



connect

DECEMBER 2023

Services of Worship

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

Spencer Congregation:

Parish Office

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

Riplinger Congregation:

W1776 2nd Avenue, Spencer

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

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

YouTube

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

Pastor Jeff Siegel

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

Office Hours:

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

Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Nieman

Email:

jennyfaith659@gmail.com

Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath

Wednesday 5:30 to 9 pm

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

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

Deadlines

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



A worship service for those struggling in various ways. Maybe loss of a loved one, job, relationship, depression, etc.

Whatever has you feeling blue this holiday season, we invite you to our

Blue Christmas.

A place to mourn and reflect and share the hope of Jesus.

NEW Contemporary Worship Service

on Sundays at 6:30pm in Spencer. This contemporary worship service offers video music and a Bible teaching instead of a sermon. Please bring your paper Bible along.



If you are planning to join us in worship and would like to serve in worship, usher, communion assistant, reader, etc.

Use this [Link](#) to serve in worship on December 18.

And this [Link](#) to serve in worship on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

WORSHIP WITH US THIS Christmas

ST. JOHN'S, SPENCER
210167 State Hwy 13, Spencer
Christmas Eve Hymn Sing 9am
Christmas Eve Candlelight 4pm & 6pm
Christmas Day 9am

ST. JOHN'S, RIPLINGER
W1776 2nd Ave, Spencer
Christmas Eve Candlelight 2pm

St. John's Parish LCMC
Find us www.stjohnsspencer.com

PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER

Readings (AM Worship)

November 26

Advent 1

Before Jesus Returns

2 Thessalonians 2:1-15

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Matthew 24:9-27

December 3

Advent 2

The Day Jesus Returns

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 5:1-3 & 9-11

II Thessalonians 1:3-12

Matthew 24:29-44

December 10

Advent 3

After Jesus returns

II Peter 3:8-11

Revelations 21:1-8

Matthew 25:1-13

December 17

Advent 4

Israel & end times

Galatians 3:24-29 & 6:14-16

Romans 11:25-33

Luke 21:5-11 & 20-24

December 24, 25, 31

TBD

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.

Dear friends,

The countdown to Christmas through Advent has begun! A daily Scripture reading calendar & a calendar with daily fun activities for the season are provided later in this newsletter! Page 13 & 14.

During Advent, we prepare to welcome baby Jesus into our hearts & lives anew! And yes, we will celebrate this sacred & joyful mystery of God becoming human with candlelight services on Christmas Eve; 2pm in Riplinger & then 4pm and 6pm in Spencer!

Advent is also a time to explore the end of the Christmas story, the future return of baby Jesus as the victorious King of kings! While the world had no room for baby Jesus in the Inn, he, as King, has been preparing a place for us in his Father's House! God's love is amazing!

In taking on a mortal body like ours, through his death on the cross & his resurrection, he won an immortal body like his for us! By ascending to heaven to sit at the Father's right hand, he has secured the right to return to this earth as the victorious King of kings on the last day, a date known only by the Father! On that last day, the Scriptures say King Jesus will:

- 1) Decisively defeat the Devil & his followers by the splendor of his return!
- 2) Give immortal bodies to believers, living & dead, & lift them into the clouds with him!
- 3) Destroy the present heavens & earth with fire!
- 4) Judge all people before his throne!
- 5) Those who have rejected him will enter the eternal darkness & fire!
- 6) Those who have accepted him, will descend onto the new earth, the home of righteousness!
- 7) On the new earth, he will bless us with his eternal kingdom of life, love, & joy forever!

As we look forward to Christmas, we tend to anticipate the sharing of gifts, family reunions, amazing foods, & much joy. These things, while good, are but a dim glimpse of the eternal kingdom to come! The Devil's "gifts" for the end of human history are a short period of time filled with unparalleled distress, deception, hatred, divisiveness, Antichrist & crushing control. Friends, fear not, though the Lord will allow him to start his party to show his true end game for us, the Lord Jesus will visibly enter human history a 2nd time in order to crash the Devil's party & to reveal his much better gifts, resurrected bodies, the new earth, & the eternal kingdom!

So friends, know that no matter how bad things get, they are not the end of the story! The King is knocking, will you open your heart to him while there is still time? You can open your heart by saying, "God I am sorry for sinning. Jesus, I believe you are the returning King! Dwell in me!" If you do, you can gift others with peace, hope, love, & joy both now & in the eternal kingdom!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jeff

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Riplinger

January 21, 2024 following 11am worship

Spencer

January 28, 2024 following 9am worship



Council Positions

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

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

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

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

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

committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



Thank you to each and every person who played a role in the Community Thanksgiving Service. It lifted our spirit to see 152 people in worship, thanking and praising our God. All food and the \$766 donation benefitted King's Food Pantry.

WINTER 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.

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.

POINSETTIA CONTRIBUTION FORM

Poinsettia Contribution Form

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias complete this form and return it to the church office by Dec. 17. Cost: \$10 each (6.5 inch pot). Poinsettias may be taken home after Dec. 25 on a first come, first serve basis.

Name of person(s) ordering _____

Number of Poinsettias _____

Reason (i.e. In memory of; in honor of; in celebration of, etc.)

WHY CHILDREN NEED TO GET TO CHURCH N CHRISTMAS EVE

Worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com by Carolyn C. Brown

In most families Christmas Eve and Day are busy, chaotic times. It is not easy to get a family that includes overly-excited children to church. But, it is worth the effort. Children (and their parents) actually need it.

To hear the story read or told in an important way on the "night it happened" - Children like hearing the story of their birth on their birthday and celebrating other big events on "the very day it happened." So, the story which may have been acted out in a pageant and discussed in church school and read at home, feels more "real" when read on Christmas Eve or Day in the sanctuary.

To go to church at night- These days children are at church most often during the day. To go at night to a decorated, even candle-lit church is almost magical. When the family makes this an important part of Christmas - even in the middle of the chaos - just being there reminds children what is most important about Christmas.

To be with a crowd telling the story- Joining church friends reminds children that this story is something bigger than just their family traditions. They are part of

a huge family of families who celebrate Jesus' birth.

To sing the carols at least one more time- Not many families sing together at home and not many children's groups sing religious carols any more. That means we need to be intentional about singing with the carols with the children. And, who would want to miss singing "Silent Night" in the Christmas Eve sanctuary while hugging your child bathed in candlelight!

To create a context in which to discover the truth about Santa- If Santa is all there is to Christmas Eve once children learn "the truth," Christmas is just a greedy gift grab. But, if Christmas Eve has always circled around the story of Jesus told in the sanctuary the Christmas celebration gets richer.

To create memories- Worshiping on Christmas Eve or Day as a family creates over the years a treasure trove of memories. Some of them shine with wonder. Others make for eye-rolling stories that are retold every Christmas. These memories are precious for both the children as they mature and the parents as they age.

Make worship together as a family a priority for your Christmas celebration.

GIVING TREE

The community Giving Tree is up. St. John's has 5 families this year (1 tag for adults, 2 tags for children) for a total of 46 tags. The spending limit per tag is \$30. When you remove a tag from the tree, please follow the directions to record your tag. Please return gifts no later than Sunday, December 17 so we can get them to the families. Thank you for your continued support of this community mission. Questions, contact Lori Kops 715-613-5399.



YOUTH MINISTRY

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



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

JAM for youth age 3 to Grade 5, Sundays, 10am. They are off on December 24 and 31 for Christmas break.

Upcoming Schedule:
NO ONE IS SIGNED UP FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!

LAST CHANCE

TO STEP OUT!!

JANUARY 12 - 14, 2024
KI CONVENTION CENTER
INGREEN BAY



Cross Training for Middle Schoolers, Wednesdays, 6:30pm, optional supper at 6pm. They are off December 27 for Christmas break.

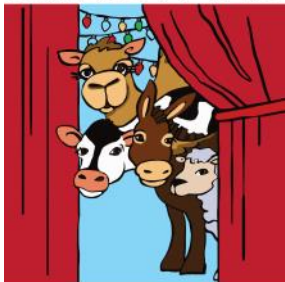
**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!
LET'S GO!!**

LIVE for High Schoolers, Wednesdays, 6:30pm, optional supper at 6pm. They are off December 27 for Christmas break.



DISTRICTS is a youth conference with outreach potential, where the gospel is clearly presented. This plug and play event for students in Junior & Senior High challenges and equips students to live on mission with God and take the next step in their relationship with God. The goal of this conference is to create an environment through large group rallies & seminars where students can experience God together and have adult leaders who can walk alongside of their students as they go home. Afternoon seminars are offered that address four specific purposes for students to choose from: Equip, Grow, Stretch & Hot Topics. Additionally, prayer is a central part of the weekend. It saturates everything that is done. Registration is open! Cost is \$90 per person. There is LOTS of scholarship money available, do not let money be the reason that you do not go. TALK to Jenny about scholarships and to reserve a spot today.

CHRISTMAS



Christmas Program will be presented during worship on December 17. A practice schedule will be available soon.

PROGRAM



WINTER CAMP

For where two or more are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
Matthew 18:20

FOREST SPRINGS



WINTER CAMP FOR YOUTH

It's action-packed. It's snow-filled. It's fuel for your faith. It's just what you've been looking for in an action packed, faith stretching weekend! After a day in the outdoors, you can grab a gourmet hot chocolate and hang out with friends in front of one of our fireplaces.

Wintertainment: Grades 8-12:
Jan 5-7 OR Meltdown: Grades 6-9:
Feb 16-18

Visit forestsprings.us for more information!

MISSION TRIP—LINCOLN, ILLINOIS, JUNE 15—22, 2024

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



2024 Basket Raffle

The basket raffle will begin on February 14.

If you would like to donate a themed basket for the raffle, the mission trip participants would be grateful! Baskets or items to add to a basket can be brought to church and placed in Jenny's office.

Save the Dates!

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



The next planning meeting is December 6, 8 pm in the youth room.

Club 52 Fundraiser

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



SHUT IN ADDRESSES

SHUT IN ADDRESSES:	Muriel Oelrich	Jim Schmutzler
Grace Maines	211763 Mystyc Avenue	N11245 Maple Street
Touch of Home	Spencer, WI 54449	Spencer, WI 54479
9787 Ives St.		
Marshfield, WI 54449	LaVilla Schilling	Doris Seefeld
	W143 Cloverdale Road	312 Dehne Street
Marshfield Health Services	Colby, WI 54421	Colby, WI 54421
Linda Marchinek		
814 W. 14th St Room 13	Lois Block	Pat Miller
Marshfield, WI 54449	402 Dehne Drive	N9934 Groveside Ave
	Colby, WI 54421	Spencer, WI 54449

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

HEY!! Have you heard about **Right Now Media??** No? Let me share a bit with you quick. Right Now Media is a FREE resource sponsored by St. John's. Experience the world's largest customizable library of biblical video resources for every person in your church or ministry. They even have a KID section with great things for your kiddos to enjoy.

Not sure where to start? Check out this series on [Advent](#). Inside, explore Who exactly is Jesus? What kind of God would come to earth as a human? As Christmas approaches, the season of Advent offers us a chance to reflect on our savior, his purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him. Join pastor Derwin Gray in this five-session Advent study as he unveils King Jesus—the God-man who defied expectations, the king of all creation who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend to sinners who wants to lift us up.

To create your own account so you can explore this extensive website follow this link from our website. <https://www.stjohnsspencer.com/right-now-media>



ONGOING

BIBLE
Studies

**Pastor's Ponderings
with Pastor Jeff**
Wednesdays, 7pm
Questions contact Pastor Jeff
715-615-2458.

MEN'S MINISTRY

December 14 & 28; 6:30pm,
Travis Hardraths shop—
213462 State Highway 13.
715-507-0548 for more
information.
BRING A FRIEND!

Young at Heart Ministry for our 60 years and older generation. If you are interested in helping Gail Jicinsky, coordinate and plan this ministry please contact her at 715-650-0720 or gjicinsky@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to our church family
Nick, Krystle, Montana Tomczik and
Liam Pluger.



Welcome to our church
Family, Michelle and Arianna
Krueger.

BAPTISMS



October 8-
Elizabeth and Mary Jo
daughters of Kurt Fehrenbach
and Mandi Herron.



November 12-
Tilly daughter of
Travis and Carri Weiler.




1 Donna Wenzel	15 Mary Fehrenbach
3 Malachi Anderson	Carson Weyer
Ralph Ottum	16 Zoreyna Hardrath
Harper Reynolds	18 Trinity Crain
4 Todd Ertl	Jake Reynolds
Jeff Weyer	24 Jackson Schuette
7 Ila Meacham	25 Rich Wilke
Michael Neumann	26 Jane Meacham
9 Raylan Burns	27 Judine Block
13 Juliet Ertl	29 Christopher Schmidt
14 Jessica Ertl	30 Corrie Bauer
Derek Hendrickson	Vicki Dekarske
David Lucht	31 Randi Thompson

May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!

3 Doug & Jan Kops	47 years
11 Keith & Trish Porter	28 years
18 Darlene & Roger Shupe	47 years
30 Jordan & Heather Vogel	17 years
31 Derek & Nicole Buse	7 years

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



 St. John's Lutheran Church
210167 Hwy 13, Spencer



Menu

- Turkey
 - Mashed potatoes & gravy
 - Corn
 - Bread
 - Cranberry Sauce
 - Cookies
- Free Community Meal for Everyone.



Prayer List

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

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

Those with health concerns: Owen Buse, Lois Block, Dale Fehrenbach, Wayne Hagen, Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Andy Hendrickson, Mandi Herron, Susan Howe, Shaun Kornusky, Sandy Lemens, Phil Lopez, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans, Tammi Schiferl, Doris

Seefeld, Gary Smith, Nancy Smith, Darin Thompson, Rich Wilke.

Those with cancer:

Judi Andrew, Nikki Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson, Parker Klimmer, Tim Komarek, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner

Those serving in the military: Tyler Klemment

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized or you need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Jeff via phone call or text message at 715-615-2458.

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



	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 18 Spencer Sign up online	December 31	January 7
Greeter	Charla Hagen	Nancy Dietsche	Bob & Glenda Fellenz	December 24, 25 Spencer Sign up online	Inez Fosberg Susan Howe	Amanda Gronski
Usher	Travis Hardrath	Brad Helsten	Travis Hardrath		Wayne Hempel	Allen Jicinsky
Usher	Jim Christopherson	Harry Vogel	Ryan Hardrath		Keith Schmidt	Nathan Gronski
Tech	Kyler Hardrath	Jenny Nieman	Kyler Hardrath		Qwyntyn Schmidt	Camdyn Vogel
Sound	Ryan Hardrath	Teri Schorer	Pam Hardrath		Devyn Schmidt	Jenny Nieman
Reader	Jim Christopherson	Penni Cloud	Glenda Fellenz		Gwen Thomas	Gail Jicinsky
Communion Assistant	Jenny Nieman	Rudy Nieman	Penni Cloud		Jenny Nieman	Amanda Gronski
Acolyte	NEEDED	Janika Helsten	NEEDED		NEEDED	NEEDED
Hospitality	Charla Hagen	Penny Vinnedge	Pam Hardrath	December 25 2pm Riplinger	Teri Schorer	Gail Jicinsky
Riplinger Reader	Joan Miller	Dommer Family	Brenda Newman	Trish Porter	Heidi McBride	Ertl Family

Sermons Are Online

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

Attendance	Spencer 9am	Riplinger 11am	Spencer 6:30pm
October 1	48	10	N/A
October 8	83	9	N/A
October 15	77	17	19
October 22	90	Joint	31
October 29	66	8	21



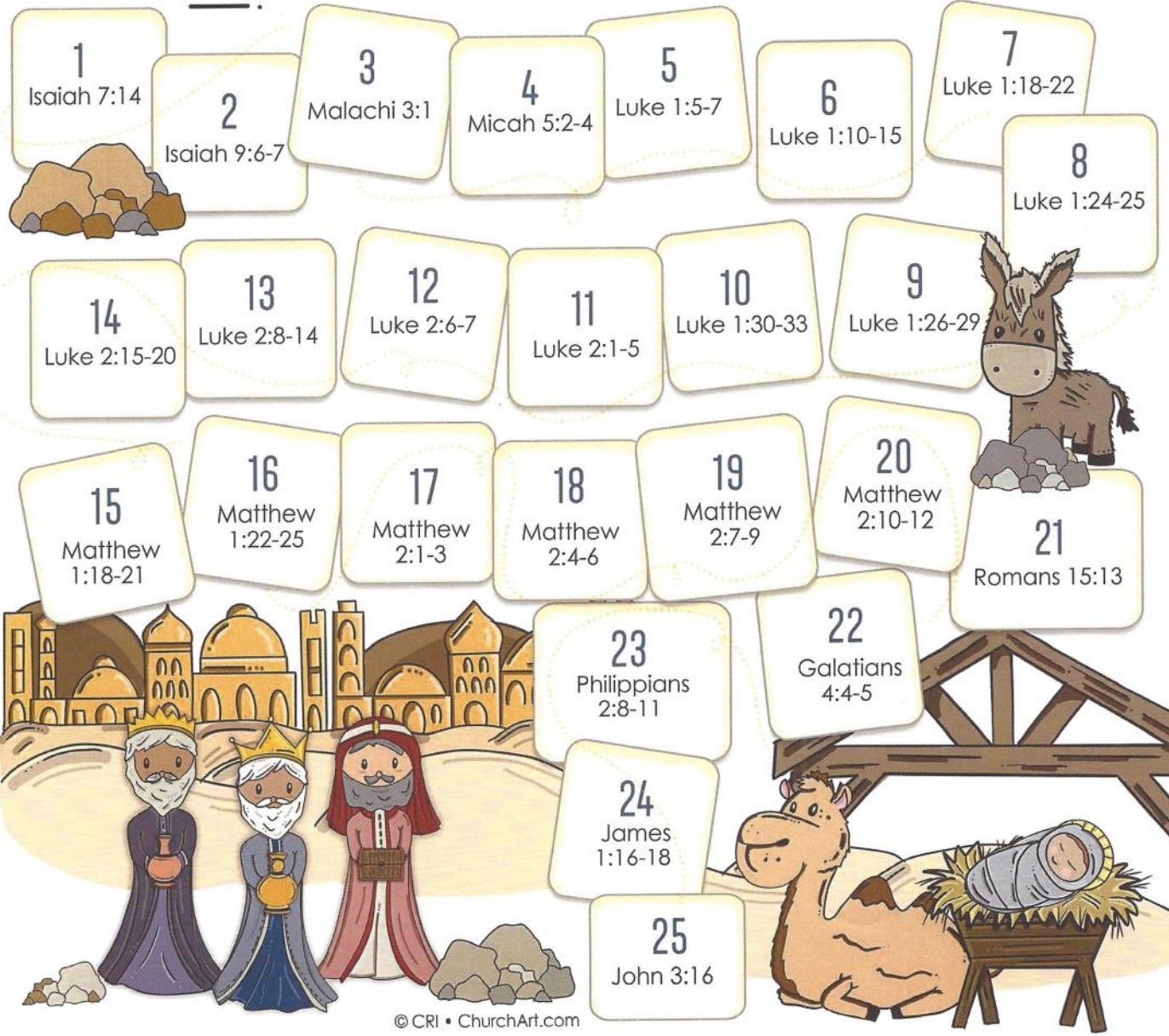
December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	27 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm YOGA 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	28 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:00pm COME Meal	29 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 7:00pm Pastor Ponderings	30 6:30pm Men's Group	1	2
3 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	4 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	5 4:30pm Rising Dance	6 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 7:00pm Pastor Ponderings 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting	7	8	9
10 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion, Meet the Pastor, Potluck 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	11 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	12 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting	13 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 7:00pm Pastor Ponderings	14 6:30pm Men's Group 213462 Hwy 13	15	16
17 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	18 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Blue Christmas 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study	19 4:30pm Rising Dance	20 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 7:00pm Pastor Ponderings	21	22	23
24 6:00am Spencer Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 9:00am Worship at Spencer 2:00pm Riplinger Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 4:00pm Spencer Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 9:00am Spencer Christmas Day Worship	26 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:00pm COME Meal	27 5:30pm Secretary in Office	28 6:30pm Men's Group 213462 Hwy 13	29	30
31 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	1	2 4:30pm Rising Dance	3 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Pastor Jeff in Office 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 7:00pm Pastor Ponderings 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Due to the numerous activities occurring in the building we are asking that the first person to arrive after it snows, please shovel a few swipes in front of the door and at least one side of the sidewalk by the bell tower. Thank you for your cooperation.</p> </div>		

A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN



Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**



1 Isaiah 7:14	2 Isaiah 9:6-7	3 Malachi 3:1	4 Micah 5:2-4	5 Luke 1:5-7	6 Luke 1:10-15	7 Luke 1:18-22
8 Luke 1:24-25	9 Luke 1:26-29	10 Luke 1:30-33	11 Luke 2:1-5	12 Luke 2:6-7	13 Luke 2:8-14	14 Luke 2:15-20
15 Matthew 1:18-21	16 Matthew 1:22-25	17 Matthew 2:1-3	18 Matthew 2:4-6	19 Matthew 2:7-9	20 Matthew 2:10-12	21 Romans 15:13
22 Galatians 4:4-5	23 Philippians 2:8-11	24 James 1:16-18	25 John 3:16			

advent CALENDAR



<p>Perform a random act of kindness</p> 	<p>two</p> <p>Donate food to a local food bank</p> 	<p>Have a coloring contest</p> 	<p>four</p> <p>Buy socks for a homeless shelter</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Watch a favorite holiday movie</p> 
<p>Make or buy a new Christmas ornament</p> 	<p>Let someone go in front of you in line</p> <p>seven</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Clean out and donate outgrown toys</p> 	<p>Build a snowman out of cotton balls</p> <p>9</p> 	<p>Take cupcakes to your local fire department</p> <p>10</p> 
<p>Decorate a gingerbread house</p> <p>eleven</p> 	<p>Help wrap a Christmas present</p> <p>12</p> 	<p>thirteen</p> <p>Leave a happy note for someone to find</p> 	<p>Have a game night in your PJs</p> <p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Make paper snowflakes</p> 
<p>Drink hot cocoa</p> <p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Make Christmas cards</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Bake Christmas cookies</p> 	<p>Sing Christmas carols</p> <p>19</p> 	<p>twenty</p> <p>Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree</p> 
<p>Read your favorite Christmas story</p> <p>21</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Take a car tour of your local light displays</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors</p> 	<p>twenty-four</p> <p>Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>Read the Nativity story</p> 

OCTOBER COUNCIL MINUTES SPENCER

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2023, 6:30pm

Approved on November 14, 2023;

Attending: Rudy Nieman; Wayne Hagen; Pam Hardrath; Travis Hardrath; Heather Vogel, Marsha Martens;

Absent: Teri Schorer, Jenny Nieman, Mary Seefeld;

Call to order by Rudy Nieman at 6:35pm

Opening Prayer led by Pastor Jeff

New Business:

Discussion red cross on building. Options totally remove it, fix it and put it back up, fix it and put it on the carport, possibly something 2 dimensional on the building. Cost is \$400 to have it removed with a crane.

There will be a meeting at noon on November 12 to review the council binders if you have one.

Executive Committee will meet October 22, to discuss Pastors review. Rudy will invite Riplinger to join in.

Discussed different types of worship evaluation sheets. Pastor worked with Pam to develop one he likes. A comment box will need to put somewhere.

Time and Talent sheet will be sent out shortly.

December 24, 9am worship, Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service: 2pm Riplinger, 4pm & 6pm Spencer. December 25, 9am Spencer.

A motion was made by Wayne and seconded by Heather, approved to accept new member Michelle and Arianna Krueger.

Old Business none at this time.

REPORTS:

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastor verbally shared his ministry for the month of September which included shut in visits, Sunday services, beginning 6:30pm Sunday Worship, hospital visits, meetings, attending LCMC Annual Gathering. Secretary (Pam Hardrath)

Marsha made a motion to approve the September Council Minutes; Wayne seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer (Teri Schorer)

Not available for the meeting

Minister of Faith Formation (Jenny Nieman)

Jesus And Me

First day of JAM was Sept 24, off to an ok start, very low attendance. We have two classrooms, one for 3yr-Kindergarten and the other for 1st-5th grade. If we get more kids than we currently have, we will adjust accordingly.

Cross Training

We're using a curriculum called Following Jesus. The requirement for youth to serve as an acolyte is back, we're working on getting those not signed up on the schedule.

Each week youth are challenged to bring their physical/paper Bible, they use their Bible with the curriculum.

Parents have signed up to provide a meal on Wednesdays, we're working on getting those who hadn't signed up to do so yet.

Districts Youth Gathering is Jan. 12-14 in Green Bay 6th-12th grade are invited to attend

LIVE

Leah Gardner and Amanda Gronski are the female leaders for high school, we need a male leader still.

They are using Student Life Application Bibles and Following Jesus as their curriculum.

Districts Youth Gathering is Jan. 12-14 in Green Bay, 6th-12th grade are invited to attend

Mission Trip

Informational meeting was Oct. 4- location and date were not decided yet.

Next meeting is Nov. 1, 8 pm

Worship (Mary Seefeld)

Not available for the meeting

Building and Grounds (Travis Hardrath)
Refrigerator was defrosted. Should be done annually.

Inside freezer was defrosted.

Food, Fellowship and Fun (Heather Vogel)

Back to Church went well.

October focus: Pastor Appreciation, a card was made for everyone to sign, Polka Service, Silver Sunday, Pet Blessing.

Congregational Care (Marsha Martens)

Sent out cards, visited shut ins.

Beyond Our Doors (vacant)

No report.

Vice Chair (Wayne Hagen)

No report.

Chair (Rudy Nieman)

Discussed through meeting

Next Meeting: November 14, 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn by , Travis seconded; motion carried.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath

OCTOBER TREASURERS REPORT SPENCER

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

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	12,291.18	75,492.69	120,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	1,570.00	15,183.57	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	2,002.14	7,404.21	8,000.00
441.060	Building use	0.00	1,425.00	500.00
	Total Income	\$15,863.32	\$99,505.47	\$128,500.00
Expenses				
<i>500.000 Wider Mission</i>				
500.010	Tithe	0.00	5,864.49	12,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$5,864.49</i>	<i>12,000.00</i>
<i>510.000 Worship</i>				
510.030	Copyrights	0.00	632.00	750.00
510.050	Community Worship Services	0.00	750.00	850.00
510.070	Instrument maintenance/service	0.00	0.00	500.00
510.100	Worship Supplies	180.00	1,179.90	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>	<i>\$2,561.90</i>	<i>3,100.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	1,395.00	3,500.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	400.00	1,508.89	600.00
<i>520.000 Faith Development</i>				
520.010	Birth to 3	0.00	234.94	300.00
520.020	Children's Ministry (SS, VBS, GIFT, etc)	0.00	199.87	500.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	(245.00)	299.76	750.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	0.00	1,032.40	500.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	0.00	241.85	500.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	35.00	200.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>(\$245.00)</i>	<i>\$2,043.82</i>	<i>2,750.00</i>
520.080	Right Now Media	0.00	0.00	1,320.00
<i>530.000 Social Concerns</i>				
530.010	Kitchen License/COME	0.00	513.00	
530.020	Mission Projects expenses	0.00	502.58	
	<i>Total Social Concerns</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,015.58</i>	
<i>540.000 Fellowship & Care</i>				
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	176.07	279.24	500.00
540.020	Care Resources	178.96	213.95	100.00
540.030	Events	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Fellowship & Care</i>	<i>\$355.03</i>	<i>\$493.19</i>	<i>800.00</i>
<i>560.000 Office</i>				
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	18.03	1,303.72	1,000.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	162.97	1,269.70	1,475.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	66.00	846.80	750.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	0.00	1,892.24	2,000.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	0.00	1,588.62	2,000.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$247.00</i>	<i>\$6,901.08</i>	<i>7,225.00</i>
<i>570.000 Administration</i>				
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	250.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	81.87	854.86	1,200.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	424.49	4,223.48	5,000.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	680.80	1,986.99	1,500.00

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

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
570.080	Leadership Study Materials/Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$1,187.16</i>	<i>\$7,065.33</i>	<i>8,050.00</i>
<i>580.000</i>	<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>			
580.020	Electricity	403.20	3,839.19	4,000.00
580.030	Natural Gas	27.32	2,426.62	2,000.00
580.040	Holding Tanks	0.00	350.00	1,000.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	147.45	1,279.06	1,250.00
580.065	Cleaning	0.00	0.00	750.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	95.92	1,783.77	1,500.00
580.080	Snow Removal	0.00	2,445.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	16.96	245.19	500.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$690.85</i>	<i>\$12,368.83</i>	<i>14,000.00</i>
<i>590.000</i>	<i>Staff</i>			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	2,759.17	9,657.09	23,650.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	1,925.00	6,737.50	8,000.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	9.99	300.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	900.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	0.00	1,812.15	14,300.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	358.34	1,433.36	2,425.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	(0.32)	1,591.60	
590.210	FICA	152.12	2,015.50	2,700.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	174.00	2,088.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	150.00	1,500.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	1,078.00	11,706.94	15,600.00
590.260	Staff Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$6,596.31</i>	<i>\$38,552.13</i>	<i>72,475.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	586.50	6,366.50	7,680.00
590:285	Medical Insurance (Minister Faith Formation)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	\$9,997.85	\$86,136.74	\$133,500.00
	Difference	\$5,865.47	\$13,368.73	(\$5,000.00)

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

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
<i>301.000</i>	<i>General Fund Balance</i>					
301.100	General Balance	47,662.09	15,863.32	9,997.85	0.00	53,527.56
<i>302.000</i>	<i>Special Funds Balance</i>					
302.001	ARK Balance	963.73	45.00	0.00	0.00	1,008.73
302.005	Fall Harvest Dinner Balance	280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.00
302.102	Globe Money Balance	19.65	57.30	0.00	0.00	76.95
302.120	Technology Balance	833.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	833.61
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	5,074.24	270.00	0.00	0.00	5,344.24
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,631.53	250.00	0.00	0.00	1,881.53
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
302.180	COME Balance	1,270.41	765.00	71.44	0.00	1,963.97
302.195	Fellowship Hall Balance	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
302.800	Seminary Fund Balance	2,039.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,039.91
302.100	Memorial Gifts Balance	3,460.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,460.41
302.105	Building Fund Balance	43,350.29	890.00	0.00	0.00	44,240.29
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	5,961.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,961.02
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,235.03	0.16	0.00	0.00	1,235.19
Total		\$113,807.92	\$18,140.78	\$10,069.29	\$0.00	\$121,879.41

SCRIP ORDER FORM

Please fill out and return in the mailbox by the office before December 12th to ensure delivery for Christmas. Thank you! Questions talk to Pam Hardrath 715-507-0549.

St. John's Gift Card Order Form
 A gift card program that supports donations to community families in need.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____

DINING OUT	Amt	X Qty	Total
Applebee's	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
Arby's	\$10.00		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Chili's Grill & Bar	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
Dairy Queen	\$10.00		
Dunkin' Doughnuts	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Olive Garden	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Papa Murphy's Pizza	\$10.00		
Pizza Hut	\$10.00		
Pizza Ranch	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Red Robin	\$25.00		
Starbucks	\$5.00		
	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
SUBWAY	\$10.00		
	\$50.00		
Taco Bell	\$5.00		
	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Texas Roadhouse	\$25.00		
GAS STATIONS	Amt	X Qty	Total
Kwik Trip	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
	\$100.00		
ONLINE	Amt	X Qty	Total
Amazon.com	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
iTunes	\$15.00		
	\$25.00		

Shutterfly	\$25.00		
GROCERIES	Amt	X Qty	Total
Festival Foods	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
	\$100.00		
Pick 'N Save	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
	\$100.00		
ONLINE	Amt	X Qty	Total
Amazon.com	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
iTunes	\$15.00		
	\$25.00		
Shutterfly	\$25.00		
RETAIL STORES	Amt	X Qty	Total
Aeropostale	\$25.00		
American Eagle Outfitters	\$25.00		
Barnes & Noble Booksellers	\$5.00		
	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Bath & Body Works	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
Best Buy	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
	\$250.00		
Buckle	\$25.00		
Cabela's	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Dunham's Sports	\$25.00		
Gap	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Great Clips	\$25.00		
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft	\$25.00		
Kohl's	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
LL.. Bean	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Land's End	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Lane Bryant	\$25.00		
Lowe's	\$20.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		

RETAIL STORES	Amt	X Qty	Total
Menards	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Michael's	\$25.00		
Five Below	\$25.00		
Fleet Farm	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Old Navy	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Pet Smart	\$25.00		
Ross Dress for Less	\$25.00		
T.J. Maxx	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Target	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
	\$100.00		
The Home Depot	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
Walmart/Sam's Club	\$10.00		
	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
	\$100.00		
CREDIT CARD	Amt	X Qty	Total
American Express	\$25.00		
	\$100.00		
	\$200.00		
Visa	\$25.00		
	\$50.00		
	\$100.00		
	\$250.00		
Total Amount Due			

How Scrip Works: Our church purchases gift cards from Raise Right at a discounted price. You pay full retail for your cards. The amount earned is given to community members in need. If you know someone who could use a helping hand, let Pam Hardrath know.

Fill out this order form, include a check and put in an envelope and then in the mailbox next to the secretary's office door. Order on or before December 12 to receive your gift cards before Christmas.