THE PARISH CONNECTION

November 2026

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

Lectionary Readings

NOV 01 | All Saints Sunday (White)
Josh 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7, 33-37 (UMH 830)
Acts 11:1-18; Matt 23:1-12
All Saints Lections: Rev 7:9-17; Ps 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3; Matt 5:1-12

NOV 08 | 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday (Green)
Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7 (UMH 799)
1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13

NOV 15 | 25th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Judg 4:1-7; Ps 123 or Ps 76 (UMH 797)
1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

NOV 22 | Christ the King/Reign of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday (White or Gold)
Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100 (UMH 821)
Eph 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-46

NOV 29 | Beginning Lectionary Year B
1st Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue)
Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801)
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Scan to watch the worship service live on YouTube–Sundays at 9:30 AM,
Or search "Willow River Parish Worship Service" on YouTube.

Charge Conference 2026
Tues. November 10th; 6pm
Turtle Lake: Parkview UMC

Willow River Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/. Please send any information you would like posted to Gail Kuhl @ kuhlg1977@gmail.com



Joys—PF: Leslie cleaning; UWF meeting; Barb getting better and donation; increased tithing; Yeji expecting twins; window construction progress; Building Care, Tammy's successful surgery, PFC; **CL**: Successful thrift sale; parsonage rented out; Lorelai; Coffee Hour, Lily's 18th Birthday, Yeji expecting twins; The beautiful season; Bernice and Diane visiting, Roger, Isaac; **TL**: Josh & Lexi visiting, Charlotte's Comfort Corner, Tax Event, Impromptu Choir, The Upper Room reflections on an inclusive church, Judy's Birthday, Sunday School, Yeji expecting twins; Sunday School Recognition, the birth of Isla, Steve's successful surgery; Raphael, Roxanne

Concerns— **PF**: Church construction; Tammy; **CL**: John, Roger, Bev, Ron, Krista—Jan Benson's daughter, Neil, Joan, Chad, Megan; **TL**: Harvey McCann recovering from stroke; Dorothy, Steve, John, Rodney, Carol, Hope, Mark, everyone suffering from cancer, Paula, Carol

Remembering—Tim Dreier, Mark Peacock



In the event of harsh weather due to too low temperatures or heavy snow and each church decides to close, we will have worship via YouTube at 10 a.m.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

Nov 1st Reader: Dawn Cress
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr
Potluck/Coffee: Dawn C & Camilla P

Nov 8th Reader: John Koerper
Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorres
Coffee: Joan & Dick

Nov 15th Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family

Nov 22nd Reader: Debi Ahrens
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Coffee: Linda

Nov 29th 10:00 Combined Service @ TL

Dec 6th Reader: Alison Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Potluck/Coffee: Ben Avery Family

Counters for November: Dawn & John
Counters for December: Carla & Joan

Turtle Lake: Parkview

Nov 1st Ushers: Mark & Barb
Liturgist: Mark

Nov 8th Ushers: TBD
Liturgist: Lynn

Nov 15th Ushers: Linda & Dale
Liturgist: Linda

Nov 22nd Ushers: TBD
Liturgist: Diane H

Nov 29th Hosting Combined Service
Ushers: Inghams
Liturgist: TBD

Prairie Farm: Faith

Nov 1st Reader/Coffee: TBD

Nov 8th Reader/Coffee: TBD

Nov 15th Reader/Coffee: TBD

Nov 22nd Reader/Coffee: Robin Burke

Nov 29th 10:00 Combined Service @ TL

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, November 2nd we will meet at Irma's for lunch and sew from 1 to 3 pm.
On the 16th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from 1-3. Feel free to join us for lunch and sewing/ironing and matching of fabric.

St. Croix Valley Food Bank's monthly pop-up distributions are located in Deer Park and Glenwood City. The **Deer Park** event is held at the Fire Department Cold Storage Facility, 211 South St. W., from 11 a.m. to noon on the **second Thursday** of the month. The **Glenwood City** event is held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 615 Maple Street, from 11 a.m. to noon on the **third Thursday** of the month.

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.

UMC Special Sundays: **United Methodist Student Day is Nov. 29th**. Please prayerfully consider giving. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

CLACC Senior Luncheon: the last Senior Luncheon for 2026 will be at the community center on **December 10**.
Please mark your calendars. To reserve your spot, please call the community center office at 715-263-2233.

Clear Lake Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 25th at the First Lutheran Church @ 7:00 pm. The Handbell choir will be playing.

Newsletter Renewal: As of the end of October, very few members have renewed their subscription to have the newsletter mailed. This month I will only be mailing to shut-ins and those who have paid. If you would like to receive the newsletter through the mail please send $10 to the parish office. If you have any questions, please let Pastor Don know or email Anitra @ wrpsecretary@gmail.com.

The December Newsletter Deadline is November 24th: Please email any information you would like to include in the newsletter or calendar to Anitra at wrpsecretary@gmail.com by this date. Thank you!

The next SPRC meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10th; 5pm @ TL

November Birthdays

Jaclyn Lee	11/01
Josy Wood	11/03
Roger Smith	11/04
Tom Hansen	11/05
Justyne Frisle	11/05
Missy Severson	11/06
Jeff Outcalt	11/09
Judy Jeska	11/11
Dillon Thompson	11/13
Georgeina O'Connell	11/13
Jessica Olson	11/15
Paris Johnson	11/16
Raphael Albano	11/20
Janice Thompson	11/22
Margie Wiseman	11/23
Barb Bender	11/23
Alison Avery Blanchard	11/24
Deena Danielson	11/25
Michael Albano	11/27
Kathy Moore	11/27
Russ White	11/27
Pattie Thompson	11/30

November Anniversaries

Jeff & LuAnn Outcalt	11/05
Dean & Leslie Frisle	11/14
Chuck & Sybil Thompson	11/18
Wayne & Mary Jo Ailts	11/24

WRP Bible Study: We are planning on an Advent Study beginning Wed. Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd on Zoom at 7 pm, if interested. We will also be holding the same study in CL on Sunday at 8:45, Sundays Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th and the 27th before church starts. Books will be distributed, please let Diane Blanchard know if you would like to join us for this 4-week study.

Willow River Parish College Boxes: The youth will be packing college boxes on Sunday, November 29th following the combined service and potluck. If you have a college student, be sure their name and address are turned in to Erin 651-315-3302 or the church phone in CL, 715-263-2700 before that date. Can each church please collect items for the boxes? All sorts of individually wrapped snacks, goodies and single hot drink packets are appreciated by the students during their finals.Single pack meals like ramen and mac and cheese, microwave popcorn, granola bars, cheese and crackers, candy, gum, Christmas candies–all are welcome and appreciated! Please bring your collected items to TL on the 29th, combined service.

WRP Youth:

Underground Church Event: We sent a small group to Underground Church this year, but there were almost 100 youth in attendance. Our youth who attended had a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.



Feed My Starving Children: On Saturday Oct. 24th 6 youth and 3 adults attended the Pack Hope event in Hudson. A great chance to help families that are not getting enough food. We packed enough food to feed 77 kids for a year! It was also a chance for our parish kids to meet, do some good and have lunch together and get to know one another!





******Youth Packing College Boxes********
11/29/26- After combined church service and potluck!



Last month, I shared a little about how I became a pastor. I wrote that I studied theology because I wanted to understand the world, and I became a pastor because I wanted to understand people. But becoming a pastor was not one dramatic moment or one simple decision. In many ways, I think I am still becoming one.

From the outside, my journey may sometimes look quite smooth. I studied theology, became ordained, served in the military as a chaplain, came to the United States for further study, and now serve churches here in Wisconsin. When I put everything into one sentence, it almost sounds as if I had a clear plan from the beginning and simply followed it step by step. But, of course, life rarely works that way. There were many moments when I wondered whether I had chosen the right path. There were times when I felt confident about what I was doing, and other times when I was not sure at all. Sometimes I thought I understood ministry, only to enter a new situation and realize how much more I still needed to learn.

I have served in quite different ministry settings. I served young people in a local church, spent several years as a military chaplain, studied and served in different churches, and now I am serving three congregations in rural Wisconsin. The people, cultures, needs, and expectations have been different in every place. What worked well in one place did not always work in another. What I thought I knew about people sometimes had to be reconsidered when I actually sat down and listened to someone whose life was very different from mine.

Perhaps that is part of how we grow. A tree needs deep roots to withstand the wind, while a tall building needs enough flexibility to move with it. A tall building that could not move at all would actually be more vulnerable to strong winds. In the same way, I have gradually learned that being strong does not always mean standing completely still. We need roots that hold us firmly, but we also need enough flexibility to listen, learn, change, and grow.

I think ministry has taught me both. There are things I want to hold firmly—my faith, my calling, and the conviction that every person deserves to be treated with love and dignity. At the same time, I continue to learn that the way I understand people, ministry, and even myself cannot remain exactly the same forever. New people and new experiences continue to challenge me and help my roots grow deeper.

That is why I hesitate to say simply, “I became a pastor.” I was ordained years ago, but ordination did not mean that I had finished becoming a pastor. Every person I meet, every community I serve, every joy I share, and every difficulty I encounter continues to shape me.

Serving with you is now part of that process. As I learn your stories, your churches, and these communities, I am also learning again what it means to be a pastor. And perhaps this is true not only for pastors. Maybe all of us are still becoming who we are meant to be—growing deeper roots while learning how to move with the winds around us.

May God help us remain rooted in what matters, open to what we can still learn, and willing to keep growing together.

In Christ,

Pastor Don

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee following the service
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month following the service.
- **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:
4th quarter–Clear Lake Ambulance

Clear Lake Church Cancellations: Winter is fast approaching; in the event of bad weather, please contact Roger Blanchard 715-607-4246 to find out if worship services are canceled.



Clear Lake Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale: Friday, December 11th from 3:00-6:00 pm-- All church family members please donate 6 dozen Christmas Cookies and or Christmas baked goods or candy.

Let's Bake Cookies Mon. Dec. 7 10am -3pm
Please join us for part of the day or the whole day of baking cookies, making candy and all things yummy for Christmas! Please bring ingredients or a mixed up batch of cookies to make. It is a fun, festive time when we all work together! Sign up in the basement if you know what you are bringing. We will have a potluck lunch too.

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.



Bell Choir at CLUMC: Bells began practicing their Christmas music and will continue practicing at 7 pm on Sundays until we play for the Community Thanksgiving Service in CL and for Christmas.



Ringing Bells for the Salvation Army
The Clear Lake United Methodist Church will ring bells for the Polk County Salvation Army on Thursday, November 19th at Nilssen's Market from 9-6 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church, if you can only ring for one hour just mark it on the sheet. Every hour we ring brings help to families in Polk County throughout the year.

UWF: UWF October Meeting 2:00 Ridgeview Commons 8 present Mission Statement Read Sec. Report Treasurers Report $856.19
1. 150 Church Service and Food was Great.
2. People can start taking pictures from the Holiday Tree around Christmas time.
3. We will be making a scrapbook for the 150th Anniversary.
4. Christmas baked goods sale Friday, Dec 11 from 3 to 6 or until we run out. Each family brings 6 dozen cookies all in one container, candy, sweet bread; bring ready to sell. Rosettes will be put in boxes. The church will be open Thursday and Friday by 10:00.
5. Cookie Baking, Dec 7, 10:00, bring your recipe and the ingredients.
6. Nov. 18 Thanksmas at Ridgeview Commons 12:00-4:00 Pot Luck all men and children are invited.
7. No meeting in Dec.
8. Nov 29, 5th Sunday Turtle Lake 1st Advent Service 10:00 Pot Luck after. Clear Lake Wednesday Dec 2, 5:00 Pot Luck, Service, Hanging of the Greens. Prairie Farm Wednesday Dec. 9, 5:00 Pot Luck, Service Clear Lake Wednesday Dec. 16, Pot Luck, Service
9. Christmas Eve Services Clear Lake 5:00, Prairie Farm 7:00

Submitted by Linda Jurisch Secretary, Joan Lillie President, Betty Rake, Treasurer

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Poinsettias will be ordered for CL from Nilssen's Market. Offering a 6.5 inch single for $9.99 or an 8-inch double poinsettia for $22.99. Orders and payment must be turned in by Nov 13th. Look for order forms at the back of the church.



CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN 2026: The Clear Lake United Methodist Church will be sponsoring the "Christmas for Children" drive again this year to provide gifts for area children who otherwise may not receive gifts at Christmas time. "Christmas for Children" is designed to reach more needs of our local community. We are coming up on our 33rd year and are so grateful for all of the support that we have received from everyone.
All gifts will be given to children ages 0-18 in the Clear Lake School District Area.

Gifts are always needed for older teens, guys and girls. Personal care, nail items, cosmetics, hair products and gloves. Art supplies for all ages, canvases, sketch books, paints and drawing pencils. Guys can use small tools, personal care items, gloves, outdoor sports items for hunting and fishing and team sports.

We take gift donations for all ages at True Value, Pillar Bank and check with your local church beginning November 9th.

If you are in need of gifts for your children or if you know of other families in the Clear Lake School District area who are in need of Christmas gifts for their children, we would like to hear from you. Call Debi Ahrens 715-441-5477 (if no answer, please leave a message). All names are kept strictly confidential.

To mail a donation please send to:
Christmas for Children, Box 42, CL, WI 54005



CL Hanging of the Greens will be celebrated on Wed. Dec. 2nd at Clear Lake with 5:30 potluck, decorating, carols and activity. We are in TL for 5th Sunday on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29th with potluck.

Clear Lake AD Council Meeting--10/14/26

Secretary/Treasurer Reports:
The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Motion to move $80,000 to a CD and the parsonage rent be placed in a fund for expenses and taxes.

Old Business:

1. Correcting the placement of the stained glass window is on hold. Joan will contact J.T. for an update.
2. Advent - December 2 and 16 at Clear Lake with potluck at 5:30, worship at 6:00. Hanging of the Greens Wed. December 2. December 9 at Prairie Farm.
3. Christmas Eve services - 5:00 at Clear Lake, 7:00 at Prairie Farm.
4. Charge Conference November 10 at 6:00.

New Business:

1. Worked on setting the 2027 budget. Motion by Dawn to approve the 2027 budget. 2nd by Debi, motion carried.
2. Family nights will resume beginning in December.
3. October 22 Prairie Farm is having a Meet & Greet for Pastor Don and Yeji at 6:00. All are welcome to attend.
4. There will be a 4 wk. Advent Bible Study this year -Sunday before church
5. Need to check the ceiling in the sanctuary and repair as needed.

Pastor's Notes:

1. Pastor Don will be in Sparta October 21 for the church's 150th Anniversary.
2. Pastor Don will be out of town October 26 to November 3. CL will be responsible for pulpit supply for the CL church for Nov 1.
3. The YouTube streaming does not always work. Will check into correcting this issue.

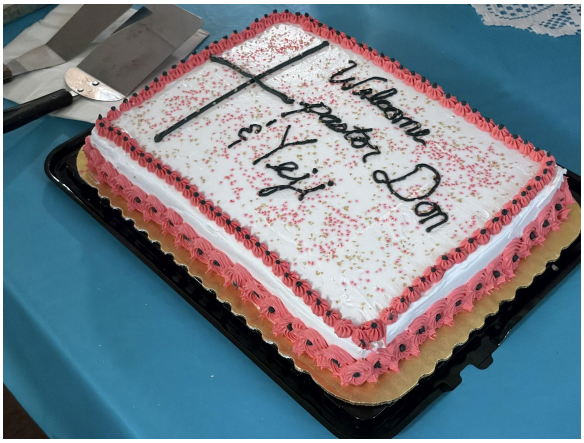
Closed w/ The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting Dec. 2, 2026 at 6:00

Jennie Keller, Recording Secretary

PF: Faith UMC News





-Thurs, October 22 Ad C at 5:00 pm & meet and greet Pastor Don & Yeji for a potluck supper at 6:00 pm for all WRP members/friends

Ad. Council met on Thursday. Sept.22. Secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved. We discussed items and the completion of the preschool building. Finalized 2027 budget. Discussed current membership.

Next Ad C meeting will be in January 2027

Many Thanks to all who helped clean the church recently.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Don know.

TL: Parkview UMC News

- Administrative Council meeting
  -------November 11 at 6:00 pm

Sunday School Recognition ✨
On Oct 11, we celebrated and recognized our wonderful children and teachers at TL!



Pastor Appreciation
On Oct 18, our congregation expressed their love and appreciation for Pastor Don after worship.





Scan the QR code to visit Parkview's Facebook page,
or search "Parkview United Methodist Church - Turtle Lake, WI" on Facebook

WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, PRAIRIE FARM, TURTLE LAKE
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

Address Service Requested

Willow River Parish
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/

Don Lee, Pastor
Office Hours: Thurs & Fri: 2:00–5:00 PM at CL
Wed: 1:00–4:00 PM, Sat: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM at TL

Anitra Kaczmarski, Office Administrator
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Camilla Pietz, Parish Treasurer
Email: cpietz.wrptreasurer@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. - Prairie Farm: Faith 9:30 a.m. – Clear Lake 10:45 a.m. – Turtle Lake: Parkview

Willow River Parish Worship Service - YouTube

Church School

10:00 AM @ Turtle Lake: Parkview