

THE PARISH CONNECTION

May 2019

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



Lectionary Readings

May 5th 3rd Sunday of Easter (white)
Acts 9:1-6(7-20); Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 12th 4th Sunday of Easter (white)
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 19th 5th Sunday of Easter (white)
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 26th 6th Sunday of Easter (white)
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67
Revelation 21:1-10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29



Looking Ahead Summer Dates

June 3	Serenity House meal
June 7	Golden Age Manor Sing-a-long
June 9-12	Vacation Bible School
June 14-17	Annual Conference
June 27-30	Clear Lake Days
August 5	Serenity House meal



Prayer and Concerns

Joys: opportunities to gather together, warmer days, graduations, Mother's Day, children, music, youth, families, friends, the colors of spring,

Concerns: Craig Longfellow, Debbie Stevens, Dawn Cress, Jeff Wilson, Ardys Warner, Grace Moore, travelers, servicepersons & their families, graduates

Remembering: Family and friends of Ann Martin and Kenneth Klatt

MAY WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

- May 5th** **Reader:** Andrea Jilek
 Coffee: Potluck
 Acolyte: Wyatt Reindahl
 PwrPt: Peyton Lillie
- May 12th** **Reader:** Alison Blanchard
 Coffee: Joan L and Dick D
 Acolyte: Trent Avery
 PwrPt: Brittany Avery
- May 19th** **Reader:** Dawn Cress
 Coffee: Gail K and Dawn C
 Acolyte: Ben Pietz
 PwrPt: Ivan Ruble
- May 26th** **Reader:** Debi Ahrens
 Coffee: Pat Lillie Family
 Acolyte: Tyson Blanchard
 PwrPt: Bailey Blanchard

Deer Park Readers

- May 5th:** no reader
May 12th: Elden Setter
May 19th: no reader
May 26th: no reader

Forest Readers

- May 5th:** Terri Wilson
May 12th: Cindy Warner
May 19th: Debbie Stevens
May 26th: Joyce Petersen



USHERS & GREETERS

Counters for May are: *Linda Jurish and Bev Klatt*
Greeters for May are: *Ruth Severson and Jan Benson*

If you are unable to read on your designated date, please find a substitute.

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 9-Wednesday, June 12
United Covenant Church
6:00 pm-8:00 pm
For ages 4K-5th

Volunteers needed
Orientation for all volunteers—please attend one of these meetings:
Wed., May 29 6:00 pm
Thurs., May 30 6:00 pm
At United Covenant Church
Help decorate at United Covenant on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, times to be announced.
Register: tinyurl.com/civbs2019



In Gathering

Donations Lists are available
at the backs of all three churches.

Besides the perennial need for flood buckets, bedding & sewing kits, and school bags, needs for the Wisconsin Conference's Harbor House, UM Children's Services, Northcott Neighborhood House & Solomon Community Temple.



Sheldon Simonson	5/2
Renee Boe	5/3
Lauren De Boer	5/4
Lilyana Pietz	5/4
Mardell Anderson	5/9
Mitch Thompson	5/10
Linda Fouks	5/11
Ardys Warner	5/11
Nathan Blanchard	5/13
Scott Warner	5/16
Carla La Blanc	5/17
Joshua Severson	5/17
Holly Malack	5/19
Cassie Pietz	5/20
John Reed	5/22
Samantha Thaemert	5/25
Jennie Keller	5/26
Chad Lillie	5/27
Diane Pietz	5/28



Steve & Jennie Keller	5/4
Eric & Elizabeth Frank	5/6
Greg & Kristi Severson	5/8
John Jr. & Jewel Severson	5/13

CL Church School Gathering

Please join and support our Wednesday School kids and confirmation students for our end of the year gathering

Wed. May 8th at CL Church
Supper at 5:30 with Auction to follow.

Asking all confirmation and Sunday school families or anyone who has a fun idea to bring auction items, big or small and baked goods are fun! Spring ideas go well. We also need bidders, come one, come all and Join the fun!

Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, May 15th 7pm

Handbell and Choir concert

followed by dessert bar.

Bring a friend! Free will offering.

Springtime

There is real wisdom, Lord, in the adage 'It is always Springtime in the heart that loves God.'

Springtime is a season of optimism and hope, and the Christian lives a faith centered on hope.

Winter, with its cold and dark days has gone, just as Good Friday has passed to Easter and beyond. We live a resurrection life reflected in the new life springing up around us.

Thank you, Lord, for the hope that you bring, the renewal that you bring, both to this world and to our hearts and lives.

**Deadline for June/July Newsletter
is May 17th**

"And, Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Matthew 28:20



As we leave the Easter season, and go forth toward Pentecost, we ask ourselves: How do we live the lives of Easter people? We are Easter people, and the hymn says "Easter people, raise your voices"(William M. James, 1979) How do we live as Easter people?

The first thing we need to do is pray. We need to ask God how we should live as Easter people. God can tell us what to do. God has suggestions. Prayer is so important to the Christian life. It is something we need to do daily. There are no specific ways to pray. All you have to do is start "Dear, God..." You don't even need to be that formal. You can start "Hey, God..." or just "God...". The important thing is that you talk with God. God is ready to listen. God desires to hear from you. God is waiting to talk with you. It is easy to do.

How else can we live as Easter people? The key is how we live our lives. If we become a Christian and then never do anything with that life, something is wrong. God means for us to live in this world. We need to share the love of God with whomever we meet. God's love is available to people from all walks of life. God cares for all people. We are the messengers of God in this world. We are the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. The more people we share that love with, the more people will know the salvation of God.

How do we share the love of God? We can volunteer in the local public schools. We can volunteer at the local nursing home. We can help our neighbors with their yard work. We can help someone do their shopping. We can take people to their doctor's appointments. There are so many ways to share the love of God. The possibilities are limitless.

As you go forth, be the Easter people you are meant to be. Be the messenger that God needs you to be. As we approach Pentecost and the celebration of the Holy Spirit, we can be assured that others will know and accept God.

God's blessings,

Pastor John



**...Because
you eat**

Ruby's Pantry food
distribution will

take place May 11th at the Congregational Church, Amery. A \$20 donation is suggested to cover the cost of food & transportation. Guest shares begin at 7:30am; arrive no later than 9am. If you'd like to volunteer please arrive at 6:30am. There is a free drawing for those registered before 8:45; must be present to win. Please bring a container to bring your food home in. For more information: office.ameryucc@gmail.com or call 715-268-7390.

**CLAY, Christ Led Area Youth
2nd Annual Color Run (5K)**

WHEN: JUNE 1, 2019
Registration/Sign In: 8:00 a.m.
RUN STARTS: 8:45 a.m.

WHERE: Meet @ Clear Lake Park
\$25 Per Runner ages 9-69
\$15 Per Runner ages 8 and under, 70 and up

Pre-Registrations include:
Race Bib, T-Shirt, 1 Color Packet, Sunglasses,
Bracelet, 2 Temporary Tattoos, and 1 Sticker
\$15 for at the Door Registrations, which include
only Race Bib

Sign Ups will be available online at
<http://tinyurl.com/2019CLAY5K>

From Bishop Jung

“When they had sung the hymns, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, ‘You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Mark 14:26-28

How difficult must it have been for Jesus to face His final hours not knowing whether His followers could carry on the mission that He launched. It is beyond the imagination of most of us to conceive all that Jesus was feeling and facing during this time that we have come to call “Holy Week.” Ushered into Jerusalem with the shouts of “Hosanna,” and received as a fulfillment to prophecy one day, confronting and challenging political, military, and religious leadership in days following, saying goodbye and being arrested, tried, beaten, and crucified. Few of us can fathom the stress and emotion of this time. And Jesus questioned whether His closest friends and followers ever fully grasped what was to come. Peter’s denial, Judas’ betrayal—the abandonment of the remaining disciples—the rejection of the crowds—the mockery—the agony—feeling forsaken.

Only Easter allows this to make sense. Only the resurrection and all it symbolizes and means provides any redemption to this level of sacrifice and suffering. No wonder we often race to Easter, to celebrate new life in Jesus, to escape the darkness and despair of Good Friday and Black Saturday. Who wants to dwell in uncertainty, doubt, guilt, remorse and shame?

Yet, there is much value and benefit to thinking through our own discipleship and commitment as we prepare to meet the risen Lord. It is easy to judge Peter, to condemn Judas, to shake our heads at James and John and Thomas and the others. But staying together and staying committed is always easier from a distance. There is a good chance that we would not have fared any better than the disciples were we to find ourselves in their places.

Deserting in both big and small ways is a natural and normal defense mechanism. We seek safety and survival. We seek comfort and protection. When the storms are raging all around us, we look for cover and sanctuary. Who intentionally heads into danger and threat?

But we sometimes forget that there is NO Easter without Good Friday and all the events leading up to it. The road to Easter rocky and rough, but that makes it all the more amazing, all the more miraculous. God prepares the road for us. God walks the road with us. God waits for us at

the other end. But only if we stay on the road from start to finish.

Our United Methodist Church is going through some rough times. We are on a rocky road. People are failing. People are betraying. People are being hurt. People are feeling abandoned. People are giving into weakness. People are lashing out—with words if not with swords. People are running away. People are hiding.

Should we condemn them? Should we judge? Are we not among them? Perhaps the best course of action is one of grace and humility and gentleness and kindness. Perhaps we need to understand that we need each other to make it up the road, to get through the darkness, and to emerge—together—into the light of resurrection and new life.

In the pain and suffering of loss, betrayal, loneliness, darkness, and despair, we can get distracted. We can begin to feel that what we are experiencing in the moment is the ultimate reality. But we are Easter people. Darkness never defeats the light. Despair never has the last word over hope. And death is an illusion, intended to confuse us and make us forget who we really are—Easter people—now and forevermore—thanks be to God.

Memorial Day Schedule

South Route meets at Community Center 5:45 am

6:00 AM	Clear Lake
6:20 AM	Maple Hill Cty A.
6:55 AM	St. John’s Forest
7:15 AM	Forest Township
7:30 AM	Immanuel Lutheran
8:00 AM	West Akers
8:30 AM	Reeve
9:00 AM	Moe Lutheran
9:30 AM	Swedish Cemetery
9:50 AM	Golf Course



It's Time to Renew your "Subscription"

The Willow River Parish no longer qualifies for bulk mailing rates. Please select the option below that best fits your lifestyle. If you would like to make a change, please return this form to your church or the Parish office no later than June 1st. If you choose to have your newsletter mailed, please enclose a \$5 payment.

Name _____

- I would like to receive the newsletter in the mail for a \$5 donation
- I will pick-up my copy of the newsletter from the back of my church.
- I read the newsletter online at www.willowriverparish.org
- I would like to make a \$5 contribution so our elders can continue to receive the newsletter by mail.



THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FOREST
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Willow River Parish of 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

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

11:00 a.m. – Clear Lake

CL Church School Picnic is May 8th

then we are done until September