



Angels Among Us

Let it Be

The Angel Gabriel and Mary

December 7, 2025

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Message Notes

Mary was

1. Favored

—> How are you preparing your heart?

2. Called

—> How is God calling you?

3. Empowered by the Holy Spirit

—> How is the Holy Spirit at work in and around you?

Food for Thought

What do you think of when you think of 'angels?' Have you ever had an experience that you would call an experience with an angel?

Read Luke 1:26-38, the account of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary.

How might Mary have felt when the angel Gabriel came and began his message?

What is the main message to Mary from God through the angel?

How is your heart prepared to receive a message from God? What might you do to ready your heart?

What is God moving you to do, or to be at this stage of life? What is hard about that? What is exciting about that?

How do you sense God working in and through you to heal, to sense God's peace and hope, to move you to do God's work in the world?

How can you love, not harm, your neighbor through your work?

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 8 Lily Holth-Jaquet

Dec 11 Nancy Maier

Dec 12 Bill Kerzman

Happy Anniversary!

Dec 7 Mike & Pam Glynn

Dec 10 Joe & Ginny Cavanagh

Ushers

Greeters

Communion

Sunday

9am Debbie Drews
Diana Schoen

Paul Sanders
Heidi Ludorf

Al & Mary Helsell
Debbie Drews & Diana Schoen

10:30am Fred & Teri Kandel

Tom & Tammy Trueman

Fred & Teri Kandel
Tom & Tammy Trueman

Church Website



Online Giving



Well, we ushered Advent in with a bang! Hopefully everyone is managing in the midst of the cold and snow that has come upon us so suddenly. The Advent season is officially in full gear! Christmas Store is this Saturday, Enchantment in the Park is this Saturday evening, and tonight we have a meaningful Candlelight Vigil, remembering loved ones lost to addiction. Then on Tuesday we have the honor of serving those who are or have experienced homelessness. In the next few days we will reach the highs of joy of the season, serving with all our hearts, as well as the solemn moments of loss and remembrance. Then, on Sunday, we bring it all together as we continue our series, "Angels Among Us." This weekend we'll consider the powerful moment the angel Gabriel came to Mary to give her the good, but shocking news, that she would bear God's son. I always look forward to seeing each of you, as we seek God together, and care for one another.

Here are more details of this and other upcoming opportunities:

Family Support Group

This group is a support group for people who have loved ones affected with addiction(s). Meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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 tonight, Thursday, December 4, 5:00 p.m.** Our meeting will be a little shorter than usual, so we can go to the Candlelight Vigil as well. Confidentiality and anonymity are observed. Come as you are and when you can. See Ron or Ann Naab with questions.

Candlelight Vigil

Candlelight Vigil for Loved Ones Lost to Addiction - Elevate and Washington Ozaukee Substance Use Coalition will host a candlelight vigil at Still Waters Church, remembering those that we have lost due to addiction. Still Waters praise team will share music. Thanks to Ron Naab for coordinating and participating in this event. Our Still Waters Praise Team will bring the music, and Pastor Lori and others from our congregation will participate. Come and honor lives lost and support those who have lost loved ones: **Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m.** Still Waters Church sanctuary.

Supply Drive: Sharing the Christmas Spirit with Those in Recovery

If you feel called to donate items through our partnership with Elevate to their Exodus House and Calm Harbor facilities, benefiting those who are in recovery, please feel free to bring in any of these items: new men's and women's socks, men's and women's underwear, T-shirts, Personal hygiene items such as shampoo, body wash, tooth paste and tooth brushes. Also helpful are snacks, crossword puzzles, bath towels, laundry soap, art supplies, game room activities, AA or NA books. You can drop these off anytime here at Still Waters Church, up until December 15. Elevate will oversee the process of making these into gift baskets for the residents of Calm Harbor and Exodus House. For information or questions, see Ron Naab.

Enchantment in the Park- Still Waters Praise Team

Our Still Waters Praise Team will be sharing Christmas music on this **Saturday evening, December 6, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at Enchantment in the Park at Regner Park in West Bend. **No Saturday evening worship service that evening at the church** so we can come and support our praise team and experience the Christmas spirit!

ADVENT STUDY, Offerings: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays

The Advent season has begun! we invite you to join us in an Advent study, corresponding to our weekend worship series.

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!

Would you and/or your family like to be a part of our weekly worship service lighting of the Advent candles? Each Saturday night and Sunday morning worship service during Advent and through Christmas Eve (choose between worship services at 10:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:00, 6:00) we will have an individual/couple/family share in the lighting of the advent candle that week. Choose the day and worship service in which you'd like to participate, by signing up online or on your Connection Card! Please note: we will be coordinating candles, readings, and music, so please plan on being at one of the practices prior to the date you sign up. The Advent Candle Lighting will be done in conjunction with music and an additional Advent Reading (see below), so practicing will be important. 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.

Christmas Promise Event

We're excited to share that Still Waters is once again partnering with Family Promise to host the Christmas Promise Event. Christmas Promise is a celebration for current and former Family Promise guests to reconnect, share their journeys since successfully completing the program and enjoy the holiday season together. The event provides them a warm holiday meal (by us), a visit with Santa, family photos and gifts to help fulfill children's Christmas wishes

This year's event is scheduled for **Tuesday evening, December 9** at Holy Angels School (230 N 8th Ave, West Bend,) in the Walnut Room. We are truly delighted to make this event possible for **over 60 guests** in Washington County — and we'd love your support! There are several ways in which you can make a difference:

DONATE: We're purchasing the main entrées, 15lbs roast turkey & gravy and 15lbs baked ham along with needed supplies. Any financial contribution is appreciated.

PROVIDE FOOD: We're looking for volunteers to prepare and bring:

- Mac & Cheese (10 lbs cooked, 1 large foil pan)
- Fruit Salad / Jello squares (mix of 5-10 lbs)
- Dinner Rolls w/ Butter (3 dozen)
- Assorted Pies (3)
- Cookies (4dozen)
- Bars (3 pans, 9x13)
- Juice (fruit punch, 2-3 larger bottles)

SERVE: Join us as we serve the food to our guests!

WHEN should I be there? Bring food by 4:30, servers come at 5:00. (Guests will arrive around 5:30, and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.)

Ready to Sign Up? To donate, supply food or be a server, please sign up via the Connection Card, online, or contact: **Kelly Passineau** kpassin@gmail.com 414-531-0326. Let's come together to make this Christmas unforgettable for families who deserve a little extra joy this season.

Feeding America

Join us on **Wednesday, December 10** (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!

Spring Forest Informational/Planning Meeting

If you are planning on going on our Spring Forest retreat April 28-29 in North Carolina, or if you've been considering it, please plan on attending an informational/Planning meeting on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. We will discuss logistics, specifics, airfare options to name a few. Come if you're already planning/signed up, or if you have questions. If you are planning on going on this trip or have questions and unable to be at this meeting, please let Robin Olson or Nancy Oreshack know so they can fill you in, and so we know you are planning on going! Sign up on the Connection Card or website to let us know you plan to attend this meeting on December 10.

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.

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!

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. 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.

Still Waters Message Podcast Available!

Did you know that Still Waters now has a podcast on all major podcast providers? Just search for Still Waters Church Jackson WI on your favorite podcasting app, or wherever you get your podcast. We are so excited for the ways we continue to take expand the ways we share God's message in the world! See Jacob Metzler or Mark Salewsky if you have questions!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori