

Sunday Services of Worship

- Spencer at 9am
- Riplinger at 11am

Church Office

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

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

Spencer
[www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer/
Riplinger](https://www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer/Riplinger)
www.facebook.com/Riplingerchurch/

Interim Pastor

Lowell Bolstad
Email: interimpastor1953@gmail.com
Cell: 715-226-0163

Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Nieman
Email: jennyfaith659@gmail.com
Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Amanda Schjoneman
sjlcoffice@frontier.com

Deadlines

- Weekly email
Tuesdays 9am
- Sunday bulletin announcements
Thursdays 9am
- Monthly newsletter
20th of each month

Thank you for your participation in and support of the life and mission of this parish.

Invite others to services of worship and pray that those who do not know Jesus may come to know him. The risen Christ commands his followers to share the good news.



Connect

November 2021

All Saints Sunday on November 7—We give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest,” who fought the good fight, and who received the crown. A special invitation is extended to those families whose loved ones have died this past year.

Blessing for Veterans on November 14—A prayer of remembrance for veterans will be offered on this Sunday close to Veterans Day. A special invitation is extended to all veterans.

Blessing for Hunters on November 14—A blessing of hunters before the deer season will be offered on the Sunday before the deer season gun hunt. A special invitation is extended to hunters.

Baptism on November 14—Aarica and John Seagren desire to present Luella to receive Holy Baptism and request your prayers.

Christ the King Sunday on November 21—“Jesus shall reign where’re the sun does its successive journeys run,” wrote Isaac Watts. In this spirit, we gather on this last Sunday of the church year to honor Christ who claims the central place in our lives!

Spencer Community Livestream Thanksgiving Service to be Offered Wednesday, November 24, 7pm—Tune in to this service for a perfect way to start the Thanksgiving and Christmas season with gifts of praise and gratitude. To join in thankful worship, go to one of these options: “Spencer Community Thanksgiving Service” Facebook page. Links on host church’s web sites or Facebook pages: Faith Journey, Christ the King Catholic, St. John’s Lutheran. Non-perishable items for Spencer Food Pantry may be dropped off at the church by November 24. Orange bags available in the gathering area.

First Sunday of Advent on November 28—“Come, Lord Jesus.” This is the prayer of Advent. Jesus has come as a babe born in a manger. Jesus comes into our midst in Word and Sacraments and the witness of Christians. Jesus will come again at the end of time. Attend services of worship during this season of Advent to prepare your hearts and lives for his coming.

From the Pastor

Here is a prayer from Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the season: The nation—Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Learning More about Our Companion Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

In 1999, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA covenanted together in a companion synod relationship. Companion Congregations is part of the larger companion synod relationship. All congregations and parishes in our two churches walk together and are encouraged to participate in this joyful ministry.

ELCA Pastors' Academy—Since 2009 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin have worked together to host a continuing education event for pastors in Malawi. Every two years, we work with the leadership in the ELCM to design and recruit teachers for this opportunity.

Ongoing Support for the Ministry We Do Together—We continue to seek ways to sustain the ministries we do together, and to develop new and meaningful ways we can accompany our brothers and sisters in Malawi. If you or your congregation feel called to support well projects, the Pastors' Academy, literacy or children's education programs, permaculture training, parish/clinic/school buildings, or feeding programs, please contact the companion synod coordinator, Deacon Laura Ramlow (lramlow@nswi.org).

Brief Historical Background of ELCM—The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) is one of rapid growing churches on the Continent of Africa. It was established on 21st November 1982 by a group of lay people some of whom had returned work in neighboring countries where Lutheranism has been practiced. The first service was held in a house of one of the key-founding members by the name of Gilbert Steven Msuku now late, in the city of Lilongwe and later on moved into classroom at Lilongwe Government Primary School. Rev. G.S Msuku by then Mr. Msuku was the founding Chairman and then Mr. J. P. Bvumbwe now the Bishop was the Secretary of the group. The headquarters of the new church was in Lilongwe.

In 1983 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania was contacted to send its Pastors to come and assist. Rev. Makanta now late, accepted and became the visiting missionary, in the same year; a temporal church building was constructed at Mbidi Congregation in Zomba the Southern part of Malawi. In 1985 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe sent a group of people to Malawi to assist in evangelism. At the end of the same year Dean Tosten Ellwyin from Umpumulo Theological Seminary in South Africa was asked to come to Malawi to conduct leadership Seminar. In 1986 Rev. Stegmeyer and later Rev. Kinyamasongo from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania came to teach and do pastoral work. In January 1987 the first three local pastors were ordained into Holy Ministry and these were Rev. J.P. Bvumbwe the current Bishop, Rev. Mixon Mbewe retired and late Rev. A.D.J Phiri. Who were ordained at the St. Peter's Anglican church in Lilongwe by Bishop Robinson of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana. In 1988 the late Mr. Joel Ngaiyamu from ELCT came to conduct leadership seminar. Late in 1987 Church leadership changed from laity to clergy known as the Senior Pastor as leader of the church. In the same 1988, ELCM became a member of Lutheran World Federation -LWF. In 1989 Lutheran World Service –LWS office was established in Malawi as a response to the call of ELCM.

During the same year ELCM became a member of Christian Council of Malawi. In 1990 Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Hermannsburg- Germany sent Rev. Martin Schweitzer late as a missionary to support mission work in Malawi. In 1991 Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland sent a Missionary Rev. A. Kujapa to Malawi to do Pastoral work since the harvest was great but the labourers were few.

Currently the Church runs 13 Primary Schools, 1 Secondary School in the Northern Region, a Lay Training and Vocational Centre in Madisi -Dowa. It also runs a Health Centre at Madisi and Mobile Health Clinics, One in each region of the country. 120 Feeding Centers across the country. Some of the Programmes in which the church is involved in are; Malaria, Climate Change and Mitigation, HIV and AIDS interventions, Diaconal work in general, Health and Sanitation, Food Security, Water Provision by drilling boreholes, just to mention but a few.

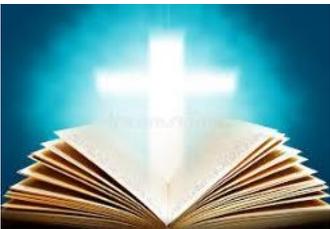
The church has over 101,000 members, 400 Congregations and Preaching Points, with 72 Parishes and Mission Areas. The church is currently divided into 9 Deaneries with 56 total number of Pastors including the Bishop. The ELCM continues to grow covering the whole country with close to 86% of its members being in the rural areas. The highest governing body of the Church is the Church Assembly which meets every three years and it has an equal representation of 1 woman, 1 youth, 1 Man from each parish. The Assembly reflects upon the mission as priority of the church. The church Council, which is the second highest governing body, sits in between the Assembly it meets quarterly. It is responsible for ensuring the daily activities of the church. Due to the growing number of preaching points and Congregations the ELCM is constantly in need of training more pastors and continuing education in order to respond to the leadership needs. Most congregations and parishes depend on lay people for specific ministries such as teaching Sunday school, confirmation classes, preaching and other ministerial activities, inspite of this and due to large areas of coverage still a number of parishes go without a Pastor for weeks or even months. <https://elcm.weebly.com/about-us.html>

Faith Formation



Jesus And Me (JAM)

Praise God for his provision! We have three fabulous teachers for JAM, one preschool substitute and one middle school helper. We are seeing lower numbers of kids attending JAM. We are a bit concerned that the events of the last 1 ½ years has affected the priority of faith in our families. St. John's believes that in the uncertain times that we are in, faith must be a priority in families so that the younger generations know and experience our living God in their own lives. This is an opportunity for their faith to be an experience not just theory. Preschool & Kindergarten have started the year off with some Old Testament stories that will continue in November. First, second, and third grades started with Creation, currently they are working on a GIFT unit about worship, they will celebrate in worship on Nov. 14. Beginning that same day, they move into the Stewardship GIFT unit. Fourth and fifth grades began the year with a GIFT unit on The Sacraments. Now they are learning about spiritual habits until December.



Cross Training

In September & October, youth explored the many changes they face in this phase of their lives. Changes in their body, in their interests, with friends, in their mood, and changes at home can feel like a lot of unknowns to deal with! This series gave them practical, spiritual truths they can hold onto as they go into the unknown of these years and beyond. We finished October with a one-week series about money-focusing on how our attitude about money affects how we use our money and where we place our faith in money or in God our provider. On October 27 we had a Halloween party where each person was asked to come dressed as a Biblical character and to bring the reference of where in the Bible their character is from (book and chapter). Following a costume contest, we played games and had fun. Beginning in November we'll be starting a 3 week series on Forgiveness and will end November with a one week series on Gratitude & Thankfulness.



LIVE

We started out the year a bit rough. We lacked leadership for LIVE. However, the number of youth that come has been awesome, 10-15 each week! Again, praise God for his provision! Rich Wilke has decided to be the leader for LIVE. We thank him for his commitment and passion in sharing his faith and helping youth apply their faith in their lives. We started the year with a series by Pastor Frances Chan called "Finding Truth". Late in October we began a series called "Different by Jonathan Evans. In this series, Jonathan Evans will walk students through the parables in Luke to teach what it looks like for God to rule our lives. Though a life sold out for Christ might look backwards to everyone else, it actually points us back to how God intended our lives to be when he first created us. When God is king, he reverses the curse and flips everything we know on its head. We simply have to choose to follow his lead.

Wednesday Meals for Cross Training & LIVE

Thank you SO much to those who have signed up to provide a meal!! We are extremely grateful and blessed. Currently, we have the meal covered until December 15. We will need families to sign up for January-May. That sign up will be up and ready before December 1. Remember, if everyone takes a turn, then we all share the load.

2022 Mission Trip Informational Meeting

It's already that time of the year to think about a 2022 Summer Mission Trip. Youth currently in 8th grade through high school and adults are eligible to go on the trip. Anyone who would like more information about a 2022 mission trip are invited to a meeting on November 8, 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. If you will be unable to attend the meeting but would like more information contact Jenny Nieman jenny-faith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636.

SOME THINGS TO KNOW

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting and Council Elections will be on January 23, 2022. If you are interested in serving on council, please contact Pam Hardrath.

COME MEAL

I'm happy to report that the COME Meal is returning to its true intention of providing fellowship along with a warm meal. Meals will be served in person effective immediately. Thank-you to everyone who has been serving in one area or another to help COME run smoothly. We are still in need of a person to oversee the COME Meal, if you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pam Hardrath.

NEW GIVING CATEGORY

Due to the number of members concerned about our affiliation with the ELCA, the council has decided to add a giving category. The new General Fund- non tithe giving category is for members who would like to give their offering to St. John's without any part being tithed to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. If you do not switch to this category, your offering will continue to go into the General Fund and a tithe of that will be sent to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin monthly. Questions, please contact Pam Hardrath.

NEW WORSHIP SERVING SYSTEM

Beginning November 7, we will only be scheduling people to serve in hospitality, readers and tech/sound volunteers. Tags will be on the white board saying GREETER, USHER, COMMUNION ASSISTANT, BASKET BEARER. If you are willing to serve in an area, grab the tag and put it on please. We will test this new system out for a few months to see if it works. If you have any questions, comments or other ideas, please contact Pam Hardrath, 715-507-0549 or tpkrh4@gmail.com

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Spencer Community Thanksgiving Worship Service will be live stream only, available on November 24 at 7 pm. You can find the video on the "Spencer Community Thanksgiving Service" Facebook page along with St. John's website. We currently have orange bags available for food donations to the Spencer Food Pantry. Donations should be dropped off at St. John's by November 24.

KING'S FOOD PANTRY

Their new hours are Mondays from 11am to 3pm.



Don't forget to set
your clocks back
November 7th!

HELP NEEDED

MISSING!

Our coffee pots are struggling to make a nice hot beverage! It seems someone borrowed our coffee pots. When they brought them back, they brought one coffee pot back with the wrong middle stem. It is too long and the cover can't be put on it and the 30 cup pot was returned without the cord. We would appreciate this issue being resolved ASAP. Thanks!

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

"Many hands make light work." That is one of my favorite old sayings. We need a number of people to help out in various roles. If every member would be willing to serve in just one area we would have many hands to help out. Would you be willing to try serving in a needed role? Please sign up on the time and talent sheet where you are willing to serve. Copy and paste this link in your browser to find the sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094ba9af2aa13-time1>

Thank You
Pam Hardrath





November BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Pamela Kilty | 20 William Martens |
| Lance Neumann | Joe Muehlbauer |
| 3 Milton Viergutz | Claire Neumann |
| Dorothy Neuman | 22 Linda Brehm |
| 4 Joseph Scidmore | Donna Bychinski |
| Bentley Sebold | 23 Jennifer Meacham |
| Derek Vaughan | 24 Rudy Nieman |
| 8 Grace Burns | Caelyn Vogel |
| 10 Kaylyn Kohl | Gail Burns |
| Penny Vinnedge | 26 Matthew Leezer |
| Alexa Weber | 27 Jan Kops |
| 12 Justin Michlig | Heather Vogel |
| 13 Addison Mertins | 28 Ashton Ackman |
| LaVilla Schilling | Amanda Knecht |
| 14 Treyton Ackman | 29 Darla Newman |
| 15 Kylie Smazal | Dennis Reckner |
| 16 Dyllan Griepentrog | Sophie Schultz |
| 17 Tanika Reckner | 30 James Christopherson |
| Kinnley Mertins | |
| 18 Emily Wash | |



November ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1 Brad & Joan Bruss | 35 |
| 5 Keith & Kathi Pozorski | 27 |
| 15 Dennis & Teri Schorer | 41 |
| 16 Dennis & Janell Kopp | 36 |

Weddings IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Rudy & Amanda Nieman October 16

Baptisms IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Kaylee Marie October 17



Remember these lost loved ones
Steve Brueswitz October 14

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please contact the office so we can update our records.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in care facilities: Cyndi Ackerman, Jan Ammons, Dick Berger, Barb Dommer, Dean Hanson, Corrine Kettleborough, Roger Kilty, Grace Maines, Jean Mellenthin, Pat Miller, Dorothy Neuman, Dar Ponshock, Phyllis Premau, LaVilla Schilling, Earl Schiszik, Elsie Schmutzler, Darin Thompson.

Those with ongoing health concerns: Lois Block, Todd Frahm, Pam Hardrath, Audrey Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Michael Howe, Paul Kilty, Jodi Krause, Scott Kollmansberger, Sandy Lemens, Dylan Maki, Linda Marchinek, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans,

Becca Raczek (Cindy Weiler's niece), Dylan Rottscheit, Tammi Schiferl, Doris Seefeld, Joanne Seefeld, Jon Soderberg, Kimberly Tate, Michael Weigel, Lenore Williams.

Those with cancer: Judi Andrew, Linda Bauer, Keith Borchardt, Brenda Gardner, Sue Johnson, Mark Kilty, Parker Klimmer, Dennis Krause, Jeff Miller, Michelle Oelke, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner, Barb Wachsmuth, Francis Wash, Mark Zimmerman, Emily Weiler.

Those serving in the military: Tyler Klement

If you have any updates on these prayer requests or any additional prayer concerns, please contact the office. Pastor Bolstad is available for visits upon request. Contact the office or pastor.

o v e r m e m b e r

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger	1 1 PM Staff  <i>All Saints Day</i>	2	3 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 	8 1 PM Staff	9 6:30 PM Spencer Council	10 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	11  VETERANS DAY	12	13
14 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger	15 1 PM Staff	16 5:30 PM Worship Committee 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack	17 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	18 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	19	20
21 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	22 1 PM Staff	23 5 PM COME (Community Outreach Meal for Everyone)	24 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Thanksgiving Service - Live Stream Only	25 OFFICE CLOSED  HAPPY Thanksgiving GIVING DAY	26	27
28 9 AM Worship at Spencer 11 AM Worship at Riplinger No JAM at Spencer	29 1 PM Staff	30	1 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	2	3	4

Spencer Serving Schedule

	November 7th	November 14th	November 21st	November 28th
Technology	Teri Schorer	Savana Weyer	Rachel Nieman	Tracey Ackman
Sounds	Teri Schorer	Lydia Nieman	Rachel Nieman	Tracey Ackman
Reader	NEEDED	Lori Cook	Teri Schorer	Gail Jicinsky
Hospitality	Pam Hardrath	Glenda Fellenz	Teri Schorer	Heather Vogel

Riplinger News

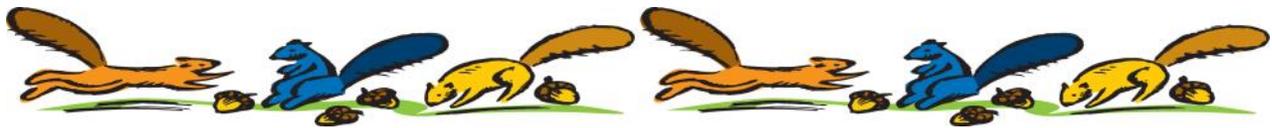
Attendance		November Readers	
Oct. 3	8	7th:	Trish Porter
Oct. 10	12	14th:	Dave Newman
Oct. 17	14	21st:	Joan Miller
Oct. 24	19	28th:	Sherry Schmutzler

Spencer Worship Attendance

Sept. 26	49
Sept. 27	9
Oct. 3	55
Oct. 4	14
Oct. 10	70
Oct. 11	5
Oct. 17	72
Oct. 18	5
Oct. 24	38
Oct. 25	16

Riplinger Quarterly Meeting

Riplinger held their quarterly meeting on October 24 and decided that there will no longer be meals at the church. Contact people for Riplinger are Wayne Hendrickson and Sherry Schmutzler.



SCRIP

Start Scripping Today!

Consider purchasing gift cards from our scrip program for all of your holiday needs! More news for Scrip! Families can pay for their orders using a credit card! In addition to linking a bank account (Presto Pay), families now have the option to pay for gift cards using a Visa or Mastercard. Best of all rebates are not impacted in any way.

Note: a 2.6% fee is added to your total order at check out. Gift cards are available for purchase in the church office, Monday through Thursday 10am to 2pm. If you know of a family or individual who could benefit from the aid of Scrip, please let Pam Hardrath know. Life faces us with many challenges, and we may need a helping hand financially. That is where Scrip can help! For more information on how this program works, please feel free to ask Pam Hardrath.



Treasurer's Report: September 2021

INCOME	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Tithes & Offerings	\$7,386.00	\$84,205.57	\$148,000.00
Non-tithe General Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riplinger Reimbursement Shared Exp.	\$442.95	\$4,127.43	\$8,000.00
Building Use	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$7,828.95	\$88,383.00	\$157,000.00

EXPENSES

1. Supporting the Wider Mission	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Tithe (10% to NW Synod/ELCA)	\$1,019.00	\$8,992.00	\$14,800.00
Synod/Official Mtgs (pastor-shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Synod Assembly Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$38.00	\$100.00
Total	\$1,019.00	\$9,030.00	\$15,600.00

2. Preparing For and Conducting Worship	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Copyrights	\$0.00	\$710.00	\$700.00
Community Worship Services	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$850.00
Pulpit Supply	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Instrument Repair	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$0.00	\$377.93	\$2,500.00
Music/Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Organist Payroll	\$217.50	\$1,522.50	\$2,600.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$1,991.32	\$17,921.88	\$25,645.00
Total	\$2,208.82	\$21,382.31	\$35,295.00

3. Faith Formation Ministries For Our Children, Youth & Adults	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Birth to 3	\$0.00	\$154.77	\$300.00
Children's Ministry	-\$17.30	-\$27.73	\$3,000.00
Middle School (shared)	-\$36.73	\$559.27	\$1,000.00
High School (shared)	\$0.00	\$226.71	\$2,300.00
Adult Faith Formation	-\$61.70	\$14.90	\$600.00
Right Now Media	\$0.00	\$1,319.89	\$1,300.00
Library Resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$995.66	\$8,960.94	\$12,820.00
Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	\$943.50	\$8,967.50	\$17,680.00
Total	\$1,823.43	\$20,176.25	\$39,200.00

4. Caring For Our Church Family	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Care Resources	\$0.00	\$28.48	\$150.00
Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$476.03	\$500.00
Office Supplies (shared)	\$15.80	\$406.16	\$600.00
Telephone & Internet (shared)	\$159.40	\$1,295.49	\$1,500.00
Postage (shared)	\$110.00	\$675.60	\$1,000.00
Copier Maintenance (shared)	\$0.00	\$618.04	\$1,100.00
Subscriptions, Software (shared)	\$139.88	\$1,785.43	\$2,100.00
Technology - all areas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$249.15	\$250.00
Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	\$108.49	\$980.21	\$1,500.00
Leadership Study Materials	\$0.00	\$71.60	\$100.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$995.66	\$8,960.94	\$12,820.00
Secretary Payroll (shared)	\$1,092.00	\$7,108.50	\$15,600.00
Total	\$2,621.23	\$22,655.63	\$38,420.00

5. Reaching Out to Serve Our Community	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Kitchen License/COME	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$500.00
Mission Project Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$800.00

Treasurer's Report: September 2021

6. Equipment and Maintaining Our Platform for Mission	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Electricity	\$447.86	\$3,067.76	\$4,500.00
Natural Gas	\$13.34	\$1,350.02	\$2,000.00
Holding Tanks	\$255.00	\$555.00	\$1,000.00
Waste Disposal	\$93.60	\$1,022.76	\$1,100.00
Cleaning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Supplies & General Maintenance	\$209.65	\$1,373.93	\$1,500.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$909.00	\$2,000.00
Lawn Mowing - Church	\$0.00	\$451.96	\$500.00
Cemetary Assoc. Lawn Care	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Staff Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Insurance & Workmen's Comp	\$334.12	\$3,424.14	\$4,500.00
Mileage - Pastor (shared)	\$38.08	\$463.12	\$1,200.00
FICA (7.65% staff payroll)	\$183.83	\$1,449.61	\$2,885.00
Treasurer Payroll	\$150.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,800.00
Total	\$1,725.48	\$15,417.30	\$27,685.00
Total Expenses	\$9,397.96	\$89,221.49	\$157,000.00
Difference	-\$1,569.01	-\$838.49	\$0.00

Pastor Expense Breakout*	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance	Paid by Riplinger Annual Budget
Pastor Compensation (Spencer)	\$2,069.38	\$18,624.42	\$24,840.00	\$10,643.00
Housing Allowance (Spencer)	\$700.00	\$6,300.00	\$8,400.00	\$3,600.00
Social Security Allowance (Spencer)	\$211.86	\$1,906.74	\$2,542.00	\$1,090.00
Health Insurance & Pension (Spencer)	\$1,001.40	\$9,012.60	\$14,303.00	\$6,456.00
Books & Subscriptions (shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	
Continuing Education (shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	
Total Compensation**	\$3,982.64	\$35,843.76	\$51,285.00	

** 50% Worship, 25% Faith Formation, 25% Church Family

St. John's Lutheran Church Fund Balances Report: September 2021

	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	End Balance
General Fund (Checking Account)	\$16,477.98	\$7,828.95	\$9,396.96	\$0.00	\$14,909.97
Special Funds (Checking Account)					
ARK Balance	\$520.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$520.72
Fall Harvest Dinner	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Globe Money Balance	\$12.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.62
Technology Balance	\$732.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$752.00
Bible Camp Scholarships	\$4,283.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,283.27
Mission Trip Balance	\$2,407.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,407.78
Kitchen Equipment Balance	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.00
COME Balance	\$3,252.20	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,302.20
Seminary Balance	\$964.99	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,044.99
Memorial Gifts Balance	\$2,445.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,445.41
Building Fund	\$27,990.96	\$1,104.00	\$133.79	\$0.00	\$28,961.17
Checking Account Balance					\$58,864.13
Thrivent Choice (Savings Acct)	\$5,484.03	\$710.71	\$305.00	\$0.00	\$5,889.74
Sabbatical Fund (Forward Bank)	\$980.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$980.66
Total	\$65,776.62	\$9,793.66	\$9,835.75	\$0.00	\$65,734.53

September Spencer Council Minutes

St. John's Lutheran Church Leadership Minutes for September 14, 2021 (Approved)

Attending: Pastor Lowell Bolstad, Chair – Pam Hardrath; Secretary – Nadine Willett; Buildings & Grounds Director – Travis Hardrath; Food, Fellowship & Fun Director – Heather Vogel; Congregation Care Director – Teri Schorer; Minister of Faith Formation – Jenny Nieman; Worship Director – Luanne Schwarze
Missing: Beyond Our Doors Director – Position vacant; Vice Chair – Nick Wash; Treasurer – Roxie Wetterau

Guest: Gail Jicinsky

Call to order: At 6:30 PM by Chair Pam Hardrath

Opening prayer and devotion was led by Pastor Bolstad. The devotion shared from 'Making Christ Known' highlighted the hope we find through Christ. Faith-related preparations, teaching, and learning are all essential as is renewing our commitment. Prayer focus is for God's guidance in our life and congregation faith journeys.

New Business:

- Request from congregational discussion group concerned with some ELCA practices: Gail Jicinsky represented a group of 15 members who had met to review concerns about some ELCA practices. The group requests 1) a taskforce to review current policies and practices of the ELCA to determine if they align with the principles that St. John's bases its ministry upon, and 2) an alternative for members to support St. John's with offerings without the tithe to ELCA. All opinions are welcome on the task force and discussions are ongoing about the mission, vision, and alignment of St. John's; representation from Riplinger's congregation will be invited as well. After discussion, the council approved the request for the taskforce and offering category option.
- COME Meal Lead: Many thanks to Amy Schmidt for her excellent leadership with the COME meal for many years. A new lead person is needed at this time. Groups for serving are scheduled through January. Recipes, menus, and quantities are well-organized. Follow-up is planned to see this community meal continue with appreciation for the many people who serve in various ways.
- Scheduling for Serving in Worship: A change in approach is planned in which people will be scheduled by the church secretary for Tech/Sound, Reading, and Hospitality serving roles. Tags will be available for people to step into the serving responsibilities of Communion Assistant, Basket Bearer, Greeter, and Usher. Feedback welcome on this flexible approach to serving for Sunday and

Monday worship.

- Council positions for 2022: The slate of council positions for 2022 was discussed. Appreciation was noted for those who have served in 2021 and new council members candidates will be invited via the newsletter and announcements.
- Monday evening worship: Reminders about the availability of the Monday evening worship will be included in announcements and schedules. The continuation of the Monday evening worship will be reviewed at the October council meeting.
- Thanksgiving Community Worship: The community planning and preparation group, with representation from Christ the King, Faith Journey (formerly Spencer United Methodist Church), and St. John's, is recommending an online worship since that serves many people well for flexible availability and feasibility this year. The hope is to return to in-person Thanksgiving community worship in the future. Video segments, music involvement, readings, and messages will be included from all three of the churches so that this worship is as meaningful as possible with heartfelt thankfulness and praise. The St. John's council agreed to support this online approach for this year.

Old Business:

- Harvest Dinner: There will not be a harvest dinner this year.

Secretary Report: Nadine Willett

- Minutes from council meeting on August 10, 2021 were approved.

Treasurer Report: Roxie Wetterau

- August Report: Income of \$11,295.02 was reported with disbursements of \$9,840.69 for a net difference of positive \$ 1,454.33 for the month. The General Fund balance is \$16,477.98 and we are in a good financial position. Report approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lowell Bolstad

- Pastoral Ministry: Worship and preaching, administration, visitation, and wider church responsibilities continue to be accomplished.
- Guidance is ongoing regarding the call process and worship service needs.

September Spencer Council Minutes Continued

Minister of Faith Formation Report: Jenny Nieman

- JAM (Jesus and Me): A second leader for 3 year old-Kindergarten and a leader for the 3rd and 4th grade groups are needed. Bibles for preschoolers and 3rd graders will be presented on September 26th during worship. Two families with children involved in JAM and Cross Training will be transferring to St. John's.
- Cross training (6th to 8th Grade students): Cross training resumes September 15. Additional male small group leaders are needed.
- LIVE: LIVE resumes September 15th. An additional male leader is needed. Two bonfire nights for high schoolers were hosted. Two "5th Quarter" events are planned.
- Mentor/Affirmation of Baptism: Awaiting responses from adults asked to serve as mentors with the plan to begin meeting with youth in October to stay on track.
- Baptism: Two requests for baptism and encouraging conversations about baptism are ongoing.
- Other: A Spencer Junior class bonfire will be held on September 19th with Jenny chaperoning the event.

Worship Report: Luanne Schwarze

- Liturgy: The "This is the Feast" liturgy will be included in the second Sunday worship service each month at the request of congregation members.
- Organ: The organ is working well with about 98% of functionality restored; no bill has been received.
- Online worship: For planning online, live-stream worship, a team of two or three people is requested.
- Worship attendance levels for Sunday and Monday services were reviewed.

Buildings and Grounds Report: Travis Hardrath

- Parking lot: The work on light pole position and stability is progressing. Request for sealing yet this year will be pursued with the supplier.
- Spectrum: The cable is in place to the church with Travis Hardrath and Jim Christopherson working to complete work for active connection in the church building.
- Bible study group: The men's group is meeting every other week.

Food, Fellowship, and Fun Report: Heather Vogel

- VBS: VBS and teamwork with Jenny went well.
- Back to Church Sunday: Jenny, Teri, and Heather coordinated events for a positive, fun, and welcoming worship, picnic, and activities.
- Congregational Care Report: Teri Schorer
- The Back to Church Sunday event made for good connections.

Beyond Our Doors Report: Director position is vacant for 2021.

- Gift cards: Requests for needed assistance have been granted as a part of this ongoing mission.
- New members: Lacey and Jonathon Berres and their children Jasper and Emerick are welcomed.

Vice Chair Report: Nick Wash

- No updates.

Chairperson Report: Pam Hardrath

- Updates included throughout meeting topics.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM. Council gathering time closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Willett, Council Secretary