

Services of Worship

Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am

Mondays

- Spencer 6:30pm

Pastor Ritchie Cole

sjlc13pastor@gmail.com

920-216-4292

**Spencer Congregation: &
Parish Office**

210167 State Hwy 13

Spencer, WI 54479

715-659-5158

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

Riplinger Congregation:

W1776 2nd Avenue

Spencer, WI 54479

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/sjlcSpencer

Instagram

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

YouTube

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

Minister of Faith

Formation

Jenny Nieman

jennyfaith659@gmail.com

715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath

Thursday 6 to 9 pm

Email:

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

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

Deadlines

- Weekly email:

Tuesdays 9am

- Sunday announcements:

Wednesday 5pm

- Monthly Newsletter:

Monthly on the 20th

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praising God, Building Relationships and
Sharing the Love of God. Together!

September 2026, Calendar of Events!

September Food Drive at Riplinger supporting CUP Food Pantry.

September 4, 11am – 1pm, Brat and Hot Dog Fry in the Spencer parking lot.
We are selling brats, hot dogs, chips, soda and water.

September 8, 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting

September 13, 8:30am, Reconciliation Service

September 13, 11am, Riplinger, wear your Packer attire to worship and Back to School Recognition

September 16, 1pm, Riplinger Ladies Circle

September 16, 6:30pm Cross Training and LIVE Parent & Youth Meeting for all middle and high school students. Pizza will be served.

September 17, 5:30pm, Board Meeting

September 20, 8:30am, Gift card sale before worship.

September 20, 9am Blessings Sunday, Backpack Blessing, Fall Sport Blessing, JAM, Cross Training & LIVE leader commissioning.

September 20, 10:15am, First day of JAM for all youth age 3 to Grade 5

September 22, 5 to 6pm, COME Meal

September 23, 8pm, 2027 Districts Meeting

September 29, 6:30pm, Monthly Bible Study

October 4, 10am, Parish Polka Service. This will be the only worship service offered.

PASTOR AWAY: October 4 following worship Pastor Ritchie will be leaving to attend the Annual Gathering. He will return on October 7.

October 10, 1 to 5pm, there will be a surprise birthday party for Barb Ault in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to pass and help spread the word!
Thank you!

From Pastor Ritchie



Greetings in Christ!

Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer. We will probably see our last 90 degree days for the year. The leaves are turning, (I saw some turning in July!) Those of us with kids or grandchildren in school are aware of the busyness that comes with that.

It is easy to become so bogged down in the busyness of life that we forget the things that are truly important, and whether you are aware of it or not, this is by design. We read in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." This is God talking to us. He has plans for us that will be truly awesome for us and for those around us. Unfortunately, Satan has plans too. God tells us in Psalm 46:10a to, "Be still and know that I am God." Satan, on the other hand, wants us to be so busy we don't think about God. It is by his design that we have so much going on in our lives. These things sound as though they are incredibly important for our kids' futures. We want them to have a good education, to do well in sports or other

endeavors, so they can earn a scholarship and go to the best colleges. All worthwhile endeavors, these things have value, but is it the value we place on them, or is it something less? God also tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:18, "...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." He is saying this life is temporary. It is the next life that lasts forever.

Life is not about the latest and the greatest. It isn't about having the most toys, and the saying, "he who dies with the most toys wins," is completely wrong. The busyness of our lives can turn our heads towards the things of this world. Don't let it. Life doesn't come through stuff, and stuff doesn't last. Just ask the people in the Menasha area who were hit by the tornado.

It really boils down to Deuteronomy 30:19, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live."

Go with God, Pastor Ritchie



September 6

Ezekial 33:7-9
Romans 13:1-10
Matthew 18:1-20

September 13

Genesis 50:15-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:12-14; 19-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32
Philippians 2:1-4; 14-18
Matthew 21:23-32



Weekly Email Link

If you do not currently receive our Wednesday weekly email, newsletter and other electronic communications and would like to, please email the office for the link;

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

Thank you!!

Riplinger Events



Share the Spirit

September 13

To kick off opening day for the Packers, we are going to try something different! Please wear your Pack attire to church to show your support for the Packers! They can always use extra support! Go Pack Go!

Back to School

September 13

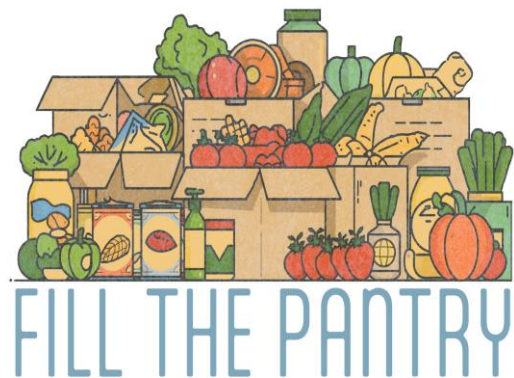
A day to recognize all school age students as they head back to the classroom.

PRAYING OVER
a new
school year



We will be holding a food drive during the month of September supporting CUP Food Pantry in Colby. Start bringing your items when you come to church on August 30. A collection site will be set up in the corner of the entryway.

September Food Drive



BRAT & HOT DOG FRY



Brat & Hot Dog Fry

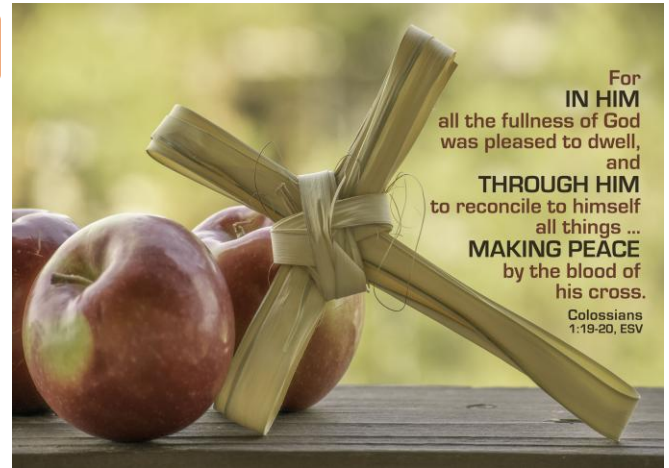
September 4, 11am to 1pm.

We will be selling brats, hot dogs, chips, soda, and water in the Spencer parking lot.

Reconciliation Sunday

September 13, 8:30am

With guest Pastor Marcus Carlson



Backpack Blessing

Students (from preschool to college, alongside teachers and school staff) are invited to bring their backpacks, chrome book, etc to the service for a special blessing during worship.

Blessings Sunday

September 20, 9am



Fall Sports Blessing

Players and coaches of all fall sports are invited to wear your team jerseys, shirts or uniforms to church for a special blessing during worship as we pray for the safety, sportsmanship, and spiritual growth of students, coaches, and families ahead of the autumn sports season.

Blessed BEYOND MEASURE

September 20, 9am worship
We will commission our JAM
and youth leaders for the year.

JAM

kicks off

September 20, 10:15 am.

We'll begin in the worship space with a couple of songs and then kids will go to their respective classrooms. Parents are more than welcome to be a part of both of those activities. You can fill out the registration form online, here's the link:

<https://forms.gle/CYq3wycpV3B3ubzE6>
or paper copies are on the bulletin board.



Stay Connected

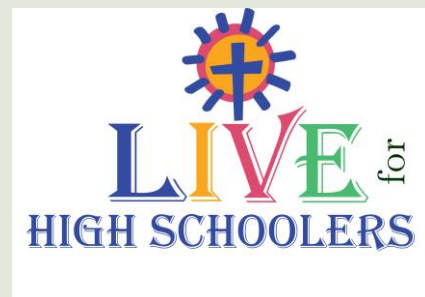
We are all very busy and it is sometimes very hard to keep up with all the things that are important to us. We have a few ways to stay connected and up to date with JAM, Cross Training & LIVE events and announcements- we have separate private Facebook group pages for JAM, Cross Training & LIVE, this year for Cross Training & LIVE we will continue to use the BAND app. You can also find info for each of these in the weekly email and on the church website.

Cross Training & LIVE

kicks off with a parent &
youth meeting on
September 16 at 6:30pm.



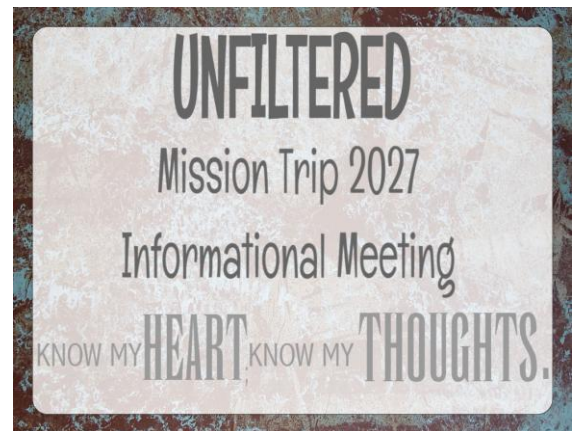
Cross Training is our Wednesday night Middle School time. During Cross Training, middle schoolers spend time digging deeper into faith topics, relating faith to their everyday life and forming relationships with a small group of peers and an adult. You can register your youth online with this link: <https://forms.gle/QMAapZPZuszEScELA> or paper copies are on the bulletin board.



LIVE is our Wednesday night youth time for High Schoolers to explore their faith deeper, ask questions, discover practical ways to live their faith 24/7 and form relationships with their peers and a few adults.



We will be
serving pizza.



2027 Districts Meeting

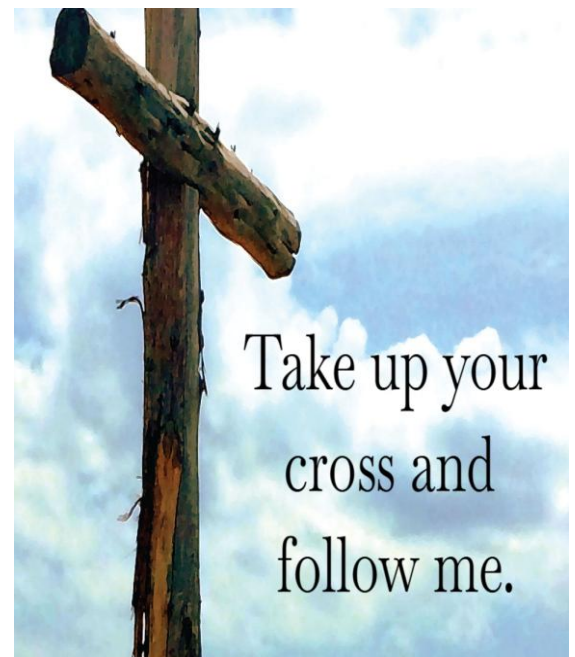
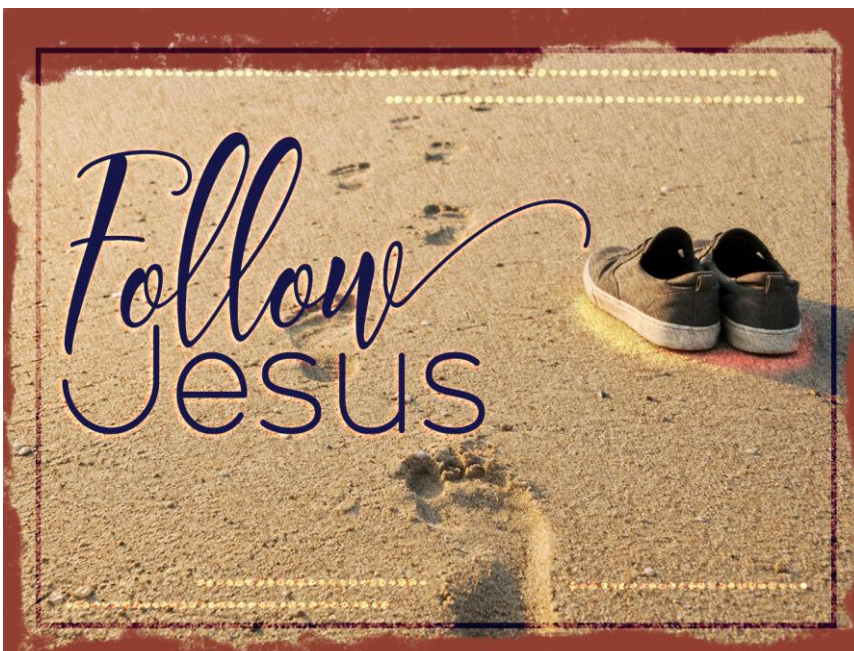
September 23, 8pm

Last year the Districts Youth Conference had a record number of attendees and sold out early; this year we will begin registering for Districts much earlier to ensure we don't miss out. Parents and youth are encouraged to be at this meeting. We'll introduce Districts, answering questions, and share the pertinent information that we know at that time. Online registration will open on October 8 so it will be important for us to gather registrations as soon as possible.

First Meeting

October 7, 8pm

The 2027 locations are released, and we have a catalog to begin the process of selecting the location for next year's mission trip. This is a great meeting for anyone interested in learning about what Group Mission Trips are, what happens on the trip, what are the fundraising expectations, what the costs are and much more. Youth middle school through high school, their parents and any interested adults are invited to attend this meeting.



Operation Christmas Child



St. John's will be participating in
Operation Christmas Child.

More information will be in next month's newsletter. But with the back to school sales, it is a great time to purchase crayons, notebooks, pencils, pens, and small journals. Washcloths and toothbrushes are needed as well as WOW items like soccer balls and pumps, baseballs, tennis balls, hats, sunglasses, small hammers with nails, screwdrivers, yo-yos, spinners, coloring books, hot wheel cars, stuffed animals, Uno, travel to GO from DT, hair pretties, dresses, (send underwear with dress), socks, art kits, yarn and crochet hooks for G10-14, and dolls. All items must be new.

DO NOT INCLUDE: food & edibles, liquids & gels, (for example: no shampoo, lotions, liquid or gel hand sanitizers, liquid makeup, toothpaste, any type of soap, military & war toys, camouflage clothing/items that look military, glass containers, porcelain, snow globes, anything that can shatter, aerosol cans, vitamins, or any kind of medicine.

Peggy Labrenz is coordinating. More information can be found on their [website](#).

SHOP WITH SCRIP OR RAISE RIGHT!

What is Scrip?

You can purchase gift cards to make everyday purchases like food, clothing and other essentials, and with every purchase we earn revenue that we use to help out in the community.

How to Order Gift Cards

You can order gift cards by filling out the order form found in the brochure rack and place it in the Scrip mailbox. Please make checks payable to "St. John's". OR you can place an order by going on-line to www.raiseright.com. If you use this option, please pay by "Prestopay" on-line, credit card payment or make your check payable to St. John's. If you use this option, please print out your order summary and place it in the Scrip mailbox. **Enrollment code: C99A97F23L251**

HAPPY SHOPPING WITH RAISE RIGHT!! Contact Pam if you would like more information. 715-507-0549 or stop by the Scrip Table on September 20 before 9am worship. Thank you.



September 22

5 to 6pm

We will be enjoying baked ziti, peas and carrots, dinner rolls and assorted bars at our Community Meal for Everyone. To donate food or volunteer to serve use this SignUp Genius [link](#) or the sign up on the bulletin board.



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

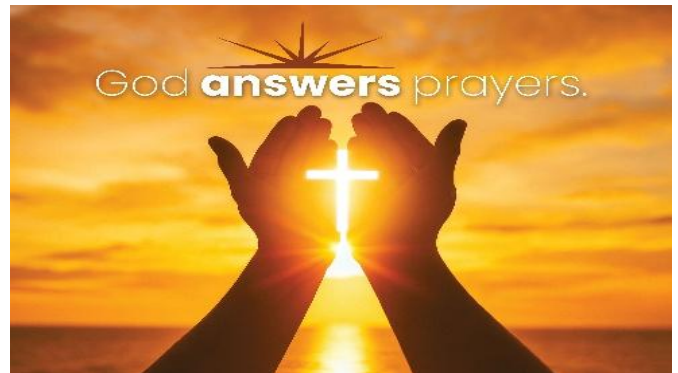
- 2 Adryan Schmidt
Raelene Litzer
Ashley Stroetz
- 6 Gracie Leezer
- 8 Zach Fleischman
- 10 Brooke Cloud
Nolt Dommer
Aubree Fleischman
- 13 Darin Thompson
- 14 Sadie Fleischman
- 15 Aurora Heeg
Logan Reynolds
Cashton Vogel
- 17 Leyla Manicke
- 18 Jaxon Bruss
Tahneya Anderson
Brad Helsten
- 19 Janine Luepke
Dianne Vaughn
- 20 Dawn Pagenkopf
Alan Seefeld
- 21 Amanda Gronski
Cora Weiler
- 23 Ayden Michlig
Carri Weiler
Lori Helsten
Charla Hagen
- 24 Jenelle Ertl
Kiyann Serum
Ryan Sebold
Audrey Helsten
- 26 Elisha Blanchard
Travis Stroetz
- 27 Tony Bauer
- 28 Evan Blanchard
Samantha Soback
- 29 Erica Schober
Brenda Newman
Faye Lang
- 30 Nicole Otero

SEPTEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

**May the love of Christ
shine through your marriage!**

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 4 Dennis & Dawn Reckner | 39 |
| 7 Josh & Karrie Kaiser | 2 |
| 11 Troy & Luci Hardrath | 22 |
| 13 Todd & Ellen Brinkman | 41 |
| 14 Ryan & DeAnn Griepentrog | 30 |
| 17 Joseph & Patty Matter | 49 |
| 21 Jonathon & Lacey Berres | 13 |
| 22 Keith & Lisa Kettleborough | 36 |
| 25 David & Dawn Buse | 44 |
| David & Amanda Knecht | 22 |
| 28 Mike & Jewel Schuette | 35 |
| Keith & Danielle Schmidt | 24 |



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

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

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

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

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

silcoffice13@gmail.com



	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27	October 4
Greeter	Bob Haas	Randi Thompson	Bob & Glenda Fellenz	Faye Lang	Inez Fosberg
Usher	Milt Viergutz	Jim Christopherson	Brad Helsten	Milt Viergutz	Jim Christopherson
Usher	Harry Vogel	Travis Hardrath	Alan Seefeld	Harry Vogel	Dennis Krause
Tech	Teri Schorer	Pam Hardrath		Tracey Ackman	Tracey Ackman
Sound			Janika Helsten		
Reader	Milt Viergutz	Jim Christopherson	Glenda Fellenz	Hannah Rossow	Ashley Stroetz
Communion Assistant	Jule Vogel	Melissa Steuber	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel	Ashley Stroetz
Basket Bearer	Cohley Vogel	Kinley Krause	Zoey Hardrath	Cohley Vogel	Brooklynn Stroetz
Hospitality	Melissa Krause	Pam Hardrath	Penny Vinnedge	Hannah Rossow	Ashley Stroetz
Riplinger	Trish Porter	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Heidi McBride	Trish Porter

YouTube

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



Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger
July 5	28	16
July 12	54	34
July 19	34	16
July 26	50	40



Save the
Date!



30 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:00pm High School Youth Night	31 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	1 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours	2	3	4 Pastor's Day Off 11am – 1pm Brat Fry	5 Pastor's Day Off
6 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	7 Happy Labor Day! 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	8 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting 7:30pm Staff Meeting	9	10 6:00pm Secretary in office	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 Pastor's Day Off
13 8:30am Reconciliation Service at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Wear Packer Attire, Back to School Recognition	14 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	15 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours	16 1:00pm Riplinger Ladies Circle 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE Parent & Youth Meeting	17 5:30pm Board Meeting 6:00pm Secretary in office	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 Pastor's Day Off
20 9:00am Worship at Spencer; Blessing Sunday 10:15am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	21 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	22 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 5:00pm COME Meal	23 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE 8:00pm Districts Informational Meeting	24 6:00pm Secretary in office	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 Pastor's Day Off
27 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	28 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	29 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	30 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	1 6:00pm Secretary in office	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 Pastor's Day Off

Spencer Board Contact

Spiritual Care:

Rudy Nieman rudynieman@yahoo.com
Glenda Fellenz rglfellenz@gmail.com
Dave Buse dave.buse12@gmail.com

Liaisons

Peggy Labrensz labrepjl@gmail.com
Faye Lang faisy1946@gmail.com
Travis Hardrath tpkrh4@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Teri Schorer tschorer82@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Kris Ovans goobervns@hotmail.com

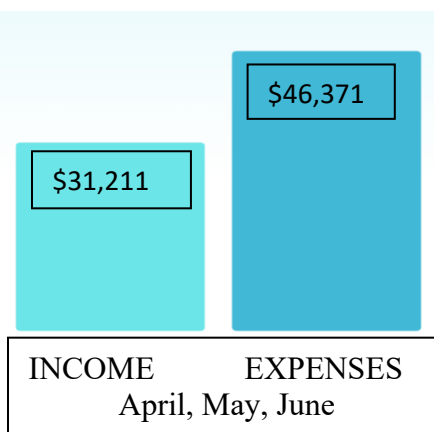
Riplinger Council Contact

President: Brenda Newman riprider53@gmail.com
Vice President: John Meacham jjmeacham@msn.com
Secretary: Trisha Porter porter440@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Karla Kilty karlakilty2@gmail.com
Member 1: Sharon Hamus sharonhamus@gmail.com
Member 2: Dave Newman riprider56@gmail.com
Member 3: Jane Meacham jjmeacham@msn.com

Shut In Addresses

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Audrey Helsten 106469 Highway 153 Spencer, WI 54479
Marshfield Health Services Grace Maines 814 W. 14th Rm. 403 Marshfield, WI 54449
Doris Seefeld 312 Dehne Street Colby, WI 54421

Spencer 2nd Quarter



Spencer Minutes

St. John's Lutheran Church, Board Meeting

August 18, 2026

Roll Call: Present- Pastor Ritchie, Rudy Nieman,

Glenda Fellenz, Faye Lang, Teri Schorer, Dave

Buse, Peggy Labrenz, Travis Hardrath

Observers: Marsha Martens, Melissa Stueber

Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Ritchie Cole

Treasurer's Report- Provided and Reviewed

Amazement Ministries Report-

- Discussion for Reconciliation Service to be held September 13, 8:30 a.m.
- Pastor Marcus is reviewing the church constitutions.
- Discussion to request a meeting with Board Members and Pastor Marcus on September 13 at 1:00 p.m. Pastor Ritchie will confirm availability of Pastor Marcus for this meeting.

Email Votes:

- July meeting minutes have been approved.
- Firepit addition on church property was approved.
- Donation and sale of sweet corn as a fund raiser for the building was approved.

Discussion was held regarding sending cards to members, Marsha Martens has accepted to send cards/ a Spiritual Care member will notify her when a card is needed.

Old Business:

- LCMC Annual Gathering Oct. 4-7, 2026. Pastor is recommending as many members to attend as possible. This gathering is available to anyone in the congregation. The gathering is held in West Des Moines, Iowa.
- October 4 th St. John's will have one service at 10:00 a.m. to allow for those attending the gathering travel time.
- Bank Account-Signers- Peggy and Teri are current signers for the remainder of the year, until the next annual Church Board member vote.
- Sound/Acoustic Boards- Dave Buse reported he is handling the communication with the company making the boards.
- Constitution Team reported on the discussion the team held with Marcus regarding the

review of the constitution. The team is working to identify the By Laws to be separated from the constitution.

- The Constitution Team participating in the review consists of Dave Buse, Faye Lang, Peggy Labrenz, Pastor Ritchie, Kris Ovans, Bruce Luepke and Melissa Stueber.
- Cemetery Constitution is still on the table for review.
- Certificate of Insurance for groups using the church facility. Pastor explained the request by Brotherhood Mutual to have groups provide the certificate of insurance.
- Discussion was held on the pros and cons. Dave will reach out to Brotherhood Mutual for further review of the purpose for Certificates of Insurance and report his finding.
- Church door locks are being updated and Dave is handling the changes.

New Business:silve

- Cemetery Committee-Rudy will contact the members. Bob Fellenz has volunteered to assist the Church Board with Sexton duties until another person can be appointed. The motion has been approved by Dave Buse and second by Travis Hardrath, motion approved.
- Dave will contact the person mowing the cemetery lawn to discuss tractor maintenance.
- Pest Control -Travis will review the options for companies and quotes to handle the pest control.
- Voting of Officers has been tabled until the next month.
- Pastor will be serving on VDC this fall Nov. 5-8, 2026.
- House of Mercy will be coming to share their ministry mission. Glenda will be scheduling this with the representative.

Next Meeting: September 10 th at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned Dave Buse, second by Glenda Fellenz, motion approved at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Schorer,

Recording Secretary