



WEEKLY BULLETIN

APRIL 12TH, 2026

livelife
together

THE SPIEL



LOOKING FOR A SAVIOR?

CINDY SIMON

Leadership Board

Cindy is a long time member of the Church who joined the Leadership Board in 2026. She enjoys traveling with family, reading, gardening and biking with her husband Tom.

Colossians 1:16 *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."*

Jesus' birth in a manger in Bethlehem was humble with destitute conditions far from home, family, and safety. Mary and Joseph traveled far on foot, or perhaps by donkey, to obey societal rules despite circumstances. It must have felt lonely and chaotic. Even so, Luke 2:8-10 describes how the shepherds were compelled to go find a baby in the manger after a scary visit from angels. Further, Matthew 2:1-12 tells how the Magi navigated by a star to see the newly born baby. Why would they do that? What were they looking for?

On Palm Sunday Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem where an adoring crowd waved palms and cheered his arrival. It was humble compared to conventional kingly arrivals that are choreographed to depict earthly power and authority. Jesus dared to disregard the rules of Roman society for Godly obedience which resulted in his death on Good Friday. By traveling with, and cheering for Jesus on Palm Sunday, people in the crowd were putting themselves at risk. Why would they do that? What were they looking for?

Have you ever been strongly compelled to see someone, or experience something, because you thought it would be meaningful or exciting? The crowd following Jesus must have felt that way on Palm Sunday. The shepherds and Magi were similarly compelled. Now we can travel all over the world by simply buying plane tickets or driving our cars. We can see who we want to see, or places we want to experience, without walking through hills or desert or by following a star.

Recently I took a family trip to the Galapagos Islands where we toured North Seymore Island. It is unpopulated, remote, rugged, and hot. A tour operator was responsible for safely transporting, feeding, and leading us. We hiked through beautiful, but rough terrain, and watched as frigate birds fed their dependent chicks. However, the parents

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only fed the strongest chick. The weaker birds are not fed. We heard them crying for food. The birds are completely dependent on their parents as we were completely dependent on our tour operator that day.

Life, like traveling, can be long, hard, and revealing of truths that are difficult to understand, explain, or accept. Why was the Savior of the world born in such harsh conditions? Why did people feel compelled to see him even if they were putting themselves at risk (only to reject him shortly after)? Why do people follow and then unfollow Jesus as life gets really good or really bad?

One night, while still in the Galapagos Islands, I was awake in the middle of the night. I did not feel well and was kind of homesick. But then I looked up to my left and was suddenly amazed. I saw the Southern Cross shining through a tiny window. It was perfectly positioned within the window frame and was so bright. Even though I had never seen the Southern Cross before, and I was not even looking for it, I knew immediately what it was. Me receiving a message from God on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, in the middle of the night. The Cross. He loves me, he will not forsake me, he is with me always.

Keep your eyes and heart open. He is waiting there for *you*.

Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

HIGHER GROUND

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

COMING UP FOR YOUTH:

Higher Ground is the 7th-12th grade youth group at *the Church*. Our desire is to connect teens and their families to Life in Jesus while equipping students with the skills they need to be life-long followers of Jesus. At the same time, we exist to also equip families to have Christ-centered homes that nurture a day-to-day relationship with Jesus. Friends are always welcome!

NO HIGHER GROUND ON APRIL 12TH

Higher Ground will be on a retreat this weekend, so there will not be a gathering on Sunday night.



**SCAN THE CODE TO CONNECT
TO OUR YOUTH MINISTRY!**



Life in the Word is for students in 5th & 6th grade youth group at the Church. Class time on Sunday evenings during the school year is used to instruct students in the basics of our faith, as well as Luther's Small Catechism. Students also develop relationships during this time that prepare them to continue to live in community during their teen years.

NO LIFE IN THE WORD ON APRIL 5TH

QUESTIONS? CONTACT EMILY POWERS: 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**

The logo for Kids Connection. The word "Kids" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the word "CONNECTION" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the word "CONNECTION" is a circular icon with a blue outer ring and a yellow inner circle, resembling a stylized person or a connection point.

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.

KIDS CONNECTION ON APRIL 12TH

We'll be doing crafts, watching a movie and having playtime this week.

MESSAGE & NOTES

THE TAPESTRY: KINGS AND LONGING A HEART LIKE GOD'S

1 Samuel 16

Focus: Long before Jesus came, God told Samuel that He looks not at outward appearances, but at the heart. In choosing David, God revealed that the kind of leadership He desires flows from trust, humility, and devotion. In the light of Easter, we see that Jesus is the true Son of David, the King whose heart reflects the Father's. This week invites us to examine our own hearts and to ask what it means to live as people shaped by and reflecting the character of the risen King.

WORD

Read 1 Kings 3:1-15; 1 Kings 9:1-9; 1 Kings 11:1-13

How did things rise and fall so quickly? What does this remind you of?

How does God remain faithful to His promise, while also remaining just and doing what He said He would do? Was this all necessary? Why?

What are the most common “loves” that threaten to dethrone God in our hearts today? Are there things that are bigger threats to our heart today than we give them credit for?

THE TAPESTRY - Brokenness and Jesus

How have you experienced God drawing you back to Him after you had been worshipping other things?

PRAY

Read Isaiah 6:1-4. Praise God for who He is, and for what He has done (including in your life), and after each, say together, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

LOVE

This week, practice thankfulness to God in your household. And find one way to bless someone outside your household.

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH: 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH: 2*22 DURING APRIL

We invite you join the discussion in Connections or the parent prayer group. 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 about Connections 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 14TH: 10AM-2PM AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION

Blackhawk Blood Drive. Atrium, 5935 Astor Drive. For an appointment call 1-800-RED Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: BlackhawkChurchWI. Walk-in's welcome!

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 IS BACK & SIGN UPS ARE OPEN!

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. Spots go quickly, so sign up soon! Sign up at the link here: <https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer/#/join-party?k=wks8ob7mkrpqkl>

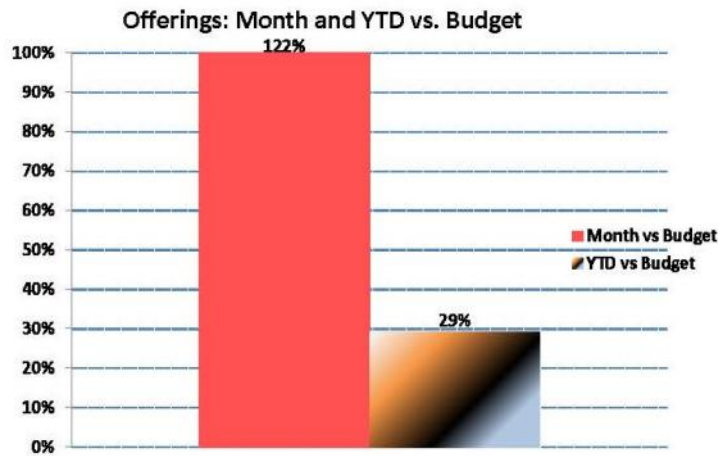
SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES



CHECK OUT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



GLANCE *at the* FINANCE



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			

BIRTHDAYS

4/13 Isabella Granetzke
4/18 Duncan Yogerst

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]

THE TAPESTRY...Kings and Longing: A Heart Like God's [April 12th, 2026]