



St. John's Lutheran Church

B3750 State Hwy 13, Spencer, WI 54479

www.stjohnsspencer.com

715-659-5158

Everything happens for a reason? Really?

Prayer for this week: Dearest Jesus, thank you for being with us as life happens to us, each and every day. Let our faith in you sustain us as you shape us into your likeness. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Day 1: Galatians 6:7-10

Day 2: Job 4:1-9

Day 3: Job 42:1-8

Day 4: Exodus 34:5-9

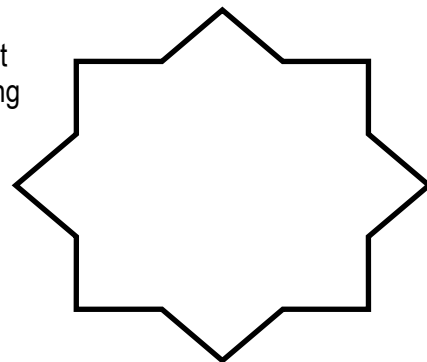
Day 5: Matthew 5:43-45

Day 6: Luke 11:11-13, 13:1-5

Day 7: 1 Corinthians 10:11-13

"Suffering is not God's decision for us but it occurs in the process of life. Suffering is not given to teach us something, but through it we may learn. Suffering is not given to punish us, but sometimes it is the consequence of our sin or poor judgment. Suffering does not occur because our faith is weak, but through it our faith may be strengthened. God does not depend on human suffering to achieve his purposes, but sometimes through suffering his purposes are achieved. Suffering can either destroy us, or it can add meaning to our life."

In the frame to the right is a picture of everything that separates us from God. What do you see there? Nothing. Not a single thing. Because God is always with us.



Talk It Over

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your family turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Use the following questions to begin your conversation:

- What is the worst, most bonehead "excuse" or "reason" that you've ever given to someone for doing (or not doing) something?
- What does Paul mean when he says that "God works for good for those who love him and are called according to his purposes?"
- How do you interpret suffering? Are you tempted to attribute tragedy or misfortune to God?
- Romans 8:28 says: "We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose." What does this mean to you? What does it mean for the strength of your faith?
- The next time you hear someone say, "Everything happens for a reason," enter into a conversation about what that means. Entertain the mystery of God in the world. We *don't* always know why things happen. But we know that God is always with us, and for us.
- Prayerfully consider your views toward the suffering of others and your own suffering as well. Ask God to guide you and lift you up as you serve the needs of others.
- Read through the quote at the right. How does this help you understand why difficult things happen?
- Instead of using this cliché, what are other ways you might bring comfort or consolation to someone going through a difficult time?

Spencer's Mission is to Live daily in God's grace, Grow in our discipleship, Share Christ with all

Just a Little More for the Fill and Seal,

we've accepted a bid for resealing the parking lot from A & A Sealcoating and Striping for \$7,000 there are only 6 envelopes left. If you are able to help out, fill an envelope and drop it in the offering basket.

Giving Statements are in the lobby, please pick yours up.

Continuing the Journey of

Widowhood Retreat August 5-6 at St. Anthony's Retreat Center, Marathon. An opportunity to gather with other widows and widowers for noting the common realities as well as the unique experience for each person. This "not chosen" journey offers step by step, day by day adaptations and hopefully trusting one's inner strength. More info on the bulletin board.

Christmas Program Planning Team

Wanted anyone willing to help plan and organize the program talk to Jenny Nieman.

Concession Stand Help St. John's will be helping at the Brad Bauer Tournament this year in the concession stand. We are looking for people to work a four hour shift on Aug. 19, 5-9 pm; Aug 20, 4-8 pm; or Aug 21, 12-4pm. Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby.

LIFTING UP IN PRAYER

John Ovans, Tom Cook, Sean Parker, Duane Meacham, Karen Larson (Nancy Dietsche's sister), Doug Oelrich, Jeff Day, Gail Jicinsky, Linda Wunrow, Darlene Dommer, Corey Seefeldt, Phyllis Ovans, Alan Griepentrog, Clint Vaughan, Sue Miller, Tom Marcott, Jon Soderberg, Audrey Heldt, Art Halverson, Cathy & Jessica Buss

Serving Today

9:00 am Spencer

Greeter: Julie VanArk
Tech: Jody Scidmore
Sound: Bruce Luepke
Assisting Minister: Cindy Weiler
Ushers: Bill Martens,
Reader: Randi Thompson
Communion: Janine Luepke,
Neil Schauer
Acolyte: Aliyah Anderson
Hospitality: Julie Van Ark
Counters: Teri Schorer, Wayne Hagen, Jackie Soback

11:00 am Riplinger

Reader: Dave Newman
Counters: Dave Newman,
Dawn Pagenkopf

Next Sunday, August 7

9:00 am Spencer

Greeter: Jan Ammons
Tech: Roxie Wetterau
Sound: Randi Thompson
Assisting Minister: Brandon Kopp
Ushers: Bob & Glenda Fellenz
Reader: Cindy Weiler
Communion: Jan Ammons,
Alexis Tremelling
Acolyte: Gavid Kilty
Basket bearer: Dani Soback
Hospitality: Penny Vinnedge
Counters: Brandon Kopp, Travis Hardrath, Teri Schorer

11:00 am Riplinger

Reader: Gail Burns
Counters: Brenda Newman
Wayne Hendrickson

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Worship at Riplinger
12:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting

MONDAY

6:15 PM Yoga

TUESDAY

7:30 AM Fit Club

THURSDAY

1:00 PM Riplinger WELCA

FRIDAY

Pastor's Day off

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Worship at Riplinger

MONDAY

Jenny on vacation
6:15 PM Yoga

STAFF

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