

THE PARISH CONNECTION

August 2025

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

August 2025 Lectionary Readings

AUG 03 | 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Hos 11:1-11; Ps 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830);
Col 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

AUG 10 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Isa 1:1, 10-20; Ps 50:1-8, 22-23 (UMH 783);
Heb 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

AUG 17 | 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Isa 5:1-7; Ps 80:1-2, 8-19 (UMH 801);
Heb 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

AUG 24 | 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6 (UMH 794);
Heb 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

AUG 31 | 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Jer 2:4-13; Ps 81:1, 10-16 (UMH 803);
Heb 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Joys—Beautiful Summer, CLEAR LAKE DAYS and Potatoes, great granddaughter, Brooklyn, weather grows the corn, County Fairs

Concerns—Tim Dreier, Rifle, Zach, Linda O., Debbie, Penny, Ruth, Meghan, Vern, Jan, Carla all countries with wars—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza—especially the children, and Iran, Sheldon, migrants, immigrants, and refugees under the threat of forced deportation, Lon, Kay, JD, Merlin, Pastor Hakki, Roger B, Carla, Jaylea, Betty L, Maple and Mary Johnson, UMC RF CC youth leadership, Lake St. UMC Linda and Dick, no swing beds in Eau Claire and all affected by that situation, Paul W, Central Texas Floods, Fred Booth, Joanne, Rusty Witthoft, Craig Paulson

Remembering—family and friends of Duane Moore; Ruth's nephew, Larry Croes; and Burleigh Larson's great grandson, Cody Klasse

Willow River Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>. Please send any information you would like posted to Heather Greene mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com or Gail Kuhl kuhlq@cltcomm.net



Zoom: Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at **8:30 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UlpSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhcn83UT09>
Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777 Passcode: 421072

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the remaining special Sundays for 2025. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- World Communion Sunday ~ October 5
- United Methodist Student ~ November 30

Parish Picnic w/Faith Family

Date yet to be determined. The parish picnic will most likely be held in September. More info to come.



September Newsletter Deadline is Aug 28th

August Birthdays

Michael Paulson	8/2
James Fouks	8/5
Brittany Severson	8/8
Jonathan Malack	8/12
John Severson, Jr	8/13
Brandon Severson	8/16
Camryn Lillie	8/17
Renae Johnson	8/19
Ben Avery	8/20
Kristi Severson	8/20
Tyler Sharpe	8/24
Joan Lillie	8/25
Betty Rake	8/27
Ted Olson	8/29
Neil Lillie	8/31

August Anniversaries

Todd & Andrea Jilek	8/8
Ryan & Carrie Blanchard	8/12
Mark & Beth Thompson	8/12

Ruby's Pantry distributes food at Pop-Up Pantry locations across MN & WI. There is no income or residency requirement and for a \$25 bundle donation you will receive an abundance of groceries. One food distribution will take place **August 9th** in the **SMC LTD** parking lot at 9000 Griffin Street E in Amery. This is a drive-thru distribution from **7:30 am to 9:00 am**. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and should arrive at **6:45 am**. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information, please contact 715-268-7390 or email office.ameryucc@gmail.com.

Willow River Parish Youth:

MIA school supplies—Wed, Aug 13th 3-5pm

Hope aLive is rescheduled for Tuesday, August 26th from 5-8:30 pm at Danielson Park in Amery. All free fun and food for the family with music too.



Grace Place Salvation Army

We are in need of a few items at the shelter. Please help if you are able. Drop off at the shelter anytime of day.

We need tin foil, coffee, sugar, 2 pocket folders, shampoo and conditioner, Laundry detergent, mops and buckets.



Community VBS

August 11-14, 2025

First Lutheran Church Clear Lake

6:00pm-8:00pm

Ages 4-finished 5th grade

****Register online or by the QR code below****

<https://www.firstluthclearlake.com/>



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

Aug 3rd	Reader: Alison Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Vi Gorres Potluck/Coffee: Jennie & Becky
Aug 10th	Reader: Dawn Cress Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr Coffee: Gail & Dawn
Aug 17th	Reader: John Koerper Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres Coffee: Dylan Gorres Family
Aug 24th	Reader: Ben Avery, Jr Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery Coffee: Ben Avery Family
Sept 7th	Reader: Diane Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood Potluck/Coffee: Roger & Diane

Counters for August: Debi & John

Counters for September: Linda & Joan

Faith Family

Aug 3rd	Michael Clark
Aug 10th	Paul Webster
Aug 17th	Terri Wilson
Aug 24th	Debbie Stevens
Aug 31st	Michael Clark
Sept 7th	Paul Webster

Letter from Bishop Schwerin

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.

-Romans 12:9-13

Grace and peace to you in the hope that is ours in Christ.

When the kids were little, we liked to walk in county or state parks. It was not uncommon for Rachel to see a toad or frog and pick it up. You know the inevitable question: 'Dad, can we keep her?'

I would explain. 'Rachel, that little frog has a mom, maybe a dad or grandpa or little brother, and soon they will start missing her. She will want to go home to her table for supper, and you can imagine how sad it would be for them if their little girl did not come home. She will miss them. They will miss her. Let's let her go so she can hop home.'

I don't know if that was a gold standard answer, but both kids learned empathy. They are kind to animals. They live out Christian love even if they do not set worship attendance records. Rachel is a social worker who manages others and engages the most challenged of those who live in Milwaukee without housing. Once, someone who was distressed asked the police to call her by name. Andrew loves to serve. Siblings in Christ, we belong to each other. Archbishop Tutu of South Africa has described life as 'a bundle of belonging.'

In her book, *Who Do We Choose to Be?*

Margaret Wheatley says a decent human being must be willing to serve an inhumane and indecent time. More than being decent, what might a Christian be willing to do in an inhumane, indecent time?

Despite the fact that the federal government has built a concentration camp in Florida and has resorted to burning food aid rather than feed hungry children, I am still answering angry letters from the [Council of Bishops' epiphany letter](#), read

in our churches, that sought dignity for immigrants.

I feel as if I am crouching down in my gentle fatherly voice and saying, 'the 34 people per cage have a mother, a sister, or a child. They are exposed to the elements and live in their own stench. Most are guilty of no crime. For the first offense, being in the US illegally is a misdemeanor, and when did misdemeanor crimes warrant incarceration in a concentration camp away from family and legal recourse? Their children are traumatized from missing their fathers. Let them go. Let them go back to their dinner tables.'

Bishop Tom Berlin, our bishop assigned to the Florida conference, has raised his opposition to a concentration camp built in Florida that costs \$450 million per year to operate. Inmates are given food infested with maggots. Mosquitoes, some carrying disease, are everywhere. The lights are left on so inmates cannot sleep. Of course, immigration reform is needed. Of course, persons who have committed serious crimes must be addressed. How do you defend a concentration camp with your Christian faith? Might the FEMA money used to maintain this be better spent in Texas or on a natural disaster? Siblings in Christ, we have been divided by powerful, moneyed voices. Many hearts have been turned to revile immigrants by allowing ourselves to fear them in the most criminal terms. Consider how many United Methodists approve of this example of structural and systemic racism. Who would want to join that church?

Contact your representative and your senator. Join in prayer and protest. Feed those widowed because their husband has been swept up in a needless raid. Contribute to the [Texas flood relief](#) through UMCOR or a short-term mission trip. Love your neighbor. The neighbor, says Luke 10:37, is the one who showed mercy.

Know that your witness to Jesus and your service of the reign of God is critically important. Thank you for your witness and faithfulness. It is good to be in ministry with you.





Dear WRP Family,

This past July has been full of unexpected and unfamiliar experiences for me — some of which I had never encountered before in my life.

As many of you already know, by the time you're reading this, I will have undergone surgery and, Lord willing, will be in the midst of recovery. According to my surgeon, I am not to do anything for the first two weeks after the procedure. For the following four weeks, I'm not supposed to lift anything heavier than 10 pounds. It's hard to believe that I won't even be able to lift 10 pounds... and when I think about how much this will fall on my wife's shoulders during that time, I can't help but feel a bit guilty.

Thankfully, even with the short notice, two dear colleagues have graciously agreed to step in during my medical leave. Rev. Dawn Ramstad — who served as our Circuit 10 leader before retirement — will be covering the last Sunday of July, and my good friend Rev. Paul Webster will lead the first service with communion in August. I'm so grateful to them both for their support. I'm also deeply thankful to all of you who have been lifting me and my family up in prayer.

One of the Scripture passages I often share when I visit our members is Psalm 23. I'm sure many of you know it well. It's a passage I return to again and again, especially in moments of uncertainty or challenge. I find myself needing it in this season, too.

Would you read it with me now?

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Amen.

May I rest well and recover fully, so that I can return to
you refreshed and renewed.

Blessings,

Pastor Hakki



Deer Park UMC News

Send Offering to: Janice Thompson, 110 North Street E, Deer Park, WI 54007

Noisy Can--3rd Quarter to Various Charities

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee and pot luck **BEFORE** church at 10:15
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month BEFORE church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday

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

CL Noisy Cans:

3rd Qtr.- Family House (Polk/Barron Shelter)
4th Qtr- Salvation Army

United Women in Faith: Unfortunately we did not make it to see Arlene Althoff in July. We hope to do so this month.

The UWF has made a change; we are no longer going to Harbor House in Superior to bring personal items. They will be picked up by Patty, the person in charge, the same day food is made by the church women. In the future we will give personal products to Homeless Shelters closer to us, Barron Polk County and Grace Place

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.

Holy Socks

The United Women of Faith are gathering clean, mismatched, old, worn out holy socks for a cash donation to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We'd love to have anyone's donations.

CL UMC Ad Council: August Ad Council will be Wed. August 6th at 4pm



Meals for the Family House Shelter: Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, August 4th, we will meet at church at 11 and make meals for the Family Shelter and have lunch at church then sew from 1:00 -3:00. Dorcas Circle purchases 10 pounds of ground beef. Bring ingredients and a meal idea to make. We will cook them up and put them in the freezer for Patti to pick up for the Family Shelter. They are so appreciative of these meals. You can also bring bars in a disposable pan or cookies in a bag for the freezer at any time. On Monday, August 18th all are welcome to join us just for lunch at Irma's at noon for lunch and 1:00 for sewing, ironing, and putting fabrics together for pillowcases. We have had some beautiful fabric donated and have sorted by size and cut and prepped. We were asked by the Amery Hospital to make bags for walkers so we have designed and have begun cutting and sewing those together. Please join us!



A great work day Monday, July 7th, a new project began, carryall bags for people's walkers. We had cutters, sewers, Ironers, sorters and matchers. Lots accomplished and Betty and Linda got

all the donations packed up for Family House. August newsletter please/thanks!



Faith Family Church News:

WE NEED TO SCHEDULE A MEETING!

Fun Day School Kids:

Our kids have been out in the community doing awesome things. Here are a few of them and their 4-H projects at the fair.

Congratulations everyone!



Community Events:

Horsing Around Days is in October (Here is a blast from the past picture from a few years ago.) Do we want to be in the parade this year? Pancake Breakfast? Garage Sale?



Roman 8:18

"The pain that you've been feeling,
can't compare the joy that is coming

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

Faith Family Church | Facebook



Noisy Can-Autism Awareness

Send Offering to:

Terri Wilson: 3127 200th Ave
Glenwood City, WI 54013



THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FAITH FAMILY
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

Address Service Requested

The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches
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/>

Hakki Min, Pastor
Office Hours: Tues-Friday 9-11 am

Anitra Kaczmariski, Parish Secretary
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Amanda Millermon, Parish Treasurer
Email: WRParishconnect@gmail.com

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m. – Faith Family (also Zoom) 9:45 a.m. – Deer Park
11:00 a.m. – Clear Lake

Church School @ Faith Family & Clear Lake
“Fun Day” School– Alternate Wednesdays 6 pm @ Faith Family
Bible in a Binder Sundays @ Clear Lake