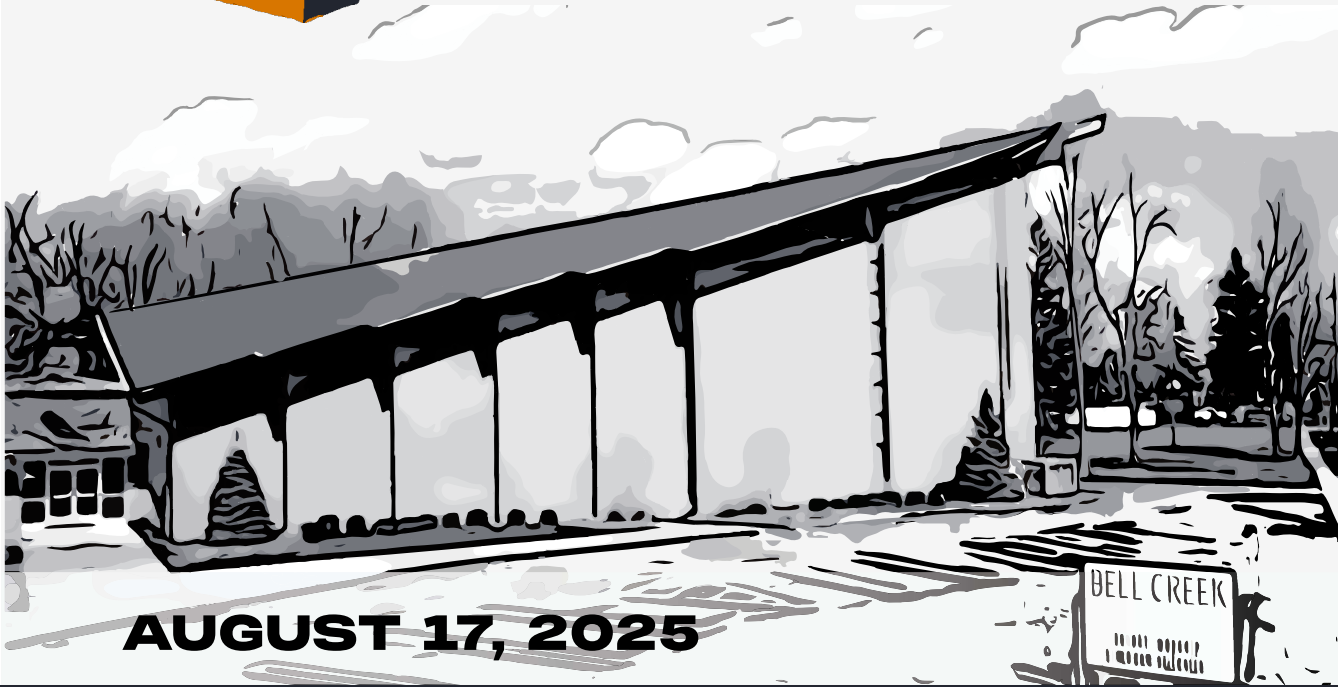


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



AUGUST 17, 2025

**HE WHO IS IN YOU IS GREATER THAN HE WHO
IS IN THE WORLD**

1 JOHN 4: 1-6

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

HE WHO IS IN YOU IS GREATER THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD

1 JOHN 4: 1-6

Do not believe every spirit

By this you know the Spirit of God

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world

FOR NEXT WEEK

For next week: Read the book of 1 John (takes 15 minutes or less!).

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

AUGUST 17: JEREMIAH 35-37
AUGUST 18: JEREMIAH 38-40; PSALM 74 & 79
AUGUST 19: 2 KINGS 24-25; 2 CHRONICLES 36
AUGUST 20: HABAKKUK
AUGUST 21: JEREMIAH 41-45
AUGUST 22: JEREMIAH 46-48
AUGUST 23: JEREMIAH 49-50

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

AWANA REGISTRATION

Awana begins Wednesday, September 3, and will meet every Wednesday from September-May from 6:30-7:45 PM. If your child would like to join, you can register at www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Awana Director, Gretchen Schick (734-751-0006 or awana@bellcreek.org). There will be a table set up in the back of the gym this Sunday if you would like more information about this ministry.

MOMCO AT THE CREEK

Mom's of children birth-12 grade are invited to join Bell Creek's Mom Community Ministry! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:30-11:30 AM (childcare provided), and the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30 PM. Join one group (or both) for a time of food, speakers, crafts, playdates, mom's night out, and most importantly, fellowship with other moms. If you are interested, please join us on August 28 for our Kick-Off event; details are on the flier insert. If you would like to donate food for the event, there is a sign up online at www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions, please email mops@bellcreek.org.

BAPTISM

Our next Baptism opportunity will be on Sunday, September 28. If you are interested in being baptized as a believer, please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org).

ART OF MARRIAGE CLASS

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint will be leading a 3-day Marriage Class in November. The class will consist of a series of videos, work together as a couple, and group discussions. This is the same series as the class we hosted in May, so if you already did the class, you do not need to repeat it. The class will meet on the following dates: Friday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 PM; Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sunday, November 16, 6:30-9:00 PM.

To register for the class, you can do so by visiting www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org) or Elyse Quint (elyse@bellcreek.org).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

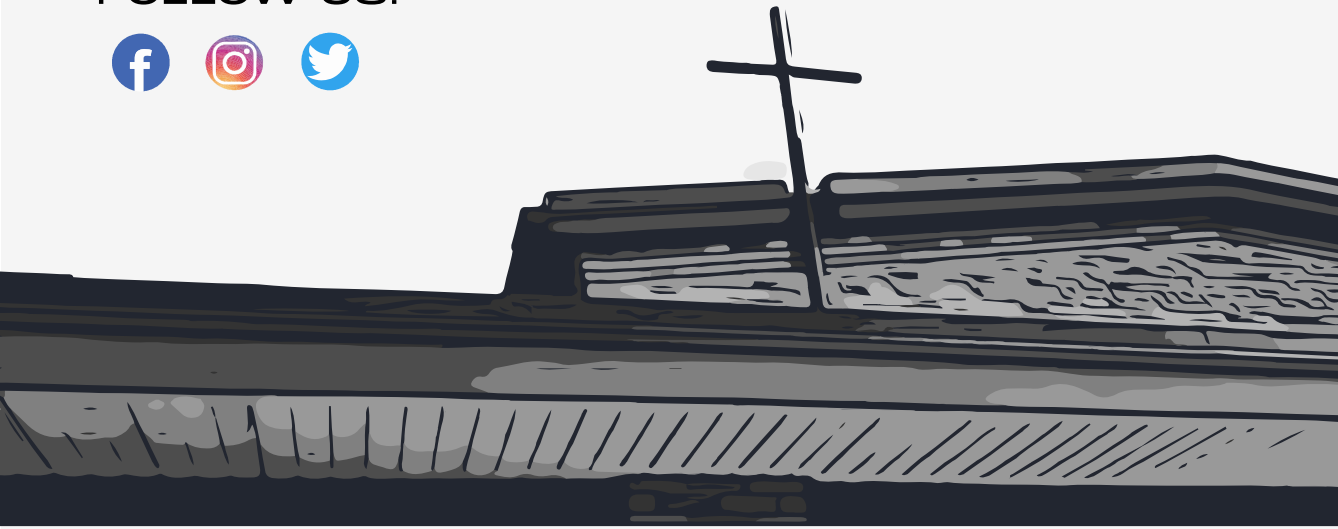
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon 08.17.2025

1 John 4:1-6

Sermon Title: He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world

1. Do not believe every spirit

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1, ESV)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1, ESV)

First, we must acknowledge what the Scriptures teach – there IS spiritual realm. – *The spiritual realm is as real as anything we see with our eyes. It is filled with innumerable beings of great power, both good and evil.*

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,” (Hebrews 12:22, ESV)

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,” (1 Timothy 4:1–2, ESV)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,** for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1, ESV)

“Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:20–21, ESV)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, **for many false prophets have gone out into the world.**” (1 John 4:1, ESV)

“And the LORD said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.” (Jeremiah 14:14, ESV)

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.” (Mark 13:22–23, ESV)

The Messages of False Spirits and False Prophets...

False spirits deny or diminish Christ: either His person (both God and man) or His work (atonement).

False spirits twist Scripture: by adding new revelations, ignoring it, or bending it to culture.

False spirits lead away from holiness: toward permissiveness (appeal to our eyes and the flesh).

False spirits appeal to pride: toward legalism (telling us we are better than everyone else) or promoting man-centered glory instead of God-centered worship.

I ask you to consider the messages you have been hearing lately from within yourself and from the world. Wouldn't you agree that what we've just said here is true? Isn't it the case that many of the messages from social media, movies, advertisements, news, or from within yourself fall into these categories?

2. By this you know the Spirit of God

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (1 John 4:2, ESV)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1, ESV)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14, ESV)

“and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.” (1 John 4:2–3, ESV)

Remember, Antichrists oppose the Person, purposes, and people of Jesus.

3. He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4, ESV)

How have we overcome the false spirits and their messages? We have overcome them by the Holy Spirit!

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world!” The Holy Spirit speaks God's word to us. He reminds us of it. He replaces the lies we believed with truth. He applies it to our hearts and changes us.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16–17, ESV)

Our Identity in Christ (“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them”):

We have been qualified by the Father to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, Colossians 1:12

We have been delivered from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Christ, Colossians 1:13

We are made alive with Christ, Colossians 2:13

We are forgiven of all sins, Colossians 2:13

The Charges against us (our sins) have been canceled (the record of debt with its legal demands), Colossians 2:14

The charges against us (our sins) have been set aside and nailed to the cross, Colossians 2:14

Christ has disarmed the spiritual powers, Colossians 2:15

Christ has defeated the spiritual powers and made a public spectacle of them, Colossians 2:15

Christ has triumphed over the evil spiritual powers at the cross, Colossians 2:15

“They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.” (1 John 4:5, ESV)

“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:19, ESV)

“We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:6, ESV)

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28, ESV)

Application: What messages are we allowing into our minds?

For those here who are just exploring who Christ is, or maybe doubting if any of this is true, or even feeling resistant—I may not know you personally, but I do know something that’s true about all of us: our minds are *full* of messages. Some of those messages push hard to discourage us or to pull us toward things that will harm us – just as the Scriptures warn us. The poet Sylvia Plath, whose works were often very dark, once wrote, “I desire the things which will destroy me in the end.” And if you’re honest, you probably recognize that many of the voices you hear are not good, and they certainly are not leading you toward God.

Well, I have good news for you. There is a message that will lead you to God so that you may have a relationship with Him. And this message is just the beginning of countless conversations He wants to have with you, where He tells you of the good things He has for you.

Because the good news isn’t just an idea—it’s a Person, Jesus. All of us have sinned and turned away from God, but Jesus died and rose again so we could be forgiven and have eternal life. If you’ll be honest with Him about your sin, turn from the lies you’ve believed, and put your trust in Him, He promises to forgive you and give you new life today. He will replace the lying voices in your head with His own true, loving, and powerful voice. Will you trust Him today?

For those of us who already know Jesus, our first response is gratitude. We thank God that “He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.” We praise Him because it wasn’t our own wisdom or brilliance that brought us to Christ, but the gracious work of the Holy Spirit who opened our eyes to the truth. Our next response is to grow in listening to His voice. God delights for His people to hear Him. That means reading His Word, meditating on it, discussing it together, and bringing it back to Him in prayer—learning day by day to recognize the voice of our Shepherd.

And as we hear His voice, we are called to live it out, because we are not just here to *listen*! Listening is never meant to stop at hearing; it is intended to shape how we think, feel, speak, and act, so that our lives bear witness to the One who speaks truth. And here's encouragement – it *will* shape you into a Godly person, moment by moment, day by day, because it has a power all its own that is “living and active.” The Holy Spirit who is with us and in us is using the truth of God's word right now to change us.

Finally, for those who are suffering or struggling. For those who are carrying grief, doubt, shame, or hardship. Here's a *message* of comfort, encouragement, and a promise of God's presence in weakness.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
(Matthew 11:28–29, ESV)

1. What did you think of the sermon, “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world?”
2. What are some “messages” you regularly hear (from culture, media, or even your own thoughts) that you need to test against God’s Word? How can you practically test them this week?
3. Since John says the Spirit of God always points to Jesus, how can you confess Christ more openly in your daily life—at home, at work, or among friends?
4. Where are you most aware of spiritual opposition or temptation in your life right now? How does the promise that “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” give you courage and confidence?
5. What practices help you most clearly hear the Spirit’s voice through Scripture and prayer? How can you deepen those practices so that God’s voice is louder than the world’s?
6. How can you live differently this week—thinking, speaking, or acting—in order to reflect the truth of Christ you’ve heard, rather than the lies of the world?