



Standing on the Promises No Fear of the Dark: The Promise of Light in the Darkness

August 23, 2026

Psalm 27:1, NIV

The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I fear.

Psalm 23:4, NIV

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Isaiah 41:10, NIV

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

John 8:12, NIV

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Matthew 5: 14-16, NIV

[Jesus said,] "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Message Notes

1. Face the Dark
2. Trust the Light
3. Share the Light

Food for Thought

1. What darkness are you facing right now? What would it look like to be honest about your fear while still trusting God's promise: "I am with you"?
2. We often want God to give us the whole spotlight, but He may only give us enough light for the next step. What is the next faithful step God may be asking you to take?
3. Fear asks, "What if everything goes wrong?" Faith asks, "What if God is with me no matter what happens?" Which question has been guiding you lately?
4. Who around you might be walking through a dark place right now? Who could you encourage, pray for, check on, or simply remind, "You are not alone"?
5. We are not the source of the Light—we reflect the Light of Jesus. Where can His love, mercy, patience, service, or hope shine through you this week?
6. Life brings moments when the way ahead feels uncertain and the darkness feels very real. But our faith reminds us that we do not face those moments alone. As you reflect on today's message, consider where God may be asking you to face the dark, trust the Light, and share the Light with someone else this week.

STILL WATERS exists to **FIND** the lost, **RELEASE** the captive and **DEVELOP** disciples of Jesus

Still Waters Church | 3617 Scenic Road, PO Box 406, Jackson, WI 53037 | 262-677-1311

Worship Hours: Sunday 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

Happy Birthday!

August 23 Dina Roberts
August 24 Hunter Schmitt
August 27 Bonnie Hanson
August 21 Darcy Gill, Jack Nelson, Kara Phillips
August 22 Paul Hansen

Happy Anniversary!

August 23 Dave & Shirley Ritger

Ushers

Sunday

9am

Vicki & Katie Passineau

10:30am

Steve & Barb Smith

Greeters

Tom & Tammy Trueman

Linda Kleinhans & Kim Bartusek

Church Website



Online Giving



Greetings from Dayton, Still Waters Family! As I drove to Dayton on Sunday afternoon, I started driving in the light, but when I arrived at my destination at about 10:00 p.m., it was dark! There's quite a difference driving in the light of day, and driving in the dark. Even though I've driven this route many times, driving in the dark was challenging, especially in the places of road construction. In life, it's much easier navigating in the 'light,' of life- that is when everything is going great and life is full of hope and excitement and energy. In 'dark' times, it may be hard to find hope, joy, peace, or even motivation. This weekend, Kelly is going to preach on "No Fear of the Dark," as he discusses God's promise of "Light in the Darkness." I will be driving home Friday, and looking forward to seeing you Sunday! As many of you might remember, I am working on a Doctor of Ministry Degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. The first week of each semester is in-person. It has been a full and fulfilling week! I look forward to sharing more when I return. See you Sunday!

A few updates and notes about the upcoming opportunities, this week and beyond:

Walk 'n Connect

Join us on **Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.** at church. (Note, we have changed this from Tuesdays to Thursdays!) Weather permitting, we will begin with a walk around our property outside, otherwise we'll walk inside. Then, after our walk, We will be guided through time of connecting with each other and God using the "Prayers from Iona" resource. Open your day with friends, community, connection, and God! See Robin Olson or Pastor Lori for details. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

Family Support Group

This group is a support group for people who have loved ones affected with addiction(s). Meeting the 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. here at Still Waters Church, it is a casual gathering to share experiences, thoughts, and feelings with others in your situation. **Next meeting is August 20, 5:00 p.m.** Come as you are and when you can. See Ron or Ann Naab with questions.

Family Promise info for Aug 24th – 30th, 2026

Still Waters will partner with Family Promise the week of August 24th – 30th by providing meals for families experiencing homelessness. Family Promise is currently supporting three families (7 individuals) in the family shelter as well as nearly 20 additional men, women and children in shelter and transitional apartments. **Here's How You Can Help!**

1. **One option is to provide a meal:** We're looking for volunteers to prepare and deliver a large meal to the shelter by 3:00 p.m. on August 24th, 26th, or 29th.
2. **A second option is to prepare and/or serve dinner on-site at Family Promise:** Join us on Thursday, August 27th from 5:00–7:00 p.m. as our team will bring a prepared meal to serve and join those experiencing homelessness to enjoy a Sloppy Joe dinner with buns, salads, chips, fruit, veggies, pickles, desserts and refreshments. **You can volunteer to serve and/or bring food.**

Please sign up online or on your Connection Card or online for which option works best for you. You'll come to Karl's Place, 450 Water St, West Bend, WI 53095. Questions? Contact Kelly (kpassin@gmail.com) or Vicki Passineau (vsp0013@gmail.com.)

Prayer & Paddle at Pike Lake

Prayer & Paddle has begun! We'll be at Pike Lake State Park, 3544 Kettle Moraine Road, Hartford, WI 53027. Come to the beach! Join us for a summer evening of fellowship, a brief devotion, prayer, and time on the water as we enjoy the beauty of God's creation together. We will gather at 6:00 PM and conclude around sunset. You may also sign up on the connection card or online. **Prayer and Paddle Future Date will be: August 26.**

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Still Waters Women's Retreat

Join us for a Women's Retreat August 28th – 30th, 2026 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center, W6016 Blackhawk Road, Wautoma, Wi. 54982. Our focus will be on Self Care and the Bible. Cost is \$210/person based on a shared room. Price includes lodging, dinner on Friday, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday, as well as all program costs. The Black Oak Lodge sleeps 19 and boasts a full kitchen as well as a gathering room with a fireplace. In addition to being surrounded by wooded walking paths, there is a beautiful pool which, weather permitting, we will be able to use. Food is always delicious, plentiful and thoughtfully prepared with dietary restrictions in mind. We will gather late afternoon on Friday and conclude after streaming Sunday Service on Sunday. Any questions, please feel free to contact Robin Olson. Sign up online or on your Connection Card.

Brat Fry Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Stop by Piggly Wiggly, Slinger location, on **Saturday, August 29 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.** for our youth ministry fundraiser! Proceeds from sales this day will benefit Still Waters Youth Ministry!

Backpack Blessing, August 30

Mark your calendar... On Sunday, August 30, we will have a "Backpack Blessing." We'll pray for our students during worship, and *after* the second service we'll go outside to pray and start the school year off with a celebration of some Jesus Confetti! Students, bring your backpacks, and we'll offer **prayers for students and school staff and families!** All are welcome, come and support our students and families and school staff! Meet us behind the church for a prayer and celebration!

Family Fun Day — Sunday, September 6

Join us for a Labor Day Weekend Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 6, from noon–2:00 p.m. at Still Waters! We'll gather outdoors for a relaxed afternoon of family games, a campfire, good food, and time together. We'll cook hot dogs over the fire, enjoy the fire pit, try our hand at gaga ball, and have plenty of other outdoor games and activities for all ages. There's no need to bring anything, but if you'd like to bring a side dish to share, you're welcome to!

Everyone is welcome, so bring the family, invite a friend, and come enjoy the afternoon. You can sign up on the Connection Card or online, but you're also welcome to just show up! Questions? Contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com.

Feeding America

Join us on **Wednesday, September 9** (always the 2nd Wednesday of the month) at **1:00 p.m.** for this very important ministry to distribute food to those who are food insecure. On-the-job training is always available; we often have new volunteers each month, so no worries if it's your first time. We'd love to welcome you!

Saturday Worship Begins Sept 12

We will resume our 5:00 p.m. Saturday worship on Saturday, Sept 12th! In addition to our two Sunday morning worship services, there will be another option for worship each weekend. Mark your calendar!

Intergenerational Sunday + Souper Sunday, September 13

Join us Sunday, September 13! Following the second service, during our Souper Sunday meal, we'll celebrate the gift of every generation at Still Waters, from our youngest to our oldest, with special appreciation for the wisdom, stories, and faith of the older generations among us. Still Waters Youth Ministries will host a relaxed time of sharing a meal, table games, conversation, and fun ways to connect and learn from one another across generations. We may even make a little music together

with Boomwhackers and a drum circle, where everyone can join in! Come share a story, learn something new, and enjoy time together as one church family. Every generation has something to share, and every generation has something to learn. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

Youth Ministries Biannual Meetings – September 13 & March 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Twice each year, in September and March, Still Waters Youth Ministries gathers youth, parents/guardians, mentors, and ministry leaders for our Biannual Youth Ministry Meeting. These gatherings take the place of our regular monthly Flock Meeting and are especially important times to share where we are headed, review upcoming opportunities and expectations, and strengthen the partnership between youth, families, mentors, and the church. We ask every youth ministry family to make these two meetings a priority, with youth and at least one parent/guardian planning to attend; mentors are strongly encouraged to join us as well. As we walk together in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ, these gatherings help ensure that we are informed, connected, and supporting our young people together.

Please save the dates: Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 14, 2027 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas in July UPDATE:

Still Waters Church...you are truly amazing! **Christmas in July was a great success** as we began our work for Christmas Store in December. **We have had nearly 50 people signing up for the various teams.** If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late! There are many teams that still need help and you can access the sign up online through the Still Waters website. **A big need and amazing opportunity is in the area of personal shoppers.** Personal shoppers are assigned a family to be with throughout the Christmas Store process. While it may seem intimidating at first, it is actually a very rewarding experience and one that makes a direct impact on people. If you have any questions about the process, reach out to Teri Kandel at kandelte@gmail.com.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has already signed up for a team. Your team leader will be reaching out in the next couple of months to solidify schedules. Christmas Store planning is off to a strong start. Stay tuned for updates as the months unfold!

Solar Panel Update

As many of you know, we are looking forward to being a church with solar panels! John Haas, our Business Administrator shared on Sunday that he had received an update last Friday that our permits have been approved! The company also has availability between other projects, and they are expecting to begin working on our church either late this week or early the following week. We are excited that the timeline appears to be quicker than expected.

The projected cost is also slightly lower than we thought a couple months ago. Two very welcome surprises. The projected cost is about \$60,000 after incentives, and we have already received gifts totaling \$22,000 from a few donors. If you would like to give towards this project, please reach out to John Haas, or write Solar on your gift. Thank you!!!

Prayers surrounding each of you, and for our hearts to be open to God's direction and mission for us, now and always!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori