



Angels Among Us

Acting on the Unbelievable

An Angel of the Lord and Joseph

December 13 & 14, 2025

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Message Notes

1. Don't Be Afraid
2. Be Changed
3. Be Brave

Food for Thought

In many ways, it would have been easier for Joseph to not take Mary as his wife. He faced ridicule, he faced a hard road ahead. The angel told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife.

--> **What are you afraid of? What does it mean for you to internalize the hundreds of messages in the Bible, especially the message of the angels of Christmas, to not be afraid?**

Joseph had to internally change his attitude, his perception, his worldview with respect to the baby Jesus.

--> **In what ways do you feel called to internally change your perception or attitude or view of someone or some situation?**

Joseph was brave in many ways. He was brave to change his course of action and take Mary as his wife. Joseph was also called by an angel in Matthew 2 to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt in order to escape the wrath of a jealous King Herod.

--> **In what ways to you feel God is calling you to be brave and courageous? What might it cost you? What will be your next step?**

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: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am & 10:30 am

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

Happy Birthday!

Dec 14	Colten DeLisle
Dec 15	Jeff Hagenstein
Dec 16	Aalijah Wiensch
Dec 17	Sydney Maier, Rachel Pechacek
Dec 18	Corah Pouzar
Dec 19	Dan Bothwell, Jenna Westenberger
Dec 20	Barb Smith

Ushers

Greeters

Saturday

Debbie Drews

Sunday

9am

Marc & Kim Bartusek

Kelly Passineau & Linda Kleinhans

10:30am

Susie Klostermann
Sandra Grasse

Greg & Patti Bocain
Pat Swanstrom

Church Website



Online Giving



It occurred to me this week that we are 'halfway through Advent.' It's a little hard for me to comprehend that two weeks from today will be Christmas Day! We've done a ton of ministry this season... and more to come! It may be easy to think we have to keep 'sprinting' until we've completed the race. Let's all try to stay centered receiving Christ's gift of peace and joy and grace! This weekend will be an amazing weekend of worship. On **Saturday at 5:00 and Sunday at 9:00, I'll share a message based on the angel's appearance to Joseph in a dream as we continue our series on "Angels Among Us."** Will be blessed to hear **testimony from Stacey Lopacinski**, as we learn how the angels around her, including many of you, have made such a huge difference in her life the last few years. My heart has been deeply touched as I've considered the story of the angel who visited Joseph, and the implications for us today, as we seek to *not* be afraid, to be changed, and to be brave. **Then, at 10:30, we will have the amazing and inspiring gift of our Children's Christmas Program entitled, "Heaven and Nature Sing."** I look forward to seeing you This weekend, as we prepare to laugh, learn, be changed, and worship the King of Kings. See you soon!

Here are more details of this and other upcoming opportunities:

ADVENT STUDY, Offerings: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays

We have one more week of our Advent study. Join us!

Choose the study that works best in your schedule! We'll offer the 3-week study on

- **Mondays at 7:00 p.m.** (facilitated by Pastor Lori) beginning December 1
- **Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m.** (facilitated by Robin Jasinski) beginning December 2
- **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** (facilitated by Jena Metzler) beginning December 3 .

The study will be based on a book by Pastor Susan Robb called **"The Angels of Christmas."**

In it, we will explore the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus. In the Bible, angels are messengers. The angels of Christmas came to deliver important messages to people who were hoping for God to intervene in a mighty way. The angels of Christmas still bring "good news of great joy for all the people," including you and me. Based the book by Susan Robb, come explore this special way that God is working in our world and in our lives this Advent season. We invite you on the journey with us! Book is \$19. Sign up online or on your Connection Card.

Advent Candle Lighters- Great Opportunity!

There is one open slot if you'd like to share in the lighting of the Advent wreath in worship...

Christmas Eve 2:00 service. Sign up on the Connection Card or online. We will also set up a practice so you are well prepared. Thank you! This will be so special!

Advent Readers- Another Great Opportunity!

In addition to but different than the Advent Candle Lighters, we will have a Reader who will share a reading that centers our hearts and brings us into the Advent Theme of the week. This person will practice the reading once on one of two Monday evenings or after worship on a Sunday. Sign up for the day and time of the worship service in which you'd like to participate, and we'll look to find a practice date corresponding to that service. Openings still exist for Christmas Eve, 2:00, 4:00, or 6:00.

Deck the Halls for All Abilities

Join us on Saturday, December 13, from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. for a free community celebration in partnership with Michelle's Action Angels.

Guests with disabilities and their families are invited to enjoy music, treats, ornament-making crafts, and our "Everybody's Got Talent" showcase (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.).

A pick-up option will also be available for those who prefer to receive a goodie bag and ornament-making kit.

Registration Details:

Volunteers: Register on the Still Waters website or Connection Card

Guests: RSVP to mgaafoundation@gmail.com or text/call 414-303-0665 so we can plan enough treats and supplies

We can't wait to celebrate the joy of the season together — sharing God's love through creativity, community, and inclusion.

Everybody's Got Talent

We are excited to offer an "Everybody's Got Talent" event that will take place Saturday, **December 13th from 11am-1pm** during the Deck the Halls for All Abilities. Got a talent? Sing? Play an instrument? Comedy? Juggle? We want to celebrate and include people of ALL abilities to join in this celebration. If you have a talent, we want to see it! Sign up on our Connection Card or on our website.

Children's Christmas Program

Our amazing children are so excited to bring to you their Christmas program on **Sunday, December 14, during the 10:30 worship service. Parts are being assigned, so contact Jena with questions!** The kids will share, "Heaven and Nature Sing," a play centered around the angels' perspective of the birth of Jesus. At the Saturday 5:00 and Sunday 9:00 worship service, Pastor Lori will share the message. At the 10:30 service, the message will be our children sharing with our congregation!

The Flock, Sunday December 14, 5:00 p.m.

Fellowship and Informational Meeting for Youth, Parents, and Siblings

"The Flock" is the name given to a monthly gathering for an informational meeting for youth, parents, and siblings. Snacks available. Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

Youth Group Christmas Party

Our youth grades 6-12 are invited on **Sunday, Dec. 14 from 6-8pm** to our Youth Group Christmas Party! We will hold the Annual Ugly Christmas sweater, socks contests as well as playing Reindeer games, and our White Flamingo exchange.

Each youth should bring:

- 1) A food item to share
- 2) A donation for Washington County Humane Society (WCHS) from their wish list. Check out the wish list at <https://www.wchspets.org/wish-list/>
- 3) \$5.00 towards Damian's and Linda's (the two children in Honduras that our youth are sponsoring).
- 4) White Flamingo silly gift wrapped with no name on it. (cost not to exceed \$5.00)

Car Wash to Benefit our Youth!

Do you enjoy supporting Still Waters Youth Ministries? Does your car need a good washing before Christmas? Come to Uncle Larry's Car Wash in Hartford between **Dec 14 and Dec 27th!** Purchase any car wash and be sure to select "Still Waters Church" from the ala-carte when you check out, either on the screen or in-person if you own a car wash package. The Youth Ministries program will receive 25% of each car wash! End 2025 with a clean car WHILE supporting Still Waters Youth! Invite your friends, neighbors, or anyone with a vehicle! Just take your care to Uncle Larry's Car Wash, 2712 East Sumner Street, Hartford, WI 53027

Souper Sunday, December 21st, 11:45 a.m.

Yes, we are having Souper Sunday on December 21! As we prepare for Christmas, let's take this time to connect around the table at our "Souper Sunday," which is an awesome meal for our congregation, sponsored by our youth on the third Sunday of each month. Come for a great meal/intergenerational fellowship. Free will offering accepted, and proceeds will benefit our amazing youth ministry. Sign up on your Connection Card or website. Contact Lisa with questions.

Enchantment in the Park- Still Waters Youth Praise Team (plus young at heart)

Our Youth Praise Team has been invited back to play at Enchantment in the Park, after having been snowed out a couple weeks ago! Come on out and support our youth as we prepare for Christmas on **Tuesday evening, December 23, from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.** We are excited that our Still Waters Youth Praise Team (plus some additional young-at-heart praise team members) will share music at Enchantment in the Park. Enter Regner Park in West Bend from Main Street. See you there!

Do you have extra furniture?

Tammy Baines of our congregation has discovered through her work a family who is struggling. Working with a social worker at a hospital, we have found that this special family consist of a mom, dad, and two daughters, ages 3 and 18 months. The 3-year old little girl has been in the hospital for several months and the family has many medical expenses. They have been living in their residence for several months with very little furniture. They came from Haiti and are trying so hard to make ends meet. If you happen to have any of the following furniture, please let John Haas know, as he will coordinate getting the furniture to this family. Needed: king size mattress, bedding for a king size bed, (the house had a king bed frame when they moved in), twin size bedding (they have the bed), crib, couch, bath and kitchen towels, kitchen bowls/plates/cups/utensils/etc, a TV stand, comfortable chairs, coffee table, a child size table and chairs ,and an adult size table and chairs. Contact John at 262-617-7004 or john@stillwaterschurch.com if you have questions or if you have furniture you could donate. Thank you!

Special Christmas Offering

In the week, you will receive a special Christmas envelope in the mail. We invite you to prayerfully consider your extra gift this year as we seek to finish well 2025, and bring your Christmas offering on Christmas Eve service, or anytime yet this year. Many blessings!

Don't forget your Scrip Gift Cards!

As you are thinking about Christmas gifts, don't forget our Scrip gift cards! Either buy the gift cards that you can give to someone for Christmas, or buy the gift cards that you can use while buying gifts at different stores. Remember, this is a great way to benefit Still Waters Church, as a percentage of the cost of the card goes back to the church at no cost to you! Robin Olson will be offering the Scrip gift cards Sunday mornings at church. Feel free to contact her (robinlee29@aol.com) if you want to make special arrangements to get them, or if you want to know if she has particular store gift cards.

Christmas Eve Hospitality- Sharing Candles

On Christmas Eve, we will expand our hospitality team to add the servants who will greet people as they enter the sanctuary and distribute candles! This is a great time to try out hospitality, and play a special role giving candles out to those who come to worship. We still have serving opportunities at the Christmas Eve 2:00 service. Thank you for considering on serving on an evening when many guests are seeking the hope of Christ! Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

Christmas Eve Worship!

We are so excited for the big celebration as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24. Worship times will be: **10:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 p.m.** *Livestream will be at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.* Still Waters Youth Ministry Praise Team will lead music at 10:00, adult praise team at other services. At all services, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, hear a Christmas message, and light candles as we are reminded that Christ is the light of the world and he shares that light with us! Come, invite a friend, and let's worship! If you are worshipping online, please feel free to have candles ready to have candlelight with us!

New Years Eve Youth Overnight

7pm Wednesday, Dec 31 - 7:00 am Thursday, Jan 1st

Our youth will have an overnight at church on New Years Eve! What a great and safe way to ring in the new year! Still Waters Youth may invite friends who are 5th grade and older, (siblings may be as young as 4th grade). All youth participants will need a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian. A freewill donation of \$10 per youth to help fund the youth ministries is appreciated but not required. All Still Waters Youth are asked to sign up for food items to share. (Guests are exempt regarding the food share sign up.) The event will conclude with check out/pick up. Permission slips and the food sign up will be attached to the Band app calendar link as well as the Still Waters Youth page on our website. See Lisa for details or questions.

Holiday Office Hours

Holiday office hours, the weeks of Christmas and New Years are as follows:

- Office will be **open Monday and Tuesday, Dec., 22 and 23, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Office will be **open Tuesday, Dec 30 and Wednesday, Dec 31, 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori