

THE PARISH CONNECTION

October 2026

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

Lectionary Readings

OCT 04 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost;

World Communion Sunday (Green)

Exod 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19 (UMH 750);

Acts 4:5-12; Matt 21:33-46

OCT 11 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Exod 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829);

Acts 8:14-25; Matt 22:1-4

OCT 18 | 21st Sunday after Pentecost;

Laity Sunday (Green)

Exod 33:12-23; Ps 99 (UMH 819);

Acts 10:34-43; Matt 22:15-22

OCT 25 | Reformation Sunday (Green)

Deut 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 789);

Acts 10:44-48; Matt 22:34-46



Scan to watch the worship
service live on YouTube—Sundays
at 9:30 AM,
Or search “Willow River Parish
Worship Service” on YouTube.

Charge Conference 2026
Tues. November 10th; 6pm
Turtle Lake: Parkview UMC

Willow River Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>. Please send any information
you would like posted to Gail Kuhl @
kuhlq1977@gmail.com



Joys—PF: Barb improving, Rev. Anita Lang's Bolivia mission report, Sept. 26, 9 AM (Barron & Zoom), Justine as the new

financial secretary, Chris & Robin's anniversary, rain and good weather; Brady & Brooke (Salsbury) Schutts united in marriage on Sept 12th, Mattie Lynn Hellman; **CL:** Celebration of Clear Lake United Methodist Church's 150th anniversary, Thanksgiving for Yeji's work on the 150th anniversary video and presentation, gratitude for Clear Lake UMC's history and heritage, Roger & Diane's anniversary, Pete's birthday, Thrift Sale and youth baking, Willow Ridge volunteers, Ron Jurisch, Linda Fouks, Deer Park Church sale, Neil Lillie, rain; **TL:** Charlotte's Comfort Corner, Tammy and Delores, Mary.

Concerns—PF: Tammy and Brian with health concerns, Church construction project, Barb, safe harvest for local farmers, those who suffer in silence, those serving in the military; **CL:** Roger with testing, Megan with health concerns; John Koerper, Ron's niece, Bev Klatt, Joanne, Lavonne, Neil, Roger, Betty, John, Tim, Ron, Megan, Tim; **TL:** Valerie in hospice, Ila recovering from a serious car accident, Rodney Turcotte, Delores Barr, Steve, Harvey McCann recovering from stroke

Remember—Sandy, Linda Tabor, Adam Massman, Mary Peterson

Free Tax Prep Seminar

- 2026 tax changes
- Roth IRA conversions
- charitable giving through RMDs

Wed, Oct. 14, 6–8 PM
@ Turtle Lake
Light snacks provided.

Johnson, Agen, Kupferschmidt & Assoc.

TAX PREP Season

Brenda is an Enrolled Agent

Brenda Agen Kupferschmidt
Accounting and Tax Specialists
2026 TAX PREPARATION SERVICE

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Along with your questions, Brenda will discuss:

- ~ Changes from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that was active in 2026
- ~ Tax implications of Roth IRA conversions
- ~ Utilizing Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from IRAs as a direct donation to a charitable organization

DON'T MISS THIS INVALUABLE FREE SEMINAR

Wednesday • October 14 • 6:00 - 8:00

TURTLE LAKE
PARKVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
At the Hwy. 8 & 63 roundabout

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

Oct 4th Reader: Alison Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery

NO Potluck/Coffee: Catholic Dinner

Oct 11th Reader: Ben or Lily Avery

Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorres

Coffee: Avery Family

Oct 18th Reader: Debi Ahrens

Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood

Coffee: Debi Ahrens

Oct 25th Reader: Diane Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres

Coffee: Jennie K & Becky R

Nov 1st Reader: Dawn Cress

Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr

Potluck/Coffee: Dawn C & Camilla P

Counters for October: Carla & Diane

Counters for November: Dawn & John

Turtle Lake: Parkview

Oct 4th Ushers: Mark & Barb

Liturgist: Barb

Communion: Sarah H.

Oct 11th Ushers: Thompsons

Liturgist: Lynn

Oct 18th Ushers: Inghams

Liturgist: TBD

Oct 25th Ushers: Benes

Liturgist: TBD

Prairie Farm: Faith

Oct 4th Reader/Coffee: TBD

Oct 11th Reader/Coffee: TBD

Oct 18th Reader/Coffee: Leslie Frisle

Oct 25th Reader/Coffee: TBD

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, October 5th we will meet at Irma's for lunch and sew from 1 to 3 pm.

On the 19th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from 1-3. We will continue working on walker bags made for the hospital and homes and pillowcases and dinner aprons for nursing homes. All are welcome to join us for lunch and sewing.



St. Croix Valley Food Bank's monthly pop-up distributions are located in Deer Park and Glenwood City. The **Deer Park** event is held at the Fire Department Cold Storage

Facility, 211 South St. W., from 11 a.m. to noon on the **second Thursday** of the month. The **Glenwood City** event is held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 615 Maple Street, from 11 a.m. to noon on the **third Thursday** of the month.

The St. Croix Valley Food Bank distribution is free of charge for those who qualify. Organizers say those who qualify for free or reduced school lunch or Social Security generally meet the income guidelines. Participants must be Wisconsin residents.

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the special Sundays for 2026. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- World Communion Sunday ~ October 4
- United Methodist Student ~ November 29



CLACC Senior Luncheon Senior Luncheons at the community center are planned for **October 22 and December 10**.

Please mark your calendars — we'd love to have you join us for each one. To reserve your spot, please call the community center office at 715-263-2233.

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 Don or Anitra know that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter via "snail mail". 715-263-2700 or wrpsecretary@gmail.com. Thank you!

The November Newsletter Deadline is October 26th: Please email any information you would like to include in the newsletter or calendar to Anitra at wrpsecretary@gmail.com by this date. Thank you!

October Birthdays

Robin Greschner	10/1
Arlyn Severson	10/1
Lily Avery	10/2
Vickie Danielson	10/3
Lori Peterson	10/6
Judy Benes	10/9
Katherine McCann	10/11
Ryan Blanchard	10/12
Karen Peterson	10/15
Sandi Reed	10/16
Benamine Avery, Jr	10/16
Peter Francis Woods	10/19
Carol Hansen	10/20
Liberty Simons	10/21
Erin Gorres	10/22
Stacia Koerper	10/22
John Kettenacker	10/25
Steve Benes	10/26
Sybil Thompson	10/28
India Pederson	10/29
Wayne Ailts	10/31

October Anniversaries

Steve & Paula Carlson	10/1
Terry & Vilai Wilcox	10/5
Bill & Margie Wiseman	10/7
Josh & India Pederson	10/8
Ron & Renea Boe	10/10
Mitchell & Kayla Thompson	10/14
John & Stacia Koerper	10/21
Larry & Carol Hansen	10/22
Ron & Linda Jurisch	10/22

The next SPRC meeting will be on Thursday, October 8th; 6pm @ PF

WRP Youth:

Youth Baking Night- 🍪🍰

Our WRP youth had a fun evening baking together for the Thrift Sale at Clear Lake UMC!



East Lincoln Students are excited to host another night of fun, food and Biblical truth at Eric and Janelle Johnson's, **209 50th Ave. Clayton.** on Oct 3rd, 7-10 pm. All 6th-12 graders are

invited. Underground Church is an event where students enjoy a nighttime game of hide and seek with some interesting twists. Learning about Christians in other countries that can't worship God in peace. Please come and enjoy! We encourage parents to fill out a parent permission form, found here:

<https://eastlincolnalliance.com/recharge>.



Feed My Starving Children-Sat., Oct. 24th-9-11am @ Hudson YMCA

Our youth will be putting their faith into action by volunteering with Feed My Starving Children, helping pack nutritious meals for children in need around the world.

****Please reach out to Erin Gorres with any youth event questions: 651.315.3302



October is a special time to express our gratitude for those who dedicate their lives to serving God and His people.

We are especially thankful for Pastor Don, who joined our parish this past July. In the short time he has been with us, he has already shared his faith, guidance, and care with our parish family. His leadership, thoughtful sermons, and willingness to serve have been a blessing to our community.

Please join us in thanking Pastor Don for answering God's call to ministry and for the gifts he brings to our parish. We pray that God will continue to bless him with wisdom, strength, joy, and good health as he leads us in faith.

This October, be sure to take a moment to offer Pastor Don a word of encouragement and appreciation.



I hope all of you are doing well. It has already been almost three months since I began serving, learning, and sharing life with you here in Wisconsin. Recently, I bought a Packers hoodie and started watching the games. If I compare this year to a football game, I joined you in the third quarter, and now I am looking forward to finishing the rest of 2026 together.

As I have spent more time with people in our churches and communities, many of you have asked me questions about myself—my background, my hobbies, and especially how I became a pastor. So I thought I might use this section, month by month, to share some of my stories with you. When people ask me how I became a pastor, I often give a simple answer: “I wanted to live abroad, and becoming a missionary was the only way I knew that might make that possible.” At that time, I did not know there were thousands of other ways to live abroad! Usually, the question comes up in an ordinary conversation, so I do not go too deeply into it. But this time, let me be a little more serious.

When I was young, I was very curious about the world. I spent a lot of time looking at maps, reading history, and learning about different countries, cultures, and people. I was fascinated by how differently people lived, and I wanted to understand why the world we live in became the way it is. At the same time, church was a comfortable and joyful place for me. I have many good memories there: visiting people with church members on Christmas Eve, playing music as part of the church band, winning Bible competitions, and simply growing up surrounded by people who cared for me. Eventually, my curiosity about the world and my life in the church came together.

I studied theology because I wanted to understand the world, and I became a pastor because I wanted to understand people. I have spent much of my life sitting at a desk and studying. I love books, and I still do. But I gradually realized that the world I encountered in books could never be fully understood through words alone. There are parts of human life that are difficult to understand simply by reading about them or sitting alone and thinking. Tears, joy, anxiety, worry, pain, excitement, disappointment, pride, and even moments of overwhelming happiness become different when we encounter them in the lives of real people. We begin to understand them differently when someone sits in front of us and tells us a story from their own life.

The Bible, for example, is filled with stories of people who experienced God’s salvation, guidance, and comfort. When I read those stories only as words on a page, they can sometimes feel distant. But when I sit with someone and listen to a real story of joy, fear, loss, or hope, something changes. I begin to understand that person more deeply, but I also begin to understand my own experiences and even the people I have encountered only in Scripture. Through those encounters, I have also come to recognize more deeply that God is still at work—in different places, in different times, and in the lives of very different people.

Perhaps that is why ministry became important to me. Theology taught me to ask questions about God, Scripture, history, and the world. Ministry has taught me to ask those questions while sitting beside real people and listening to their stories. Becoming a pastor, however, was not a single dramatic moment or a simple decision. The journey was much more complicated than that. I will tell you more about that next month.

The colors of fall are beginning to appear, and the trees in my backyard are starting to turn red. As the weather gets cooler, I hope you stay warm and don’t catch a cold. Please take good care of yourself, and I look forward to seeing you in person soon.

In Christ,

Pastor Don

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee following the service
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month following the service.
- **Food shelf donations** any Sunday- We'd like to make another delivery soon if you can donate!!

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

CL Noisy Cans:
4th quarter—Clear Lake Ambulance

Church Cleaning Donation: If you want to help pay \$120 for cleaning the church, which is done once a month. You can write a check to UMC Please put in an envelope that says for cleaning and put in the collection plate.



Bell Choir at CLUMC: Bells began practicing their Christmas music on Sunday, Sept 20th and will continue practicing at 7 pm on Sundays throughout October.

Clear Lake UMC Fall Thrift Sale & Bake Sale:
We made \$1421.00 on the Thrift Sale and the youth made \$301 for missions. See you in Spring!

UWF: We had a fun time at Willow Ridge Health Center playing BINGO and giving prizes. We also served pumpkin bars. Jennie Keller was the caller. Betty Rake, Linda Jurisch and Pastor Don



and his wife, Yeji, all helped the residents who needed it. We are looking forward to doing it again next year.

CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN 2026: 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 33rd 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 9th.

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, CL, WI 54005

PF: Faith UMC News

-Thurs, October 22 Ad C at 5:00 pm & meet and greet Pastor Don & Yeji for a potluck supper at 6:00 pm for all WRP members/friends

-**Thank you** to Barb Bender for paying the Wirth Excavating bill & to all members and friends for your generous tithing this spring/summer and those who helped clean up and move items so we could finish siding the church.

-The preschool building has been removed and we are moving forward with finishing the entryway before winter.

-PF Ad. Council met Thurs. Sept.10. We discussed and decided on a contractor to finish siding the church and roof repairs; hope to start the project soon. Discussed the need for books to be audited for 2025 and plans to get done. Discussed the need to have furnaces checked in church and parsonage. Robin will call Wohlk Electric and get a date set. Pastor Don told of Charge Conference being Tues. Nov. 10 at Turtle Lake at 6pm. Reviewed need to get a budget for next year and forms done. Pastor Don told of taking vacation time the first weekend in Nov.-need to find a replacement Nov 1st (communion will be Nov 8th) Will discuss at upcoming SPRC meeting. Robin will be taking Pastor Don around the PF community to meet school personnel and other pastors and community resources.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Don know.

Clear Lake AD Council Meeting--Sept 9, 2026

Secretary's Report:

Secretary's Report read and approved. Motion by Betty, 2nd Gail.

Treasurer's Report:

Apportionments increased approximately \$900 per year.

Treasurer's Report read and approved. Motion by Diane, 2nd Debi.

Old Business:

1. The IRS tax issue from the last meeting has been resolved.
2. The sale of the Deer Park Church should be finalized this week. Should clear approximately \$80,000.
3. Decreased the rental price on the parsonage. Motion to decrease rent to \$1200 per month with tenant paying utilities. Tenant will also be responsible for lawn care and snow removal. All inquiries sent to Gail. Motion by Betty, 2nd Jennie. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Pete Thompson has been doing the lawn care for the Deer Park church since the merge. Josy will purchase a gift card as a thank you to Pete. Motion by Dawn, 2nd Gail. Motion carried.
2. Josy will also purchase a gift card as a thank you to John Danielson. John charged us for the chicken for the anniversary and donated his time for the preparation. Motion by Gail, 2nd Linda. Motion carried.
3. Diane will send Thank you cards to:
 - Robin Burke/Prairie Farm church for the beautiful mums for the church anniversary.
 - Seventh Day Advent church for the beautiful centerpiece for the church anniversary.
 - DS Peace Kim and Barbara Certa-Warner for sharing in the church anniversary service.
 - The Kirk family for sharing their music at the church anniversary service.
4. Debi will send an article and pictures to the Clear Lake Chronicle.
5. Discussed the future of the Cookie Sale/Baked Potato Supper. Decide to let the UWF and Dorcus circle decide on the fate of the sale.

Pastor's Notes:

1. Charge Conference will be held November 16 at Turtle Lake Parkview church.
2. Pastor Don will be attending School for Leadership September 29 - October 1.

3. Pastor Don will be on vacation October 26 - November 1. Communion will be changed to November 8.

4. Pastor Don will get names for pulpit supply from Clear Lake, Turtle Lake and Prairie Farm.

Next meeting October 14, 2026 at 6:00. Closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer. Motion to adjourn Gail, 2nd Dawn.

Jennie Keller, Recording Secretary

TL: Parkview UMC News

- Administrative Council meeting
-----October 13 at 6:00 pm

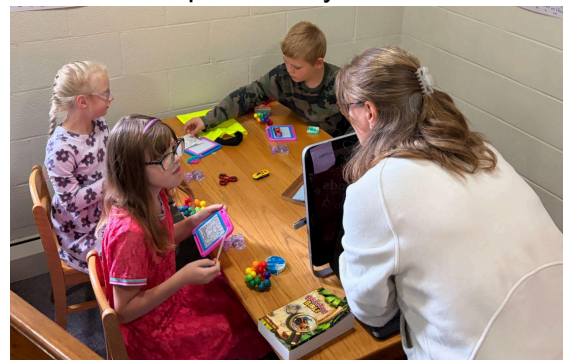
Impromptu Choir Singing! 🎵

Everyone is welcome to join in and sing together whenever our Impromptu Choir spontaneously gathers after worship!



Sunday School ✨

Sunday School is back at TL! Children are invited to join us for learning, fellowship, and fun @ 10am. We hope to see you there!



Scan the QR code to visit Parkview's Facebook page,
or search "Parkview United Methodist Church - Turtle Lake, WI" on Facebook





WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, PRAIRIE FARM, TURTLE LAKE
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

Address Service Requested

Willow River Parish
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/>

Don Lee, Pastor
Office Hours: Thurs & Fri: 2:00–5:00 PM at CL
Wed: 1:00–4:00 PM, Sat: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM at TL

Anitra Kaczmariski, Office Administrator
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Camilla Pietz, Parish Treasurer
Email: cpietz.wrptreasurer@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. - Prairie Farm: Faith 9:30 a.m. – Clear Lake 10:45 a.m. – Turtle Lake: Parkview

[Willow River Parish Worship Service - YouTube](#)

Church School

10:00 AM @ Turtle Lake: Parkview

