

THE PARISH CONNECTION

August 2020

Lectionary Readings

August 2, 2020 [Green]

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-32; Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020 [Green]

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2020 [Green]

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23, 2020 [Green]

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2020 [Green]

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-5; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Forgive

Forgive someone. Today forgive.
Turn from bitter to positive.
End frustration, anger, pain;
Wash the anguish from your brain.

No need to reconcile or tell;
Just feel better and get well.
A brand new, peaceful life to live,
That's your gift, when you forgive.

By Joanna Fuchs

Church Times Change In September!

Deer Park 8:30 am
Clear Lake 9:45 am
Faith Family 11:00 am



Prayer and Concerns

Joys— Birthdays & Anniversaries, Vacations, Warmer Weather, Loving Family & Friends, Rain, Successful Vacation Bible School

Concerns— Chuck Kuhl, Steve Keller, COVID-19, Those in quarantine, travelers, churches and pastors in transition

Remembering—Family and friends of Grace Moore



*...Because
you eat*



Ruby's Pantry food distribution will take place August 8th in the AmTec parking lot at 241 Venture Drive Amery. There is a \$20 cash donation per share. You will receive an abundance of grocery items. There is no income or residency requirements – everyone that eats is welcome!

This is a drive-thru distribution. We have set our hours from 8am to 10am. We will start sending cars through as soon as we are set up which is much quicker with our drive through set up. Please do not be late because it goes fast. Also we will load your vehicle from the passenger side and prefer to just put the items into the back of your vehicle. For everyone's safety, please have your vehicle empty to receive food in the back so volunteers do not need to walk around to the other side of the vehicle. We look forward to seeing you. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and should arrive at 7:15am. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information, please contact 715-268-7390 or email office.ameryucc@gmail.com.

August Birthdays

Michael Paulson	August 2
James Fouks	August 5
Stephanie Talatala	August 6
Brittany Severson	August 8
Chuck Kuhl	August 12
Pam Elwood	August 13
Tracey Petersen	August 13
John Severson	August 13
Travis La Blanc	August 15
Brandon Severson	August 16
Camryn Lillie	August 17
Troy Elmer	August 19
Renae Kuhl	August 19
Ben Avery	August 20
Charlotte Fouks	August 20
Kristi Severson	August 20
Anthony Church	August 24
Tyler Sharpe	August 24
Joan Lillie	August 25
Betty Rake	August 27
Ted Olson	August 29
Neil Lillie	August 31

Grace Place Supplies Needed

Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
Hand Soap	Garbage Bags
Bath Towels	Kitchen Towels
New Bed Pillows	Cleaning Supplies

At this time, can only accept NEW items.

August Anniversaries

Chuck & Gail Kuhl	August 2
Todd & Tracey Petersen	August 5
Chris and Bobbi Wilson	August 7
Todd & Andrea Jilek	August 8
Ryan & Carrie Blanchard	August 12
Mark & Beth Thompson	August 12

From Bishop Jung

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35),

I am a bishop of two minds. In my best mind, I believe that we are the people that God needs us to be. In this mind, I believe that we see each other's gifts from God, of immense and unequalled value, regardless of race, ethnicity, economic level, or educational background. In this best and most positive mind, language is never a barrier, heritage and culture are valued, and we view each other as sacred siblings in the grand family of God. I would absolutely love to live with this mind.

But I know it is not the whole story. We are not always one in spirit, knowledge, and truth. We allow our differences to eclipse our strengths. We sometimes allow barriers of language, heritage, and culture to divide us. We set aside our reconciling and uniting faith to focus instead on those things which separate us. This is my other, troubled mind.

In short, we are human. At our most generous, we can do amazing things. We take wonderful care of each other, we make incredible sacrifices, we give beyond all expectations. This is when we do it well. But on any given day, we tend to look out only for our own personal needs. We see the stranger as competition at best, and as a threat at worst. We are so worried about our own needs and safety that we cannot even conceive of thinking about the safety and needs of others—and we don't want to feel guilty about this, either. We make the world all about us individually, or about those few people closest to us. We don't have anything against other people, we simply need to take care of our own.

But Jesus challenges this notion. Jesus teaches that everyone is "our own." What we do to the least of our brothers and sisters we do to Jesus. Jesus does an amazing job of blurring the line between "us" and "them." In Jesus' view, there is only a singular "all of us." I cannot withhold care, compassion, or concern from any other human being—my connection and responsibility rests with anyone with whom I come in contact.

Over the past few months, conversations have focused on who should be talking with whom; who is at the table and who is not, who is being heard, and who is left out. The very nature of this conversation shows we still have a long way to go. All of us should be talking with—and listening to—all of us; especially white Americans should be listening to black and brown voices. Together we should be exploring and understanding our Asian immigrant voices. Without ample opportunity to listen, to understand, and to respond, we will simply see our tragic problems repeated over and over again. The realities of widespread racial inequality, anti-racial minority behaviors, white privilege, and white supremacy will not go away if we pretend they don't exist. We must talk about these things if we want to eradicate them.

We do not need more chaos. We need to learn from the chaos to create a world order that is just, fair, kind, loving, equitable, merciful, and peace-filled for all of God's people. Our vision is a beloved community that includes and appreciates all our differences as well as our similarities. Beloved community will guarantee that all have enough basic necessities met that everyone can enjoy a good quality of life. Beloved community will witness to our broken world what is the will and desire of God. Beloved community is the space where everyone can celebrate who they are, and be celebrated by all those who know and love them best.

*Deadline for September
Newsletter is August 21st*



“Be not dismayed whate’er betide, God will take care of you; beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o’er all the way; He will take care of you, God will take care of you.” Civila D. Martin

I truly believe those words from the hymn, “God Will Take Care of You.” No matter what we go through in life, God will take care of you.

This last Sunday, the announcement was made that I will be leaving the Willow River Parish. I have been here for six years, and the Cabinet of the Wisconsin Conference felt that my gifts and talents could be used elsewhere. I will be moving to the Medford-Rib Lake charge in Taylor County in the North Central District. My last Sunday here will be August 16th.

It is with some trepidation and nervousness that I make this move. It was not a move that I sought out. It is a move that the Wisconsin Conference decided to make. I leave this charge comfortable in knowing that we accomplished much in the years I was here.

The Willow River Parish is a Spirit-filled parish doing God’s work in Polk-St. Croix counties. It has been hard in this era of pandemic, but you have been holding your own. While these churches have been meeting on Zoom, you also have been busy planning for the future. God has been good to the Willow River Parish.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to take Jesus into the world. Remember that we may be the only Bibles that some will meet. We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. As we part, we will all do our best to be the best disciple for Jesus.

God’s blessings always,

Pastor John



Fall Thrift Sale

Clear Lake UMC is having a thrift sale August 14th 9-5, August 20th and 21st from 9-5, and August

22nd from 9-12. You may start dropping off your items on Aug. 6th-13th from 8am-8pm, and Aug. 15th-19th 8am-8pm. Try to get most everything there by the 13th. PLEASE UNLOAD YOUR BAGS AND BOXES AND PUT ITEMS ON DESIGNATED TABLES OR HANG ITEMS ON RACKS IN BACK. Make sure all things are clean and washed. If you can work any of these days, call Linda at 715-263-2288, especially clean-up on Sat. the 22nd at noon.

Harbor House Crisis Shelters Needs List

13 Gal. Garbage Bags	Kitchen Wash Cloths
All Purpose Cleaner	Brushes/Combs
Paper Towels	Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Shampoo/Conditioner	Twin Sheets
Blankets	Diapers/All Sizes
Spices	Non-Perishable Food
Socks	Disinfecting Wipes
Pillows/Pillow Cases	
Dish Soap/Dish Washer Soap	
Women’s Hygiene Products	
Antiperspirant Men/Women	
Bath Towels/Wash Cloths	
Wound Care Products	
Dryer Sheets/Laundry Soap/Bleach	



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

John Hazen, Pastor

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmarski

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com

Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. virtual service via ZOOM