

THE PARISH CONNECTION

May 2020

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



Lectionary Readings

May 3rd 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 10th 5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 17th 6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 24th 7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 31st Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39



Prayer and Concerns

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

Concerns: All who are suffering due to the COVID-19 virus, all that are in isolation, the leaders making decisions, the front-line doctors, nurses, etc.

Remembering:

The Dark Times in Life

Life can take a turn
You never thought it would
Suddenly so much can change
With so little that's understood
You ask so many questions,
It seems without reply
Your heart is pained with so much doubt
And unanswered questions 'why'
It's almost like we walk through life
Just feeling our way around,
We can't see the road ahead,
Nor our feet on the ground
Darkness is all about us,
We struggle to see the light
Just a glimmer now and then,
But then fades out of sight
We cry out to God again
To show us where to go,
He says, 'Just take another step
To where peace freely flows'
And as we keep on taking steps
Guided by the Lord,
We find, in time, we walk into
The joy we knew before
It's in those times of darkness,
When we feel we've lost all hope,
God can do a work in us
That brings a deeper growth
So when we face the dark times,
We should come before the Lord,
For good will come if we believe
And hope shall be restored.

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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

Our Mission

To activate people in being alert to the needs of others and to be proactive in encouraging faith, showing friendship and meeting tangible needs of neighbors, friends and strangers regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

What is Ruby's Pantry?

Ruby's Pantry is for ANYONE that eats! There is no income or residency requirement and Ruby's Pantry is for anyone looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. Each guest donates a \$20 donation and receives an abundance of grocery items. Ruby's Pantry is not government funded and is a 501 C3. Each donation is used to cover operational costs like trucking, gas, and warehouse staff. All of the food is donated by corporate food donors making it possible to reach more families each month at locations across Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Ruby's Pantry food distribution process has CHANGED! It will take place May 9th at the alternate location where cars will be staged on the Amery school district campus prior to coming over to drive through and pick up their bundles at AmTec. The front of the line will be by the school bus garage and our local police chief will be monitoring traffic for us. There is no pre-registration and no time slots; you will just need to wait in line. Please check our Facebook Page (Ruby's Pantry Amery) for an accurate start time or email at office.ameryucc@gmail.com; or call 715-268-7390.

You will receive an abundance of grocery items. This is a drive-thru distribution so we ask that guests come with a clean trunk and have their \$20 donation ready. Our volunteers will be wearing face masks, gloves, and eye protection.

Deadline for June/July Newsletter is May 20th

"Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock."

Isaiah 26:4



Trust in the Lord is not the easiest thing to have. We see the things that happen around us and wonder how we can have that trust? How can we trust in a Lord that allows the bad things that happen in the world to happen?

The first thing we need to know is that God does not just allow things to happen. The bad things that happen in the world are caused by the bad things that people do. The sin that exists in the world has caused the world to be broken, and that has caused the bad things in the world. It is hard for God to rid the world of the things we bring about.

Wait— isn't Covid-19 a virus? It is. But these viruses are introduced into the world by human practices. Right now, the thinking is that Covid-19 was introduced in what are called the wet markets in China. We don't know the procedures of those markets, but I would guess that they are not procedures we would use here at home. God has given the human race free will, and we choose how to live. Sometimes, how we live has consequences that we do not see. It is an unfortunate fact of life that God has no control over.

In this time of COVID-19, we have to trust in God. We have to trust that God knows how we should be living, and we should live that life. We should trust that God will care for us, no matter what. Scripture is the instruction book that tells us how to live. It is up to us to live in that way. God sent Jesus into the world so that the world might be saved. We need to live that salvation in the world today.

As you go forth, be the Easter people you are meant to be. Be the messenger that God needs you to be. Unfortunately, we need to be that messenger in a time of isolation. 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



PEYTON LILLIE

BRANDON PEDERSON

IVAN RUBLE

MADISON ZIMMER

From Bishop Jung

“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 4:7

“So, when they had come together, they asked Him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom of Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’” Acts 1:6-8

In Western culture, especially in the United States, we tend to think more about destinations than journeys. We spend so much time in cars racing from place to place, making and keeping appointments, that we are often unaware of the spaces we pass through. We have an elaborate interstate highway system that allows us to travel as quickly as possible from point A to point B. But what about everything in between?

We often do this with our calendars as well, highlighting special days, but ignoring significant seasons. We sometimes race through Advent to get to Christmas, singing Christmas songs for weeks before Christmas, and having the wise men arrive on Christmas Eve along with the shepherds. The twelve days of Christmas—between Christmas Eve and Epiphany are compressed into one exhausting Christmas carol. The significance and power of Advent and Epiphany get lost in the dynamic glory of Christmas.

The same is true with Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and the symbol rich season known as Eastertide—the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. At one time in our Pentecost history (and most definitely in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions). Eastertide was significant and celebrated at a time of rejoicing in the Risen Christ as well as preparing for the gifting of the Holy Spirit. Each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost—seven in all—are festival days, intended for feasting, celebration, adoration, and thanksgiving. The guiding principle of the seven Sundays of Eastertide is to eat, drink, and be merry.

The other side of this coin is that the other six days each week are times from prayer, devotion, and reflection on the kind of life we are leading. In the words of one anonymous mystic writing to a

novitiate, “These days you sweep the soul, you cleanse the corners, and cast light into every shadow, making ready space for the Holy Ghost.” Symbolically, Jesus is preparing to ascend, the Holy Spirit is preparing to descend, and we prepare to bid farewell to one as we prepare to receive the other.

In this year of pandemic and separation, I believe it is an ideal time to reconnect with Eastertide. Peter writes that we may cast all our anxiety on God, because He cares for us and will give us the space, confidence, and assurance we need to focus on our relationship to the Christ, to the Holy Spirit, and to the church. It is not up to us to worry how long this pandemic and disengagement may last. This will all pass in God’s time. Instead, it is up to us to prepare our hearts and minds for the Holy Spirit, to celebrate the grand and glorious give God gave through Jesus’ resurrection, and to prepare once more to celebrate the birthday of the Christian church. This should not be a desolate time. Instead of putting Easter behind us and racing to Pentecost, this is an invitation to us to “get out of the car” and look around. Let us explore together. Let us see the sights. Let us reflect on the journey. Let this be a rich time of both celebration and contemplation. We indeed are Easter people. We certainly are heading toward Pentecost. But there is so much God in between that we don’t want to miss. Blessing to all.

Memorial Day Schedule

6:30	Community Center
7:00	Clear lake Cemetery
7:25	St. John's Forest
7:45	Forest Township
8:10	Emmanuel Lutheran
8:35	West Akers
9:00	Reeve
9:30	Moe Lutheran
10:00	Swedish Cemetery
10:30	Golf Course or Comm. Center



THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FAITH FAMILY
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CLEAR LAKE, WI 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Willow River Parish of United Methodist Churches
John Hazen, Pastor

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E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com
Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. – Clear Lake 9:45 a.m. – Faith Family
11:00 a.m. – Deer Park

Church School @ Clear Lake & Faith Family
Sundays after Young People's Time