

THE PARISH CONNECTION

December 2019/ January 2020

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

Lectionary Readings for December

December 1, 2019 [Purple]

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

December 8, 2019 [Purple]

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 15, 2019 [Purple]

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2019 [Purple]

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 29, 2019 [White]

1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Schedule of Christmas Activities

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec 1 | Holy Communion-1 st Sun. Advent |
| Dec. 6 | CL Wapo Trip |
| Dec 11 | UMW Christmas Party, 12:00 potluck |
| Dec 13 | 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. 22 | Forest Sunday school program
Clear Lake church school program
Both during church services |



Christmas Eve Worship Times

Clear Lake – 4:00 pm

Forest– 5:30 pm

Deer Park– 7:00 pm



Prayer Concerns

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

Concerns— Craig Longfellow, Doug Ahrens, Holiday travel mercies, the New Year, those alone during the holidays

Remembering—

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake—December 2019

Dec 1st **Reader:** Dawn Cress
 Coffee: Troy and Julie E/Brunch
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Tyson Blanchard

Dec 8th **Reader:** John Koerper
 Coffee: John and Stacia K
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Ivan Ruble

Dec 15th **Reader:** Andrea Jilek
 Coffee: Todd and Andrea J
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Pietz

Dec 22nd **Reader:** Diane Blanchard
 Greeter & Coffee: Christmas Brunch
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard

Dec 29th **Reader:** Debi Ahrens
 Greeter & Coffee: Linda J and Betty R
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Wyatt Reindahl

Greeter for December—Roger B
Counters for December—Debi A and Diane B

Clear Lake—January 2020

Jan 5th **Reader:** Alison Blanchard
 Coffee: Avery Family/Brunch
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Tyson Blanchard

Jan 12th **Reader:** Dawn Cress
 Coffee: Roger/Diane B
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Ivan Ruble

Jan 19th **Reader:** Debi Ahrens
 Coffee: Roger/Diane B
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Pietz

Jan 26th **Reader:** Diane Blanchard
 Coffee: Roger/Diane B
 Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard

Greeter for January—Debi Ahrens
Counters for January--Linda J & Bev K



Deer Park Readers			
December 1st	<i>no reader</i>	January 5th	<i>no reader</i>
December 8th	Elden Setter	January 12th	Elden Setter
December 15th	<i>no reader</i>	January 19th	<i>no reader</i>
December 22nd	<i>no reader</i>	January 26th	<i>no reader</i>
December 29th	<i>no reader</i>		
Forest Readers			
December 1st	Debbie Stevens	January 5th	Debbie Stevens
December 8th	Joyce Petersen	January 12th	Joyce Petersen
December 15th	Heather Greene	January 19th	Heather Greene
December 22nd	Terri Wilson	January 26th	Terri Wilson
December 29th	Cindy Warner		

*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
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

They're commandments, not suggestions!

The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

The only person you can change is yourself.

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers and judges.

If you walk with the Lord, you'll never be out of step.

Jesus—don't leave earth without Him!

God's gifts come wrapped in people.

God wants spiritual fruits, not religious nuts.

A faith of convenience is a hollow faith.

Open your heart—open your mind—open your Bible

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE & BAKED POTATO MEAL



Friday, December 13th 11:30-6 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 13th.

Work days for the Cookie Sale:

We will be setting up the morning of the 13th.

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, Sunday, Dec. 22nd during the Sunday morning service. **Christmas brunch** for all following the service and program.

The Forest children invite you to come to the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 22nd during worship.

Lectionary Readings for January

January 5, 2020 [White]

Epiphany of the Lord

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1(1-9), 10:18

January 12, 2020 [White]

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2020 [Green]

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 26, 2020 [Green]

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

New Church Directory

We will be producing a new church directory this year. Photography will take place on Dec. 26, 27 and 28. Be included in our new directory. The times for pictures will be 2-9 pm on Dec. 26, 2-9pm Dec. 27, and 10 am-5 pm on Dec. 28. Lifetouch will be photographing all our families for the new directory. Watch for the future sign up. Each family receives one free standard 8x10 and a free directory, plus the opportunity to purchase additional photographs.

UMW Minutes

UMW Minutes 11/13/19

Led by Linda Jurisch, 7 present.

Purpose, Roll Call with Scripture read.

Sec. Min. Read approved

Treasurers Report \$978.06

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Will buy mittens and hats for CL Elementary School \$150 approved.
2. Buy hygiene products for High School \$50 approved
3. COOKIE SALE AND BAKED POTATO DEC 13 each family needs to make 6+ dozen. Christmas items will be for sale that day, PLEASE DONATE nice items you can do without.
4. DEC 8th ROSETTE making after church. Could use some extra help, we have 5 fryers going and need people to learn how and help sugar.
5. New Coffee, Greeter, Counter list is ready.
6. Church Directory Photos will be taken Dec 26, 27, 28. Ruth could use some helpers please call her 715-269-5322.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.UMW will pay \$70 to have 14 newsletters sent to those not getting them. Approved
- 2.\$100 for Christmas For Children, approved.
- 3.\$50 Thank Offering, approved
- 4.\$100 to Paul Webster, Approved.
- 5.UMW Christmas Luncheon 12:00, Dec. 11 Pot Luck, Sing and visit. No gifts, games or program. Food to bring: Jennie-cookies, Linda-hot dish, Joan-buns, Ruth-cranberries, Arlene-Spinach salad, Jan-meat & cheese, Bev-Jello salad, Catherine-Apple Cider
5. SUNDAY DEC 22 Sunday School Christmas Program during church, BRUNCH BY UMW after. FOOD to bring, Jennie-egg bake, Joan-hot dish, Linda-deviled eggs, Arlene-spoon bread, Ruth-Buns and cheese, Catherine-cin. rolls, UMW juice, milk, meat.

Arlene-Scripture Catherine - Book Report
Prayer, Pot Luck
submitted by Catherine Benoy

Pastor's Pen

*"An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them."
Luke 2:9*

Can you imagine that night? The shepherds were watching their flocks. It was night. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to them to give them the good news of Jesus' birth. Even more angels showed up to give praise to God.

I can imagine that it was a powerful sight. It was a sight that these shepherds had never seen. It was a sight meant to get their attention. Mission accomplished!

It was a sight that demanded action. These shepherds decided to go and see this thing the angels had talked about. These simple shepherds were some of the first people to see Jesus.

There are many things in our lives that cause us to go "wow." They are things that are surprising. They are things rarely seen. They are things that cause us to praise God. They are things we call "God moments."

What do we do when we have a God moment? These shepherds reacted by going to see Jesus, and after, as they left, told everyone about what they had seen. We should always witness to the God moments in our lives. We should always share them so that others can see.

As Christmas approaches, may you find time with God. May you find time to share God with others. May you find time to witness to God's work in Your lives. As you do, you will receive the best Christmas present ever.

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 11th at the Ridgeview Apartments at noon. Pot Luck, Sing and visit. No gifts, games or program. 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



2019 UMW Mission Award

Richard Danielson received the 2019 UMW Mission Recognition. He received his Gold Cross Pin on October 27th. It was so nice to have so many of his family members there.



BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!!

We had such generous donations for college and service boxes that we were able to send an extra large box to one of Clear Lake's serviceman in Afghanistan that is supporting an orphanage of students!! Also our youth group paid for a second box of small toys to the same orphanage!

Deadline for the Feb. Newsletter is Jan. 17th

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 14 & January 11 at the Congregational Church in Amery.

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

UMYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Youth will be baking, packing and delivering cookies/goodies on Wed. Dec 11 right after practices-5:00pm, pizza supper! At Blanchard's.

**Handbell Choir & 1st Lutheran Choir
to perform on
Wednesday, December 18th
7:00 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

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmariski

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com

Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. – Clear Lake 9:45 a.m. – Forest

11:00 a.m. – Deer Park

Church School @ Clear Lake and Forest

Sundays after Young People's Time