



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

live life  
together

# THE SPIEL



## 2023 RECAP IN PHOTOS

### JESS O'MALLEY

Office Manager

*Jess manages the office and all the day to day tasks that keep the Church running smoothly. She maintains our membership database, keeps attendance records, offering records, calendar/facility scheduling, updates bulletins, lifeNotes, and lifeLines and she also uses her gifts managing social media and creating media and graphics for screens.*

2023 has been a great year full of blessings. Let's Recap with just a few pictures of the many blessings we've experienced throughout the year!

- 12 VERY Well attended WELL Connected Gatherings each month
- Higher Ground Mission Trip to Kansas City, a Spring and Fall Retreat
- Kids Connection has seen a lot of growth this year
- New faces and new families joining us in worship
- So many new people stepping up to help in many areas of our ministry (see last week's from Amy's article), and so much more...





# THE SPIEL



CHECK OUT MORE  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](mailto: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](mailto:ameyer@livelifetogether.com)*



Kids Connection is for children 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:epowers@livelifetogether.com).

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

# MESSAGE & NOTES

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## UNEXPECTED: ALPHA & OMEGA

Revelation 21:1-7

*Focus: Another year goes by. Another opportunity to find hope in the unexpected ending—the Alpha and Omega who makes all things new. Jesus, Jesus, all about Jesus. He is the Revelation for every year! And His presence with us brings with it another unexpected ending...the divine promise for a transformed future.*



### WORD

READ John 8:30-47

**REFLECT:** Look up verses 31-32 in different translations and discuss discipleship and the work of being set free, considering also verse 37. What does freedom and being set free look like?

How do you see and experience the struggle of our sinful nature against God's Word as Jesus talked about here (especially in verses 43-47)?

**RESPOND:** How is God calling you to respond to His Word today?

**REMEMBER:** What is one thing you want to remember from this discussion, and what is one thing you can do this week to remember it?

### PRAY

Pray for a rekindling in our hearts to want to hear from God through His Word. Pray that people would hear God's Word and remain faithful to Jesus' teachings. Pray that we would put God's Word into action as He calls us to.

### LOVE

How can you come alongside someone and help each other to read and respond to God's Word more regularly?

# CALENDAR & EVENTS



## UPCOMING:

### *SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST: 9AM WORSHIP*

Join us for our in-person and online worship on Sunday at 9am. Join us online at [lifelifetogether.com/thisweek](https://lifelifetogether.com/thisweek). You will find the livestream, the bulletin, the lifeLines and all that you need for the week, on this page. We look forward to worshipping together.

### *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!

*THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JANUARY 1ST.*

### *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

### *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.



***SUNDAYS JANUARY 4TH & 18TH: AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE***

**Four Winds Farms** [Loft / 5735 Adams Road, Fitchburg, WI] January 4th // 11:00am – 3:00pm

**Tri-North Builders Blood Drive** [Conference Room / 2625 Research Park Drive, Fitchburg, WI] January 18th // 10:30am – 3:30pm

*Schedule your next blood donation [HERE!](#) Download the Blood Donor App.*

*RedCrossBlood.org / Sponsor code: HBDMadison 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)*

***SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH :10:30AM-2PM DUDE CREW***

Join us on January 13th! We're getting together to hang out, eat some food and have some fellowship! We meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month. RSVP to Chad at [chadenright\\_wa@yahoo.com](mailto:chadenright_wa@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto: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.

**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

12/31 Steve Racchini  
1/1 Christian Jaeger  
1/1 Donn Tolley  
1/1 Ann White  
1/2 Maria Radtke  
1/5 Oliver Powers  
1/5 Brian Rausch  
1/7 Ivy Kafka  
1/7 Chris Packard

## ANNIVERSARIES

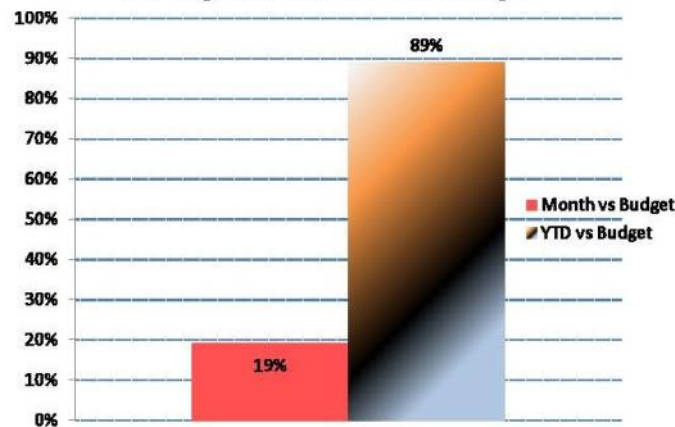
1/3—20 years  
Philip & Jennifer Wood

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
<b>Left to Reach Monthly Goal</b>	<b>60,593</b>	<b>Left to Reach Annual Goal</b>	<b>67,097</b>

Additional Information as of December 8th, 2023

Line of Credit Balance	<b>ZERO</b>	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: Alpha & Omega [December 31st, 2023]