

Services of Worship

Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am

Mondays

- Spencer 6:30pm

Pastor Ritchie Cole

sjlc13pastor@gmail.com

920-216-4292

**Spencer Congregation: &
Parish Office**

210167 State Hwy 13

Spencer, WI 54479

715-659-5158

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

Riplinger Congregation:

W1776 2nd Avenue

Spencer, WI 54479

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/sjlcSpencer

Instagram

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

YouTube

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

Minister of Faith

Formation

Jenny Nieman

jennyfaith659@gmail.com

715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath

Thursday 6 to 9 pm

Email:

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

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

Deadlines

- Weekly email:

Tuesdays 9am

- Sunday announcements:

Wednesday 5pm

- Monthly Newsletter:

Monthlv on the 20th

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

October 2026, Calendar of Events!

October 4, NOTE TIME CHANGE, 10am Parish Polka Service with Tom Kniess at Spencer. **NO WORSHIP AT RIPLINGER OR JAM!** Following worship Pastor Ritchie will be leaving to attend the Annual Gathering. He will return on October 7.

October 6, 6:30pm, Monthly Bible Study

October 7, 8pm, Mission Trip Planning Meeting

October 10, 1 to 5pm, Surprise birthday party for Barb Ault in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to pass.

October 11, 9am in Spencer and 11am in Riplinger. A Gideon representative will share information about their mission during announcements. A free will offering will be collected.

October 13, 6:30pm, Parish Worship Team Meeting

October 14, 6pm, Board Meeting

October 16, 6:30pm. Estonia Mission Work Presentation

October 18, Riplinger Quarterly Meeting

October 21, 1pm, Riplinger Ladies Circle

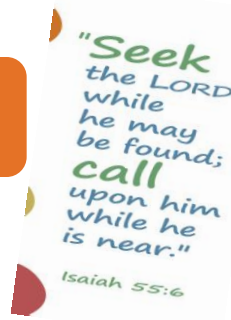
October 25, 2 to 4pm, Trunk or Treat

October 27, COME Meal



Thank you to all members that thanked me with love and kind words on my last time as lead cook and coordinator for the COME meal. Thank you for the cards, the corsage and flowers. Thank you to all that volunteered and donated, it made my job easier and fun. Thank you to the entire community that donated and also served meals and to those that attended I will miss you all. We enjoyed each other's company, shared stories and most off all a good meal. A huge thank you to Kristi's Kakes for donating all the cookies and cakes for the 20 year celebration. Thanks again everyone, sincerely, yours truly, Mary Seefeld.

From Pastor Ritchie



Greetings in Christ!

October! The month we are blessed with the real color of the leaves, the color isn't covered by Chlorophyll, which makes them green. The colors, and the blends they make are so beautiful, they can only come from God. As Lorna is fond of saying, "I love God's color palette!"

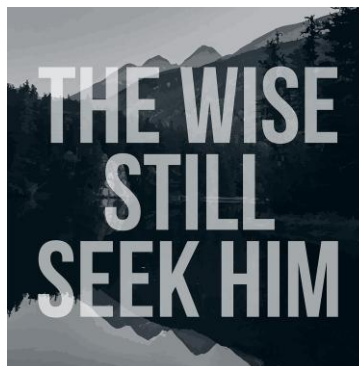
This is also the first full month of the various activities many of us do during the cold months in Wisconsin. School activities are in full swing, if you're a bowler, you have the weekly commitment to follow through on. College or Pro football is now on TV pretty much every night, so you always have that to fall back on. As of this writing, the Brewers are playing great baseball, and the Pro Basketball and Hockey seasons are getting underway. We have pretty much any diversion we want to use to while away the time.

Are diversions what we want to have in our lives? Or do we want something more substantial? Diversions offer exactly what they are, something relatively pointless that occupies us for a length of time. I often do Sudoku puzzles in the evening. Does God want us to just "be occupied" until bedtime? Or does God want to help us grow and be the people He created us to be? I'm thinking the latter;

what do you think? Isaiah 55:2-3a says, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;" He goes on to tell us in verse 6, "'Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;" If we call on the Lord, He is going to occupy our time. He is not going to ignore our inquiries. It is amazing how God will find ways to constructively occupy our time, and to use our gifts. (He knows all the gifts we have, because He gave them to us!)

All of us need to look at how we spend our time. Some down time is good, that is what the Sabbath is for. God gave us the Sabbath so we can think about Him and what He wants for us and from us.

Go with God,
Pastor Ritchie



October 4 **(10am Polka Service at Spencer)**

Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 3:4-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11
Isaiah 25:6-9
Philippians 4:4-13
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18
Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25
Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36



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

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



Parish Polka Service

October 4, 10am,

We will have one joint parish service at Spencer. There will not be a service in Riplinger or JAM. Join us for the most high spirited, toe tapping celebration in town! Our annual Polka Service! Bring the whole family for uplifting hymns, joyful fellowship and a beat that will make your spirit soar!

Pastor Away

October 4 to October 7

Pastor Ritchie will be attending the Annual Gathering in Iowa. He will leave following worship on October 4.



Barb Ault

Surprise Birthday Party

October 10, 1 to 5 pm

Fellowship Hall

Please bring a dish to pass.

Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation Month is the perfect time to show our pastor (and his family) how much we value their dedication, late-night phone calls, and weekly spiritual guidance. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 reminds us to "honor those leaders who work hard among you... Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

Help shower pastor with gratitude all month long. Here are a few simple ways you and your family can get involved: Write a personal note. Pray for Pastor Ritchie's health, family and spiritual refreshment. Consider a gift card to a local restaurant for a date night, or a basket of snacks. Bless his family with a meal or special treat. Let's come together to make sure our pastor feels overwhelmingly supported, loved, and appreciated! Thank you for being such a generous and loving church family.

Estonia Mission Presentation



October 16, 6:30pm.

Learn more about mission work in Estonia. Pastor Siimon Haamer will share his mission work and raise awareness about the need to reintroduce education and the Gospel to Estonia. He operates the Home of Hope which serves as a prominent Christian outreach center, theological school, and a hub for several ministries aimed at educating a new generation of Estonian Christian leaders and pastoral care counselors.

Riplinger Quarterly Meeting

October 18, after worship



Trunk or Treat

October 25, 2 to 4pm

Start planning your decorated trunk idea! New this year,- if you need some Trunk or Treat ideas check out the display in the entry at Spencer. Feel free to take one of the ideas.

JAM

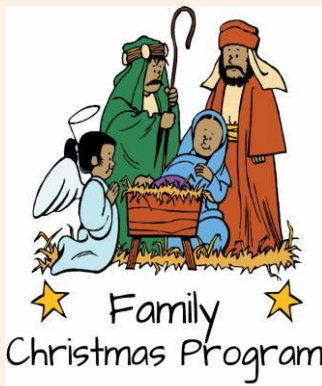
Jesus And Me

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. Everyone is welcome- no need to be members. WE WILL NOT MEET ON OCTOBER 4, SO FAMILIES CAN ENJOY THE POLKA SERVICE AT 10AM AT SPENCER.



Christmas Program

If your family would like to participate in the Christmas program, please contact Jenny Nieman; jennyfaith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636 by October 25 as the planning is beginning very soon.



Cross Training & LIVE



our Wednesday evening programming for 6th-8th grade (Cross Training) & 9th-12th grade (LIVE) resumed Sept. 16. We are super excited to have the kids back as we are gearing up to dig into lots of Jesus and faith topics. If your family or friends would like to participate there is room for plenty more, no need to have started at the beginning of the year, come on any Wednesday. We meet at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.



Wednesday Night Meals

Suppers for Wednesday Nights at 6pm- we feed the middle school and high school youth each Wednesday night, we are looking for folks to cook or provide food for 20 people and clean up following. You can sign up on the paper copy on the bulletin board or on the [online sign up](#).



SEE YOU JANUARY 15-17, 2027!

follower

Districts Youth Gathering

Registration begins October 8.

Last year Districts sold out early and that is expected to happen again. It is extremely important that we register ASAP so no one is left out. Districts is open to youth in middle school & high school. Details will be handed out on Wednesdays and are communicated in the Cross Training Band App; if your family has not seen the information, please reach out to Jenny Nieman jennyfaith659@gmail.com; 715-613-3636.

a season of thanks and praise
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
Sing praises to our God on the lyre.
Psalm 147:7, NASB



October 27
5 to 6pm

We are serving Tator Tot Casserole, Cole slaw, buns, deviled eggs, pumpkin or chocolate dessert. [Sign up here](#) to donate food or volunteer to serve.

N.O.W. DONATIONS

We are requesting donations to help with Nutrition on Weekends. They are requesting socks in all sizes, mittens (not knit), gloves (not knit), hats, hygiene items, granola bars, ramen noodle packets and easy mac cups. Thank you!



First Meeting

October 7, 8pm

We will meet in the youth room. The 2027 locations are released, and we have a catalog to begin the process of selecting the location for next year's mission trip. This is a great meeting for anyone interested in learning about what Group Mission Trips are, what happens on the trip, what are the fundraising expectations, what the costs are and much more. Youth middle school through high school, their parents and any interested adults are invited to attend this meeting. If you have questions prior to the meeting or won't be able to be at the meeting, contact Jenny Nieman jennyfaith659@gmail.com; 715-613-3636.

Spencer Board Contact

Spiritual Care:

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

Liaisons

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

Recording Secretary

Teri Schorer tschorer82@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Kris Ovans goobervns@hotmail.com

Spencer Treasurer Recap

August 2026

General Fund Balance:

\$16,452.43

Income \$9,274.71

Outgoing \$12,096.35

Difference -\$2,821.64

Riplinger Council Contact

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

Shut In Addresses

Audrey Helsten 106469 Highway 153 Spencer, WI 54479

Marshfield Health Services Grace Maines 814 W. 14th Rm. 403 Marshfield, WI 54449

Doris Seefeld 312 Dehne Street Colby, WI 54421

Gift Card Sale

Purchase gift cards to make everyday purchases like food, clothing and other essentials, and with every purchase we earn revenue that we use to help out in the community. You can order gift cards by filling out the order form found in the brochure rack and place it in the Scrip mailbox. Please make checks payable to "St. John's". OR you can place an order by going on-line to www.raiseright.com. If you use this option, please pay by "Prestopay" on-line, credit card payment or make your check payable to St. John's. If you use this option, please print out your order summary and place it in the Scrip mailbox. **Enrollment code: C99A97F23L251** Stop by the Scrip Table before 9am worship or with Lorna at 11am worship. Thank you!



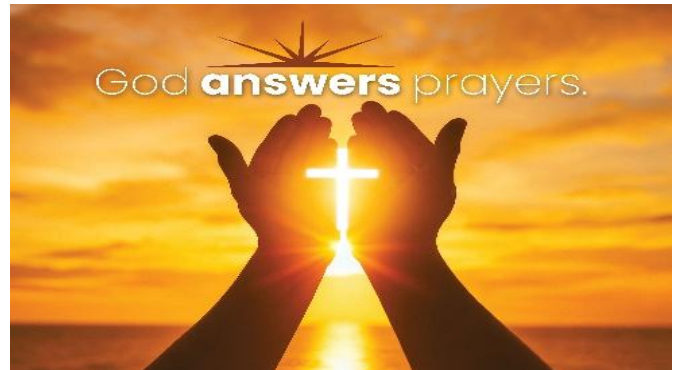
- 1 Leah Gardner
- 2 Michele Foth
- 3 Levi Schjoneman
Jayden Schober
- 6 David Knecht
- 7 Amy Weber
Christopher Burns
- 9 Ridge Reynolds
Evelyn Center
- 10 Dennis Schorer
Jane Nwumann
- 13 Judy Berger
- 14 Tanya Manicke
- 16 Tristen Smazal
- 18 David Kilty
- 19 Chad Soback
- 20 Colton Weiler
- 21 Robert Haas
- 22 Gavid Kilty
- 24 Sophia Vinnedge
Ellie Vogel
- 25 Jackson Manicke
- 27 Doug Kops
Jody Viegut
Ryker Rossow
- 29 Todd Brinkman
- 30 Keith Schmidt
- 31 Sue Wallace

Blessings Sunday!



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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 3 Doug & Jenny Leonhardt | 12 years |
| 6 Lance & Mary Schuette | 25 years |
| 7 Sam & Tara Nigon | 9 years |
| 10 Dave & Barb Lucht | 56 years |
| Jeff & Christine Siegel | 28 years |
| 16 Rudy & Amanda Nieman | 5 years |
| 19 Cody & Samantha Bauer | 7 years |
| 20 William & Marsha Martens | 53 years |
| 21 Douglas & Tracey Ackman | 26 years |
| 22 Larry & Sharon Hamus | 43 years |
| 23 Michael & Janice Neumann | 33 years |
| 27 Todd & Jessica Ertl | 25 years |



IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayers of healing: Audrey Helsten, Hannah Rossow, Elroy Heldt

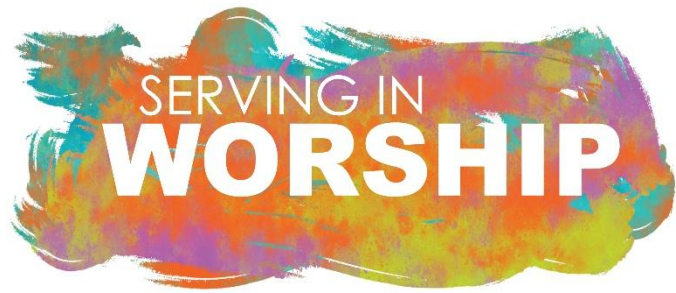
Those with long-term health concerns: Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Wayne Hempel, Susan Howe, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Tammi Schiferl, Darrell Schillinger

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

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

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

sjlcoffice13@gmail.com



	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25	November 1
Greeter	Inez Fosberg	Lori Kops	Bob Haas	Randi Thompson	Bob & Glenda Fellenz
Usher	Jim Christopherson	Brad Helsten	Milt Viergutz		Brad Helsten
Usher	Dennis Krause	Alan Seefeld	Harry Vogel	Dennis Krause	Joe Weix
Tech	Tracey Ackman				
Sound		Janika Helsten			Janika Helsten
Reader	Ashley Stroetz	Lori Kops	Milt Viergutz	Jim Christopherson	Glenda Fellenz
Communion Assistant	Ashley Stroetz	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel	Melissa Steuber	Lori Helsten
Basket Bearer	Brooklynn Stroetz	Zoey Hardrath	Cohley Vogel	Kinley Krause	
Hospitality	Ashley Stroetz	Lori Kops		Melissa Krause	Penny Vinnedge
Riplinger	Joint service 10am	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Heidi McBride	Brenda Newman

YouTube

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



Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger
August 2	51	27
August 9	30	11
August 16	33	21
August 23	35	25
August 30	46	24



Save the
Date!



27 9:00am Worship at Spencer Baptism 10:15am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	28 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	29 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	30 9:30am Experiencing God Study 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	1 6:00pm Secretary in office	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 Pastor's Day Off
4 LCMC Annual Gathering 10:00am Joint Polka Worship 10:15am JAM	5 LCMC Annual Gathering 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	6 LCMC Annual Gathering 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	7 LCMC Annual Gathering 9:30am Experiencing God Study 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting	8 6:00pm Secretary in office	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 Pastor's Day Off 1:00pm Barb Ault Birthday Party
11 9:00am Worship at Spencer; Gideons Presentation 10:15am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Gideons Presentation	12 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	13 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting 7:30pm Staff Meeting	14 9:30am Experiencing God Study 6:00pm Church Board Meeting 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	15 6:00pm Secretary in office	16 Pastor's Day Off 6:30pm Estonia Presentation	17 Pastor's Day Off
18 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Quarterly Meeting	19 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	20 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours	21 9:30am Experiencing God Study 1:00pm Riplinger Ladies Circle 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	22 6:00pm Secretary in office	23 3:00pm Serum/Ertl Wedding Rehearsal & Meal	24 1:00pm Serum/Ertl Wedding
25 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 2:00pm Trunk or Treat	26 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	27 9:00am Pastor's Office Hours 5:00pm COME Meal	28 9:30am Experiencing God Study 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	29 6:00pm Secretary in office	30 Pastor's Day Off	31 Pastor's Day Off