

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

December 2018/ January 2019

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

## Lectionary Readings for December

### December 2, 2018 [Purple]

#### 1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

### December 9, 2018 [Purple]

#### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

### December 16, 2018 [Purple]

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

### December 23, 2018 [Purple]

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

### December 30, 2018 [White]

#### 1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

## Schedule of Christmas Activities

Dec 2	Holy Communion
Dec 12	UMW Christmas Party, 12:00 potluck
Dec 14	Cookie Sale & Baked Potato meal, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Dec 19	Clear Lake Handbell concert at First Lutheran Church, 7:30 pm
Dec. 23	Forest Sunday school program Clear Lake church school program Both during church services



## Christmas Eve Worship Times

Forest – 4:00 pm  
Deer Park– 5:30 pm  
Clear Lake– 7:00 pm



## Prayer Concerns

*Joys*— The Christmas Season, Family, Grandchildren, Visits with Friends, Bell Ringers, Volunteers, our youth

*Concerns*— Craig Longfellow, Ardys Warner, Greg, Paul, Emmy, Holiday travel mercies, the New Year, the California fires, those alone during the holidays

*Remembering*—

# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

## Clear Lake—December 2018

- Dec 2nd**    **Reader:** Debi Ahrens  
**Greeter & Coffee:** Ryan & Carrie Blanchard  
**Acolyte:** Tyson Blanchard  
**PwrPt:** Bailey Blanchard
- Dec 9th**    **Reader:** Diane Blanchard  
**Greeter & Coffee:** Linda Jurisch & Betty Rake  
**Acolyte:** Wyatt Reindahl  
**PwrPt:** Peyton Lillie
- Dec 16th**    **Reader:** Alison Blanchard  
**Greeter & Coffee:** Avery Family  
**Acolyte:** Trent Avery  
**PwrPt:** Brittany Avery
- Dec 23rd**    **Reader:** Dawn Cress  
**Greeter & Coffee:** Don & Arlene Althoff  
**Acolyte:** Ben Pietz  
**PwrPt:** Ivan Ruble
- Dec 30th**    **Reader:** John Koerper  
**Greeter & Coffee:** Ruble Family  
**Acolyte:** Tyson Blanchard  
**PwrPt:** Ivan Ruble

## Clear Lake—January 2019

- Jan 6th**    **Reader:** Andrea Jilek  
**Coffee:** Avery Family  
**Acolyte:** Trent Avery  
**PwrPt:** Brittany Avery
- Jan 13th**    **Reader:** Dawn Cress  
**Coffee:** Joan Lillie & Danielson's  
**Acolyte:** Ben Pietz  
**PwrPt:** Peyton Lillie
- Jan 20th**    **Reader:** Diane Blanchard  
**Coffee:** Roger/Diane Blanchard  
**Acolyte:** Tyson Blanchard  
**PwrPt:** Bailey Blanchard
- Jan 27th**    **Reader:** Debi Ahrens  
**Coffee:** Jennie K./Becky R.  
**Acolyte:** Wyatt Reindahl  
**PwrPt:** Ivan Ruble

**Greeter for Month of January—Debi Ahrens**

**Counters for December:**

Carla La Blanc & Jan Benson

**Counters for January:**

Linda Jurisch & ???



### Deer Park Readers

<b>December 2nd</b>	<i>no reader</i>	<b>January 6th</b>	<i>no reader</i>
<b>December 9th</b>	Elden Setter	<b>January 13th</b>	Elden Setter
<b>December 16th</b>	<i>no reader</i>	<b>January 20th</b>	<i>no reader</i>
<b>December 23rd</b>	<i>no reader</i>	<b>January 27th</b>	<i>no reader</i>
<b>December 30th</b>	<i>no reader</i>		

### Forest Readers

<b>December 2nd</b>	Debbie Stevens	<b>January 6th</b>	Cindy Warner
<b>December 9th</b>	Joyce Petersen	<b>January 13th</b>	Debbie Stevens
<b>December 16th</b>	Tracey Petersen	<b>January 20th</b>	Joyce Petersen
<b>December 23rd</b>	Heather Greene	<b>January 27th</b>	Tracey Petersen
<b>December 30th</b>	Terri Wilson		

*If you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find a replacement.  
 Thank you.*

## December Birthdays

Benjamin Pietz	12/2
Carole Olson	12/4
Julie Longfellow	12/5
Randy Olson	12/5
Todd Petersen, Jr.	12/5
Mackenzie Martin	12/11
Waneta Olson	12/13
Andrea Jilek	12/14
Joe Warner	12/16
David Larson	12/18
Michael Stark	12/18
Christina Beebe	12/19
Patty Warner	12/21
Doug Kruger	12/22
Gail Kuhl	12/23
Morgan Olson	12/30
Cindy Warner	12/30

## December Anniversaries

Doug & Debi Ahrens	12/10
Neil & Joan Lillie	12/30

## Church Sign Theology

Prayer gives your faith roots and branches.

Instead of counting your days, make your days count.

No credit? No problem! Jesus paid your debt.

Hold your tongue, but not your prayers.

Patience is how you act while you're waiting.

God is the lender, you are the borrower—not the owner.

God created roses for a daily smellebration.

A single sunbeam can chase away many shadows.

Jesus is a friend who walks in when the world walks out.

Jesus is coming—look busy!

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

### & BAKED POTATO MEAL

Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 11-6 pm

Clear Lake UM Church  
715-263-2704 Kitchen



All members are asked to bring **6 Dozen Christmas Cookies** ~ by 9 a.m. on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Work days for the Cookie Sale:**

We will be setting up the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Come down around 8:00 to help out.

Watch for sheets at church to sign-up to work or provide items for the sale. And please spread the word that we will be open for lunch.

## Church School/Sunday School

The CL children invite you to come to the Church School Christmas Program,

“Incredible Christmas”

Sunday, Dec. 23 during the Sunday morning service



The Forest children invite you to come to the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> during worship.

## Lectionary Readings for January

### January 6, 2019 [White]

#### Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

### January 13, 2019 [White]

#### Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 20, 2019 [Green]

#### Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

### January 27, 2019 [Green]

#### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

## UMW Minutes

7 Present--President Joan, Grace, Jan, Jennie, Ruth, Arlene, Linda  
Purpose Read, Roll Call with Scripture  
Sec.Min. Read and approved,  
Treasurers Report: \$705.70 read and approved.  
Correspondance:Rev.John Wells, new Chaplin for UM Hospitals in Madison. St.Mary's, Unity Point Mariner, University.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sign up for coffee for the year about 3 times yearly. Sign up for Greeter for a month.
2. Wapo Christmas Dinner Theater, 11 going on Nov.29--be there by 4:30.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Joan will make lunch for our UMW Dec Christmas Party, Bring gift for game.
2. Completed yearly review for church.
3. Thank you from Donna Swanson's family.

PROGRAM: Joan-World Day Of Giving Story of Ruth read. 150 Years of Thank Offering for UMW. We gave \$100.00 used for mission.  
Thanksgiving Prayer by Joan; Thanksgiving Treats Joan  
Pot Luck Respectfully submitted Linda Jurisch.

## United Methodist Hospital Ministry

Rev. John Wells is or new United Methodist Chaplain. He visits church members in the general hospitals in Madison—St. Mary's, UnityPoint Meriter, and University Hospital. He visits patients listed as "Methodists" under the hospital census and requests from local pastors and other Methodists throughout the conference. If you have a request for a visit for someone hospitalized in Madison, please contact him directly at 920-723-5378 or [MadisonHospitalsChaplain@Wisconsinumc.org](mailto:MadisonHospitalsChaplain@Wisconsinumc.org)

~ NO CHURCH SCHOOL ~  
*December 26th --January 2nd*

## Pastor's Pen

"Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." Luke 2:7(NIV)

We are in the Advent season, the time of preparation for celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is the time of preparation for the Christmas season. To think that it all started with a simple birth in a simple manger. It is a birth that changed history. Without that birth, all things would be different.

We know it is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that gives us our salvation. However, without this birth, that would never have happened.

We cannot have the death and resurrection without the birth. Our salvation would be lost without this birth of this child. At Christmas, we celebrate this momentous birth. During Advent, we prepare ourselves to celebrate this momentous birth.

Are you ready for Christmas? I don't mean having all your presents bought---having all your Christmas cards sent---having all the decorations up---having the Christmas dinner planned. Are you ready to celebrate Jesus at Christmas?

There are many things we should be doing to prepare ourselves. We should be praying---praying that we rightly honor and celebrate this birth, praying that our families and friends do the same. We should be reading our Bibles---especially those centered on Jesus' birth. We should be helping those in need---through volunteer time and through financial donations.

As Christmas approaches, may you find time to be alone with God. May you find ways to be a blessing to others. May you and your families and friends celebrate this great birth. May God bless you as you enter into a new year. Above all, may Christ blossom in your hearts and your lives. Continue to be blessed and a blessing.

Merry Christmas to all,  
Pastor John



### UMW Annual Christmas Luncheon

Join the ladies of the UMW at their annual Christmas get-together on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ridgeview Apartments at noon. After lunch we will be singing carols and playing games. Please bring a small gift for a game exchange. All members, men too, and their guests are invited. A sign-up sheet for reservations is in the back of the church or call Joan at 715-263-3020



### 2018 UMW Mission Awards

This award is given to church members who have shown much involvement over the years. We also consider their community involvement. This year's winners were John and Stacia Koerper.



**Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 18th**

### January Birthdays

Barb Martin	1/5
Denise Severson	1/8
Dan Jilek	1/10
Julie Warner	1/10
Connor Fouks	1/11
Katie Fouks	1/11
Penny Warner	1/12
Paul Webster	1/12
Zach Elmer	1/15
Steve Warner	1/17
David Goodrich	1/18
Amanda Millermon	1/18
John Webster	1/20
Brittany Avery	1/24
Darrell Richardson	1/27
Bailey Blanchard	1/28
Diane Paulson	1/28
Dylan Leslie	1/29
Pat Lillie	1/30
Meaghan Pietz	1/31

### January Anniversaries

Dan & Missy Severson	1/23
Jeff & Terri Wilson	1/24

### BECAUSE YOU EAT...RUBY'S PANTRY

Food distributions are December 8 & January 12 at the Congregational Church in Amery.

Sign in 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. Suggested donation of \$20.

**Handbell Choir & 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Choir to perform on**

Wednesday, December 19th  
7:30 pm First Lutheran Church



THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH  
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FOREST  
PO BOX 269 – 420 FOURTH STREET  
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches**

John Hazen, Pastor

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### **Sunday Worship**

8:30 a.m. – Forest                      9:45 a.m. – Dear Park

11:00 a.m. – Clear Lake

### **Church School**

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Clear Lake; Meal at 5:30

8:30 a.m. Sundays @ Forest