

Services of Worship  
Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am



# Connect

## MARCH 2025

Spencer Congregation: Parish Office  
210167 State Hwy 13  
Spencer, WI 54479  
715-659-5158  
Email: [sjlcoffice13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcoffice13@gmail.com)

Riplinger Congregation:  
W1776 2nd Avenue, Spencer

Website  
[www.stjohnsspencer.com](http://www.stjohnsspencer.com)

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer](http://www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer)

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

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

Minister of Faith Formation  
Jenny Nieman  
Email: [jennyfaith659@gmail.com](mailto:jennyfaith659@gmail.com)  
Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary  
Pam Hardrath  
Wednesday 5:30 to 9 pm  
[sjlcoffice13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcoffice13@gmail.com)  
To contact our emergent need pastor or for immediate assistance, call or text Pam at 715-507-0549

**Deadlines**

- Weekly email: Tuesdays 9am
- Sunday announcements: Wednesday 5pm
- Monthly newsletter:

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.



(all events at Spencer, unless otherwise specified)

**More information throughout the newsletter!**

**March 4**, Butter Braid Fundraiser Ends.

**March 5, 5pm**, Ash Wednesday Worship in Riplinger.

**March 5 at 5pm**, Mission Trip Planning Meeting

**March 5, 5:30pm**, Soup Supper Kicks off.

**March 5, 6:30pm**, Ash Wednesday Worship.

**March 5**, Basket Raffle Fundraiser Begins.

**March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9,**

5:30pm Soup Supper

6:30pm Lent Worship

**March 18 at 6:30pm**, Spencer Council Meeting

**March 23, 9am**, Installation of Council Members

**March 25 at 5pm**, COME Meal

**WEEKLY EVENTS:**

**Sundays**, JAM and Mom's Connect at 10:15am

**Tuesdays**, Psalms Bible Study at 6:30pm.

**Wednesdays**, Soup Supper 5:30pm, Worship 6:30pm, Cross Training and LIVE will meet after.

**Thursdays**, March 20, Men's Group at 6:30pm.



Donations of hygiene and cleaning supplies make it possible for local crisis agencies to concentrate their limited financial resources on providing qualified staff, safe housing, nutritious food, education, and counseling to those they serve.

**THROUGH MARCH 23!**  
There is a donation box near the office door. Thank you!

*Most Needed Items*

**DENTAL CARE**

Soft Toothbrushes\*  
Toothpaste\*  
Dental Floss  
Denture Care  
NO Mouthwash

**FIRST AID**

Children's Pain Meds  
Pedialyte  
Band-Aids  
Rubbing Alcohol  
Hydrogen Peroxide  
Anti-Diarrheal Meds  
Antacids  
Antibiotic Ointment  
Cold Meds  
Liquid Benadryl  
Sun Screen

**CLEANING SUPPLIES**

Laundry Soap\*  
Dish Soap\*  
Garbage Bags\*  
Floor Cleaner\*  
Bleach  
Cleansers  
Sponges  
Disinfectant Cleaner\*  
Toilet Cleaner and Brushes  
Dryer Sheets  
Rubber Gloves

**PERSONAL CARE**

Hand Soap\*  
Body Wash\*  
Bar Soap  
Deodorant (unscented)\*  
Razors\*  
Shaving Cream  
Cotton Balls  
Q-tips  
Moisturizer/Lotions  
Contact Solution  
Lip Balm  
Hand/Foot/Body Warmer

**BABY CARE**

Diapers & Pull-Ups (sizes 4-6)\*  
Wipes\*  
Baby Bottles  
Sip Cups  
Baby Lotion  
Baby Shampoo  
Rash Ointment

**HAIR CARE**

Shampoo\*  
Conditioner  
Hair Brushes  
Combs  
Clips & Elastics  
Style Products  
Head Lice Treatment  
Textured Hair Care

**PAPER PRODUCTS**

Toilet Tissue\*  
Facial Tissue  
Paper Towels\*  
Feminine Care Pads\*  
Tampons\*

## Readings

(subject to change)

### March 2

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Hebrews 3:1-6

Luke 9:28-36

Spencer

Message: Heather Vogel

Assisting: Ashley Stroetz

### March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-3

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

Spencer

Message: Rudy Nieman

### March 16

Jeremiah 26:8-15

Psalm 4

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Spencer:

Message: Heather Vogel

Assisting: Ashley Stroetz

### March 23

Ezekiel 33:7-20

Psalm 85

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Spencer:

Message: Penni Cloud

### March 30

Isaiah 12:1-6

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

Spencer:

Message: Todd Brinkman

Assisting: Ashley Stroetz

## Faith and Optimism

When your cup runs over, is it a blessing, or a mess? Is your glass half full or half empty? Do you make difficulties out of your opportunities, or opportunities out of your difficulties? Are you the kind that complains about the noise when opportunity knocks? Do you claim to be an optimist who doubts that being one really helps? I was reading Psalm 23 this week, and it occurred to me that King David was a true optimist. "I am never in need...green pastures... peaceful waters...paths of righteousness...my cup overflows...even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm...your rod and staff give me courage." His faith in God enabled him to overcome obstacles that would derail our faith. His faith in God allowed him to see winning possibilities in horrible circumstances. Remember how he faced a lion, a bear, a giant, and a mentally unstable king? Remember how he faced the death of a child, and rebellion within his own family? His faith empowered him to live with optimism and assurance of victory.

When faced with setbacks and difficulties, our reactions reveal whether we are people of faith and optimism, or people of pessimism and defeat. There are three basic differences in the way optimists and pessimists react.

The first is that the optimist sees a setback as temporary, while the pessimist sees it as permanent. When David's infant child died, he saw it only as a temporary separation. Even after praying and fasting that the child would not die, his faith in God never wavered. He could not bring the child back, but he said, "I will go to him" (2 Sam. 12:23). Even death is not permanent for those with faith in God.

The second difference is that the optimist sees difficulties as specific, while the pessimist sees them as pervasive. David's sin with Bathsheba was not allowed to destroy his whole life and eternity. He messed up big time, but he dealt with it as the specific sin it was, repented, and went on to live as a man with the heart of God. His failure with Bathsheba did not cause his whole life to be a failure. The third difference is that optimists view events as external, while pessimists interpret events as personal. King Saul's repeated attempts to kill David was seen by David as rebellion against God, not him personally. He would not raise his hand against Saul because he still saw him as the Lord's anointed. Difficulties are most often simply external circumstances, not personal attacks.

Learn from David to live by faith and optimism. Look upon the inevitable setbacks that you face as being temporary, specific, and external.

Joe Chesser

Fruitland Church of Christ

Fruitland, MO

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# SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RECAP

## February 16.

A Special Congregational Meeting was held immediately following worship on February 16. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Council Restructure Task Force, initiated on January 26. The reason for this restructure, was because there were constitutional violations in forming the task force. Given the importance of this initiative, the council is moving forward with this task force.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

At least 11 active members are required to form a Council Restructure Task Force. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this task force and get in touch with the church office at [sjloffice13@gmail.com](mailto:sjloffice13@gmail.com) or Council Chair Rudy Nieman at [sjlchair13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlchair13@gmail.com) to express interest or volunteer.

Teri Schorer will be available to provide guidance, answer questions, and supply relevant materials, including past council outlines, LCMC council examples, and our Constitution. Once the task force completes its proposal, it will be submitted to the council for review, with a

maximum review period of 60 days. The council does not intend to delay this process unnecessarily.

Following council review, the proposal will be shared with the congregation, allowing a 30-day review period. A Special Congregational Meeting will then be scheduled for a vote on the proposed council restructuring.


Your participation and engagement in this process are greatly valued.



## Easter Lillies


**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 April 6. The cost of each lily this year is \$17. Each lily may be taken home on April 20 on a first-come, first-serve basis. Thank you for contributing to the decorating of our altar! Any questions, please contact the office, [sjloffice13@gmail.com](mailto:sjloffice13@gmail.com).

 Name of person(s) ordering \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount contributed: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**I John 1:7:** 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. NIV



## MISSION TRIP PLANNING MEETING March 5, 5pm

for anyone middle school and older interested in going on the Mission Trip to Scranton, PA, July 20 to 26. Contact person- Jenny Nieman 715-613-3636; [jennyfaith659@gmail.com](mailto:jennyfaith659@gmail.com)



## Butter Braid Fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship Fund.

The annual Butter Braid fundraiser ends on March 4. You can order from youth in the entry way March 2. Proceeds will go to the Bible Camp Scholarship fund to help send kids to Bible Camp and aid youth to attend retreats and conferences. Delivery will be March 19. Use this [link](#) to order Butter Braids online.



Mark your calendars for Lenten Soup Suppers beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5 through April 9. To volunteer, or sign up to provide food, please [use this link](#) or sign up on the bulletin board.



## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 5pm at Riplinger 6:30pm at Spencer



Spencer's 6:30pm Lent Worship will draw on the rich imagery of rocks and stones in Scripture, these powerful messages center around the compelling metaphor of stones (and our willingness to throw them) as representative of

our sins. To volunteer to serve in worship please use this [link](#) or sign up on the bulletin board. Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm, Spencer Good Friday, April 18, 6:30pm, Riplinger. Palm Sunday and Easter Worship, 9am in Spencer; 11am in Riplinger.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
210167 State Highway 13, Spencer

## COME Meal

Free hot community hot meal for everyone!



Menu includes:  
Beef Stroganoff  
Mixed Veggies  
Bread  
Cherry Dump Cake  
Blueberry Dump  
Cake  
Ice Cream

To sign up to donate food or volunteer to serve use this [link](#) or sign up on the bulletin board.



## Time and Talent Survey

Volunteers are the heart of our ministry here at St. John's. Please take a moment to complete this Time and Talent survey to share how you will be involved in the life and ministry of our congregation. Everyone is asked to fill out the survey. You may do that in a couple of ways:

- Fill out this paper copy and return to the church office by **April 6**
- Take the survey online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BA9AF2AA13-55416637-time>
- There is also a link to the survey on the church website and our Facebook page.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. If you have any questions, please talk with one of the Council Members: Rudy Nieman, Todd Brinkman, Teri Schorer, Penni Cloud, Randi Thompson, or Nick Tomczik.



# MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

You who are young, be happy while you are young,  
and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Ecclesiastes 11:9 NIV  
Questions contact Jenny: [jennyfaith659@gmail.com](mailto:jennyfaith659@gmail.com) or 715-613-3636



**JAM** meets every Sunday at 10 am all kids age 3 years-5th grade are welcome! We will not meet on Easter.



## Cross Training & LIVE

### Planning ahead-

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5. Instead of supper at 6 pm like all of the other

Wednesdays of the year, every

Wednesday of Lent (March 5-April 9) there is a soup supper at 5:30 pm.

Here are some guidelines for all middle school & high school youth:

- 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 online on the Signup Genius [use this link](#) on our website or on the bulletin board at church.
- Youth are expected to serve in worship during at least one Wednesday of Lent- they can serve as a reader, greeter, usher, sound, technology, communion assistant, and acolyte. Talk with Jenny to sign up for an area and date that works for your family or use this [link](#).



## Ready for a Summer Adventure You'll Never Forget?

**Grades 1-3 June 16-19 (\$117)**

Throughout their week at day camp (no overnight stays- take your child to camp each of the days and pick them up each day at 3 pm, children will have an opportunity to explore camp in a small group, led by Forest Springs trained, mission-driven staff. Exciting activities like archery, crafts and trips to the mini-farm will ensure that each day is fun filled! First Adventure day campers will also enjoy Bible Discovery Time with John & Diane Windle, along with the hilarious hi-jinx of Hairy and Company. Free Time and Lunch provide the chance for your child to build friendships with other campers and their counselor. Be excited for your

child to grow and learn through First Adventure Day Camp. We certainly are!

**Kid's Quest (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr) June 11-14 (\$259)** Kid's Quest campers will enjoy Bible teaching from Forest Springs' favorites John & Diane Windle, complimented by the hilarious hi-jinx of Hairy and Company. During program instruction, campers will learn new skills like archery. Campers can take advantage of dozens of fun-filled program areas during their free time. Throughout their time at camp, Kid's Quest campers will have an opportunity to explore camp independently and as a cabin group. Each cabin group is led by a counselor, who completed two weeks of specialized training prior to youth camps beginning.

**Junior Camp 2 (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr) June 29-July 5**  
WAITING LIST ONLY!

**Take 7 (Grades 6-8\*)** - Speaker: Mark Aardahl - June 22 - 28, 2025 • \$555; NOTE according to Forest Springs website: the boys registration is filling fast! Register very soon! Girls- there is space available.

**Junior High (Grades 7-9\*)** - Speaker: Josiah Lewis – June 29-July 5, 2025 • WAITING LIST ONLY!

**Super High (Grades 9-12\*)** - Speaker: Alex Tunnicliff - July 6-12, 2025 \$555 FILLING FAST- REGISTER SOON! Looking to enjoy some down time? Forest Springs has plenty of areas to relax, enjoy a snack or coffee drink, play a game or just catch up with friends. Teen campers will be equipped and challenged through Bible teaching during sessions held twice a day. Campers can take advantage of dozens of fun-filled programs areas during their free time like paintball or our high-ropes course.

### Registering for Camp:

Register online: <https://events.circuitree.com/forestsprings/Registration/EventSelection/1/>  
Call: 715-427-5241

Once you register your youth, contact Jenny so that Scholarship money can be sent to Forest Springs. St. John's will pay 1/3 of the cost of summer camp. St. John's will pay Forest Springs directly. **If the cost of Bible Camp presents a financial hardship for families, please contact Jenny, there may be additional funds available.** St. John's does not want the cost of Bible Camp to be the reason that youth cannot attend

# MISSION TRIP—SCRANTON, PA, JULY 19-27, 2025

# Upcoming Studies

## 2025 Mission Trip to Scranton, PA July 19-27.

*Who can go on the trip?* Any youth currently in 6<sup>th</sup> grade-adults. Applications are found on the bulletin board. Application and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot. This trip will include hands-on work projects on residential homes in Scranton. Each person who goes on the trip will work with youth and adults from other churches at their assigned homes and worship with the entire group twice daily. While working on residential homes will provide the opportunity to serve others in Christ's name there are many opportunities for spiritual growth on the trip for everyone as well. If you are on the fence about going, feel free to attend a planning meeting to ask questions, meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. If you have questions, talk with Jenny Nieman.

## Mission Trip Upcoming Fundraisers



The Basket raffle will begin March 5. Raffle Tickets can be purchased before and after worship services. If you would like the Mission Trip participants to sell tickets during extra church events, get in touch with Jenny.



**Club 52** provides donors with an easy, flexible way to support youth ministry at St. John's. As its name implies, Club 52 members are asked to contribute \$1 per week for one year or whatever amount the donor chooses. Club 52 members will be invited to a special VIP brunch hosted by the students to recognize each member's contribution. Club 52 donation forms are on the bulletin board if you would like to contribute.



**Save the Date!**  
Our Annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser is May 1 & 2.



Please be our guest  
2025 Spring Retreat  
Living out the beauty of the Gospel together  
Saturday March 22 at  
Grace Lutheran Church  
11284 US Hwy 10  
Fellowship 8:30  
Retreat 9:00-2:00  
RSVP Lisa 715-305-1291  
naspac8@gmail.com



**Wednesdays April 30th, May 7, 14, & 21, 9 to 11am. "before Amen" The Power of a Simple Prayer Study.** This four-session video based study reveals how connecting with God each day can be as simple as five short sentences. "Father, you are good. I need help. They need help. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen." He shows you how to let go of uncertainties about prayer, trust that God hears you and embrace a prayer life that brings peace and rest. Cost of book and study guide is \$22. All are welcome! Let Gail Jicinsky know if you plan to participate. 715-650-0720.



## Spencer Council Contact Information

Council Chair: Rudy Nieman- 715-223-9579—[sjlchair13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlchair13@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair: Todd Brinkman - 715-212-1244 - [sjlvicechair13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlvicechair13@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Teri Schorer - 715-613-8428 - [sjlcbbooks@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcbbooks@gmail.com)  
Reporting Secretary: Penni Cloud - 715-223-5203 - [pennismiles@gmail.com](mailto:pennismiles@gmail.com)  
Minister of Faith Formation: Jenny Nieman - 715-613-3636 - [jennyfaith659@gail.com](mailto:jennyfaith659@gail.com)  
Worship Director: Randi Thompson - 715-659-4886 or 715-207-5857 - [sjlcworship13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcworship13@gmail.com)  
Buildings and Grounds Director: vacant  
Food, Fellowship & Fun Director: vacant  
Congregation Care Director - vacant  
Beyond Our Doors Director: Nick Tomczik - 715-383-9083 - [sjlc\\_beyond13@gmail.com](mailto:sjlc_beyond13@gmail.com)  
Financial Secretary: Kris Ovans - 715-507-0423 - [goobersvns@hotmail.com](mailto:goobersvns@hotmail.com)

## Riplinger Council Contact Information

President: Brenda Newman - 715-212-5886 - [riprider53@gmail.com](mailto:riprider53@gmail.com)  
Vice President: John Meacham - 715-897-1044  
Secretary: Trisha Porter - 715-255-8105 - [porter440@hotmail.com](mailto:porter440@hotmail.com)  
Treasurer: Joan Miller - 715-223-3136  
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



Audrey Helsten  
106469 Highway 153  
Spencer, WI 54479

## SHUT IN ADDRESSES

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

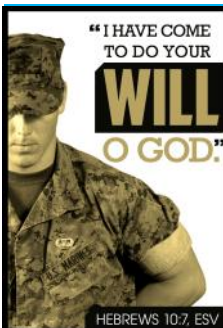
Muriel Oelrich  
211763 Mystyc Ave  
Spencer, WI 54479

Lois Block  
402 Dehne Dr  
Colby, WI 54421

Jim Schmutzler  
N11245 Maple St  
Spencer, WI 54479

Doris Seefeld  
312 Dehne St  
Colby, WI 54421

Pat Miller  
N9934 Groveside Ave  
Spencer, WI 54479



SPC Gardner Leah  
C Co 2/278 (TF Reaper)  
APO, AE, 09330

Schillinger Caden Spc.  
C-Co 2/278 ACR.  
TF Reaper  
APO, AE, 09330



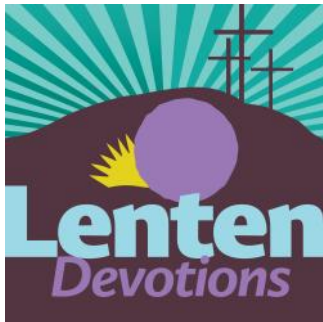
- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 LeRoy Dommer        | 14 Lacey Berres        |
| Mike Lehman           | 16 Addison Knecht      |
| 2 Patricia Miller     | 18 Tracey Ackman       |
| 3 Keith Kettleborough | Madilyn Miller   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

- May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!**
- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 10 Bob & Glenda Fellenz | 47 years |
| 17 Bryan & Tanya Kilty  | 24 years |
| Rich & Kelly Wilke      | 29 years |

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



Petie Marten  
Joe Weix  
We officially welcome you to our church family!



Different Lent Devotions can be found in Spencer's brochure rack and on page 11 of this newsletter.

**PRAYER LIST**



**Those with short term health concerns:**

Jim Miller, Darin Thompson, Susan Howe, Karla Kilty, Brett Kloth, Mia Maddox, Dorene Newman, Jim Rau, Dawn Wood.

**Those with long term health concerns:** Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Tammi Schiferl, Darrell Schillinger.

**Those with cancer:** Judi Andrew, Candyce DeNoble, Nikki Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson,

Michelle Oelke, Tom Steiner, Wayne Vaughn.

**Those who are homebound or in care facilities:**

Lois Block, Grace Maines, Pat Miller, Muriel Oelrich, Doris Seefeld.

**Those in the military:** Leah Gardner, Caden Schillinger

**If you or a member of your family are hospitalized or have an emergent need, and for any updates on these prayer requests or additional prayer concerns,** please contact the office at [sjlcoffice13@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sjlcoffice13@gmail.com)



The March schedule was not provided at the time of this printing. Thank you for your patience!

If you would like to usher, do tech or sound, be a communion assistant or acolyte, provide hospitality or read parts of the service, please let the [office](#) know.

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Greeter	Gwen Thomas				
Usher	NEEDED				
Usher	Milt Viergutz				
Tech	Tracey Ackman				
Sound	Rachel Nieman				
Reader	Gwen Thomas				
Communion Assistant	Jule Vogel				
Acolyte					
Basket Bearer	Cohley Vogel				
Hospitality	Jenny Nieman				
Riplinger Reader	Heidi McBride	Trish Porter	Joan Miller	Ertl Family	Dave Newman

**Sermons Are Online**



**YouTube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer> or  
[www.stjohnsspencer.com](http://www.stjohnsspencer.com)

Attendance	Spencer	Riplinger
January 5	58	15
January 12	41	27
January 19	55	13
January 26	72	22



<p>23</p> <p>Bible Camp Sunday</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer &amp; Butter Braid Sale</p> <p>10:15am JAM &amp; Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger with Baptism</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>5:00pm COME Meal</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30pm Secretary in Office</p> <p>6:00pm Optional Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Cross Training &amp; LIVE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer &amp; Butter Braid Sale</p> <p>10:15am JAM &amp; Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>LAST DAY TO ORDER BUTTER BRAIDS</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Basket Raffle Begins</p> <p>5:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship at Riplinger</p> <p>5:30pm Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship, Spencer</p> <p>5pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>VDC at Forest Springs</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>VDC at Forest Springs</p>	<p>8</p> <p>VDC at Forest Springs</p>
<p>9</p> <p>VDC at Forest Springs</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM &amp; Mom's Connect</p> <p>10:15am RaiseRight Card Sale</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Lent Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM &amp; Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Lent Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer, Installation of Council</p> <p>10:15am JAM &amp; Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>5:00pm COME Meal</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30pm Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Lent Worship at Spencer</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>28</p> <p>3:00am Rising Dance Academy</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00am Worship at Spencer</p> <p>10:15am JAM &amp; Mom's Connect</p> <p>11:00am Worship at Riplinger</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00pm YOGA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance</p> <p>6:30pm Psalms Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30pm Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Lent Worship at Spencer</p> <p>8:00pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:30pm Rising Dance Academy</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Group</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am VDC Ultra</p>

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



<b>DAY 1</b> Genesis 3:15	<b>DAY 2</b> Isaiah 7:14	<b>DAY 3</b> Matthew 1:20-21	<b>DAY 4</b> Luke 2:11	<b>DAY 5</b> Luke 2:52	<b>DAY 6</b> Mark 1:9-11	<b>DAY 7</b> Matthew 4:10
<b>DAY 15</b> Luke 9:20-22	<b>DAY 14</b> Mark 6:41-42	<b>DAY 13</b> Matthew 12:8	<b>DAY 12</b> Luke 8:24-25	<b>DAY 11</b> Luke 4:40-41	<b>DAY 10</b> Matthew 11:28-30	<b>DAY 9</b> Luke 6:27-31
<b>DAY 16</b> John 3:16-17	<b>DAY 17</b> John 6:35	<b>DAY 18</b> John 8:12	<b>DAY 19</b> John 10:14-15	<b>DAY 20</b> Mark 10:13-16	<b>DAY 21</b> Mark 9:2-3	<b>DAY 22</b> Matthew 20:17-19
<b>DAY 29</b> Mark 11:15-16	<b>DAY 28</b> Matthew 21:8-9	<b>DAY 27</b> John 12:3	<b>DAY 26</b> John 11:25-27, 43	<b>DAY 25</b> Luke 10:36-37	<b>DAY 24</b> Matthew 14:25-27	<b>DAY 23</b> Luke 19:9-10
<b>DAY 30</b> John 17:17-19	<b>DAY 31</b> Luke 22:3-6	<b>DAY 32</b> Mark 14:22-24	<b>DAY 33</b> John 13:3-5	<b>DAY 34</b> Matthew 26:39	<b>DAY 35</b> Luke 22:63-65	<b>DAY 36</b> Mark 15:22-26
<b>DAY 40</b> Matthew 28:19-20	<b>DAY 39</b> Luke 24:1-8	<b>DAY 38</b> John 19:40-42	<b>DAY 37</b> Matthew 27:50-54			

# FEBRUARY SPENCER COUNCIL MINUTES

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2025, 6:30 pm. Approved on March 11, 2025.

**Attending:** Rudy Nieman, Teri Schorer, Jenny Nieman, Pam Hardrath, Mary Seefeld, Travis Hardrath, Marsha Martens, Nick Tomczik **Guests:** Todd Brinkman, Ashley Stroetz

**Call to Order by Rudy Nieman at 6: 30pm**

**Opening Devotional:** John 17:20-25

**God Sightings/Gratitude outside of church.**

**New Business:**

Ashley Stroetz and Todd Brinkman did not have anything to discuss.

Council Meeting Expectations: Discussed Robert's Rules of Order

Annual meeting discussion: council structure proposals raised by congregation members.

No paid staff on council or if they are part of the structure they would have a voice but no vote. In this case Minister of Faith Formation, Parish Secretary and Treasurer are considered paid staff. (what about Marsha, she is the organist, (not taking a paycheck at this time, but next one may) but would have a W2?)

Paid staff would not be an executive officer.

No spouses on council.

No relatives on council.

Number of consecutive terms allowed.

January 19: Special meeting regarding allowing absentee voting first. Then q & a portion.

Reviewed notes from the January 5 meeting. Will have a PowerPoint summarizing the last meeting first.

Travis Hardrath made a motion to approve new member Amanda Nieman. Second by Nick Tomczik. Motion approved.

Marsha Martens will open building, turn up heat to 68 (will adjust to 70 if 68 is too cold) in sanctuary, and turn on lights on Sunday mornings before worship. Lead usher is responsible for turning heat down to 65.

Nick Tomczik made a motion to replace all of the thermostats in the building, Second by Mary Seefeld. Motion approved.

**Old Business:**

Raise the Roof: Heather Vogel will chair the Raise the Roof campaign. A motion was made by Nick Tomczik and second by Pam Hardrath to have a vote at the annual meeting to choose between a 50 year shingle versus a steel roof. Teri Schorer and Heather Vogel will take out a \$1000,000 loan so the roofing project can be done ASAP. The capital

campaign will begin. Any funds left over after the roofing project is finished, leftover funds will be returned.

A motion was made by Pam Hardrath to accept the 2025 Spending Plan as written, Second by Marsha Martens. Motion Approved.

**REPORTS:**

**Secretary's Report (Pam Hardrath)**

Motion was made by Marsha Martens to approve secretary minutes as written, Second by Nick Tomczik, Motion approved.

**Treasurer Report (Teri Schorer)**

Income: \$16,123.87 Expenses: \$12,780.67 Gain: \$3,343.20

**Minister of Faith Formation (Jenny Nieman)**

Current events were in the newsletter.

**Worship (Mary Seefeld)**

Recommended moving Blue Christmas to the beginning of the month.

Choir sang for Christmas Eve service at 4pm.

**Buildings and Grounds (Travis Hardrath)**

Room is painted and set up for use. Some trim needs to be put up yet. Calls were made to carpet people. Waiting for them to set a date.

Room signs were put up for bathrooms, library, parish office, pastors' office.

Calls out to different sign people as Wausau Sign has not been here yet.

Calls out to parking lot companies, no estimates received yet.

Replace all toilet flappers.

**Congregational Care (Marsha Martens)**

Christmas, Birthday and Care Cards sent.

**Beyond our Doors (Nick Tomczik)**

\$500 in Scrip Cards was sent out.

Doing a social media campaign with youth.

Next Meeting: 6:30pm on February 11, 2025

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Travis Hardrath, Second by Nick Tomczik, Motion Approved.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath

Stewardship is a heart attitude, not just a number. Thank you for the support of our ministry at St. John's!

**JANUARY FUNDS RECAP**

Income: \$8,779.02.87 Expenses: \$7,813.36

Positive balance of: \$956.66

# SPENCER TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>				
410.010	Tithes & Offerings	7,722.65	7,722.65	130,000.00
410.011	Non-tithe Offerings General Fund	265.00	265.00	
410.050	Riplinger Reimbursements	541.37	541.37	6,500.00
441.060	Building use	250.00	250.00	2,500.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,779.02</b>	<b>\$8,779.02</b>	<b>\$139,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<i>500.000 Wider Mission</i>				
500.010	Tithe	2,113.53	2,113.53	13,000.00
	<i>Total Wider Mission</i>	<i>\$2,113.53</i>	<i>\$2,113.53</i>	<i>13,000.00</i>
<i>510.000 Worship</i>				
510.030	Copyrights	0.00	0.00	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	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>3,050.00</i>
510.020	Pulpit Supply	0.00	0.00	8,000.00
510.060	Worship - Music/Special Events	0.00	0.00	750.00
<i>520.000 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	0.00	1,100.00
520.030	Middle School (Cross Training, Youth, etc)	0.00	0.00	500.00
520.040	High School (discipleship, chaperones, grads)	125.24	125.24	1,000.00
520.050	Adult Faith Formation	0.00	0.00	250.00
520.070	Library Resources	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<i>Total Faith Development</i>	<i>\$125.24</i>	<i>\$125.24</i>	<i>3,250.00</i>
<i>540.000 Fellowship &amp; Care</i>				
540.010	Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	0.00	0.00	650.00
540.020	Care Resources	100.00	100.00	500.00
540.030	Events	0.00	0.00	300.00
	<i>Total Fellowship &amp; Care</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>1,450.00</i>
<i>560.000 Office</i>				
560.010	Office Supplies (shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
560.020	Telephone & Internet (shared)	190.26	190.26	2,200.00
560.030	Postage (shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
560.050	Copier Maintenance (shared)	229.76	229.76	2,300.00
560.060	Office Subscriptions, Software, Upgrades (shared)	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
	<i>Total Office</i>	<i>\$420.02</i>	<i>\$420.02</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
<i>570.000 Administration</i>				
570.010	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00
570.020	Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	87.60	87.60	1,200.00
570.040	Insurance & Workman's Compensation	590.88	590.88	7,500.00
570.050	Mileage Reimbursement (shared)	0.00	0.00	400.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$678.48</i>	<i>\$678.48</i>	<i>9,100.00</i>
<i>580.000 Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>				
580.020	Electricity	324.56	324.56	4,500.00
580.030	Natural Gas	390.52	390.52	2,000.00
580.040	Holding Tanks	0.00	0.00	900.00

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

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
580.050	Waste Disposal	155.17	155.17	1,800.00
580.065	Cleaning	68.62	68.62	700.00
580.070	Repairs & General Maintenance Expenses	315.86	315.86	2,000.00
580.080	Snow Removal	520.00	520.00	2,500.00
580.090	Lawn Mowing- Church	0.00	0.00	450.00
580.100	Cemetery Assoc Lawn Care	0.00	0.00	500.00
	<i>Total Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>	<i>\$1,774.73</i>	<i>\$1,774.73</i>	<i>15,350.00</i>
590.000	<i>Staff</i>			
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)	0.00	0.00	750.00
590.150	Medical Insurance & Pension (Pastor)	0.00	0.00	4,350.00
590.160	Social Security Allowance (Pastor)	0.00	0.00	3,395.00
590.170	Synod & Official Meetings (Pastor-shared)	0.00	0.00	750.00
590.210	FICA	184.86	184.86	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)	1,501.50	1,501.50	15,600.00
	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>\$1,836.36</i>	<i>\$1,836.36</i>	<i>70,050.00</i>
590.280	Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	765.00	765.00	7,500.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,813.36</b>	<b>\$7,813.36</b>	<b>\$139,000.00</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$965.66</b>	<b>\$965.66</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

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

Thursday, February 13, 2025

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	39,944.29	8,779.02	7,813.36	(1,409.04)	39,500.91
302.000	<i>Special Funds Balance</i>					
302.001	ARK Balance	1,123.64	30.00	100.00	0.00	1,053.64
302.102	Globe Money Balance	614.79	32.49	0.00	0.00	647.28
302.120	Technology Balance	5,368.00	0.00	96.68	0.00	5,271.32
302.138	Bible Camp Balance	4,178.87	150.00	1,350.00	0.00	2,978.87
302.145	Mission Trip Balance	1,744.14	44.00	0.00	0.00	1,788.14
302.155	Kitchen Equipment Balance	306.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	306.00
302.180	COME Balance	171.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	171.08
302.800	Seminary Fund Balance	2,039.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,039.91
302.100	Memorial Gifts Balance	5,751.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,751.70
302.105	Building Fund Balance	175,366.28	720.00	0.00	1,409.04	177,495.32
303.000	Thrivent (Savings Acct) Balance	6,448.74	56.00	0.00	0.00	6,504.74
304.000	Sabbatical (Forward Fin.) Balance	1,386.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,386.47
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$244,443.91</b>	<b>\$9,811.51</b>	<b>\$9,360.04</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$244,895.38</b>