesiastes 11:9 NIV
Questions contact Jenny: jennyfaith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636



JAM meets every Sunday at 10 am all kids age 3 years-5 th grade are welcome!

Come and hear some
GOOD NEWS!

Districts Youth Conference: Eleven youth and four adults attended the Districts Youth Conference in Green Bay on January 10-12. It was a fabulous weekend of worship and youth seminars. Everyone participated in a Global Fingerprints mission experience on Saturday of the conference. They were guided through a few hands-on experiences to understand what people who live in Southeast Asia experience. Next year's conference is January 9-11, all middle school and high school youth are invited. (Copyright photo from Districts website)



Cross Training & LIVE

Planning ahead-
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5. Instead of supper at 6 pm like all of the other Wednesdays of the year,

every Wednesday of Lent (March 5-April 9) there is a soup supper at 5:30 pm.

Here are some guidelines for all middle school & high school youth:

- All youth are expected to be in worship each Wednesday and stay following for their small group times.
- Parents/families are expected to provide soup/dessert for at least one soup supper AND/OR help clean up following at least one supper. You can sign up online on the Signup Genius [use this link](#) on our website or on the bulletin board at church.
- Youth are expected to serve in worship during at least one Wednesday of Lent- they can serve as a reader, greeter, usher, sound, technology, and acolyte. Talk with Jenny to sign up for an area and date that works for your family.



Wednesday Night Suppers.

Volunteers are needed to provide supper for 20 to 30 youth and leaders, leading up to Lent. You can pick the dates that work for you, you can just provide the meal, serve the meal or help with clean up after or stay for all, it's your choice. Questions, talk with Jenny. Sign up [here](#) or on the bulletin board. The guidelines are [here](#) if you would like more information. Thank you!

MISSION TRIP—SCRANTON, PA, JULY 19-27, 2025

2025 Mission Trip to Scranton, PA July 19-27.

Who can go on the trip? Any youth currently in 6th grade-adults. Applications are found on the bulletin board. Application and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot. This trip will include hands-on work projects on residential homes in Scranton. Each person who goes on the trip will work with youth and adults from other churches at their assigned homes and worship with the entire group twice daily. While working on residential homes will provide the opportunity to serve others in Christ's name there are many opportunities for spiritual growth on the trip for everyone as well. If you are on the fence about going, feel free to attend a planning meeting to ask questions, meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. If you have questions, talk with Jenny Nieman.

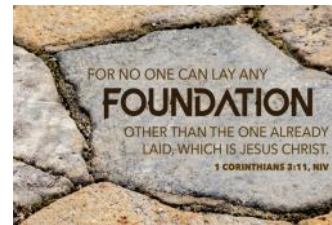
Mission Trip Upcoming Fundraisers



The Basket raffle will begin March 5. If you have a basket or items to donate toward a basket please have it to Jenny by March 1 at the latest.

VIA DE CRISTO

Via de Cristo Retreat Via de Cristo (VDC) is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VDC is a highly structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It's three days in length, beginning on Thursday, March 6 and ending on Sunday, March 9. The participants live, study, worship and commune together daily. Fourteen talks are given, nine by lay people and five by clergy. Following each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main points of the talk and a poster is done. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. There is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and for prayer. This spring, VDC is held at Forest Springs, Westboro. Applications are in the brochure rack, they are due back to Jenny Nieman or Travis Hardrath by February 15. If you have any questions talk to them as well.



Club 52

Club 52 provides donors with an easy, flexible way to support youth ministry at St. John's. As its name implies, Club 52 members are asked to contribute \$1 per week for one year or whatever amount the donor chooses. Club 52 members will be invited to a special VIP brunch hosted by the students to recognize each member's contribution. Club 52 donation forms are on the bulletin board if you would like to contribute.



Save the Date!
Our Annual Rummage Sale
Fundraiser is May 1 & 2.

1. Complete the Foundations worksheets during 8th grade (Your Floor).
 2. Complete 1 discipling session and after **EACH** Foundations worksheet is finished, schedule a follow up session.
 3. LIVE the Foundations Wednesday nights in 9th & 10th grades. (Your Wall & Roof) Supper & social time at 6pm.
 4. Meet with Jenny or another adult about your relationship with Jesus after turning 16, (Your Key to Home!)
 5. Affirmation of Faith service, spring of sophomore year (*or later if you want*).
 6. LEADERSHIP during LIVE & other settings during 11th & 12th grades fulfill your Affirmation of Faith by trying out leadership, assistant leadership & other forms of service & involvement during LIVE, Church & Community!
- Contact person– Jenny Nieman, Minister of Faith Formation– 715-613-3636 jennyfaith659@gmail.com

Spencer Council Contact Information

Council Chair: Rudy Nieman- 715-223-9579—sjlcchair13@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Todd Brinkman - 715-212-1244 - sjlcvicechair13@gmail.com
Treasurer: Teri Schorer - 715-613-8428 - sjlcbooks@gmail.com
Reporting Secretary: Penni Cloud - 715-223-5203 - pennismiles@gmail.com
Minister of Faith Formation: Jenny Nieman - 715-613-3636 - jennyfaith659@gail.com
Worship Director: Randi Thompson - 715-659-4886 or 715-207-5857 - sjlcworship13@gmail.com
Buildings and Grounds Director: vacant
Food, Fellowship & Fun Director: vacant
Congregation Care Director - Marsha Martens - 715-659-5166 or 715-897-8426 - mrshmrtns93@gmail.com
Beyond Our Doors Director: Nick Tomczik - 715-383-9083 - sjlcbeyond13@gmail.com

Riplinger Council Contact Information

President: Brenda Newman - 715-212-5886 - riprider53@gmail.com
Vice President: John Meacham - 715-897-1044
Secretary: Trisha Porter - 715-255-8105 - porter440@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Joan Miller - 715-223-3136
Member 1: Jane Meacham - 715-897-6306
Member 2: Karla Kilty - 715-223-2021 or 715-255-3621
Member 3: Judine Block - 715-383-8025



Audrey Helsten
106469 Highway 153
Spencer, WI 54479

SHUT IN ADDRESSES

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

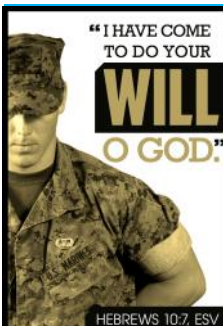
Muriel Oelrich
211763 Mystyc Ave
Spencer, WI 54479

Lois Block
402 Dehne Dr
Colby, WI 54421

Jim Schmutzler
N11245 Maple St
Spencer, WI 54479

Doris Seefeld
312 Dehne St
Colby, WI 54421

Pat Miller
N9934 Groveside Ave
Spencer, WI 54479



MILITARY ADDRESSES

SPC Gardner Leah
C Co 2/278 (T F Reaper)
APO, AE, 09330

Schillinger Caden Spc.
C-Co 2/278 ACR.
TF Reaper
APO, AE, 09330



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Penni Cloud | 20 Rachel Blanchard |
| 5 Theresa Kenyon | Brooklynn Stroetz |
| Jeff Siegel | 23 Jude Pagenkopf |
| Briggs Burns | 24 Susan Howe |
| 6 Danielle Schmidt | Suzanne Reynolds |
| 8 Owen Buse | Theresa Knecht |
| 9 Jason Meacham | 25 Lydia Nieman |
| 10 Randall Stroetz | Easton Stroetz |
| Savanna Weyer | 26 Peggy Ottum |
| 11 Gwen Thomas | 27 Keith Porter |
| Cadyn Hardrath | 28 Jewel Schuette |
| Janika Helsten | Jodi Leezer |
| 12 Patty Matter | |
| 13 Gwen Schmidt | |
| Tom Pagenkopf | |
| 15 Wayne Hendrickson | |
| 17 Barbara Lucht | |
| Jakob Soback | |
| 18 Beckam Schultz | |

May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!

12 Harry & Juleen Vogel	43 years
14 Joseph & Rhonda Weix	44 years
Les & Barbara Dommer	39 years

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



Amanda Nieman.
We welcome you to our church family!



PRAYER LIST



Those with short term health concerns: Nancy Jonas, Susan Howe, Karla Kilty, Brett Kloth, Mia Maddox, Dorene Newman, Jim Rau, Dawn Wood.

Those with long term health concerns: Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Tammi Schiferl, Darrell Schillinger.

Those with cancer: Judi Andrew, Candyce DeNoble, Nikki Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson,

Michelle Oelke, Tom Steiner, Wayne Vaughn.

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Lois Block, Grace Maines, Pat Miller, Muriel Oelrich, Doris Seefeld.

Those in the military: Leah Gardner, Caden Schillinger

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized or have an emergent need, and 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

SERVING IN WORSHIP



Please contact the office if you are available to serve in open spaces. Thank-you!
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

If you would like to usher, do tech or sound, be a communion Assistant or acolyte, provide hospitality or read parts of the service, please let the [office](#) know.

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	March 2
Greeter	Randi Thompson	Jan Ammons	Robert Haas	Lori Kops	Gwen Thomas
Usher	Milt Viergutz	Teri Schorer	Jim Christopherson	Brad Helsten	Wayne Hempel
Usher	Joe Weix	Harry Vogel	Todd Brinkman	Paul Leezer	Milt Viergutz
Tech	Teri Schorer	Tracey Ackman	Jenny Nieman	Teri Schorer	Tracey Ackman
Sound	Brooke Cloud	Camdyn Vogel	Rachel Nieman	Camdyn Vogel	Rachel Nieman
Reader	Penni Cloud	Teri Schorer	Jim Christopherson	Lori Kops	Gwen Thomas
Communion Assistant	Penni Cloud	Jule Vogel	Jule Vogel	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel
Acolyte				Janika Helsten	
Basket Bearer	Brooklyn Stroetz	Cohley Vogel	Cohley Vogel		Cohley Vogel
Hospitality	Penny Vinnedge	Jan Ammons	Ellen Brinkman	Lori Kops	Jenny Nieman
Riplinger Reader	Brenda Newman	Joan Miller	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Heidi McBride

Sermons Are Online
 YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer> or
www.stjohnsspencer.com

Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger
December 1	55	16
December 8	71	16
December 15	68	10
December 22	80	18
Blue Christmas	22	XXXXXXX
December 24	4pm: 111 6pm: 65	2pm: 18
December 25	28	XXXXXXX
December 29	67	25



February

<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer followed by Annual Meeting</p> <p>10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>C.O.M.E. MEAL</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>5:00pm COME Meal</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Secretary in Office</p> <p>6:00pm Optional Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Secretary in Office</p> <p>6:00pm Optional Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE</p> <p>8:00pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am VDC Training</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect</p> <p>10:15am RaiseRight Card Sale</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Secretary in Office</p> <p>6:00pm Optional Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p> <p>Special Congregational Meeting at Spencer following worship.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Secretary in Office</p> <p>6:00pm Optional Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00am VDC Training</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p> <p>Bible Camp Sunday!!</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>C.O.M.E. MEAL</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>5:00pm COME Meal</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30pm Secretary in Office</p> <p>6:00pm Optional Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p>

SPENCER COUNCIL MINUTES

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, December 17, 2024, 6:30 pm.

Approved on January 7, 2025

Attending: Rudy Nieman, Pam Hardrath, Jenny Nieman, Nick Tomczik, Marsha Martens, Teri Schorer, Mary Seefeld, Travis Hardrath, Guest: Peggy Labrensz, Heather Vogel, Todd Brinkman
Absent: Pastor Jeff

Call to order by Rudy Nieman at 6:30pm

Romans 15 and shared the 2017 Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles

Purpose statement: God's purpose for our church is Praising God, Building relationships and Sharing the love of God. Together! (3/25/17)

Guiding Principles:

- 1) Jesus is Lord and Savior
- 2) Growing in our relationship with God is lifelong
- 3) Our faith is lived out beyond our doors
- 4) We respect and care for each other
- 5) God's love and grace are for everyone.

Visitors

Randi Thompson wanted to know why the northeast room is not completed. It was painted over the weekend. She was not aware.

Rudy okayed Gail Jicinsky painting the library.

Nuts & Bolts

New Business:

Motion made by Teri Schorer to accept Nancy Jonas as a new member. Second by Travis Hardrath.
Motion approved.

Reimbursement forms must be filled out before the treasurer pays out non-billed receipts. Anyone who is spending funds should check with the director before making a purchase.

Moving forward: council reports should be submitted for each council meeting and include a highlight, an opportunity and looking forward statements.

Pastor's resignation letter will be shared with the congregation via email and paper copies will be available from the office upon request.

In response to requests from members: Informational Q & A meetings will be held January 5 and 19, following worship to answer questions regarding Pastor Jeff's resignation.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 26. Will also include a discussion on what the congregation expects from our Pastor, need to define copilot, pilot, flight attendant and how the pastor fits into that.

Old Business:

Pastor Resignation:

Brainstorm ways to care for our Pastor.

Council Roles: changing director to coordinator.

Each area is asked to share what their expectation of the Pastor is. In what ways is the Pastor compensated to serve in your area.

Think about what you are doing that the Pastor should be doing and how to transition into that role.

Raise the Roof:

Building Fund: goal would be to set aside part of the funds for future needs. Do not want to deplete it all to replace the roof and cross in case another building emergency arises. Shingles estimate is \$120,000 for a 50-year shingle and \$160,000 for steel.

Motion made by Teri Schorer to go into closed session. Second by Marsha Martens Motion approved.

REPORTS:

PASTORAL MINISTRY:

4 Sunday 9AM Services & Messages at Spencer

4 Sunday 11AM Services & Messages at Riplinger

4 Monday 6:30 PM Services

* Sermon Videos & Sermon Scripts are posted weekly on our church website

4 Hospital/Hospice Home visits

10 Shut-in visits

2 Funerals

SERVING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE:

1 Routine Council Meeting (Spencer)

1 Community Thanksgiving Service Meeting

1 Community Thanksgiving Service

1 COME MEAL

2 Council Member meetings

1 Faithful Friends event

1 Men's Group

3 Youth Group Suppers

5 Bible Study Groups

Weekly collaboration with Jenny and Pam re: youth and church operations

IN THE WORKS:

MISC. & OUTREACH:

1 LCMC Area Pastors Meeting

Secretary's Report (Pam Hardrath)

Motion made by Teri Schorer to approve November minutes with correction of adjourning meeting.

Second by Marsha Martens. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: 6:30pm on January 7, 2025

Motion made by Teri Schorer to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Marsha Martens. Motion approved.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath

DECEMBER FUNDS RECAP

Income: \$16,123.87 Expenses: \$12,780.67

Positive balance of: \$3,343.20

SPENCER TREASURER'S REPORT

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	15,349.85	119,936.90	140,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	250.00	10,875.00	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	424.02	6,430.19	6,000.00
441.060	Building use	100.00	2,930.00	1,250.00
	Total Income	\$16,123.87	\$140,172.09	\$147,250.00
Expenses				
<i>500.000 Wider Mission</i>				
500.010	Tithe	0.00	10,763.96	14,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$10,763.96</i>	<i>14,000.00</i>
<i>510.000 Worship</i>				
510.030	Copyrights	324.00	967.00	750.00
510.050	Community Worship Services	1,121.00	1,978.50	850.00
510.070	Instrument maintenance/service	0.00	115.00	250.00
510.100	Worship Supplies	(160.00)	743.67	1,200.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$1,285.00</i>	<i>\$3,804.17</i>	<i>3,050.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	0.00	500.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	0.00	419.88	1,000.00
<i>520.000 Faith Development</i>				
520.010	Birth to 3	0.00	71.83	300.00
520.020	Children's Ministry (SS, VBS, GIFT, etc)	0.00	(307.94)	1,100.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	0.00	(202.22)	500.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	0.00	466.08	450.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	69.60	509.46	350.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$69.60</i>	<i>\$537.21</i>	<i>2,800.00</i>
520.080	Right Now Media	0.00	1,319.89	1,320.00
<i>540.000 Fellowship & Care</i>				
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	0.00	659.03	400.00
540.020	Care Resources	5.83	509.52	200.00
540.030	Events	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Fellowship & Care</i>	<i>\$5.83</i>	<i>\$1,168.55</i>	<i>800.00</i>
<i>560.000 Office</i>				
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	94.93	644.99	1,400.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	190.26	2,106.44	2,000.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	78.47	730.53	700.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	267.00	2,265.29	2,000.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	105.49	1,480.56	1,800.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$736.15</i>	<i>\$7,227.81</i>	<i>7,900.00</i>
<i>570.000 Administration</i>				
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	250.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	96.87	1,176.69	1,000.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	590.88	7,533.61	5,500.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	0.00	343.04	750.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$687.75</i>	<i>\$9,053.34</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
<i>580.000 Buildings & Grounds</i>				
580.020	Electricity	337.58	4,340.79	4,500.00
580.030	Natural Gas	108.50	1,710.11	2,500.00

Treasurer's Report as of December 2024 for General Operating Fund

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
580.040	Holding Tanks	185.00	920.00	750.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	156.08	1,818.89	1,250.00
580.065	Cleaning	204.90	692.31	500.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	0.00	2,177.93	1,500.00
580.080	Snow Removal	0.00	1,810.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	0.00	426.34	300.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$992.06</i>	<i>\$13,896.37</i>	<i>14,300.00</i>
590.000	<i>Staff</i>			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	2,956.25	35,475.00	33,110.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	2,062.50	24,750.00	23,100.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	100.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	0.00	537.51	750.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	1,553.28	10,096.32	8,700.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	383.93	4,607.16	4,300.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	779.05	750.00
590.210	FICA	145.57	1,899.72	2,600.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	0.00	0.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	150.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	1,162.00	14,966.00	15,600.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$8,413.53</i>	<i>\$94,910.76</i>	<i>93,410.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	590.75	7,450.25	7,800.00
	Total Expenses	\$12,780.67	\$150,552.19	\$154,380.00
	Difference	\$3,343.20	(\$10,380.10)	(\$7,130.00)

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for December 2024

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
1.000	<i>General Fund Balance</i>					
301.100	General Balance	36,601.09	16,123.87	12,780.67	0.00	39,944.29
2.000	<i>Special Funds Balance</i>					
302.001	ARK Balance	956.64	167.00	0.00	0.00	1,123.64
302.102	Globe Money Balance	538.71	76.08	0.00	0.00	614.79
302.120	Technology Balance	5,368.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,368.00
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	4,583.83	110.00	514.96	0.00	4,178.87
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,319.14	425.00	0.00	0.00	1,744.14
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	306.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	306.00
302.180	COME Balance	283.37	158.00	270.29	0.00	171.08
302.800	Seminary Fund Balance	2,039.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,039.91
2.100	Memorial Gifts Balance	5,731.70	20.00	0.00	0.00	5,751.70
2.105	Building Fund Balance	62,236.28	113,130.00	0.00	0.00	175,366.28
3.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	6,447.11	1.63	0.00	0.00	6,448.74
4.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,386.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,386.47
Total		\$127,798.25	\$130,211.58	\$13,565.92	\$0.00	\$244,443.91