



WEEKLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

live life
together

THE SPIEL



KIDS CONNECTION: EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

BY EMILY POWERS

Youth Director/epowers@livelifetogether.com

Emily oversees youth and family ministry, including Life in the Word for 5th-6th grade, Higher Ground for 7th-12th grade, and youth mission trips. She also works to equip parents and families to live out and grow in faith at home.

Kids Connection has had a great start to the school year! This year the children are adventurers who are exploring God's Word. We are learning that the stories in the Bible are connected and that we are also part of God's Big Story. So far this year we have discovered the adventures of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and the Shepherds and Wise Men. From infants playing with toys to middle school students leading groups, Kids Connection has a place for children of any age! Join us in 2024 as we continue our adventures with Joseph, Esther, Ruth, King David and more.



*Making
altars as we
learned
about
Abraham
and Isaac*



THE SPIEL



We always make sure our littlest friends have activities as well!



We love Ms. Andrea!



We couldn't do Kids Connection without our 5th-8th grade guides!

Bigs and littles working together to make shepherd staffs



The best part of Kids Connection is being with friends

CHECK OUT MORE  OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



HIGHER GROUND

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

COMING FOR YOUTH:

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:

LEOPOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WAYS TO SERVE:

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.

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 17TH: 10:15AM-11:30AM

Join us in Kids Connection for a Birthday Party for Jesus! Our Annual Christmas Party will include games, stories, crafts and some yummy birthday party treats!

MESSAGE & NOTES

LITTLE TOWN

Micah 5:1-5a

Focus: O, Little Town. Sleepy, insignificant, humble little town. Bethlehem, you are unknown. Yet, today, famous, because from you unexpected greatness emerges. From you, O Little Town, a powerful story of promise and unexpected glory is given to an embattled world.

WORD

Read John 1:14-16

Share about a favorite gift you received at Christmas. What made it so special?

What does the word incarnation mean?

John 1:14 in the Message reads like this: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." What thoughts or feelings come to you when you think about Jesus moving into your Neighborhood?

What would be different about how you go about your day to day life remembering that Jesus has indeed moved into your neighborhood?

Reflect and share any insights you have about verses 15-16.

PRAY

Take time to praise and thank God for sending His son Jesus - the greatest gift ever given. Pray that your household would continue to shine the light and love of Jesus in your neighborhood.

LOVE

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

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: 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.

MEMORY TREE

We will be offering our memory ornaments once again in honor of those loved ones who have passed away in 2023. These ornaments are keepsakes for you. There will be blank tags available as well through Christmas.

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.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25TH & 26TH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST AFTER WORSHIP WELL CONNECTED GATHERING

We would love to see you at the December WELL Connected Gathering as we respond to the Household WELL values we've covered in 2023 and launch into 2024. Plan to come away with a few fun and practical next steps that you are excited to try with your Household WELL. As a bonus, you'll have a jumpstart on our goal for 2024 - don't miss out!

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

POINSETTIAS:

We'll be decorating our altar with poinsettias. Purchase a poinsettia to honor a loved one. Sign up in the Welcome Area and donate \$15 in the designated envelope. You may take your poinsettias home after Christmas.

END OF YEAR GIVING DEADLINE:

THE DEADLINE TO RECEIVE END OF YEAR OFFERINGS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH AT NOON.

Gifts For Jesus

You've probably heard about Gifts For Jesus by now. But, as we come to the end of the year, we'd love for you to consider a special donation for Gifts For Jesus. Your gift will go toward our most immediate repair needs, which include our fire suppression system (interior sprinkler system) that needs to be replaced and landscaping that will prevent water from entering the building. Those gifts can be brought to the manger in the Sanctuary, or given online. You can find out more by visiting our Gifts For Jesus page [HERE](#). If you have any questions, you can contact Jess O'Malley at jomalley@livelifetogether.com.

SUNDAYS JANUARY 7TH: AFTER WORSHIP 2*22: ACTIVATE YOUR BIBLE READING

Jumpstart 2024 by reigniting your passion for God's Word. We'll meet for the next two months each Sunday after Worship, excluding the last Sundays of the month.

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

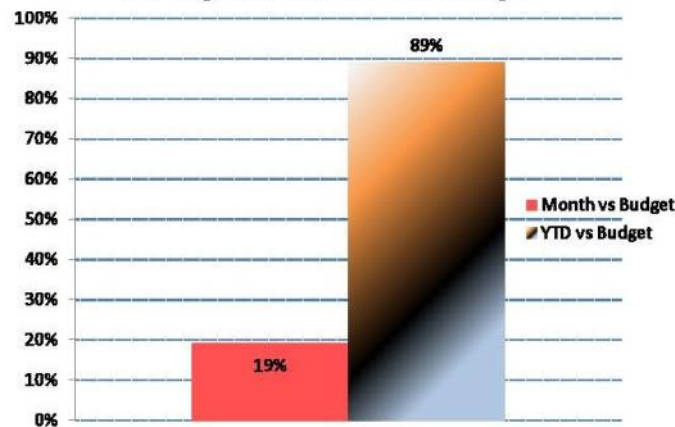
12/17 Nick Cavis
12/17 Julia Halopka
12/18 Eugene Schardt
12/28 Joan Dawson
12/23 John Oenick

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 December 8th, 2023

December Received	\$ 14,341	2023 Received	\$ 545,279
December Goal	74,934	2023 Goal	612,376
December Total Last Year	75,847	2022 Total	661,724
Left to Reach Monthly Goal	60,593	Left to Reach Annual Goal	67,097

Additional Information as of December 8th, 2023

Line of Credit Balance	ZERO	2022 Loan Balance	\$ 77,778
Paid off on 11/01/23		Last paid 11/24/23	

Church and Preschool Finances for October 2023

	2023	2022		2023	2022
Church Rev.	512,902	475,566	Preschool Rev.	131,169	115,335
Church Exp.	578,583	552,154	Preschool Exp.	121,885	110,096
Net Income	(65,681)	(76,588)	Net Income	9,283	5,239
YOY Difference	10,907		YOY Difference	4,045	

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: Little Town [December 17th, 2023]