



WEEKLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023

live life
together

THE SPIEL



UNEXPECTED ENDINGS

This December we have one last “*UNEXPECTED*” to discover and unpack together. Just as we began the year with *UNEXPECTED BEGINNINGS* we will close out the year with *UNEXPECTED ENDINGS*.

Come join us in
worship to the
Unexpected Messiah,
Unexpected King and
Unexpected Savior
who came in the
form of an
Unexpected Baby.



Unexpected Endings:

- December 3, 10, 17 at 9am



Unexpected Christmas Advent Service

- December 6th, 6:00pm



Christmas Eve Worship

- December 24th, 4:00pm



Christmas Day Worship

- December 25th, 9:00am



UNEXPECTED: ADVENT DEVOTIONS

What did we learn this year? What did God impress on you? We invite you to use the advent calendar and devotions on the following page as a way to reflect on the year and prepare your hearts for Jesus. These devotions can be used individually, as journal prompts, as family discussions or however best suits your household.

May this Christmas be a time of Unexpected Joy, Peace, and Love as you and your household celebrate our Savior's birth.

THE SPIEL



UNEXPECTED: ADVENT DEVOTIONS



1 John 1:1-14

What new thing has God started in you and/or your household this year?

Unexpected Beginnings

2 Psalm 20


What feels too big or too hard this Christmas season?
How could you trust in God's power?



Unexpected Power

3 Isaiah 11:1-5

How are you leaving space to allow Jesus to teach and counsel you? Who are you walking alongside in their faith journey?



Unexpected Teaching

4 Psalm 105:1-5

What miracles have you seen God perform this past year?



Unexpected Miracles

5 Luke 1:5-25


What will you dare to ask of Jesus today?
What is He asking of you?



Unexpected Requests

6 Luke 1:26-38


Reflect on the times when God gave you unexpected courage this past year. What did you learn about God? About yourself?



Unexpected Courage

7 Luke 1:46-56

For what can you give thanks?
What praises can you sing to the Lord?
What are you led to confess?



Unexpected Prayer

8 Romans 10:5-15

Who in your life is needing an unexpected message of hope and love this Christmas?



Unexpected Messengers

9 Luke 2:8-20


What have you and/or your household learned this year about being a follower of Jesus?



Unexpected Followers

10 Psalm 139:1-18


Sit in silence.
What question is God asking you?
What assurance is He wanting to give you today?



Unexpected Questions

11 Matthew 1:18-25

How can you be a part of someone's unexpected provision today?



Unexpected Provisions

12 Matthew 2:1-12


Spend time thanking God for the moments this past year when He intervened for your good.



Unexpected Endings

13 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Who do you need Jesus to be for you today? What will you surrender to allow Him full access to your life?



Unexpected Christmas

14 Revelation 1:8
Hebrews 13:8

Where are you currently experiencing Jesus' unchanging and perfect love?



Unexpected Christmas

15 Psalm 95:1-7
Luke 2:1-7

Write a song of praise to the Prince of Peace!



HIGHER GROUND

equipping our youth with life-long skills to be followers of Jesus.

COMING UP FOR YOUTH:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: 6:30PM-8PM

This is a change from the original calendar. This week we will meet from 6:30pm-8pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH: 5:30PM-8PM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Appetizer potluck for our Christmas Party.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: 5:30PM-8PM MOVIE NIGHT

Pizza and movie night with Life in the Word.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: 5:30PM-8PM MOVIE NIGHT

Pizza and movie night with Higher Ground.

NO LIFE IN THE WORD IN DECEMBER

QUESTIONS? CONTACT EMILY POWERS: EPOWERS@LIVELIFETOGETHER.COM



Our Adopt a School Partner is:

WAYS TO SERVE:

LEOPOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

If you want to volunteer at Leopold in the classroom you will need to go to this website and follow the steps necessary. They are in need of people to read with students and help with classroom celebrations.

WE'RE COLLECTING GIFT CARDS

Join us in encouraging the staff at Leopold Elementary this Christmas. We are collecting \$10 gift cards to local businesses to be included in cards for staff at Leopold. Gift cards can be dropped off at the Church between now and December 1st. *Suggested places: Kwik Trip, Culvers, Starbucks, Target, or other local coffee, shopping or dining establishments.*

Leopold has received a Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Grant so they receive those daily and are in need of someone from **8:30 - 9:30am Tuesday - Friday** to help sort and count out the amount needed for each class. Even if you could take one of those days it would be greatly appreciated.

Questions? Contact Amy Meyer: ameyer@livelifetogether.com

Kids **CONNECTION**

Kids Connection is for children 4th grade and under, and their parents. Kids learn bible stories through games, crafts and songs. Kids build strong relationships with each other while learning truths about Jesus. 5th and 6th grade students are invited to attend this class as junior helpers. Contact Emily Powers at epowers@livelifetogether.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: 10:15AM-11:30AM

Join us for activities and crafts that help children unpack the Christmas story. This week we will discover the adventure that the shepherds went on to find the baby Jesus.

MESSAGE & NOTES

SUBSTITUTE

Genesis 22:1-14

Focus: In the profound test of Abraham's faith, discover the unexpected ending—God's provision of a substitute and a glimpse of the ultimate sacrifice to come.

WORD

Read Isaiah 11:1-10

Look up verse 1 in different translations and discuss the meaning behind: "Stump of David's Family" - "Stump of Jesse".

What comes to mind when you think of a stump sprouting a new shoot and a branch bearing fruit?

Read verses 2-5 again: How does Jesus fulfill these verses? Can you turn to the New Testament and find verses that show this?

Now read 6-10 again: What feelings do you have as you read these verses?

Consider playing or singing "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (listen especially to verse 4)

How are you moved to pray after reading these verses?

PRAY

Follow through with how the Holy Spirit leads you to pray.

LOVE

How will you show love this week to someone in your family?

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: 9AM WORSHIP

*Join us for our in-person and online worship on Sunday at 9am. Join us online at lifelifetogether.com/thisweek. You will find the livestream, the bulletin, the link for 2*22, the lifeLines and all that you need for the week, on this page. We look forward to worshiping together.*

SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 10TH: AFTER WORSHIP 2*22: THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

We're kicking off 2*22 for the fall on October 1st. We'll be diving into the Right Now Media Series called *The 7 Churches of Revelation*. One of the most complex and most mysterious books of the Bible, the text addresses seven churches located in what is now modern-day Turkey, who each received a personal letter from the risen Christ. Who were these churches and what did they represent? What can they teach us about the history of our civilization? What do they have to say to Christians of today and those who live in the 21st century? Could the prophecies of Revelation still be relevant today? We'll watch the video and have some discussion time afterward. **NOTE: There will not be 2*22 on December 3rd. Join us at the Budget Review!**

MEMORY TREE

We will be offering our memory ornaments once again in honor of those loved ones who have passed away in 2023. Please submit the name of the deceased person and your relationship to them to Jess at jomalley@lifelifetogether.com by December 3rd. This ornament is a keepsake for you. There will be blank tags available as well for you as well through Christmas.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: AFTER WORSHIP BUDGET REVIEW

Join us after worship as we review the budget for 2024. This will be in place of the Right Now Media series in 2*22 for December 3rd.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH: 6:30PM ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

All women are invited to this elegant evening of Worship, Fellowship, Dessert and an inspiring message to kick off the Christmas Season. This will once again, be hosted in the Sanctuary. Email Amy if you want to host a table at ameyer@livelifetogether.com. You can sign up at the Welcome Desk *ONLY* if you don't have a table.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH: 6:00PM ADVENT FAMILY WORSHIP

Join us for our annual family advent service. We will worship and set our hearts on the unexpected gift of Jesus this Christmas. Part of the service will also be dedicated to making cards for teachers at Leopold.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH 11:30AM-2PM DUDE CREW

Join us on December 16th! We're getting together to hang out, eat some food and have some fellowship! RSVP to Chad at chadenright_wa@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AFTER WORSHIP ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Join us for our annual family advent service. We'll vote for incoming board members, talk about the year in review, and get a preview of 2024.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

This year, we will have one worship service all together at 4pm. Join us! **There will be no morning worship service on Christmas Eve.**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH 9AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Join us for Worship on Sunday on Christmas Day at 9am.

DECEMBER STORY TOPIC: LISTENS FOR INSIGHT

What have you learned about God and your walk with him this year?

We are collecting stories as a way to inspire and encourage others. We'd love to hear from you! It can be anything, big or small. You can write on our story wall in the Welcome Area or you can email your story to Jess at jomalley@livelifetogether.com.

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES



CHECK OUT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



PRAYERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS//



SCAN THE CODE TO CONNECT
TO OUR YOUTH MINISTRY!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
CONNECT WITH US!



BIRTHDAYS

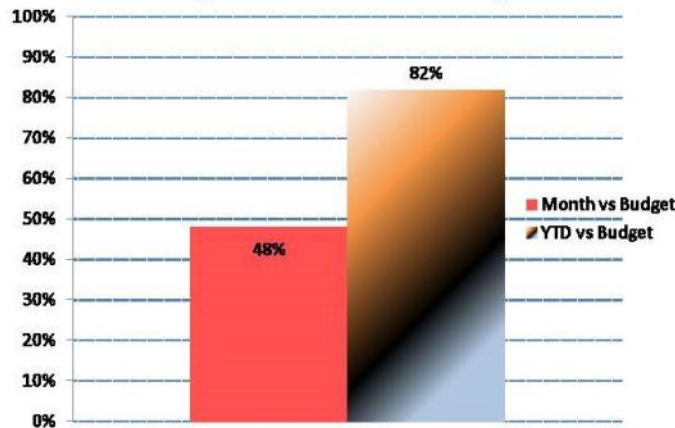
12/4 Adrian Adshead
12/4 Amalia Hoppe
12/4 Pete Jaeger
12/5 Linda Haas
12/7 Kiara Racchini
12/8 Dave Brock
12/9 Andrea Conrad
12/9 Brianna O'Malley

Birthdays and Anniversaries for this week! If your special day does not appear,
please contact the church office to update your records.

GLANCE *at the* FINANCE



Offerings: Month and YTD vs. Budget



Tithes and Offerings as of November 20th, 2023					
November Received	\$	23,294	2023 Received	\$	501,348
November Goal MTD		32,374	2023 Goal thru November 20		521,254
November Monthly Goal		48,561	Total 2023 Goal		612,376
Monthly Remaining		25,268	Left to Reach Annual Goal		111,028
November Total Last Year		62,087	This Year Surplus/(Deficit)		(19,907)
			2022 Total		661,724

Additional Information as of November 20th, 2023			
Line of Credit Balance	ZERO	2022 Loan Balance	\$ 79,305
Paid off on 11/01/23		Last paid 10/24/23	

Church and Preschool Finances for September 2023					
	2023	2022		2023	2022
Church Rev.	463,840	485,307	Preschool Rev.	114,412	105,594
Church Exp.	521,567	563,849	Preschool Exp.	101,851	98,402
Net Income	(57,727)	(78,541)	Net Income	12,561	7,192
YOY Difference	20,815		YOY Difference	5,369	


COMMUNION

If you're a guest, you're welcome to attend the Lord's Supper with us this morning. We only ask of you what God asks of us all - that you can answer 'yes' to the following questions:

- ♦ Have I been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- ♦ Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
- ♦ Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- ♦ Do I believe that Jesus' true body and blood are present in the bread and wine?
- ♦ Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If you have questions, please feel free to speak with a Pastor, a Worship Assistant, or someone sitting near you.

SERVICE TIMES:



the Church
2833 Raritan Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Combined Traditional & Exalt Worship
9:00AM [In-Person & Online]

UNEXPECTED...Endings: Substitute [December 3rd, 2023]