

Services of Worship

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



connect

FEBRUARY 2024

Spencer Congregation: Parish Office

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

Riplinger Congregation:

W1776 2nd Avenue, Spencer

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

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

YouTube

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

Pastor Jeff Siegel

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

Office Hours:

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

Minister of Faith Formation

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

Parish Secretary

Pam Hardrath
Wednesday 5:30 to 9 pm
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com
For immediate assistance, call or text
Pam at 715-507-0549

Deadlines

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

Wednesdays in Spencer:

5:30pm Soup Supper

To volunteer to provide soup or bars, to help with prep and clean up for soup suppers, click [here](#).

6:30pm Worship

To volunteer to serve in worship, click [here](#).

Lent February 14 to March 31



Ash Wednesday Worship:

Spencer 6:30pm
Riplinger 8pm

Maundy Thursday Worship:

Riplinger 6:30pm



Good Friday Worship:

Spencer 6:30pm



This series will take place during worship on Sundays, February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, April 7, 14, 21 at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, it is required for youth wishing to Affirm their Faith in April. This series focuses on equipping everyone with usable faith to help us through this life, leading us faithfully to the kingdom where we can enjoy God forever.

PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER

Readings

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Mark 1:29-39

February 11

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-13;4:1-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 14

Ash Wednesday

6:30pm Spencer

8pm Riplinger

Matthew 26:36-46

Matthew 6:5-15

Matthew 4:1-11

Matthew 26:31-35

Matthew 20:17-19

February 18

Genesis 22:1-18

James 1:12-18

Mark 1: 9-15

February 25

Genesis 17:1-7;15-16

Romans 5:1-11

Mark 8:27-28

Due to the numerous activities occurring in the building we are asking that the first person to arrive after it snows, please shovel a few swipes in front of the door and at least one side of the sidewalk by the bell tower. Thank you for your cooperation.

Friends In Christ,

Can you believe February is ALREADY here!? If we were driving as fast as we are completing days, surely we would get pulled over for speeding :).

In less than two weeks, Ash Wednesday will be marking the beginning of an early season of Lent! Interestingly, it falls on the same day as Valentine's Day this year, February 14th.

Valentine's Day was originally a day commemorating a 3rd-century saint, who was beaten and beheaded for believing in and sharing the message of Jesus! As Jesus says, "There is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends" (John 15:13). Over time, the day was commercialized, secularized, and trivialized into fleeting forms of romantic love. Surprised?

In Revelations 2:4-7, Jesus tells Christians to return to their 1st love by turning from sin back to him, the one who gives the tree of life! Christian love is an unconditional commitment to the well-being of others. It is not fleeting, but enduring! Maybe through the alignment of the holidays, God is saying he Loves us, and giving us a chance to choose to love him anew?

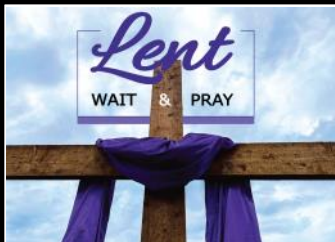
Lent is an opportunity to choose loving Jesus through personal prayer. Prayer is communicating with God and has a way of changing us for the better, helping us to cope more effectively, to tune us into what God is doing in our lives or trying to teach us. This year's Lenten Wednesday night services are being designed to help us learn to and practice prayer in non-threatening ways, meaning you will not have to speak in front of everyone alone :). We will be encountering Jesus in the story of his suffering and death on our behalf and discovering he is with us in suffering! Through personal prayer, we can experience an emotional connection with God that will help us face the challenges we are going through!

Some have said to me, we are out of the habit of participating in church from our Covid-era years. During Covid, whether right or wrong, many were essentially forced to start a habit of isolation. Habits take time to form. What if you chose to use this Lent as an opportunity to form an old habit that used to help you and those around you, participating in the life of your church!?

Lent has just 6 Sundays between Ash Wednesday (2/14) and Easter (3/31). Please consider challenging yourself to commit to the habit of participating in church during these weeks. It is enough time to form a habit according to various studies. The Scriptures tell us not to give up the habit of meeting together as church, for it is good for us as well as the others present (Hebrews 10:25). I hear people expressing sadness in missing one another. Your very presence is a gift :). Church is about giving as much as it is about receiving. It is about serving as much as it is about being served. When we share in both aspects, everyone is encouraged and grows!

Your servant, Pastor Jeff Siegel

LENTEN SERVICE DETAILS



I believe God is yearning for us to focus on prayer during Lent . Through prayer, many cool things can happen within us and among us. We live in busy, frustrating, frightening, lonely, & superficial times. Stopping to actually pray meaningfully from our hearts, with reflection and listening silence, we can rediscover who we are, what we are really feeling, and feel more connected to God and the purpose for which he has made us.

During each prayer-rich service on Wednesday evenings, I am inviting a lay person, whether young, old, or in the middle, to consider sharing a "testimony" about their experience with prayer. The purpose is to help us all gain insight into what prayer actually looks like in real people in real life. A "testimony" just means sharing your experience with prayer in a **story format as you might with a friend**. It does not need to be long, just 5-10 minutes.

Here are some sample ideas you could use to structure your story:

- My struggles with praying are ...
- Here is my story of how I learned to pray ...
- An experience of prayer being answered and how it impacted you or others
- An experience where a delay or lack of answer you wanted helped you to grow
- Your experience of what being prayed for is like
- Here is what I sound like when I pray (act out how you really pray - can be funny)
- When I pray and why

These examples are in no particular order or priority and other ideas are welcomed!

Please consider sharing one of the weeks. If you are interested, you can either contact [Pastor Jeff](#) with questions and/or [Pam](#) to add you to the calendar.

COME MEAL



The February COME Meal is on the 27th. The menu includes Broasted chicken from Pizza Ranch, baked beans, broccoli/cauliflower salad, assorted bars and fruit salad. The Spencer FFA is helping to serve. A huge thank you Donna Bychinski for sponsoring our meal and Pizza Ranch for your donation!

CONSTITUTION CHANGES



SPENCER

1. At the Annual Meeting on January 28, the congregation voted in favor of the constitution change C20.02. Spencer is responsible for 75% percent of all shared expenses and Pastor Jeff's salary and Riplinger is responsible for 25% percent.
2. The congregation voted in favor of the Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Reporting Secretary, Treasury and Pastor) shall act as the Nomination Committee.

RIPLINGER

A motion was made and approved to change the current cemetery constitution. Section 3 of the constitution would strike the "Members of the Congregation Council shall be ineligible to serve as members of the cemetery board".

2024 COUNCIL POSITIONS

Riplinger

President: Brenda Newman
Vice President: John Meacham
Secretary: Trish Porter
Treasurer: Joan Miller
Member #1 Jane Meacham
Member #2 Judine Block
Member #3: Karla Kilty

Spencer:

Chair: Wayne Hagen
Vice Chair:
Recording Secretary: Pam Hardrath
Worship Director: Mary Seefeld
Beyond our Doors Director: Nick Tomczik
Food, Fellowship & Fun Director: Lori Kops
Congregational Care Director: Marsha Martens
Buildings and Grounds Director: Travis Hardrath
Audit Committee: Luci Hardrath and Lori Helsten
Financial Secretary: Kris Ovens
Cemetery Committee: Marsha Martens resigned.
Todd Brinkman and Rudy Nieman



BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER



Butter Braid Fundraiser middle schoolers will sell Butter Braids February 14 to 28. All proceeds go to the Bible Camp Scholarship fund to help send youth to Bible Camp this summer.

Easy sweet treat: Thaw, Rise, Bake,
Drizzle with icing and ENJOY!

BRINGING BACK PRE COVID YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Dear Friends in Christ,

I wanted to share our vision for faith formation for our children and youth moving forward.

In the past, we Lutherans as a whole, have tended to see faith formation as key events to "get done" and then take up a distant orbit around our church until a crisis happens. The outcome of this mindset is that our youth are losing saving faith and their connection to churches at a rate of 2/3rds, up from 1/3rd when I was confirmed many, many orbits around the sun ago :). Current generations have no attachment to organizations as compared to past generations. They are hungry for authentic relationships with people. Sadly, falling away from active faith tends to result in increased suffering and coping troubles during the lives of the youth over time.

In an effort to see the odds of our youth retaining faith for life, and thus have better odds of coping better through the rough times, we are going to be implementing a new paradigm. The basic idea is that the whole process is for the purpose of bringing the children and youth to a place where they have a strong personal relationship with Jesus, an active prayer life, and active participation in the life of the church.

Here is a summary:

1. Baptism (Seek this sacrament for kids at any age at which parents intend to have their kids participate in the life of the church or when high school youth want to participate in the life of the church when family participation is lacking). There is no point in or long term benefit from having a child baptized if they will not be participating in the life of the church.

2. JAM (pre-K-5th grade) - as is now (*JAM families, please let us know if having JAM during the 6:30pm worship service would help logistically with your other calendar commitments!*)

3. First Communion (*One session communion preparation classes will be available twice per year for kids in 2nd-5th grade as they show interest*). The purpose is to help kids understand communion better and thus benefit from it more fully, so ideally before they start taking communion. Kids already taking communion will be able to go through the first communion classes if they want for the same reasons. They may continue taking communion without classes per their former process if their parents feel they understand it well enough.

4. Cross Training (6th-8th grade) - as is now - it involves both teaching and interactive discussion groups!

5. Foundations Class (8th grade) - this will provide an introductory teaching on the core of our faith. Its purpose is to prepare youth to explore questions of faith during LIVE discussion groups the following few years and to prepare them for opportunities to participate in the life of the church community such as serving during worship. Unlike times in our past, the class will not be a "comprehensive confirmation test" indicating you are done growing. Rather, it is the beginning of a quest to understand and apply the faith more fully and more meaningfully in relationships!

6. LIVE (9th-12th grades) - as is now - it involves both teaching and interactive discussion groups!

7. Beginning a Personal Relationship with Jesus as Savior "at the foot of the cross" by choice as an older youth. Youth growing up without faith will experience a "conversion experience" when they hear the gospel and accept Jesus as their Savior for the 1st time as an *older* youth. For kids growing up with faith from childhood, their conversion experience is more of a conversion from a childhood faith to an adult faith. While both are saving faith, the latter involves **both** an increased understanding of the faith content (i.e. Foundations Class) **and** a sense of their relationship with God being *their own*, rather than that of their parents! Because this is about a personal relationship between the youth and God, "Come and see, follow me!" Jesus says to them, it is best to let it happen when it happens rather than forcing a specific time. Generally speaking, our culture sees 16 as an age when older youth can start making lasting significant decisions for themselves. Why force a life decision on a younger youth when they are not making those in general? You will know when they have experienced this when your youth truly believes Jesus saved them *from their sins* "at the cross", when they can pray, desire to grow in faith, can *begin* to articulate the core of the faith, ask thoughtful or application type of questions, and *begin* to serve others. In other words, when it matters to them from within, when they *begin* choosing spiritual things when given a choice, and see their identity as a child of God and as a follower of Jesus. Don't expect perfection since we, as adults, are not either :).

8. Affirmation of Faith. This ceremony, historically called confirmation or affirmation of faith, will now celebrate youth experiencing a Personal Relationship with Jesus as an older youth rather than the completion of educational classes at a mandatory age. Remember, the goal of the whole faith formation process is to lead them to Jesus on the cross and let Jesus lead them forth from the empty tomb as **life-long followers and friends!** By restoring the relational model of discipleship Jesus gave us, we set our youth up to benefit from their faith in much deeper and more lasting ways. This, in turn, will help them cope better with distress and thus suffer less in this life! We adults will be able to stress a little less knowing our youth will be calling on the Lord in their distress and that they will never be truly alone :).

9. Young Adults Group (Starting in 2025 for post-Affirmation of Faith youth)

Lastly, about dates! Great question! Look for them on page 8 of the newsletter. As always, please reach out with questions, ideas, and concerns. Remember, this is about us working together to be able to truly fulfill our baptismal vows to one another!

Your servant,
Pastor Jeff

DISTRICTS YOUTH CONFERENCE



Eight youth and four adults attended the Districts Youth Conference in Green Bay on Jan. 12-14. It was a snow filled ride there followed by a fabulous weekend of worship and youth seminars. The keynote speaker was Brandon Early from Iowa. His messages were relevant and inspiring. Next year's conference is Jan. 10 - 12, all middle school and high school youth are invited.

YOUTH MINISTRY/MISSION TRIP

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



Sundays, 10am for all youth age 3 to Grade 5. Please let [Pastor Jeff](#) know if having JAM at 6:30pm works better for your family.



2024 Mission Trip to Lincoln, IL, June 15 to 22. February 7 and March 6 at 8pm, are the next planning meetings.

Who can go on the trip? Any youth currently in 6th grade-adults. Applications are found on our website and the bulletin board. Application and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot.

Cross Training for Middle Schoolers, February 7, 6:30pm with optional supper, 6pm. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22.



Instead of supper at 6:30 pm like all other Wednesdays of the year, on Wednesday's of Lent (February 14—March 20) there is a soup supper at 5:30 pm. Here are some guidelines for all 6th-8th graders:

- 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 [here](#) 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 two Wednesdays of Lent- they can serve as a reader, greeter, usher, sound, technology, acolyte or give their testimony story. Talk with Jenny to sign up for an area and date that works for your family.



2024 Basket Raffle The basket raffle will begin on February 14. If you would like to donate a themed basket for the raffle, the mission trip participants would be grateful! Baskets or items to add to a basket can be brought to church and placed in Jenny's office.



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

LIVE for High Schoolers, February 7, 6:30pm with optional supper, 6pm.

During Lent: Plan to attend the 5:30pm soup supper and 6:30pm worship service during Lent.



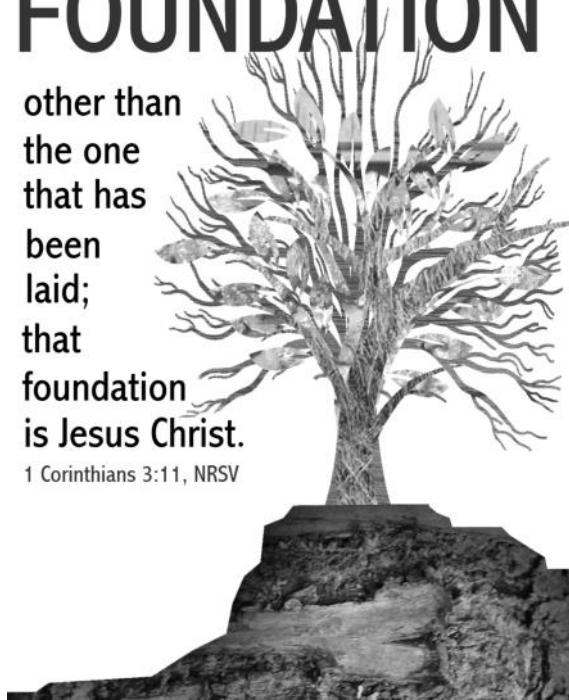
Save the Dates! May 2 & 3, 2024 will be the Rummage Sale. A trailer will be available in April to put your donations in.

... no one can lay any

FOUNDATION

other than
the one
that has
been
laid;
that
foundation
is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11, NRSV



INTRODUCING THE FOUNDATION SERIES

This series will take place during worship on Sundays, February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, April 7, 14, 21 at 6:30pm. **Everyone is welcome to attend.** This series focuses on equipping everyone with usable faith to help us through this life, leading us faithfully to the kingdom where we can enjoy God forever.

All youth in LIVE who would like to Affirm their Faith in April are required to attend.

Questions, reach out to
Pastor Jeff 715-615-2458 or
Jenny Nieman 715-613-3636

Topics Include:

BIBLE (Authority of Bible + Salvation History (OT/NT Big picture))

IDENTITY (Creation, Image of God, Sin, Desires, New Creation)

OUR MESSAGE (Law & Gospel) & "SANCTIFICATION" (creating/Imaging)

10 COMMANDMENTS (How we break & how we keep them in/outwardly)

APOSTLES CREED (Trinity, Gospel, Holy Spirit & Church, Final Judgement)

SACRAMENTS (Baptism, Communion + "Keys", "Anointing", "Confirmation")

RELATIONSHIP (Prayer, Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts + Serving/Mission)

THE KINGDOM (End Times + The prize we are running for)

UPCOMING YOUTH CAMP OPPORTUNITIES



Young people can expect life-changing moments and memories that will last a lifetime. These may occur during bible teaching sessions, campfire conversations, or at one of Forest Springs' many program areas.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

MELTDOWN
Grades 6 to 8
February 16 to 18

FIRST ADVENTURE
Grades 1 to 3
June 17 to 20

KID'S QUEST
Grades 2 to 5
June 12 to 15

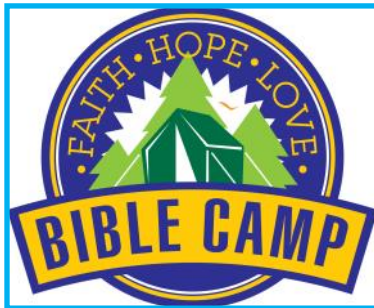
JUNIOR CAMP
Grades 3 to 6
June 16 to 22
Grades 4 to 6
June 30 to July 6

TAKE 7
Grades 6 to 8
June 23 to 29
JUNIOR HIGH
Grades 7 to 9
June 30 to July 6

SUPERHIGH
Grades 9 to 12
July 7 to 13

Youth wilderness trips to scenic locations throughout Wisconsin (and beyond) also available for Middle and High School Students.

BIBLE CAMP SUNDAY



FEBRUARY 18

All youth will have the opportunity to sign up for a Bible Camp adventure on Sunday, February 18. St. John's pays a portion of camp costs for all youth who attend camp. Sign up on Bible Camp Sunday, to receive additional discounts!

LOCK IN



Thank you to all of the adults that made this night of worship, fun, food and games possible for our youth. They will cherish these memories forever! For a snapshot of the fun they had, watch the [video](#) on YouTube.



DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.
Isaiah 41:13

Pastor Ponderings with Pastor Jeff

Wednesdays, 6:45pm
We will meet February 7 and
then take a break for Lent.

MEN'S MINISTRY

February 8, 22 and March 21,
6:30pm,
Travis Hardraths shop–
213462 State Highway 13.
715-507-0548 for more information.

rightnow MEDIA

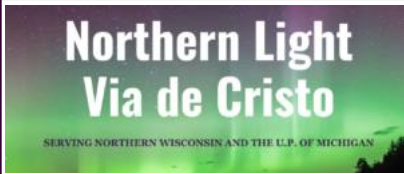
Right Now Media is a FREE online resource sponsored by St. John's. Experience the world's largest customizable library of biblical video resources. To create your own account so you can explore this extensive website follow this link from our website: <https://www.stjohnsspencer.com/right-now-media>

This crazy winter season may be causing your kiddos to be a little stir crazy. Check out the kids section on Right Now Media. Join Maggie, Sparky, Doug, and Morty on brand-new adventures in the *Slugs & Bugs* show! When they face difficulties, Randall and friends are there with songs that encourage them in a life of faith!

Take a break and learn about books of the Bible and the faith of extraordinary people throughout history while watching *the Mr. Phil Show*.

Explore timeless moral truths and life lessons through captivation, Bible based adventures of tow time traveling children and their robot friend. Get ready for the journey of a lifetime in *Superbook!*





March 7 to 10, Forest Spring Camp and Conference Center, Westboro.

By grace, with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal call, assisting them to influence their environments with the gospel.

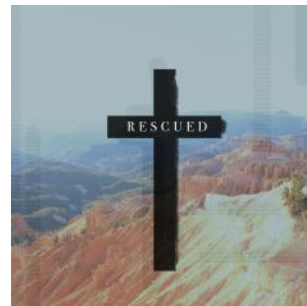
We invite anyone 21 or older to come and enjoy a weekend of spiritual growth in your knowledge and relationship with the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A VIA DE CRISTO WEEKEND IS THREE DAYS LONG... BUT LASTS A LIFETIME
There is nothing secret about Via de Cristo (Way of Christ). Its 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.

It is a short course about Jesus and our Christian faith. It begins on Thursday evening at 7:00 and ends on Sunday about 4:00 p.m. 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.

The basic atmosphere of Via de Cristo differs greatly from the individual solitude of a retreat. It is a very structured weekend, where the teachings of Christ are discussed in an atmosphere of joy.

For more information, there is a flyer in the brochure rack or talk to Jenny Nieman, Rudy & Amanda Nieman, Travis Hardrath, Teri Schorer, Penni Cloud, Bob & Glenda Fellenz, Karen Grieser, Allen & Gail Jicinsky.



SHUT IN ADDRESSES

Grace Maines
Touch of Home
9787 Ives St.
Marshfield, WI 54449

Marshfield Health Services
Linda Marchinek
814 W. 14th St Room 13
Marshfield, WI 54449

Muriel Oelrich
211763 Mystyc Avenue
Spencer, WI 54449

LaVilla Schilling
W143 Cloverdale Road
Colby, WI 54421

Lois Block
402 Dehne Drive
Colby, WI 54421

Jim Schmutzler
N11245 Maple Street
Spencer, WI 54479

Doris Seefeld
312 Dehne Street
Colby, WI 54421

Pat Miller
N9934 Groveside Ave
Spencer, WI 54449


FEBRUARY
 BIRTHDAYS

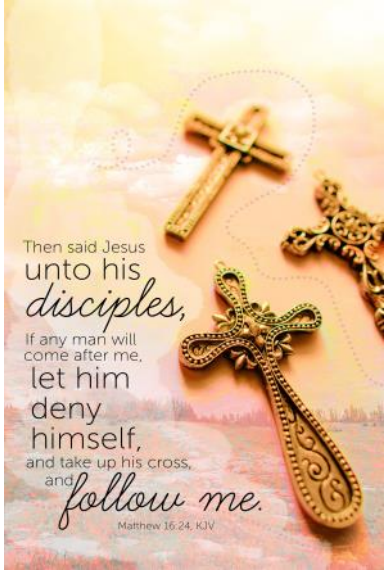

FEBRUARY
 ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Penni Cloud | 17 Barbara Lucht |
| 5 Theresa Kenyon | Jakob Soback |
| Pastor Jeff Siegel | 18 Beckam Schultz |
| Briggs Burns | 20 Rachel Blanchard |
| 6 Danielle Schmidt | Brooklynn Stroetz |
| 8 Owen Buse | 22 Nadine Willet |
| 9 Jason Meacham | 23 Jude Pagenkopf |
| 10 Randall Stroetz | 24 Susan Howe |
| Savanna Weyer | Suzanne Reynolds |
| 11 Gwen Thomas | Theresa Knecht |
| Cadyn Hardrath | 25 Lydia Nieman |
| Janika Helsten | Easton Stroetz |
| 12 Patty Matter | 26 Peggy Ottum |
| 13 Gwen Schmidt | 27 Keith Porter |
| Tom Pagenkopf | 28 Jewel Schuette |
| 15 Wayne Hendrickson | Jodi Leezer |
| 16 Constance Opsal | |

May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!

12 Harry & Juleen Vogel	42 years
14 Joseph & Rhonda Weix	43 years
Les & Barbara Dommer	38 years

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



Districts Prayer Summit

PRAYER list Those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in care facilities: Kathy Dietsche, Barb

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

Those with health concerns: Lois Block, Owen Buse, Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Mandi Herron, Susan Howe, Shaun Kornusky, Sandy Lemmens, Dave Lucht, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans, Tammi Schiferl, Doris Seefeld, Darin Thompson, Rich Wilke.

Those with cancer: Judi Andrew, Nikki

Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson, Parker Klimmer, Tim Komarek, Michelle Oelke, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner, Wayne Vaughn.

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like Pastor Jeff to know, please contact him via phone call or text message at 715-615-2458. The hospital will not share information regarding your admission to the hospital.

For any updates on these prayer requests or additional prayer concerns, please contact the office at sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or text/call Pam at 715-507-0549.

Please contact the office if you are available to serve in open spaces. Thank-you! sjlcoffice13@gmail.com
 The Lent schedule will be shared weekly on the Wednesday morning email and Sunday printed announcements.



	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25	March 3
Greeter	Robert Haas	Jan Ammons	Amanda Gronski	Nancy Dietsche	Luanne Schwarze
Usher	Milt Viergutz	Jim Christopherson	Keith Schmidt	Allen Jicinsky	Wayne Hagen
Usher	Brad Helsten	Alan Seefeld	Nathan Gronski	Brad Helsten	Harry Vogel
Tech	Teri Schorer	Jenny Nieman	Adryan Schmidt	Tracey Ackman	Jenny Nieman
Sound	Randi Thompson	Rachel Nieman	Qwyntyn Schmidt	Darin Thompson	Camdyn Vogel
Reader	Jenny Nieman	Mary Seefeld	Bill Martens	Gail Jicinsky	Penni Cloud
Communion Assistant	Jenny Nieman	Mary Seefeld	Amanda Gronski	Teri Schorer	Penni Cloud
Acolyte	Janika Helsten	NEEDED	Zoey Hardrath	NEEDED	Zoey Hardrath
Hospitality	Teri Schorer	Jan Ammons	Danielle Schmidt	Gail Jicinsky	Luanne Schwarze
Riplinger Reader	Brenda Newman	Trish Porter	Ertl Family	Dave Newman	Joan Miller

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

Attendance	Spencer 9am	Riplinger 11am	Spencer 6:30pm	
December 3	70	10	25	
December 10	244	16	22	
December 17	70	12	11	
December 31	48	12	9	
	9am	2pm	4pm	6pm
Christmas Eve	39	23	125	83
Christmas Day	37			



February

<p>28 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>29 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>30 4:30pm Rising Dance</p>	<p>31 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings</p>	<p>1 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>5 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>6 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:30pm Secretary in Office</p>	<p>7 9:00am Hebrews Study 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting</p>	<p>8 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion 6:30pm Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>12 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>13 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting</p>	<p>14 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship, Spencer 8:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship, Riplinger</p>	<p>15 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer/ Foundation Series</p>	<p>19 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>20 4:30pm Rising Dance</p>	<p>21 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship</p>	<p>22 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer/ Foundation Series</p>	<p>26 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>27 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:00pm COME Meal</p>	<p>28 9:00am Hebrews Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship</p>	<p>29 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>Due to the numerous activities occurring in the building we are asking that the first person to arrive after it snows, please shovel a few swipes in front of the door and at least one side of the sidewalk by the bell tower.</p>	

DECEMBER COUNCIL MINUTES SPENCER

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2023, 6:30pm. Approved on January 10, 2024

Attending: Pastor Jeff, Rudy Nieman; Wayne Hagen; Teri Schorer, Pam Hardrath; Jenny Nieman, Travis Hardrath, Mary Seefeld, Heather Vogel, Marsha Martens

Call to order by Rudy Nieman at 6:34pm with an opening prayer. :

New Business:

Motion was made by Teri, Travis seconded, motion was carried to approve new members Todd & Ellen Brinkman; Paul Leezer.

Motion was made by Heather, Teri seconded, motion was carried for Allen and Gail Jicinsky to donate a 75-inch television to put in the fellowship hall.

Request to use Memorial Funds to purchase more hymnals for worship, rack, or table to display Bibles so people can take one if they need it. It was okayed to continue with pricing on a table to put on wall by north Sanctuary doors along with a matching table.

A motion was made by Heather, Wayne seconded, motion was carried to approve the Butter Braid fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship fund- start Feb 14, delivery March 15.

A motion was made by Pam, Jenny seconded motion was carried, to propose constitutional change to shared expenses ratio for shared expenses, secretary's salary and Pastor's salary with Riplinger, to Spencer 75%, Riplinger 25%.

Old Business:

Christmas Eve Sunday-9am – Gail sharing sermon, 4pm- choir singing, Pastor Jeff sharing message, 6pm Pastor sharing message. Christmas Day- 9am - Jenny and Rudy sharing worship and message.

Time and Talent lists with contact information for volunteers in each area have been printed and put into the council mailboxes.

REPORTS:

Pastor Jeff

4 Sunday 9AM Services & Messages at Spencer

4 Sunday 11AM Services & Messages at Riplinger

4 Sunday 6:30 PM Services with interactive teaching (new)

** Sermon Videos & Sermon Scripts are posted weekly on our church website*

1 Hospital Visit; 11+ Shut-in Visits; 1 Funeral/ Graveside service; 1 Baptism & 1 Baptismal prep session; 1 Healing Conflict Group Session & Prep.

SERVING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE:

1 Community Thanksgiving Service & 2 Pre-Service

Meetings; 1 Meeting re: Blue Christmas & Christmas Eve Services; 1 Routine Council Meeting & 1 Special Council Session; 1 COME Meal; 1 Men's Group; 6 Bible Study Groups as a participant (Mon & Wed); 4 Bible Study Groups as a leader (Wed); Weekly collaboration with Jenny and Pam re: youth and church operations; 3 Supper times with youth on Wed. nights + Q&A after youth group

IN THE WORKS:

Forming a team to launch a Senior's Ministry! Please call me if you're interested!

MISC. & OUTREACH:

1 Meeting with Pastor Tim & 1 Meeting with area LCMC Pastors; Many contacts and/or visits with members, visitors, and drop-ins; Recommended several missions to the council for church support Supporting the Blue Christmas service as an outreach as well as inreach

Secretary (Pam Hardrath)

Jenny made a motion to approve the November Council Minutes as written; Marsha seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer (Teri Schorer)

Recap: Income \$13,252. total expenses \$11,846.43 positive balance of \$1,405.57

Minister of Faith Formation (Jenny Nieman)

Baptism classes

Have been in contact with a couple desiring their daughter to be baptized, may be scheduling a set of Baptism classes in the near future.

Jesus And Me

Christmas Program "Jesus's birth" will be Dec. 17, during 9 am worship, not in place of the worship service.

There will be Sunday school following worship on December 17, then off Dec 24 & Dec 31 resuming Jan. 7

Cross Training & LIVE

Small group leaders met on Dec. 10 to plan the rest of December, January and up to February 7, as Lent begins Feb. 14.

We finished a series called Foundations of Faith, we will be doing service projects at church on Dec. 13, hosting a Christmas Party for all youth on Dec. 20. No Cross Training or LIVE on Dec. 27, we resume Jan 3.

8 youth and 4 adults are registered for the Districts Youth Gathering on Jan 12-14 in Green Bay.

Plans are in the works for a middle school only lock in and a high school only lock in. Youth are helping find dates that will work for them.

2024 Mission Trip

7 people are registered for the Lincoln, IL trip June 16 -22. We met Dec. 7 to gather registration forms, \$50 downpayments, and finalize the fundraising plans.

There is plenty of room at the Lincoln, IL location for more youth to attend with us.

Item needing action:

Butter Braid fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship fund- start Feb 14, deliver March 15.

Worship (Mary Seefeld)

50 Hymnals were ordered in memory of Gary Grieser, put in pews; North Ridge Church gifted us a camera to record sermons. All of the items needed for hook-up and mounting have been ordered. Two more choir mics were donated in memory of Emily Weiler. Choir stands were donated by Wayne and Charla Hagen. Handheld mic has arrived and is hooked up and ready to go.

Building and Grounds (Travis Hardrath)

Replaced the urinal valves. Fixed plugged sewer line.

Tom Kneiss came and solved the problem with the external speaker in Narthex and cry room. They

are now working. Removed speaker by pulpit. Darin Thompson took it to Soundworks. The subwoofer was blown, repair cost \$330.40.

Ordering square parking lot pole cap, to replace the one that is broken

Food, Fellowship and Fun (Heather Vogel)

No report

Congregational Care (Marsha Martens)

Care notes sent out

Christmas cards sent to the homebound

Beyond Our Doors (vacant)

Scrip card for \$50 sent to someone diagnosed with cancer. \$100 worth of gas cards given to Pastor Jeff. \$250 in Kwik Trip cards given to our 5 Giving Tree Families.

Vice Chair (Wayne Hagen)

Chair (Rudy Nieman)

Next Meeting: January 9, 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn by Wayne, Travis seconded; motion carried.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath



God has poured out his love into our hearts....

Romans 5:5

DECEMBER TREASURERS REPORT SPENCER

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

Saturday, January 6, 2024

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	55,966.06	16,595.72	14,866.10	0.00	57,695.68
302.000	<i>Special Funds Balance</i>					
302.001	ARK Balance	1,036.73	110.00	0.00	0.00	1,146.73
302.005	Fall Harvest Dinner Balance	280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.00
302.102	Globe Money Balance	88.95	30.95	0.00	0.00	119.90
302.120	Technology Balance	833.61	0.00	492.87	0.00	340.74
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	5,374.24	140.00	1,456.00	0.00	4,058.24
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,911.53	260.00	350.00	0.00	1,821.53
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
302.180	COME Balance	1,993.97	1,200.00	62.23	0.00	3,131.74
302.195	Fellowship Hall Balance	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
302.800	Seminary Fund Balance	2,039.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,039.91
302.100	Memorial Gifts Balance	8,460.41	10.00	403.09	0.00	8,067.32
302.105	Building Fund Balance	44,990.29	3,789.12	0.00	0.00	48,779.41
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	5,961.02	86.52	0.00	0.00	6,047.54
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,235.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,235.19
Total		\$130,197.91	\$22,222.31	\$17,630.29	\$0.00	\$134,789.93

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

Saturday, January 6, 2024

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	14,246.00	101,580.69	120,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	1,530.00	18,123.57	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	819.72	8,223.93	8,000.00
441.060	Building use	0.00	1,425.00	500.00
	Total Income	\$16,595.72	\$129,353.19	\$128,500.00
Expenses				
500.000	<i>Wider Mission</i>			
500.010	Tithe	0.00	5,119.11	12,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$5,119.11</i>	<i>12,000.00</i>
510.000	<i>Worship</i>			
510.030	Copyrights	0.00	632.00	750.00
510.050	Community Worship Services	1,766.00	2,516.00	850.00
510.070	Instrument maintenance/service	0.00	0.00	500.00
510.100	Worship Supplies	160.40	1,379.24	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$1,926.40</i>	<i>\$4,527.24</i>	<i>3,100.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	1,395.00	3,500.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	0.00	1,508.89	600.00
520.000	<i>Faith Development</i>			
520.010	Birth to 3	0.00	234.94	300.00
520.020	Children's Ministry (SS, VBS, GIFT, etc)	97.91	267.78	500.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	57.90	347.66	750.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	189.22	1,221.62	500.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	54.40	340.05	500.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	35.00	200.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$399.43</i>	<i>\$2,447.05</i>	<i>2,750.00</i>
520.080	Right Now Media	0.00	0.00	1,320.00
530.000	<i>Social Concerns</i>			
530.010	Kitchen License/COME	0.00	513.00	
530.020	Mission Projects expenses	0.00	502.58	
	<i>Total Social Concerns</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,015.58</i>	
540.000	<i>Fellowship & Care</i>			
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	40.75	319.99	500.00
540.020	Care Resources	0.00	213.95	100.00
540.030	Events	216.79	216.79	200.00
	<i>Total Fellowship & Care</i>	<i>\$257.54</i>	<i>\$750.73</i>	<i>800.00</i>
560.000	<i>Office</i>			
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	172.33	1,476.05	1,000.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	162.97	1,595.64	1,475.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	0.00	610.50	750.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	0.00	1,892.24	2,000.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	105.49	1,694.11	2,000.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$440.79</i>	<i>\$7,268.54</i>	<i>7,225.00</i>
570.000	<i>Administration</i>			
570.010	Offering Envelopes	87.86	87.86	250.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	83.11	1,025.52	1,200.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	848.98	5,649.45	5,000.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	0.00	1,986.99	1,500.00

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

Saturday, January 6, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
570.080	Leadership Study Materials/Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$1,019.95</i>	<i>\$8,749.82</i>	<i>8,050.00</i>
580.000	<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>			
580.020	Electricity	338.82	4,585.77	4,000.00
580.030	Natural Gas	98.81	2,525.43	2,000.00
580.040	Holding Tanks	175.00	525.00	1,000.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	147.04	1,426.10	1,250.00
580.065	Cleaning	57.02	57.02	750.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	284.00	2,067.77	1,500.00
580.080	Snow Removal	0.00	2,445.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	50.16	295.35	500.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$1,150.85</i>	<i>\$13,927.44</i>	<i>14,000.00</i>
590.000	<i>Staff</i>			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	2,759.17	15,175.43	23,650.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	1,925.00	10,587.50	8,000.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	9.99	300.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	900.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	1,449.72	3,986.73	14,300.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	358.34	2,150.04	2,425.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	1,591.60	
590.210	FICA	225.91	2,578.96	2,700.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	522.00	2,784.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	150.00	1,950.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	1,711.50	16,281.44	15,600.00
590.260	Staff Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$9,101.64</i>	<i>\$57,095.69</i>	<i>72,475.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	569.50	8,011.25	7,680.00
590.285	Medical Insurance (Minister Faith Formation)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	\$14,866.10	\$111,816.34	\$133,500.00
	Difference	\$1,729.62	\$17,536.85	(\$5,000.00)

QUIET! BE STILL!

If you haven't joined us for in person worship, you should make it a priority. You never know what Pastor Jeff has planned!

