



The Light Shines

December 24, 2025

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Luke 2:5-7

[Joseph] went to [Bethlehem] to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

John 8:12

[Jesus said,] "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Message Notes

1. See the Light
2. Be the Light

Food for Thought

Most of us can name pretty quickly things that are not going right... in our lives, in our families, in our world, at our workplaces, to name a few. What are your prayer concerns regarding those?

Why is it so hard to see the good things? Why is it so hard to see the light? What are the forces of hope and possibility on which you might focus?

Are there ways you can put a routine in place to slow down, at least once or twice a day, and consider how God is at work?

How can you take that which God is doing in your heart, and share that with the people of this world?

How can you be the light in 2026?

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

| | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Communion</u> |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 10am | Youth | Youth | Youth |
| 2pm | Kathy Dalton Kim Bartusek | Linda Kleinhans Marc Bartusek | Debbie Koloski & Linda Kleinhans Marc & Kim Bartusek |
| 4pm | Tyler, Megan, Katie, Kelly & Vicki Passineau | Ron & Ann Naab | Kelly & Vicki Passineau Fred & Teri Kandel |
| 6pm | Debbie Drews Kim Bartusek | Marc Bartusek | Al & Mary Helsell Marc & Kim Bartusek |

Church Website



Online Giving



Greetings, Still Waters Family and Friends! Merry Christmas! This is the big week! We have all been experiencing this Advent season differently. Some are super-stressed! Some are so excited (think children!). Some are experiencing hurt, disappointment, and/or loss. And we all converge this Wednesday, on Christmas Eve! As I said in the benediction this weekend in worship, I believe Jesus says to each of us, "Come, you who are weary; Come you who are exhausted, come you who are filled to the brim with joy; come, you who are stressed, and everyone in between..." He invites us all to the heaven-touching-earth moments of the celebration of His birth. We are so excited to see you on Wednesday! Merry Christmas! Whether it's been awhile, whether life is good or hard... Come... Invite a friend, family member, or whoever you can think of to this celebration where real life meets God's light. The Light Shines! I can't wait to connect with you!

Here are more details of this and other upcoming opportunities:

Christmas Eve Worship!

We are so excited for the big celebration as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 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!

Special Christmas Offering

You should have, or will soon be, receiving 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!

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 **TONIGHT, 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!

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 **anytime between now 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

Walk This Way

Steve will bring the message this coming weekend, December 28. (No Saturday worship, just Sunday, December 28, 9:00 and 10:30.) Come on the Sunday after worship and worship our king!

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 and Wednesday, Dec 30 and 31, 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.'**

Holy Yoga Tuesdays

Holy Yoga will take a break the last Tuesday of the year, and start up again on Tuesday, January 6, at 8:45 am. Holy Yoga will continue to meet in 2026, Tuesdays, 8:45 a.m. for an hour each week.

Donation of \$10 each session suggested. No need to sign up- just come! What a great time to try this this intentional practice of connecting with God once per week on Tuesday mornings for an hour! Contact Nancy Maier or Robin Olson with questions.

Rising Above the Noise- January Message Series

As a new year begins, we might pause to notice that there is a lot of “noise” all around us (people’s opinions, criticisms, our own thoughts, to name a few), and often that noise is not helping us be who we really want to be! Let’s start the new year learning to rise above the noise we hear, and listen for God’s voice spoken in a variety of ways, including through His word, and spoken through people, spoken through His Spirit. This will be a 4-week worship series beginning January 3/4. Invite a family member or friend to experience God’s presence and power in worship in 2026!

“Love Kindness” January Study Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays

In a world where everyone wants their voices heard and people disagree and have struggles... How can we be kind? What if kindness is neither timid nor frail, but is a revolutionary way that Jesus called us to live... The way of selfless risks. The way of staggering hope. The way of authenticity. Start the year out right and join us for a six week study, based on the book, “Love Kindness,” by Barry H. Corey, beginning the first full week of January! Choose the study that works best in your schedule:

- **Mondays at 7:00 p.m.** (facilitated by Pastor Lori) beginning January 5
- **Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m.** (facilitated by Robin Jasinski) beginning January 6
- **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** (facilitated by Jena Metzler) beginning January 7 .

Book is \$19. Sign up online or on your Connection Card.

Dinner and a Movie Night

Friday, January 9, 2026. Chili Dinner at 6:30pm followed at 7:00pm by the movie "A Man Called Otto" staring Tom Hanks. When a lively young family moves in next door, grumpy widower Otto Anderson meets his match in a quick-witted woman named Marisol who is expecting, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down. A free will offering will be taken to help cover costs of the meal. (Sponsored by Still Waters Women, but all are welcome!)

The Flock, Sunday January 11, 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.

Feeding America

Join us on **Wednesday, January 14** (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!

Souper Sunday, January 18th, 11:45 a.m.

Join us for Souper Sunday on January 18!... an awesome meal for our congregation, sponsored by our youth on the third Sunday of each month. Come warm up from the cold weather with the warmth of 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.

Still Waters Women

Calling all women... come on **Sunday, January 18**, and enjoy meeting with other women of all ages for planning and fellowship after the 2nd Sunday worship service, approximately 11:45 a.m. Sign up on the Connection Card or website.

VBS Pizza & Planning!

Yes, you read that right! This year we are starting off our VBS planning early to have even more of an impact! If you'd like to get in on the excitement of planning for one of our Children's Ministry major events, we invite you to our Vacation Bible School (VBS) Planning Meeting on **Sunday, January 25th, 12:00pm**. We'll order pizza and get the creative ideas flowing! Please sign up on the Connection Card or on our website so we'll know of your interest. Contact Jena at jenametzler@gmail.com with any questions.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori