

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

July 2024

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

## July Lectionary Readings

### JULY 07 | 7th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps 48 (UMH 782);  
2 Cor 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

### JULY 14 | 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps 24 (UMH 755);  
Eph 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

### JULY 21 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

2 Sam 7:1-14a; Ps 89:20-37, 45b (UMH 807);  
Eph 2:11-12; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### JULY 28 | 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

2 Sam 11:1-15; Ps 14 (UMH 746);  
Eph 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Joys**— Pentecost, Beautiful  
Weather, Father's  
Day, WI Annual Conference, VBS,  
Apportionment 100%, CL Days

**Concerns**—Jamie, Todd, Mike Kirk,  
Edison, Betty, Mary, Libby, Ann, Ruth, Julie, Megan  
& Steven, Holly, Mark T, Alison's Friend, Israel,  
Palestine & Ukraine, Steve K, Barb's family, Cindy,  
Allen & Ardys

**Remembering**—family and friends of Alexis  
Steinberger



## 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)



**UMC Special Sundays:** Listed below are the remaining special Sundays for 2023. Please watch for pew cards describing the upcoming special Sunday in the worship bulletin a week before each special Sunday. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- World Communion Sunday-October 1
- UM Student Day Sunday-November 26

**Zoom:** Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at 11:00 a.m.



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

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

## Parish Picnic

Clear Lake will host the parish picnic at the CL Park Chalet, (Point side of the park) on Sunday, August 18th at 10 am. One service that day! Please mark your calendars.





## Shared Bishop Task Force - Annual Conference Report

The North Central Jurisdiction at a Special Called Session on January 23, 2024 took action to establish a new Episcopal Area effective September 1, 2024 combining the current Chicago and Wisconsin episcopal areas. At the same session, combining the Ohio East and Ohio West areas was also approved. September 1 is the date that new episcopal area assignments for the 2024 – 2028 quadrennium go into effect. The number of bishops that each jurisdiction may elect and assign is calculated by formula specified in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. Subsequent action at the 2020/2024 General Conference will result in one more combined episcopal area for the North Central Jurisdiction. Effective with the new assignments, the North Central Jurisdiction will be reducing the number of active bishops from nine to six, hence the combination of six existing episcopal areas into three.

Bishops Jung and Schwerin named task forces of clergy and laity from the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois conferences respectively to work out details on how one bishop will now provide supervision of two separate annual conferences. Staff from each conference were designated to support the work of the task forces. Chairing the Northern Illinois team is Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple. Rev. Steve Zekoff, retired Wisconsin Conference Elder, chairs the Wisconsin Team. Myron and Steve co-chair the joint team.

Extended cabinets from both conferences gathered in Racine in early fall 2023 to begin discussions. Subsequently, the joint task force met and built on those discussions, gathering in Rockford, Kenosha and by Zoom. Several key decisions have emerged from the work of the joint task force.

- The recommendation is for the area to be known as the Northern Illinois – Wisconsin Episcopal Area. The North Central Jurisdiction will formally act on the recommendation at its July, 2024 session.
- The Area Office will be located at Wespath, the United Methodist denominational pension, benefits and investment agency in Glenview, Illinois. Operating expenses for the office will be covered by the denominational Episcopal Fund grant to the Area. This separate location will establish a distinct identity from either of the two continuing conference offices.
- Each annual conference will maintain funding for an Assistant to the Bishop based in the respective conference offices in Chicago and Sun Prairie.
- Two Executive Assistants will be continued, with one located in the Glenview office and the other in Sun Prairie.
- The Wisconsin Conference Director of Communications will take the lead on establishing an internet presence for the new Northern Illinois – Wisconsin Area, distinct from the continuing individual conference web sites. Information common to the Area and its two conferences will be posted on this site, providing the Episcopal Area a separate identity within the connectional United Methodist structure.
- The bishop assigned to the Northern Illinois – Wisconsin Area will be offered the option of a housing allowance. The current episcopal residences in Chicago and Sun Prairie will be sold, with the funds held by each conference's Board of Trustees to provide their conference's share of the housing allowance. A portion of the housing allowance will be covered by designated funding from the denominational Episcopal Fund. Additional administrative and shared resource decisions will be made as both conferences live into this partnership relationship. We celebrate what the future will bring to this new Episcopal Area under the leadership of a single bishop. New opportunities to strengthen ministry in both Northern Illinois and Wisconsin lie ahead.

Steve Zekoff, Chair  
Shared Bishop Task Force

## July Birthdays

David Avery	7/5
Josh Pederson	7/6
Jordan Blanchard	7/8
Jordyn Millermon	7/9
Robert Zimmer	7/12
Dawn Cress	7/15
Tyson Blanchard	7/18
Steve Keller	7/18
Becky Reindahl	7/20
Rachel Zimmer	7/20
Terri Wilson	7/21
David Reindahl	7/23
Mark Thompson	7/25

## July Anniversaries

Alpha & Heather Greene	7/9
Ben & Alison Avery	7/11
Justin & Josy Wood	7/11
Arlyn & Denise Severson	7/14
Gary & Debbie Stevens	7/14

## WRP YOUTH GROUP

With the cancellation of Hope Alive to Wed. June 5th the youth and families met at Hope Alive in Amery and enjoyed faith filled music and speakers, food, games and fellowship. We then went to Blanchard's for a bonfire, s'mores and talked about how we can be of help to others in big and small ways this summer and how Savanna, our senior, has helped in her church, community, school and family. We are so proud of her and her accomplishments and wish her God's blessing as she goes off to be a Pointer this fall!

Next meeting: TBA

**Many thanks** for the donations I received for the relay. My Severson Family Team has raised \$2,700.00 for the ACS Relay for Life 2024. The local Relay total is \$86,000.00.

*In Appreciation, Ruth Severson*



**Deadline for August Newsletter is July 26.**

## JULY WORSHIP MINISTRIES

### Clear Lake

July 7th	Reader: Diane Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood Brunch: Linda and Bev
July 14th	Reader: Andrea Jilek Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery Coffee: Debi
July 21st	Reader: John Koerper Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard Coffee: John & Stacia
July 28th	Reader: Debi Ahrens Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres Coffee: Roger & Carla

*Counters for July: Diane and Joan*

### Faith Family

July 7th	Cindy Warner
July 14th	Debbie Stevens
July 21st	Terri Wilson
July 28th	Paul Webster

**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 **July 13th** 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.



### **UWF Tea in the Pines**

We are planning a Tea in the Pines for July also for ladies of the Parish of all ages! Please watch the bulletins for more info

## Deer Park UMC News:

Summer greetings from Deer Park!

During this month we will be welcoming our Lutheran friends to our church. They have been having their services in their homes and have decided they would like a church setting.

On Saturday evenings they will have their service here in our church building. We hope this works well for their congregation and ours.

Our sympathy to the George Setter family as he passed away this week from a heart attack. May God Bless them with love and peace.

Many thanks to everyone that gives of their time to help us do what needs to be done to keep things taken care of. Also thanks to Joyce for the beautiful music and of course to her warm and friendly driver.

Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

*From your friends in Deer Park.*

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

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**3rd Quarter Noisy Can--Various Charities**

## 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

### **CL Noisy Cans:**

3rd qtr. -Temba and Mujila Falls ; 4th qtr.- Interfaith CareGivers

### **Clear Lake Heritage Days June 27-30th:**

We had another great Stuffed Potato Sale over Clear Lake Days. A huge shout out to Joan and Debi for leading us and another huge thanks to all who set up, baked, cooked, served, cleaned up and ate potatoes and spread the word! It takes the whole church!



## **Clear Lake June Ad. Co. Highlights**

June 5, 2024 4pm

Opened meeting with prayer.

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

### Old Business:

- Sunday School end of year dinner and auction brought in \$357.
- Several people met on 6-3-24 and updated the belltower and flower box and basement windows. Many thanks to those who helped.
- John Koerper checked on replacing the broken window in the upstairs classroom, for Anderson's to come out and replace \$650.00. John and Dawn will both check on other options.
- No update from the sign company yet.
- Confirmation was held on 5-26-24 and Pastor Hakki will print out a picture of the confirmands.

### New Business:

- Alison shared info on the mission in Uganda, Africa for a school that she is involved with. She is having a fundraiser during Clear Lake Heritage Days and is wondering if the proceeds can be run through the church account so that the full amount of proceeds can go to the mission. Pastor Hakki will talk to someone at the Annual Conference this weekend for recommendations. (Hakki sent an email of approval from Annual Conf.)
- Deer Park church has asked Clear Lake church to host the Parish Picnic this summer. Debi will contact the Village office to see what dates are available.
- Debi has recommended that we go back to holding Views From The Pews.
- Josy will check with the bank to get more info regarding money markets.
- The bench given to the church by the Kirk Family in memory of their parents is back after being repaired by the High School shop class. Class was thanked w/treats!
- Our next meeting will be August 7, 2024 at 4pm.

### Pastor's Comments:

- Pastor reminded us that June 16th is Arlene Althoff's birthday.
- VBS in Clear Lake is June 17-20th.

**Sprucing up the church:** Huge thank you to Roger, John, Trent A, Vidalia, Oliver G, Erin and Aaron playing his guitar for us!! Bell tower and basement windows are all freshly painted and flowers planted!!



**UWF:** UWF playing Bingo at Golden Age Manor with Mardell Anderson and residents and serving Strawberry Shortcake!!



**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.

**Kirk Family Memorial Bench** is all fixed and back in place in CL thanks to Mr. Neil Larson and some of his Tech Ed students!!



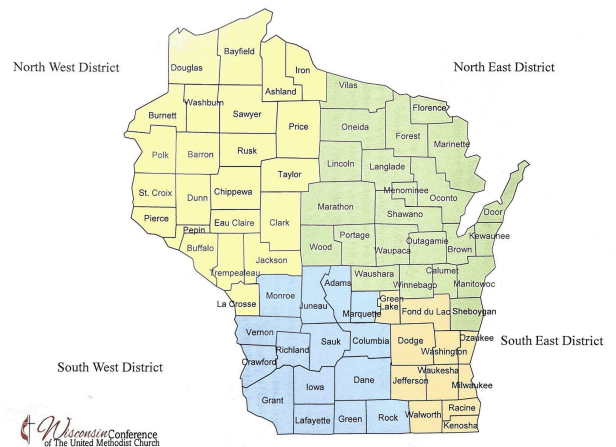
In July the UWF will meet on Wed. July 10th at 10 am at the CL Church and travel to the Harbor House UMC mission in Superior with lunch enroute. We have been collecting donations and will deliver them and have a program at 1:30. Please let Joan or Debi know if you can join us so we have enough drivers and cars.

**Re-Districting starting July 1st, 2024:** Up to now, our conference has been organized into five districts. However, for more efficient management, the conference has decided to re-district. Therefore, as of July 1st, the North-Central district will be dissolved, and the churches in that district will be integrated into the remaining four districts.

WI Annual Conference 2024 Summary & Highlights:  
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/news-detail/18405875>

**Dorcas Piecemakers :** Our Circle group will be meeting the first and fourth Mondays of July from 1-3. On Monday, July 1st we will have lunch at Irma's and all are welcome to join us. Sewing from 1-3 on new table runners for the fellowship tables.

On July 22nd we will continue sewing on table runners. We have had some wonderful donations of fabric and have plenty for our next batch of pillowcases. Thanks to all for the generous donations. We are checking with the Polk County Abuse Shelter to donate pillows and pillowcases.



## A Summer Prayer for Safe

**Travels:** Lord, As we enter the month of July, we recognize that many people are setting out on vacations and making plans to enjoy this summer season. We lift up in prayer all those who are traveling, asking for Your protection and guidance. May they have a joyous time with their families, filled with laughter, love, and the creation of beautiful memories. We pray that these moments spent together strengthen their bonds and bring them closer. Grant them the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate, leaving behind the stresses and worries of daily life. May they explore new places, experience new adventures, and find peace and joy in the beauty of Your creation. We also ask for their safe return home. Watch over them during their travels, keeping them from harm and ensuring that they come back refreshed and renewed. May these summer vacations be a source of lasting happiness and cherished memories for all. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.



"Wake me up, O God so that I might worship You." I still earnestly pray to God, "Lord, refresh me so that I might fully serve and worship you."

These are my feelings today, post-pandemic, post-disaffiliation, Post-General Conference: "Lord, refresh us so that we might fully serve and worship you."

We have heard about the decisions of the General Conference—regionalization, revised social principles, and removal of harmful language regarding our siblings in Christ, the LGBTQ+ community. Our delegation has faithfully served and shared these decisions and the next steps for us to live into a post-general Conference United Methodism. Please join me in offering our appreciation for their service.

Beautiful people, it is time for us to refresh our faith and be resolute in living it out. In Colossians 2:6-7, we are given clear instructions about our faith,

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now, do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving".

Over the last twelve years, we have been given much – we are blessed:

It has been my great privilege to visit every church in the Wisconsin Conference.

It was my greatest joy to meet and talk with churches and leaders with precious heritage and sincerity, go up to the podium at every church, offer prayers of thanks in the altar, and talk about dreams, life together, and fruits of ministry together.

We came together under the missional direction of Imagine Wisconsin Anew, added Radical inclusion and racial justice, and the Beloved Community, gathered prayers and strength through the Imagine No Malaria campaign. We praise God for the fruits and grateful hearts.

We have launched 31 ministries—Hispanic, Korean, Dai Myanmar, Congolese, Anglo, and recovery ministry—and chartered three. Our New Ministries Strategy Board has been busy helping to develop the program for launching ministries further and building ways for sustainability within our structure over time. We continue to train church planters through our ICD and ICD courses, constantly striving towards excellence. Conference MCCI Initiative has been fruitful.

We have provided extensive cabinet and extended cabinet training on cultural competency, started intentional training for cross-cultural appointments, and are developing new ways to engage in radical inclusion and racial justice. I am grateful for our clergy and lay leadership, who have helped us identify and strategize how we may live into our vision of radical inclusion



Beautiful people of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, it has been my most profound honor and privilege to serve as your Bishop these past twelve years and as one of your pastors and District Superintendents throughout my career. As I prepared for this time of sharing, I have taken time to reflect upon my time spent with you, my beautiful people, and my faith journey and give God thanks.

During this time of reflection, I remember studying for tests in high school. I was often at school all day, dedicated to my studies until midnight and sometimes at 1 in the morning. It was a time of profound dedication to my faith development and worship. I would need to get up and go to prayer service at 4 a.m., which required more discipline than I sometimes had! It was by the grace of God, church bells ringing, and sometimes, hearing in my dreams my name that I would wake up, splash cold water on my face, say, "Wake up Hee-Soo," and take the quick jog down the street to the church.

These are the years that I have often forgotten about – or glossed over, but these were essential times in which I formed habits of prayer, priorities, and listening. I remember saying,

and racial justice. We aren't there yet – but we hold onto the vision of Beloved Community.

My joy is the purposeful diversity our clergy community represents. In the last twelve months, we have actively sought more inclusion by recruiting seven Filipino and Indian clergy, thus expanding our inclusion within our clergy community. This appointment season, we have 38% non-Anglo clergy; this equates to 122 clergy. Would you join me in appreciating these recruitment efforts?

We celebrate our international partnerships with the Dongbu Conference – Missional friendship with Korean Methodist Church became a long-standing relationship. Through this special relationship we mutually learn and support God's Kin(g)dom vision together. We have collaborated church to church and Conference to Conference mutual support and vision making. Last visit was highlighted with Dr. Javier, President of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and their faculty accompanied together with our Wisconsin delegations. Exchange and mutual support in mission and theological education will be fruitful in future journey.

We also celebrate our work with the Bolivia Evangelical Methodist Church. Our connection is significant since this has been an ongoing mission for the NIC and WI under my episcopal leadership. This past month, a group worked at the Elderly Home, hooking up lights and shower heads, installing locks, assembling beds, sanding, cleaning, and preparing for the Elderly to have an accessible place to go. It was a privilege and delight to consecrate these rooms and this space for God's glory. May this ministry be a blessing to all those they serve.

And since we are celebrating, let's praise God for the generosity and faithful giving of all those who have given to support the mission and ministry. We celebrate that 215 local churches, paid 100% of their 2023 apportionments and that the Wisconsin Conference paid 100% of its apportionment to GCFA! Halleluia!

And there is more abundance; in addition to paying apportionments, our churches contributed over \$1.1 million in special giving to 100 different programs. We heard about the rainbow covenant yesterday, and our intentionality has supported health and wellness initiatives, education, disaster relief, missionaries, bible distribution, and more.

The United Methodist Church's faith is rooted in Wesleyan theology, which emphasizes a responsible mission pursued "together" in all we live and do. Wesley did not take the experience and basis of love and salvation in individual formations; he kept reminding us we are on this journey together. Although it is a theological discourse, Wesley was the one who thoroughly pursued social sanctification achieved "together" in a relationship of interdependence.

We seek our mission as we work together and fulfill it as Kingdom people. Wesley's invitation that the community is responsible for our living mission and ethical practice will lead the future of the Wisconsin Conference. God has called us to love, live, and bounce forward together.

It's about praying for each other. It is about solidarity with one another through deep friendship.

By accepting and caring for each other, we are leading the future of the Wisconsin Conference.

Let us continue to expand a world where we love and respect everyone unconditionally with the love of God.

It is there that future generations will have hope in Christ Jesus. There, you will inherit the traditions and heritage of the past and live a faith that is firmly and deeply rooted. Future generations, like today, will dedicate themselves to build a bigger world with the love of Jesus Christ.

Wisconsin's future is God's future. That future is diversity. Creation is diversity, and that is the beauty of creation, a world of harmony that is different but one.

Let us live in harmony in love, considering it as the highest value that even though we are racially and ethnically diverse, and have diverse interests and theological backgrounds, the colors of that diversity become one in Jesus.

The Bible says: "There is no fear in love." 1 John 4:18

"No power in the world can separate us from the love of the Lord," Romans 8:38

"Faith overcomes the world." 1 John 5:4

Within these biblical teachings and truths, let us discern and dedicate ourselves to one another, considering unity in diversity as Wisconsin's dream. Let us pray for each other and do our best so that the DNA of Wisconsin can be the practice and faith in welcoming everyone in the name of the Lord, respecting everyone with love, considering everyone as brothers and sisters, and welcoming and exalting everyone as children of God.

Now, after 12 years of episcopal leadership in Wisconsin, I will be moving on to a new annual conference, My heart remains a dynamic, grateful spirit in Wisconsin. YES, Wisconsin is the best state that raised me and my family.

You are my beautiful people, dear friends, and sojourners in Christ.

In Christ,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## Faith Family Church News:

We rented out the church to this lovely couple in their time of need this month as they were stranded in the wind and rain and needed a place of refuge! Do you or anyone you know want to rent out this beautiful building?



Thank you to those that made it possible to have a little library for our community! A place to foster literacy for years to come! If you have a book to share, go ahead and drop it off, feel free to grab a book from the shelf for yourself or someone you know!

Thank you to all of those that worked on deep cleaning the church! You are appreciated!

### Fun Day School Kids:

How is summer going? The kids have been getting together for play dates even though they are not having FunDay School! I hope you are able to get out to the St Croix County Fair this year and the Fireworks show in Emerald!

### Ad Board Highlights:

Last meeting: May 23, 2024 at 6:30 via zoom

Next meeting date: **July 25th at 6:30 via Zoom**

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CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:  
[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)

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**BINGO STARTS @ 6:00**

**FOOD SERVED 5-8**

*Walking Tacos, Hotdogs, Chips, Pop & Water*

**Kid & Adult Games, Bounce House,  
Music, Raffles & Fireworks at Dusk!**

**2024**

**3RD OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Bring your chairs and bug spray & join us in the Emerald Park for a fun filled evening! Donations are accepted at Billy Goat Saloon, Shotgun Suzie's, The Detour Bar, Angela Jeske or Donan Wink! Scan the QR code to donate on Venmo!

**2686 160TH AVE, EMERALD**

Find us on Facebook @ Emerald Community

### ANCHOR OF HOPE:

Our website can be found at

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

**WHO WE ARE:** At Anchor of Hope we believe we are all in recovery at some point in our lives may it be mental health, addiction, drugs, alcohol, food, grief, trauma, all around inclusion, our society, our church or so much more.

**HOW TO CONNECT:** If you need to connect with someone from Anchor of Hope please reach out District Superintendent Peace [pkim@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:pkim@wisconsinumc.org) or 608-478-4527.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:** Anchor of Hope has been put on hold by the Wisconsin United Methodist Church Cabinet. Over the course of the next 1-3 years it will be reinvented and recreated into something new. Stay tuned.

If you are in need of a service/meeting we have been connecting with the Church of the Resurrection on Thursdays at 6:00pm <https://resurrection.church/recovery/>

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**Noisy Can--3rd Qtr:** Salvation Army or Grace Place  
**Send Offering to:** Terri Wilson, 3127 200<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Glenwood City, WI 54013





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

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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: To Be Determined

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

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

Children's Church School  
Will resume in September