



Bless Our Animals

October 11 & 12, 2025

Genesis 1:20-27

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Psalms 104:24-25

How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small.

Job 12:7-8

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Message Notes

Creation Reminds us of:

1. The WOW of God
2. The WISDOM of Animals
3. The BEAUTY of You

Food for Thought

Try to describe what happens in you when you look up at the night sky and see all the stars. How does gazing upon the vastness of creation change your perspective?

Think about animals that have been special in your life. What wisdom did they have for you, just by being who they were?

God created you in His image! What does it mean for you to carry His spirit in you as you go about the challenges of life and in this 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!

Oct 12 Stacy Scherzer
Oct 13 Dirk Drews, Emily Jordan, Ann Klostermann, Mari Masters, Jeff Radley,
Cayden Stater, Cathy Worden
Oct 14 Sherry Ullius, Glennis Ziegelbauer, Cindy Zimmer
Oct 15 Paul Sanders, Lacey Weninger
Oct 18 Caitlyn Klostermann

Happy Anniversary!

Oct 14 Rick & Debbie Dembeck
Oct 16 Ed & Laura Goggins
Oct 18 Bob & Jessie Yahr

	<u>Ushers</u>
<u>Saturday</u> 5pm	Kelly & Vicki Passineau
<u>Sunday</u> 9am	Marc & Kim Bartusek
10:30am	Debbie Koloski & Debbie Drews

<u>Greeters</u>
Dennis Konieczka & Barb Thorstenson
Ron & Ann Naab

Church Website



Online Giving



Greetings Still Waters Family and Friends! I think the fall weather is catching up with the calendar this week! Prayers your week is going well as we enter into the first full week of October. This weekend will be a special weekend! We invite you to come to our Animal Blessing Saturday starting at 2:00 p.m., with lots of activities including remembrance of animals, blessing of animals, and many fun events for animals, food and more. See full description below. Then, bring your animals to worship Saturday evening at 5 p.m.! The entire weekend of worship (Saturday and Sunday) will include a special emphasis on God's beautiful creation, with a special emphasis on His animals, what they teach us, and how God's creation changes us. I look forward to seeing you this weekend!

Here are more details of this and other upcoming opportunities:

Animal Blessing 2025

Still Waters Youth Ministries is hosting an Animal Blessing **Saturday, Oct 11th, 2025 2:00-6:00 pm**, which includes a **special worship service inside from 5-6pm**.

- **Memorial Rainbow Bridge**: We'll have a Memorial Rainbow bridge station, where you can remember those special animals that have crossed over the rainbow bridge. You're invited to bring a picture and wings will be provided.
- **Animal Blessing Blankets**: Receive your animal blessing blanket, a gift for your precious furry friends.
- **Order for Saturday events:**
 - **2:00 Hiking trail and vendor booths open**
 - **2:30-4:45 Check In and Participate**: Animals may check in and visit the exhibits and participate in fun games and selfie stations with their Humans, Participate in Rainbow Bridge Memorial, bring picture of animal and receive their wings.
 - **5:00-6:00 - Special Indoor Worship Service** We will celebrate and witness the God given bond between animals and God's people who are the stewards of God's Creatures. All animal companions and their human family members are invited to this special event. Bring pictures of animal friends that don't like to travel. During worship we'll have a blessing over all animals, including those who have crossed over the rainbow bridge.
 - **6:00: Individual blessings** after worship.
 - **6:00: Individual prayers offered for special prayer requests** for your animals

Sign up on the Connection Card or online to register your animal's attendance or to volunteer.

Special Sunday worship, 9:00 and 10:30: Worship will focus celebrate our animals, the beauty of God's creation, and we will have a special time of remembrance of our animal friends who have gone before us, a blessing for all animal friends, and animal blessing blankets will be distributed. You're welcome to bring pictures of your animals on Sunday.

The Flock, Sunday October 12, 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. This meeting was rescheduled from September 14. Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, October 15, 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, October 14th.)

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 today, Thursday, October 16, 5:00 p.m.** Confidentiality and anonymity are observed. Come as you are and when you can. See Ron or Ann Naab with questions.

Fall Confirmand Retreat, Friday/Saturday, October 17-18

Many of you know that confirmation is a process for our 6th - 8th graders, as our youth prepare to affirm their faith vows. It is a special time of learning, growing, serving, and important connecting with other youth and adults in our faith. Each year in the spring, there is a confirmation class that is 'confirmed' in May of that year. The youth who are 8th grade or older who have not yet been confirmed, are invited as confirmands, to this very special year. If you have youth 8th grade or older who would like to enter this confirmand journey this year, please know that a very important event will happen on Friday and Saturday, October 17-18. This is our Fall Confirmand Retreat, held at Still Waters Church. It will **start Friday October 17 at 6:00 p.m.**, and **conclude with 5:00 worship Saturday, and parent meeting from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Parents are invited to this parent meeting along with their youth, to receive important information for the upcoming confirmand's year. Please sign your youth up on the Connection Card or online. Please contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com with questions.

Souper Sunday! October 19th, 11:45 a.m.

Last month's "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 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.

Trunk or Treat

Save the date! **Sunday, October 19th, from 12:30 -2:30 p.m.** we'll host "Trunk or Treat!" Join us for a wonderful afternoon of treats, s'mores, hot apple cider, photo booth, and more! The event provides a safe family environment for kids to enjoy Halloween! Contact Jena (jenametzler@gmail.com)

Be a Trunk

You can "Be a Trunk"! Come on Sunday, October 19th, with a decorated vehicle trunk, and ready to hand out treats! Come and get your vehicle 'situated' 12:00-12:30, and ready to hand out treats from 12:30 - 2:30 as kids/families come by. See the website for all the guidelines regarding 'being a trunk'.

Book Study, Monday and Wednesday!

The week of October 19, we will be starting a new 4-week book study, offered in each of our ongoing small groups, studying the book, "**Earn. Save. Give.**" with a subtitle of "**Wesley's Simple Rules for Money**". This new book study, by James A. Harnish, will correspond with our Stewardship series, as we consider how our faith has a relationship to our financial resources. Based on the Methodist Church Founder John Wesley's writings on Faith and Money, we'll learn God's wisdom for managing our own finances so that instead of money controlling us, we can control it! Book is \$14. Choose which day of the week works best for you, each study is an hour long, lasting 4 weeks:

- Mondays, 7:00 p.m. starting October 20, Pastor Lori facilitating
- Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. starting October 22, Jena Metzler facilitating

Looking Ahead...

Don't forget to "Fall Back"

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 2, so remember to set your clocks back an hour (for those of you with clocks that don't do that automatically!) Enjoy the extra hour of sleep and see you Sunday morning!

All Saints Weekend, November 1/2

The weekend of November 1/2 is All Saints Weekend. On this weekend during worship, we remember and honor those who have gone before us and are now in God's heavenly kingdom. We will read the names of those Still Waters members who have passed away within the last year, as we light candles. We will also be given the opportunity for those who would like to, to light additional candles honoring and remembering *all* our loved ones who have gone before us, whether this last year or anytime. It is a wonderful weekend to remember the ways those who have gone before us have impacted us and made us who we are. If you're worshipping online, feel free to get a candle ready at home, that you might light your own candle(s) there.

Peer Mentor Training

Any youth who is a current peer mentor or peer mentor in training, mark your calendars for **Saturday Nov. 8, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.** This will be essential leadership training for this for all peer mentors as we continue to grow in our faith and in our leadership. The latter part of the afternoon we will join the adults for Safer Sanctuaries training. Lunch provided. Sign up on the Connection Card or online. Any questions, contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com.

Safer Sanctuaries Training

It's that time again! Any adults our peer mentors who work with youth, children or vulnerable individuals are required to take Safer Sanctuaries Training; **Mark your calendars for Saturday Nov. 8, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. It is time to re-certify!** "Safer Sanctuaries" enables faith communities to be empowered and flourish as we continue to make everyone safer. Please sign up on the Connection Card or online. Contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com with questions.

Feeding America

You're invited Wednesday, November 12, at 1:00! Let's share food as well as God's love with those who are experiencing food insecurity. We'll distribute food from our church lobby to a couple hundred families. On-the-job training!

Friendsgiving Sunday, November 23rd!

We're so excited for Friendsgiving! The youth will be hosting this intergenerational gathering. Sunday evening, November 23, **doors open at 4 p.m., dinner begins at 5 p.m.** True to Friendsgiving tradition, friends have the chance to sign up from the Still Waters website to provide a side dish of their family's favorite. If you're willing to share your recipes, we will add them into our ever Still Waters Friendsgiving Family Recipe book. (Send recipes ahead of time to office@stillwaterschurch.com.) The current Recipe book which contains our recipes from previous years is available online or pick up a hardcopy in our 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. As we now have invited you to join us for an evening of friendship, food, and fun with a chance to renew and build friendships, we ask you to **extend this invitation to your friends and family** within and outside of Still Waters! See you Sunday evening, Nov 23rd!

Spring Forest Retreat- Dates Confirmed!

We have finalized and confirmed the dates for our retreat at **Spring Forest Retreat Center, North Carolina**, in April of 2026! The retreat will be **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28 and 29th**, and we will plan to travel on Monday, April 27 and travel back on Thursday, April 30. The cost for the retreat is \$300, which covers the cost of lodging, food, and retreat leader fees. Additionally, (and probably the larger of the cost) several of us will plan to fly on Monday and Thursday. On this retreat, we will get amazing teaching from Dr. Elaine Heath, former dean of Duke Divinity School, as she equips people to connect deeply with God, each other, and the world around us. It is a retreat center on a beautiful farm with walking paths, and there is a rhythm of prayer, learning, work, rest, table. I (Pastor Lori) was able to attend a retreat there this year, found it to be the most powerful and life-changing retreat that I've ever attended. I plan to attend this retreat with you in 2026! We'd love to open the experience up to others! Lodging is on site in a beautiful Farmhouse and Forest House. Assume shared rooms, couples potentially getting their own room. Please talk to Robin Olson, Nancy Oreshack, or Pastor Lori if you have questions. Please sign up on the Connection Card or online. The first 14 that register will have priority to stay on site. A minimum deposit of \$100 will hold your spot. Full payment (remaining \$200) due January 15, 2026. Please indicate dietary restrictions when you sign up.

New Worship Media Coordinator

If you were in worship this last weekend you heard the 'breaking news' shared from the desk of Dean Maytag, our Staff Parish Chairperson! We are excited to let you know that Mark Salewsky will be our new Worship Media Coordinator, beginning November 1. Mark has already been learning the ins and outs of our media team, including preparing pro-presenter (slide) presentations for weekend worship, getting familiar with the cameras, slides, and equipment in the A/V booth. Mark has enthusiastically already begun dreaming new dreams for our media ministry. Please be sure to congratulate Mark when you see him.

Celebrate Jay's Ministry, October 25/26

We will be celebrating Jay Maier's ministry as he steps down from the role of Worship Media Coordinator, a position that he has held for sixteen years! Jay has been there through significant media changes, including the massive change introduced by the pandemic when the entire church pivoted to online/video/multi-camera worship. Jay is not going anywhere, and will continue to support our tech and other ministry here as a volunteer. We hope you will be able to be at worship with us on October 25/26 weekend as we celebrate Jay's ministry!

Thank you Still Waters!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori