

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

October 2025

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

## October 2025 Lectionary Readings

**OCT 05 | 17th Sunday after Pentecost;  
World Communion Sunday (Green)**  
Lam 1:1-6; Ps 137 (UMH 852);  
2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

**OCT 12 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**  
Jer 29:1, 4-7; Ps 66:1-12 (UMH 790);  
2 Tim 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

**OCT 19 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost;  
Laita Sunday; Children's Sabbath (Green)**  
Jer 31:27-34; Ps 119:97-104 (UMH 750);  
2 Tim 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

**OCT 26 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost;  
Reformation Sunday (Green)**  
Joel 2:23-32; Ps 65 (UMH 789);  
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

**Joys**—CL UWF visiting Arlene,  
**Concerns**—Tim Dreier, Linda O., Denise CroteauDebbie, Penny, Ruth, Meghan, Vern, Jan, all countries with wars—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza—especially the children, Sheldon, migrants, immigrants, and refugees under the threat of forced deportation, Betty L, Craig Paulson, Charlotte Corbin, Jamie Pittman, Mark Halverson, and the children and their families who were killed or injured in the recent School shootings

**Remembering**—family and friends of Charlie Kirk, Chuck Clark, Lorraine Aune, Gene Pittman, Dar Jungman



## Charge Conference 2025

**Wed. October 29th 6pm  
Clear Lake UMC**

**Newsletter Renewal:** If you currently receive the newsletter through the mail and have not yet paid, please renew your subscription by sending \$10 to the parish office or let Pastor Hakki or Anitra know that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter via "snail mail". 715-263-2700 or [wrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wrpsecretary@gmail.com). Thank you!



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UipaSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>  
Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777 Passcode: 421072

## 5th Sunday Schedule

November 30, 2025 --- Deer Park  
March 29, 2026 --- Clear Lake  
May 31, 2026 --- Emerald  
August 30, 2026 --- Clear Lake will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary  
November 29, 2026 --- Deer Park  
January 31, 2027 --- Emerald

## 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 2025. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

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

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### October Birthdays

Arlyn Severson	10/1
Lily Avery	10/2
Vickie Danielson	10/3
Abel Greene	10/6
Billy Warner	10/7
Ryan Blanchard	10/12
Bruce Ohman	10/13
Sandi Reed	10/16
Benjamin Avery, Jr	10/16
Savanna Millermon	10/19
Erin Gorres	10/22
Stacia Koerper	10/22
Dawn Swanepoel	10/22
India Pederson	10/29
Baylie Millermon	10/31
Wayne Ailts	10/31

### October Anniversaries

Dennis & Joyce Petersen	10/7
Josh & India Pederson	10/8
Ron & Renea Boe	10/10
Mitchell & Kayla Thompson	10/14
John & Stacia Koerper	10/21
Ron & Linda Jurisch	10/22

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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 **October 11th** 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).

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**November Newsletter Deadline is Oct. 25th**

**Willow River Parish Youth:** On Wednesday, September 24th, youth baked goodies for the Rummage Sale to earn money for their Missions.



No matter how humble or unassuming they may be, most people get

a warm glow inside when someone says “thank you” for what they’ve done or expresses appreciation simply for who they are. Clergy and others who fill pastoral roles are no exception. October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month with the second Sunday designated as Pastor Appreciation Day. It is a time to say “thank you” to the people who may be most visible as preachers and teachers, but who, in reality, are on-call 24/7 standing with congregants and others to offer spiritual and other support in times of confusion and transition, times of heart-wrenching sorrow and times of overwhelming joy. They laugh, cry and pray with those whom they shepherd and serve. Established as a worldwide recognition time in 1992, the call to honor the contributions of pastoral leaders can be traced back to Paul, who advised congregations to give “double honor” to the elders who managed the affairs of the church well, “especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17, NIV).





### Grace Place Salvation Army

Hello everyone! We are in need of some items for the shelter. If you are out shopping and could grab an extra item or two that would be great!

Below is what we are in need of:

*13 gallon trash bags, Facial tissue (kleenex), Paper towels, Disinfecting wipes, Wash cloths Shampoo/conditioner-this does not have to be new bottles.*

**\*\*We receive many calls about donations of clothing and due to our storage limitations we ask that you bring clothing donations to Two Fish Thrift store or the Heritage Barn.**

Thank you for your support!!!

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### WORSHIP MINISTRIES

#### Clear Lake

Oct 5th      Reader: Alison Blanchard  
                  Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery  
                  Coffee: Carla & Roger/**NO POTLUCK**  
**CL Catholic Church Dinner**

Oct 12th     Reader: Ben Avery, Jr  
                  Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorres  
                  Coffee: Avery family

Oct 19th     Reader: Diane Blanchard  
                  Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood  
                  Coffee: Justin & Josy Wood

Oct 26th     Reader: John Koerper  
                  Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres  
                  Coffee: Jennie & Becky

Nov 2nd     Reader: Dawn Cress  
                  Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr  
                  Potluck/Coffee: Dawn & Camilla

*Counters for October: Carla & Diane  
Counters for November: Dawn & John*

#### Faith Family

Oct 5th      Paul Webster  
 Oct 12th     Terri Wilson  
 Oct 19th     Debbie Stevens  
 Oct 26th     Michael Clark  
 Nov 2nd     Paul Webster

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### Deer Park UMC News

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

**Noisy Can--4th Quarter to Various Charities**

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### Combined Worship Service and Potluck @ FF Grace of Unity: September 07, 2025

Clear Lake, Deer Park, and Faith Family—three churches gathered as one.

In Word and Communion, we became one, and around the table of food and laughter, we grew closer. Hand in hand in blessing, we felt the love of Christ flow among us like a river. A Sunday more beautiful because we were together—may God's grace ever abound in our community.



## Letter from Bishop Schwerin

"...don't lead us into temptation" (Mt. 6:13a CEB).  
Siblings in Christ,

I feel called to compel us to return more often to the Lord's Prayer these days, and more deeply. Pray it slowly. Consider the tenets of the prayer, the moral vision of Jesus calling us to pray, 'bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven' (Mt. 6:10, CEB).

Years ago, I read *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan, and I was reminded that Jesus taught his disciples to pray in a world of Roman occupation that offers some context for the petition, 'lead us not into temptation.' While our own praying may be about help with many temptations, Crossan suggests that perhaps Jesus' view is that we should pray that we do not *fall into the temptation of violence as a solution to the problems that vex us*. The Lord's Prayer affirms there can be bread enough, forgiveness enough, and God enough to order life between us with compassion, abundance, and neighborliness.

We live in a moment when we are being divided by misinformation and fear. The National Guard is being politicized by being sent to some places seen as more crime-critical, so far, 'blue' cities such as Los Angeles, Washington D.C, and perhaps now, Chicago. Be reminded there are not blue places or red places, a map is not the people, that people are more than words that reduce them to a color. May we pray that Jesus would lead us not into this temptation of vision that creates and tacitly supports division and unnecessary violence.

May we not politicize the police or armed forces by using persons who serve in uniform for political ends. O God, lead us not into the temptation of making enemies of neighbors who serve. Or enemies based on where they live or their voting majority in the last election.

If troops are sent to Chicago, why? Until what end is achieved? Does our city require a military occupation? According to USA Today on September 4th, overall, crime has actually gone down 13% since 2024, according to data published by the Chicago Police Department.

How long should a U.S. city be occupied by federal troops? If this is about crime, why are resources not focused on places with a higher crime rate? Beyond Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Chicago, will all non-white majority cities require federal troops? Are majority non-white cities to be seen as enemies? Will this normalize the use of

armed forces in non-white majority U.S. cities? By now we should all know that due process is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution for all persons on US soil, and that we have seen the severe erosion of due process and racial profiling for citizens and non-citizens alike. Who wants to join a church that is not clear about anti-racism and solidarity with the oppressed? I believe that while due process is eroding, silence is complicity.

In *The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline*, among the disciplines by which bishops are encouraged to lead the church is: "a prophetic commitment for the transformation of the world" (403.1d). The subparagraph continues: "the role of the Bishop, is to be a prophetic voice for justice...and alleviation of human suffering." Yes, we are to lead the whole flock of Christ, with all its gifts and valuable differences. My hope is to offer a prophetic reminder that God's relentless love is among us to reduce fear, and to help support those who must ask questions of public theology that we might renew our search for a common good.

In the face of Roman occupation, Jesus chose neither violent revolt nor passive withdrawal, but another way, the way of nonviolent resistance. We might say Jesus' resistance was also embodied as he sat at the table with the marginalized, touched and healed the wounds of the sick, and celebrated God's reign among the poor and oppressed.

Let's practice a closer walk with Jesus by means of the Lord's Prayer lifted more often and lived more deeply, especially when events increase the rhetoric of violence.

I would remind us also to prayerfully consider Rev. Dr. King's six principles of nonviolence:

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.
2. The beloved community is the framework for the future.
3. Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil.
4. Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal.
5. Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence.
6. The universe is on the side of justice.

From now until we practice communion on All Saints' Day, how can the Lord's Prayer increase the power and love we know as Christ in our life together? Thank you for your faithfulness.  
Peace, Daniel W. Schwerin, Bishop



Dear WRP Family,

May the peace and shalom of our Lord be with each of you.

Sadly, unlike this greeting, our society often seems unable to respect and embrace differences. In September, we heard the heartbreaking news of a young man who was shot during a debate event, and shortly after, a comedian's show was suspended for several days because of his political satire. Events like these show how divided and polarized our world has become. However, I believe that under no circumstances should political violence ever be carried out.

As human beings, we naturally seek to belong to a group or community. Belonging often shapes our identity—just as being part of the church makes us Christians. Most people belong to many groups. For example, during NFL season, Packers fans wear green jerseys or even cheese hats, while Vikings fans proudly wear purple. Such shared identity creates closeness and connection. In this way, communities give us belonging, identity, and a sense of unity.

The tragedy, however, is that many groups today are becoming more extreme and less able to communicate with one another. In my five years of ministry here, I have seen how kind, gentle, and open to conversation you are. Yet when I look at the media or politics, it seems only “Red” and “Blue,” “left” and “right” remain, with little room for dialogue. I wonder if the sadness we have seen this past month reflects a society that has turned every difference into an enemy line: “us” versus “them.” What our world needs today is the spirit of communion that unites us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Differences between generations in a family are natural. But parents and children do not become enemies because of those differences. Families remain together in love and respect. I believe this is what our society is missing today.

In the midst of such confusion, the church has an important mission. Our Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 29 at 6 p.m. at Clear Lake UMC. Each church is prayerfully considering what ministry plans are most needed for the coming year. At the heart of everything we do are the values of faith, hope, and love. From these values flow our fellowship, service, worship, and mission.

Sadly, many—especially younger generations—have drifted away from these values and from the church because of secular influences. Yet God created us in His image, and so we are spiritual beings. We all long for meaning, purpose, and connection beyond what is temporary. Too often, people seek to satisfy this longing outside the church.

But I believe the church still offers what no other place can give: the meaning found in Scripture, the joy of serving, the strength of a trustworthy community, and the hope of God's promises. This is why I serve with confidence and hope.

I believe we must continue to show this true face of the church to those who search elsewhere for spiritual fulfillment. One way we can do this is by continuing to invite them. Personally, I believe our Parish Combined Worship services on the fifth Sundays are wonderful opportunities for such invitations. I would even like us to consider renaming it “Family Worship Service.” This reminds us that in Christ we are one family, practicing love and respect, and offering a faithful response to the divisions of our world.

I see the confusion and division of our society as both a challenge and a calling for our churches. When we practice love and kindness in our daily lives, the world can become a little warmer, a little gentler, and a little closer to God's kingdom.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Hakki



# Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee and pot luck **AFTER** church at 9:15.
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month **FOLLOWING** 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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**CL Noisy Cans:**  
4th Qtr- Salvation Army

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**Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days:** On Monday, October 6th, we will meet at noon at Pizzeria in Amery then deliver walker bags to the hospital and dinner aprons to the nursing homes. On Monday, October 20th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from 1-3. We will continue sewing walker bags for the Amery Hospital, aprons for the nursing homes and pillowcases. Please join us for lunch only, working, visiting, whatever works for you!

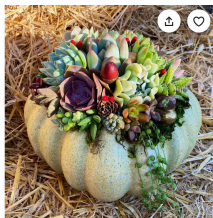
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## **Clear Lake UMC Fall Thrift Sale:**

Co-chairman Linda and Betty were sick and not available to help. We want to give a BIG THANK YOU to Church Members and non members that helped in so many ways.

People brought in a large amount of items, put the church basement in order, and worked hard all week long organizing and selling. The Willow River Parish youth along with church members made excellent sweets and treats to sell for their mission projects. The sale would not be able to be done if we didn't have so many wonderful workers. The Thrift Sale made \$1,441.00 and the Youth made \$264.00. WE ARE BLESSED. LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR SPRING SALE IN APRIL. Three truckloads of leftover items were taken to St. Vincent's in Rice Lake.

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## **Harvest Potluck and Intergenerational evening at Clear Lake.**

On Wed. Oct. 8th with potluck at 5:30 pm., we will have our first monthly potluck, activity and message for all ages. We are hoping to do a Wednesday

evening a month to give all a chance for faith filled fellowship, food and fun!

**United Women in Faith:** In September, Joan, Bev, Deb, and Jennie took Arlene Althoff out to lunch. It was a lot of fun and Arlene was very happy to see them!

October 5th- Carla will serve coffee hour as the Catholic Church in Clear Lake has their Chicken Dinner starting at 11:00.

October 8th, Wednesday, UWF meeting to discuss the 150th Anniversary of the Clear Lake Church. Ridgeview Commons, 2:00, with Pot Luck



**UWF at Willowridge- playing Bingo and serving pumpkin bars.**

## 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.

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## **Bell Choir**

Bells will practice this year on Sunday evenings at 7. If anyone is interested in playing, we can use more ringers!



## CL UMC Ad Council: September 3, 2025

### Old Business:

1. Discussed the Ministry Plan - will be adding changes that specify our exact goals as requested by Pastor Hakki.

2. The schedule for 5th Sunday dates and locations is in the September Newsletter.

### New Business:

1. Motion by Dawn to make a separate Water Damage Fund, to be used only for water issues, with the donation we received for fixing the water leakage in the basement. At this time there is no water but expect some leakage in the spring and it will be repaired at that time. Motion 2nd by Debi. Motion carried.

2. Motion was made by Diane, 2nd Debi to reimburse Erin and Josy for the school supplies they purchased for the MIA event. Motion carried.

3. Meeting to set budget for Charge Conference will be combined with the Ad Council Meeting October 22, 2025 at 4:30.

### Pastor's Notes:

- Clear Lake Vision Survey.

*Next meeting October 22, 2025 at 4:00.*

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### CLACC Senior Luncheon – October 23



The Clear Lake Area Community Center (CLACC) is hosting an Oktoberfest-themed Senior Luncheon on Thursday, October 23. The fall-themed luncheon starts promptly at noon. Bring along your appetite for some brats, German potato salad and more! Free-

will donations are accepted for the meal. Please call your reservation to 715-263-2233 by October 20.

While you have your calendar out, circle Thursday, Dec. 4 for the Holiday Senior Luncheon.

Also please remember that Bingo is played the second Tuesday of the month and also following Senior Luncheons at 1 pm in the center dining room. CLACC looks forward to having you come to these activities.

## CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN 2025

The Clear Lake United Methodist Church will be sponsoring the "Christmas for Children" drive again this year to provide gifts for area children who otherwise may not receive gifts at Christmas time. "Christmas for Children" is designed to reach more needs of our local community. We are coming up on our 32nd year and are so grateful for all of the support that we have received from everyone.

All gifts will be given to children ages 0-18 in the Clear Lake School District Area.

Gifts are always needed for older teens, guys and girls. Personal care, nail items, cosmetics, hair products and gloves. Art supplies for all ages, canvases, sketch books, paints and drawing pencils. Guys can use small tools, personal care items, gloves, outdoor sports items for hunting and fishing and team sports.

We take gift donations for all ages at True Value, Pillar Bank and check with your local church beginning November 3rd.

If you are in need of gifts for your children or if you know of other families in the Clear Lake School District area who are in need of Christmas gifts for their children, we would like to hear from you. Call Debi Ahrens 715-441-5477 (if no answer, please leave a message). All names are kept strictly confidential.

To mail a donation please send to:  
Christmas For Children  
Box 42  
Clear Lake, WI 54005



Paul Webster was the guest speaker at United Women in Faith Fall Gathering in Medford on Saturday.





# Faith Family Church News:

Next meeting:

Thursday, October 9th, 2025 6:30pm

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## Fun Day School Kids:

This month we started our year off discussing relationships and what the Bible says about relationships and how we can connect that to our own lives.

"Love is patient, love is kind.  
It does not envy, it does not  
boast, it is not proud. It does  
not dishonor others, it is  
not self-seeking, it is not  
easily angered, it keeps no  
record of wrongs."  
1 Corinthians 13:4

Our Youth group kids also made homemade caramel rolls, white bread and banana bread for the youth mission bake sale held at the Clear Lake UMC. They will be voting later as to what mission they want to use their fund for.

This month we are going to dive deeper into our bibles to use the word of God in our day to day lives.

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## Community Events:

Horsin' Around Days is the first weekend in October.

### **Emerald Horsin' Around Days!**

*LIVE MUSIC, ACTIVITIES, FOOD, CAR SHOW, AND MORE!*



Our kids went back to school this month.



And so did our College Kids, Young Adult, Adult Kids.



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## **Noisy Can—WestCap/Food Pantry Send Offering to:**

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

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







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 9-11 am

Anitra Kaczmariski, Parish Secretary

Email: [wrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wrpsecretary@gmail.com)

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 @ Faith Family & Clear Lake

“Fun Day” School– Wednesdays 5:30 @ Faith Family

Bible in a Binder Sundays @ Clear Lake