



## STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

### MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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#### A Special Message from Pastor Mike Hoppe

##### Why Hospitality Matters

Everyone remembers the feeling of walking into a place where you don't know anyone. You wonder where to go, where to sit, and whether you belong. In those first few moments, you've already begun to decide if you will ever come back. For someone new to church, that experience can even begin to shape their picture of what God is like, simply based on how they are received.

This is why hospitality matters so deeply. We want to reflect the heart of God, who "welcomes strangers" (Hebrews 13:2), drawing in the newcomer, the outcast, and the seeker into genuine community. And there is no more beautiful place for that connection than within a church family. Hospitality isn't just the role of greeters or those serving coffee. It's a calling for all of us. One simple practice is the "10-3 rule." Make it a point to meet anyone sitting within ten feet of you, and intentionally spend the first three minutes before and after the service connecting with someone you don't yet know. A simple introduction or a warm conversation are small acts that can make an eternal difference. You never know how God might use your welcome to help someone take their next step toward Him.

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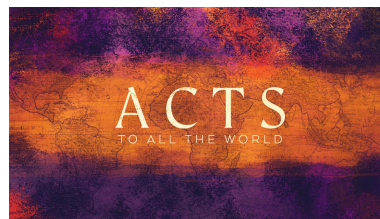
#### Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Room
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
- Tuesdays - Celebrate Recovery Step Study, 6-7pm, Choir Room
- Wednesdays - Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs, 5:30-7:15pm
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- May 3 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- May 5 - Celebrate Recovery Launch Meeting, 7-7:45pm, Choir Room
- May 6 - Bake Auction Night, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- May 7 - Nurture Team Meeting, 10am, Choir Room
- May 8 - Club 345, 6pm
- May 10 - Mother's Day
- May 11 - Vacation Bible School Leaders Meeting, 6pm, Choir Room
- May 13- Volunteer Recognition Night, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

- May 15 - ELC Graduation, 6pm
- May 17 - Graduation Sunday
- May 17 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Choir Room
- May 19 - Celebrate Recovery Launch Meeting, 7-7:45pm, Choir Room
- May 22 - Family Night, 6pm
- May 25-29 - Students to Camp Real Life
- May 30 - Disaster Response Training, 8:30am-3:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- May 31 - Potluck Dinner & Concert, 5pm

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### Sermon Series "Acts: To All the World"

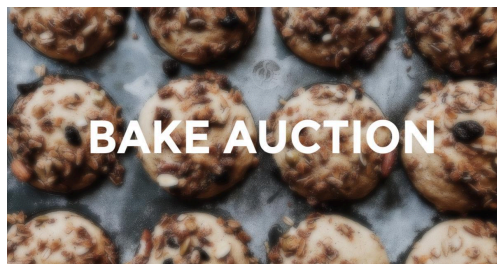


The Holy Spirit led the early church into all the world with power and purpose. This summer, we'll explore the stories that shaped the first Christians and discover how that same Spirit is still forming us into world changers for God's Kingdom.

- May 3 "You Will Be My Witnesses" Acts 1:6-11
- May 10 "Silver and Gold" Acts 3:1-10
- May 17 "The Lie That Cost Everything" Acts 5:1-4
- May 24 "When the Spirit Shows Up" Acts 2:1-6
- May 31 "Looking Up While Stones Came Down" Acts 7:54-60

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### Wednesday Night Dinners in May



In May, we will wrap up our spring Wednesday Night Program.

**May 6 - Bake Auction Night!** The annual bake auction benefits the ministries of our young people. Bring a dessert for the auction and let's see how much money we can raise!

**May 13 - Volunteer Recognition Night!** We will be recognizing our many church volunteers for their service at Stillwater.

Dinners begin at 5:30pm. Register for meals on Sunday Connection Cards or call the church office.

**What's for dinner on April 29? Spaghetti, salad, bread, and desserts!**

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### Men's Breakfast, May 3

All men of the church are invited to Men's Breakfast on May 3, at 7am, in the Fellowship Hall! Cost is a freewill donation, and the men enjoy casual conversation and a short devotion.

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## Women's Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign

Fill a bottle. Change a life! The Baby Bottle Campaign for the Women's Resource Center exists to inform and empower women and their families. It's easy to participate! Beginning in May through Father's Day, pick up a bottle in the church lobby and fill it with coins, cash, or a check over the coming weeks. Bring it back to the church by Father's Day and know that your giving is making a positive difference for the women and children in our community. You can also give online at [wrcmobile.org/donate](http://wrcmobile.org/donate).

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### Discover Stillwater Church Class

Are you interested in connecting with the many opportunities at Stillwater Church? A Discover Stillwater Church Class will be starting soon! This class is for everyone who is new to Stillwater and wants to learn about Stillwater's ministries and connect with others. The class takes place on Sundays at 9:30am in Pastor Mike's office. See Pastor Mike or Pastor Tony if you are interested or contact the church office.



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### Potluck Dinner and Concert, May 31

Join us on May 31, for a Night of Worship and Testimony with Logan Brendle! A potluck dinner will be served at 5pm. Fried chicken will be provided - just bring a dish to share for the potluck. The concert with Logan Brendle will follow at 6pm. All are invited!



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### Kids Korner

Special thanks to everyone that helped make this year's **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** so fun for our kids, parents, and grandparents! We had a fabulous morning filled with a yummy breakfast, crafts, egg hunts, shopping in the Bunny Store, lots of laughter, and visits with the Easter Bunny.





**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is scheduled for June 22-26! If you would like to help with VBS this year, please speak with Betty. LOTS of adult and youth help will be needed! We will have a **VBS LEADERS MEETING on Monday, May 11, at 6pm.** Everyone that is available to help IN ANY WAY with VBS is encouraged to attend.



**Join us for FAMILY FUN NIGHT on Friday, May 22, starting at 6pm.** Come for dinner and lots of games as we celebrate the end of another successful and busy school year. More details will be coming soon! Please contact Betty (251-604-0949 or [betty@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:betty@stillwaterchurch.com)) if you would like to help with planning, set-up, cooking, and/or clean-up.

*I would like to offer a very special **THANK YOU** to one of our most dedicated Kids Ministry workers. Becky Downing has been a leader in many areas of Kids Ministry for several years. Becky is moving to the Auburn area soon, and I will miss her faithful service and her willingness to pitch in when help is needed. Thank you, Becky, for sharing the love of Jesus with our kids! We appreciate you more than you will ever know!!*

*Much love and prayers for this new journey,  
Betty Moyer  
Director of Kids Ministry*

## Serve Sunday 2026

Serve Sunday 2026 was one for the record books!

From the power going out at the church to the sweet worship and devotional led by our youth. From the outside teams getting drenched to the Keep Saraland Beautiful team finding a prayer request in a ditch. From the fast-paced projects to the calmness of the Threads of Grace group.

We were an active representation of the Church. We are People Helping People Love and Serve Jesus. We will continue to live the Call and Purpose found in 1 John 3:18, Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 15:58, and many more.

On April 26, over 160 adults, youth, and children served our community through action and prayer. As a result, over 1700 people will be *directly* impacted by this work and thousands more will *feel* the impact.

Praise God from whom *ALL* blessings flow.

Let's not wait until Serve Sunday 2027 to join in the mission of the Church - let's make it a lifestyle. Living on mission for Christ! If you want to find ways to get involved, please reach out to me! I'd love to get you connected to serve!

~ Stephanie Moye (251-327-7831)



## You're Invited to a Baby Shower!



Please join us for a baby shower honoring  
Hannah Martin, daughter of Kim & Don Smith.

Saturday, May 2, 2026  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Stillwater Church Fellowship Hall

Hannah is registered on BabyList. The registry  
link is <https://my.babylist.com/erfshzaym>.

## May Birthdays

05/02 Samantha Bolton  
05/03 Ryan Brown, Steven Sherrer, Destiny White  
05/04 Justin Ladnier  
05/09 Don Smith  
05/11 JT Ladnier  
05/12 Mallory Barnes, Lori Outlaw  
05/13 Bobby Epperson, Sr.  
05/16 Meagan Jones, Zander Whetsel  
05/17 Betty Moye  
05/20 Preston Sasser  
05/24 Kelli Salter  
05/25 Karen Hennis  
05/27 Aaron Milner  
05/28 Russell Coxwell



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## Weekly Prayer List

To submit a prayer concern or a praise to be shared on our weekly prayer email, or to sign up to receive our weekly prayer emails, please contact the church office at [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com).

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Telephone: (251) 675-2728  
Email: [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com)  
Website: [stillwaterchurch.com](http://stillwaterchurch.com)

To give online, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below!



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