

Services of Worship

Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am

Mondays

- Spencer 6:30pm

Pastor Ritchie Cole

Email: sjlc13pastor@gmail.com

Phone: 920-216-4292

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday
9am to 3pm. Off on Friday & Saturday

Spencer Congregation: &

Parish Office

210167 State Hwy 13

Spencer, WI 54479

715-659-5158

Email: sjloffice13@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/](https://www.instagram.com/spencerst.johns/)

YouTube

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

Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Nieman

Email: jennyfaith659@gmail.com

Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath

Office Hours: Wednesday 6 to 9 pm

Email: sjloffice13@gmail.com

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

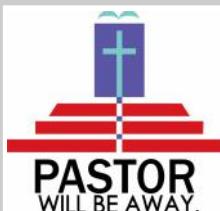
Deadlines

- Weekly email: Tuesdays 9am
- Sunday announcements:
Wednesday 5pm
- Newsletter the 20th



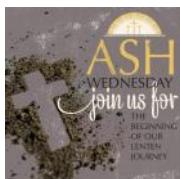
Connect

FEBRUARY 2026



Pastor Ritchie at Continuing Education

February 1 to 4, Pastor Ritchie will be attending the Augustana District Conference: I am the Way: Cross or Glory? "On Being a Theologian of the Cross", in Minnesota. He will be leaving following worship on February 1.



Lent Begins February 18

Ash Wednesday worship will be held at 6:30pm in Spencer and 8pm in Riplinger.



Lent Worship on Wednesdays

This year we will study The Sufferings and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ According To The Four Evangelists By: John C. Lawrenz

[following the New International Version translation and patterned after the Passion History as printed in the Lutheran Lectionary of the former Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America.]



Wednesday Soup Suppers

During Lent, Spencer will host Soup Suppers each Wednesday at 5:30pm. If you are able to bring food or help with the soup suppers, please sign up [here](#).



February 15 & 22, Forest Springs Community Days. 1 to 5pm.



February 24, 5 to 6pm

Pizza Ranch Broasted Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn, Fruit Salad, and Assorted Desserts.



Conflict Resolution

On January 4, the Spencer congregation approved hiring Amazement Ministries to assist resolving the conflict within our church.



FROM PASTOR RITCHIE

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL 1529 NIV®

Scripture:

February 1

Micah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12.

February 8

Isaiah 58:3-9a
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

February 15

Exodus 24:8-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 22

Genesis 3:1-21
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 1

Genesis 12:1-9
Romans 4:1-8;13-17
John 3:1-17

Greetings in Christ!

It has been a very quick month of January for me. February is here and it is time to look at what comes next. On the 18th, it will be Ash Wednesday. That seems to come quicker every year! The beginning of Lent is an important time for people of faith. Lent has no beginning in Scripture, it is something the church created, which is why many of our Christian brethren do not participate in it, but it serves a valid purpose. Lent was instituted to help all of us focus on what Christ did to redeem us from our sin.

Jesus endured great pain, suffering and torture prior to even being nailed to the cross. As it says in Isaiah 53:5, “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

Jesus paid the price you and I owe for our sins. In Romans 6:23, we read, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Jesus died for your sins, he suffered great pain, torture and ultimately death because you and I cannot stop sinning. Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” And yet, Jesus said we are not friends, we are His brothers and sisters. If He loves his friends enough to die for them, how much more will He do for His brothers and sisters?

Jesus not only died that we might be redeemed, but He then rose from the dead and fixed it so you and I can live forever! Lent was created so we would remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. His life, death and resurrection were what the Father asked Him to do for the benefit of you and me. We can never repay it; we can never earn it; we can only accept it as the gift it is.

This is why the church invented Lent; to remember what Jesus did for us! Jesus love is a gift that keeps on giving. Salvation is the first and most important part of the gift, but the gift is so much more. It is joy, peace, love, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. May we always remember this, not just during Lent, but throughout the year.

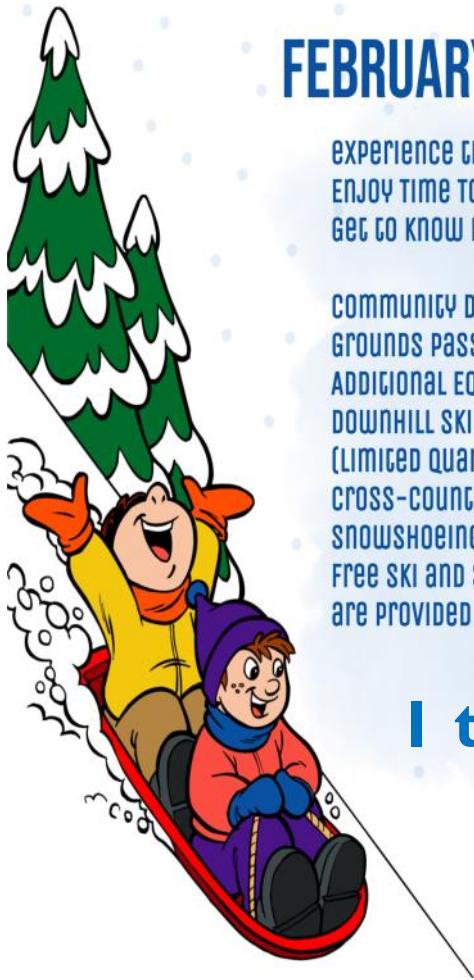
Go with God,
Pastor Ritchie

To help Pastor Ritchie feel more comfortable and connected during worship, a chair will be placed under the south TV screen so he can better see the congregation. Thank you for your flexibility as we make this adjustment.



Weekly Email Link

If you do not currently receive our Wednesday weekly email, newsletter and other electronic communications and would like to, please use this [link](#) to sign up. If you need the link emailed to you, please let the office sjloffice13@gmail.com know. Thank-you!!



FEBRUARY 15 & 22!

experience the fun of camp.
enjoy time together.
get to know forest springs.

COMMUNITY DAY
GROUNDS PASS -\$15 PER PERSON.
ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL FEES:
DOWNHILL SKIING & SNOWBOARDING \$15
(LIMITED QUANTITIES);
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING \$13;
SNOWSHOEING \$8.
FREE SKI AND SNOWBOARD LESSONS
ARE PROVIDED BY TRAINED STAFF!

1 to 5 PM

Whether you're actively participating or just watching, everyone entering outdoor winter activity areas—or indoor recreation areas—needs a Grounds Pass. This includes tubing, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice skating. These spaces are full of movement and shared activity, and spectators are often right in the middle of the action. Because the risks are similar—slips, falls, and collisions—we treat everyone in these zones as participants for safety purposes. Everyone participating, needs to complete a waiver. [JUMP TO WAIVER](#).

Experience Camp in Winter (from their website). Winter Community Days give families and friends a chance to enjoy the fun of camp—tubing, and skiing outside, hot chocolate and games inside, and plenty of space to relax together. It's a simple, welcoming way to explore our trails, meet our staff, and experience Forest Springs in its winter beauty. These afternoons offer a natural introduction to camp—our facilities, our people, and our heart. We'd love to have you return for one of our programmed events, where we explore beyond the trails and slopes to the deeper matters of faith and life. But on Community Days, the focus is simply enjoying winter and spending time together in the beauty of God's creation.



Bible Camp Sunday February 22, 9am Worship
EVERYONE bring your calendar with you to worship. It is BIBLE CAMP SUNDAY! New this year, we are offering discounts for anyone, ANY age who registers to attend an adventure at Bible Camp.

NOTE: IF you are considering signing your youth up for Bible Camp at Forest Springs Camp in Westboro you may want to do so ASAP as they have been filling their camps fast the last few years. Here's the link to see what spaces are available for this summer: <https://forestsprings.us/current-openings>

Forest Springs is one of many Bible Camps in Wisconsin. We are sharing their many opportunities but feel free to attend the camp that speaks to you.

Summer Family Camps: <https://forestsprings.us/events/adult-family/summer-family-camp>

Summer Youth Camps: <https://forestsprings.us/events/youth/summer-youth-camps>

Junior and Senior High School Youth Outdoor Adventure Trips: Canoe/Hike Trip; Mystery Trip; Backpack/Raft Trip: <https://forestsprings.us/events/adventure-ministries/sponsored>

Weekend & Multi-Day Retreats: <https://forestsprings.us/events/adult-family/retreats>

Golden Agers Day or Ladies' Day: <https://forestsprings.us/events/community-events>

Bighorn Mountains Wyoming Hiking Adult Trip: <https://forestsprings.us/events/bighorn-mountains-hike-adult-trip>

Tour de Forest, 158 mile weekend road bike ride and fundraiser, September 18-20:

Youth Faith Formation Contact
Jenny Nieman
715-613-3636
jennyfaith659@gmail.com



YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

"You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.
And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32 U

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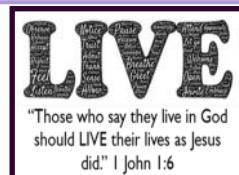
JAM – Jesus and Me

JAM meets every Sunday at 10 am all kids age 3 years-5th grade are welcome! Each class is focusing on New Testament Bible stories for the remainder of this JAM year. Soon the kids will be able to spend their Sunday School Bucks that they have earned by remembering to bring their Bibles with them on Sundays, memorizing verses, serving worship, attending JAM and more in the Sunday school store.



Cross Training & LIVE

The Wednesday of the Three Days of Prayer in January, Cross training and LIVE students participated in an hour-long prayer worship service. Throughout the prayer service they engaged in hands on prayer experiences.



Planning ahead- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 18. Instead of supper at 6pm like all the other Wednesdays of the year, every Wednesday of Lent (February 18-March 25) there is a soup supper at 5:30 pm. Here are some guidelines for all middle school & high school youth:

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



Districts Youth Gathering

January 9–11

Nine youth and three adults attended the Districts Youth Conference in Green Bay on January 9-11. It was a fabulous weekend of worship and youth seminars. On Saturday of the conference we helped pack food boxes and decorate delivery bags for Crisis Café, a Green Bay mission.



Butter Braid Fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship Fund

Youth will begin selling ButterBraids on February 18. Delivery will be March 24.

Think About
CHURCH
10:25

Have you been tempted to give up "meeting together" with your Christian brothers and sisters? Are the never-ending public scandals of well-known church leaders making you rethink your commitment to church? Does the ease of watching a sermon online in your pajamas make gathering seem tough? Are you finding it difficult to find a good "fit" in a local church? Are disagreements within your own church causing you to think about leaving?

Don't believe the myth that a good church is a perfect place filled with perfect people. It isn't. And it's never going to be. If you read the Bible, you will see that the early church had its share of controversy and arguments among leaders. But the beauty of church is that even though not everyone agrees, it remains the body of Christ, doing God's work in the world.

DON'T GIVE UP

MISSION TRIP

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew." 5:14-16

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2026 Mission Trip to Barnesville, MN July 19-25.

Who can go on the trip? Any youth currently in 6th grade-adults. Applications are found on the bulletin board. Application and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot. Experience the land of 10,000 lakes in Barnesville, Minnesota—a friendly town of 2,600 residents just 25 minutes from the Fargo-Moorhead metro along I-94. Nestled on the edge of the Red River Valley, Barnesville is surrounded by scenic farmland, rolling hills, and nearby lakes. While the community is rich in pride and tradition, many residents—particularly seniors and low-income families—face challenges maintaining safe housing.

Throughout the week, we will serve families in need by completing meaningful home repair projects they couldn't otherwise afford. These may include building wheelchair ramps and handrails, repairing or reconstructing porches, weatherizing homes and trailers, painting (both interior and exterior), light carpentry, and skirting to protect against the elements. Each project offers a hands-on opportunity to demonstrate compassion and make a lasting impact in someone's daily life.

While working on residential homes will provide the opportunity to serve others in Christ's name there are many opportunities for spiritual growth on the trip for everyone as well. If you are on the fence about going, feel free to attend a planning meeting to ask questions, meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. If you have questions, talk with Jenny Nieman.

Mission Trip Upcoming Fundraisers

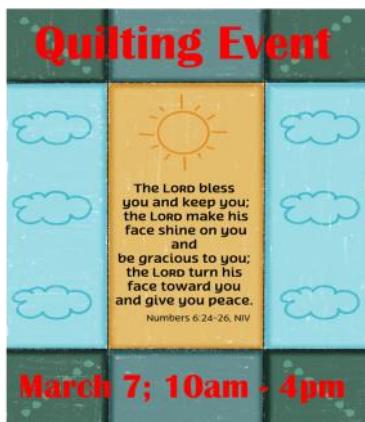


2026 Basket Raffle

The Basket raffle will begin February 18. If you have a basket or items to donate toward a basket please have it to Jenny by February 15 at the latest. Tickets will be sold before and after all worship services.



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



Did you know that St. John's gifts high school graduates a twin size quilt that is made by members of St. John's? There will be a quilting event on March 7, 10 am-4 pm at St. John's for anyone who knows how to quilt **AND** anyone who would be interested in learning the process. If you have any of the following items please bring them along to the event: sewing machine, fabric scissors, pins, neutral color thread (beige and/or black), rotary cutter, cutting mat, iron, ironing mat or board. You may have noticed that the event will be a few hours; we'll also have a potluck meal- so please bring your favorite dish to share with others. If you are interested but not able to stay for the whole day, please know you are welcome to come for as long as you are able. We pray this event will be a multi-generational event to share in fellowship as well as the hobby of sewing and creating. Any questions please contact Jan Kops, 715-613-0691.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Shorter Summer Mission Trip to Green Bay Have you or your youth ever wanted to go on a shorter mission trip? We may have a summer option for you- Crisis Café in Green Bay is offering mission trips this summer. The mission work would be done right in Green Bay through a variety of their missions; 4 days and 3 nights; lodging would be at their location; cost is \$125 per person- **limit of 12 people**; and Crisis Café only offers 3 weeks of mission trips. If you would like more information or are interested contact Jenny Nieman ASAP as there are other groups that have contacted Crisis Café about their mission trips.

CRISIS CAFE | MISSION TRIPS

Join us this summer for a themed week of impact, generosity, and service. Bring your youth group and help us impact greater Green Bay by committing to a poverty simulation, community service projects, and hosting a community meal.



Dates:

June 17 to 20

June 24 to 27

July 22 to 25

Cost: \$125 /person
includes: Meals, Lodging, T-shirt and a Journal

"Serving with Crisis Café was an absolute BLESSING and a BLAST! Our students had the opportunity to not only learn about homelessness, but they got to engage with the homeless and put their faith in Jesus to work. We are so grateful for the ministry of Crisis Café and that our youth group was able to partner with them!" -Matt Korth



Crisis Café is a locally operated non profit reaching out to those suffering in our community. Crisis knows no boundaries and will affect each of us in our lifetime. Crisis Café looks for opportunities to step in during these situations to Engage, Refresh, and Strengthen those in need.

CRISIS CAFE | MISSION TRIPS SUMMER 2026

(4 DAYS, 3 NIGHTS)

DAY ONE ARRIVE 5PM

- Travel
- Orientation
- Dinner
- Poverty Simulation
- Devotional

DAY TWO

- Breakfast and Devotional
- Safety Training and Daily Agenda
- Community Prayer Walk and Tour
- Lunch
- Community Service Project
- Dinner
- Group Activity
- Worship and Devotional

DAY THREE

- Breakfast and Devotional
- Daily Agenda
- Tour Crisis Café
- Grocery Shop
- Lunch
- Meal Prep and Dinner Set up
- Community Dinner
- Clean Up
- Prayer Walk
- Worship and Devotional

DAY FOUR

- Breakfast
- Devotional and Reflection
- Clean up and Goodbyes



crisiscafé
www.crisiscafe.org

VÍA DE CRISTO

Adult Renewal Opportunity- Vía de Cristo, March 5 to 8 at Forest Springs, Westboro.

Vía de Cristo Retreat Vía de Cristo (VDC) is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VDC is a highly structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It's three days in length, beginning on Thursday, March 5 and ending on Sunday, March 8. The participants live, study, worship and commune together daily. Fourteen talks are given, nine by lay people and five by clergy. Following each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main points of the talk and a poster is done. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. There is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and for prayer. This spring, VDC is held at Forest Springs, Westboro. Applications are in the brochure rack, they are due back to Pastor Ritchie, Jenny Nieman, or Rudy Nieman by February 10. If you have any questions talk to them as well.

february

BIRTHDAYS

february

ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

12	Harry & Juleen Vogel	44 years
14	Joseph & Rhonda Weix	45 years

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

WELCOME New Member

We are excited to welcome Charlie Bruesewitz and Abigail Ertl to our Riplinger congregation.



PRAYER list

IN OUR PRAYERS

Those with short-term health concerns: Nancy Dietsche, Skylee, Wayne Hempel, Susan Howe, Brett Kloth, Mia Maddox, Jim Miller, Gwen Thomas.

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

Those with cancer: Judi Andrew, Candyce DeNoble, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson, Penny Pieper, Michelle Oelke, Ross Rucker, Cliff Taylor, Tom Steiner,

PRAYERS *of Comfort*



It is with deep sadness that we share Tom Pagenkopf went home to his heavenly Father on January 6. Pat Miller went home to her heavenly Father on January 13. Jim Schmutzler when home to his heavenly Father on January 22. Please pray their family and friends find peace and comfort in the Lord.

Teresa Zahn.

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Lois Block, Audrey Helsten, Grace Maines, Dorene Newman, Muriel Oelrich, Doris Seefeld. If you or a member of your family are hospitalized, or would like to update these prayer requests, please get in touch with Pastor Ritchie **920-216-4292**; sjlc13pastor@gmail.com or Pam Hardrath at **715-507-0549**; sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized, or would like to update these prayer requests, please get in touch with Pastor Ritchie **920-216-4292**; sjlc13pastor@gmail.com or Pam Hardrath at **715-507-0549**; sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

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



Date	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22	March 1
Greeter	Bob & Glenda Fellenz	Faye Lang	Inez Fosberg Susan Howe	Bob Haas	Lori Kops
Usher	Harry Vogel	Jim Christopherson	Harry Vogel	Jim Christopherson	Brad Helsten
Usher	Paul Leezer	Brad Helsten	Milt Viergutz	Joe Weix	Paul Leezer
Tech	Tracey Ackman	Mason Gilmore	Liam Pluger	Rachel Nieman	Jenny Nieman
Sound	Camdyn Vogel	Janika Helsten	Camdyn Vogel	Wyatt Karl	Janika Helsten
Reader	Glenda Fellenz	Jim Christopherson	Milt Viergutz	Hannah Rossow	Lori Kops
Communion Assistant	Jule Vogel	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel	Jenny Nieman	Lori Helsten
Basket Bearer	Cohley Vogel	Adeline Nieman	Montana Tomczik	Zoey Hardrath	Cohley Vogel
Hospitality	Jenny Nieman	Heather Vogel	Krystle Tomczik	Hannah Rossow	Lori Kops
Riplinger Reader	Heidi McBride	Abigail Ertl	Trish Porter	Ertl Family	Dave Newman



Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger
December 7	61	20
December 14	56	14
December 21	89	29
Blue Christmas	25	--
December 24	146	30
December 25	33	--
December 28	41	19

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



February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pastor Ritchie At Augustana Retreat 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	2 Pastor Ritchie At Augustana Retreat 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	3 Pastor Ritchie At Augustana Retreat 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	4 5:45pm Secretary in Office 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE 8pm Mission Trip Meeting	5 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Pastor's Day Off 8:00am VDC Training
8 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion	9 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	10 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 6:30pm Spencer Church Board Meeting	11 5:45pm Secretary in Office 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	12 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Pastor's Day Off
15 9:00am Worship at Spencer w/ Baptism 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 1:00pm Forest Spring Community Fun Day	16 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	17 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	18 5:30pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Secretary in Office 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship at Spencer 8:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship at Riplinger	19 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 6:30pm OA Meeting	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Pastor's Day Off 8:00am VDC Training
22 9:00am Worship at Spencer; All Age Bible Camp Sunday 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 1:00pm Forest Spring Community Fun Day	23 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	24  9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:00pm COME Meal 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	25 5:30pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Secretary in Office 6:30pm Lent Worship at Spencer	26 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 Pastor's Day Off

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

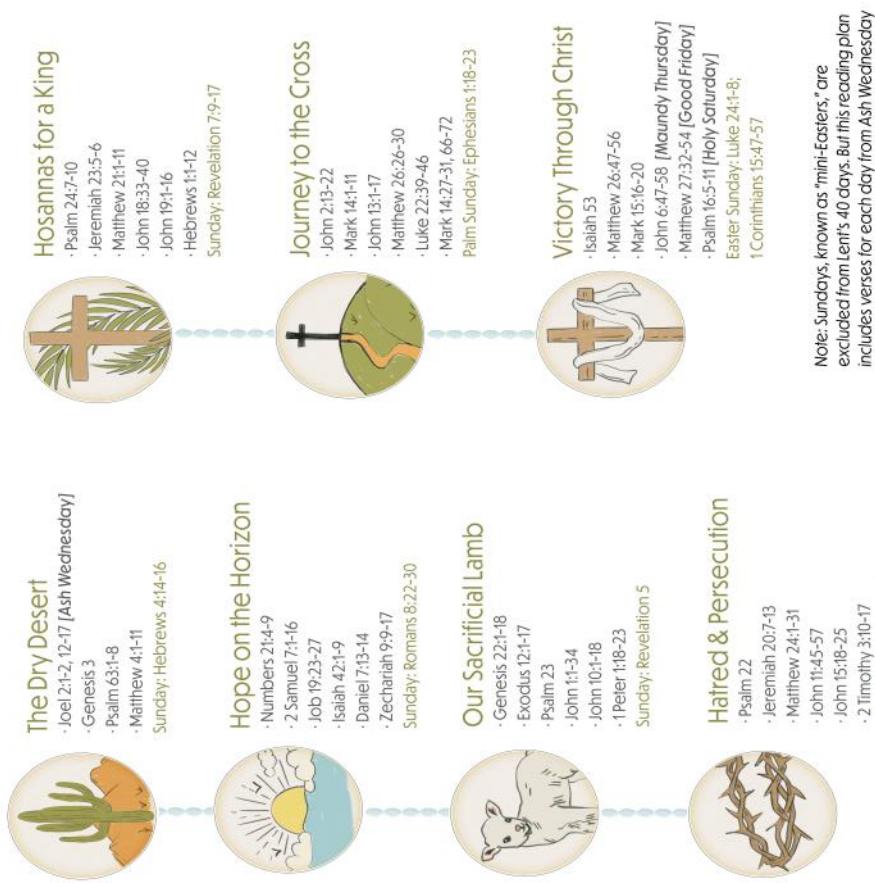
Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



BIBLE READING PLAN: *From Death to Life*

During Lent, Christians observe 40 days of confession, prayer and renewal. Just as our Savior fasted and faced temptation in the desert for 40 days, we use this season to grow our faith and prepare to minister.

Use this Bible Reading Plan to follow Jesus to the cross and then rejoice at his empty tomb on Easter. Travel through Scripture to reflect on who Jesus is and what he lovingly endured to give us life.



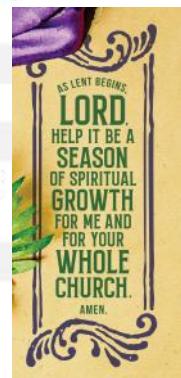
Note: Sundays, known as "mini-Fastos," are excluded from Lent's 40 days. But this reading plan includes verses for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.

LCMC MONTHLY PRAYER CALENDAR

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
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Date	Petition
2/1	Heavenly Father, thank you for your love given to us every day. Amen.
2/2	For Texas District LeaderCare Retreat
2/3	For Albion Lutheran Church in St. James, MN
2/4	For Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, IA as they seek a Kids and Youth Ministry Director
2/5	For caregivers granting them strength, skill, patience, knowledge and confidence of God's love as they care for others
2/6	For Quake Youth Retreats
2/7	For resolutions based on Christ and love for conflict in congregations
2/8	Dear God, help us to remember to take and enjoy a regular Sabbath rest as we turn off the noises of the world. Amen.
2/9	For Amazing Grace Christian Church in Glendale, AZ
2/10	For church support staff
2/11	For Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Paducah, KY
2/12	For Salem & Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish in Osakis, MN as they seek a new pastor
2/13	For Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Bend, KS as they seek an interim or lead pastor
2/14	For American Lutheran Church in Prescott, AZ
2/15	Lord, on this day we thank you for the beautiful pictures you paint in the sky. Help us to stop and appreciate the beauty of the earth. Amen.
2/16	For Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Kirkland, WA as they seek a new pastor
2/17	For The Table Ministry seeking a new location
2/18	For American Lutheran Church in Kellogg, ID
2/19	For Peace Lutheran Church of Watertown in Watertown, MN as they seek a new pastor
2/20	For American Lutheran Church in Long Prairie, MN
2/21	For Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sandy, UT as they seek a Music & Worship Minister
2/22	Lord Jesus, help to remind us in times of stress to take a moment to stop and breathe. Amen.
2/23	For the Iowa District
2/24	For American Lutheran Church in Winifred, MT
2/25	For the LCMC Board of Trustees and LCMC Ministry Board meetings
2/26	For Marshall Lutheran Church in Marshall, ND for the loss of their pastor and seeking a new pastor
2/27	For Augustana District Confirmation Retreat
2/28	For SoCal District Annual Gathering and Leadership Retreat



Spencer Church Board Contact Information

Spiritual Care:

Glenda Fellenz Home: 715-255-9233 Cell: 715-503-5135 rglfellenz@gmail.com

Gail Jicinsky 715-650-0720 gjicinsky@gmail.com

Nancy Vaughan 715-613-1175 njvaughan@aol.com

Liaisons:

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Recording Secretary:

Cindy Weiler 715-252-3422 cynthia8592weiler@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Kris Ovans 715-507-0423 goobervns@hotmail.com

Riplinger Council Contact Information

President: Brenda Newman 715-212-5886 riprider53@gmail.com

Vice President: John Meacham 715-897-1044 jjmeacham@msn.com

Secretary: Trisha Porter 715-255-8105 porter440@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Karla Kilty 715-223-2021 karlakilty2@gmail.com

Member 1: Sharon Hamus 715-897-0828 sharonhamus@gmail.com

Member 2: Dave Newman 715-212-7914 riprider56@gmail.com

Member 3: Jane Meacham 715-897-6306 jjmeacham@msn.com

SHUT IN ADDRESSES



Lois Block
402 Dehne Dr
Colby, WI 54421

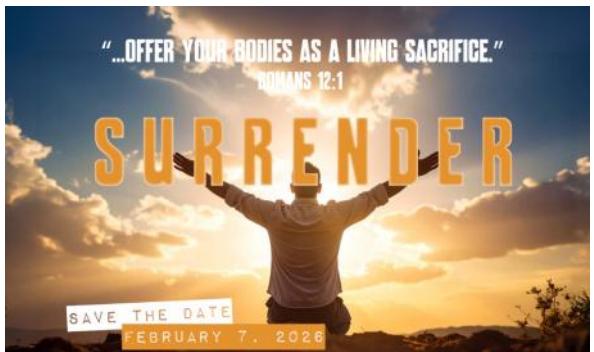
Audrey Helsten
106469 Highway 153
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Marshfield Health Services
Grace Maines
814 W. 14th Rm. 412
Marshfield, WI 54449

Three Oaks Health Services
Dorene Newman
209 Wilderness View Drive
Marshfield, WI 54449

Muriel Oelrich
211763 Mystic Ave
Spencer, WI 54479

Doris Seefeld
312 Dehne St
Colby, WI 54421



No Regrets Men's Conference, February 7
7:45am—1:30pm. Faith Fellowship, Marshfield is a host site. Together we will explore exactly how to build your life on the solid foundation of God and His Word. There will be group worship, compelling messages from leading pastors and teachers, testimonies of how other men have done it and seminars on the topics of most interest to you. Take advantage of this day to avoid the distractions of life and renew your dependence on Christ, the solid rock on which we stand. [Sign up to attend here.](#)

RIPLINGER ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

St. John's Riplinger Annual Meeting January 18, 2026 Unapproved

Meeting called to order by President Brenda Newman. Pastor Ritchie Cole provided an opening prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. Treasurer, Karla Kilty explained the extra expenses regarding the furnace, plumbing and fuel oil. The 2026 Budget was presented to the congregation. John Meacham made a motion to accept the 2026 Budget as is. Second by Karla Kilty. Motion approved. President Brenda Newman acknowledged the "Pastor's Report" on page 9 and asked Pastor Ritchie for additions or corrections. He had no other comments, but Lorna thanked the congregation for "welcoming them to our family".

Cemetery Treasurer Dave Newman gave the 2025 Cemetery Report. Six gravesites were sold last year. We received \$1,950.00 in donations, from Doris Seefeld, the Kuester Family and the Joan Miller Memorial. Our Perpetual Fund CD will be renewed February 2026.

President Newman announced that we have two people that would like to join St. John's Riplinger. Abigail Ertl and Charlie Bruesewitz. Karla Kilty made a motion to accept both as members. Second by Judine Block. Motion approved. Welcome to the Family Abigail and Charlie!

2026 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: *Brenda Newman* nominated by John Meacham. Dave Newman moved to close a unanimous ballot. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved.

VICE PRESIDENT: *John Meacham* nominated by Judine Block. Dave Newman moved to close a unanimous ballot. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved.

SECRETARY: *Trisha Porter* nominated by John Meacham. Dave Newman moved to close a unanimous ballot. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved.

TREASURER: *Karla Kilty* nominated by Judine Block. John Meacham moved to close a unanimous ballot. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved.

MEMBER 1: *Sharon Hamus* nominated by Dave Newman

MEMBER 2: *Dave Newman* nominated by John Meacham

MEMBER 3: *Jane Meacham* nominated by Karla

Kilty

Dave Newman moved to close a unanimous ballot. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved.

CEMETARY COMMITTEE, TREASURER (3 Year Term) *Trisha Porter* nominated by Dave

Newman. John Meacham moved to close a unanimous ballot. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved. Old Business: No old business to report.

New Business: President Newman explained the current bathroom issues to the congregation. The bathroom fixtures are original and have served their purpose. For the past few years, every time we have an event be it a funeral or a reunion, the toilets cannot keep up. This leaves the toilets plugged and overflowing. We finally called Jakel Plumbing out to assess the problem. They used a camera and the good news is, the line is not broken but it should be cleaned out. They also suggested upgrading the toilets as these are currently using more than 5 gallons per flush. The toilets are basically worn out. This is also filling up the holding tank prematurely.

While Jakel was here, they also checked the Tank Alarm. It was determined that that is also not working. We received an estimate of \$2600 from Jakel Plumbing and an estimate from Reigel Plumbing for \$1988. These estimates are only to change the three toilets.

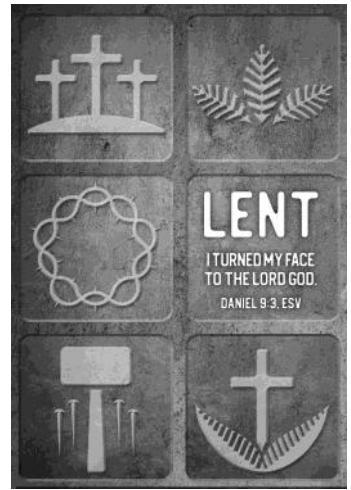
President Newman suggested tapping into the Memorial Fund to help pay for the project and or digging dipper into our pockets to make this happen. Judine Block made a generous offer of \$1000 to be put towards this issue. Dave Newman made a motion to move forward with fixing the toilets and to let the council figure out the details. Larry Hamus second. Motion approved.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 18, 2026 at 8 pm. There will be no Lenten services here on Wednesday evenings, but members are encouraged to attend North Spencer.

Judine Block "thanked members, and they know who they are, for helping her in her Golden Years". President Newman will set up a Council Meeting. Next Quarterly meeting will be April 2026.

Motion made to adjourn by Peggy Ottum. Second by Larry Hamus. Motion approved.

Recording Secretary,
Trish Porter



SPENCER COUNCIL MINUTES

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, December 16, 2025, 6:30 pm.

Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m. on January 13, 2026.

Attending: Rudy Nieman, Jenny Nieman, Penni Cloud, Travis Hardrath, Nick Tomczik, Todd Brinkman, Pastor Ritchie Cole

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Travis Hardrath, second by Penni Cloud. Motion Approved.
Lord's Prayer Closing
Respectfully submitted: Penni Cloud

Absent: Teri Schorer, Randi Thompson, Marsha Martens

Called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Rudy Nieman.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Ritchie Cole - Isaiah 1:5

Old Business:

New furnace installed and one new furnace was repaired. Bill was delivered.

New Business:

- New Member Approval of Melissa Stueber and Dennis Krause. Travis Hardrath makes motion to accept Melissa Stueber and Dennis Krause as new members, Penni Cloud seconds. Motion approved.

Conflict Resolution Decision – Gary Garrison in Mosinee, Charis Counseling in Marshfield, Council favors Marcus Carlson with Amazement Ministries. Motion Travis Hardrath with second by Nick Tomczik to spend up to \$8000.00. Rudy Nieman will call a special meeting on January 4, 2026 to hire Marcus Carlson with Amazement Ministries for conflict resolution to propose spend up to \$8000.00 for initial phase.

- 2026 Proposed Spending Plan Approval – Rudy Nieman will clarify some plans with Teri Schorer and then email council so it will be approved to be included in the newsletter.

Three days of prayer Jan 5, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to

Jan 8 at 6:00 p.m.
God Sightings/Gratitude outside of church.
Council has noticed God in church, in jobs, in a friend
feeling called to be a pastor, and in a
friend conceiving.

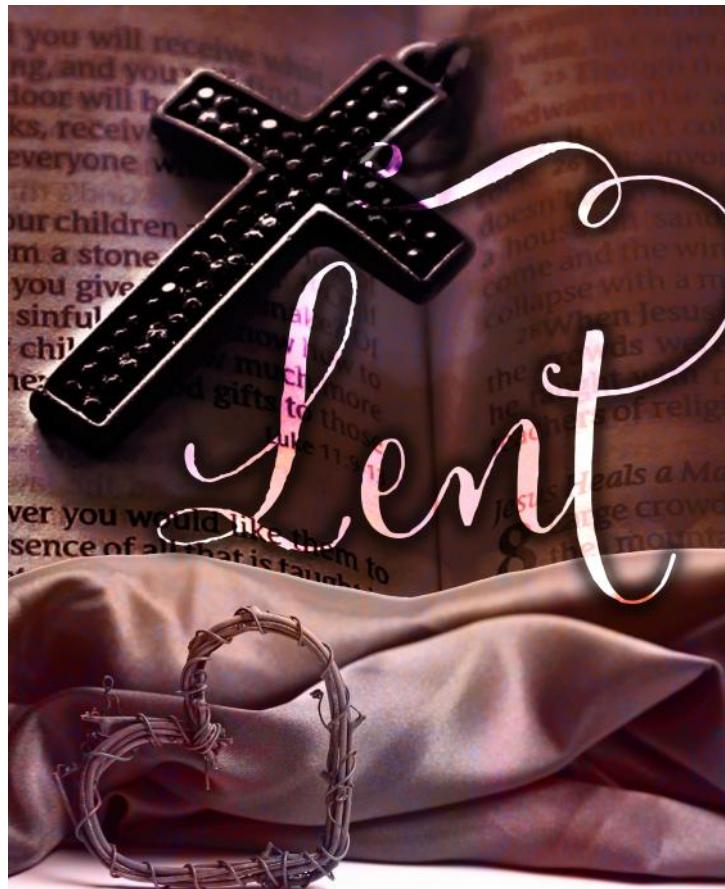
REPORTS:

Secretary's Report (Penni Cloud)

Motion was made by Travis Hardrath to approve secretary minutes as written, second by Todd Brinkman. Motion approved.

Treasurer Report (Teri Schorer)

□ Income: \$19,506.06 Expenses: \$17,926.43 Gain: \$1,579.63



“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart.”
Joel 2:12, NIV

SPENCER TREASURER'S REPORT

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Operating Fund

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	10,960.05	96,306.76	130,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	250.00	16,747.69	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	424.11	6,342.69	6,500.00
441.060	Building use	750.00	1,500.00	2,500.00
	Total Income	\$12,384.16	\$120,897.14	\$139,000.00
Expenses				
<i>Wider Mission</i>				
500.010	Tithe	0.00	6,256.92	13,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$6,256.92</i>	<i>13,000.00</i>
<i>Worship</i>				
510.030	Copyrights	0.00	336.00	1,000.00
510.050	Community Worship Services	0.00	0.00	850.00
510.070	Instrument maintenance/service	0.00	0.00	200.00
510.100	Worship Supplies	(160.00)	273.96	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>(\$160.00)</i>	<i>\$609.96</i>	<i>3,050.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	250.00	8,000.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	0.00	400.00	750.00
<i>Faith Development</i>				
520.010	Birth to 3	0.00	0.00	300.00
520.020	Children's Ministry (SS, VBS, GIFT, etc)	0.00	(100.00)	1,100.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	0.00	166.50	500.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	457.52	656.74	1,000.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	60.90	313.14	250.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	3.32	100.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$518.42</i>	<i>\$1,039.70</i>	<i>3,250.00</i>
<i>Social Concerns</i>				
530.010	Kitchen License/COME	0.00	622.00	
	<i>Total Social Concerns</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$622.00</i>	
<i>Fellowship & Care</i>				
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	0.00	562.50	650.00
540.020	Care Resources	0.00	397.34	500.00
540.030	Events	0.00	0.00	300.00
	<i>Total Fellowship & Care</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$959.84</i>	<i>1,450.00</i>
<i>Office</i>				
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	52.79	916.79	750.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	290.28	2,383.32	2,200.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	0.00	547.12	750.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	337.22	2,037.71	2,300.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	0.00	1,383.96	1,500.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$680.29</i>	<i>\$7,268.90</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
<i>Administration</i>				
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	144.08	1,357.16	1,200.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	2,156.50	11,542.76	7,500.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	28.69	13,930.69	400.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$2,329.27</i>	<i>\$26,830.61</i>	<i>9,100.00</i>

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Operating Fund

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
580.000	<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>			
580.020	Electricity	330.19	4,291.32	4,500.00
580.030	Natural Gas	240.79	2,574.51	2,000.00
580.040	Holding Tanks	0.00	370.00	900.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	196.29	2,056.10	1,800.00
580.065	Cleaning	0.00	587.21	700.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	4,345.00	8,596.03	2,000.00
580.080	Snow Removal	140.00	3,260.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	0.00	511.31	450.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$5,252.27</i>	<i>\$22,246.48</i>	<i>15,350.00</i>
590.000	<i>Staff</i>			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	2,956.26	2,956.26	26,555.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	1,500.00	1,500.00	11,550.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	100.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	0.00	31.50	750.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	821.92	821.92	4,350.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	340.90	428.64	3,395.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
590.210	FICA	161.67	1,695.99	2,600.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	0.00	0.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	150.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	1,449.00	15,494.50	15,600.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$7,379.75</i>	<i>\$24,728.81</i>	<i>70,050.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	514.25	4,874.75	7,500.00
	Total Expenses	\$16,514.25	\$96,087.97	\$139,000.00
	Difference	(\$4,130.09)	\$24,809.17	\$0.00



St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for December 2025

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
301.000	<i>General Fund Balance</i>					
301.100	General Balance	64,369.70	12,384.16	16,514.25	0.00	60,239.61
302.000	<i>Special Funds Balance</i>					
302.001	ARK Balance	677.87	17.00	0.00	0.00	694.87
302.102	Globe Money Balance	494.53	4.00	0.00	0.00	498.53
302.120	Technology Balance	2,485.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,485.90
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	3,416.87	125.00	203.05	0.00	3,338.82
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,340.61	280.80	800.00	0.00	821.41
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	306.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	306.00
302.180	COME Balance	993.65	815.00	229.13	0.00	1,579.52
302.800	Seminary Fund Balance	2,039.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,039.91
302.100	Memorial Gifts Balance	5,451.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,451.89
302.105	Building Fund Balance	8,287.96	1,300.00	94.94	0.00	9,493.02
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	7,486.99	40.88	0.00	0.00	7,527.87
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,539.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,539.81
Total		\$98,891.69	\$14,966.84	\$17,841.37	\$0.00	\$96,017.16