



WEEKLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 21ST, 2024

live life
together

THE SPIEL



ESTABLISH A STEADY RHYTHM

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.

Hopefully you were able to worship with us last Sunday, January 14th either in person or online. I was blessed by the message from Pastor Matt and challenged. He reminded us that God's word is for us **personally** and **daily**. The connection was made to the Old Testament and the children of Israel when God provided manna for them to nourish and sustain them and how God has provided His Word for us to nourish and sustain us. Jesus is the Bread of Life and the Living Water and we need Him, every hour we need him! (we sang that song on Sunday as well - thanks worship team for leading us in such meaningful singing of God's praises! If you missed it you can always go to the Church's Facebook page and watch the recorded service!)

There has been a simple question asked of us on the bookmark and screensaver for our cell phones, (you should have gotten an email about it this past week) **Am I reading my Bible Daily?** Seems like the easy answer to that for us would be YES! And yet, somehow, a day goes by here and there without reading God's Word. Surely we understand that it isn't just about reading the Bible to check it off of our to-do list, we want to meditate on it, consider how God is asking us to respond to what we have read so it impacts how we live our lives. We know how important it is, and understand that it is vital to our growth as children of God. So, why do we have stretches of not reading His word? There are many reasons and they are different for each of us. Most of us have good intentions, and start a reading plan and then something interrupts us, we get extra busy at work or with the kids or we get sick and then a few days turn into weeks. Or maybe we don't know where to start or what to read. (if that is true for you, please reach out and ask a friend to help you, start with one of the Gospels like Mark and focus on the life of Jesus)

I read a devotion by Ann Voskamp that was addressing New Year's resolutions and was struck by this phrase: ***What you need more than splashy resolutions, is steady rhythms.*** There it is! Establishing and carrying out steady rhythms. Just like any other habit, make it part of your daily routine and prioritize reading God's Word **first** before



THE SPIEL

you check your email or go on social media or play wordle. What other rhythm do you have that never gets missed? Cup of coffee and the morning news? Brushing your teeth? Taking your medicine or vitamins? What would it look like to get a steady rhythm of reading God's Word established in your life?

Maybe it is having a reminder on your phone. You can use an app on your phone and listen to God's word being read to you, Lectio365 or Pray as you Go or Dwell are some good ones to try. What if you text a friend that you are in a 1:1 relationship with and ask them what stood out to you today from your daily Bible reading? A good place to start is always with prayer. If you are struggling to get started or just not that interested, ask the Holy Spirit to help you have the desire to read God's Word and then to help you understand and apply it to your life.

Please hear this, **God does not love you more because you read his word.** This is not a legalistic mandate. God loves you no matter what. And nothing you do makes him love you more or less, He loves you! He longs to meet with you and remind you of those truths about who He is and who you are as His child. He wants to comfort you with his promises and fill you with hope and peace as you fix your thoughts on him and trust him. He wants you to know him better and better and that comes from reading His word and spending time with him in prayer. This is a get to thing not a have to thing. Meeting in lifeGroup is another great way to read God's Word with others and gain insight from what others are sharing. Perhaps you have fallen out of that steady rhythm and want to connect again to a lifeGroup - please reach out to me and I'll do my best to connect you to a group. (ameyer@lifelifetogether.com)

We would love to hear from you about what you are discovering in your daily time in God's Word - you can write it on the brown paper in the Welcome area at church called Activate Moments - or drop us an email or post it on our Facebook page. Let's help one another throughout the coming weeks and months keep moving forward each day in the steady rhythm of reading God's Word.

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
I gain understanding from your precepts;
therefore I hate every wrong path
Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.
Psalm 119:103-105*



CHECK OUT MORE *life*Serve OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



HIGHER GROUND

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

COMING UP FOR YOUTH:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST: 6:30-8PM

Come recharge and refresh with a night of looking at how precious we are to God. Some creative activities and fun conversation will help us focus on our true identity.



SCAN THE CODE TO CONNECT
TO OUR YOUTH MINISTRY!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST: 5PM-6:30PM

This week students will dive into the last petition of the Lord's Prayer. We will look at what it means to ask God to protect us from evil and the tools God equips us with for our protection.

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, JANUARY 21ST: 10:15AM-11:30AM

We are wrapping up our month-long look at Joseph with a movie and games.

MESSAGE & NOTES

SATISFIES

John 6:25-35

Focus: There are many things we fill our time with, and which demand even more of it, and all of them leave us feeling incomplete. There is only one thing that truly satisfies our soul. We were created for God and to be connected with Him, so apart from Him we will always feel that connection which is missing.

WORD

Read Hebrews 4:12-16

What stands out to you about verses 12-13?

Read this scripture again, with the context that the Word being described here is not destructive, but it is a surgical instrument used by the most skilled physician, God. What stands out to you now? Does that change how these verses impact you?

How might this surgery look in your life? What might you do to activate

How is God inviting you to respond to His Word today?

PRAY

Pray for God to help you intentionally be in His Word, and to reflect upon it and respond as His Spirit leads. Ask Him to shape the desires of your heart, that you would appreciate and want His surgery in your life. Ask Him to illuminate the places in your life where you are not willing to have Him work. And ask Him to change your stubborn heart.

LOVE

Think of someone you have been reluctant to help or show love to in some way, and this week, find a way to serve and serve them.

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21STTH: 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 lifeLines and all that you need for the week, on this page. We look forward to worshipping together.

*SUNDAYS JANUARY 21ST: 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.

WEDNESDAYS, 9AM CHECK-IN, 9:30AM DISCUSSION MOM TO MOM

Join us on Wednesday mornings. We'll be starting a new Right Now Media series on January 10th. We are a group of moms who gather together weekly to support each other, share struggles and joys, pray, and learn what God has to say about our role as moms. Children are welcome! We hope to see you there. Questions? Contact Amy Meyer ameyer@lifelifetogether.com.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH: 6:30PM-9PM LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Church Leadership Board will be meeting on January 24th from 6:30pm-9pm.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH: AFTER WORSHIP WELL CONNECTED GATHERING

Join us for WLLE Connected as we talk about how our households can be Sustained by the Word in practical ways.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND: 12PM-9PM PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: BENVENUTO'S [FITCHBURG]

Grab lunch or dinner on the 9th, mention the Preschool and proceeds will go toward the Preschool. Let's support our students and teachers in the preschool!

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES



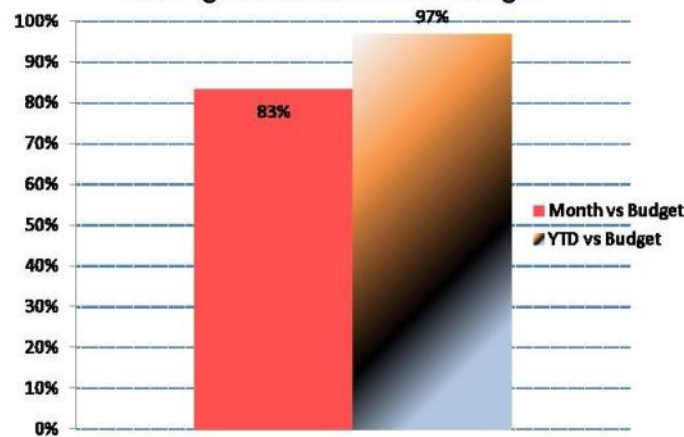
CHECK OUT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



GLANCE *at the* FINANCE



Offerings: Month and YTD vs. Budget



Tithes and Offerings as of December 31st, 2023					
December Received	\$	62,416	2023 Received	\$	593,353
December Goal		74,934	2023 Goal		612,376
December Total Last Year		75,847	2022 Total		661,724
Monthly Goal Shortfall		12,519	Annual Goal Shortfall		19,023

Additional Information as of December 31st, 2023			
Line of Credit Balance	ZERO	2022 Loan Balance	\$ 76,229
Last Balance: 11/01/2023		Last Paid: 12/26/23	

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	

BIRTHDAYS

1/21 Carol Tiemann
 1/23 Kyle Hoppe
 1/23 Kirk Trainor
 1/24 Isla Dorsey
 1/27 Gillian Oenick
 1/27 Carver Oenick
 1/28 Ella Verri

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

OUR VISION: STRATEGY

HOW ARE WE DOING IT?



Come to lifeWorship! We join together to focus on Jesus, offer Him praise, and allow Him the space to speak to us. lifeWorship is an exciting part of *the Church* experience. Join us in lifeWorship every week and experience the amazing blessing of freedom that comes in humbling yourself before God.



Connect to lifeGroup! At *the Church* we really do "live life together." In lifeGroup, we meet weekly in each other's homes to share a meal and share our lives as we grow in Jesus. Our connection to other people is at the heart of our Christian experience. Authentic connections happen most effectively in smaller groups where there is opportunity for dialogue and relationships, and our primary place for these authentic connections is lifeGroup.



Commit to lifeServe! At *the Church* we offer our time, talents, gifts, and abilities to serve God, serve His church and serve others. It's easy to come to church only for what we can get out of it, but the Bible says that each of us has something to give back. There is a need each of us can answer. We want you to experience Life in Jesus to the fullest, and encourage you to take time to give yourself away in ministry.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONNECT WITH US!

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]

ACTIVATE FAITH...Sustained: Bible - Daily and Personal [January 14,2023]