

Looking Through a Different Lens
Self-Giving

November 14 & 15, 2026

Psalm 1:1a, 2-3a (NIV)
Blessed is the one
whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NIV)
And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Message Notes

Self-Giving:

1. Begins with Gratitude
2. Is a Commitment Motivated by Love
3. Changes the World

Food for Thought

This Thanksgiving season, even in the midst of stresses of life, for what are you grateful? Maybe it's people God has placed in your life, or God's strength or presence with you, or new learnings or opportunities, or something else?

How is giving financially to God's church a response to all God has done for you?

What are ways you can take a 'next step' in your giving?

How can you keep 'self-giving' from being 'self-emptying'? In other words, how can you continue to stay connected to God so that He has the opportunity to pour into you?

In what ways does Still Waters Church make a difference in the world? What are additional thoughts on ways God can use us to share His love with the people in our community and world?

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!

November 15	Dave Brudvig, Stacy Stewart
November 16	Vonna Shill, Faith Thornton
November 17	Jake Feiter
November 18	Diane Radmer
November 19	Amber Hagenstein
November 20	Jack Brudvig, Kyrie Carter, Andrea Schluter
November 21	Katie Frey, Rod Neverman, Jeff Reuwsaat, Wayne Schultz

	Ushers	**Greeters**
Saturday 5pm	Jan Giza	
Sunday 9am	The Miles Family	The Miles Family
10:30am	Vicki Passineau & Katie Passineau	Greg & Patti Bocain

Church Website

Online Giving

Greetings, Still Waters family and friends! I am so aware that in the midst of this crazy thing called life, God keeps working and moving and showing up. He is with us in the valleys, rejoices with us in the celebrations, and motivates us to make the world into the vision He has- a place of grace and love and justice and peace. God's mission through His church inspires me to give! God's church is for me the most powerful expression of God's love in the world. I also realize there are so many complicating factors when it comes to giving… our budgets, expenses, priorities, keeping our lives going in ways that fill us up, and a host of other factors. How is it that God is calling us to give of ourselves, to give of our time, talent, and treasure? And the other question is also important- how are we filling up with God's gracious and abundant spirit, filling up souls that become empty with all the frustrations, struggles, and even tragedies? This weekend we will consider looking at the world through a lens of 'self-giving,' and what it looks like to give ourselves away for God's purposes and mission in the world. I look forward to seeing you this weekend!

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

Souper Sunday! November 15th, 11:45 a.m.
Last months "Souper Sunday" was amazing! Thanks to so many who showed as we gathered, connected, laughed, and cared for each other. "Souper Sunday" is an awesome meal for our congregation, sponsored by our youth one Sunday 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.

Still Waters Women
Calling all women… come on **Sunday, November 15th,** and enjoy meeting with other women of all ages for planning and fellowship after the 2nd Sunday worship service, approximately 11:45 a.m. Enjoy some wonderful soup and lunch from Souper Sunday, and then come on and join us for a time of fellowship, planning, and connection. Sign up on the Connection Card or website.

Small Group Study "On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion"
Wouldn't it be great if we could hear God's voice? People often come to me and say, "I wish God would just give some clear, concise directions. We want to know what God wants us to do, who we're to be, and what we're to say. In November, we will embark on a short, 4-week study, which will take us to Advent! The truth is, the spiritual life is not as simple as dialing a direct line to God. Instead, following Jesus is built on faith, and the practices that help us stretch, grow, and mature. In a way, learning how to listen for God's voice is just as important as what we hear God say. It is that regular flexing and developing of those spiritual muscles that help us grow in faith and live life as God intends. Each of the 4 chapters is written by a different author, giving us broad perspective on hearing God's voice. Authors are Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, and Susan Robb. Join us on Monday nights or Tuesday mornings as we dive into "On Purpose"!

- **Monday, November 2** - November 23, **7:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday November 3** - November 24 **10:00 a.m.**

Join us as we learn ways to listen to God's voice that gives us purpose and meaning! Book is $10 and available in the lobby. Sign up for the group on the Connection Card or Online.

Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, November 18, 8:30 a.m.
Men are invited to this monthly men's breakfast, 3rd Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., meeting at a local restaurant (which switches from month to month). Contact John Haas at jxhaas@yahoo.com or 262-617-7004 to sign up for this month's breakfast! (John calls the restaurant to make a reservation, so please contact him by Tuesday, November 17.)

Family Support Group, November 19

This group is a support group for people who have loved ones affected with addiction(s). Meeting the 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 November 19, 5:00 p.m**. Come as you are and when you can. See Ron or Ann Naab with questions.

Family ADVENTure: A Hands-on Christmas journey for all ages - Saturday, Nov. 21st

Calling all children and families! On SATURDAY November 21st we will have our Family ADVENTure! We'll begin with a meal at 11:30 a.m. Then from 12:00 -1:30, together we will prepare for the Advent Season (which starts the 4th weekend prior to Christmas, i.e. November 30). During this amazing ADVENTure, we'll Journey Towards the Light through hands-on stations. Everything from Boomwhackers, experiencing the stable where the manger was, a scavenger hunt, and a craft to take home! Come join us for a family fun filled time! Be sure to sign up on our Connection Card or website so that we have enough materials for all. Invite a friend! This is a great event for all!

Commitment Weekend, Nov. 21/22

The weekend of Nov. 21/22 is important on many levels in the life of our church. It is important as we each prayerfully once again, commit our lives to Jesus Christ and His Church. We'll bring to church our estimate of giving cards that we'll receive in the mail in early November. And we'll gather together and with grateful hearts, pray for one another and for God's mission in the world through Still Waters Church. **Please watch your mail for a letter which will contain both an important message from our finance team as well as your "Estimate of Giving Card"** as we prayerfully prepare our hearts for our celebration the weekend before Thanksgiving. Thanks and blessings!

Friendsgiving Sunday, November 22!

We're so excited for Friendsgiving! The youth will be hosting this special intergenerational gathering on **Sunday, November 22. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., and dinner begins at 5:00 p.m.** True to Friendsgiving tradition, friends have the opportunity to sign up through the Still Waters website to bring a favorite family side dish to share. If you're willing to share your recipe, we would love to add it to our growing **Still Waters Friendsgiving Family Recipe Book!** Send recipes ahead of time to **office@stillwaterschurch.com**.

Our current recipe book, featuring recipes shared in previous years, is available online, or you can pick up a hard copy in the Still Waters lobby. **Sign up on the website to reserve your spot/table for this event.** Each table will be hosted by one of our very own Still Waters youth. Friendsgiving is an evening of friendship, food, and fun, with a chance to renew old friendships and build new ones. We encourage you to **extend this invitation to your friends and family, both within and outside of Still Waters!** We can't wait to see you Sunday evening, November 22!

Enchantment in the Park- Still Waters Youth Praise Team (and alumni!)

On **Saturday evening, November 28, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** we are excited that our Still Waters Youth Praise Team and alumni will share music at Enchantment in the Park**.** Come enjoy Christmas music and support our amazing youth! Enter Regner Park in West Bend from Main Street. **No Saturday evening worship service that evening so we can encourage folks to worship at Enchantment in the Park** and support our Youth Praise Team and experience the Christmas spirit!

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 from the first weekend of Advent (November 29) 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. (The first week of Advent they'll light the first candle, the 2nd week, the first two candles and so on.) We will have a short script for one or more person to read, as well as have one or more persons light the candle as part of worship. Pastor Lori will email you instructions and a script to read. Choose the day and worship service in which you'd like to participate, by signing up online or on your Connection Card! What an amazing way to be the community of faith together as we make the Advent journey to Christmas!

ADVENT STUDY, Offerings: Mondays and Tuesdays

The Advent season (the 4 weeks prior to Christmas) will begin November 29! 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 4-week study on

- **Mondays at 7:00 p.m.** (facilitated by Pastor Lori) beginning November 30
- **Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m**. (facilitated by Robin Jasinski) beginning December 1

The study will be based on a book by Pastor Magrey deVega called **"Awaiting the Already."**

As we await the coming of Christ at Christmas, we will embark on a fascinating journey! The story of Jesus including the story of Christmas is recorded in each of four books in the Bible called Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Did you know that the Christmas story we tell every year, has different parts pulled from these different books of the Bible? Each week in Advent we'll examine the Christmas story as told in one of these books in the Bible. We'll come to understand the whole Christmas Story as we put together these four parts of it and as we uncover the tension between the past and the future within our own lives. In doing so, we will recognize the invitation from each Gospel writer to prepare for a fresh experience of Christ in the present. We invite you to journey with us! The book is $18. Sign up online or on your Connection Card.

Church Conference

Our annual business meeting of the church will be Tuesday, December 1, at 6:30 pm. All are welcome as we conduct the annual business of our church, including Lay Leadership report, pastoral compensation for 2027, as well as approval of lay servants.

Christmas Store Breakfast- Food Donations Welcome!

Our **Christmas Store on December 5** is gearing up! The team that is going to prepare breakfast for the families would appreciate food donations. Here's what we need:

Egg Bakes (9 x 13 pans) They **should be brought to Still Waters the day of Christmas Store**:

- 2 Bacon Egg Bakes
- 2 Ham Egg Bakes
- 2 Sausage Egg Bakes

Also needed are: 4 orange juice (64 oz bottles), 35 6-oz yogurt cups, 3 Bags of Cuties (oranges), 3 Bags of smaller-sized apples, 10 boxes of granola bars.

All items except the egg dishes can be delivered anytime the week prior to Christmas Store. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am -2 pm, additionally the church will be open Friday, December 4, 10 am - 2 pm, or if you're there for a meeting anytime that week feel free to drop off then. Sign up on our Connection Card or website. Contact Kathy Dalton with questions at 262-224-0077.

Getting Through the Holidays After a Loss
Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy! But for many, it is a time when sadness and grief are intensified, as memories of loved ones no longer with us flood our minds and souls. Join us for an hour on **December 8, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Sign up on the Connection Card or online. Kim Bartusek will facilitate; feel free to contact her with any questions at kabartusek@gmail.com

Feeding America
Join us on **Wednesday, December 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!

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. Come and honor lives lost and support those who have lost loved ones: **Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.** Still Waters Church sanctuary.

Deck the Halls for All Abilities — December 12. Join us on **Saturday, December 12, 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 "Every Light Shines: Talent Showcase" (which is the new and improved Everyone's Got talent) - from **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 call/text **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.

Every Light Shines: Talent Showcase
Formerly known as "Everybody's Got Talent". We would love to invite you to share your talents during the Every Light Shines Talent showcase that will take place Saturday, December 12th starting at 11am during the Deck the Halls for All Abilities. Got a talent? Sing? Play an instrument? Comedy? Juggle? Paint? Read Poetry? Big, small, and everything in between, we want to celebrate and include people of ALL abilities to join in this celebration. All mediums of art and talent are welcome! Our only ask is that it is family friendly and church appropriate talent. Sign up on our Connection Card or on our website. Contact Jena Metzler if you have questions.

Children's Christmas Program
Our amazing children are so excited to bring to you their Christmas program on **Sunday, December 13, during the 10:30 worship service**. The kids will share "Manger Tales."**Speaking and non-speaking parts are being assigned, so contact Jena with questions!** 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 13, 11:45 a.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 2027 Dallas, Texas | July 11-14, 2027

We're excited to begin preparing for YOUTH 2027! This United Methodist youth gathering in Dallas will bring young people together for several days of worship, fellowship, and growth.
For families considering YOUTH 2027 (Current 8th graders through High School seniors) who are active members of Still Waters Youth Ministries. Help us secure space at the conference hotel and begin travel arrangements, the $359 **registration fee is due by December 1.** Families should also plan for approximately $600 per participant for round-trip travel. This is a planning estimate and is subject to change as airfare and transportation costs are finalized. Participants will also be responsible for their own meals while traveling and personal expenses. If cost may be a concern for your family, please contact Lisa privately. YOUTH 2027 is an exciting opportunity and also a significant financial undertaking. Youth Ministries will be working to cover hotel accommodations and other group expenses. Based on our current maximum planning estimate, lodging alone could be approximately $6,200. Impact Night in February will be an important part of that effort. For those who feel able, gifts above and beyond your regular giving to Still Waters may be designated to help support YOUTH 2027. Regular giving remains vital to sustaining the ongoing ministries and mission of Still Waters. We are grateful for your prayers and support as we prepare for this experience with our youth! Sign up on the Connection Card or Website if you're considering this trip possibility. Contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com with questions.

Mission Trip to Honduras, July 31 - August 7, 2027

We are planning a mission trip to Honduras July 31-August 7, 2027! As many of you know, in 2025, we established a new Still Waters partnership in Honduras, through the leadership of the in-country Volunteer In Mission (VIM) Coordinator, Milton Ilovares, in the Danli area, with Pastor Pena and his congregation, Central UMC. We had an amazing trip this year, making connections with the people of Central UMC, connecting in worship together, participating in a medical mission as well as education mission! This next year, we expect to work with kids possibly through Vacation Bible School, as well as adults, as well as some light construction as well as continue the medical mission. That means we are looking at a two-pronged trip: some may participate in the medical mission, others in the 'general' trip, all the same dates! We all fly over together, but during our mission time, we would go either to the medical or the education mission initiative. We'll spend fun time, reflection/devotion time, meal time together. Most of our time will be in Danli, but we will also plan a day to visit the students at the Juan Wesley School in Ciudad Espana, where we will be able to visit the children our church has sponsored at this school. We are excited to participate under the philosophy that has been so important to us- giving a hand up, not just a hand out. **The cost of the trip will be in the range $2,500-$3,000,** which includes airfare, lodging, and meals. Youth ages 14 - 18 may attend with a parent. A total of four 2-3 hour pre-trip trainings will be required, and arranged according to the schedules of our trip participants. Background checks will be part of the application process. There are limited spaces, so the first to apply, be accepted, and put down their $100 deposit will hold their spot. Payment schedule after the $100 deposit will be $500 installments due monthly beginning in January, until the balance is paid. If interested or if you have questions, feel free to email me, Pastor Lori, at llossie@yahoo.com or Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com. Sign up to express interest on our Connection Card or our website, and we will reach out to you to share more info. Go to our website, stillwaterschurch.com to formally apply to go on the trip. Remember, **space will be limited so apply soon**!

Note: It's possible the trip will be shortened by one day, and go July 31 - August 6, but we won't know

that until we book flights in January. Thank you, Still Waters, for your continued commitment to Find the Lost, Release the Captive, and Develop Disciples!

Yesterday was Veterans Day. I am deeply grateful for so many who have given so much for the sake of all of us. Because of these who have gone before us, we have freedoms, we have a voice, we have the potential to be all that we're meant to be. Let us give thanks for those upon whose shoulders we stand, our veterans.

Have a great week, church, and see you this weekend!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Lori