

THE PARISH CONNECTION

May 2021

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



Lectionary Readings

May 02, 2021 5th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Acts 8:26-40, Ps 22:25-31 (UMH 752),
1 Jn 4:7-21, Jn 15:1-8

May 09, 2021 6th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Festival of the Christian Home / Mother's Day
Acts 10:44-48, Ps 98 (UMH 818),
1 Jn 5:1-6, Jn 15:9-17

May 16, 2021 7th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:1-11, Ps 47 (UMH 781),
Eph 1:15-23, Lk 24:44-53

May 23, 2021 Pentecost (Red)

Heritage Sunday
Acts 2:1-21, Ps 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826),
Rom 8:22-27, Jn 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30, 2021 Trinity Sunday/Peace with Justice Sunday (White)

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



Looking Ahead Summer Dates

June 18-19	Annual Conference
June 24-27	Clear Lake Days
August 15-18	Vacation Bible School

Noisy Can--Second Quarter

Clear Lake—Serenity House
Faith Family—Breast Cancer
Deer Park--Grace Place

Change in Office Hours

Pastor Hakki's office hours are now
Tuesday-Friday
1-3 pm

Prayer and Concerns

Joys: warm weather, our confirmands, flowers, pets, graduations, Mother's Day, children, music, youth, families, friends, the colors of spring,

Concerns: Mardell Anderson in Golden Age Manor, Joyce Jurisch, Jim, Mona, Darryl, Tasha, Juliana, Kent Althoff, Joyce Petersen, Krista, Trobby, MPLS/Brooklyn Center, people suffering with Covid and those that have lost their battle with Covid,

Remembering:

Greeters & Counters

Clear Lake

Greeter for May: Ruth S & Jan B
Counters for May: Linda J. & Bev K.

Greeter for June: Joan L.
Counters for June: Dawn C. & Jan B.

Offering

Please consider continuing your giving; offerings can be sent to:

Clear Lake

Arlene Althoff
75 50th Avenue
Clayton, WI 54004
54013

Faith Family

Terri Wilson
3127 200th Ave
Glenwood City, WI

Deer Park

Janice Thompson
110 North Street E
Deer Park, WI 54007



Please use the following information to join us for worship and bible study.

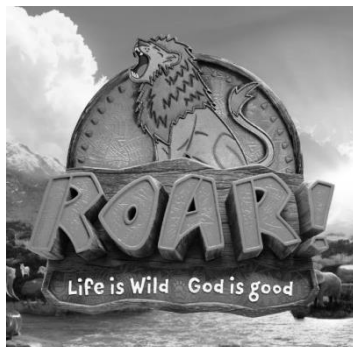
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UlpaSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777
Passcode: 421072

Vacation Bible School

August 15-18

Hosted by
CL 1st Lutheran



Clear Lake Ad C Highlights

- Open church for in person service tentatively set for May 2.
- Paint parsonage garage and bell tower May 8 at 9:00AM.
- Noisy can for April, May and June - Serenity House.
- Clear Lake will serve stuffed baked potatoes for Heritage Days.
- Discussed having an outside parish service in July

Serenity House of Polk/Barron County

In February of 2019, we had to close the doors of our mass shelter in Balsam Lake due to the County not renewing the lease at the building we rented to house the homeless. The last couple of years, we have housed homeless men and women in Polk County in scattered units but that still left many people with nowhere to go in an emergency. We partnered with our sister shelter, Grace Place over the past few years to help in these cases but despite our best effort, we had to turn away more than 100 homeless individuals needing shelter.

The decision has been made to partner with Barron County Salvation Army and open a bigger shelter that could help BOTH Polk and Barron counties. We are excited to say, we are almost there! We are in the end stages of purchasing a facility located 7 miles outside of Clayton. It is **The halls of the new Polk County Shelter that will help the homeless.** on the Barron County side of things but will serve both Polk and Barron Counties.

The shelter is an old nursing home with an additional home on the property to add extra sleeping space for the many who find themselves struggling without a warm place to sleep. Our new home will have 14 individual rooms, plus one space for a homeless family in the main unit. The house unit will have additional space for up to 15 more. We are really excited to be able to support the community in this way and help serve those in the most need.

Faith Family's Historical Bell

When leaving our beloved church building at Forest, members wanted to retain the ownership of the old bell and move it to our new Faith Family location in Emerald. We are very grateful to the new building owner at Forest for her cooperation and to Mark Tellijohn for coordinating its removal.

On 8/26/2020 the bell descended from its longtime home up high in the bell tower. We were amazed to see it at ground level, and surprised at how detailed it was. It has a high border of cherubs with a harp, a scroll and a globe. Another design goes around the base of the bell. The yoke from which the bell hangs has a decorative pattern, too. It has casting marks stating that it was made in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1866 by VanDuzen & Tift at the Buckeye Bell Foundry.

We were eager to learn more of the bell's history, so started our search on the internet. Our first resource was a kind salesman at the Verdin Company, which had acquired the Buckeye Bell Foundry many decades ago. He was suspicious when we told him that we thought our bell had come from a school near Almena, WI. He said most school bells were not nearly as decorative and were of cast iron. Our bell is of cast bronze (80% Copper, 20% Tin) and would have cost 3-4 times more than cast iron. Its measurements would put it at 350 pounds, without the yoke. It is tuned to the musical note of "D".

We began to wonder if the bell had come from a church. Our second source of information was a Centennial book from Almena, WI dated 1987. We were stunned to find that it included some very specific details about our bell. The Almena Methodist Church disbanded around 1945 and gave their bell to the Methodist Church at Forest, Wisconsin! It also stated that when they had built their church in 1926, the bell (among other items) had been donated to them by a discontinued church at Baldwin, WI.

Since these discoveries, we have contacted the United Methodist WI Conference Archivist, the St. Croix County Historical Society and the Baldwin, WI Historical Society. Each of these had persons who were very interested in our search but responded that (somewhat due to Covid-19) they were unable to help us search

church records prior to 1926. Because our bell was cast in 1866, we have 60 years of its earliest life yet to discover!

Submitted by Terri Wilson,
Faith Family Church Historian

Essential Workers Breakfast

UMC/Women held the Drive-By Essential Workers Breakfast on April 24.

We delivered many breakfasts to workers and out into the community. Thank you to the community for participating. Donations of \$200.00 will be donated to the Clear Lake Life Line Food Pantry.

UMWomen are planning a summer outing to Harbor House Crisis Shelter at Superior.

"Harbor House Crisis Shelters Needs List".

Women's Underwear, Ethnic hair products, Laundry detergent, Diapers and/or Wipes, Cleaning products, Bath towels, Pillows, Sensitive skin products, Non-perishable food, Feminine hygiene products, Disinfectants, Slippers (male/female, adult/child).

Next UMW Meeting: June 9 2pm



Ruby's Pantry ...*Because you eat*

Ruby's Pantry food distribution will take place May 8th in the AmTec parking lot at 241 Venture Drive Amery. There is a \$20 cash donation per share. 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. 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



Sheldon Simonson	5/2
Renea 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
Elijah Millermon	5/18
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
Greg & Kristi Severson	5/8

**Deadline for June/July Newsletter
is May 24th**

Clear Lake Heritage Days

June 24-27

The Clear Lake Church will be selling their Stuffed Baked Potatoes on Saturday of CL Heritage Days, June 26th. We begin selling at 10 am and will continue through the parade and after. We will need lots of help, prep, set up, serving in the kitchen and outside and clean up. We will follow some new guidelines and serve all outside as of what we know now. Please set part of this day aside to help out, this is a big fundraiser for our church.

Anchor of Hope

Recovery Ministry

Faith Family Church's Anchor of Hope Recovery Ministry continues to host meetings that are open to all individuals. Services up to this point in time have been on Saturday's via Zoom. Starting in May these services will be held on Tuesdays at 7 PM in hopes that this will bring out more individuals. At this point in time the meetings are still being held online, but we are looking into options to do this service outdoors so we can meet in person. Please continue to pray for this ministry and spread the word! The website for the ministry again is <https://anchorofhopeemerald.wixsite.com/my-site> and our email address is anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com.

Memorial Day Schedule

	South Route Schedule
6:30 AM	St John's, Forest
6:45 AM	Forest Township
7:10 AM	Immanuel Lutheran
7:45 AM	West Akers Lutheran, Prairie Farm
8:15 AM	Reeve
8:45 AM	Moe Lutheran
9:15 AM	Swedish Cemetery
9:40 AM	CL Golf Course



² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. – Genesis 2:2-3 NRSV

I had my first vacation since I was appointed to Willow River Parish. In the first week of my two week vacation, I had a good time with my family at home. And, in the second week, we went to Los Angeles in California. As soon as I left the airport door, my warm clothes in Wisconsin made me hot there and I really realized that I am in California. In fact, when my family and I left CA last year, I was wondering when we could go back. I had no idea we were going to CA on our first vacation. I had a lot of thoughts and emotions while going to Esther's aunt's home. Her aunt welcomed us with pleasure. When she hugged Evan, however he cried loudly due to being shy of strangers.

The weather was so nice until the second day we were in CA, but overall, the weather was cloudy. We went to the sea after a long time. There are many Korean restaurants in Southern California because it has the largest Korean immigrant community in the states. So we ate Korean food we wanted to eat in Wisconsin. Meeting our Korean family after a long time and eating Korean food made me relaxed and recovered. As our D.S. often emphasized self-care, it is a very important part of our lives and ministry. According to Genesis, God created this world and rested on the seventh day. So, the word "Sabbath" means rest and it is a hope and God's blessing. Through this vacation, I gained new energy to serve God and Willow River Parish. Thank you Lord and WRP for allowing me this break time. Let's create a difference for the world we live in together!

In the blessings of our savior, Pastor Hakki



FROM BISHOP JUNG

"Let No One Tear Apart"
April 26, 2021

'All things are lawful', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful', but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of others. (1 Corinthians 10:23-24)

Much conversation and preparation in The United Methodist Church today is focused on separation and disaffiliation. Disaffiliation is the fancy word for leaving the denomination. Primarily over the issue of human sexual identity, our historic and prophetic denomination is embroiled in discussion over schism and division. As with so many things worldly, a driving concern is over money and property, what we call our "trust clause" – church property, facilities, and furnishings belong to the Annual Conference, held in trust by the local congregations. As some congregations contemplate leaving United Methodism, they wish to take their property and buildings with them.

This saddens me deeply. I hold a very solid theology of unity in the faith; believing it is God's will that we be "one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world," bound and empowered by God's Holy Spirit (as our traditional communion liturgy explains). I also believe we developed the United Methodist trust clause is a theologically grounded covenant relationship in our faith communion. Even though fractionalization, denominationalism, and schism are part of our church history, I do believe these things have been on the human side of the equation rather than God's. God's covenant is with all God's people; it is we who break covenant with God and each other on an all-to-frequent basis.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church, he noted a crisis bordering on division and dissolution around food – meat dedicated and sacrificed to idols. In the Gentile world, such practices carried over into the Jewish and emerging Christian communities as people converted and joined. Traditionalists were appalled and outraged (in both Hellenistic Judaism and the fledgling Way of Jesus Christ) and sought to ostracize and deny those who ate meat offered to idols. For many of us today, this may sound ridiculous and inconsequential, but in its time and context, it was a much bigger issue than inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons is today. This threatened the very will of God for unity within the growing body of Christ.

Paul's advice in this situation was simple. To paraphrase, Paul told the members of the church of Corinth, "Grow up and get over yourselves!" He freely confessed that the Law was important, that the Law was good, that the Law could be used to speak to just about any situation, but that legalism would not fulfill the will of God. The point was to build up, to build bridges, to find connections, to forgive, to extend grace. Not every person who is Christian will believe exactly the same things that others believe, act in exactly the same ways, and agree on everything. The history of the Jewish people proved that Law could only do so much and take people so far. The new law, the New Covenant, was Jesus Christ – and the Spirit of Christ in us superseded all legalisms and the divisive judgments by which we seek to exclude others. Such negative opinions and viewpoints are irrelevant. Judgment belongs to God; what we own is the responsibility to share God's love with everyone we meet and to extend the grace God has shown us to others.

We need to pay attention to this message as we journey forward – together or apart. We are focused on the worldly "food" of our days – mammon in the form of property and facilities. We are making our future about our "stuff" instead of the best way to honor and glorify God in all we say and do. We have forgotten and forsaken our witness to the world. Those outside the church are confirmed in their opinion that the church is no different from any other organization on the earth – human beings gripped in senseless arguments about who is right and who is wrong, who is good and who is bad, who will win and who will lose.

Our credibility, reputation, and dignity are not only compromised, they are being destroyed. And we are all too concerned with who gets the property. It is similar to a divorce where the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the family is ignored while the couple fight over who gets the house and car and pension.

In my regular and constant prayer, I lift the heritage, the tradition, the theological integrity of our Methodist, Evangelical, and United Brethren histories. We are a people of mission, guided by a desire to serve others. We are a people of relational evangelism, proclaiming God's unconditional love and unmerited grace for all people. We are a people of social justice, aligning all of our resources and energy and effort to create Beloved Community for every human being, whether they agree with us or believe like us or not. We are not here to have our own way and to make our own rules. We are followers of a very simple "law" – to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we make our life together about anything less, we lose our way.

A line comes to mind from one of our marriage litanies: "What God has joined together, let no human tear apart." I acknowledge that our blessed denomination is likely headed for separation – I am not so idealistic to believe we will remain together. But I am a person of faith, and of hope, and of love. And so I continue to proclaim a gospel of unity and connection as one body of Christ. I believe this is our call through the teachings of Jesus, Paul, and the other authors of our Christian Way. But as we find our way through the difficult journey of division, my deepest prayer is that we will continue to love one another, and part with the greatest possible grace and mercy. We may not be able to stop what is happening, but we can navigate it in the very kindest, careful, and compassionate way possible.

Weekly Bible Study

We have been studying a Word of the Week. So far, Grace, Blessing, Justice and Honor, we are also going to study some parts of the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline for a few weeks. We will begin a new book, yet to be chosen in June. Please feel Free to let me know if you would like to join in. We use the same Zoom as church services, 7pm, Wednesdays.

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, FAITH FAMILY
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CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches

Hakki Min, Pastor

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Parish Secretary Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

Parish Office Hours: Tues-Friday 1-3pm

E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com

Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. virtual service via ZOOM and in person at Clear Lake UMC

Upon in-person worship resuming, times are as follows:

8:30 a.m. – Deer Park 9:45 a.m. – Clear Lake

11:00 a.m. – Faith Family