

THE PARISH CONNECTION

May 2026

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

Lectionary Readings

MAY 03 | 5th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Prov 4:10-18; Ps 119:9-32;
1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

MAY 10 | 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home (White or Gold)

Ezk 34:1-7; Ps 115;
1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

MAY 14 | Ascension of the Lord (White or Gold)

Dan 7:9-14; Ps 24:7-10;
Eph 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

MAY 17 | Ascension Sunday (White or Gold)

Isa 45:1-7; Ps 21:1-7;
1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

MAY 24 | Pentecost; Heritage Sunday; Aldersgate Day (Red)

Num 11:24-30; Ps 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826);
1 Cor 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

MAY 31 | Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday (White or Gold)

Gen 1:1-2:4a; Ps 8 (UMH 743);
2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Joys—confirmation, even when things feel uncertain or quiet, we trust that God is still at work among us, Ash Wednesday & Lent, FF Pancake Breakfast, CL Thrift Sale, youth track and field, Brian Wick back w/bell choir
Concerns—Abigail, Richard, Andrea, Natalie, Tim Dreier, Ruth, Kim Kirk, Debbie, Penny, Meghan, Tim Buhr, all countries with wars—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza—especially the children, Sheldon, migrants, immigrants, and refugees under the threat of forced deportation, Dennis Rosen, Brian Wick, grandson in military in Middle East, those battling cancer, peace in the world—especially in Minnesota, Jodi Main, Camilla, Doug, Bruce, Bev, Dave, Sue, Jocelyn, Nikki, Debbie Klatt, Michael Burl, Mark Gilbertson, John Buhr, Mike Buhr, Paula
Remembering—family and friends of Catherine's sister, Larry Lien, Thelma Betzold, Bev's niece, and Sherry Taylor

Willow River Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>. Please send any information you would like posted to Heather Greene mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com or Gail Kuhl kuhlg@cltcomm.net

Save the Dates

May 2	150th Anniversary/Tea @ CL
May 31	Combined Service/Potluck and Confirmation @ FF
June 4-7	Annual Conference @ Middleton Marriott West Hotel
June 15-18	Vacation Bible School
June 25-28	Clear Lake Days



Zoom: Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at **9:45 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UlpSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>
Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777 Passcode: 421072



Ruby's Pantry "Greetings, over the past several months, we have been thoughtfully realigning the work, structure, and focus of Ruby's Pantry to ensure our

mission remains at the center of everything we do. As part of this process, we have worked to better align community needs with our goal of operating in the most effective and seamless way possible.

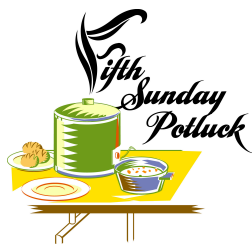
As a result, we have decided to end the operations of Ruby's Pantry effective immediately. We recognize that this is difficult news to receive and do not take this decision lightly.

God has blessed Ruby's for over 20 years, and it has been an incredible journey. It all started from a vision to help others through a single blessing box. We are truly grateful for your contributions and dedication throughout your time with Ruby's Pantry. Thank you for the important role you have played on this journey and for the impact you have made in service of our mission."

With gratitude, Ruby's Pantry

In the meantime, St. Croix Valley Food Bank's monthly pop-up distribution in Deer Park is an alternative. The event is held at 211 South St. W, outside the old highway department building, now marked with Deer Park Fire signs. The distribution runs one hour, from 11 a.m. to noon, on the second Thursday of the month.

Unlike Ruby's Pantry, the St. Croix Valley Food Bank distribution is free of charge for those who qualify. Organizers say those who qualify for free or reduced school lunch or Social Security generally meet the income guidelines. Participants must be Wisconsin residents.



5th Sunday Schedule

May 31, 2026 --- Emerald
August 30, 2026 --- Clear Lake will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary

November 29, 2026 and January 31, 2027 --- To be determined based on the upcoming pastoral reorganization.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

May 3rd Reader: Vidalia Gorres
Communion: Oliver Gorres
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr
Potluck/Coffee: UWF/Joan & Dick

May 10th Reader: John Koerper
Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorres
Coffee: John & Stacia

May 17th Reader: Debi Ahrens
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Gail K

May 24th Reader: Alison Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Coffee: Avery Family

May 31st Combined Service @ FF

June 7th Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Potluck/Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family

*Counters for May: Debi & Dawn
Counters for June: Linda & John*

Faith Family

May 3rd Gracie Perkins Greene
Communion: Gracie Perkins Greene
May 10th Paul Webster
May 17th Terri Wilson
May 24th Debbie Stevens
May 31st Michael Clark
June 7th Paul Webster

Thank You!

Thank you so much to those of you who contributed to the purchase of our new office computer! We each have had a chance to use it, and it is amazing! It boots up in a flash, operates much faster, and the monitor is nice and big making it so easy to see!

Sincerely, Anitra, Carla, & Stacia

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the special Sundays for 2026. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- Peace with Justice Sunday ~ May 31
- World Communion Sunday ~ October 4
- United Methodist Student ~ November 29

WRP Youth: A big shout out of thanks to all who baked and donated to the baked goods sale during the thrift sale at Clear Lake. The youth enjoy choosing their favorite mission projects to donate the funds raised. They will decide which mission they will donate to, when they meet in May.

MAY 20th @ 5:30pm: Supper over the Bonfire at Roger & Diane Blanchard's.

Confirmation Field Experience: Easter Vigil at St. Joseph—On April 4th, our confirmands, mentors, and parents shared a profound spiritual journey at St. Joseph Catholic Church. We began in the darkness of the "Vigil," watching the Paschal candle's flame spread as a powerful symbol of Christ's light breaking through the night. It was moving to witness the baptismal liturgy—a beautiful reminder of the grace and hospitality we celebrate together in the Body of Christ.

As we remained in our pews during the Eucharist, it was a sacred time of quiet reflection. Observing their deep reverence for the sacrament allowed us to reconnect with our own Methodist tradition of the "Open Table." This experience didn't just teach us about another tradition; it helped us appreciate the unique ways we each witness to God's grace. Amidst the swirling incense and ancient chants, our students saw the majesty of the resurrection through a different lens, truly broadening their faith horizons. He is Risen! Alleluia!



Clear Lake Community VBS is coming June 15–18 from 6–8pm, and this year's theme is "MYSTERY ISLAND!" Get ready for four exciting evenings packed with adventure, discovery, and tons of fun as we learn about God's character and love for us! We'd love for your child to be part of it all.

To register, head to www.unitedcovchurch.org and click the "REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL" button.

We can't wait to explore Mystery Island together this year at VBS!

Also, if anyone is interested, here is the link for anyone that wants to sign up to volunteer: volunteersignup.org/8PKPT



CLACC Senior Luncheon Update: We look forward to seeing everyone again at our next luncheon on Thursday, June 11, featuring our annual "Grill Out, Eat In" meal. Grillmaster Warren DeBoer will be firing up the grill outside, while guests gather in the Dining Room to enjoy his always popular grilled favorites. To reserve your spot, please call the community center office at 715-263-2233.

In addition to June 11, Senior Luncheons at the community center are planned for August 27, October 22 and December 10. Please mark your calendars — we'd love to have you join us for each one.

The community center extends heartfelt thanks to the church community for its ongoing support. Your partnership plays a meaningful role in the continued success of the Senior Luncheon program.

May Birthdays

Sheldon Simonson	5/2
Renee Boe	5/3
Mitch Thompson	5/10
Linda Fouks	5/11
Ardys Warner	5/11
Scott Warner	5/16
Carla La Blanc	5/17
Josh Severson	5/17
Elijah Millermon	5/18
Holly Malack	5/19
Cassie Pietz	5/20
John Reed	5/22
Judith Coyer	5/22
Samantha Thaemert	5/25
Jennie Keller	5/26
Chad Lillie	5/27
Diane Pietz	5/28

May Anniversaries

Greg & Kristi Severson	5/8
John & Jewel Severson	5/13

If Teapots Could Talk



On Saturday, May 2, 1:00pm we will be having our 150th Anniversary Celebration with a Tea for the women, past members and extended family are also invited.

Update on--Mark Gilbertson: Jessica (Wood) Gilbertson's husband, Mark Gilbertson, was involved in an accident a few weeks ago. He has been moved to rehab in Milwaukee. This long distance is an extra challenge now.

It will be a long time before he can work on his farm again. Jessica and their children are doing their best to keep things going. Jessica's grandparents were Clayton and Else Wood, very active members in our church. Three of Jessica's children were baptized in our church. They have been members of the 1st Lutheran Church in Clear Lake. Please pray for all of the family, especially Mark. It's financially very difficult. They have a Go Fund Me on Facebook. Here is their address if you would like to help them out. Jessica Gilbertson, 423 County Line St, Clear Lake, WI 54005.

June Newsletter Deadline is May 26th

Combined Worship—Three Churches, One Voice: "Hosanna!" | On March 29, 2026 our three churches of the Willow River Parish—Clear Lake, Deer Park, and Faith Family—gathered as one family for a blessed Palm Sunday joint service.

Just like the crowds who lined the streets of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago waving palm branches, we came together with one heart to warmly welcome the Lord into our lives today.

It was a profound time of reflection on God's grace—how He prepared the way for our salvation long before we even knew Him, and how He understands our deepest needs even before we ask.

The Holy Communion and the closing of our service were especially moving. As we formed a large circle, holding hands and singing "Jesus Loves Me" during the benediction, we could truly feel that our three churches are one in Christ.

What a joy it is to step away from our individual mission fields and worship together like this! Carrying today's confession of unity in our hearts, we walk together through Holy Week toward the hope of the Resurrection.



Maundy Thursday Service: April 2nd, 2026

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." — Galatians 2:20
During our Maundy Thursday service, we knelt at the Cross to surrender our old selves and washed our hands in commitment to Jesus' new commandment. It was a beautiful evening of humility, reflection, and a shared resolve to follow the path of a true disciple.



Alleluia! Christ is risen! We are so grateful for the grace we experienced together this Easter—from the youth-led Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m., to the joyful Easter breakfast, and the worship services at Clear Lake and Faith Family. It was a beautiful day of worship and fellowship.

We especially give thanks for our confirmands, Jordyn and Baylie, who served as liturgists in their respective churches. It has been a joy to witness their faith and commitment, and we ask for your continued prayers as they near the completion of their confirmation journey.

May the hope of the resurrection be alive in all of us.



BackPack Bash 4:30-7pm; May 20th



We invite your congregation to partner with us for the upcoming Backpack Bash on May 20 from 4:30-7PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in

Amery. This event supports our local food assistance program serving children who may not have reliable meals on the weekends. Currently, more than 350 families receive support through this program each week. As we continue to improve the way we serve families, we are transitioning to a weekly voucher system that can be redeemed at local Kwik Trip locations. This allows children and families to select fresh food items that best meet their needs while also reducing the stigma sometimes associated with receiving a traditional 'backpack' of food. Your congregation's support helps ensure that children in our community have reliable access to nutritious food.

We are looking for help in the following ways:

- Sponsor the event through a monetary donation
- Donate your time by volunteering at the event—help needed with selling raffle tickets, supervising kid's games and event clean up
- Donate baked goods for the bake sale. These can be dropped off at the event location starting at noon day of the event
- Donate raffle items. This year we will not be doing silent auction baskets. All drawings will be done through raffle ticket drawings.

Please pray for the families in our community needing the backpack program support and the Salvation Army, that they may have the support of the community to raise the money needed to run the program.

Confirmation

We will be honoring our confirmands on Sunday, May 31st: Oliver Gorres, Vidalia Gorres, Gracie Perkins-Greene, Michael Clark, Baylie Millermon, and Jordyn Millermon

We invite you to join the celebration during our 5th Sunday service at Faith Family Church. Cake and potluck lunch will follow the service.

Dear WRP Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We find ourselves in a season of change.

Change is never easy. Even when we trust that something new may bring growth or renewal, our hearts can still feel uncertain. We may feel unsettled, anxious, or even resistant. Questions arise within us—*What will happen next? What will this mean for us? Where is God in all of this?*

These are honest and human responses.

But as people of faith, we are not called to ignore these feelings—we are called to bring them to God.

Scripture reminds us that our God is not distant or absent in times of transition. God is present in every moment, even in the unknown. In fact, throughout the Bible, it is often in times of uncertainty that God does something new and unexpected.

The same God who has been faithful to our churches in the past is still with us now. The same God who has guided us through seasons of joy and challenge is already preparing the way ahead.

Even when we cannot yet see the full picture, we trust that God is at work.

As we move forward, we may each be walking slightly different paths, but we are still part of the same greater story—God's story. And in that story, there is always hope.

Let us hold onto this promise: God is not finished with us yet.

God continues to call, to lead, and to provide. New leadership will come in time. New opportunities for ministry will unfold. And in ways we may not yet understand, God will continue to bless and use each congregation.

So in this time, I gently invite you to do one thing: Trust God.

Not because everything is clear, but because God is faithful.

Even in the midst of change, we are already seeing signs of God's grace among us. On April 22, during the confirmation class, each of the confirmands was asked whether they wanted to be confirmed. They all answered yes. Yay!

In the coming weeks (May 31), we will celebrate Confirmation—a beautiful reminder that God continues to raise up new faith, new commitment, and new life within our church. This is not something we have created, but something God is doing in our midst. And it gives us hope.

Let us pray, support one another, and remain rooted in the love of Christ. The future may feel uncertain, but our foundation is secure.

And that makes all the difference.

With prayer and hope,
Pastor Hakki



Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee and pot luck **AFTER** church at 9:15.
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month **FOLLOWING** church.
- **Food shelf donations** any Sunday- We'd like to make another delivery soon if you can donate!!

Send Offering to: Josy Wood, 260 40th Avenue,
Clear Lake, WI 540045

CL Noisy Cans:

2nd quarter—CL School Back Pack Program
3rd quarter—Clear Lake Food Pantry
4th quarter—Clear Lake Ambulance

Church Cleaning Donation: If you want to help pay \$120 for cleaning the church, which is done once a month. You can write a check to UMC Please put in an envelope that says for cleaning and put in the collection plate.

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, May 4th, we will meet at Irma's for lunch and sew/History from 1 to 3 pm.

On the 18th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from 1-3. We will continue working on walker bags made for the hospital, pillowcases and dinner aprons for the nursing homes. All are invited to lunch also that are working on the history albums, posters and anniversary plans.

Bell Choir practice Sundays at 7pm at CLUMC

We are happy to have Brian back directing us! On Saturday, April 25th we played at services for the Seventh Day Adventist Church and on Sunday, April 26th we played at Redeemer Lutheran in Amery.



UWF: United Women in Faith held their Spring Day of Enrichment on Saturday, April 18th at the Menomonie United Methodist Church. Betty, Jennie, and Joan attended the day meeting themed Creation Care. The Speaker was Heather Phelts from UW-Stevens Point. In the morning, Heather spoke of the impacts of climate change. In the afternoon session, solutions were discussed. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and also heard from a member of Stepping Stones, our mission outreach for the day.

Nursing Home Visit

On Wednesday, April 8th, UWF went to Amery Memory Care. The residents really enjoyed playing bingo and winning the prizes. Everyone got at least one or more prizes, and they loved Joan's lemon cake. Then we sang some church songs with them.

No UWF meeting in May. June 10 UWF will be going to the Golden Age Manor for bingo, prizes and strawberry shortcake. Please get some small prizes they would like. A good place to look is the Dollar Tree.

Holy Socks

The United Women of Faith are gathering clean, (they can be used) holy socks for a cash donation to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We'd love to have anyone's donations. **Please note: Only Gold Toe Socks brand accepted.** This brand of sock can be purchased at Walmart, Kohl's or Target.

Thrift Sale Success: Thank you to all who contributed items, worked the sale, kept the items organized, and cleaned up after the sale! The sale profited \$1,587– 10 percent will go to local needs and the rest into the general fund.

Clear Lake Heritage Days–June 25-28th: The Clear Lake Church will be selling their Stuffed Baked Potatoes on Friday and Saturday of CL Heritage Days. We begin on Friday evening at 4 till sold out and begin Saturday, selling at 10 am and will continue through the parade till sold out. We will need lots of help, prep, set up, serving in the kitchen and outside and cleaning up. We will serve inside. Please set parts of these days aside to help out, this is a big fundraiser for our church.



Clear Lake United Methodist Church Ad Council Meeting--April 15, 2026

Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report read and approved.

Old Business:

The glass/plexiglass that was on the repaired stained-glass window needs to be replaced. Contact Ben to replace.

New Business:

1. Clean-up of parsonage and church yards. Will discuss at coffee on Sunday and set a date for the clean-up.
2. Diane will contact Rice Lake Signs for new signage for the church.

Pastor's Notes:

- Confirmation is May 31, 2026 at Faith Family.
- Pastor Hakki will be the speaker at Clear Lake High School Baccalaureate May 13, 2026.
- Need to plan a going away potluck for Pastor Hakki and family. Date to be determined.
- Bible School is June 15 - 18 at United Covenant Church Clear Lake.

Next meeting May 6, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

Jennie Keller, Recording Secretary

Faith Family Church HIGHLIGHTS:

- Attendance: Amanda Millermon, Heather Greene, Debbie and Gary Stevens, Joyce and Dennis Petersen, Paul Webster.
- Song and Prayer led by Pastor Hakki
- Pancake Breakfast/ Bake Sale (all volunteers on deck, more hands make light work.
- Baking Day on Saturday with the Youth.
- **Garage Sale June 4th, 5th and 6th.**
- **Annual Conference June 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th.**
- **Confirmation: Next week Wednesday and a confirmation service on May 31st.**
- 3rd Grade Bible for Graham Millermon (Heather will order a sensory Bible, TBD on date to give it to him).
- Pastor Update: Pastor's In laws are coming and he will be gone for the end of June. His last service is May 31st.
- Update about the merger of Clear Lake and Deer Park.
- Financial report was approved.
- Thank you to everyone that did repairs to the church.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - **Thursday, June 11th 6:00pm**
- Ended in the Lord's Prayer

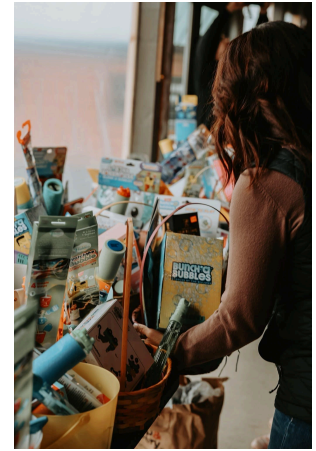
Thank you to everyone that baked for the bake sale.

Thank you to all that helped with the pancake breakfast.

Thank you to all that came out and enjoyed pancakes and conversations.



Thank you to all that helped make the Easter Chase in Emerald a success.



Community events:

Next up: July 3rd Fireworks

Horsing Around Days in October.

GARAGE SALE:

Spring Cleaning is in full force. We are having a garage sale on June 4th, 5th and 6th at Faith Family Church. Start bringing you goodies May 31st after our 5th Sunday Service.

Noisy Can—Autism & Multiple Sclerosis

Send Offering to:

Terri Wilson: 3127 200th Ave

Glenwood City, WI 54013

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:
[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)





THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE & FAITH FAMILY
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

Address Service Requested

The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches
Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700
E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com
Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Willow River Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>

Hakki Min, Pastor
Office Hours: Tues-Friday 9-11 am

Anitra Kaczmarek, Parish Secretary
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Daniell Green, Parish Treasurer
Email: Dgreen.wrptreasurer@gmail.com

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m. – Clear Lake 9:45 a.m. – Faith Family (also Zoom)

Church School @ Faith Family & Clear Lake
“Funday” School– Wednesdays 5:30 @ Faith Family
Bible in a Binder Sundays @ Clear Lake