

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

December 2022

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

## Lectionary Readings

**December 4, 2022**

**2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UM795)

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**December 11, 2022**

**3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)**

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**December 18, 2022**

**4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)**

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UM801)

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**December 25, 2022**

**Christmas Day (White)**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98 (UM818)

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12); John 1:1-14

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Joys*— Christmas, safe travels, grandchildren, pregnancies, Jillian's wedding

*Concerns*— Pete, Steve, deer hunting, Don, Tasha, people with Cancer, Brooke, grandchild pregnancy, Allen and Ardys and great grandson, Sheldon & Ruth, Mona, people that are sick, people with COVID, Greene's goats.

*Remembering*—Family and friends of victims of Itaewon (Seoul) Halloween crowd crush

**WRP Bible Study:** We will be taking a break beginning Wed. Nov. 30th as we move to a 4-week Advent Study. We will finish "The Red Sea Rules" in January 2023. If you're interested contact Diane or Heather to join us or just sign in.

**Advent Study:** The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent explores the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus. Susan Robb, author, intersects the miraculous happenings 2000 years ago with experiences of people's lives today- our joys, sufferings, and hopes.



**PET OF THE MONTH:** Be Kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32.

**Christmas Tradition Idea:** Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's life and wake up on Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate.

## Schedule of Christmas Activities

Dec 9	<b>Clear Lake Cookie Sale</b> & Baked Potato meal, 4 - 7 p.m.
Dec 17	<b>Emerald Community Holidaze</b> Faith Family Church Craft and Bake Sale 1:30-5:30pm
Dec. 18	<b>CL Sunday school program</b> <b>FF Sunday school program</b>
Dec 24	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> 4:00 Clear Lake 5:30 Faith Family 7:00 Deer Park

**Zoom:** Please use the following information to join us Sundays for worship at 9:45 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=Ulp aSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

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**Willow River Parish College Boxes:** The youth will pack college boxes on Sunday, Dec. 4th at 5:30pm at the CL Church basement. If you have a college student be sure their address is turned in to Diane, Jan T or Heather before that date. Each church will collect items for the boxes. All sorts of individually wrapped snacks and goodies are appreciated by the students during their finals. Hot cocoa and Hot cider packs, micro popcorn, granola bars, cheese and crackers, candy, gum, Christmas candies, all are welcome and appreciated!

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## December Birthdays

Benjamin Pietz	12/2
Julie Longfellow	12/5
Marcus Millermon	12/5
Graham Millermon	12/6
Beth Thompson	12/11
Andrea Jilek	12/14
Michael Stark	12/18
Patty Warner	12/21
Doug Kruger	12/22
Gail Kuhl	12/23
Liz Larson	12/29
Cindy Warner	12/30

## December Anniversaries

Neil & Joan Lillie	12/30
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**WRP Youth:** Youth are planning a Christmas party for Tuesday, December 27th. Place to be determined. Bring your favorite Christmas treat. Pizza will be provided. Watch for more information!

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**Deadline for Jan/Feb Newsletter is Nov. 26th**

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**Christmas Day Service** will be a hybrid style at 10am via zoom and Faith Family Church will be open for anyone wishing to worship in person.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP MINISTRIES

### Clear Lake

Dec 4th Reader: Alison Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery

Brunch: Betty & Bev

Dec 11th Reader: John Koerper

Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery

Coffee: John & Stacia

Dec 18th Reader: NA

Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery

Coffee: United Women of Faith

Dec 25th **10:00 Zoom Worship & In person worship @ Faith Family Church**

*Counters for December: Dawn C & Diane B*

### Faith Family

Dec 4th Debbie Stevens

Dec11th Terri Wilson

Dec18th Millermon Family

Dec 25th Paul Webster

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**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 **December 10th** 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](mailto:office.ameryucc@gmail.com).

Another Ruby's Pantry location is: 1245 County Highway CC, New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017, which distributes on the 3rd Thursday of the Month. Registration begins at 5:00 PM. Food bundles available 5:00-7:00 PM. Hosted by: Faith Community Church. Check out their website [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org) to find a location and time that works for you.

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### **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](mailto:mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com) or Gail Kuhl [kuhlq@cltcomm.net](mailto:kuhlq@cltcomm.net)

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**Pastor's Pen:** I've seen a picture that says, "Travel East, Travel West, After all Home's Best." Like this saying, after our trip to Korea, we felt like this. Wisconsin has truly become our home. After the trip, we rested well and adjusted well to jet lag (time difference). During Evan's stay in Korea, I felt that he was even bigger. And one good thing is that Evan has started to speak in sentences now. Not only does he never stop running, but he also never stops asking questions: "Papa or mama, what is this? Why and why and why?" He is learning many things these days. So sometimes his expressions surprise us. It seems that we'll have to be careful what we say in front of him now. Esther and I are interested in Evan's education, so we recently bought books for him on Black Friday!

Kids, including Evan, seem to be growing up really fast. When I first came to Willow River Parish, the children of the parish were shorter than me, but it seems that some of them have now reached puberty, and are the same height as me or taller than me. I pray that all the children of our parish grow up healthy in Christ and be used as tools for the Kingdom of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:8 says: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." There are many kinds of growth in this world. And each growth has its right time. Children are in a period of physical growth, so they need to eat well, play well, and sleep well. And some scientists say most people's physical growth doesn't happen after age 25. After age 25, they say, aging begins. But other than physical growth, there is an area where we need to grow during our lifelong journey. This is called spiritual growth.

We can easily know if a child is growing well or not because we can measure their height and weight. However, unlike physical growth, spiritual growth is invisible, so it is not easy to know whether we are growing properly spiritually. Unlike physical growth, spiritual growth has no limits. We can try to grow to approach God's holiness until the day we return to God. Therefore, we must always carefully watch whether we are spiritually healthy and growing properly. In that sense, the season of Advent is a great opportunity for us to take care of our souls.

Church tradition uses purple or blue as the pulpit color twice a year: a season of Lent and a season of Advent. FYI, these colors symbolize repentance. Advent is also a season of waiting. We are waiting for the return of the Lord with hope and anticipation. During this season, we also need to reflect on our lives such as how we lived this year, which parts were good, or which parts need improvement.

I hope that all of you wrap up this year well by having candles for Advent in your homes, lighting them, and praying for your family, your neighbors, and for your spiritual health and growth.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Hakki



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## Deer Park UMC News:

May this Blessed Season bring you love and peace in your hearts, homes, communities and our world.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends, and a happy, healthy, warm New Year.

*Wishes from your Church Family in Deer Park.*

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

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**4th Quarter Noisy Can--Grace Place**

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## Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee after church
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each Month after church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday

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

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**Clear Lake Church Cancellations:** Winter is fast approaching; in the event of bad weather, please contact Roger Blanchard 715-263-2690 to find out if worship services are canceled.

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## Clear Lake Nov. Ad. Co. Highlights

-Motion made by Dawn to give a \$100 Nilssen's gift card and \$50.00 CR gas card to Don and Arlene Althoff for their many years of doing the accounting.

-Stewardship Letter and Membership Letters were presented.

-Josy mentioned that she had briefly looked into a computer software for the Church accounting that would process reports, attendance, contributions, etc.

-Stacia, Josy, Linda, Carla, and Joan will meet before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year to set up a new Sheet for Contributions.

-Roger took money to Nilssen's today for Poinsettias. If anyone wants to order more they will need to talk to Nilssen's

-College boxes – Sunday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at CL at 6 pm

-Sunday School Program Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am. Women's Group will do treats downstairs following service.

-Wed December 21<sup>st</sup>, Evening Bell Choir/First Lutheran Choir program.

-Linda presented a request from CL Community Club regarding Indoor Winter Market that will be held at the CL Community Center. It was decided that we will not participate in 2022 but possibly will in 2023. Joan suggested maybe a Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser.

***Next meeting December 7, 2022 at 4:00.***

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## 4th Quarter Noisy Can–Christmas for Children

**Shop with RaiseRight (formerly Scrip):** If you want to place a Raise Right order, please contact Andrea Jilek 263-2575. Nilssen's gift cards can be ordered at any time, too.

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**UMW November Minutes:** Met at Ridgeview Apts. 10 present Mission Statement Read. Roll Call with Scripture Read Sec. Min; Read Treasurer Report: \$1,713.56 approved

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. UMW Sunday Nov. 20.

2. Julie Longfellow sold her washer and dryer to us for \$100.00. We paid Kevin from True Value \$50 to deliver them to the new Polk/Barron County Family

Shelter that they are working on. They sent a thank you letter to the UMW.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Friday, Dec. 9, Cookie and Bake Potato Sale, 4:00 till we run out. Curbside.

2. Help make cookies on Dec. 1 and Dec 5 at 10:00 church basement. Every family should also donate 6 dozen cookies. Bring to church by 9:00 on Dec 9.

3. Christmas party at Betty Rake's Dec. 14, 12:00 PotLuck.

4. Send \$100 to the Life Line Food Shelf.

Joan read a lesson from our 2017 program book.

Emphasizing Season of Celebration.

*Submitted by Linda Jurisch*

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**Bell Choir:** Meets at 7pm on Wed. at CL. Bell Choir and First Lutheran Choir Concert @ First Lutheran Church in Clear Lake. 7 PM on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

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**Clear Lake Midweek School:** Students will be meeting Wednesdays Dec. 7th, and 14th from 3:30-5 and Saturday Dec. 17th from 9-11. Our program will be on the 18th.



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## **Clear Lake Christmas Cookie and Stuffed Baked Potato Sale: Friday, December 9th from 4-7 pm-- Curbside only**

again this year. All church family members please donate 6 dozen Christmas Cookies. Workers needed, watch for sign up sheets at the back of the church or contact Debi Ahrens at 715-441-547

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**Dorcas Piecemakers :** Our Circle group will be meeting the first Monday of December. We began sewing pillowcases for Christmas for Children in November. We had over 30 on our first Monday with our friend Nancy joining us to sew. Thanks so much Nancy Danielson! We will be meeting on the 5th from 1:30-3:30 at the church. All are welcome, we need cutters, ironers, sewers, matchers and we get a nice opportunity to visit while we're together.

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## Sunday School Christmas Program

### "No Time for Christmas"

Sunday, Dec. 18th 8:30 am during the Service.



Please join us for  
Christmas Coffee  
following the service.

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### Gratitude for Re-Assignment by Bishop

**Hee-Soo Jung:** Each day begins with blessing, movement, and the increase of light.

The blessings of life we experience in Wisconsin are no less than amazing. God's transformative ways are unstoppable and present with each passing day. In God's abundant grace we share this experience of life together in relationships that make known Jesus the Christ.

After the close of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference, I gave thanks as I saw God's relentless solidarity with the United Methodist Church moving us in power and love and leading us into the future.

At a time when the uncertainties of the denomination and with more challenges of the pandemic were still vivid, I could not foresee what the Conference would be like. I prayed fervently for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully so that peace and justice might prevail.

All of us at the Conference tasted the atmosphere of God's Spirit refining our identity with hearts strangely warmed.

It was great faith and imagination for the kingdom of God that surfaced the best of us, and it was beautiful to see the North Central Jurisdictional Conference raise wise leaders, electing three gifted bishops among us.

It was a special grace to experience no obstacles put in the way of those who love the Lord to seriously discuss the challenges and dialogue about all that is before us, seeking the Lord's will. It was a week of learning about anti-racism, LGBTQIA+ exclusion, a week of hearts humbled by stories of our life together discerning the greater will of God. With the scriptural theme of Philippians 3:14 and 'Press On,' we left with the determination

to press on seeking the kingdom of God and Christ-like Christian community.

I always call the Wisconsin Conference and its leaders, 'Beautiful People.' It's not rhetorical, I call it that because I see a holistic, united, and beautiful community. I am so grateful to be re-assigned as your bishop. I am humbled by your trust. Once again, the delegation representing our Wisconsin Conference showed great unity in prayer and gifts for building up the whole church.

It was powerfully inspiring to see one of our clergy, Rev. Dan Schwerin, elected as a bishop, and to see the widespread support for his leadership. This was a deep affirmation of the ministry we share across our annual conference of which we are all servants.

Now let's pray as he and Julie go to serve the Northern Illinois Conference where he will serve as a bishop. We are reminded again that we must be the ones who respond to the call of Christ, that all of us are called by God and equipped wherever we are sent to serve whether that be in a classroom or kitchen or playground.

The Lord is calling us--urging us to live a life as servants and stewards, so that the world can know the gospel, and experience God's Shalom. The church is calling us to stand up for peace in a world of alienation and sorrow.

Please receive my gratitude and respect. We thank God that we will serve as your episcopal servant for the next two years. We appreciate your prayers and love for me and my wife, Im. We are blessed to live among you. The Church is of God and will prevail as a humble instrument to heal and serve.

There will be a celebration for Bishop Schwerin in a service of worship on Saturday, December 17, 11am, at First UMC Waukesha, 121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186. Refreshments will follow. In lieu of gifts consider a contribution to either the 'Keep Our Story Growing' capital campaign at Sun Prairie UMC where Julie has been worshipping, or the Wisconsin Conference Boy Scouts' Survivors Fund, a feature of Dan's ministry. Thank you.

# Faith Family Church News:

## FAITH FAMILY AD. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:

Next meeting is Thurs, December 8th @ 6:30 pm

### **DONATION CENTER:**

***West Cap Food Pantry Donations needed:*** We are collecting non-perishable items for the food pantry.

***Willow River Parish College Boxes: See above-***  
***donations needed along with addresses for college students.***

### **BAKE AND CRAFT SALE:**

Faith Family Church Fundraiser and event to support our community. We will offer Hot Chocolate and a place to warm up during the Emerald Community Holidaze. We will have homemade baked goods and holiday cookies for sale and crafts for decor and presents. We will have crafts and activities for kids.



### **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**



We are thankful that Pastor and his family have returned safely from South Korea. Thank you Alicia Peterson for your time with us at Anchor of Hope. You will be missed. Thank you to all those that helped with the rock and projects around the church.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

### Emerald Community Decorate the Park Day

Do you have a crafty side?  
Do you like decorating?  
Do you have decorations you would like to share for all to see?  
Do you want to help spread holiday cheer?

**Please join us  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH  
@ NOON**

We are looking for volunteers & decorations to decorate the park for our 1st Annual Emerald Holidaze event on Saturday, December 17th. Campfires will be lit at 1:30, light parade at 5:30 AND lots to see & do in between, even SANTA, COMET & VIXEN!

If you have something you would like to donate but can't join us, please message us on Facebook (Emerald Community) or contact Angela Jeske 715-781-5416

## Emerald Holidaze

Open Fires with Smore Stations, Food, Games, Log Cutting Contest, Hammerschlagen, Santa & Reindeer, Craft/Bake Sale at Faith Family Church & lots more!

**LIGHT PARADE @ 5:30**  
**Saturday, December 17th, 2022**  
**Emerald Community Park~Emerald, WI**

Emerald Community is kicking off the holiday season with a 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holidaze! Come join us in the park for smores, hot chocolate & cider, food and games. Fires will be lit about 1:30! We are bringing back the Horsin' Around Days Crosscut Log Saw Contest! Round up a partner and start your stretching! We will start the Log Saw Contest about 2:30.

Faith Family Church will be hosting a craft and bake sale all day while also providing a warm place to make your own craft & warm up!

**BREAKING NEWS:** A little Elf from Reindeer Acres Flight Team shared that Santa will be making an appearance along with Comet & Vixen! Souvenir pictures will also be available with Santa & the reindeer for \$20.

Tentative Weather Events: Icy Bowling & a skating rink!

Do you have a business or a creative side? If so, then dig out your holiday decorations and prepare a float for the lighted parade! Anything welcome! Horses & sleighs, tractors & wagons, ATV/UTVs, trucks & trailers, share your creative side!

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For more information AND/OR to sign up for the parade, please message us on Facebook (Emerald Community) or contact Angela Jeske 715-781-5416.

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:**  
**Faith Family Church | Facebook**  
**ANCHOR OF HOPE**



## FUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER:



Since our last newsletter the Funday school kids got together to go trick or treating. They have been having dinner together and learning together about God on Wednesdays at 4:30pm at Faith Family Church. They have been working hard putting together our Christmas Program.

### **Faith Family Christmas program:**

Title: Memories of Christmas past.

Please join us December 18th at 9:45 to hear and share your memories of Christmas past. Along with a Hymn Sing.

What does Christmas mean to you? Share your stories with Heather or Amanda ahead of time or bring them the day of.

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**Noisy Cans**--4th Quarter--Grace Place

**Send Offering to:** Terri Wilson, 3127 200<sup>th</sup> Ave, Glenwood City, WI 54013

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**Anchor of Hope Recovery Ministry** is a worship service for individuals that have been impacted by addiction and hardships of all kinds that are seeking recovery through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Anchor of Hope hosts services on **Monday evenings at 7 PM** at the Faith Family Church, as well as through Zoom and Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070879280379>).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83094771703?pwd=OFJic0ZxT3A3eVYwUVAvbDRRenRoQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 9477 1703

Passcode: 781739

Our website can be found at

<https://anchorofhopeemerald.wixsite.com/my-site>

and our email address is

[anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com](mailto:anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com)

Anchor of Hope believes that we are all in recovery, as we all face struggles that we need to seek the Lord's help with. Since beginning services in March of 2021, we have had speakers discuss addiction to drugs/alcohol, abusive relationships, anxiety, depression, and grief. We would love for you to join us and spread the word about this recovery ministry. If you are in need of assistance, there are some additional resources that may be helpful to you:

### **Crisis Lines**

NAMI Helpline: 800-950-6264

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255

Northwest Connections: 888-552-6642.

### **Treatment Facilities**

Burkwood Treatment Center: 866-497-1976

MN Adult & Teen Challenge: 612-373-3366.

### **Programs for Change**

Amery Behavioral Health: 715-268-0060

Westfields Hospital & Clinic: 715-243-2900

Hudson Hospital & Clinic: 715-531-6755.

## **NEW AT ANCHOR OF HOPE:**

Anchor of Hope does a "Saturday Social" at 2 PM on Facebook live. I have an obligation this coming Saturday, so I won't be able to do it on the 3rd. But every Saturday after that, we will have Saturday Social on Facebook live at 2.

Here is the link to our Facebook page again:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070879280379>

Saturday Social is a time to connect with individuals that are interested in Anchor of Hope and discuss various topics, as suggested by the viewers. Saturday Socials are designed to be laid back, short in length of time, and are focused on answering questions about recovery as well as sharing experiences with it.

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THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH  
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FAITH FAMILY  
420 4<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:willowriverparish@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.willowriverparish.org](http://www.willowriverparish.org)

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

Hakki Min, Pastor  
Office Hours: Tues-Friday 1-3 pm

Anitra Kaczmariski, Parish Secretary  
Email: [wrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wrpsecretary@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Fridays 1-3 pm

Amanda Millermon, Parish Treasurer  
Email: [WRParishconnect@gmail.com](mailto:WRParishconnect@gmail.com)

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

Church School @ Clear Lake and Faith Family  
3:15 on Wednesdays @ CL  
4:30 pm on Wednesdays @ FF