

July  
2016



My brother Josh and his wife Emma had their second child, a girl named Ingrid,

and they have asked me to be one of her baptismal sponsors. I am so excited to have been asked to fulfill this role in Ingrid's life and I am looking forward to being at her baptism on July 24<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis.

I am excited to teach Ingrid about the God who loves her with the most incredible love. I want her to know that God made her special with her own unique gifts and abilities. I want to her to know that she is enough. I want her to grow up learning to trust God and to live out her relationship in her life in such a way that others will come to know God. I am excited for her to be growing up with parents who take her to worship every week and because I've watched them with her older brother, I am confident they will teach her to pray and read bible stories to her and help her learn to care for other people. I am excited that her family is part of a congregation that cherishes the children in their midst and values each person as a child of God just as

## I am excited and terrified!

they are, a congregation that welcomes everyone even those who are different. I am excited to be a partner with Ingrid's parents and congregation in raising her in the Christian faith "to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church." (Service of Holy Baptism, ELW pg 228)

At the same time, I am terrified that I won't be very good at filling these shoes. Will I get to spend enough time with her since I live three hours away and frankly my weekends are a bit busy. I am terrified of the world she is growing up in where people are more concerned about themselves than each other. I am terrified that she will be hurt by others who tell her she isn't good enough, maybe not in so many words but because what they say or do implies that she isn't good enough. I'm even more terrified that while I think she has a great church family, I also know it is often our fellow church members who are the most critical and judgmental. I am terrified that Ingrid will think she isn't good enough because she doesn't conform to the mold or expectations or because she likes a different style of music or a different way of dressing.

I hope and pray that Ingrid will learn that the most important thing is to know that Jesus loves her! I hope and pray that the people around her in her family, her school and her church will affirm by their words and actions that she is a beloved child of God. I hope and pray that her church family will help her to see that she is valued and worthy and wanted and that together they will worship the God who loves us, together they will work for peace and justice in this world and care for others and proclaim Christ in their words and deeds.

Yes, I'm excited to be a part of this journey not only with Ingrid but with her brother Axel, with my three grandsons, Noah, Drake and Jonah and with each and every child of God.

May we all remember the welcome we proclaim at each baptism and think about our role and commitment to welcome, embrace and raise up the children, the youth and people in our midst so that together we will love God and each other.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Rebekah

# Sharing Christ With All

## Worship Times

9:00 am Sunday @ Spencer  
11:00 am Sunday @ Riplinger

## Church Office

B3750 State Hwy 13  
Spencer, WI 54479  
715-659-5158

## Website:

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

## Pastor

Rev. Rebekah Tarras  
Email: [sjlcpastor@frontier.com](mailto:sjlcpastor@frontier.com)  
Home: 715-687-3430  
Cell: 715-897-5393

## Secretary:

Jenny Nieman  
Office Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Email: [sjlcoffice@frontier.com](mailto:sjlcoffice@frontier.com)  
Office: 715-659-5158

## Mission Statement

(Spencer)  
LIVE Daily in God's grace  
GROW in our discipleship  
SHARE Christ with all

## Communication Deadlines

Help us keep people informed by submitting your information to the church office before the following deadlines:

- Weekly e-mail:  
**Tuesday 9 am**
- Sunday bulletin  
**Thursdays 9 am**
- Monthly Newsletter:  
**20th of each month**

## Lay School of Ministry

### What is a "lay" person?

It is a churchy word used to identify baptized Christians who are not ordained. In other words, YOU!

### What is Lay School?

It is a two-year program offered by our Synod (the Northwest Synod of WI) to assist lay people to a deeper Christian identity and participation in the mission of the whole church.

### When does it meet?

During the school year September-May. Sessions are held on Friday evening and Saturday morning the weekend of the second Saturday of the month.

### Where are these sessions held?

At Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls.

### What are the class topics?

Courses are designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of the Bible, Worship, Spirituality, Christian History and Lutheran Theology.

### Is housing available? What about meals?

Free housing is available with members of a local congregation. Meals on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday noon are also offered at a nominal cost.

### How much does it cost?

Tuition is \$475 per year. Book costs are approximately \$250. However, St. John's, Spencer offers \$100 per year scholarship and many of the books are available in the church library or pastor's library. In addition, there are a number of scholarships available.

### Who from our congregation has participated?

Jody Scidmore, Janell Kopp

### Where can I find out more information?

<http://www.layschoolofministry.org/>

### How do I sign up?

Get a registration form here: <http://www.layschoolofministry.org/LSMRegistrationForm.pdf>



# Save the Date!

There are a number of exciting things in the works for this fall and we don't want you to miss out! Get these dates on your calendar.

## **New Picture Directory at Spencer**

Pictures will be taken September 20-24 for a new picture directory and we want to see your smiling faces. Watch for more information and make sure to sign your family up for a time slot.

## **Pancake Dinner Fundraiser to help support our Seminary Student**

We will be having a Pancake Dinner Fundraiser with a raffle on Sunday October 2. We'll be looking for helpers and raffle items. Watch for more details.

## **Spencer Annual Meeting will be October 30 at 9 am**

Each fall there is a congregational meeting for the purpose of elections. This year the council has set this meeting to be our annual meeting as well. In addition to elections we will also approve the 2017 budget. All voting members should plan to attend.

## **Quilting Event**

There are a number of quilt tops that need to be tied and finished so we have planned a work day for October 8. No experience necessary. The primary focus will be on tying and finishing quilts to send out to Lutheran World Relief. There are some packets in the end hall closet with enough fabric squares to make a quilt top if you would like to sew a quilt top together prior to the Oct. 8 event. There is also a box of fabric that needs to be cut into squares if anyone is interested in helping to do that. Questions? Talk to Pastor Rebekah or Jenny Nieman.

## **Be the Church Event September 18**

The ELCA is encouraging congregations to plan a "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday in September where the congregation goes out to serve the community. We've done similar events in the past and due to many requests, we are planning another event in September where we can go out to be the church and do God's Work with our hands. If you would be willing to help plan the projects or help with coordination, talk to Denny Kopp.

## **Readings**

### **July 3**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 67  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 12:13-17

### **July 24**

Psalm 40:1-11

### **July 31**

Romans 8:28-39

### **July 10**

Joshua 1:1-9

### **July 17**

Riplinger– Colossians 1:15  
-28  
Spencer– Mission Trip  
Sharing

## **Spencer Attendance**

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Wed. May 25 | 12 |
| Wed. June 1 | 13 |
| Wed. June 8 | 10 |
| Wed June 15 | 17 |
| Wed June 22 | 15 |

## **9 am Sunday Worship**

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| May 29  | 66 |
| June 5  | 83 |
| June 12 | 70 |
| June 19 | 67 |

# Kids Ministry

## 2016-2017 Sunday school teachers needed

Do you have a passion to share the love of Christ with kids? Why not consider being a Sunday school teacher? Curriculum and training is provided, talk with Jenny Nieman if you have questions or would like to learn more.



## Christmas Program Planning Team Wanted

Christmas planning in July??? Yep! It's necessary to begin putting together a planning team now to select a program and dreaming about set coordination and much more. If you are interested in being on the team, contact Jenny Nieman in the church office.



## What's New at Luther Park?

On Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Luther Park Board of Directors hosted a welcome picnic for the summer staff – this year there are 36. Pastors Brad and Bert, our grill masters, grilled brats with all the fixins', plus, we provided delicious salads, chips, and desserts. After dining, the summer staff concluded the evening with a very uplifting worship service. What a wonderful group of talented young people from the United States and around the world!

Summer camp officially began with the arrival of the first campers on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. New friends, a deeper faith, and new memories are being made each week. As of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 930 campers are registered for this summer!

Saturday, August 13 beginning at 10 a.m.: Plans for Heart for Luther Park, our one big fundraiser for the year, include viewing beautiful quilts inside the Chapel, and, depending on the weather, auctioning those quilts outside this year. Our auctioneer is former Bishop Bob Berg. Silent auction items will still be displayed in the Fireside Room of the Chapel. Donations of quilts and silent auction items are welcome. Dinner will be available for purchase beginning at 11 a.m. This year the menu includes grilled chicken, potato salad, baked beans, dinner roll, pickles and a beverage. Pie and ice cream will also be available for purchase. Kids' Day Camp for children in attendance is available for \$15 and includes lunch, swimming, crafts and FUN!

New this year: Raffle tickets for: 1) Courtyard Steps Quilt valued at \$1,000; 2) Two Registrations for 2017 Summer Camp valued at \$750; 3) Chain Saw Carved Bear valued at \$500. Plus, Dave Dobbs is offering a separate raffle the day of the event for a Brick-Oven Pizza Party (within a 40 mile radius) valued at \$750. A 2<sup>nd</sup> day raffle is for a kayak with paddle. All Drawings will take place beginning at 3 p.m. during the Heart for Luther Park event. Please plan to attend to support the ministry at Luther Park!

*Thank you to ALL who work at Luther Park and to those who attend camp. We thank you for your support and appreciate your continued prayers.*

*Kay Moen-Urseth  
Member of the Board of Directors*



# July Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Glenda Fellenz
- 2 Heidi Shupe
- 3 Carter Griepentrog
- 4 Marilyn Bruger
  - Luanne Schwarze
- 5 Jordan Block
  - Allie Delo
  - Pam Hardrath
- 6 Stacy Henaman
  - Clark Reynolds
  - Sharon Schizik
  - Jackie Soback

- 7 Kinsley Kalepp
  - Brenda Labrensz
- 8 Dawn Buse
  - Darlene Dommer
- 9 Joan Bruss
  - Jenny Nieman
- 11 Cheryl Gallion
  - Velma Hera
  - Hazel Seeman (103)
- 12 Dani Soback
  - Jeremy Vogel
- 13 Dennis Kopp
  - Emily Weiler
- 14 Gary Grieser
  - Tony Cloud
  - Josh Reynolds
- 15 Bob Burns
  - Jenny Reynolds

- Carol Sandley
- 17 Nancy Halverson
  - Lucas Kilty
- 20 Wayne Hendrickson Jr.
  - Vanessa Stroetz
- 22 Ariana Krueger
  - Neil Schauer
- 23 Iva Schuette
- 24 Tom Dommer
- 25 Joyce Block
  - Aidan Griepentrog
- 26 Jody Scidmore
- 28 Ed Bruger
  - Brady Kalepp
- 29 Jenna Zahn
- 30 Judi Andrew
  - Morgan Elsinger
  - Chris Schauer

**Summer Worship Schedule**  
 Sundays at Spencer 9 am  
 Sundays at Riplinger 11 am  
*No Worship on Wednesday for July and August*

## July Anniversaries

- 1 Gwen & Ron Schmidt 42 yrs
- 2 Bruce & Janine Luepke 43 yrs
  - Milton & Kay Viergutz 10 yrs
- 5 Ray & Blanche Toltzman 73 yrs
  - Roxie & Paul Wetterau 24 yrs
- 10 Shawn & Kristy Kieffer 16 yrs
- 12 John & Jane Meacham 34 yrs
- 13 Jeremy & Hannah Olson 7 yrs
- 15 Jeremy & Jenni Oelrich 3 yrs
- 16 Jake & Shinae Reynolds 4 yrs
- 19 Larry & Pam Herman 23 yrs
- 25 Cheryl & Steve Bruesewitz 28 yrs
- 28 Zach & Courtney Fleischman 2 yrs
  - Josh & Jenny Reynolds 13 yrs

## Membership Notes

### **Baptisms**

- Trenton Knecht, son of David & Amanda Knecht
  - May 22 at Spencer
- Brody Hendrickson daughter of Andy & Jen Hendrickson
  - June 19 at Riplinger

### **Funerals**

- Marvin Seeman June 17 at Spencer
- Lois Mellenthin June 23 at Spencer

### **Wedding**

- Justin & Mindy (Weix) Burns June 18 at Spencer

# Riplinger News

## WELCA Minutes

WELCA meeting was held on June 2. Those attending were Pastor Rebekah, Lois Block and Sherry Schmutzler. Pastor led Bible Study. This month's theme was "Heart of the Matter-Conflict, Forgiveness and Reconciliation."

Treasurer's report was read.

Check was received from Eleanor Mellenthin for WELCA.

Discussion about Assisted Living in Colby needing items. Lois was going to check and report back. Also discussed if tie blankets or teddy bears would be in need at Clark County for children that are removed from their home. Pastor suggested contacting Social Services.

Potluck was served. No meeting in July. Next meeting will be August 4.

Minutes submitted by Sherry Schmutzler, acting secretary for Ila Meacham



## Steeple Repaired

A big thank you to Keith, Trish and Payton Porter for all the work they did in repairing and painting the steeple. It is so very much appreciated.

| Date    | Reader            | Communion   | Counters                          |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| July 3  | Sherry Schmutzler |             | Wayne Hendrickson<br>John Meacham |
| July 10 | Tom Dommer        | Joan Miller | Scott Parker<br>Tom Dommer        |
| July 17 | Bob Burns         |             | Sherry Schmutzler<br>Jody Viegut  |
| July 24 | Brenda Newman     |             | Sue Wallace<br>Bob Burns          |
| July 31 | Dave Newman       |             | Dave Newman<br>Dawn Pagenkopf     |

Reminder  
Quarterly Meeting  
July 17  
following worship.

The Kuester Family will be holding their  
70th Family Reunion  
the weekend of July 24.

## Riplinger Attendance

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| May 1  | 25 |
| May 8  | 38 |
| May 15 | 45 |
| May 22 | 32 |
| May 29 | 19 |



## 80th Birthday Celebration

Everyone is invited to Cherokee Park on July 4, noon-4 pm to help celebrate Dennis Seefeld's 80th birthday.

Questions about the party call Dennis & Doris' daughter Kelly Wussow  
715-302-5217.



# Spencer Serving Schedule

If you cannot serve when you are scheduled please find a replacement and then contact the church office with the change so it can be **noted** and printed correctly in the bulletin. Thanks!

## July Schedule

| 9:00 am  | July 3                          | July 10                         | July 17                            | July 24                               | July 31                       |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Greeter</b>   | Jesse Klement                   | Rich Wilke                      | Cindy Weiler                       | Penny Vinnedge                        | Julie VanArk                  |
| <b>Technology</b>  | Dennis Kopp                     | Paige Lawrence                  | Randi Thompson                     | Tracey Ackman                         | Jody Scidmore                 |
| <b>Sound</b>   | Bruce Luepke                    | Nadine Willett                  | Brandon Kopp                       | Dennis Kopp                           | Paige Lawrence                |
| <b>Assisting Minister</b>                                  | Roxie Wetterau                  | Jody Scidmore                   | Cindy Weiler                       | Janell Kopp                           | Jenny Nieman                  |
| <b>Ushers</b>  | Jan Ammons<br>Ed Bruger         | Bob Helsten<br>Bill Martens     | Dennis Kopp<br>Milt Viergutz       | Travis Hardrath<br>Jim Christopherson | Bob & Glenda<br>Fellenz       |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b>                                | Jesse Klement<br>Kelly Lawrence | Dennis Kopp<br>Janell Kopp      | Jody Scidmore<br>Alexis Tremelling | NO Communion                          | Janine Luepke<br>Neil Schauer |
| <b>Reader</b>  | Glenda Fellenz                  | Jerry Marden                    | Bill Martens                       | Teri Schorer                          | Randi Thompson                |
| <b>Acolyte</b>   | Jaci Cook                       | Kaitlyn Schmidt                 | Leah Cook                          | Treyton Ackman                        | Aliyah Anderson               |
| <b>Basket bearer</b>                                       | Chris Schmidt                   | Davis Vinnedge                  | Abby Wilke                         |                                       | Alec Cook                     |
| <b>Hospitality</b>   | Jesse Klement                   | Luanne                          | Neil Schauer                       | Pam Hardrath                          | Julie VanArk                  |
| <b>Counters</b>  | Lori Helsten<br>Jerry Marden    | Teri Schorer<br>Travis Hardrath | Brandon Kopp,<br>Larry Labrenz     | Lori Helsten<br>Paul Christopherson   | Teri Schorer<br>Wayne Hagen   |
| <b>Communion Set up for the month:</b> Amanda Gronski      |                                 |                                 |                                    |                                       |                               |
| <b>Communion bread baker for the month:</b> Amanda Gronski |                                 |                                 |                                    |                                       |                               |



### Worship on Wednesday Suspended

Due to low attendance, Wednesday night worship service is put on hold for the rest of the summer. There will be no Wednesday worship during July and August.



# 2016

# July

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                                 | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>26</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship at Riplinger<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Vacation Bible School Supper<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Vacation Bible School                          | <b>27</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b><br>Vacation Bible School Supper<br><b>6:00 PM</b><br>Vacation Bible School | <b>28</b><br><b>7:30 AM</b> Fitness Class<br><b>5:00 PM</b> COME<br><b>5:30 PM</b><br>Vacation Bible School Supper<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Capital Campaign Team<br><b>6:00 PM</b><br>Vacation Bible School | <b>29</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> Vacation Bible School Supper<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Vacation Bible School<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Worship | <b>30</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> Vacation Bible School Supper<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Vacation Bible School<br><b>6:30 PM</b><br>Personnel Team | <b>1</b>                               | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship at Riplinger  | <b>4 Church Office Closed</b>  | <b>5</b><br><b>7:30 AM</b> Fitness Class  | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>                               | <b>9</b><br><b>8:00 AM</b><br>Mission Trip Group Leaves for Nashville, TN |
| <b>10</b><br>Mission Trip in Tennessee<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship at Riplinger  | <b>11</b><br>Mission Trip in Tennessee<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Yoga  | <b>12</b><br>Mission Trip in Tennessee<br><b>7:30 AM</b> Fitness Class  | <b>13</b><br>Mission Trip in Tennessee   | <b>14</b><br>Mission Trip in Tennessee   | <b>15</b><br>Mission Trip in Tennessee | <b>16</b><br><b>3:00 PM</b><br>Mission Trip Group Returns                 |
| <b>17</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship w/ Mission Trip group sharing<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Club 52 Banquet<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship at Riplinger<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Riplinger Quarterly Meeting | <b>18</b><br><b>6:15 PM</b> Yoga<br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Council Meeting                                  | <b>19</b><br><b>7:30 AM</b> Fitness Class<br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Children of the Day Study  | <b>20</b><br>Pastor on vacation  | <b>21</b><br>Pastor on Vacation  | <b>22</b><br>Pastor on Vacation        | <b>23</b><br>Pastor on Vacation   |
| <b>24</b><br>Pastor on Vacation<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship at Riplinger<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Kuester Family Reunion at Riplinger                                    | <b>25</b><br>Pastor on Vacation<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Yoga   | <b>26</b><br>Pastor on Vacation<br><b>7:30 AM</b> Fitness Class<br><b>5:00 PM</b> COME  | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br><b>3:30 PM</b> Directory Planning meeting   | <b>29</b>                              | <b>30</b>   |
| <b>31</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship at Riplinger<br><b>12:30 PM</b> Worship Planning Team Meeting  | <b>1</b><br><b>6:15 PM</b> Yoga  | <b>2</b><br><b>7:30 AM</b> Fitness Class  | <b>3</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Worship<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Pancake Dinner Planning   | <b>4</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Riplinger WELCA   | <b>5</b>                               | <b>6</b>  |

# Where Will Flat Jesus Travel this Summer?

## Flat Jesus

Join in the fun this summer and take this Flat Jesus wherever you go! As summer sets in we find ourselves in and out of the church building for worship. So to help us stay connected during the summer months and to help remind all of us to share God's love with everyone we meet. Simply take Flat Jesus with you this summer, then take pictures of Flat Jesus throughout the summer while you're playing, adventuring, on vacation or just hanging out at home!

Then email your pictures to the church office ([sjlcoffice@frontier.com](mailto:sjlcoffice@frontier.com)), post them on the church Facebook page or bring printed pictures to the church building with you to post on the U.S. map on the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway. Let's see where Flat Jesus will all go this summer.

