One of the most inviting images of Jesus is of him as our Good Shepherd. This picture of Jesus provides comfort, rest, and security. It shows us how Jesus not only welcomes each of us, but also pursues each of us.

As Household Wells, we can bring this picture of Jesus to our communities. We can join Jesus in shepherding, protecting, and caring for those he has placed around us. This week, I invite you and your household to consider what this means. Below, you will find a paraphrased version of Psalm 23, along with some reflection questions, that will help you and your household discover some ways to join the Good Shepherd in his pursuit of each and every sheep.

Psalm 23
(paraphrased)

The Lord is my shepherd.  
I will have all I need.

A good shepherd takes care of his sheep.

He brings them to rest
in green meadows,
and he leads them to drink
cool water from quiet streams.

**Psalm 23 Reflections for Household Wells**

What resources has God given to me that I can use to bless my community?

Who, in my community, am I being nudged to care for?

What one thing could I do to make my household a place of rest and peace for my neighborhood?
God takes care of me just as well.

He shows me the right way to go,
so all the world will see
that God is good.

A good shepherd watches over his sheep.

He reaches out with his staff
and pulls them out of trouble,
and with his rod
He protects them from danger.

So even when things look dark and scary,
I will not be afraid,
because God is with me.

When trouble seems to be all around,
God prepares a feast for me.
I am his special guest,
and his blessings overflow.

God’s goodness and forgiveness
will be with me all of my life,
and I will live with him forever.

(written by Paul Dallgras-Frey)

Where do I need to seek God’s help in connecting my community to Jesus?

How is my household proclaiming God’s goodness? In what areas do we need to seek God’s wisdom?

Which neighbor can I pray for today?

Is there someone who has a physical need that I can help meet? Or an organization that I can support?

Who is needing a friend today? How can I give the gift of presence to someone in my neighborhood?

How might I join God in celebrating those around me? How can I help make someone feel like one of God’s special guests?

Pray. Thank you, Jesus, for your goodness and forgiveness. Teach me to recognize your promptings and to trust your presence as I seek to make you, the Good Shepherd, known to my community.
Higher Ground is our 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. Higher Ground meets on Sunday nights during the school year.

**Sunday, May 16th: 6:30pm Higher Ground [Bring money for ice cream]**
Email Emily at epowers@livelifetogether.com for more information.

Life in the Word is a gathering for 5th and 6th grade students and parents to explore the basics of our faith. You have a child in 5th or 6th grade and would like to have them participate, please contact Emily at epowers@livelifetogether.com.

**Life in the Word: On Break for the Summer**
Email Emily at epowers@livelifetogether.com for more information.

Are you on our email list? If you aren’t, but would like to get weekly updates about what is going on in Life in the Word and Higher Ground, let Emily know so we can add you!
God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10

Are you an adult over 65 and need Transportation to get a COVID-19 Vaccination?
Do you live in Dane County?
Have you exhausted all other options for rides?
Do you live in your own apartment or home?
This transportation is free for Dane Country Residents.

Inquire by calling NewBridge at 608-512-0000 ext. 3. This call line is open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

*Not for older adults living in assisted living facilities or nursing homes

Sunday, May 16th @ 10:30am via zoom
Contact Emily at epowers@livelifetogether.com for the meeting link.
God’s Crazy Creation: Weird Animals

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.

Building Faith is a new class this fall designed for kids in 2nd-6th grade. Kids will learn biblical truths while engaging in fun hands on activities.
GOOD SHEPHERD:
FINDS HIS SHEEP

Ezekiel 34:11-24

Focus: It hurts to be pushed out, whether it’s a result of our actions or the actions of others. Our Good Shepherd doesn’t leave us lost, or scattered. He personally finds His sheep, brings us home, and takes care of the reasons that resulted in our being scattered in the first place.
WORD
(You are welcome to gather in groups of 3 or 4 for all or part of this discussion. Consider using a break out room in zoom for smaller groups if needed)

READ Acts 2:1-41

How do you see God shepherding people in this scripture?

READ Matthew 26:31-35 and Zechariah 13:7-9

What differences do you notice between the Good Shepherd and sheep in these passages (include Acts if you like)?

Assignment: Look for small details in your day that are different because the Good Shepherd died for you. Share the first one you notice when you notice it by texting/posting/emailing/calling your LG.

PRAY
Listen to each other’s prayer requests and pray together for them. Ask God for eyes to see small ways that Jesus’ death and resurrection is affecting your life, and ask him to help you help your family and others take notice in their lives as well.

LOVE
How is God prompting you to show love to each other or those around you? Name one thing you’ll do this week individually or as a group?
SUNDAY, MAY 16TH: 9AM SUNDAY WORSHIP [IN-PERSON & ONLINE]
Join us for our In-person [sign up required] and online worship at 9am. Worship Services will be limited and sign-ups are be required. Also please note, the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Nursery will all be closed and children’s activity bags will also not be available for use. Please go to www.livelifetogether.com and click on the Welcome Back Image for more detailed information. Join us online at www.livelifetogether.com/livestream.

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND: ANYTIME PRAYER WALK
We have another opportunity to pray together yet be apart. May 22nd take some time to go out in your neighborhood and walk and pray. For examples of what to pray about, read the article in last weeks’ spiel. Let what you see guide how you pray! No need to sign up—just go and take some time to pray by yourself, with a friend or with your family.

SUNDAY, MAY 30TH: 2*22: 10:45AM DELIGHT BOOK DISCUSSION
We’re continuing our book discussion on "Delight". On the last Sunday of each month, we’ll be discussing another chapter. We’ll be discussing Chapter 5 of Delight. Go to www.livelifetogether.com/livestream and click the blue Delight button at the top of the page to join the zoom call. We’re doing this all year, so it’s not too late. If you still need your copy, contact Jess at jomalley@livelifetogether.com.
**SUNDAY, MAY 31ST: OFFICE CLOSED**
The church office will be closed for Memorial Day on May 31st.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH: 9AM MOM TO MOM [DREAM PARK-MONONA]**
This summer Mom to Mom gatherings will be both in person and virtual. During the months of June, July, and August please join us at three different parks around the Madison area! Park days will be held on Saturday each month while virtual gatherings will continue to happen Thursday nights. We hope you come to recharge with other moms in person and/or online! Thursday, June 17th at 8pm join us on the Google Meet!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH: 10:15AM-12PM PRAYER BOX ASSEMBLY PARTY [SIGN UPS DUE BY JUNE 1ST]**
This year, as we focus on our homes becoming Household Wells in our neighborhoods, we thought it would be fun to come together and make something tangible we could each use to bless our communities. Have you heard of a neighborhood prayer box? Simply put, it's a box that you leave in your yard/porch/office/anywhere visible. People are invited to leave a prayer request in the box. Then, you as a household pray for those requests. Where you put the box and how you set it up is up to you. Perhaps you can attach it to a pole next to your mailbox. Or maybe you leave it outside of your apartment door. Maybe a local business will let you leave it on their counter. Or perhaps on your desk in your office is where you want to offer support. Start dreaming and praying about how God wants you to use your prayer request box!

On June 27th, from 10:15-noon (come anytime in that time frame) we will have a prayer box assembly party at church. All of the materials you need, as well as step-by-step directions, will be available so you and your family can put together your own wooden prayer box. We will have work stations set up for families to be distanced from others. We will also have these boxes available as take-home kits. The boxes are $25 each to cover materials, but we don't want anyone left out for financial reasons. You can read more about these kits and all the details in the sign-up form. Please register by June 1 to allow us time to prep the prayer box kits. You can find out more and register here: https://forms.gle/s6YmAqfNqDT1xxJ7A

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WROTE IN YOUR PENZU JOURNAL? CREATED ONE YET?**
How is your Penzu Journal going? If you haven’t set yours up yet, you can email Amy Meyer with any questions at ameyer@livelifetogether.com. It’s been so fun and encouraging to see all of the journal entries for all of the Household Wells in our body of Christ. You’ll also find a journal entitled, “Household WELL Journal Prompts.” This journal will give you a bunch of ideas to get you started and keeping you going! Check out the journal to get your next prompt!

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ONLINE
Jenni Nowak - Prayers for a restoration of health for her mom as she is having foot surgery. Also for her sister that has two separate upcoming surgeries that are extremely serious. Please God guide the doctors in charge of their care. Continue to hold my friend Dawn in the palm of Your hand as her cancer continues to progress.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

5/19—37 years
Darrel & Mary Willadsen

**BIRTHDAYS**

5/18 Jessica Maddocks
5/23 Ashlyn Drapesa
5/23 Bryce Hoppe
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.
Important COVID-19 Updates:
Our Building is closed until further notice. However, we are now worshiping online and in person (with required sign ups). You can sign up for in person worship at www.livelifetogether.com/livestream.

You can also join us online at Facebook.com/livelifetogether or www.livelifetogether.com/livestream. We Worship Every Sunday Online at 9am.

the Church
2833 Raritan Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Combined Traditional & Exalt Worship
9:00AM