



WEEKLY BULLETIN

MAY 3RD, 2026

livelife
together

THE SPIEL

THE TAPESTRY

CONTINUING THE STORY AT HOME: OUR RESPONSE TO JESUS

Our journey through the Tapestry of God's Story has brought us to Jesus. After generations of promise, longing, exile, and return, God does not merely send another prophet or king—He comes Himself. In Jesus, the eternal Word takes on flesh and steps into the human story as it's center and fulfillment. He is the promised Thread running through every panel of the Tapestry. As we encounter Jesus, He reveals His identity. It then prompts the question every person must answer: Who do you say He is? And the follow up question is then, "So what? What is my response to Jesus?"

John 7:25-44, 8:12-20, 12:34-36, 12:42-50

CONSIDER:

These passages can be confusing. It might seem like Jesus is talking in riddles or trying to confuse people. That's not the case. He is trying to paint pictures for the crowds – trying to help them fully grasp the reality of who He is and what it means to follow God. He is speaking bold truths that are angering many people. However, even after all of the miracles and teaching there are still people who ask, "Who is this Jesus?" There are some who are still reluctant to give their lives to Him. So, who do you say Jesus is?

DISCUSS:

- Who is Jesus talking to in each of the conversations in the passages above?
- Who do the people in these passages claim Jesus to be? Why were they having a hard time understanding who Jesus claims to be?
- Why were the religious leaders getting upset with Jesus? What were they afraid of? Who does Jesus claim to be in the passages?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the "light of the world"?
- Check out John 12:42-43. Do you think some of the Pharisees secretly believed in Jesus? What kept them from saying that out loud?
- Jesus makes some bold claims in 12:44-49. How are Jesus' claims significant?
- Who does the world say Jesus is today? What are all the things you hear people say about Jesus? What are they confused about? What are they afraid of?
- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Are you willing to make that claim publicly or do you show up like the Pharisees who just went along with the crowd? Why?
- Consider the claims that Jesus made about who He is. What do those claims mean for your life today? Who does Jesus want to be for you? Are you letting him do that in your life?

THE SPIEL

READ: Mark 10:17-31

CONSIDER:

“What must I do to get to heaven? Have I done enough? I really want to make sure I’m going to be ok.” These are the concerns of the man in this passage. He is concerned about his own future – making sure he’s checked all the boxes needed so he can reserve his spot in heaven. Yet, he believes in Jesus’ authority enough to ask the question. However, he won’t let that penetrate his heart enough to change his attitude or behaviors. He walks away from the truth when it gets uncomfortable. What truths of God are you tempted to walk away from because they are uncomfortable?

DISCUSS:

- What contradictions do you notice as you read these verses?
- Re-read each verse (vs 3-10) by itself and consider these questions:
 - What attitude does God desire? Why?
 - What is God’s response to obedience to these instructions?
 - How does this statement compare with what the world says is important?
 - What does this teach us about who God is?
- Consider vs 11-12? What blessing or benefit could come through going through persecution or trials? (1 Peter 4:12-14, Romans 5:3-4, and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10).
- The list of characteristics described in the Beatitudes is overwhelming. What hope does God give, knowing that we can’t fulfill them perfectly? (1 John 1:9)
- Which one Beatitude is God calling you to intentionally focus on?

READ: Matthew 14:22-33

CONSIDER:

The disciples are no longer strangers to Jesus. They have been front-row witnesses to miracles and times of teaching. In this passage we see the trusting relationship the disciples have with Jesus, and at the same time we get a glimpse of all they have yet to learn about Jesus and faith. Aren’t we the same? We can spend our lifetimes with Jesus and still have room to grow and learn and discover. It is easy to criticize Peter in this story. We think his faith fails and he is weak. BUT, at the initial appearance of Jesus, did any of the other disciples step out in faith? Peter reacted to the sight of Jesus, in faith. Are you willing to step out in faith with just a glimpse of who Jesus is?

DISCUSS:

- Retell this story from the point of view of a disciple in the boat and from Peter’s point of view.
- Why do you think Peter says what he does in v. 28? How does Jesus respond?
- What happened to cause Peter to start to sink in the water? What was Jesus’s response? How do you imagine Jesus’ tone in his response?
- Peter became consumed or distracted by the crisis in front of him and took his focus off of Jesus. His faith wavered and he began to sink. Can you think of a time in your life when that has happened to you? What happened?
- What happens to our faith when we keep our eyes on Jesus? (see v. 33)
- Jesus says to you, “Don’t be afraid. Take courage. I am here.” Where in your life are you needing courage or to be freed from fear?

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!

HIGHER GROUND ON MAY 3RD: 6:30-8PM

Life Event Sunday for 8th/10th/12th grade students is May 3rd during worship. Join us Sunday night from 5-8pm for our last official Higher Ground gathering of the year. We will have dinner together (see Emily's emails for potluck signup) and reflect on the year. Wear clothes you are ok with getting dirty as we will spend some time helping out Grateful Hearts by spreading mulch and doing some staining on the playground.

May 3rd: Life Event Sunday during worship for 8th, 10th, 12th grades

May 10th: No Higher Ground. Celebrate mom!

May 17th: We will gather for our year end Family Party from 5-8pm.



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.

LIFE IN THE WORD ON MAY 3RD: 5PM-6:30PM

Life Event Sunday for 6th grade students is May 3rd during worship. Mark your calendar for the 5th-12th grade year end Family Party on May 17th from 5-8pm. The Middle School Mission Trip is August 2nd-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**

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 MAY 3RD: 10:15-11:30AM

Can feet be beautiful? Join us to find out at Kids Connection from 10:15-11:30. We will talk about how God gives each of us the job of telling others the Good News of Jesus.

Snack is served from 10:15-10:30.

May 10th: We'll have a playdate on the playground and make gifts for Mom.

Mark May 17th for our end of the year Kids Connection party.

MESSAGE & NOTES

THE TAPESTRY: EXILE & RETURN THE THREAD CONTINUES

Isaiah 44:28-45:13; Ezra 1

Focus: God's promises never fail. After 70 years in exile, God used another King to return a remnant of His people to Jerusalem to begin to rebuild.

lifeLINES

THE WOVEN WORD: THE WORD MADE FLESH

WORD

Read John 1:1-29

Emmanuel means "God with us." What do verses 1-2, 14, and 18 reveal about Jesus, and why does this matter in your life?

THE TAPESTRY - Brokenness Where do you see evidence of verses 10-11 today? How have you experienced that in your own life?

Where would you like Jesus' light to shine today?

PRAY

Pray from verses 4-5 that the light would shine in the dark areas you see today. Pray from verse 18 that God would help people to recognize Jesus and come to know God.

LOVE

Plan a way you will intentionally be with your neighbors this week.

CALENDAR & EVENTS



UPCOMING:

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD: 9AM WORSHIP

Join us for our in-person and online worship on Sunday at 9am. Join us online at lifelifeogether.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, MAY 3RDTH: 2*22 DURING APRIL & MAY*

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, MAY 3RD: 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.

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>

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

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

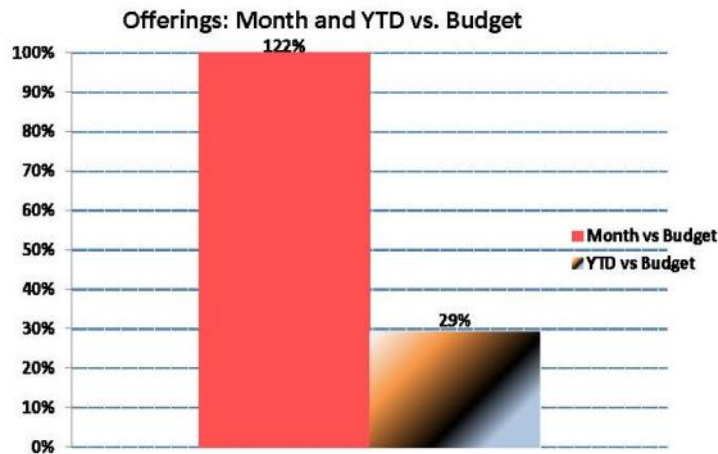
SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES



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

- 5/3 Judy Lee
- 5/4 Julia Dawson
- 5/6 Sylvia Rausch
- 5/7 Susannah Adshead
- 5/8 April Drucker
- 5/9 Jerry Neitzel

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...Exile & Return: The Thread Continues [May 3rd, 2026]