

THE PARISH CONNECTION

August 2026

A Community of Faith, Inspired by Christ, Gathered to Grow, Empowered to Serve.

Lectionary Readings

AUG 02 | 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gen 32:22-31; Ps 17:1-7, 15 (UMH 749)
Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21

AUG 09 | 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (UMH 828)
Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

AUG 16 | 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133 (UMH 850)
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

AUG 23 | 13th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Exod 1:8-2:10; Ps 124 (UMH 846)
Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

AUG 30 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Exod 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (UMH 828)
Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28



Zoom: Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship **TBD**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UlpSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhcn83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777 Passcode: 421072

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Joys—Texas granddaughters visit, 17th grandchild, combined service, new great niece, Judy Weber got good news, family visiting, great Music night at CL, Gina is home after studying abroad, Barb is recovering, Jeff's Bday, Celia's success at the fair

Concerns—Tim Dreier, Ruth, Penny, Meghan, Tim Buhr, all countries with wars—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the Mideast—especially the children, Sheldon, migrants, immigrants, and refugees under the threat of forced deportation, grandson in military in Middle East, those battling cancer, peace in the world- Bruce, Dave, Sue, Jocelyn, Nikki, Debbie Klatt, Mike Buhr, Paula, Steve, Mike Thompson, Kathy Bannink, Judy Weber, Gail Danielson, John Larson, Tasha & Mike, Shawn's mom, Joanne Jackson, Barb Bender, Jim Hobart, grandson in the National Guard, Mark Fuller, firefighters and victims involved in wildfires, Clear Lake FFA trip to Ireland, PF Preschool, Lee Selle recovering from heart issues, Judy's niece battling cancer

Remembering—Family and friends of McKenna Christensen, Jeremy Snitker, Todd Richter, Ed Langham, Gayle Martin, Debbie Stevens, and Sandra Vangen

Willow River Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>. Please send any information you would like posted to Gail Kuhl @ kuhlg@cltcomm.net



Aug 30—Combined service at CL; 10:00
—150th Anniversary

Sept. 25-26—CL Thrift and Bake Sale



August 30, 2026 --- CL

Nov 29, 2026 --- TL: Parkview

Jan 31, 2027 --- PF: Faith



St. Croix Valley Food Bank's monthly pop-up distributions are located in Deer Park and Glenwood City. The **Deer Park** event is held at the Fire Department Cold Storage

Facility, 211 South St. W., from 11 a.m. to noon on the **second Thursday** of the month. The **Glenwood City** event is held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 615 Maple Street, from 11 a.m. to noon on the **third Thursday** of the month.

The St. Croix Valley Food Bank distribution is free of charge for those who qualify. Organizers say those who qualify for free or reduced school lunch or Social Security generally meet the income guidelines. Participants must be Wisconsin residents.

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the special Sundays for 2026. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- World Communion Sunday ~ October 4
 - United Methodist Student ~ November 29
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On Sunday, July 5th, a combined service was held in Clear Lake to welcome Pastor Don Lee to the Willow River Parish. The service was led by lay readers from each church. John Koerper shared a wonderful message with all and Dennis Zemke added a great memory that shows we are more connected than we may know.



Thank you to Daniell Green for being Parish Treasurer the past several months. And thank you to Camilla Pietz for stepping into the role as Parish Treasurer starting August 1st.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

Aug 2nd Reader: Debi Ahrens
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Potluck/Coffee: Jennie & Becky

August 9th Reader: John Koerper
Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorress
Coffee: Dylan & Erin Gorress

August 16th Reader: Dawn Cress
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Gail K & Dawn C

August 23rd Reader: Alison Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Coffee: Avery Family

August 30th Reader: Ben Avery, Jr
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver G
Coffee: CL 150th Ann.

Sept 6th Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Jr
Potluck/Coffee: Roger & Diane

Counters for August: Debi & John
Counters for September: Linda & Joan

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, August 3rd, we will meet at Irma's for lunch and sew/History from 1 to 3 pm. On the 17th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from 1-3. We will continue working on walker bags made for the hospital, pillowcases and dinner aprons for the nursing homes. We also have a new banner project. All are welcome to join us for lunch and work on the history albums, posters and anniversary plans.

A Note from Anitra (Office Administrator): As I work to incorporate all of the recent changes to our parish documents and databases, please feel free to let me know if you notice any errors in the newsletter or bulletins such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Also, if you are not receiving documents via email, please let me know; I may have an incorrect email address for you. I can best be reached at wrpsecretary@gmail.com or 715-702-1247. Thank you!

The September Newsletter Deadline is August 25th: Please email any information you would like to include in the newsletter or calendar to me by this date. Thank you!

August Birthdays

Jeff Hoffman	8/1
Michael Paulson	8/2
James Fouks	8/5
Barb Fuller	8/7
Brittany Severson	8/8
John Severson, Jr	8/13
Anthony Wilcox	8/14
Hoyt Rose	8/15
Brandon Severson	8/16
Ruby Nykanen	8/16
Camryn Lillie	8/17
Tammy Turcotte	8/18
Renae Johnson	8/19
Ben Avery	8/20
Kristi Severson	8/20
Tyler Sharpe	8/24
Hunter Heintz	8/24
Joan Lillie	8/25
Sherry Dochniak	8/25
Betty Rake	8/27
Jill Quade	8/28
Ted Olson	8/29
Jerry Neck	8/30
Neil Lillie	8/31
Ila Knutson	8/31

August Anniversaries

Steve & Judy Benes	8/4
Albin & Lori Peterson	8/4
Ed and Carol Hougdaal	8/6
Ryan & Carrie Blanchard	8/12
Mark & Beth Thompson	8/12
Mark & Barb Fuller	8/14
Ray & Karen Wreford	8/21
Gary & Ila Knutson	8/31



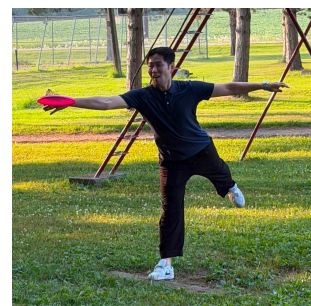
CLACC Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheons at the community center are planned for **August 27, October 22 and December 10.**

Please mark your calendars — we'd love to have you join us for each one. To reserve your spot, please call the community center office at 715-263-2233.

The next SPRC meeting will be on Wednesday, August 19th; 6 pm @ PF

WRP Youth: UMC Youth enjoyed a great evening of fun and fellowship at Reeve Park! We shared a delicious meal, got to know each other through a fast-paced icebreaker, played frisbee golf, made solar s'mores (ask one of the kids how that worked!!) and wrapped the night up with Pastor Don sharing an encouraging message. We're thankful for time spent growing in faith and friendship together!



NEXT UMC YOUTH EVENT:

8/16/26 POOL PARTY!!! @ 5pm

Alison & Ben Avery's home, 797 10th Ave, CL

Any questions please reach out to Erin Gorres: 651.315.3302

PF: Faith UMC News

July 2nd Ad Council Highlights

---Pastor Don was introduced to council members.

---Pastoral support was given by Conference as 10%. We held discussion of and approved to increase this to 15% to help with shared expenses of our newly formed Parish with Turtle Lake and Clear Lake.

--- Update on destruction of preschool building. Amish are expressing interest in tearing down and reusing materials. Will follow up if they may be interested in helping with construction of addition and siding to church

Many thanks to all who have helped get rid of materials in the building.

---- Our next meeting is Thursday Sept. 10 @ 5:30pm.



Dear Willow River Parish,

Do you believe in destiny? Some of you may say yes, while others may say no. We are the result of the decisions we have made. One of my favorite lines from a movie goes like this: "There are two kinds of people: those who believe in destiny and those who pretend not to believe in destiny." Do you agree with this? Do you accept it as true, or are you still pretending not to believe it? I'm kidding.

We are here not only because of our own decisions, but also because of the decisions made by the generations before us. My mom decided to attend church when I was five, so I followed her without knowing anything about Christianity. I grew up in the church, played in the church band, and participated in many Bible competitions. I decided to go to seminary because I wanted to become a missionary. To be honest, when I was young, I wanted to experience living abroad, and becoming a missionary was the only way I knew that might make that possible. At that time, I did not know there were other ways to live outside Korea. During my years in seminary, I faced many difficulties, and at times I thought about giving up. But I decided to continue pursuing this calling.

While serving in the military, I needed to think about my next step. So I applied to several schools in the United States and was accepted to Duke, Emory, and Vanderbilt. I could have gone to another school, but I chose Emory after much thought. Eventually, I crossed the Pacific Ocean, came to the United States, and studied in Atlanta for two years. After graduation, I could have stayed in Atlanta, but I came to Wisconsin. Now, I am very happy living in northwestern Wisconsin and enjoying its peace and tranquility. If any one of the decisions I have mentioned had been different, I might not have met you here.

The same may be true for you. Many of you have experienced more seasons of life than I have. So, I imagine that you have had even more opportunities to leave your current homes or choose different paths. You might have moved to be closer to your children, settled somewhere else, or decided not to come to church. For many different reasons, however, we have continued along the paths that brought us here.

Let me ask you another question: Do you love your present life?

As I mentioned before, we are the result of our previous choices. I strongly believe that I would make many of the same choices again, even if I could go back to the moments when I had to make them. This is because each choice was the best decision I could make at that particular moment, based on the knowledge and experience I had then. If we are grateful for where we are today, we may also recognize how our previous decisions have shaped us and brought us this far. So, I am pretty sure that if we could go back to the past, many of the choices that brought us here would remain the same. Perhaps we would still meet and worship together in 2026.

Deciding to live in Wisconsin was not an easy decision for me. But I chose to come because I wanted to serve where I felt called and where my ministry could meet a real need in a meaningful way. I am enjoying these communities and learning more about this area every day. I am pretty sure that I will continue to love my life here, and that one day I will look back on this season with gratitude and remember coming to Wisconsin as one of the best choices I have made.

I hope that together we can make this season joyful and unforgettable. I also hope to become a meaningful part of your lives and memories. I will try my best to walk with you, serve you, and support you whenever I am able.

May God guide us as we walk together, help us support and encourage one another, and allow us to create wonderful memories along the way.

In Christ,

Pastor Don



Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee following the service
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month following the service.
- **Food shelf donations** any Sunday- We'd like to make another delivery soon if you can donate!!

Send Offering to: Josy Wood, 260 40th Avenue, Clear Lake, WI 540045

CL Noisy Cans:

3rd quarter—Clear Lake Food Pantry
4th quarter—Clear Lake Ambulance

Church Cleaning Donation: If you want to help pay \$120 for cleaning the church, which is done once a month. You can write a check to UMC Please put in an envelope that says for cleaning and put in the collection plate.

Bell Choir at CLUMC: We will be practicing for our Anniversary service on Sundays at 7 pm in August. We welcome anyone interested in joining us!

UWF: July 8 Meeting—8 Present
Mission Statement Read
Secretaries Min approved Treasurers Report
Approved \$1,112,35

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Tea Party was a huge success

2. Thank yous from Judy Weber and Peg Hagstrom

3. 7/23 Pie Social, Linda 4 gallons of ice cream. Sign up sheet for pies.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jennie will have T shirts made by Two Moms with Church 150 yr Banner on back. \$18 each She will contact for size.

2. Some of the Kirk Family will sing for the Anniversary .

3. Gift card at Caribou for Jonelle Leadhome and ladies that served Tea.

4. Invitations will be printed for the Anniversary.

5. Will put pictures on the tree for the Anniversary. Anyone able to organize photos asked to go anytime to organize.

*Joan Lillie-President Betty Rake - Treasurer
Jennie Keller Submitted Minutes*

Aug 12 UWF will meet at Kate's Coop at 12 for lunch. Then go to church for last minute preparation for the 150th Anniversary Aug 30th.

***Everyone, please be thinking of memories from the past of our Methodist Church. On Sunday August 30th @ 10:00, the day of our 150th Church Anniversary during our lunch we will share them, using a microphone.

REMINDER: Please start saving for our Fall Thrift Sale on September 25th & 26th. Think of donating Christmas, Fall and winter things; save summer items for the April sale.

The **Praise, Song and Desserts** held on Thursday, July 23rd at CLUMC was a great success! We had a good number of people attend. The singers were fantastic—loved the religious and humorous songs. We were both crying and laughing. Everyone loved the fellowship downstairs with such delightful treats. Thanks to Pastor Don and John Koerper for introductions and prayer. Also all the UWF for baking, serving and cleaning up. Plus Vi and Dylan for helping serve ice cream!!!!



The Bright Knights and John and Sarah Bingea. Great music, great pie, treats, ice cream, and great fellowship for our musical celebration of 150 years!



Clear Lake UMC celebrates 150 years—Sunday, August 30th @ 10:00 . Join us as we celebrate 150 years of God's faithfulness with worship, special music, memories, and a chicken dinner. We'd love to celebrate with you!

Thank you to Jennie Keller for her memorial to Steve; purchasing two new sizes of letters for our sign.



Clear Lake AD Council Meeting--July 1, 2026

Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report read and approved.

Old Business:

- Sale of Deer Park Church - Roger read a letter from DS Peace with the stipulations for the sale. A motion was made by Debi to sell the Deer Park church, 2nd by Joan. Motion carried. A motion was made by Debi to call for a Special Charge Conference to approve the sale of the Deer Park Church, 2nd Joan. Motion carried. This meeting will be held July 14 at 6:00.
- There has been no progress on the purchase of racks for the banners.

New Business:

- Church time will change to 9:30 beginning July 12. We will have coffee before church. Potluck on the first Sunday of the month will be after church.
- Pastor Don will be in the office in Clear Lake 2 days a week. His phone number is 404-271-3087 if you need to reach him.
- The 10% mission donation from the Potato sale will be split between the Clear Lake Community Center and the Clear Lake Chronicle.
- Renting the parsonage -
 1. Asking \$1600 per month with the renters paying utilities.
 2. Damage deposit required. Will take photos before renters move in to insure no damage by renters.
 3. References will be required.
 4. We will be hiring someone for the yard care and snow removal.
 5. Will hire Domestic Divas to clean the parsonage before renting.
 6. Open house for potential renters July 19th.
 7. Potential rental date August 1, 2026.
- Need to clean Pastor's office.
- Linda will pick up the mail from the post office once a week and place it in Pastor's office.
- Praise, Song and Dessert as part of our 150 year anniversary will be held in the church basement Thursday July 23, at 6:00.
- Received a Thank You from Brian and Kathy Wick for their anniversary.

Next meeting August 5, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Please try and attend!

Jennie Keller, Recording Secretary

TL: Parkview UMC News

- Administrative Council meeting
-----August 12 at 6:00 pm



Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For 80 years, Heifer has been working to empower impoverished families by providing them with the tools and resources they need to

thrive. Turtle Lake Parkview United Methodist Church Women of Faith along with the Turtle Lake Library have collected monies and continue to raise funds for this organization.

With funds collected so far are, I-r, Judy Benes, Sybil Thompson, Kay Harr, Georgeina McDonnell.



Parkview will once again host Santa for the Turtle Lake children. We will have Christmas decorations, baked goods and treats for everyone at no cost. So, start thinking about cleaning out your closets and shelves and set aside any holiday decorations you no longer want. Do not bring them to church yet, but start saving. We will let you know when we're ready to set up.



WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, TURTLE LAKE, PRAIRIE FARM
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

Address Service Requested

Willow River Parish
Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700
E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com
Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Willow River Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>

Don Lee, Pastor
Office Hours: Thurs & Fri: 2:00–5:00 PM at CL
Wed: 2:00–5:00 PM, Sat: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM at TL

Anitra Kaczmariski, Office Administrator
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Camilla Pietz, Parish Treasurer
Email: cpietz.wrptreasurer@gmail.com

Sunday Worship (Online Service TBD)

8:15 a.m. - Prairie Farm: Faith 9:30 a.m. – Clear Lake 10:45 a.m. – Turtle Lake: Parkview

Church School
(see you in September)