



STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



A Special Message from Pastor Mike Hoppe

Resurrection

Easter is the celebration of what Jesus gave us through His resurrection. It is the ultimate declaration that death does not have the final say. The cross and the tomb, once symbols of suffering and loss, became empty and transformed by Christ's victory over sin and death. Jesus was raised with His body into heaven, where He reigns even now. In doing so, He shattered the plans of evil, broke the power of death, and opened the way for us to follow Him into eternal life.

In a sense, Jesus poked a hole in the floor of heaven for us, offering a path where there was none. He spoke of a "narrow way" (Matthew 7:14), a road that leads to life for all who trust in Him. But while many have heard the Easter story, far too few have personally surrendered their own path to Jesus. Knowing *about* the resurrection is one thing - choosing to walk in its power is another.

That's why Easter is such an important time for us as a church. God longs for all people to know and trust Jesus, and He calls us to share this life-changing message. This is why we invite guests, neighbors, and friends to celebrate Easter with us - not just to hear a story, but to encounter the risen Christ and receive the new life He offers.

But Easter isn't just about what Jesus *adds* to our lives - it's also about what He frees us from. In our pursuit of faith, we often think about what we need to do more: more faith, more discipline, more good works. But sometimes, the key to spiritual renewal isn't in adding more - it's in *removing* what doesn't belong.

Just as the empty tomb signified freedom from death, we, too, are called to let go of anything that keeps us from fully experiencing Christ's resurrection power. Are we carrying burdens that Jesus has already lifted? Are we clinging to fears, distractions, or old habits that keep us from walking in His abundant life?

This Easter, what might God be calling you to leave behind?

May we step into the fullness of life that Jesus offers, unburdened and free, following the path He has made for us - all the way to eternity.

Join Us for Easter Events at Stillwater!

- Thursday, April 17, 7pm, Last Supper Drama
- Friday, April 18, 7pm, Good Friday Service
- Saturday, April 19, 9-11am, Easter Eggstravaganza & Breakfast
- Sunday, April 20, 6:30am, Easter Sunrise Service at Bayou Sara Boat Launch (bring your own chair)
- Sunday, April 20, 8:30am & 10:30am, Easter Worship Services



Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Room
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Apr. 3 - Emmaus 4th Day, 6pm, Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 6 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 6 - Hospitality Team Meeting, 11:45am, Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 11 - Club 345, 6-8pm, Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 13 - Special Guest, Davis Rhodes, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 13 - Security Team Meeting, 11:45am, Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 25 - Student Lock-In, 8pm-8am
- Apr. 27 - Serve Sunday, 7:30am-12pm
- May 7 - Bake Auction, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Lenten Sermon Series "40 Days of Decrease"



This Lenten season, take on a challenge that goes beyond giving up "stuff." "40 Days of Decrease" is a transformative sermon series and personal journey inspired by Alicia Britt Chole's profound insight: *"Decrease is less about the sacrifice of stuff and more about the surrender of our souls... more about thinning our lives in order to thicken our communion with God."* Through this 40-day challenge, we will explore the beauty of self-decrease, letting go of distractions, and making space for the deep, abiding love of God. Join us on this spiritual journey and rediscover the fullness of life that comes from surrender.

- Apr 6 "Fixing Things: Embracing Messiness to Let God Work" Luke 10:38-42
- Apr 13 "Noise: Embracing Silence to Hear God's Voice More Clearly" Luke 5:15-16
- Apr 20, Easter Sermon, "He is Risen" 1 Peter 1:3-4
- Apr 27, Serve Sunday

Wednesday Night Dinner and Studies

5:30pm Dinner - 6:00pm Studies all ages - Nursery all evening

On Wednesday nights, we have programs for all ages. The three adult study options are as follows:

1) **Alpha:** Are you seeking deeper faith, have questions, or



wonder about God's plan for your life? This amazing course will help you seek faith in a judgement-free, safe environment. Invite friends and family to join us in the Fellowship Hall. Study facilitators: Pastor Tony, Laurie Anne Nix

2) **The Heart of Jesus**, a study of the book by author Max Lucado. This book explores the compassionate love of Jesus and challenges readers to reflect His heart in their daily lives. Study facilitator: Linda Burr

3) **Living Fearless**, a study of the book by the author Jamie Winship. This book explores how to overcome fear by embracing your true identity in Christ and walk in your divine purpose. Study facilitators: Cindy Messer and Lenzie Overton.

5:30pm meal cost: \$8 adults, \$6 children, \$25 family max. First-time guests and young adults (18-25) eat free.

What's for dinner (April 2)? Taco salad, carnitas with all the trimmings & desserts

**** Wednesday night dinner and program will NOT take place on April 16 due to Holy Week activities and Spring Break. ****

Easter Cross

Help decorate our Easter Cross by bringing fresh flowers on Easter Sunday. Pictures will be taken with the Easter Cross on Easter morning.



Friday Night Lenten Services



During Lent, James Currie and the Prayer Team will be leading sermons on select Fridays at 6pm. Everyone is invited to hear the following messages:

- April 4 "Is This How I'm Supposed to Spend My Fridays?"
- April 11 "Faith, Friendship, and Forgiveness"

Serve Sunday, April 27

It is one of the best times of the year! Not only do we get to celebrate our risen Savior this April, but we get to share his love with our community during our annual SERVE SUNDAY!

Serve Sunday



Serve Sunday 2025 is April 27. No matter which service you normally attend, plan to arrive at 7:30am that Sunday morning to share in a light breakfast, a devotion, and worship before we head out to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are living our mission statement: People Helping People Love and Serve Jesus. Projects will be available for all ages and will conclude around 12pm. Every year we are thrilled to have this opportunity to love

our community and see how God works.

As we approach the big day, we first ask that you pray for the day of and the days leading up to Serve Sunday. Pray for those serving; pray for those we will serve; pray that in all things God will be magnified. Second, if you feel led to donate any supplies ahead of time, here is a list of some needed supplies: fleece fabric for blankets (2 yards), car wash supplies, travel size shampoo/soaps, socks, band-aids, and monetary donations.



Davis Rhodes, April 13

Davis Rhodes, one of the international missionaries that Stillwater supports, will be visiting Stillwater on Sunday, April 13. For those who are interested in learning about Davis' work in Tanzania, Davis will be sharing about his mission at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Hospitality Team Meeting, April 6

ATTENTION HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBERS! We will meet on Sunday, April 6, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. We will be discussing responsibilities and needs for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The HOSPITALITY TEAM includes ALL greeters, ushers, coffee hostesses, security team members, communion stewards, sanctuary prep volunteers, and anyone else that works or is interested in working to make our services inviting and welcoming. Please make plans to be present! Contact Betty Moye at betty@stillwaterchurch.com for more details.



Kids Korner

The Stillwater **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** will be on Saturday, April 19, 9-11am. We will have breakfast (pancakes with all the fixings!) with the Easter Bunny, egg hunts, music, games, crafts, and lots of fun! The plastic eggs for the egg hunts will be filled with goodies, including Bunny Money that the kids can use to purchase items in our Bunny Store. How can you help? We need small individually wrapped candy and small toys to put in the plastic eggs for the egg hunts. We also need some fun merchandise for our Bunny Store. Suggestions for the store include balls, bubbles, jump ropes, books, sidewalk chalk, board games, chocolate bunnies, etc. Donations should be at the church by Sunday, April 13. Lots of extra hands are needed for the morning of the event. Contact Betty Moye at betty@stillwaterchurch.com to volunteer!

Club 345 will meet on Friday, April 11. We will have dinner, devotion, and work on a special Easter service project. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited, and friends are always welcome!

We occasionally need an extra set of hands in the nursery on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. If you are willing to step in to love on our babies at a moment's notice when help is needed, please speak with Betty Moye.

Student Ministry Update

Lock-In - Friday, April 25, 8pm-8am - Mark your calendar! Students and friends are invited to our Lock-In at the church! Lots of games, snacks, devotional, and fun! The only thing we won't have a lot of that night is sleep! More information will come out soon. Contact Tony Feaster with questions.



Bake Auction - Wednesday, May 7, 5:30pm - We invite our whole church to bake goodies to auction for our big, annual bake auction! All proceeds benefit mission and outreach efforts for our young people.



ELC Easter Egg Hunts & Spring Fling

The Early Learning Center is in need of volunteers to help with their Easter Egg Hunts and Spring Fling on Friday, April 11, 9-11am. Volunteer duties include hiding Easter eggs, set-up and take-down, and various small tasks. Volunteers need to arrive around 8am. Please contact Linden at 251-675-2904 or linden@stillwaterchurch.com if you are interested in helping.

Serve in the Food Pantry

Join us in serving our community! The following is a list of volunteer opportunities in the Stillwater Food Pantry:



UNLOADING FOOD TRUCK: Days vary. Receive 1-2 food trucks per month. Arrival time is usually in the mornings.

BAGGING FOOD BAGS: Thursday, every other week.
Time: 3:00pm-5:30pm

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Mondays. Time: 8:30am-11:15am

PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION: Fridays, on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday each month. Time: 10:00am-1:15pm. Light lunch is usually provided on Produce Day.

You may also give directly to this ministry by clicking [here](#) with "Food Pantry" noted on the memo line or by entering "Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check made to "Stillwater Church." Your gift helps touch the lives of people needing nutritious food, prayer, and a listening ear.

Serve in the Backpack Ministry



Do you want to serve needy students in the Saraland School system? Ways to serve the Stillwater Backpack Ministry are packing food bags, delivering bags to the schools, and donating food items. Sign-ups are located in the church lobby Welcome Desk. This is an easy way for families or small groups to serve together. If you are serving this ministry for the first time, please contact the office (or Judy Callen) so we can show you how to pack bags and prepare them to be delivered to the schools.

**** Food items currently needed: Ravioli, Vienna Sausages, pudding cups, Capri Suns, fruit cups, cheese crackers.**



04/02 Finley Beckner
04/06 Shauna Crenshaw, J.R. Mills
04/07 Emma Leveritt
04/09 Brittini Burch, Johnny Holley, Jerry Johnson, Stephanie Martin
04/10 Mac Boutwell, Meagan Stubbs
04/11 Millie Harrison
04/15 Chelsea Killingsworth
04/18 LeeAnne Wells
04/19 Cameron Burch, Victoria Crownover
04/21 Kaizer Byrd, Matthew Milner, Liz Oglesby
04/22 Brenden Bolen
04/23 Jean Davis, Lane Martin
04/24 Brooklyn Marchiolo
04/25 Quinn Currie, Rodney Waltman
04/27 Scott Crenshaw, Stephanie Moye, Brandy Ott, Corbin Whetsel
04/29 Reed Feaster
04/30 Miranda Hayes-Ingram

Monthly Financial & Attendance Update

	Attendance		General	Capital
	In-Person	Online	Fund	Fund
Mar. 2	152	106	\$14,405	\$502
Mar. 9	182	55	\$10,344	\$85
Mar. 16	184	65	\$10,789	\$160
Mar. 23	189	54	\$11,841	\$60
Mar. 30	201	43	\$7,779	\$85

PROCEEDS FROM YARD SALE WERE OVER \$13,000!

THANK YOU TO...

~ Everyone - over 90 people - who helped make the Stillwater Church Yard Sale a success! We raised over \$13,000!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

~ Thomas Killingsworth on his baptism.

WELCOME TO...

~ New members, Russell and Taylor Coxwell.

SYMPATHY TO...

~ Judy Callen and Elaine Moore, on the passing of their brother, Neil Hartley.

~ Lyn Stokley, Brenda and Tim Love, on the passing of Tyler Stokley.

Weekly Prayer List

To submit a prayer concern or a praise to be shared on our weekly prayer email, please contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com.

Telephone: (251) 675-2728
Email: info@stillwaterchurch.com
Website: stillwaterchurch.com

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