



It's a Roller Coaster: (Managing the Emotional Ups and Downs of Life) Joy... Even When Everything's not Perfect

September 13 & 14, 2025

Luke 15:1-7

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

John 15:11

[Jesus said,] "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Message Notes

1. **See it** (Recognize the good)
2. **Say it** (Give thanks to God)
3. **Celebrate it** (Celebrate joy in the lives of others)

Food for Thought

Think about a time of joy. What was so wonderful about that time? Was there a celebration?

Now, think about a time that has not been so joyful, maybe even really hard. If you look persistently, do you recognize anything good happening during that time? What?

What is your practice of giving thanks to God? Are you able to find things/people to be grateful for each day? How might you make that a rhythm of life?

What can you celebrate this week? Do you have a friend or relative that has something to celebrate (birthday, graduation, etc) Is there a way you can celebrate with others when they have joys?

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!

Sept 16	Ginny Cavanagh, Lisa Kitzke, Landon O'Brien, Robin Olson, Tom Oppermann, Kevin Ruffing, Jessie Yahr
Sept 17	Emily Jahn, Sydney Leis
Sept 18	Ken Hanson
Sept 19	Lily Schlei
Sept 20	Shereen Kressin, Kristin Miles, Diana Schoen

Happy Anniversary!

Sept 15	Craig & LisaVan Alstyne
Sept 16	John & Sarah Pouzar
Sept 19	Roger & Renee Hamm
Sept 20	Todd & Heather Nelson

Ushers

Saturday
5pm

Valerie Jacobson

Sunday
9am

Rick & Debbie Dembeck

10:30am

Steve & Barb Smith

Greeters

Dennis Konieczka & Barb Thorstenson

Linda Kleinhans & Vicki Passineau

Online



Giving



Church Website

Greetings, Still Waters Family and Friends! Prayers you are navigating this week. There's a lot happening these days. This weekend in worship we are going to talk about "Joy... Even When Everything's not Perfect." In the midst of a chaotic time in our country and world, and in the midst of difficult times in our personal lives, there are moments when it's hard to even imagine joy. Then there are other moments when joy comes so simply and easily- a celebration of a wedding or birthday of someone we love. This weekend in worship, we'll talk about joy, not as a simplistic, 'everybody be happy,' but how do we cultivate joy, when there is so much difficulty in our lives and world. And how can we be joyful for others, in a world that wants us to stand against each other, and how can we still live out our commandment to love one another? I'm looking forward to worship, as always, this weekend. I am always excited to see you! Don't forget, Saturday worship starts up as well!

Here are more details of other upcoming opportunities:

The Flock, Sunday September 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.

Monday Night Bible Study

Join us Monday nights for a Bible study, 7:00 p.m. for an hour. Yep- we're going to read the Bible. Not a book that writes *about* the Bible. So often we read tons of books to tell us what the Bible says. I have found that because the Bible can be challenging to understand, it's easy to rely on others to tell us what it means. What would it be like to gather for 4 weeks, and together, just study the Bible? Listen to how God speaks to YOU, not someone else. When I was in seminary, our Bible professors told us that through the course of seminary we would *not* read the *whole* Bible. What we *would* do was learn techniques so that we could begin to make sense of any Bible passage. I have found that God has spoken most powerfully to me when I just sit down and read the Bible itself, asking God to show me what I need to see and what God's message is for me. This is a no-homework class beginning to look at Jesus's life and teachings from the gospel of Mark. Pastor Lori facilitating. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

Holy Yoga Tuesdays, 8:45 a.m.

Holy Yoga meets on Tuesdays, 8:45 am. Donation of \$10 each session suggested. No need to sign up- just come! What a great time to try this intentional practice of connecting with God once per week on Tuesday mornings for an hour! Contact Nancy Maier or Robin Olson with questions.

Tuesday Morning Study on Prayer

Prayer is powerful, and changes everything about how God works in and through our daily lives. We believe it, but we don't always know how to actually tap into that power. Join us Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. as we read together the book, "Lead with Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders," by Skoog, Greer, and Doolittle. The authors interviewed pastors of the fastest growing churches worldwide, and asked about their prayer life. This book is the result of research of powerful pray-ers who lead people spiritually. In this national bestseller you'll learn as authors share the spiritual habits, techniques, and practices of people who have powerful prayer habits. The book is so powerful that it was a gift to each of the individuals in Pastor Lori's doctoral cohort. Sign up on the Connection Card or online. Robin Jasinski facilitating. Book is \$16.

Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, September 17th, 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, September 16th.)

Wednesday Night Study, "The Celtic Way of Prayer"

Join us for a 5 week study, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. for an hour as we explore the world of Celtic Spirituality. We'll read together the book, *The Celtic Way of Prayer* by Esther De Waal. Celtic Spirituality emphasizes a deep connection with nature and seeing God in all that is around us. In this study we'll discover together practices, rhythms, and the essential role of community. Ultimately, Celtic Spirituality is a journey inward as you discover and rediscover the sacredness of yourself and all of creation. Facilitated by Jena Metzler. The book is \$13. Sign up on the Connection Card or on our website.

Walk 'n Connect

Walk 'n Connect is BACK! We had such an amazing weekly gathering this summer, that we've decided to continue our Walk 'n Connect ministry. Join us on **Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. beginning September 18** at church. Weather permitting, we will begin with a walk around our property outside, otherwise we'll walk inside. Then, after our walk, We will be guided through time of connecting with each other and God using the "Prayers from Iona" resource. Open your day with friends, community, connection, and God! See Robin Olson or Pastor Lori for details. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

Third Grade Bible Presentation, Sunday Sept. 21

On Sunday, September 21, at the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services, we will present our 3rd graders with their very own age- appropriate Bible! We know that it's possible some 4th and 5th graders missed this opportunity (for a variety of reasons, new to Still Waters, etc), so if you are a 4th or 5th grader and did not receive a Bible, you are welcome to receive one as well! Please direct any questions to Jena Metzler at jenametzler@gmail.com.

Souper Sunday! September 21st, 11:45 a.m.

It's fall and it's time to start "Souper Sunday" up! "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.

New Members Class

Mark your calendars if you've been thinking that Still Waters is the place you'd like to call your church home! We'll have a membership class **Sunday, September 21, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**, and then **join the church the weekend of September 27/28**. This will be Souper Sunday, so grab some soup and lunch from the lobby and bring to our new members gathering! By the way... We'll let you in on a little secret... September 29 is Still Waters "Golden" birthday! We'll be 29 on September 29th! That means this New Members Class will have the distinction of joining on the week of Still Waters Golden Birthday. What a fun celebration! Contact Pastor Lori with questions or to sign up, or just register on our website!

Still Waters Women

Come on Souper **Sunday, Sept 21st**, grab some delicious home-made soup, give a donation to benefit our youth, and enjoy a great lunch! Feel free to eat in the sanctuary or in the back area in the large room in the education area. Come and enjoy meeting with other women of all ages for food, faith, fun, and fellowship will begin at **12:15!** Sign up on the Connection Card or website.

Women's Retreat – September 26-28, 2025

Mt. Morris Retreat Center, Wautoma, WI.

“Will The Real Person Please Stand Up”? Do you find yourself living a superficial life to protect yourself from rejection? At this retreat we will dive into this journey toward freedom. Based on the book authored by Gail Porter, we will explore the different ways we struggle with this and offer suggestions as to how to release ourselves to live authentically. Mt. Morris is a beautiful retreat center only a 1-1/2 hour drive from here. We will stay in a fully equipped lodge and enjoy the surrounding nature as well as delicious meals. Cost is \$200/person based on a shared room. Cost includes all meals as well as program costs. Space is limited, so please let us know if you want to attend as soon as possible. Sign up on the Connection Card or website, and contact Robin Olson Robinlee29@aol.com 262-366-5243 if you have any questions.

Color Splash Games, Sunday evening, October 5, 6-8 pm

Youth grades 6th-12th: come for an amazing evening of fun and color (and a little messy-ness!). Youth- bring friends! Sign up online or on the Connection Card. Contact Lisa with any questions at swym2019@gmail.com

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.

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.

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'.

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.

Thank you Still Waters!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori