

WEEKLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 24TH & 25TH, 2023

live life
together

Merry Christmas

*"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given..."*

THE SPIEL



THANK YOU!

Amy Meyer, Connecting lifeStyles Coordinator
ameyer@livelifetogether.com

Amy creates content and training support for the lifeGroup leaders and 1:1 disciple-makers and helps connect people who are interested in participating to a group or 1:1 relationship.

At the end of the year there are always a lot of asks - extra ways that we can give and help out. We wanted to say **THANK YOU!** Your response of generosity has been greatly appreciated!

We asked for **35** pies at Thanksgiving to partner with City on a Hill to bless Leopold families and you showed up with 35 pies! We wanted to bless the teachers and staff at Leopold with gift cards before Christmas and we delivered **117** gift cards!! The chairs in the sanctuary were taken out and tables brought in for Advent By Candlelight with lots of helpers and then **7** gentlemen reset the chairs in their place in time for our Family Advent Worship service. We had **20** tables, and **33** hostesses to make Advent By Candlelight a success for **175** women who attended - and we celebrated our 25th year! We have hand made ornaments to give away to those who have lost a loved one this year. We have lots of people coming forward willing to help with the Facility Team! And we have a consistent group of volunteers at Leopold food pantry serving over **80** families every two weeks.

The body of Christ is made up of different people with different gifts and skills and what a delight it is to work together and be a part of making a difference in our community! We do all of this not for the numbers but so people will give glory to God for the love that is shared.



Leopold Serve Team



THE SPIEL

Memory Tree



Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

We want to keep shining the light and love of Jesus in our neighborhoods and our community. As we gather to celebrate our new born King and wait for his coming again, take time with your household to ponder what he has done for you and let it move you to praise Him! We live in a world that is full of need, and we know the answer, our Savior Jesus, born to save and set us free. He is our hope, he brings us peace, let's move forward into this new year trusting Him and joining him in the work he is doing. He is making all things new!

The lyrics to O Holy Night ring true, especially verse one.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world
rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious
morn

The weary world rejoices! Many of us are weary, if you aren't you certainly know someone who is. Let us be a part of reminding one another and those we meet of the HOPE that is ours because of Jesus. What Christmas hymn has special meaning for you this year? Ponder it, and praise God for it and share what you are discovering with a friend or neighbor. Thank you again for sharing your time, talents and treasure to be a blessing to others.



Advent By Candlelight 2023

CHECK OUT MORE  *How to Serve* OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



HIGHER GROUND

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

COMING FOR YOUTH:

SUNDAY, DEC 24TH & DEC. 31ST: NO HIGHER GROUND



SUNDAY, DEC 24TH & DEC. 31ST: NO LIFE IN THE WORD

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 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, DEC 24TH & DEC. 31ST: NO KIDS CONNECTION

MESSAGE & NOTES

INCARNATION

John 1:14-16

Focus: Embrace the marvel of the unexpected: God's Word, radiant in flesh, dwelling among us. Merry Christmas. May your Christmas be filled with resounding praise, celebrating the astonishing incarnation!

WORD

Read Revelation 21:1-7

Read these verses slowly - take note of how you are feeling and what you are thinking. Share with the group.

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end?

Reflect on 2023 - as this year comes to an end what are 3 things you want to give thanks for (perhaps they fall in the unexpected category).

Where do you need Jesus to "make everything new" (vs 5) in 2024?

Think back over the year with the Unexpected Theme: Which one do you remember being encouraged or challenged by the most:

Beginnings, Power, Teaching, Miracles, Request, Courage, Prayer, Messengers, Followers, Questions, Provision, Endings

PRAY

Thank God for all He has done and been for you in 2023. Ask Him to bless the coming year. Pray for those you know if your life that are thirsty for the living water and ask Jesus to provide it for them.

LOVE

Think of who might benefit from being reminded that Jesus makes all things new - find a creative way to share it with them as the New Year begins.

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

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, AND JANUARY 1ST.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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

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@lifelifealtogether.com.

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.

POINSETTIAS: PLEASE TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA

Our Altar is decorated with poinsettias. Don't forget to take yours home after Christmas if you purchased one to honor a loved one.

Jim Fiedler & Laura Potter
Jim Fiedler & Laura Potter

In Memory of Jean Potter
In Memory of Charlene Fiedler

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

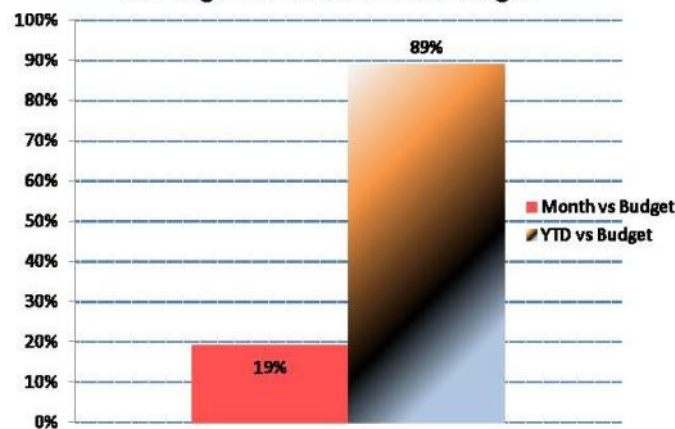
12/25 Alita Zarnstorff
12/26 Aubrey Hilscher
12/29 Kate Hettenbach
12/29 Tia Waterbury
12/31 Steve Racchini

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.

*...And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6-7*



SERVICE TIMES:

the Church
2833 Raritan Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

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

UNEXPECTED...Endings: Incarnation [December 24th & 25th, 2023]