



WEEKLY BULLETIN

APRIL 5TH, 2026

livelife
together

He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

THE SPIEL



BUILDING HOPE-FILLED RESILIENCE IN HOPELESS MOMENTS: THE EASTER EFFECT

PASTOR JEFF

Lead Pastor

I work to advance our "Household WELL" Vision through preaching and leadership of the Church Leadership Board and League of Elders. I work with our staff and coach our leaders to ensure day-by-day mission effectiveness.

Early that first Easter morning, everything still looked hopeless. Jesus had suffered a brutal death. The stone was sealed. The grave was guarded. The disciples were hiding behind locked doors, certain that the story had ended in failure and loss. From every visible angle, hope was gone.

And yet, before the sun had fully risen, **God had already rewritten the ending.** The tomb was empty. Death was defeated. Life had broken through the darkest place imaginable. That is the Easter effect: when God steps into what appears hopeless and brings new life. And because Christ is risen, hope is no longer just a feeling we try to manufacture. Hope becomes **a way of living.**

How do we live with that kind of hope when life still feels heavy? When the diagnosis comes. When the relationship breaks. When grief cripples us. When uncertainty clouds the future. Easter doesn't remove every struggle from our lives, but it does give us a rhythm for resilient hope.

One simple way to remember this rhythm is the word **HOPE.**

HOPE — The Easter Rhythm

H – Hear God

Start the day with the voice of truth.

Before the world rushes in with its worries, hear God first. A verse of Scripture in the morning or evening, or both, has a way of recalibrating the heart, mind, and soul. When we listen to God's Word, we are reminded that our lives are not defined by our circumstances but by God's promises. A simple practice: begin your day by reading a short passage of Scripture and asking one question: "What is God reminding me of today?"

Truth anchors us when emotions shift.

Here are a few of my favorite resources that help me listen to Scripture:

- Pray As You Go App
- Dwell App
- Sing from the Worship Initiative <https://short.theworshipinitiative.com/home>

O – Offer What Seems Hopeless

Bring the situation you cannot fix to the One who raises the dead.

Many of us carry situations we cannot control—a strained relationship, a lingering grief, a future that feels uncertain. Easter reminds us that God specializes in stepping into sealed tombs.

Instead of carrying that burden alone, offer it to Him.

You might try this simple prayer: *"Lord, this feels impossible to me. But I bring it to You, the One who raises the dead."*

THE SPIEL

"Jesus, I give you everyone and everything. I give you everyone and everything, Lord."
You don't have to solve everything today. Sometimes hope begins when we simply place the situation back into God's hands.

P – Practice Gratitude

Look for the quiet signs of God already at work.

Gratitude doesn't deny hardship, but it keeps our hearts open to what God is doing even now. Often, God's grace shows up in small, quiet ways: a word of encouragement, a moment of peace, a reminder that you are not alone.

Each evening, take a moment to ask: "*Where did I see God's goodness today?*"

Write down one or two things. Over time, these small remembrances build a powerful testimony of God's faithfulness.
Hope grows when we notice life.

E – Expect Resurrection

Easter reminds us that God specializes in new life. And, we can and should celebrate the resurrection power and life every single day.

The resurrection of Jesus means the story is never finished where we think it is. What looks final to us is often only a chapter in God's larger story.

This doesn't mean we pretend everything is easy. It means we live with the quiet confidence that God is still working, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

One small way to practice this hope is through a simple breath prayer.

Slowly inhale and whisper in your heart:

"Christ is risen..."

Then exhale slowly:

"...hope is alive."

Repeat this for a minute or two. Let the truth settle into your body and your mind.

Easter is not only a celebration we attend once a year. It is a rhythm we learn to practice every day. When we hear God, offer what seems hopeless, practice gratitude, and expect resurrection, we begin to discover a deeper resilience, one rooted not in our strength but in Christ's victory.

So wherever life feels heavy right now, remember this: the resurrection of Jesus means no situation is truly beyond hope.

The stone that once sealed the grave has already been rolled away.

And because of that, hope is alive.

— *Pastor Jeff*

HIGHER GROUND

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

COMING UP FOR YOUTH:

NO HIGHER GROUND ON APRIL 5TH
Happy Easter!



NO LIFE IN THE WORD ON APRIL 5TH
Happy Easter!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT EMILY POWERS: [EPOWERS@LIVELIFETOGETHER.COM](mailto:EPowers@LIVELIFETOGETHER.COM)



Our Adopt a School Partner is:

LEOPOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WAYS TO SERVE:

May 4th-8th: Staff Appreciation Week

May 16th: Tito Fest (Like a Carnival)

We love the partnership we have as Adopt a School Partners with Leopold Elementary School. As a congregation you continue to be very generous with your time and donations that directly help to encourage the staff and students and families at Leopold. There are a couple of ways that you can help coming up in May. The sign-up genius link that you see has more information for what is needed. It is broken down to lots of manageable ways to help, you can take it directly to the school, or drop it off at church and Amy will make sure it gets there. And if you like to see lots of happy kids running around and having fun, consider signing up to help at one of the booths for Tito Fest. Thank you again for helping in this practical way to show the love of Jesus to this school, right in our community.

[Sign Up for Staff Appreciation Week](#)

[Sign Up for Tito Fest](#)

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.

NO KIDS CONNECTION ON APRIL 5TH

Happy Easter!

MESSAGE & NOTES

THE TAPESTRY: KINGS AND LONGING HE IS RISEN

Zechariah 9:9–10; Luke 19:28–40

Focus: Aren't you glad that God's grand story does not end at the cross? On the third day, the grave is empty! Death itself is defeated! The risen Christ fulfills the ancient promise that God will swallow up death forever and wipe away every tear. Easter declares that Jesus is not only the crucified Savior but the living King who holds the keys of death and life. Because He lives, hope is no longer a wish. Hope is a certainty grounded in the victory of God.

WORD

Read 1 Samuel 16

What do you learn about Samuel in these verses?

What do you learn about Saul?

What do you learn about David?

What do you learn about God?

What takeaway do you have for yourself? How will you respond to what you have discovered?

PRAY

Lord, give me a heart like yours. Let me love others like you love me.

LOVE

Who can you remind that they are seen, heard, and loved by God? How will you show them that love this week?

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH: EASTER SUNDAY, 8AM & 10AM

We'll worship at 8am & 10am. The youth are hosting a continental breakfast Easter morning between 7:30am-10am. Free will donations will be taken to help send the youth on their summer mission trips. Join us for food, fellowship, and crafts for the kids.

*SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH: NO 2*22 DURING APRIL*

We invite you join the discussion in Connections. You'll have the opportunity to be refreshed in your understanding of what we are all about at the Church and you'll get to meet some new people. Read more below.

*SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH: CONNECTIONS CLASS DURING 2*22 [APRIL 12TH, 19TH, 26TH, MAY 3RD]*

We are excited that there are several Households that are considering joining our family at the Church. We will be having Connections Class during 2.22 on April 12, 19, 26 and May 3 and we invite everyone to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet and get to know these new people, and be refreshed in your understanding of what we are all about at the Church and how you can be fully engaged in our ministry and the calling God has on all of our lives. We will also still be offering the opportunity to gather with other parents and take time to pray over our children. Make plans to join us at one of these opportunities from 10:30am-11:30am. Children can participate in Kids Connection.

MONDAY, APRIL 26TH: COMMITMENT SUNDAY

More information will be coming soon. Keep an eye out.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH: NO WELL CONNECTED THIS MONTH.

Stay after worship to learn more about *the Church* in our Connections Class.

UNITED WEEK OF PRAYER

April 26 - May 2 Collaboration Project is encouraging Dane County churches and their members to pray with intention for the flourishing of the community. Through prayer walks and collaboratively-led prayer events, we'll see Christians unite in prayer. This is a chance to engage deeper in prayer, to get to know the blessings and needs of our community better, and to be a part of a bigger movement of the Spirit. Sign up to do a prayer walk or to attend a prayer event or at collaborationproject.us/united-week-of-prayer-2026)

MONDAY, APRIL 27TH 6:30PM THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Church Leadership Board Meeting will be at the Church on April 27th at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact the board at board@livelifetogether.com.

LEOPOLD SERVE OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP:

May 4th-8th: Staff Appreciation Week & May 16th: Tito Fest

We love the partnership we have as Adopt a School Partners with Leopold Elementary School. As a congregation you continue to be very generous with your time and donations that directly help to encourage the staff and students and families at Leopold. There are a couple of ways that you can help coming up in May. See the sign-up genius link for more information. It is broken down to lots of manageable ways to help, you can take it directly to the school, or drop it off at church and Amy will make sure it gets there. And if you like to see lots of happy kids running around and having fun, consider signing up to help at one of the booths for Tito Fest. Thank you again for helping in this practical way to show the love of Jesus to this school, right in our community.

[Sign Up for Staff Appreciation Week](#)

[Sign Up for Tito Fest](#)

MAY 22ND—MAY 24TH BRATFEST

Brat Fest is BACK! Do you remember how fun this was? You don't want to miss out. We're volunteering at Brat Fest again this year. Watch for sign ups coming soon! In the meantime, check out all the fun music and events coming up this year. <https://bratfest.com/>

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES



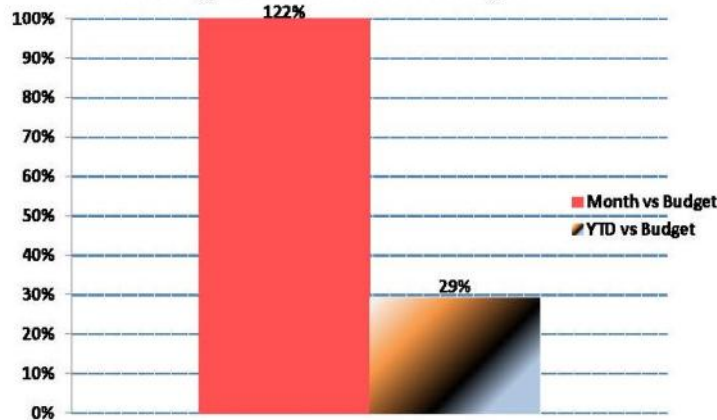
CHECK OUT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



GLANCE *at the* FINANCE



Offerings: Month and YTD vs. Budget



Tithes and Offerings as of March 31, 2026			
Monthly received	\$ 63,630	YTD received	\$ 182,790
Monthly goal	51,976	YTD surplus/(deficit)	11,654
Monthly surplus/(deficit)	-	2026 goal	624,045
This month last year	\$ 55,305	Goal remaining	441,255
		2025 total	\$ 600,435
Additional Information as of March 31, 2026			
Line of Credit Balance*	\$ 12,885	2022 Loan Balance	~\$31,500
Balance was \$0 from January 1 to January 30*		Paid monthly	
Church Finances as of February 28, 2026			
	2026	2025	
Operating Rev.	\$ 251,576	\$ 174,226	
Operating Exp.	\$ 245,821	\$ 230,425	
	\$ 5,754	\$ (56,199)	

*LoC must have \$0 balance for 30 days per calendar year

ANNIVERSARIES

3/29—56 years
Brian and Sylvia Rausch

4/8—37 years
John & Sandra Fisher

BIRTHDAYS

4/6 Claire Carstensen
4/6 Patrick Tsai
4/7 Sally Luck
4/8 Jasmine Luck
4/8 Rose Tolley
4/8 Leo Waterbury
4/10 Brian O'Malley
4/10 Quinn Cavinis
4/11 Tucker Gueths-Larson

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.

He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!



SERVICE TIMES:

the Church
2833 Raritan Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

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

THE TAPESTRY...Kings and Longing: He is Risen [April 5th, 2026]