

Services of Worship

- Spencer on Sunday at 9am and Monday at 6:30pm
- Riplinger on Sunday at 11am

Church Office

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

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

Spencer
www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer/Riplinger
www.facebook.com/Riplingerchurch/

Interim Pastor

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

Minister of Faith Formation

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

Parish Secretary

Amanda Schjoneman
sjlcoffice@frontier.com

Deadlines

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

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

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

Connect October 2021

Commemoration of Francis of Assisi with a blessing of animals after the 9am service on October 3—“All creatures both large and small, God loves them all.” The services of worship on October 3-4 will commemorate Francis of Assisi who is best known for his prayer “Make me an instrument of your peace...” and for his hymn “All Creatures of Our God and King.” He is also known as a lover of nature and so the practice of blessing of animals. Come to the services of worship and bring your animals to be blessed after the 9am service!

October Worship Fest with Polka Service on October 10 at 9am at Spencer—A-one, a-two, a-one-two-three. Get your toes tapping in anticipation of October Worship Fest with a polka service featuring the Tom Kniess Polka Band from the Spring Lake Campground. Eats and drinks will be brats and root beer. Who says Lutherans can't have fun? Spread the word!

Wedding at Spencer on October 16—Rudy Nieman and Amanda Pekarek desire to announce their intention to be married on Saturday, October 16 at Spencer and request your prayers.

Commemoration of Luke, Evangelist on October 17—Luke is known as the beloved physician, so the focus will be on health and wholeness.

New members to be received on October 24—Lacey and Jonathon Berres and their children Jasper and Emerick desire to join. Others are invited to talk to Pastor Bolstad if interested.

Reformation Sunday to be Commemorated on October 31
Martin Luther began a movement that called for continual renewal and reformation of the church. Reformation Sunday provides an opportunity to focus on our life of the church being continually renewed. Sing some of the great Lutheran hymns and hear the story of the reformer!

Service of Worship Offered on Mondays at 6:30pm at Spencer—Gone on the weekend? We offer a service of worship for you when you get back. Have trouble getting going in the morning? Come to this evening service.

From the Pastor

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the LORD. Psalm 122:1

Thank you to all who have been faithfully attending services of worship. If, for whatever reason, you have not been attending services of worship, you are invited to gather with the assembly to worship God, follow Jesus, and be inspired by the Spirit.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Martin Luther, Protestant Reformation Top Millennium Lists

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Martin Luther's action to nail his 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, which challenged some practices of the Roman Catholic Church and sparked the Protestant Reformation, was the most significant religious story of the past 1,000 years, according to results of a questionnaire compiled by the Religion Newswriters Association (RNA).

The RNA is a professional association of reporters, editors and writers in the United States and Canada who regularly cover religion for the secular media.

In addition, Luther was ranked third on separate lists of the 100 most influential people of the past 1,000 years compiled by Life magazine and by "Biography of the Millennium," a program that aired on Arts & Entertainment, a cable television network.

Luther, born Nov. 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, is known as the father of Protestantism. He studied law before becoming an Augustinian monk in 1505 and was ordained a priest in 1507. While he studied for a doctor of theology degree, he discovered significant differences between what he read in the Bible and the theology and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. In particular, Luther said the Scriptures said faithful people are saved by the grace of God and not by any specific things they may do to earn salvation. He objected to the Roman Catholic Church's practice of the sale of indulgences.

On October 31, 1517, Luther posted 95 theses or challenges to the Catholic Church. Luther hoped the church would reform its practices, but instead his action ignited a serious conflict, and those who followed his teachings left the Roman Catholic Church. His name became synonymous with the followers of his teachings, and the word "Lutheran" is still part of the names for several church bodies in the world today.

In the United States the 5.2-million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the country's largest Lutheran denomination, and the largest Lutheran church in the world that bears his name.

Luther also made the Scriptures and worship liturgy available to people in their own language. The result of his actions and refusal to recant them was excommunication from the Catholic Church.

"Luther's nailing of 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, sparked a Protestant Reformation whose results are still being felt," said the RNA. "The turmoil of those days would move the Catholic Church to begin a Counter Reformation, beginning with decrees by the Council of Trent (1545-1563), which would serve as a backdrop to King Henry VIII's decision to break from Rome and create the Church of England."

Luther "began the Reformation that transformed political and religious alliances for centuries," Life magazine said. "His early works stressed salvation by God's grace and Christian spirituality. He argued against papal authority in affairs of state, and when he refused to recant was excommunicated by the Catholic Church in 1521 -- an act that gave rise to all Protestant churches."

Life's list of the top 100 people of the millennium placed Thomas Edison, inventor, first, and Christopher Columbus, explorer, second.

Biography noted that Luther's books were ordered destroyed and that Luther "was put under the ban of the Empire" after he was summoned to appear before the Diet of Worms, an official body called by Emperor Charles V to examine Luther. Its members called on Luther to recant his beliefs, but he refused.

"The drawing up of the Augsburg Confession, where he was represented by (Philipp) Melancthon, marks the culmination of the German Reformation," Biography said, adding that Luther's translation of the Bible became a landmark of German literature.

The Augsburg Confession is a founding document for the Lutheran church.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/3764>

History - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - ELCA

A merger of three Lutheran churches formed the ELCA in 1988. They were The American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Church in America.

Now 30 years later, the ELCA is a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world.

We trace our roots back through the mid-17th century, when early Lutherans came to America from Europe, settling in the Virgin Islands and the area that is now known as New York. Even before that, Martin Luther sought reform for the church in the 16th century, laying the framework for our beliefs.

<https://www.elca.org/About/History>

Faith Formation

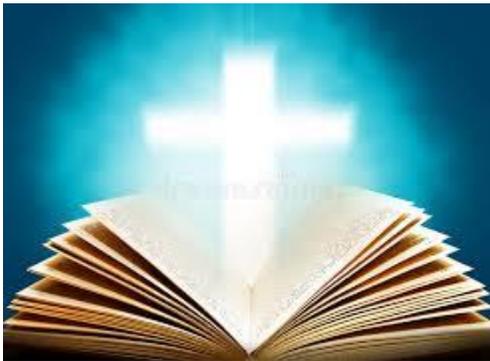


5th Quarter Event

October 8 & 15 will be nights of fun, bonfire, snacks following the Spencer High School football games at home. All high schoolers are invited, regardless of if they go to the game or not.

Wednesday Meals

Suppers for Wednesday Nights– We feed the middle school and high school youth each Wednesday night. We are looking for folks to cook or provide food for 30-40 people and clean up following. We created an online sign up, if you're interested in helping find the sign up with this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094ba9af2aa13-wednesday>



Cross Training

Wednesday evening programming for 6th-8th grade resumed Sept. 15. We are super excited to have the kids back as we are gearing up to dig into lots of Jesus and faith topics. We are in desperate need of adult male small group leaders!! The role is not difficult- all of the materials are provided, the small group leaders meet together as a group for support and gathering all supplies. We divide the girls and boys into groups of 4-6 and pair them with an adult. Each Wednesday we participate in large group session together and then break into our pre-assigned small groups for more discussion and faith building activities. St. John's values teaching and leading kids in faith, but we absolutely NEED more adults to be involved, without adults who step up and volunteer out kids and youth are left on their own and may feel like they don't matter to the future of St. John's.



JAM

JAM- Jesus And Me is for kids age 3 years-5th grade and meets on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am. We begin with an opening in the sanctuary and then dismiss to classrooms. We ask that parents come into the building and wait in the Sunday school hallway to pick up their kids, this way we can hopefully eliminate any kids running around in the parking lot.

We need some substitutes for our teachers. If you'd like to know more, please contact Jenny Nieman. We partner with parents each year of JAM, to help them fulfill the promises that they made at their child's baptism. We have designed a specific GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) unit for each grade that the kids and parents participate in the classroom together. Currently the 4th & 5th graders are learning about The Sacraments. We will celebrate in worship with them on October 17. The next GIFT unit will be for 1st & 2nd graders on Stewardship.



LIVE

Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm high school youth meet in the youth room to discuss faith and life topics. We absolutely NEED a male and female leader for this group. Jenny will provide training and all materials.

SOME THINGS TO KNOW

ELCA AFFILIATION: Many of you may have heard conversations regarding our affiliation with the ELCA. The council has been asked to form a task force to research the current policies and practices of the ELCA and how it aligns with the principles of St. John's both in Spencer and Riplinger. The goal is representation of both congregations. If you are interested in serving on this task force, people on the task force will need internet access contact, Pam Hardrath

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

TREASURER NEEDED: Our Spencer congregation is searching for a new treasurer. Roxie will stay on board until you are fully trained. This is a paid position. For more information or to see the job description, please contact Pam Hardrath . If you are interested in being considered for this position, please send your qualifications to Pam Hardrath.

TIME & TALENT: We have updated our Time and Talent volunteer needs to keep our congregation flowing. It can be completed online using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BA9AF2AA13-time1>

or a paper copy can be found in the brochure rack. Paper copies can be put in the basket on the table in the Narthex.

NEW WORSHIP SERVING SYSTEMS: Beginning November 7 we will only be scheduling people to serve in hospitality, readers, and tech/sound volunteers. Tags will be on the white board saying GREETER, USHER, COMMUNION ASSISTANT, BASKET BEARER. If you are willing to serve in an area, grab the tag and put it on please. We will test this new system out for a few months to see if it works.

NOTE OF THANKS!

Thank-you for all of the prayers of healing, get well wishes and cards I received while I was in the hospital. I appreciate each and every one! I will be on oxygen for 3 to 6 months while my left lung returns to normal functioning. Thank-you for all of your support!

Thanks for helping out!

Pam Hardrath

If you have any questions, comments or other ideas, please contact me at 715-507-0549 or tpkrh4@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED

Our congregation currently has many volunteer needs

- Coordinator needed for Christmas Giving Tree. They are organizing it now. Please talk to Pam Hardrath if you are interested or have questions. Sharon Is available to help as needed.
- Lead person for the COME Meal. You do not need to reinvent the wheel. There is a well working system in place and volunteer groups willing to serve at the meals. Mary Seefeld is willing to prepare the meal.
- Tech Team of 2 or 3 people to organize and manage the live worship video taping.
- Two people to audit the congregation's financial records.
- A person to help vacuum and clean windows in our church once or twice a month.

2022 Congregation Council needs

- **Cemetery Committee** (3 year term)
- **Secretary** keeps accurate minutes and roll call of council meetings.
- **Worship Director** works with the pastor to prepare and organize worship services.
- **Congregational Care Director** works with the pastor to provide care for congregation members.
- **Food, Fellowship and Fun Director** initiates, plans, and coordinates activities within the congregation.
- **Beyond Our Doors Director** helps with organizations and needs outside the church building.
- **Building and Grounds Director** is responsible for the care and maintenance of the building.
- **Vice-chair** serves 1 year as vice chair and is the new chair the next year.
- **Chair**—Vice-chair Nick Wash decided to resign from council effective August 2021. He has been switched to 2nd shift at work.

We do have members interested in being the director for Buildings and Grounds and Food, Fellowship and Fun, as well as the chair. You are more than welcome to be a nominee for these positions as well.

If you are interested in being a director, vice chair or the council chair or would like more information regarding the responsibilities of any of these positions and/or are interested in being a nominee for one of these positions, please contact the church office or Pam Hardrath at 715-507-0549 or tpkrh4@gmail.com

Church Sign—We are looking for someone who knows how to straighten the Church sign. The building and Grounds director, Travis Hardrath, has been trying to find someone, but no one really knows the right way to make this happen. If you know someone who does this or knows the correct way to do this, let Travis know at 715-507-0548 or



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Leah Nieman | 24 Mark Niemann |
| 2 Michele Foth | Sophia Vinnedge |
| Karen Mellenthin | Ellie Vogel |
| 3 Levi Schjoneman | 25 Janet Ammons |
| 6 David Knecht | Jackson Manicke |
| Amanda Blair | 26 William Gault |
| 7 Jeremiah Wash | 27 Doug Kops |
| Amy Weber | Daniel Miller |
| Christopher Burns | Jody Viegut |
| 8 Paige Klement | 29 Jenna Buss |
| 9 Ridge Reynolds | 30 Keith Schmidt |
| 10 Jane Neumann | 31 Sue Wallace |
| Dennis Schorer | |
| 13 Judy Berger | |
| 14 Tanya Manicke | |
| 15 Brandon Schiferl | |
| 16 Tristen Smazal | |
| 17 Bridget Christopherson | |
| Dorene Newman | |
| 18 Kole Herman | |
| David Kilty | |
| Jeff Rank | |
| 19 Chad Soback | |
| Samantha Hebert | |
| 20 Cadence Opsal | |
| 21 Clayton Seagren | |
| 22 Gavid Kilty | |



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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 3 Nick & Kayann Dommer | 7 years |
| Doug & Jenny Leonhardt | 7 years |
| 6 Lance & Mary Schuette | 20 years |
| 7 Sam & Tara Nigon | 4 years |
| 10 Michael & Kristen Engevold | 32 years |
| David & Barbara Lucht | 51 years |
| 15 Rich & Debra Wachholz | 44 years |
| 17 Jerome & Jodi Alsteen | 6 years |
| 20 William & Marsha Martens | 48 years |
| 21 Douglas & Tracey Ackman | 21 years |
| 22 Larry & Sharon Hamus | 38 years |
| 23 Douglas & LouAnn Mellenthin | 45 years |
| Michael & Janice Neumann | 28 years |
| Dan & Jodi Pilsner | 12 years |
| 25 Richard & Judy Berger | 52 years |
| 27 Todd & Jessica Ertl | 20 years |
| 31 Scott & Deana Parker | 30 years |



- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Gary Thompson | September 12 |
| Theresa Seehafer | September 12 |
| Jeanette Ewert | September 14 |
| Richard Zugier | September 18 |



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

Cyndi Ackerman, Dick Berger, Barb Dommer, Roger Kilty, Grace Maines, Jean Mellenthin, Pat Miller, Dorothy Neuman, Phyllis Premau, LaVilla Schilling, Earl Schiszik, Darin Thompson.

Those with ongoing health concerns: Lois Block, Todd Frahm, Pam Hardrath, Audrey Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Michael Howe, Paul Kilty, Jodi Krause, Scott Kollmansberger, Sandy Lemens, Dylan Maki, Linda Marchinek, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans, Becca Raczek (Cindy Weiler's niece), Dylan Rottscheit, Tammi Schiferl, Doris Seefeld, Joanne Seefeld, Jon Soderberg, Kimberly Tate, Michael Weigel, Lenore Williams.

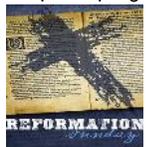
Those with cancer: Judi Andrew, Linda Bauer, Brenda Gardner, Dean Hanson, Sue Johnson, Mark Kilty, Parker Klimmer, Dennis Krause, Jeff Miller, Michelle Oelke, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner, Barb Wachsmuth, Francis Wash, Mark Zimmerman, Emily Weiler.

Those serving in the military: Tyler Klement

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



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9 AM Worship at Spencer Presentation of the Bibles 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	27 6:30 PM Worship at Spencer	28 1 PM Staff 5 PM COME (Community Outreach Meal for Everyone)	29 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	30	1	2
3 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger Commemoration of Francis Of Assisi—Blessing of Animals	4 1 PM Staff 6:30 PM Worship at Spencer	5	6 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	7	8 5th Quarter Event 	9
10 9 AM October Worship Fest Polka Service at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	11 1 PM Staff 6:30 PM Worship at Spencer	12 6:30 PM Spencer Council	13 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	14	15 Nieman/Pekarek Wedding Rehearsal 5th Quarter Event 	16 Nieman/Pekarek Wedding 2:30pm
17 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger	18 1 PM Staff 6:30 PM Worship at Spencer	19 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	20 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	21 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	22	23
24 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	25 1 PM Staff 6:30 PM Worship at Spencer	26 5 PM COME (Community Outreach Meal for Everyone)	27 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10:15 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 	1 1 PM Staff 6:30 PM Worship at Spencer	2	3 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	4	5  TIME FOR A HAYRIDE!	6

Spencer Serving Schedule

	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
Greeter	Doug & Jan Kops	Bob & Glenda Fellenz	Susan Howe	Jan Ammons	Inez Fosberg
Technology	Teri Schorer	Savana Weyer	Rachel Nieman	Leah Nieman	Tracey Ackman
Sounds	Teri Schorer	Lydia Nieman	Rachel Nieman	Leah Nieman	Tracey Ackman
Ushers	Allen Jicinsky	Milt Viergutz	Jan Ammons	Susan Howe	Rudy Nieman
	Jim Christopherson	Alec Cook	Bob Helsten	NEEDED	NEEDED
Communion Assistant	Jenny Nieman	NEEDED	Teri Schorer	NEEDED	Inez Fosberg
Reader	Allen Jicinsky	Not Needed	Teri Schorer	Gail Jicinsky	Jim Christopherson
Hospitality	Gail Jicinsky	Lori Cook	Teri Schorer	NEEDED	Heather Vogel

Riplinger News

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>October Readers</u>
Sept. 5	11	3rd: Trish Porter
Sept. 12	12	10th: Dave Newman
Sept. 19	15	17th: Joan Miller
Sept. 26	10	24th: Sherry Schmutzler
		31th: Brenda Newman

Spencer Worship Attendance

Aug. 29	43
Aug. 30	11
Sept. 5	31
Sept. 6	10
Sept. 12	50
Sept. 13	8
Sept. 19	42
Sept. 20	12



LAWN-MOWING TEAM

Lawn Mowing Schedule
 Oct. 3: Keith 715-937-2099
 Oct. 10: Harry 715-659-5380

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

CHURCH SIGN

St. John's is looking for someone who knows how to straighten the church sign. The Buildings and Grounds Director, Travis Hardrath has been trying to find someone and no one really knows the right way to make this happen. If you know someone who does this or knows the correct way to do this, please contact Travis at 715-507-0548 or tpkrh4@gmail.com

THANK YOU

Thank-you to all of the people that came to help fix the parking lot light pole.

SCRIP

THANK-YOU!

Thank-you to everyone who is supporting our Scrip Program. We were able to donate \$400 in gift cards this month to families affected by COVID, cancer sufferers, and a family unable to work. Without your purchases we would be unable to make this happen. THANK-YOU!

Scrip Cards are Here!!!

More news for Scrip! Families can pay for their orders using a credit card! In addition to linking a bank account (Presto Pay), families now have the option to pay for gift cards using a Visa or Mastercard. Best of all, rebates are not impacted in any way. Note: a 2.6% fee is added to your total order at check out. Gift cards are available for purchase in the church office, Monday through Thursday 10am to 2pm, online using shopwithscrip.com or a paper copy order forms can be found in the brochure rack and put in Pam Hardrath's mailbox with a check written out to St. John's. Cards on hand include Kwik Trip (\$25, \$50, \$100), Burger King (\$10), Dairy Queen (\$10), Dunkin Donuts (\$10), Festival Foods (\$25, \$50, \$100), Joann Fabric (\$25), Kohl's (\$25), Pizza Hut (\$10) Target (\$25), Wal-Mart (\$10, \$25). If you know of a family or individual who could benefit from the aid of Scrip please let Pam Hardrath know. Life faces us with many challenges and we may need a helping hand financially, that is where Scrip can help! For more information on how this program works, please feel free to ask Pam Hardrath. Call 715-507-0549 or email tpkrh4@gmail.com.



Treasurer's Report: August 2021

INCOME

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$10,182.00	\$79,819.57	\$148,000.00
Riplinger Reimbursement Shared Exp.	\$1,063.02	\$3,684.48	\$8,000.00
Building Use	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$11,295.02	\$83,554.05	\$157,000.00

EXPENSES

<i>1. Supporting the Wider Mission</i>			
	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Tithe (10% to NW Synod/ELCA)	\$932.00	\$7,974.00	\$14,800.00
Synod/Official Mtgs (pastor-shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Synod Assembly Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$38.00	\$100.00
Total	\$932.00	\$8,012.00	\$15,600.00

<i>2. Preparing For and Conducting Worship</i>			
	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Copyrights	\$79.00	\$710.00	\$700.00
Community Worship Services	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$850.00
Pulpit Supply	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Instrument Repair	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$0.00	\$377.93	\$2,500.00
Music/Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Organist Payroll	\$174.00	\$1,305.00	\$2,600.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$1,991.32	\$15,930.56	\$25,645.00
Total	\$2,244.32	\$19,173.49	\$35,295.00

3. Faith Formation Ministries for Our Children, Youth & Adults

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Birth to 3	\$0.00	\$154.77	\$300.00
Children's Ministry	\$31.80	-\$10.43	\$3,000.00
Middle School (shared)	\$656.00	\$596.00	\$1,000.00
High School (shared)	\$0.00	\$226.71	\$2,300.00
Adult Faith Formation	\$0.00	\$76.60	\$600.00
Right Now Media	\$0.00	\$1,319.89	\$1,300.00
Library Resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$995.66	\$7,965.28	\$12,820.00
Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	\$1,062.50	\$8,024.00	\$17,680.00
Total	\$2,775.96	\$18,352.82	\$39,200.00

4. Caring For Our Church Family

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Care Resources	\$14.24	\$28.48	\$150.00
Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$476.03	\$500.00
Office Supplies (shared)	\$59.06	\$390.36	\$600.00
Telephone & Internet (shared)	\$150.45	\$1,136.09	\$1,500.00
Postage (shared)	\$55.00	\$565.60	\$1,000.00
Copier Maintenance (shared)	\$232.30	\$618.04	\$1,100.00
Subscriptions, Software (shared)	\$20.00	\$1,645.55	\$2,100.00
Technology - all areas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$249.15	\$250.00
Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	\$107.10	\$871.72	\$1,500.00
Leadership Study Materials	\$0.00	\$71.60	\$100.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$995.66	\$7,965.28	\$12,820.00
Secretary Payroll (Shared)	\$1,057.00	\$6,016.50	\$15,600.00
Total	\$2,458.51	\$20,034.40	\$38,420.00

5. Reaching Out to Serve Our Community

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Kitchen License/COME	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$500.00
Mission project expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$800.00

Treasurer's Report: August 2021

6. Equipping and Maintaining Our Platform for Mission

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Electricity	\$379.63	\$2,619.90	\$4,500.00
Natural Gas	\$12.12	\$1,336.68	\$2,000.00
Holding Tanks	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00
Waste Disposal	\$93.60	\$929.16	\$1,100.00
Cleaning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Supplies & Gen Maint	\$0.00	\$1,164.28	\$1,500.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$909.00	\$2,000.00
Lawn Mowing - church	\$0.00	\$451.96	\$500.00
Cemetary Assoc Lawn Care	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Staff Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Insurance & Workman's Comp	\$551.62	\$3,090.02	\$4,500.00
Mileage - Pastor (shared)	\$56.00	\$425.04	\$1,200.00
FICA (7.65% staff payroll)	\$186.93	\$1,265.78	\$2,885.00
Treasurer Payroll	\$150.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00
Total	\$1,429.90	\$13,691.82	\$27,685.00
Total Expenses	\$9,840.69	\$79,824.53	\$157,000.00
Difference	\$1,454.33	\$3,729.52	\$0.00

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	<u>Paid by Riplinger</u> <u>Annual Budget</u>
Pastor Expense Breakout*				
Pastor Compensation (Spencer)	\$2,069.38	\$16,555.04	\$24,840.00	\$10,643.00
Housing Allowance (Spencer)	\$700.00	\$5,600.00	\$8,400.00	\$3,600.00
Social Security Allowance (Spencer)	\$211.86	\$1,694.88	\$2,542.00	\$1,090.00
Health Insurance & Pension (Spencer)	\$1,001.40	\$8,011.20	\$14,303.00	\$6,456.00
Books & Subscriptions (shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	
Continuing Education (shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	
Total Compensation**	\$3,982.64	\$31,861.12	\$51,285.00	

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

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

	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	End Balance
General Fund (Checking Account)	\$15,023.65	\$11,295.02	\$9,840.69	\$0.00	\$16,477.98
Special Funds (Checking Account)					
ARK Balance	\$520.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$520.72
Fall Harvest Dinner	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Globe Money Balance	\$12.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.62
Technology Balance	\$612.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$732.00
Bible Camp Scholarships	\$4,283.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,283.27
Mission Trip Balance	\$1,699.28	\$740.00	\$31.50	\$0.00	\$2,407.78
Kitchen Equipment Balance	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.00
COME Balance	\$3,010.69	\$330.00	\$88.49	\$0.00	\$3,252.20
Seminary Balance	\$839.99	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$965.99
Memorial Gifts Balance	\$2,445.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,445.41
Building Fund	\$26,297.44	\$1,693.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,990.96
<i>Checking Account Balance</i>					\$59,311.93
Thrivent Choice (Savings Acct)	\$5,484.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,484.03
Sabbatical Fund (Forward Bank)	\$980.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$980.66
Total	\$61,433.76	\$14,303.54	\$9,960.68	\$0.00	\$65,776.62

August Spencer Council Minutes

St. John's Lutheran Church Leadership Minutes for July 13, 2021 (Approved)

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

Missing: Beyond Our Doors Director – Position vacant; Worship Director – Luanne Schwarze

Call to order: At 6:34 PM by Chair Pam Hardrath

Opening prayer and devotion was led by Pastor Bolstad. As a part of the devotion shared, active (not passive) leadership was highlighted. All members are empowered to work together with team spirit. Serving is a privilege rather than a task with Jesus as the ultimate model for active serving and leadership.

New Business:

- **Harvest Dinner:** Riplinger members asked if there is interest and resources to collaborate on the Harvest Dinner this year. The council supports doing this event on October 31 with recommendation for involving local caterers, such as County Market, to help with the food preparation. Pam will initiate an announcement to request people to serve for this event.
- **COVID menu on the St. John's web site:** The council agreed that the COVID pandemic management menu can be removed from the web site. This can be added back as needed for reference or updated communication. Other web sites for church in the area have removed pandemic reference.
- **Polka Worship Service:** The suggestion to have a polka worship service this fall with brats and root beer fellowship time following was discussed. Jenny and Heather will take on the planning for this event to be held on October 10th or 17th. Jenny will follow-up on a polka band possible option. Again, the recommendation was supported to use local catering resources to keep the preparation manageable with the focus on faith, fun, and fellow-up.
- **Concern regarding ELCA stance:** Several members have communicated with Pam and some council members regarding specific ELCA actions. Open communication will continue to be encouraged in this information gathering phase. The council agreed to continue in a neutral position at this time. We all are praying and

listening to discern where God is leading us in this building time with layers of changes. Pam will initiate an email assuring all members that open communication continues.

Old Business:

- **Pastor Call Committee:** There are no candidates available currently. The call committee group continues to be in prayer and in touch with the ELCA synod.
- **Video camera and plans for online worship:** Next steps to phase back in online worship were discussed with the next steps being to utilize an available video recording device to record Pastor's message on Monday evening and make that available on FaceBook and the web sites. A team to move forward with planning for live streaming is needed also.
- **Building Use Policy:** All approved the final version of the updated building use policy with much appreciation for the teamwork on these helpful updates. Teri will hand this finalized version to the church office for active use.

Secretary Report: Nadine Willett

- Minutes from council meeting on July 13, 2021 were approved.

Treasurer Report: Roxie Wetterau

- July Report: Income of \$9,823.18 was reported with disbursements of \$9,651.90 for a net difference of positive \$ 171.28 for the month. The General Fund balance is \$14,833.65 and we are in a good financial position. Report approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lowell Bolstad

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

Minister of Faith Formation Report: Jenny Nieman

- Ecclesiastes study for women begins September 15th and is being led by Pam Hardrath.
- A men's fellowship begins on September 15th and is being led by Travis Hardrath.
- JAM (Jesus and Me): Classes will resume on September 19 using free curriculum from Life Church Network and The Bible App 4 Kids.
- Backpack blessings are scheduled for September 19th.
- Bibles for three- year-olds and third graders will be distributed.

August Spencer Council Minutes Continued

Minister of Faith Formation Report Continued

- Vacation Bible School: Jenny Nieman and Heather Vogel are leading the new VBS format. One more VBS event is scheduled for August 29 with the 'Jesus is My Superhero' theme.
- Cross training (6th to 8th Grade students):
 - End of summer party is planned for August 25.
 - Cross training will resume September 15.
- LIVE will resume September 15th utilizing curriculum available from RightNow Media. An additional male leader is needed to serve.
- 2021 Mission trip: The trip to Charleston, South Carolina went well; the group led worship on July 18.
- There are two requests for baptism. Welcoming baptism requests along with family support and encouragement was discussed.

Worship Report: Luanne Schwarze

- Sunday worship will continue with one service at 9 AM and JAM at 10:15 AM.
- Online worship discussion notes are included above in old business.
- Worship attendance levels for Sunday and Monday services were reviewed.

Buildings and Grounds Report: Travis Hardrath

- Follow-up continues regarding thermostat setting changes.

Food, Fellowship, and Fun Report: Heather Vogel

- VBS plans are progressing well. Other fall events are being planned as noted in above discussion points. Congregational

Care Report: Teri Schorer

- Updated Building Use Policy is finalized.

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

Vice Chair Report: Nick Wash

- No updates.

Chairperson Report: Pam Hardrath

- Snapshot conversations with each employee of St. John's are taking place. Updates to the job description are accomplished to reflect the current responsibilities of the Ministry of Faith Formation.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM. Council gathering time closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Willett, Council Secretary

