



Angels Among Us

Standing in the Presence of God

The Angel Gabriel and Zechariah

November 30, 2025

Luke 1:5-25

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Message Notes

1. **What is your prayer?**
2. **What are your doubts?**
3. **In the quiet moments, what do you ponder?**

Food for Thought

Read Luke 1:5-25, the account of the angel Gabriel's visit to Zechariah.

In verse 10, as Zechariah was in the temple, "all assembled worshipers were praying outside." We see here the power of prayer. If you had to think of one prayer that is truly burdening your heart, what is that prayer?

Zechariah had doubts regarding the angel's news. What are those things that are doubts or questions with respect to your faith and God's message to you?

Zechariah was to be silent the whole time his wife Elizabeth was expecting. When has being silent been a gift? How can you create quiet moments in this busy season? What might you make space to pray about, ponder?

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 1 Tyler Passineau
Dec 2 Gloria Mattice, Dawn Peters
Dec 3 Jenna Bruss, Linda Kleinhans, Nick Van Alstyne
Dec 4 Kathy Dalton, Hailey Schmitt
Dec 5 Chris Bruss, Jesse Burg, Camden DeLisle, Lorraine Krueger, Sue Washnesky
Dec 6 Doreen Flechner, Jacob Hansen, Lisa Metzler

Happy Anniversary!

Dec 3 Jim & Rhonda Peterson
Dec 4 Steve & Brooke Vogt
Dec 7 Mike & Pam Glynn

Ushers

Greeters

Sunday

9am Diana Schoen & Sandra Grasse

Susie Klostermann & Linda Kleinhans

10:30am Kelly Passineau

Don & Debbie Koloski

Church Website



Online Giving



Happy Thanksgiving, Still Waters Family and Friends! We hope and pray that your Thanksgiving is blessed, that you are able to find joy and peace, even in an unsettled world and lives that are not perfect! Prayers that you sense God among and with you! This weekend begins the Advent season, which starts each year the fourth weekend prior to Christmas. Our series is called "Angels Among Us," and each week in worship during Advent, we will explore the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus. This weekend we will begin with the message, "Standing in the Presence of God," as we explore the appearance of angel Gabriel to Zechariah. In this series we will find that the angels of Christmas *still* bring "good news of great joy for all the people," including you and me. I look forward to seeing you!

Here are more details of this and other upcoming opportunities:

ADVENT STUDY, Offerings: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays

The Advent season (the 4 weeks prior to Christmas) will begin November 30! 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 from the first weekend of Advent (December 1) 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 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! **Please note: no Saturday worship Nov 29 or Dec 6**, as those will be at Enchantment in the Park with our Youth Praise Team and Praise Team! Also, we will be looking to have practices, so Pastor Lori will work to find a time (after worship on a Sunday or on one of two Monday evenings) to practice. 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.

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

On **Saturday evening, November 29, from 7:30 - 9:00 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. 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!

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!

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 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.

Christmas Store: Volunteer Opportunities Still Available!

Christmas Store is one of our biggest signature events of the year. This is an event in which 30-40 families who are going through some difficult times are invited to a Christmas event in which they enjoy a wonderful breakfast, get a family portrait taken, shop for amazing items for their children at a fraction of retail, and have a chance to meet for prayer with our pastor and Congregational Care Coordinator. Preparations for this year's Christmas Store on Saturday, December 6th are in full swing. If you still hope to be a part of this magical event, there is still time to volunteer. We are looking for a few more people to help in just a few areas:

- **Building Prep:** Help to clear the children's area on **Tuesday, December 2nd, starting at 2pm.** This involves moving furniture to empty the spaces that will be used for the store. See Al if you have questions.

- **Floaters/Car Loaders:** On Christmas Store Day, **Saturday, Dec. 6th**, take one of two volunteer shifts, one from **8-11am** or **11am-2pm**. Your main duties would be to load the wrapped Christmas presents into the cars along with being present to help keep things running smoothly.
- **Clean Up:** This volunteer position starts at around 2:30pm on Saturday, Dec 6th. We need help boxing the remaining toys and items and moving those boxes into the waiting trucks and trailers to be stored for next year. Help is also needed to clean and reset the sanctuary and return furniture to the children's area.
- **Toy Hauler:** Help transport toys! Two shifts, one getting toys TO the church in preparation for the Christmas store, and one to transport toys FROM the church, after the completion of Christmas store. On **Wednesday, Dec 3rd, at 6 p.m. transport toys** from the storage location in Jackson to the church. If you have a truck or other large vehicle, that would be great! And/Or On **Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 pm transport toys** and decorations from the church to the storage location in Jackson.

If you are able to help in any of these areas, please sign up online or on your Connection Card. You will be contacted with more details. Thank you to all who have already volunteered!!

Christmas Store Breakfast- Food Donations Welcome!

Our **Christmas Store on December 6** 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:

- 1 Bacon Egg Bakes
- 2 Ham Egg Bakes
- 4 Sausage Egg Bakes

Also needed are:

- 25 6-oz cups
- 1 box of granola bars

All items except the egg dishes can be delivered anytime that week. Office hours are M-R 9-2, or if you're there for a meeting anytime that week. Also you can bring items in between 10 am - 2 pm on Friday, Dec. 5. Sign up on our Connection Card or website. Contact Robin Jasinski with questions at 262-707-0792

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:

- Mashed Potatoes (10 lbs)
- Green Bean Casserole (2 full-size pans)
- Mac & Cheese (3 full-size pans)

- Jello (1 pan or large bowl)
- Fruit Salad (2 pans or bowls)
- Dinner Rolls w/ Butter (5 dozen)
- Assorted Pies (5–7)
- Cookies (3-5 dozen)
- Bars (3 pans)
- Water (2 Costco 40 count)
- 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!

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 car to Uncle Larry's Car Wash, 2712 East Sumner Street, Hartford, WI 53027

Friendsgiving Thank You!!!

Dear Still Waters United Methodist Community Church Family, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support you showed during this year's Friendsgiving. We welcomed 146 people—from all walks of life—who came together in fellowship, joy, and community. The spirit of God's love was truly present as we shared a meal, encouraged one another, and opened our doors to everyone. Many attendees expressed their deep appreciation for the warmth and welcome they felt, and I would like to pass those thanks on to you. I am personally so grateful for a church that not only allows but also embraces this kind of community gathering—one that reflects the heart of Christ and the beauty of supporting one another. Thank you once again for your generosity, your presence, and your willingness to build the Kingdom through fellowship. You are a blessing. With gratitude, Still Waters Youth Ministries

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 consists 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!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori