

THE PARISH CONNECTION

May 2025

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

May 2025 Lectionary Readings

MAY 04 | 3rd Sunday of Easter;
Native American Ministries Sunday
(White or Gold)
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps 30 (UMH 762);
Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

MAY 11 | 4th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day;
Festival of the Christian Home (White or Gold)
Acts 9:36-43; Ps 23 (UMH 754);
Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

MAY 18 | 5th Sunday of Easter;
Heritage Sunday (White or Gold)
Acts 11:1-18; Ps 148 (UMH 861);
Rev 21:1-16; John 13:31-35

MAY 25 | 6th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)
Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67 (UMH 791);
Rev 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29

MAY 29 | Ascension Day (White or Gold)
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47 (UMH 781);
Eph 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

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



Congratulations Graduates!

Clear Lake-Jordan Blanchard

Glenwood City-Elijah Millermon

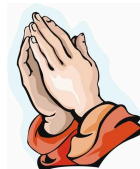
Baccalaureate on Wed, May 14th @ 7pm
Graduation Ceremonies on Fri, May 16th @ 7pm

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Joys—Beautiful Spring, and
Easter:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Concerns—Stryder, Charlie
Clark, Young Charlie, Tim Dreier,
Debbie, Penny, Ruth, Meghan, all
countries with wars--Ukraine, Gaza--especially
the children, Betty, Sheldon, migrants,
immigrants, and refugees under the threat of
forced deportation, Nephew Ben, Maeki, Linda,
Peggy Kirk, Maeki, Carol, Lon, and Dennis Cress
Remembering—Families of Mike Winberg,
Georgia Leverty and Earl Larson and Todd's
cousins from Menomonie in the Illinois airplane
crash.



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

Save the Dates

May 17	NW District Training @ Menomonie
June 5-8	Annual Conference @ Middleton Marriott West Hotel
June 7	Pastor's Ordination Service @ 3PM
August 11-14	Vacation Bible School
June 26-29	Clear Lake Days

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

- Native American Ministries Sunday ~ May 4
- Peace with Justice Sunday ~ June 15
- World Communion Sunday ~ October 5
- United Methodist Student ~ November 30

May Birthdays

Sheldon Simonson	5/2
Renea Boe	5/3
Mitch Thompson	5/10
Linda Fouks	5/11
Ardys Warner	5/11
Scott Warner	5/16
Carla La Blanc	5/17
Josh Severson	5/17
Elijah Millermon	5/18
Holly Malack	5/19
Cassie Pietz	5/20
John Reed	5/22
Judith Coyer	5/22
Samantha Thaemert	5/25
Jennie Keller	5/26
Chad Lillie	5/27
Diane Pietz	5/28

May Anniversaries

Greg & Kristi Severson	5/8
John & Jewel Severson	5/13

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 **May 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.

Willow River Parish Youth experienced a Seder meal on Wednesday, April 16th at 5:30. We shared unleavened bread, Charoset, Herbs in salt water and Karpas, traditional foods, and shared the readings to go along with Passover and the Last Supper.



Youth as the Hands and Feet of Jesus

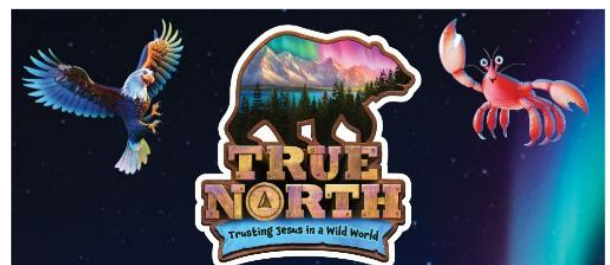
On Wednesday, May 7th, youth will be doing yard work at parishioners' homes that need some help at 3:30, others join in as practices finish up. Bonfire at Roger and Diane's at 7pm.

Community Vacation Bible School: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. This year local youth will take an ultimate Alaskan Adventure. As they explore the wild they'll learn Jesus is a faithful friend we can ALWAYS TRUST.

SAVE THE DATES: Aug 11th-Aug 14th, 6-8 p.m.
MORE DETAILS TO COME!



**June Newsletter
Deadline is May 24th**



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

May 4th Reader: Lily Avery
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Potluck/Coffee: Joan L & Dick D

May 11th Reader: Debi Ahrens
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Justin & Josy Wood

May 18th Reader: Dawn Cress
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Coffee: Gail K

May 25th Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr
Coffee: Avery Family

June 1st Reader: John Koerper
Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard
Potluck/Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family

Counters for May: Debi A & Dawn C
Counters for June: Linda & John

Faith Family

May 4th Michael Clark
May 11th Paul Webster
May 18th Terri Wilson
May 25th Debbie Stevens
June 1st Michael Clark



Struggling with worship engagement? Wondering how to rebuild in-person worship?

Join us for a dynamic day of learning and inspiration with worship coach and author Cathy Townley. She'll lead us in discovering how sharing our faith stories and engaging with people *beyond the church walls* is what actually transforms worship *inside* them. This is your chance to learn how worship can become more than just Sunday—it can become your church's most powerful tool for discipleship, outreach, and renewal.

**Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:30AM–2:30PM
(includes lunch)**

**Menomonie UMC | 2703 Bongey Dr,
Menomonie, WI**

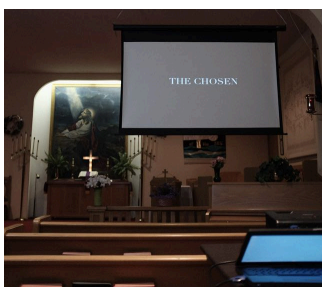
Register online:

<https://wisconsin-reg.brapp.com/NWDistrictLearningDay>

\$15 per person | Pay at the door | Covers
snacks & lunch

Participants will receive access to a *workbook*
and can opt into a follow-up cohort, with a \$250
district matching fund available for teams who
participate.

Lenten Activities: Movie Night & Garden Night



Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday



Sonrise-bringing the Light of Christ into our World. Youth had a beautiful Sonrise service with a delicious breakfast at 7am Easter Sunday. A BIG thank you to all who planned, shared pictures, shared their faith and prepared, served and cleaned up the meal.



Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!



Our God, out of love for us, came to this earth in person and died on the cross to resolve the fundamental problem of human life—death—a problem we could not solve on our own. Through the blood of the Lamb, the relationship between God and us has been restored, and the journey of eternal life has been set before us. By triumphing over death and rising again, leaving an empty tomb, God has enabled us to experience and bear witness to the joy of resurrection. The greatest news of all is that this is not something reserved only for the Son of God; for all Christians who believe and follow Him, the journey of eternal life lies ahead. In our journey as Christians, faith in the resurrection is undeniably central.

There's a saying, "Easy come, easy go." Conversely, we might say, "Hard-earned, long-kept." For those who have endured a harsh and cold winter, the brilliance of spring—gentle and teeming with life—feels especially precious and valuable. Similarly, for those who have meditated and anticipated Christ's life, death, and resurrection during the 40 days of Lent, the joy of resurrection arrives with even greater significance. This Lent, we tried a new program that was different from previous years. It was my first time leading such an initiative, and without guidelines or advice to rely on, I prepared with much prayer. Yet, by God's grace, His presence was with WRP, and every moment we shared was filled with meaning and joy. It became a time of discovering new hope and expectations in the midst of newness. Now, with Easter upon us, we have entered the season of resurrection, which continues until Pentecost. During this season, I pray that our faith in Christ's resurrection deepens and that WRP is renewed in Christ.

Along with the joyful news of resurrection, I have a few pieces of good news to share with you. First, as many of you know, I have faced challenges over the past few years due to changes in immigration status and laws, which complicated my permanent residency process. This situation brought uncertainty and anxiety not only to me and my family but also to WRP. Thanks to the support of the Conference and your prayers, we have been able to overcome this burden. I am truly grateful to God for this. God has heard our prayers.

Additionally, at the end of May, my parents will visit Wisconsin to celebrate my ordination, staying with us for about a month. It will be nearly two years since I last saw them, and I am already looking forward to our reunion and the time we will share. After the Annual Conference, I plan to take some time off to spend with them. I ask for your prayers for their safe and comfortable journey. **For reference, the Ordination Service is scheduled for June 7th at 3:00 PM at the Marriott West Hotel in Middleton, WI. I sincerely ask for your many prayers and support—it would mean so much to me and my family. 😊

Lastly, I share this cautiously as my application hasn't been officially approved yet - I'm still waiting for the school's final decision: through the ordination process, I have learned much and grown through monthly mentoring meetings and workshops and training, where I prayed and shared experiences with colleagues. Writing numerous papers for ordination has been a season of deep reflection on my life and ministry, and I had hoped to take a break from such intensive writing. However, the more I prayed, the more I felt that learning has its season, and that while I am still young, I should seize opportunities to grow. With this in mind, I am planning to enroll in a program at Garrett-Evangelical to strengthen my pastoral abilities and serve you more effectively. Please don't worry—this is a hybrid program, so it will not interfere with my ministry or service at WRP. I only ask for your prayers and support as I take this step.

I am deeply grateful to grow alongside you in the faith community of WRP and to live out the hope of resurrection in our daily lives. May we continue this journey of love and joy together.

May the hope of the resurrection continue to bless and guide us.
Pastor Hakki

Deer Park UMC News

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

Noisy Can--2nd 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:

2nd Qtr-Clear Lake Community Center
3rd Qtr.- Family House (Polk/Barron Shelter)
4th Qtr- Salvation Army

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, May 5th we will meet at Irma's for lunch at noon and then sew from 1-3. On Monday, May 19th we will meet at Irma's for lunch at noon then sew from 1:00 -3:00. All are welcome to join us just for lunch or lunch and sewing, ironing, and putting fabrics together.

United Women in Faith: Amery Memory Care Bingo went very well. One of our church members, Lori Cross, is there and she always loves seeing us. They also enjoyed the lemon cake and candy prizes!!!

Next meeting/potluck is at 2:00 at Ridgeview Apartments on May 14th. Please bring \$12 for membership dues.

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.

Bell Choir held their spring concert on Sunday, April 27th. It was Andrea Jilek's last performance. She has been with the choir since its start. She will be missed! Congrats on your upcoming retirement and move to Union Grove!



UWF Mission Pin awarded to Andrea Jilek:

The mission pin is a gold pin with a cross on it, given to someone who has been very helpful and active in our church.

On Sunday, April 27th, the Clear Lake unit of the United Women in Faith presented a special mission recognition award to Andrea Jilek. She is a 32-year member of our church and with her husband, Todd, will be retiring from the Clear Lake School District and moving to Union Grove, WI, back to her hometown and closer to her family.

Throughout the years she has been a vital part of our church. From being a Sunday school teacher to helping develop an after-school program "Kids Crew", to working with the teens. She assisted in developing the technology for the sanctuary, ran the organ, headed the worship committee, is one of our Sunday readers, and developed the gift card ministry. She was always a willing, helping hand at our fundraisers and yearly helped organize the ladies retreat!

Twenty years ago when the bell choir was formed, she stepped in and took the C & D bells and that became her home position. After the bell performance Sunday, director, Brian Wick, praised her dedication to the choir and the girls presented her with a spring plant.

We all wish Andrea and Todd the best, thank them for all they have done, and remind them that they will always be a part of our church family!



CL UMC April Ad Council Minutes

Reviewed Financial report from Josy; Short again and Josy has had to withdraw money from the money market again this month. Giving is down and bills are up.

Josy is in the process of filling out the paperwork required for our new church insurance through the conference. Josy has been trying to contact both the insurance company and the conference regarding our yearly cost, since the info she received is very unreasonable for our church.

Old Business:

1. Lenten services are going well and have been enjoyed by those who have attended.
2. List of cleaning chores has been put together for review by the cleaning service we are looking to hire.
3. Rummage sale is planned for April 24th & 25th. Linda has been lining up workers. We will be able to start setting up after Palm Sunday service since there is no coffee time on Easter Sunday.
4. April 26th will be a clean-up church yard day. Sign-up sheets will be put out at church.
5. Pastor has not noticed any more signs of the rodents at the parsonage. Josy will check on the refilling of the pest traps on the outside of the parsonage.
6. Need to find someone to help take over organizing Clear Lake Days potato "stand". Debi is talking to several church members.
7. Congratulations to Pastor for "winning the lottery", by having his number picked to receive a Green Card.

Pastor's notes:

1. He will be attending the program with a Missionary speaker in Elk Mound next week.
2. Pastor will be taking a short retreat after Easter, April 21st-25th.
3. We will continue to have our Ad Council Meetings after church on the first Sunday of the month for the next two months--May 4th and June 1st at 12:00pm



BackPack Bash

@ Amery Firehall

4:30-7pm June 6th

As you may know, hundreds of families in our community struggle to provide food for their children and with the rising cost of food this

number continues to grow each year. The Salvation Army continues to fill this need with a program that helps families with school age children by providing a backpack full of food for the entire family over the weekends. Children who are receiving free or reduced lunch at school benefit from the weekend backpacks.

With the assistance provided by sponsors, the local Salvation Army Backpack Program supports over 375 families every week during the 2024-25 school year. We hope you will consider helping us to raise the \$90,000 needed to fund the program this next year.

As always, you are welcome to join us for the fundraising event. The "Backpack Bash," will take place on Friday, June 6th from 4:30 -7:00 pm at the Amery Fire Hall. Join us for raffles, silent auction, bounce house, live music and much more fun!

QUESTIONS? Or to donate a basket, please feel free to call Amy Clay at 715-912-2834 or email at: amy.clay@usc.salvationarmy.org

Clear Lake Heritage Days--June 26-29th: The Clear Lake Church will be selling their Stuffed Baked Potatoes on Friday and Saturday of CL Heritage Days. We begin on Friday evening at 4 till sold out and begin Saturday, selling at 10 am and will continue through the parade till sold out. We will need lots of help, prep, set up, serving in the kitchen and outside and cleaning up. We will serve inside. Please set parts of these days aside to help out, this is a big fundraiser for our church.

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▪ **Clear Lake Thrift Sale:** BIG THANKS to the Clear Lake Methodist Church Members for bringing items and helping at the Thrift Sale. We made \$1193.00; Church Kids made \$190. Huge thank you to Betty Rake and Linda J for all their planning, organizing and all those who were working. Big thanks from The Midweek School for the chance to sell snacks and goodies for their mission projects. Thanks to all of those who donated baked goods to their cause.

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Faith Family Church News:

-Food Pantry- still in need of food and we have a basket for collecting food (Melissa at the pantry said they are low on cereal and more funding was cut.)

-Maundy Thursday on April 17th was a beautiful service.



-Pastor will take vacation when his parents come in May/June.

-Next meeting: May 8 at 6:00 on zoom

Fun Day School Kids:

Funday school kids connected with Youth group this month and did the Seder Meal in Clear Lake. We also had game night at McDonalds.



Community Events:



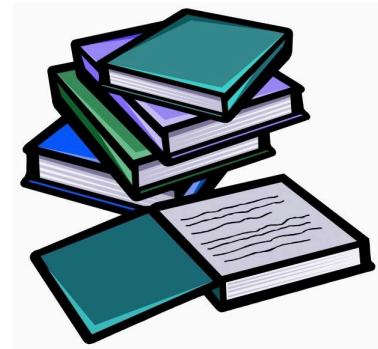
-Special thank you to those that donated and helped at the Emerald Community Easter Event! There were 88 kids that participated and we had 150 baskets donated and 18 bikes so that is an amazing event! Next event is **July 3rd** fireworks!
-Sunday, May 18th Sunnyside Shamrocks 4-H meeting

EASTER SONRISE SERVICE:

Thank you to everyone that supported and attended the Sonrise service! A special thank you to our Willow River Parish Youth for a great service!

FAITH FAMILY ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

Thank you to everyone that came out to support the pancake breakfast and those that came to work it! .



Our Little library is in need of some books. If you are doing some spring cleaning of your bookshelves, please bring them down to the little library at the church, or at the park in Emerald.



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)

Noisy Can—Grace Place (Salvation Army)

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