



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

AUGUST 15TH, 2021

livelife  
together

# THE SPIEL



## SEEKING GOD IN THE LESSER-KNOWN

**BY KIRSTEN ADSHEAD**

*Congregation Member*

*Kirsten and her family -- her husband, Adrian, and their children Sophie, Charlie and Susannah -- are members of the Church congregation. Kirsten also is a freelance writer and editor.*

Some Bible verses just stick.

We memorize them. They show up as Facebook memes. They're printed on plaques we hang in our homes.

This Biblical highlight reel, though, is *humanity's creation. God inspired every word in the Bible, so that we can know Him intimately and understand our purpose in His kingdom.*

Lesser-known verses have just as much power as the ones we memorize.

Back in January 2018, Pastor Jeff gave us an example from his vicarage days.

We often quote John 3:16 -- "For God so loved the world ... ."

But Pastor Jeff recounted how John 3:17 -- "*For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him*" -- inspired a congregant's "aha" moment.

"She had grown up with this idea that God was a wrathful, full-of-vengeance and full-of-judgment kind of God, and that if she messed up, God was going to strike her. ... She was in her mid-60s, and this was the first time that she had heard that *God was love.*"

"Now you tell me: Did that build confidence in her in a new way? Absolutely. Confidence to talk to God. Confidence to try new things. Because she was afraid to try *any new thing for fear she might mess it up. But when 'God loves me no matter what, and I can't fail?'* Oh, my gosh. The confidence just went through the roof!"

Far too often, I rely on my knowledge of a few "key" Bible verses in lieu of actually opening up my Bible and reading the darn thing.

So, using Pastor Jeff's sermon as an inspiration, I found a Bible verse I knew ... the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 ... and purposefully searched for God's message for me in the verses that



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surrounded it.

Verses 19 and 20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-18: "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

This struck me: "But some doubted." Ugh, doubt, my old enemy.

Doubt is the first technique Satan employs to separate us from God, in Genesis 3:1 -- "He said to the woman, '**Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?**'"

And doubt is *powerful*.

Jesus's disciples lived alongside him for three years. Jesus himself told them precisely what was going to happen. They watched him die. Then He rose again and visited them in person, proving his resurrection.

And yet, in Matthew 28:17, we see those same disciples, following Jesus's command but still thinking, "Hmm, I don't know. ..."

I can relate. Sometimes I imagine God the Father talking about me with Jesus.

"For real, I don't know what else I can do for her. I'm not obfuscating. I'm just straight-up giving her the answers. *What more does she need?!?!?*"

Argh, doubt. Get thee behind me, Satan!

But I love how the Bible acknowledges our humanity ... and then immediately reminds us of the solution to all problems.

Verse 18: "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Translation: "It's OK. I got this."

So, today, this is my prayer: *Dear God: Thank you for giving us all the words. Thank you for never hiding yourself from us. And thank you for sending us Jesus, our Savior. Amen.*"



VISIT OUR BLOG ONLINE

# HIGHER GROUND

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

## COMING UP FOR YOUTH:

*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, AUGUST 15TH, 6:30PM-8PM: HIGHER GROUND

We will be meeting virtually this Sunday. Catching up, playing games, and watching the slideshow from the Mission Trip photos. Email Emily for more information and the zoom link at [epowers@lifelifetogether.com](mailto:epowers@lifelifetogether.com)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH: HIGHER GROUND FALL KICK-OFF

Mark Your Calendars. More information coming soon!



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@lifelifetogether.com](mailto:epowers@lifelifetogether.com).

LIFE IN THE WORD IS ON SUMMER BREAK

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!

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



**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**

Interested in being a part of the team of those who serve to make Sunday morning worship possible? Contact Amy Meyer [ameyer@livelifetogether.com](mailto:ameyer@livelifetogether.com) if you would like to be a Greeter, help with the creation of the media slides from home or run the screens during worship. Training is provided and we would love to have you participate.

CHECK OUT MORE *LifeServe* OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE



# *Kids* CONNECTION & BUILDING FAITH

Kids Connection is for children 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids will learn biblical truths while engaging in fun hands on activities.

*SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH: AFTER WORSHIP  
KIDS CONNECTION/BUILDING FAITH PLAYDATE ON THE PLAYGROUND*

If you have questions, you can email Emily at [epowers@livelifetogether.com](mailto:epowers@livelifetogether.com).

# MESSAGE & NOTES

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## THE TRUTH: VICTORY NOT SURRENDER

1 John 5:1-8

*Focus: "Who can win this battle against the world?" This is a question to consider today, even as we consider it in its original context in this letter from St. John. As a follower of Jesus do you ever feel like the world is winning? Do you ever feel like you are being coerced into submission? Is the overwhelming tide of lies, deception, animosity, division, pulling you under? There is hope! We will overcome. We will prevail. And not just with our own mental or physical fortitude. But, with this clear answer. The guaranteed winners are "Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God." Those who are connected to life in Jesus will conquer. Those who follow Jesus are victorious, will overcome, prevail, and subdue the world. How can this be true? Because Jesus is the only answer to mankind's greatest enemy!*

# lifeLINES

THE TRUTH: STRENGTH FOR THE  
WORK, NOT FREEDOM FROM IT

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## WORD

*(You are welcome to gather in groups of 3 or 4 for all or part of this discussion. Consider using a breakout room in zoom for smaller groups if needed)*

## READ John 17:15-19

What does it mean to be “sanctified”? (NIV, ESV versions) or “holy” (NLT)

What does this verse say about God’s Word?

Discuss what Jesus meant when he prayed that we are not of the world, but we are sent into the world. Can you give examples of how this plays out in real time?

## PRAY

Pray for one another that we would be sent into the world like Jesus, and that we would know God’s word, the truth. That we would look different than the world, and close enough to love and know people in the world so we can make a difference.

## LOVE

You will notice this has been the same for a few weeks... how is it going practically showing love to those around you? Are you having any struggles showing love to those around you? How can you encourage each other to act on your ideas and show love?

What is one practical action you can take to show love to someone in your neighborhood?

This question was asked last week... What did you do? How did it go? Didn’t get a chance last week, try again this week!

# CALENDAR & EVENTS



## WEEKLY:

## UPCOMING:

### *SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH: 9AM SUNDAY WORSHIP [IN-PERSON & ONLINE]*

Join us for our In-person and online worship at 9am. For right now the following spaces are still closed: Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Nursey will all be closed and children's activity bags will also not be available for use. The playground is open with adult supervision. Please go to [www.livelifetogether.com](http://www.livelifetogether.com) and click on the Welcome Back Image for more detailed information. Join us online at [www.livelifetogether.com/livestream](http://www.livelifetogether.com/livestream).

### *SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH: AFTER WORSHIP, FALL FESTIVAL PICNIC*

Bring your picnic and chairs. Join us for our Back To Community celebration and see your friends.

### *THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH: ONLINE HAPPY HOUR!*

Mark Your Calendars and join us online for happy hour. More information coming soon!



**Summer Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-1pm.**

We will have office hours at *the Church* beginning this coming week. Our summer office hours will be **Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-1pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Jess at [jomalley@lifelifeogether.com](mailto:jomalley@lifelifeogether.com).

***ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES***

A special Counseling Assistance Fund has been established to assist this congregation, especially those who are uninsured or underinsured, to receive essential, life-changing, professional Christian mental health counseling. A small payment of \$10 - \$25 is requested per visit. If you or a loved one are struggling with anxiety, depression, grief, addiction or other mental health concerns, help is nearby and accessible. Lisa Hecht, MSSW, LCSW, is a licensed therapist with Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin who serves this congregation. As a Christian counselor, she can draw upon the promises of the Gospel as well as her clinical expertise to find solutions to life's challenging moments. She is available for both in-person and tele-health counseling sessions. Donations can also be made to this fund by specifying "Counseling Assistance Fund" on your donation envelope. Call LCFS at 800-291-4513 to schedule an appointment or learn more at [www.lcfswi.org](http://www.lcfswi.org).

**FALL OFFICE HOURS BEGIN SEPT. 7TH: MONDAY—THURSDAY FROM 9AM-1PM**

Our office hours will be changing this fall beginning September 7th. The church office will be open **Monday through Thursday from 9am-2pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Jess at [jomalley@lifelifeogether.com](mailto:jomalley@lifelifeogether.com).

**SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES**



**CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ONLINE**



# PRAYERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS//



Lord, we pray for the marriages in our church body and community. We pray that you provide the third strand in these marriages. That we would seek you first, so we can show up to our spouses how you want us to. Lord, without you, we can't be a good partner. Help us to put you first. Help us to lean on you when times are difficult. Fix our eyes on you; on your majesty, your glory, and your almighty power. You can do anything, Lord. Amen.

## ANNIVERSARIES

8/17—30 years  
Bill & Peg Strange

8/20—27 years  
Pete & Dannie Jaeger

8/22—29 years  
Mark & Joan Dawson

8/22—23 years  
Greg & Nikki Hoppe

## BIRTHDAYS

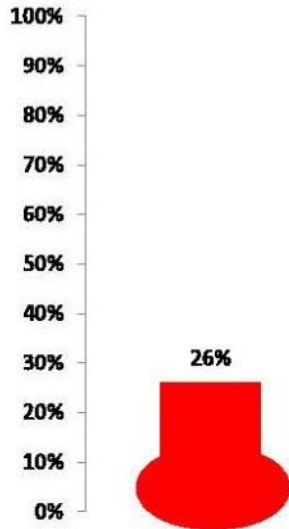
8/16 Mary Berger  
8/18 Amy Stoffels

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

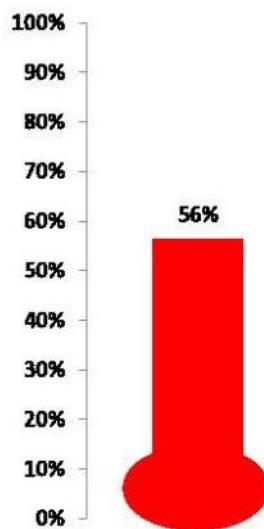
# GLANCE *at the* FINANCE



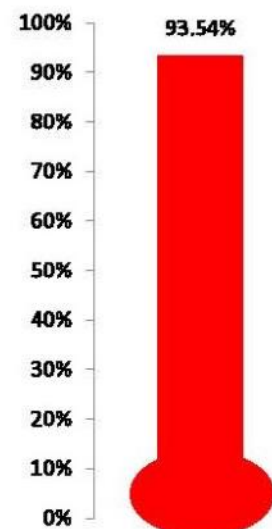
Month-To-Date Summary



Year-To-Date Summary



AM2FM Summary



Tithes and Offerings as of 8/4/2021			
August Goal	\$ 48,040	Annual Goal	\$ 582,000
Month-To-Date Goal	\$ 5,370	Year-To-Date Goal	\$ 315,210
Month-To-Date Received	\$ 10,904	2021 Actual Offering	\$ 328,678
M-T-D, 2020	\$ 33,663	Y-T-D, 2020	\$ 302,589
<b>% of Month-to-Date Goal</b>	203%	<b>% of Year-to-Date Goal</b>	104%
M-T-D Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 5,534	Y-T-D Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 13,468

AM2FM Campaign	
2019 Support	47,006
2020 Support	140,057
2021 Support	20
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>187,083</b>
<b>% of Goal</b>	<b>93.54%</b>
<b>Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 81,246</b>


## 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]

I AM WITH YOU...The Truth: Victory Not Surrender - [August 15th, 2021]