

Services of Worship

Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am

Mondays

- Spencer 6:30pm

Pastor Ritchie Cole

Email: sjlc13pastor@gmail.com

Phone: 920-216-4292

Spencer Congregation: &
Parish Office

210167 State Hwy 13

Spencer, WI 54479

715-659-5158

Email: 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/](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

Wednesday 5:30 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



Connect JANUARY 2026



Special Congregation Meeting

January 4, following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on approving up to \$8,000 to engage a third-party mediator to assist in resolving the conflict within our church. Please understand that this may be a multi-phase process, with the timeline and steps determined by

the mediator's guidance. Pending approval of the funds, we intend to engage Amazement Ministries. They come highly recommended by LCMC and have previously worked with Pastor Ritchie Cole.



Three Days of Prayer

St. John's Lutheran Church will join LCMC congregations around the world in observing Three Days of Prayer, January 5–8. We invite you to [sign up here](#) for one or more time slots and set aside intentional time to pray in our church. Prayer booklets and devotionals will be available,

along with coffee, water, and snacks.



Annual Meeting Dates

Riplinger, January 18th

Spencer, January 25th

Worship Time Change

On January 25, Spencer worship will begin at 8:30am and Riplinger worship at 11:30am, so Pastor Ritchie and Marsha Martens can attend the Annual Meeting.

Cemetery Association Constitution Proposal

Cemetery Association Constitution Proposal

At Spencer's Annual Meeting we will vote on approving the cemetery committees, constitution change, appointing a treasurer. Currently, a committee member is chosen to be the treasurer.



January 27–5 to 6pm

We will be serving shepherds pie, bread and fruit dump cake. Sign ups will be available soon.



FROM PASTOR RITCHIE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6
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Scripture:

January 4

1 Kings 3:4-15

Ephesians 1:3-14

Luke 2:40-52

January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9

Romans 6:1-11

Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42a

January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-25

February 1

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12.

Greetings in Christ!

I was asked to write an article about myself, kind of a "get to know me" article. Here goes:

I am 63 years old (it doesn't seem as old as 63 did when I was 23). I am blessed to be married to Lorna for 34 years (as of December 20!). I have been ordained for about 14 years and have served congregations in Oshkosh, WI and Carrington, ND. I have worked in a number of different jobs during my life, from managing Perkins Restaurants, and SuperAmerica Stores to working in factories and installing windows for AutoGlass Specialists.

Lorna has worked as clerical in a hospital and other places. Our hobbies include for Lorna – anything with crafts, she has 3 floor looms, a table loom, a knitting machine, and does knitting and crocheting. I like to do wood working (don't confuse my enjoyment with thinking I'm good at it).

Lorna and I are the proud parents of Joseph and Sarah. Joe is married to MaryBeth and we are so blessed to have her join our family some years ago. Joe is an Eagle Scout, a World Champion Paintball player (no, really, that's an actual thing), a Triathlon champion and an all-around wonderful son. Joe and MaryBeth have a cat and a dog and do foster care for older dogs in need of a home. Sarah is a member of the United States Army, National Guard, and has served our country in that mode for 13 years, including 3 deployments in Kuwait. She is currently working for a company that secures eyes, organs and tissue for transplant needs. She has a heart for helping those around her with whatever needs they have. The most important being in her life right now is a cat named Glynda.

Lorna and I are blessed with incredible family and friends, and we are so thankful to be back in Wisconsin where we can spend time with these people on a regular basis. We look forward to getting to know everyone at both congregations. Please be patient with us regarding names. We are trying. Lorna is much better at remembering names than I am, but I promise I will get your names down eventually.

May God bless you and yours during this Christmas Season.

Go with God,

Pastor Ritchie

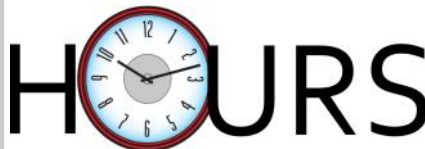


Weekly Email Link

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 sjlcoffice13@gmail.com know. Thank-you!!

PASTOR RITCHIE'S

OFFICE



Monday &

Tuesday

9am to 3pm



January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Updates will be included in the Sunday announcements and Wednesday Email. Events are at Spencer unless otherwise specified.

Calendar of Events

January 4

Special Congregation Meeting

January 5 to 8
Three Days of Prayer

January 7
Districts & Mission Trip Meeting

January 9 to 11
Districts Youth Event in Green Bay

January 13
Worship Committee Meeting
Council Meeting

January 18
Riplinger Annual Meeting

January 25
Spencer Annual Meeting

January 27
COME Meal

CHURCH BOARD VOLUNTEERS

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

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To volunteer for any elected position or if you would like to share your talent serving as the coordinator or as a member on any of the committees, please reach out to Pastor Ritchie, a council member, or Pam in the office, sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or 715-507-0549. Thank you! Elections for all voted on positions will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 25, following worship.

CHURCH BOARD:

1. The Church Board serves as the Nominating Committee
2. The Church Board shall appoint or hire the treasurer.
3. The Church Board shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The duties of the Church Board shall include the following:

- ♦ To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- ♦ To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- ♦ To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- ♦ To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their call or employment.
- ♦ To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- ♦ To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- ♦ To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- ♦ To emphasize support of the church wide association Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran.
- ♦ To recommend and encourage the use of biblically based program resources.
- ♦ To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

ELECTED CHURCH BOARD POSITIONS:

At the Annual Meeting, we will elect 3 Spiritual Care and 3 Liaisons. They will appoint amongst themselves who will serve for 1 year, 2 years or 3 years. Moving forward in 2027, one person will be elected for each.

Spiritual Care: (3-year term)

One Spiritual Care person is appointed the chair.

Guide the volunteers or staff responsible for supporting the mission:

Worship Coordinator;

COME Coordinator;



Congregational Care Coordinator;
Church Secretary;
Beyond our Doors;

Minister of Faith Formation;
Food Fellowship & Fun;
Pastor Annual Evaluation.

Liaisons: (3-year term)

One Liaison is appointed the Vice Chair.

Guide the volunteers or staff responsible for the financial and property matters:

Treasurer/ Funds disbursements;
Scrip;
Building Maintenance;
Cleaning Staff;

Financial Secretary;
Salary Adjustments;
Lawn Care/Snow Removal;
Technology.

Accept and disperse undesignated memorials donated to the congregation.

Recording Secretary: (15-month term)

OTHER ELECTED POSITIONS:

Financial Secretary (3-year term)

Create a counting committee team. The counting committee team and the Financial Secretary will receive, count, and deposit all incoming contributions. The Financial Secretary documents the contributions

Cemetery Committee Member (3-year term)

Govern the cemetery association in accordance with the duties outlined in the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery Association Bylaws.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

A Coordinator is needed for each committee as well as volunteers to serve on the following committees and as part of the Counting Committee.

A **Worship Coordinator** shall create a team to include the organist, and the person responsible for writing the order of worship. The team works with the pastor to prepare and organize meaningful worship services that inspire, uplift, and encourage both believers and non-believers. This includes communications and coordination of the various elements of worship including training and scheduling of persons serving in worship; communion setup; technology; music; decorating and worship arts; helping with the planning and coordination of ecumenical worship services; and maintenance of musical instruments. Provides monthly reports to the Spiritual Care members.

A **Congregational Care Coordinator** shall create a team to work with the pastor to provide care for membership of the congregation, especially lapsed members, and those in times of need or transition; connect with visitors and un-churched and assist with orientation and assimilation of new members. Provides a monthly report to the Spiritual Care members.

A **Food, Fellowship and Fun Coordinator** shall create a team to initiate, plan, coordinate and strengthen activities that build stronger relationships within the congregation. Provides a monthly report to the Spiritual Care members.

A **Beyond Our Doors Coordinator** shall create a team to help members of the congregation have an outward focus to understand and respond to the needs within the community, the nation, and throughout the world so that the congregation can demonstrate God's love and serve those in need. Provides a monthly report to the Spiritual Care members.

A **Buildings and Grounds Coordinator** shall work closely with the Liaisons and be responsible for the care, maintenance, and improvement of the church's facilities and grounds to ensure a safe and well-maintained facility. Provides a monthly report to the Liaisons.



Are you our next **Treasurer**? Teri Schorer is looking for volunteers to train for the treasurer position. If you are interested, connect with Teri, 715-613-8428.



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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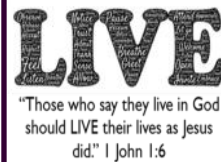
JAM — Jesus and Me

On December 21 during worship the kids presented "Just a Little Christmas" during the message. The kids did an excellent job sharing the nativity story. There will not be JAM on December 28, we'll resume on January 4.



Cross Training & LIVE

resume January 7, they will be using a series called Moving On.



Districts Youth Gathering, January 9–11

We will be sending 12 participants to the annual Districts Youth Conference in Green Bay this year: Caelyn Vogel, Brooklyn Stoiber, Tahneya Anderson, Leah Weinfurter, Wylie Seefeldt, Danica Plaskey, Hannah Rossow, Adryan Schmidt, Nick Tomczik, Jenny Nieman, Rachel Nieman, Nathan Gronska. Please include this group in your prayers, for safe travel to and from; deep spiritual conversations en route and during the event; impactful worship and seminars and closer relationships with Jesus for all of them.



Butter Braid Fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship Fund

The annual Butter Braid fundraiser will begin February 18 and end on March 4. You can order from youth in the entry way. Proceeds will go to the Bible Camp Scholarship fund to help send kids to Bible Camp and aid youth to attend retreats and conferences.



Worship Service Cancellation

In inclement weather or extreme temperatures (-25 or colder), the Worship Leader and Council Chair will make a decision whether or not to cancel worship service. This decision will be made by 6:30am prior to worship on Sundays and by 4:30pm during the week. The cancellation information will be found on our Facebook page, message on the church voicemail and via email to the congregation.



COMMUNITY GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the giving tree event! I am amazed by your generosity. Thank you from Lori Kops

Thank you Lori for all of the time, effort and work you put into the Christmas Giving Tree this year. We appreciate you! Thank you!

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 8th grade-adults. Applications are found on our website and the bulletin board. Application and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot. If you would like more information, contact Jenny Nieman, 715-613-3636.

Adults- Have you thought maybe you'd like to go on a mission trip? If you are interested, contact Jenny.

Next info meeting: The next planning meeting is January 7, 8:30 pm in the youth room.



2026 Basket Raffle

The Basket raffle will begin February 18 - the mission trip participants would be extremely grateful to you if you would consider putting together a themed basket for the raffle.



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

A Via de Cristo weekend is 3 days long.... but lasts a lifetime. It's aim is to zoom in for an extreme close-up of the teachings of Christ so that we, who are enveloped and entranced by the brilliance of the secular world, can experience His love. During the three days of Via de Cristo, attendees listen to 14 talks given by laypeople and clergy. Following each talk, small group table discussions focus on the main points of the talk. In an overlapping fashion, the talks present various aspects of the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as an ideal.

During a Via de Cristo weekend, people from all walks of life grow closer to one another. They worship, listen, and sing in a joyful family atmosphere. Men and women will be separated for most activities including learning, discussing, and sleeping at separate locations within camp. A spirit of fellowship and a rustic camp atmosphere makes for a special weekend. Good food and snacks are abundant.

Anyone wanting more information about attending or greater detail can find a brochure in the rack at Spencer, contact Pastor Ritchie, Jenny Nieman, Travis Hardrath, or Rudy Nieman.



1 Holly Bauer	18 Andrew Anderson
4 Bridget Cloud	David Buse
Payton Porter	William Nigon
6 James Hopfensperger	21 Patty Behrens
7 Jonathon Berres	Shinae Reynolds
Arianna Gorst	Danica Weber
8 Jayson Dekarske	22 Karen Seefeld
Audrey Hopfensperger	Lucinda Hardrath
9 Marsha Martens	Kinzleigh Bant
Camdyn Vogel	23 Kevin Gaetz
10 Peggy Labrensz	24 Patty Soltow
11 Leila Seefeld	25 Corey Seefeldt
12 Jerry Marten	Justin Burns
Sam Nigon	26 Kylie Gilmore
14 Adeline Nieman	28 Joseph Matter
Cohley Vogel	Paisley Wiernik
15 Britney Porter	30 Derek Buse
Qwyntyn Schmidt	Peggy Christopherson
16 Barb Seefeld	Troy Hardrath
17 Allen Jicinsky	Les Dommer
Donald Newman	31 Nathan Gronski

May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!

9 Wayne & Charla Hagen	44 years
14 Donald & Dorene Newman	70 years
Gerald & Petie Marten	36 years
18 Brad & Lori Helsten	19 years
23 Dave & Tracy Weber	20 years

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

Baptism



This little sweetie is Addison Ertl who was baptized on November 18 at Riplinger. Her parents are Trevor and Abigail Ertl.

PRAYER list

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Those with long-term health concerns: Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Dorene Newman, 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, Tom Steiner. Teresa Zahn

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Lois Block, Audrey Helsten, Grace Maines, Pat Miller, Muriel Oelrich, Jim Schmutzler, 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

Please contact the office if you are available to serve in open spaces. Thank-you!
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com



Date	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1
Greeter	Bob Haas	Lori Kops	Nancy Dietsche	Randi Thompson	Bob & Glenda Fellenz
Usher	Brad Helsten	Harry Vogel	Milt Viergutz	Jim Christopherson	Harry Vogel
Usher	Paul Leezer	Joe Weix	Alan Seefeld	Brad Helsten	Paul Leezer
Tech	Tracey Ackman	Leah Gardner	Rachel Nieman	Jenny Nieman	Tracey Ackman
Sound	Mason Gilmore	Janika Helsten	Wyatt Karl	Janika Helsten	Camdyn Vogel
Reader	Hannah Rossow	Lori Kops	Mary Seefeld	Jim Christopherson	Glenda Fellenz
Communion Assistant	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel	Mary Seefeld	Lori Helsten	Jule Vogel
Basket Bearer	Brooklyn Stroetz	Cohley Vogel	Brooklyn Stroetz	Zoey Hardrath	Cohley Vogel
Hospitality	Hannah Rossow	Lori Kops	Ashley Stroetz	Penny Vinnedge	Jenny Nieman
Riplinger Reader	Brenda Newman	Trish Porter	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Heidi McBride

Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger	Monday
November 2 & 3	83	25	
November 9 & 10	66	33	11
November 16 & 17	78	44	
November 23 & 24	47	24	
November 30 & December 1	55	17	




YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer>
 The Christmas Program is on our YouTube page along with the sermon from Christmas Eve.





JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	29 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	30 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	31	1	2	3
4 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	5 6:00pm Three Days of Prayer begins at 6pm 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	6 Three Days of Prayer 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	7 Three Days of Prayer 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE 8:00pm Districts & Mission Trip Meeting	8 Three Days of Prayer ends at 6pm 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:30pm Secretary in Office	9 Districts Youth Event	10 Districts Youth Event
11 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion Districts Youth Event	12 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	13 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:40pm Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting	14 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	15 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:30pm OA Meeting	16	17
18 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Annual Meeting	19 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	20 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy	21 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	22 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:30pm Secretary in Office	23	24 8:00am VDC Training
25 8:30am Worship at Spencer & Annual Meeting 10:15am JAM 11:30am Worship at Riplinger	26 6:30pm Acts Bible Study 6:30pm Worship at Spencer	27  4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:00pm C.O.M.E. Meal 6:30pm Monthly Bible Study	28 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	29 4:00pm Rising Dance Academy 5:30pm Secretary in Office	30	31

LCMC 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 ESV.

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Date	Petition
1/1	For blessings upon all God's beloved in the New Year
1/2	For Abiding Peace Community Church in Fort Worth, TX
1/3	For Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in York, South Carolina
1/4	Lord Jesus, we pray for all those gathered this day in your Father's house. Bestow your blessings upon your church as we gather in your name. Receive our questions with patience. Turn our fears to trust. Place us where we need to be. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
1/5	For Abiding Savior Lutheran Church of Tempe, AZ
1/6	For Abiding Savior Lutheran Church of Tucson, AZ
1/7	For Abiding Savior Lutheran Church of Cameron, TX
1/8	For Abiding Word Lutheran Church of Brenham, TX
1/9	For Abounding Joy Lutheran Church of St. Cloud, MN
1/10	For Adams Lutheran Church of Batesville, IN
1/11	Heavenly Father, as we remember the baptism of your Son, bring us to a remembrance of our own baptisms. Grant us faith to trust in the promises that you make to us in this holy sacrament. Drive away any doubt that seeks to turn us from you. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
1/12	For Advent Lutheran Church of Lantana, FL
1/13	For the work of the Global Mission Fellowship
1/14	For St. Timothy Lutheran Church of San Diego, CA, as they seek a pastor
1/15	For St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Stewart, MN as they seek a pastor
1/16	For Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay, FL as they seek a pastor
1/17	For Immanuel Lutheran Church of Waukegan, IA as they seek a pastor
1/18	Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Make us bold to live in your forgiveness. Turn us toward our neighbors without concern for credit or gain. Inspire our witness that we would call others to come and see what you have for your beloved. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
1/19	For Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lambert, MN as they seek a pastor
1/20	For the work of the Intentional Interim Ministry Fellowship
1/21	For those gathered at the ARC retreat.
1/22	For Resurrection Lutheran Church of Pierre, SD as they seek a pastor
1/23	For the safe arrival of our staff at our staff meeting
1/24	That the time our staff spends together this weekend would be fruitful.
1/25	Lord Jesus, it is difficult for us to leave behind the things we cling to in order to follow where you would have us go. Give us the courage to bear your name to the world, trusting that you have come for our salvation. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
1/26	For Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church of Milford, IA as they seek a pastor
1/27	For the work of all the Districts & Fellowship of LCMC
1/28	For First St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Burlington, CO as they seek a pastor
1/29	For Living Word Lutheran Church of Alexandria, MN as they seek a pastor
1/30	For peace in the Holy Land
1/31	For all those who work outside in cold weather

Spencer Council Contact Information

Council Chair: Rudy Nieman - 715-223-9579 - rudynieman@yahoo.com
 Treasurer: Teri Schorer - 715-613-8428 - sjlcbooks@gmail.com
 Reporting Secretary: Penni Cloud - 715-223-5203 - pennismiles@gmail.com
 Minister of Faith Formation: Jenny Nieman - 715-613-3636 - jennyfaith659@gail.com
 Worship Director: Randi Thompson - 715-659-4886 or 715-207-5857 - randson80@yahoo.com
 Buildings and Grounds Director: Travis Hardrath - 715-507-0548 - tpkrh4@gmail.com
 Congregation Care Director - Marsha Martens - 715-897-8426 - mrshmrtns93@gmail.com
 Beyond Our Doors Director: Nick Tomczik - 715-383-9083 - sjlcbeeyond13@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
 Secretary: Trisha Porter - 715-255-8105 - porter440@hotmail.com
 Treasurer: Karla Kilty - 715-223-2021
 Member 1: Jane Meacham - 715-897-6306
 Member 2: Karla Kilty - 715-223-2021 or 715-255-3621
 Member 3: Judine Block - 715-383-8025

SHUT IN ADDRESSES



Lois Block
 402 Dehne Dr
 Colby, WI 54421

Audrey Helsten
 106469 Highway 153
 Spencer, WI 54479

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

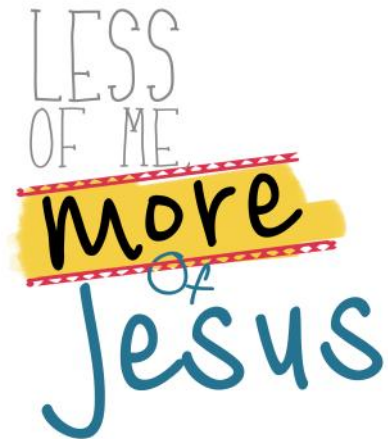
Muriel Oelrich
 211763 Mystyc Ave
 Spencer, WI 54479

Marshfield Health Services
 Grace Maines
 814 W. 14th Rm. 412
 Marshfield, WI 54449

Clark County Living Center
 Pat Miller
 W4266 County Rd X Rm. 224
 Owen, WI 54460

Marshfield Health Services
 Jim Schmutzler
 814 W. 14th Rm. 406
 Marshfield, WI 54449

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 info coming soon.

SPENCER COUNCIL MINUTES

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting
Minutes, **November 11, 2025**, 6:30 pm.

Attending: Rudy Nieman, Teri Schorer, Jenny Nieman, Penni Cloud, Travis Hardrath, Marsha Martens, Nick Tomczik, Todd Brinkman (via phone), Pam Hardrath

Absent: Randi Thompson

Call to Order by Rudy Nieman at 6:35 p.m.

Opening Devotion: Rudy Nieman

Old Business:

Reviewed Secretary minutes and Treasurer reports (see below).

New Business:

☐ Conflict Resolution – Start discussions. Plan for financial costs. Council members to research resources.

☐ Contracting of Pastor Ritchie Cole – He requests to start on 11/30/25.

☐ 2026 Budget Discussion

God Sightings/Gratitude outside of church.

REPORTS:

Secretary's Report (Penni Cloud)

☐ Motion was made by Marsha Martens to approve secretary minutes as written, second by Travis Hardrath. Motion approved.

Treasurer Report (Teri Schorer)

☐ Income: \$ 8,631.22 Expenses: \$4,247.92 Gain: \$4,383.30

Worship (Randi Thompson)

☐ For Advent, we will be celebrating with a Grinch-themed series.

☐ The Christmas Program will serve as the message on December 21.

☐ Christmas Worship Schedule:

o Christmas Eve: 2:00 p.m. in Riplinger, and 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. in Spencer

o Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m. in Spencer

Beyond our Doors (Nick Tomczik)

☐ In November, we will be collecting women's and children's winter wear for Cashmere & Corduroy (Compassion in Action) and men's winter wear for Soup or Socks.

☐ The giving tree will go up around Thanksgiving, supporting the Spencer community.

Next Meeting: 6:30pm on December 9, 2025

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Marsha Martens, second by Nick Tomczik. Motion Approved.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Penni Cloud

"I PRAY ALSO
FOR THOSE WHO
WILL BELIEVE IN ME
THROUGH THEIR MESSAGE,
THAT ALL OF THEM
MAY BE ONE,
FATHER,
JUST AS YOU ARE IN ME
AND I AM IN YOU."

JOHN 17:20-21, NIV

SPENCER TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Friday, December 5, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	10,097.10	85,346.71	130,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	8,362.69	16,497.69	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	996.27	5,918.58	6,500.00
441.060	Building use	50.00	750.00	2,500.00
	Total Income	\$19,506.06	\$108,512.98	\$139,000.00
Expenses				
500.000	<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>
510.000	<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	180.00	433.96	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>	<i>\$769.96</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
520.000	<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)	0.00	199.22	1,000.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	57.75	252.24	250.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	3.32	100.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$57.75</i>	<i>\$521.28</i>	<i>3,250.00</i>
530.000	<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>	
540.000	<i>Fellowship & Care</i>			
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	54.56	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>\$54.56</i>	<i>\$959.84</i>	<i>1,450.00</i>
560.000	<i>Office</i>			
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	81.67	864.00	750.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	190.28	2,093.04	2,200.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	0.00	547.12	750.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	0.00	1,700.49	2,300.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	0.00	1,383.96	1,500.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$271.95</i>	<i>\$6,588.61</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
570.000	<i>Administration</i>			
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	77.11	1,213.08	1,200.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	0.00	9,386.26	7,500.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	13,902.00	13,902.00	400.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$13,979.11</i>	<i>\$24,501.34</i>	<i>9,100.00</i>

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

Friday, December 5, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
580.000	Buildings & Grounds			
580.020	Electricity	372.75	3,961.13	4,500.00
580.030	Natural Gas	0.64	2,333.72	2,000.00
580.040	Holding Tanks	0.00	370.00	900.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	174.76	1,859.81	1,800.00
580.065	Cleaning	59.60	587.21	700.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	623.36	4,251.03	2,000.00
580.080	Snow Removal	0.00	3,120.00	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
	Total Buildings & Grounds	\$1,231.11	\$16,994.21	15,350.00
590.000	Staff			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	0.00	0.00	26,555.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	0.00	0.00	11,550.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	100.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	31.50	31.50	750.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	0.00	0.00	4,350.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	0.00	87.74	3,395.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
590.210	FICA	150.70	1,534.32	2,600.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	0.00	0.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	150.00	1,650.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	1,424.50	14,045.50	15,600.00
	Total Staff	\$1,756.70	\$17,349.06	70,050.00
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	395.25	4,360.50	7,500.00
	Total Expenses	\$17,926.43	\$79,573.72	\$139,000.00
	Difference	\$1,579.63	\$28,939.26	\$0.00



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

Friday, December 5, 2025

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
301.000	General Fund Balance					
301.100	General Balance	62,790.07	19,506.06	17,926.43	0.00	64,369.70
302.000	Special Funds Balance					
302.001	ARK Balance	677.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	677.87
302.102	Globe Money Balance	485.53	9.00	0.00	0.00	494.53
302.120	Technology Balance	2,435.90	50.00	0.00	0.00	2,485.90
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	3,990.87	495.00	1,069.00	0.00	3,416.87
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,290.61	50.00	0.00	0.00	1,340.61
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	306.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	306.00
302.180	COME Balance	900.90	619.00	526.25	0.00	993.65
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	7,672.96	615.00	0.00	0.00	8,287.96
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	7,435.99	51.00	0.00	0.00	7,486.99
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,539.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,539.81
Total		\$97,018.31	\$21,395.06	\$19,521.68	\$0.00	\$98,891.69