

Connect

December 2021

Sunday Services of Worship

- Spencer at 9am
- Riplinger at 11am

Church Office

210167 State Hwy 13
Spencer, WI 54479
715-659-5158

Email: sjlcoffice@frontier.com

Website

www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook

Spencer

www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer/

Riplinger

www.facebook.com/Riplingerchurch/

Interim Pastor

Lowell Bolstad

Email: interimpastor1953@gmail.com

Cell: 715-226-0163

Minister of Faith Formation

Jenny Nieman

Email: jennyfaith659@gmail.com

Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary

Amanda Schjoneman

sjlcoffice@frontier.com

Deadlines

- Weekly email
Tuesdays 9am
- Sunday bulletin announcements
Thursdays 9am
- Monthly newsletter
20th of each month

Thank you for your participation in and support of the life and mission of this parish.

Invite others to services of worship and pray that those who do not know Jesus may come to know him.

The risen Christ commands his followers to share the good news.



Advent Services Prepare for the Coming of Our Lord

“Come, Lord Jesus.” This is the prayer of Advent. Jesus has come as a babe born in a manger. Jesus comes into our midst in Word and Sacrament and the witness of Christians. Jesus will come again at the end of time. Attend Advent services of worship beginning with the first Sunday of Advent on November 28 to prepare your hearts and lives for his coming!

Memorial Service for Harold Boyer—Sunday, December 5, 1pm, at Spencer. Visitation 11am-1pm.

Kids Christmas Concert at Spencer on December 19 at 9am

A Christmas concert involving students of all ages will be presented. Invite the relatives and friends.

Informational Meeting at Spencer on December 19 at 10am

The Research Task Force on the ELCA has requested to discuss their report. This request was approved by the Congregation Council at its meeting on November 9. An additional meeting will be offered January 9. The council decided to bring the proposed motion to terminate this congregation’s relationship with the ELCA and to transfer its affiliation to the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) to a vote after the annual meeting on January 23. Information about LCMC will be presented at the December 19 informational meeting. A 2/3 vote is required. If this vote passes, a second required vote would be taken on May 8.

Have a Mary Christmas on December 19 at Riplinger

In Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

Christmas Services—Christmas Eve services on Friday, December 24, at 2, 4, and 6pm at Spencer; 8pm at Riplinger. Christmas Day service Saturday, December 25, 9am, at Spencer.

Post-High School Student Recognition on December 26

The Christmas season is a time to welcome our students back home from college and other institutions of higher learning. A special invitation is extended to our students and their families to come to the post-high school student recognition on December 26. This service of worship offers an opportunity for the gathered assembly to affirm and encourage our students.

From the Pastor

Invite others to the Christmas services with you. Are you having company for Christmas? Do you know of someone who does not have a church home? Be sure to invite them to worship God come into human flesh in the person of Jesus. Even as shepherds could not contain themselves in telling others what they had heard, you are encouraged to share the Christmas spirit with those about you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

We are investing in the recovery and future of Central America

Across Central America, a host of factors are driving high levels of migration, especially among youth. Research indicates that grinding poverty and lack of economic opportunities are the major push factors, but violence and political instability are also key drivers of migration. The back-to-back hurricane systems Eta and Iota that followed similar destructive paths across the region in November 2020 as well as the heavy toll of the COVID-19 pandemic have only further exacerbated the dire situation for many Central Americans.

But that's not the whole story.

IN EL SALVADOR, Williams, a 30-year-old father of two, took the opportunity to earn a diploma in cocoa production and has started his own chocolate business.

IN HONDURAS, Dilcia, 21, learned the basics of coffee cultivation and is working on her family's farm, hoping to become part of the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs.

IN GUATEMALA, Guisela, 26, has not only learned and applied agricultural best practices and improved health and nutrition habits within her own family, but she has also become an example and promoter of such trainings in her larger community.



Each of these young people felt compelled to leave everything they had and knew in search of a better life, but development and humanitarian investments in these countries are restoring their hope for a future where they are now — a future where migration isn't their only option.

Lutheran World Relief is working with dozens of local partners to help those affected by disasters recover and to strengthen the economies of communities in Central America – specifically the Northern Triangle – to build food security, resilience and stability. These investments include vocational and business training programs for youth, as well as efforts to help coffee and cocoa farmers increase the productivity and quality of their crops and connect to markets that will bring them better income.

In Honduras, partner IHCAFE (Honduran Coffee Institute) held a virtual graduation ceremony for 120 youth participants from Lutheran World Relief's Strengthening Youth Capacities in Entrepreneurship and Coffee in Honduras project. These youth are now trained and offering their services as coffee farm administrators, farm mechanics and coffee processors.

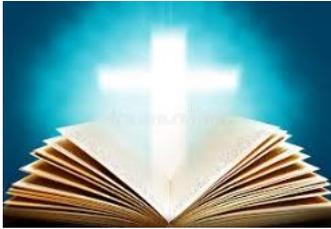
Lutheran World Relief has partnered with the U.S. government, national, regional and municipal governments in Central America, international and local organizations, foundations, the private sector, U.S. churches, agricultural cooperatives and the people themselves to invest in this future. Through these partnerships, we have seen the social fabric of communities strengthened and thousands of people earning enough income to support their families, providing for immediate needs and setting aside savings for what is to come.

Over the long run, we believe these investments in the people and communities of Central America and beyond are the best measures for addressing the root causes of migration. Lutheran World Relief is committed to walking alongside these communities as they work to build better lives for their families.

<https://lwr.org/we-are-investing-recovery-and-future-central-america>

Pastor Bolstad to use allotted vacation December 13-19. In matters of some urgency, contact Rev. Nancy Amacher at Faith Lutheran in Marshfield (715)223-5316 or revnia10@gmail.com.

Faith Formation



Cross Training—On December 22, we'll be celebrating a Christmas Countdown Party. Friends and family are invited! Parents- your kids are only this age once, so to encourage families to take the time together for Christmas we will not be meeting December 29. We'll resume January 5.

LIVE—We'll meet December 1, 8, 15, & 22 and off December 29. We'll resume January 5.



2022 Mission Trip—We're staying in Wisconsin next year. We'll travel to Sheboygan for our week long mission trip. The trip is open to any youth currently in 8th grade-adults. Applications are found on the bulletin board. Application and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot by December 12. Applications will be taken after this date, but we cannot guarantee there will be space so it is extremely important to register by December 12. The next planning meeting is December 12 at 1pm in the youth room.



JAM begins at 10am each Sunday. In case you weren't in worship and are dropping your kids off for JAM have them head right to their classrooms. We meet in the sanctuary at 10:45am for a closing, so parents come on into the building to pick your kids up.

The Christmas program is December 19, 9am, we will not have JAM on this Sunday due to the important informational meeting that will follow worship. Also, family time is important, so we encourage all of you as well as our JAM teachers to spend time with family this Christmas season so we will not have JAM classes on December 26 or January 2. JAM will resume January 9.



Wednesday Night Suppers Needed—We are looking for a few adults to help cook, serve and clean up on Wednesday nights. You can pick the dates that work for you. You can do one of the duties or stay for all. It's your choice. Questions, talk with Jenny. Sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094ba9af2aa13-wednesday> or on the bulletin board.



SOME THINGS TO KNOW

On November 9, 2021, I received a signed petition from 25 congregation members asking for a vote to terminate our congregations current affiliation the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). If we vote to terminate that affiliation we must align with another Lutheran denomination at the same time. After careful examination of available Lutheran denominations, I believe Lutheran Congregation in the Mission of Christ (LCMC) would be a good fit for our congregation.

Joan Bruss, Bob and Glenda Fellenz, Wayne and Charla Hagen, Allen and Gail Jicinsky, Bruce and Janine Luepke, Jenny Nieman, Teri Schorer, Mary Seefeld, and Cindy Weiler formed a task force researching why they feel the ELCA no longer aligns with the guiding principles of our congregation. Thank you so much for the many hours you spent compiling this information. It takes a lot of courage to open yourself up to the scrutiny of others. Their full report and information on the LCMC will be available at the beginning of December and shared with everyone. Detailed reports will also be available in the church brochure rack or mailed by request. The task force will be holding informational meetings on December 19, 2021 and January 9, 2022 following worship at the Spencer congregation to address concerns and answer questions.

Following these informational meetings, per our constitution we will hold the first voting Congregation Meeting on January 23, 2022 following the annual meeting. If there is a 2/3 majority vote in favor of this change, the final voting Congregation Meeting will be held on May 8, 2022 following worship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or a member of the task force.

Thank-you!

Pam Hardrath

Chair of Congregation Council

Winter Weather Cancellation—If worship is cancelled due to winter weather, an email will be sent out to everyone on our email system, a notice will be shared on our Facebook page, and the answering machine message will be changed. If school is cancelled for the day, all activities at St. John's will be cancelled as well.

Christmas Giving Tree—Step 1 Select a tag. Step 2 Register your tag on the roster. Step 3 Have fun shopping for items on the tag! Do not go over \$25 value to keep it fair. Step 4 Return gifts by December 12! Let Lori Cook know if there are any questions at cookieslja@gmail.com

Council elections postponed—The Spencer Congregation Council at its October 12 meeting decided to postpone elections from the October congregation meeting called for in the constitution to the January 23 annual meeting and to recommend that the constitution be changed so that elections are held at the annual meeting.

Forest Springs is hosting a Christmas dinner theatre December 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, & 12—Tickets are \$45, which includes a warm holiday dinner followed by the performance. There is also a \$20 option on Thursday, December 9, which includes only a light desert and the performance. Tickets go on sale October 26. Feel free to talk to Jenny about any questions you may have.

NOTES OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone for their prayers for my niece Becca Raczek. I am happy to let you all know that after multiple miscarriages and an undiscovered bleeding disorder, Becca and her husband Jesse welcomed a happy and healthy baby boy, Beau Hunter Raczek, into this world on Wednesday November 4! God is Good!!!
Cindy Weiler

I appreciated all the help with the Christmas decorations, the help I got was so wonderful. From adults to kids they helped me so much with their talents. For those that don't think they have decorating skills, remember. Just try...if you don't like it try again, but don't give up. My advice for those that think they can't. Thank you so much. Gwen Thomas.



- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Donna Wenzel | 24 Dean Hanson |
| 2 Jace Niemann | Jackson Schuette |
| 3 Malachai Anderson | 25 Rich Wilke |
| Harper Reynolds | 26 Grayson VanArk |
| Ralph Ottum | Jane Meacham |
| 4 Jeff Weyer | 27 Judine Block |
| Todd Ertl | 28 Tom Brehm |
| 6 Trevor Ackman | 29 Christopher Schmidt |
| 7 Michael Neumann | Corrine Spencer |
| Jill Niemann | 30 Corrie Bauer |
| Ila Meacham | 31 Randi Thompson |
| 9 Raylan Burns | Candi Mertins |
| 11 Kayann Dommer | |
| 13 Braden Kieffer | |
| Juliet Ertl | |
| 14 David Lucht | |
| Jessica Ertl | |
| Derek Hendrickson | |
| 16 Zoreyna Hardrath | |
| 18 Jake Reynolds | |

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please contact the office so we can update our records.



- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| 18 Doug & Jan Kops | 45 years | |
| 9 Lance & Claire Neumann | | 4 years |
| 11 Keith & Trish Porter | | 26 Years |
| 19 Mark & Jill Niemann | | 12 years |
| Aaric & Corrine Spencer | | 1 year |
| 30 Jordan & Heather Vogel | | 15 years |
| 31 Derek & Nicole Buse | | 5 years |



Luella Seagren November 14



Harold Boyer passed on November 16



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in care facilities: Cyndi Ackerman, Jan Ammons, Dick Berger, Barb Dommer, Dean Hanson, Corrine Kettleborough, Roger Kilty, Grace Maines, Jean Mellenthin, Pat Miller, Dorothy Neuman, Dar Ponshock, Phyllis Premau, LaVilla Schilling, Earl Schiszik, Elsie Schmutzler, Darin Thompson.

Those with ongoing health concerns: Lois Block, Todd Frahm, Pam Hardrath, Audrey Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Michael Howe, Paul Kilty, Jodi Krause, Scott Kollmansberger, Sandy Lemens, Dylan Maki, Linda Marchinek, Bill Martens, Kris Ovans,

Dylan Rottscheit, Tammi Schiferl, Doris Seefeld, Joanne Seefeld, Jon Soderberg, Kimberly Tate, Michael Weigel, Lenore Williams.

Those with cancer: Judi Andrew, Linda Bauer, Keith Borchardt, Brenda Gardner, Sue Johnson, Mark Kilty, Parker Klimmer, Dennis Krause, Jeff Miller, Michelle Oelke, Kathy Pieper, Tom Steiner, Barb Wachsmuth, Francis Wash, Mark Zimmerman, Emily Weiler.

Those serving in the military: Tyler Klement

If you have any updates on these prayer requests or any additional prayer concerns, please contact the office. Pastor Bolstad is available for visits upon request. Contact the office or pastor.

December




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger	29	30	1 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 11 AM—1 PM Visitation 1 PM Memorial Service for Harold Boyer 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	6	7	8 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9 AM Worship at Spencer 10 AM JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 1 PM Mission Trip Planning	13	14 6:30 PM Spencer Council	15 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	16 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	17	18
19 9 AM Kids Christmas Concert 9 AM Worship at Spencer NO JAM 10 AM ELCA Informational Congregation Meeting 11 AM Worship at Riplinger 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 	20	21 5:30 PM Worship Committee 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack 	22 6:30 PM Cross Training 6:30 PM LIVE 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	23	24 Christmas Eve 2 PM Spencer 4 PM Spencer 6 PM Spencer 8 PM Riplinger	25 Christmas Day 9 AM Spencer 
26 9 AM Worship at Spencer NO JAM 11 AM Worship at Riplinger	27	28 5 PM COME (Community Outreach Meal for Everyone)	29 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	30	31 	1

Spencer Serving Schedule

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Technology	Kyler Hardrath	Tracey Ackman	Rachel Nieman	Leah Nieman
Sound	Ryan Hardrath	Tracey Ackman	Rachel Nieman	Leah Nieman
Reader	Teri Schorer	Glenda Fellenz	Allen Jicinsky	Gail Jicinsky
Hospitality	Teri Schorer	Lori Cook	Pam Hardrath	Gail Jicinsky

Riplinger News

Attendance		December Readers	
Oct. 31	15	Dec. 5	Brenda Newman
Nov. 7	16	Dec. 12	Trish Porter
Nov. 14	13	Dec. 19	Dave Newman
Nov. 21	15	Dec. 24	Joan Miller
		Dec. 26	Sherry Schmutzler



Spencer Worship

Attendance

Oct. 31	49
Nov. 7	51
Nov. 14	76
Nov. 21	

SCRIP

Important Note—If you purchase gift cards (Scrip program) for gift giving, please stop at the Scrip table following worship or grab a paper order form from the brochure rack. You may also place an order online. All orders must be placed before December 12 to ensure Christmas delivery. Proceeds are used to help families in need in our community.

Start Scripping Today!

Consider purchasing gift cards from our scrip program for all of your holiday needs! More news for Scrip! Families can pay for their orders using a credit card! In addition to linking a bank account (Presto Pay), families now have the option to pay for gift cards using a Visa or Mastercard. Best of all rebates are not impacted in any way.

Note: a 2.6% fee is added to your total order at check out. Gift cards are available for purchase in the church office, Monday through Thursday 10am to 2pm. If you know of a family or individual who could benefit from the aid of Scrip, please let Pam Hardrath know. Life faces us with many challenges, and we may need a helping hand financially. That is where Scrip can help! For more information on how this program works, please feel free to ask Pam Hardrath.



Treasurer's Report: October 2021

INCOME	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Tithes & Offerings	\$7,276.00	\$91,481.57	\$148,000.00
Non-tithe General Fund	\$2,805.00	\$2,805.00	\$0.00
Riplinger Reimbursement Shared Exp.	\$466.55	\$4,593.98	\$8,000.00
Building Use	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$10,797.55	\$99,180.55	\$157,000.00

EXPENSES

1. Supporting the Wider Mission

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Tithe (10% to NW Synod/ELCA)	\$738.00	\$9,730.00	\$14,800.00
Synod/Official Mtgs (pastor-shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Synod Assembly Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$38.00	\$100.00
Total	\$738.00	\$9,768.00	\$15,600.00

2. Preparing For and Conducting Worship

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Copyrights	\$0.00	\$710.00	\$700.00
Community Worship Services	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$850.00
Pulpit Supply	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Instrument Repair	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$0.00	\$377.93	\$2,500.00
Music/Special Events	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$1,500.00
Organist Payroll	\$174.00	\$1,696.50	\$2,600.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$1,991.32	\$19,913.20	\$25,645.00
Total	\$2,565.32	\$23,947.63	\$35,295.00

3. Faith Formation Ministries For Our Children, Youth & Adults

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Birth to 3	\$104.95	\$259.72	\$300.00
Children's Ministry	\$140.17	\$112.44	\$3,000.00
Middle School (shared)	-\$25.75	\$533.52	\$1,000.00
High School (shared)	\$6.95	\$233.66	\$2,300.00
Adult Faith Formation	\$0.00	\$14.90	\$600.00
Right Now Media	\$0.00	\$1,319.89	\$1,300.00
Library Resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$995.66	\$9,956.60	\$12,820.00
Minister of Faith Formation Payroll	\$867.00	\$9,834.50	\$17,680.00
Total	\$2,088.98	\$22,265.23	\$39,200.00

4. Caring For Our Church Family

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Care Resources	\$0.00	\$28.48	\$150.00
Hospitality & Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$476.03	\$500.00
Office Supplies (shared)	\$62.44	\$468.60	\$600.00
Telephone & Internet (shared)	\$122.97	\$1,418.46	\$1,500.00
Postage (shared)	\$220.35	\$895.95	\$1,000.00
Copier Maintenance (shared)	\$271.43	\$889.47	\$1,100.00
Subscriptions, Software (shared)	\$20.00	\$1,805.43	\$2,100.00
Technology - all areas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$249.15	\$250.00
Vanco Electronic Giving Fees	\$114.81	\$1,095.02	\$1,500.00
Leadership Study Materials	\$0.00	\$71.60	\$100.00
Pastor Compensation*	\$995.66	\$9,956.60	\$12,820.00
Secretary Payroll (shared)	\$1,078.00	\$8,186.50	\$15,600.00
Total	\$2,885.66	\$25,541.29	\$38,420.00

5. Reaching Out to Serve Our Community

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Kitchen License/COME	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$500.00
Mission Project Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$800.00

Treasurer's Report: October 2021

6. Equipment and Maintaining Our Platform for Mission	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance
Electricity	\$311.87	\$3,379.63	\$4,500.00
Natural Gas	\$14.70	\$1,364.72	\$2,000.00
Holding Tanks	\$0.00	\$555.00	\$1,000.00
Waste Disposal	\$187.20	\$1,209.96	\$1,100.00
Cleaning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Supplies & General Maintenance	\$11.98	\$1,385.91	\$1,500.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$909.00	\$2,000.00
Lawn Mowing - Church	\$0.00	\$451.96	\$500.00
Cemetery Assoc. Lawn Care	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Staff Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Insurance & Workmen's Comp	\$334.12	\$3,758.26	\$4,500.00
Mileage - Pastor (shared)	\$70.56	\$533.68	\$1,200.00
FICA (7.65% staff payroll)	\$173.58	\$1,623.19	\$2,885.00
Treasurer Payroll	\$150.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
Total	\$1,254.01	\$16,671.31	\$27,685.00
Total Expenses			
	\$9,531.97	\$98,753.46	\$157,000.00
Difference	\$1,265.58	\$427.09	\$0.00

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Balance	Paid by Riplinger Annual Budget
Pastor Expense Breakout*				
Pastor Compensation (Spencer)	\$2,069.38	\$20,693.80	\$24,840.00	\$10,643.00
Housing Allowance (Spencer)	\$700.00	\$7,000.00	\$8,400.00	\$3,600.00
Social Security Allowance (Spencer)	\$211.86	\$2,118.60	\$2,542.00	\$1,090.00
Health Insurance & Pension (Spencer)	\$1,001.40	\$10,014.00	\$14,303.00	\$6,456.00
Books & Subscriptions (shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	
Continuing Education (shared)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	
Total Compensation**	\$3,982.64	\$39,826.40	\$51,285.00	

** 50% Worship, 25% Faith Formation, 25% Church Family

St. John's Lutheran Church Fund Balances Report: September 2021

	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	End Balance
General Fund (Checking Account)	\$14,909.97	\$10,797.55	\$9,531.97	\$0.00	\$16,175.55
Special Funds (Checking Account)					
ARK Balance	\$520.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$520.72
Fall Harvest Dinner	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Globe Money Bal-	\$12.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.62
Technology Balance	\$752.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$792.00
Bible Camp Scholar-	\$4,283.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,283.27
Mission Trip Balance	\$2,407.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,407.78
Kitchen Equipment	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.00
COME Balance	\$3,302.20	\$687.00	\$196.64	\$0.00	\$3,792.56
Seminary Balance	\$1,044.99	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,084.99
Memorial Gifts Bal-	\$2,445.41	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,545.41
Building Fund	\$28,961.17	\$1,811.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,772.55
Checking Account					\$62,611.45
Thrivent Choice	\$5,889.74	\$64.00	\$149.25	\$0.00	\$5,804.49
Sabbatical Fund	\$980.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$980.66
Total	\$65,734.53	\$13,539.93	\$9,877.86	\$0.00	\$69,396.60

October Spencer Council Minutes

St. John's Lutheran Church Leadership Minutes for October 12, 2021 (Approved)

Attending: Pastor Lowell Bolstad, Chair – Pam Hardrath; Secretary – Nadine Willett; Buildings & Grounds Director – Travis Hardrath; Food, Fellowship & Fun Director – Heather Vogel; Congregation Care Director – Teri Schorer; Minister of Faith Formation – Jenny Nieman; Worship Director – Luanne Schwarze

Missing: Beyond Our Doors Director – Position vacant; Vice Chair – Nick Wash; Treasurer – Roxie Wetterau

Call to order: At 6:30 PM by Chair Pam Hardrath
Opening prayer and devotion was led by Pastor Bolstad. The devotion shared the message to Go (The Great Commission), Love (The Greatest Commandment), and Heal (The Great Vision).

New Business:

- **Church Treasurer position opening:** After several years of dedicated service, Roxie Wetterau has resigned from the Treasurer position. She will graciously continue to serve until a replacement is trained.
- **2022 Budget:** All directors and teams are asked to begin the budget preparations for 2022.
- **Schedule for Congregational Council elections:** 1) A change to move the council elections for 2022 from a special October meeting to the annual meeting in January was approved. 2) A change to the constitution was approved to discontinue the special October election meeting and plan for including the elections in the annual meetings from this point forward.
- **2022 St. John's Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2022. There will be no JAM scheduled that day so teachers and others normally active with JAM may attend the meeting.
- **Quarterly statements and Letter:** A letter authored by Heather Vogel will be sent with the quarterly statements. The letter includes the opening quote by Leo Buscaglia, "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." Members are encouraged to prayerfully consider how they are being called to serve to meet many congregational needs.
- **Fall Time and Talent:** The fall time and talent sharing requests were sent to congregational members.

Old Business:

- **Monday evening worship:** Monday evening worship has fulfilled a need in summer and will now be suspended after the October 25th worship.
- **Serving needs:** Needs continue for COME meal leader, council candidates, finance auditors, and people to serve on the online worship team.

Secretary Report: Nadine Willett

- Minutes from council meeting on September 14, 2021 were approved.

Treasurer Report: Roxie Wetterau

- September Report: Income of \$7,828.95 was reported with disbursements of \$9,396.96 for a net difference of negative \$1,568.01 for the month. The General Fund balance is \$14,909.97. Quarterly reports were also provided and reviewed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lowell Bolstad

- Pastoral Ministry: Worship and preaching, administration, visitation, and wider church responsibilities continue to be

accomplished.

- Guidance is ongoing regarding the call process and worship service needs.

Minister of Faith Formation Report: Jenny Nieman

- JAM (Jesus and Me): While attendance has been low for the beginning of JAM this fall, there will likely be increased attendance upcoming. All three classrooms are staffed with teachers and the search continues to also have a helper and substitute teacher for each classroom. Fourth and Fifth graders will celebrate the Sacraments GIFT unit completion and first and second graders will begin their Worship GIFT unit on October 17.
- Cross training (6th to 8th Grade students): The series "Into the Unknown" is the focus. An additional male small group leader is needed. Accompanying devotions are posted on the Cross Training Facebook page and the accompanying Easy Worship and presentations are set up weekly as a part of the effective series coordination and student involvement.
- LIVE: Rich Wilke joined the team as a LIVE leader. The series "Finding Truth" by Francis Chan was used initially with the next series being "Different" by Jonathon Evans.

Worship Report: Luanne Schwarze

- Serving on a committee for online worship coordination was added to the fall time and talent sheet.
- Polka Fest worship is scheduled for October 10. Thanks to Jenny and Heather for handling preparations.
- Amanda will be doing the monthly serving schedules for tech, sound, reader, and hospitality server.
- Thanksgiving community worship will be online and go live at 7 PM on Wednesday, November 24.
- Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 PM. Christmas Day worship services will be at 9:00 AM. Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas was also discussed and Gwen Thomas welcomes suggestions and involvement.
- Worship attendance levels for Sunday and Monday services were reviewed.

Buildings and Grounds Report: Travis Hardrath

- Parking lot: The light pole work to bolt and straighten is complete.
- Church sign: A message in the newsletter was included seeking knowledge on restoring the sign footing.
- Spectrum: The connection was brought into the church building. Additional adjustments continue.

Food, Fellowship, and Fun Report: Heather Vogel

- Polka Fest worship is scheduled for October 10.

Congregation Care Report: Teri Schorer

- No updates.

Beyond Our Doors Report: Director position is vacant for 2021.

- Community Giving Tree: Thanks to Lori Cook for leading the Giving Tree effort.

Vice Chair Report: Nick Wash

- No updates.

Chairperson Report: Pam Hardrath

- Updates are included throughout meeting topics.

Business meeting adjourned. Council gathering time closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 9 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Willett, Council Secretary