

Services of Worship

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



connect

MARCH 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:

Lent Worship in Spencer.

Theme: Watch and Pray.

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](#).

March 6, Jean Ngirwe will be sharing the message. Focus is praying for those who do not know Jesus.

March 13, Gail Jicinsky will be sharing the message. Focus is praying for your enemies.

March 20: Joe Weix is sharing the message.

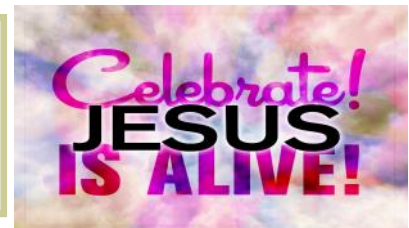


March 28 at Riplinger,
6:30pm



March 29 at Spencer,
6:30pm

Easter Sunday Worship
March 31,
9am Spencer
11am Riplinger



This Foundation Series will continue during 6:30pm worship on Sundays, February 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 on April 28. 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. See page 3 for more details.

PASTOR JEFF'S CORNER

Readings

March 3

Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 2:13-25

March 10

Number 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:32-45

March 24

Zechariah 9:9-12
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

March 31

John 20:1-18

Volunteers are needed to clean up Pastors sermon. The words will be sent to you, you just need to add punctuation and proofread it. If interested, please let Pastor know. Thank you!

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.

Dear Friends,
Easter is March 31st this year!

Last month, I wrote about denying ourselves to take up our crosses as we follow Jesus carrying his cross to Calvary for our salvation. This month, we will gather at the foot of his cross on Good Friday, and then, on Easter Sunday, we will gather at a puzzling place, his empty tomb. The tomb was in a well kept area since Mary of Magdalene thought the gardener had come to talk with her. A gardener? A GARDENER!

Her grieving shock that Jesus, the Messiah, could really be dead gave way to amazement that Jesus was really alive! When she saw him, she did not see the brutalized mess of a man she saw firsthand tortured and crucified on a cross. Instead, she saw someone who looked fully renewed, dressed for gardening, someone she recognized as she wiped the tears from her eyes and heard the tender, perhaps even playful inflection in his voice as he spoke her name, "Mary."

Her response was one of bewilderment, relief, and joy! She immediately flung herself at him, whether clasping his feet as others had in the past or perhaps an "I am so glad you're back" type hug, we do not know. What matters is that she believed, that she clung to him for life!

Mary, in a garden with the reality of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented by the tombs in the garden, saw the reality of the other tree, the tree of life! The reality of that tree was represented in the form of Jesus, the resurrected one! He was not just revived as one can be in an ER, his flogging wounds were gone! No! He was resurrected, made fully new! Mortality had given way to immortality! The gift of eternal life in bodily form presented to Adam and Eve had been restored to humanity. Unlike Eve, Mary chose life, the tree of Life, Jesus. In contrast to Eve, Mary went to the disciples to encourage them to choose the tree of life this time too!

The God who walked with humans in the Garden of Eden, was now once again walking with humans in a garden. The first walk turned gardens into graves through human sin, the second walk turned graves into gardens by the death and resurrection of Jesus! Now is the day to choose the gift of life, the gift standing before you, Jesus the resurrected one! This same Jesus has promised to come once more to take believers into the eternal garden on the new earth, where the river of life flows through the tree of life, which provides fruit all year long, forever!

"Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!"

Pastor Jeff Siegel

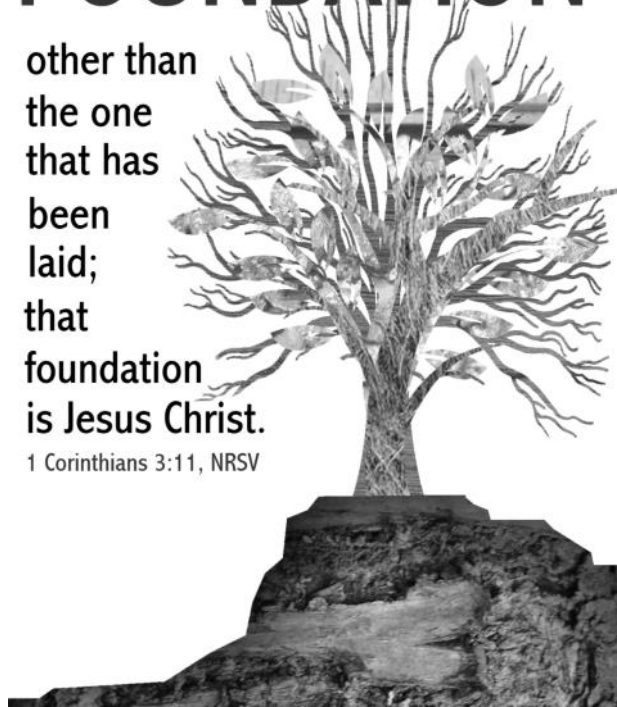
THE FIRM FOUNDATION: SUNDAYS: 6:30PM

... no one can lay any

FOUNDATION

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

1 Corinthians 3:11, NRSV



The Foundation series will take place during 6:30pm worship on Sundays, February 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)

2024 COUNCIL POSITIONS UPDATE

Rudy Nieman has been appointed Spencer's Vice Chair.

WORSHIP PLANT UPDATE



A quick explanation on how the poinsettia and lily contribution works. We reserve a total of 12 flowers from Spencer FFA, about 45 days before the holiday. Because we have room to place 12 potted plants in the altar area safely for communion distribution that is the number we order. We pay \$12 to \$16 for the plants depending on what the FFA charges. We have a contribution form that members use to contribute towards the plants with a suggested donation price that is less than what we pay to purchase each plant. For the most part, what we receive in contributions is enough to equally cover what we owe the FFA. If the total contribution given exceeds our purchase price, Pam in the office then contacts the FFA to try to get more flowers. After the holiday worship service, the congregation is encouraged to take their plant home. Usually, there are 2 to 3 plants that are left at church, so 12 seems to be a good fit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pam in the [office](#).

Easter Lily Contribution Form

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of Easter Lilies, complete this form and return it to the office by March 20. The cost of each lily this year is \$16. The recommended contribution is \$13. Each lily may be taken home on March 31 on a first-come, first-serve basis. Thank you for contributing to the decorating of our altar! Any questions, please contact the office, sjlcoffice13@gmail.com.



Name of person(s) ordering _____

Recommended contribution \$13: _____

Reason (i.e. In memory of; in honor of; in celebration of, etc.)



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. There is no JAM on March 31.

Cross Training for Middle Schoolers,

Lent continues. Enjoy soup supper at 5:30 pm. Worship begins at 6:30pm. Participate in

Maundy Thursday (March 28)

Worship at Riplinger, 6:30pm

and Good Friday (March 29)

Worship at Spencer, 6:30pm.

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 or acolyte. Talk with Jenny to sign up for an area and date that works for your family.



LIVE for High Schoolers, Lent

continues. Enjoy soup supper at 5:30 pm. Worship begins at 6:30pm. Participate in Maundy Thursday (March 28) Worship at Riplinger, 6:30pm and Good Friday (March 29) Worship at Spencer, 6:30pm.



2024 Mission Trip to Lincoln, IL, June 15 to 22. March 6 and April 3 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. Talk to Jenny today if you'd like to go or attend the meeting.



2024 Basket Raffle The basket raffle will continue through March 24. Purchase tickets before or after all worship services and during soup suppers. Thank you for supporting our Mission Trip.



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 in the brochure rack, 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!



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

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

INTRODUCING St. John's Faithful Friends!

Faithful Friends is a venue for the "seniors" in our congregation to build relationships, engage in serving one another, be involved in the life of St. John's, and to have fun and engaging activities. The target age range is not firmly defined but anyone about 60 and older would be comfortable in this group.

A few willing souls have been enlisted to help brainstorm a vision of what Faithful Friends might look like, what we could do, what should we do and where do we start.

We started with a focus on our shut-ins and home-bound. Under Pastor Jeff's direction, we now have several lay members trained and visiting shut-ins on a monthly basis and are offering to serve communion on those visits. Pastor Jeff will continue visiting the shut-ins each month as well.

A schedule was drafted with a list of possible activities of interest for Faithful Friends.

APRIL 9th

Our kickoff event will be Tuesday, April 9th at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be FUN get acquainted activities and lunch provided. There is no charge for this event. Please come and bring your friends with you!

APRIL 3rd – MAY 29th

Workout Wednesdays! Meet in the Fellowship Hall for low-impact exercise using DVDs, Silver Sneakers videos or other You Tube exercise resources. We will follow along on the T.V. that was recently installed in the Fellowship Hall. These exercises are designed with seniors in mind – many will be using chairs. No one needs to get down on the floor! The program will be cued up at 8:00am on Wednesday mornings and will run up to 11:30am with someone on hand to do the T.V. programming for you. You do not need to participate the whole time. Come when you want and leave when you want. You are also welcomed to come anytime on your own to exercise with or without T.V. programs or to walk laps in the building.

MAY 6th – JUNE 24th Space is limited so please register ASAP, it will be open to the public April 1.

Better Your Balance: Reduce Your Risk for Falls

Join us on **Mondays, May 6- June 24 from 9:30-11:30AM (*No class on Monday, May 27)** for the **Stepping On:** Aging and Disability Resource Center Falls Prevention Program. Hear from experts on topics such as strength and balance exercises, medication and vision as it relates to fall risk, in-home safety, footwear and much more. Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer. Pre-registration is required by calling: 888-486-9545. Cost: Suggested Contribution of \$10 for the entire 7-week session.

JULY – DATE NOT SET YET

Wausau Road Trip! Car-pool options available. We will tour Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum and Monk Botanical Gardens with a lunch break in between. Watch for more details coming soon.

Other events for the rest of the year are in the planning stages and will be shared in upcoming newsletters and bulletin announcements. Your ideas are welcomed! Please contact Gail Jicinsky or Pastor Jeff and let us know what you would like Faithful Friends to do.

Faithful Friends contact is Gail Jicinsky, 715-650-0720, gjicinsky@gmail.com

DO SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

READ HOW THESE FOLKS ANSWERED THAT QUESTION.....

I was always interested in attending a bible study but felt that I didn't know enough about the bible and thought I wouldn't have anything to share if I did attend. That was the "story" I told myself until I participated in my first one a few years ago when Pastor Rebecca was still here. That led to another, and another, until last week when our Wednesday morning group finished our study on Hebrews. Not only am I learning about the bible, I'm learning about my fellow church members and our pastor. I've learned there is no judgement if I don't know every verse of the bible and I've also discovered that I may know more than I thought. The biggest learning has been from fellow members in the group who have studied faithfully for a long time. They are a wonderful resource and encouragement for me and others who have been afraid to step into a study. I'm so grateful for these wonderful people who share generously of their faith and who have helped me grow in my own. Our group feels like a little family who care for our church and for one another and there is always room for more.

Charla Hagen

I always seemed to have an excuse for not attending bible study. Last year during Lent, I decided to attend bible study with my mother to further my faith. The leader, Gail, and all the ladies welcomed me with open arms. I quickly learned that I have a lot to learn in my faith journey. When asked to participate in this year's bible study, I could not refuse or make up an excuse. We are all God's children, and we need to learn about our Father's love through His word, which is the bible. I am happy to attend Bible study.

Bryan Helsten

From my teen years to my senior years, I have regularly participated in small group bible studies. It has been the most effective way to feed my faith. I have never been disciplined enough to study scripture on my own. I need the accountability a small group study provides. We receive excellent teaching from Pastor Jeff during worship but 15 minutes once a week is not enough to glean the riches between the covers of the bible. I need more! Our congregation has offered a variety of formats over the years, from in-depth lessons with daily homework assignments, video or on-line teaching, delving into a book of the bible or on a specific topic to study. I have enjoyed them all and learned so much. I wish I could remember it all! Studying together has been an excellent way to get to know others in our congregation. We trust each other with our struggles and concerns and celebrate with each other the joys in our life. I have also witnessed how one or more in the group has very good advice, sometimes from their own experience, to offer someone else who is struggling in some way. I have learned that we have more in common than you might think. Participating in group bible study is by far my most favorite activity in the life of our congregation.

Gail Jicinsky

I've been a member at St. John's for 42 years, this year. I finally decided to do something for me and join a Bible study. I'm so glad I did! Everyone is so loving and caring to one another, doing what we are taught in our Bible studies. The studies are interesting, comforting, and inspiring. Gail provides a wonderful easy to follow outline every week. Homework is not required but some reading really helps understanding. I would recommend and encourage everyone to be involved in a Bible study. You'd get more than you think out of it.

Mary Seefeld

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

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>



MEN'S MINISTRY

March 21 and April 4, 6:30pm,
Travis Hardraths shop-
213462 State Highway 13.
715-507-0548 for more information.
BRING A FRIEND!

APRIL 3: WEDNESDAY 9AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Begins April 3rd

"Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur. How the Master shaped His disciples for greatness, and what he wants to do with you. Who were these men? They weren't saints. They weren't scholars. They weren't even religious sages. What is most amazing about the disciples is that Jesus ever selected them at all. Among them, a handful of common fishermen, a hated tax collector, and an impulsive political zealot. The message is clear. If Christ can accomplish His purposes through the lives of common men like these, imagine what He has in store for you!

All are welcome to participate in this 10 week study every Wednesday morning from April 3rd to June 5th , from 9:00 to 10:30. Each participant will receive Twelve Ordinary Men book to read (one chapter a week) and each chapter will be discussed when we meet.

Contact Gail Jicinsky 715-650-0720, gjicinsky@gmail.com to enroll. Cost of the book is \$9.50, payable to Gail.

WOMENS RETREAT, MARCH 16

Coming Event! - ADORNED RETREAT, by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together – a Women's retreat on SATURDAY, MARCH 16th hosted by Grace Lutheran Church with an invitation to St. John's women (all women, teens on up) to participate. The theme is based on Titus 2. Learn how younger and older women together will be beautified, blessed, overjoyed and how that beauty will spill over into our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities.

Coffee and snacks available beginning at 8:45. Lunch provided. Ends at 2:00. FREE event! Registration is due by March 1 st by contacting Lisa Duerr at 715-305-1291 or email her at naspac8@gmail.com. You can also provide your intent to participate with Gail Jicinsky (715- 650-0720) and she will let Lisa Duerr know. Gail plans to attend and is happy to take others along with her.

UPCOMING YOUTH CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST SPRINGS



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.

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

Middle and high school wilderness trips to scenic locations throughout Wisconsin (and beyond) are also available.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

COME MEAL



The menu includes:

Beef Stroganoff

Blended Vegetables

Bread

Assorted Bars

Please spread the word. This free community meal is open to everyone. Sign ups for donations and volunteers will be available mid month. Thank you!

SHUT IN ADDRESSES

Marshfield Health Services
Grace Maines
814 W. 14th 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

Bob and Audrey Helsten
106469 Highway 153
Spencer, WI 54479



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 LeRoy Dommer | 10 Wylie Seefeldt |
| 2 Patricia Miller | 14 Lacey Berres |
| 3 Keith Kettlebourough | 16 Addison Knecht |
| Sylvia Buse | 18 Tracey Ackman |
| 4 Bryan Kilty | Madilyn Miller |
| 6 Bob Fellenz | Veronia Miller |
| Sookie Heeg | 21 Mary Seefeld |
| Jemma Jacobson | Krystle Tomczik |
| 7 Trenton Knecht | 26 Kaitlyn Schmidt |
| 8 Wayne Hagen | 28 Bruce Luepke |
| Daxton Stroetz | Wayne Vaughn |
| 9 Doris Seefeld | Jace Zahn |
| Mandi Herron | 30 Courtney Fleischman |
| Mason Gilmore | |

- May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!**
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 10 Bob & Glenda Fellenz | 46 years |
| 17 Bryan & Tanya Kilty | 23 years |
| 22 Rich & Kelly Wilke | 28 years |

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

CHANGE IN PRAYER LIST

We made some changes in the operation of our prayer list. When you add someone to the prayer list, their name will remain on the prayer list for 2 months. We understand everyone can use extra prayers, and it is not our intention to take away from this, however this will help highlight who has an immediate prayer request. If you would like the person on the long term list, no problem, just let the [office](#) or [Pastor Jeff](#) know. Also, if we are aware it is a long term request, there may be something our church family can help with. Thank you!



Those with immediate health concerns:

Owen Buse, Charla Hagen, Krystle Tomczik

Miller, Muriel Oelrich, LaVilla Schilling, Doris Seefeld.

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized,

please let Pastor Jeff know, via a phone call or text message at 715-615-2458. The hospital will not share information regarding your admission to the hospital.

Those with long-term health concerns: Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Mandi Herron, Susan Howe, Shaun Kornusky, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans, Tammi Schiferl, Darin Thompson, Rich Wilke.

Those with cancer: Dean Benn, Judi Andrew, Nikki Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson, Parker Klimmer, Tim Komarek, Michelle Oelke, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner, Wayne Vaughn.

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Lois Block, Kathy Dietsche, Barb Dommer, Grace Maines, Linda Marchinek, Pat

To add names to the prayer list, please contact the office at sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or text/call Pam at 715-507-0549, or fill out a yellow prayer sheet and Spencer members put it in the offering basket, Riplinger members, please give Pastor the prayer request. Prayers will remain on the immediate prayer list for 2 months. Please notify the office if you would like to renew the request. Thank you.

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.



	March 3	March 6	March 10	March 13	March 17	March 20	March 24	March 29	March 31
Greeter	Luanne Schwarze	Cashton Vogel	Gwen Thomas	Wylie Seefeld	Lori Kops	NEED	Faye Lang	Ariana Keely	Ariana Krueger
Usher	Wayne Hagen	Nathan Gronski	Wayne Hempel	NEED	Travis Hardrath	Jakob Soback	Milt Viergutz	NEED	Travis Hardrath
Usher	Harry Vogel	NEED	Keith Schmidt	NEED	Ryan Hardrath	Adryan Schmidt	Brad Helsten	NEED	Jim C.
Tech	Jenny Nieman	Leah Gardner	Adryan Schmidt	NEED	Kyler Hardrath	NEED	Rachel Nieman	NEED	Kyler Hardrath
Sound	Camdyn Vogel	NEED	Qwyntyn Schmidt	NEED	Jakob Soback	NEED	Jenny Nieman	NEED	Ryan Hardrath
Reader	Penni Cloud	Ariana, Rudy, Need 1	Gwen Thomas	Glenda Need 2	Lori Kops	Ariana Glenda	Milt Viergutz	NEED	Jim C.
Com-munion Assistant	Penni Cloud	XXXXXX	Mary Seefeld	XXXXXX	Heather Vogel	XXXXXX	Lori Helsten	XXXXXX	Jenny Nieman
Acolyte	Zoey Hardrath	NEED	Mason Gilmore	Mason Gilmore	Cohley Vogel	NEED	Janika Helsten	NEED	NEED
Hospitality	Luanne Schwarze	XXXXXX	Penny Vinnedge	XXXXXX	Lori Kops	XXXXXX	Heather Vogel	XXXXXX	Pam Hardrath
Riplinger Reader	Heidi McBride	XXXXXX	Dommer Family	XXXXXX	Brenda Newman	XXXXXX	Trish Porter	XXXXXX	Ertl Family

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

Attendance	Spencer 9am	Riplinger 11am	Spencer 6:30pm
January 7	71	14	11
January 14	46	9	11
January 21	56	16	15
January 28	83	15	15



March

<p>25 9:00am Worship at Spencer, Ryker Rosow Baptism 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 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship</p>	<p>29 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 7:00pm TobyMac Hit Tour</p>
<p>3 9:00am Worship at Spencer, Installation of council 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer/ Foundation Series</p>	<p>4 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>5 4:30pm Rising Dance</p>	<p>6 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting</p>	<p>7 NL VdC 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>8 NL VdC</p>	<p>9 NL VdC</p>
<p>10 NL VdC 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion 6:30pm Worship at Spencer/ Foundation Series</p>	<p>11 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>12 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting</p>	<p>13 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship</p>	<p>14 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>15 9:00am Friends Quilting Weekend (private event)</p>	<p>16 9:00am Friends Quilting Weekend (private event)</p>
<p>17 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer/ Foundation Series</p>	<p>18 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>19 4:30pm Rising Dance</p>	<p>20 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship</p>	<p>21 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:00am JAM 11:00am Worship at Riplinger 6:30pm Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>25 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>26 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:00pm COME Meal</p>	<p>27 5:30pm Secretary in Office</p>	<p>28 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>29 6:30pm Good Friday Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9:00am Easter Worship at Spencer 11:00am Easter Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>1 9:00am Pastor Jeff in Office 6:00pm Yoga 6:30pm Minor Prophets Study</p>	<p>2 4:30pm Rising Dance</p>	<p>3 8:00am Faithful Friends Workout Wednesdays! 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training/LIVE 6:45pm Pastor Ponderings 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting</p>	<p>4 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</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.

JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES SPENCER

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, January 9, 6:30pm. Approved on February 13, 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 6:35pm
Opening Prayer: Led by Rudy Nieman

New Business:

- Kings Conquest- Concert offering. Discussed a challenge to all churches to sponsor a band and do a large concert in Spencer. Rudy is willing to lead.
- Mothers/Children Day's activity. Set up child care so moms can drop kids off at church and then meet together to do a Bible study, go out to eat, etc.
- JAM Scheduling Idea: Pastor is seeking input from parents of JAM youth to provide input for a different time. Possibly Sundays at 6:30pm?
- Needs Poll at Annual Meeting: What do congregation members want to do as far as activities go? In 2023, what went well, and what needs improvement? How do we eliminate the squeaky wheels? Are their requests, and questions in good faith? What types of outreach would we like to be a part of?
- Social Media Brainstorming: Would like to have people share videos of what they are participating in at church. Start a hashtag?
- Lent Services: Ash Wednesday 6:30pm in Spencer, 8pm in Riplinger. All Wednesdays 5:30pm soup supper in Spencer and worship at 6:30pm. Watch and Pray is the theme. Pastor is seeking volunteers to share a short message on various aspects of prayer.

Old Business:

- French Toast Breakfast Jan. 14th
- Financial Responsibility overview

REPORTS:

Pastor Jeff

PASTORAL MINISTRY: (5 Sundays & Christmas Eve this month!)

4 Sunday 9AM Services & Messages at Spencer
4 Sunday 11AM Services & Messages at Riplinger
4 Sunday 6:30 PM Services with interactive teaching (*new*)
3 Candlelight Christmas Eve Services (1 Riplinger, 2 Spencer)

1 Blue Christmas Service (Spencer)

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

3 Hospital Visits

12 Shut-in Visits

1 Funeral/Graveside service

SERVING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE:

1 Potluck gathering (Riplinger!)

1 Meeting re: Blue Christmas & Christmas Eve Services
Attended 9am Christmas Eve service from the pew (thank you!)

1 Routine Council Meeting

1 COME MEAL

2 Men's Groups

6 Bible Study Groups as a participant (Mon & Wed)

3 Bible Study Groups as a leader (Wed)

Weekly collaboration with Jenny and Pam re: youth and church operations

4 Supper times with youth on Wed. nights + Q&A after youth group

IN THE WORKS:

Met with people interested in launching a ministry of seniors for the church!

Dream up innovative ways to build camaraderie & intergenerational community!

Training for lay persons visiting shut-ins is being developed.

Please call me if you're interested in being a part of this!

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

Facilitated the Blue Christmas service as an outreach as well as an in reach - it

was attended by both members of St. John's and members of the community :).

Encouraged Christmas Eve attendees to take selfies of them in church and post

to their social media as creative outreach - had 2 people tell me they and theirs

made it to 6pm in part due to the selfies from the 4pm service - nice work y'all :).

Secretary (Pam Hardrath)

Teri made a motion to approve the December Council Minutes as written; Marsha seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer (Teri Schorer)

Recap: Income \$\$16,595.72. total expenses \$14,866.10
positive balance of \$1,729.62

Minister of Faith Formation (Jenny Nieman)

Jesus And Me

- The Christmas program went really well, the kids worked hard on their lines and did a great job on and off "stage". Thank you to everyone who helped out!
- Purchased Christmas gift for JAM teachers.
- Prepared 3 dozen kids bags for kids who attended any of the Christmas worship services to use during worship and take home with them. We had 1 dozen bags left.
- JAM resumed Jan 7.
- Prepared summer Bible Camp document for all Kindergarten-5th gr.

Cross Training & LIVE

- Purchased Christmas gifts for all small group leaders
- Dec. 13 the youth did some service projects- they put together a small flannel board type Nativity set for all of the JAM kids as Christmas gifts and also put

together a gift for those who graduated from high school the last two years, Jenny contacted all of those graduates and invited them to Christmas worship where she handed them their gifts. We will be mailing the few that were not picked up.

- A few youth planned the Christmas party for Dec 20. We worshipped, lit candles in a shortened version of the Blue Christmas service, played games, enjoyed Grinch punch and decorated Christmas cookies to enjoy that night.
- Resumed Jan 3 following Christmas Break;
- ButterBraid Fundraiser will begin in February.
- Prepared summer Documents for all middle and high school youth.
- Have been planning and organizing the Districts Conference for middle and high school youth, 8 youth and 4 adults leave Jan. 12, we return Jan. 14.
- Working with high school youth to get involved serving in worship.
- Encouraging parents to provide supper on Wednesday nights.
- Organizing a group to go to the Toby Mac tour concert in Green Bay March 2. So far there's a great response.
- High School Lock In will be January 19, 8 pm
- 2024 Mission Trip
 - Destination: Lincoln, IL June 16-22
 - Planning meeting was Jan 3, 8 pm, as of 1/1 there are 7 going on the trip. There is room for more.
 - Basket Raffle will begin Feb. 14
 - Youth are sending out Club 52 forms to family and friends.
 - Rummage Sale will be May 2 & 3
- Other Activities:

- Provided my annual report to Pam
- Worship (Mary Seefeld)*
- Breaking Chains is booked for Spencerama
- Building and Grounds (Travis Hardrath)*
- Mitch feels it is wasteful to replace furnaces at this time. Everything is replaceable and repairable.
- Al Jicinsky noted we are unable to chip seal the parking lot at this time because it has too much breakdown. Currently, there is not a time frame for replacement.
- Various light bulbs around the building have been replaced.
- Solar lights at the end of the driveway were also replaced.

Food, Fellowship and Fun (Heather Vogel)

- No report
- Congregational Care (Marsha Martens)*
- Sent out get well and thinking of you cards.
- Beyond Our Doors (vacant)*
- Scrip card for \$100 sent to someone diagnosed with cancer.
- Giving Tree wrap up
- Vice Chair (Wayne Hagen)*
- No report
- Chair (Rudy Nieman)*
- Thank you for your support in 2023.

Next Meeting: February 13, 6:30pm

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

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath

JANUARY TREASURERS REPORT SPENCER

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for January 2024

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
<i>301.000</i>	<i>General Fund Balance</i>					
301.100	General Balance	57,099.76	11,200.06	18,449.01	(2,892.73)	46,958.08
<i>302.000</i>	<i>Special Funds Balance</i>					
302.001	ARK Balance	1,124.73	22.00	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	117.90	23.27	0.00	0.00	141.17
302.120	Technology Balance	833.61	0.00	156.14	0.00	677.47
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	4,048.24	0.00	506.91	0.00	3,541.33
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	2,121.53	72.00	0.00	0.00	2,193.53
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
302.180	COME Balance	2,053.97	90.00	0.00	0.00	2,143.97
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	8,057.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,057.32
302.105	Building Fund Balance	46,194.41	1,405.00	0.00	2,892.73	50,492.14
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	5,961.02	153.00	0.00	86.52	6,200.54
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,235.19	0.15	0.00	0.00	1,235.34
Total		<u>\$131,193.59</u>	<u>\$12,965.48</u>	<u>\$19,112.06</u>	<u>\$86.52</u>	<u>\$125,133.53</u>

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Treasurer's Report as of January 2024 for General Operating Fund

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
Income				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	9,530.06	9,530.06	140,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	1,460.00	1,460.00	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
441.060	Building use	210.00	210.00	1,250.00
	Total Income	\$11,200.06	\$11,200.06	\$147,250.00
Expenses				
<i>500.000 Wider Mission</i>				
500.010	Tithe	4,336.11	4,336.11	14,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$4,336.11</i>	<i>\$4,336.11</i>	<i>14,000.00</i>
<i>510.000 Worship</i>				
510.030	Copyrights	315.00	315.00	750.00
510.050	Community Worship Services	0.00	0.00	850.00
510.070	Instrument maintenance/service	0.00	0.00	250.00
510.100	Worship Supplies	279.36	279.36	1,200.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$594.36</i>	<i>\$594.36</i>	<i>3,050.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	0.00	500.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	19.88	19.88	1,000.00
<i>520.000 Faith Development</i>				
520.010	Birth to 3	60.67	60.67	300.00
520.020	Children's Ministry (SS, VBS, GIFT, etc)	(20.00)	(20.00)	1,100.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	27.78	27.78	500.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	377.97	377.97	450.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	0.00	0.00	350.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$446.42</i>	<i>\$446.42</i>	<i>2,800.00</i>
520.080	Right Now Media	1,319.89	1,319.89	1,320.00
<i>540.000 Fellowship & Care</i>				
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	94.90	94.90	400.00
540.020	Care Resources	0.00	0.00	200.00
540.030	Events	0.00	0.00	200.00
	<i>Total Fellowship & Care</i>	<i>\$94.90</i>	<i>\$94.90</i>	<i>800.00</i>
<i>560.000 Office</i>				
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	72.36	72.36	1,400.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	171.92	171.92	2,000.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	105.26	105.26	700.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	189.47	189.47	2,000.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$539.01</i>	<i>\$539.01</i>	<i>7,900.00</i>
<i>570.000 Administration</i>				
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	250.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	122.69	122.69	1,000.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	0.00	0.00	5,500.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$122.69</i>	<i>\$122.69</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
<i>580.000 Buildings & Grounds</i>				
580.020	Electricity	330.49	330.49	4,500.00
580.030	Natural Gas	589.88	589.88	2,500.00

St. John's Lutheran Church - Spencer WI
Treasurer's Report as of January 2024 for General Operating Fund

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
580.040	Holding Tanks	0.00	0.00	750.00
580.050	Waste Disposal	145.03	145.03	1,250.00
580.065	Cleaning	0.00	0.00	500.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	346.46	346.46	1,500.00
580.080	Snow Removal	520.00	520.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	0.00	0.00	300.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>\$1,931.86</i>	<i>\$1,931.86</i>	<i>14,300.00</i>
590.000	<i>Staff</i>			
590.110	Pastor Compensation	2,956.25	2,956.25	33,110.00
590.120	Housing Allowance (Pastor)	2,062.50	2,062.50	23,100.00
590.130	Books & Subscriptions (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	100.00
590.140	Continuing Education (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	776.64	776.64	8,700.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	383.93	383.93	4,300.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
590.210	FICA	203.57	203.57	2,600.00
590.230	Organist Payroll	0.00	0.00	2,600.00
590.240	Treasurer Payroll	150.00	150.00	1,800.00
590.250	Secretary Payroll (shared)	1,491.00	1,491.00	15,600.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$8,023.89</i>	<i>\$8,023.89</i>	<i>93,410.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	1,020.00	1,020.00	7,800.00
	Total Expenses	\$18,449.01	\$18,449.01	\$154,380.00
	Difference	(\$7,248.95)	(\$7,248.95)	(\$7,130.00)

