

THE PARISH CONNECTION

September 2020

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

Lectionary Readings

September 6, 2020 [green]
14th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14 - Matthew 18:15-20

September 13, 2020 [green]
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114
or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12 - Matthew 18:21-35

September 20, 2020 [green]
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30 - Matthew 20:1-16

September 27, 2020 [green]
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13 - Matthew 21:23-32



Prayer and Concerns

Joys – joy of the day, baby rabbits, Tyler is home recovering, great Virtual Bible School, a good Thrift Sale, Thankful for Pastor John's time of service here, lots of members working together to get everything ready for our new minister, Hakki

Concerns – Tyler, our congregation, social injustices, Sheldon, Steve Keller, Chuck Kuhl, Bob, Betty Rake, Mona and Jim, Teachers and students as school begins,

Remembering- Scott Wood

Welcome Pastor Hakki

The members of the Deer Park Church extend a warm welcome to Pastor Hakki and his family. We are anxious to meet you and it is our hope you will feel at home in Clear Lake and our parish.

A month ago a home in our small village was greatly damaged in a storm. The following day, the hands of God were at work in 32 people helping with clean up and repair. That is what a small community is all about.

We are happy to offer our help to you in any way we can.

May God richly bless you and your family!

Church Times

We are currently meeting virtually via zoom for worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays and for bible study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. We would love for you to join us. Please email us at willoriverparish@gmail.com for an invite. If in-person worship resumes at some point this month, the times will be as follows:

8:30 – Deer Park

9:45 – Clear Lake

11:00 – Faith Family

Reflection by Dan Dick

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:12-17)

From time to time I hear well-meaning Christians say something like "Being Christian requires just one thing: faith." Now, the just one thing changes from person to person. For someone else, the "just one thing" is love. For another, forgiveness; for others, mercy or peace or justice or generosity. The flaw in the logic is that being Christian is never about "just one thing."

Stewardship is all about managing wisely and well all that God has placed in our care. To be a faithful steward means to be a faithful custodian of God's vision and will on earth. Think for a moment about any custodian you have ever met. Did this person have a key ring? Was there just one key on that ring. In my experience, custodial key rings are bursting with keys – so many in fact that it boggles the mind to think how one could possibly remember which key goes to which lock.

This, for me, is a wonderful metaphor for Christian stewardship – keepers of the keys. And what are the keys we possess? Love, faith, hope, grace, generosity, kindness, mercy, compassion, patience, joy, humility, justice, forgiveness, tolerance, peace, gentleness, self-control, wisdom, knowledge, teaching, prophecy, servanthood, healing,



sacrifice, gratitude, thanksgiving, intercession, confession, harmony, unity, and dozens more. And what are the locks they fit? Hostility, violence, prejudice, injustice, narrow-mindedness, pain and suffering, fear, anxiety, human and natural disasters, grief, addiction, broken relationships, intolerance, economic inequity, abuse of power, and a host of other destructive forces.

We are in a challenging and trying time in our country and world. There are no clear and simple solutions to the overwhelmingly complex problems we face. However, we carry a pretty powerful key ring as Christians. We may not be able to open every door and offer a solution to every problem, but we can use what we do have wisely and well, and in whatever way possible contribute to the good and deny the bad.

Thrift Sale

Thanks to all involved in our big thrift sale. We had many donations as well as many workers, and a lot of cleaners to clean up and disinfect the basement afterwards. We made a little over \$1300! Please keep saving for the spring sale!

CL Sunday School

Diane will be in contact with families about online class and if anyone new is interested, please contact her via email or phone. d21blanchard@gmail.com
715-263-2690 or cell 423-307-6247

Painting the Parsonage Garage

Watch your email for an invite to paint the parsonage garage later in September after Pastor Hakki and family are out of quarantine.



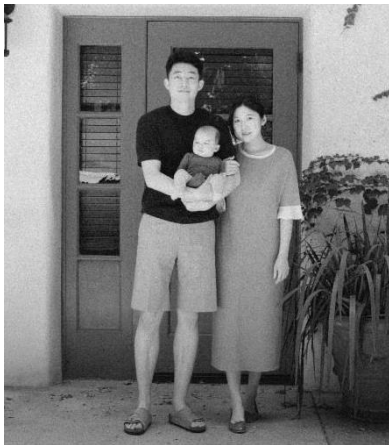
**Deadline for October
Newsletter is Sept. 24th**



Dear Willow River Parish! I am Pastor Hakki Min. I'm so glad to have the opportunity to serve you. Let me introduce my family briefly, I came from South Korea with my wife two and a half years ago. Her name is Esther, and she majored in interior design in college, and she is a calligraphy artist. We have a baby: Evan, and he was born on March 19, 2020. I earned my M.Div. degree

from Claremont School of Theology, California, and I had served two Anglo congregations as an intern pastor in California-Pacific Conference during my seminary years. It was a great opportunity to experience and learn American ministry and culture. Through the cross-cultural ministry, I have experienced God's grace and love that transcends languages, cultures, and races. I dream of a faith community that "rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep" (Romans 12:15, NRSV) like a family in Christ. Whenever we turn on the television, we easily hear the news that makes us nervous and anxious. Also, we have still been suffering in this pandemic period. However, I believe that God was, is, and will always be with us and will guide us to love our neighbors as ourselves. I also believe that we can create a difference for the world we live in through our faith. Esther and I look forward to meeting all of you and becoming a part of the ministries at Willow River Parish.

In the blessings of our Savior, Pastor Hakki



We are still looking for bookshelves for Pastor Hakki.

"Swap"

We are planning to start circulating a Google doc via email (and also include in the Oct. newsletter) in which people can list items that they *no longer need* and/or list items that they *want* along with contact info. If you do not have access to email/Google docs, please call the parish office and you can be added to the list. For example;

<u>Name/contact</u>	<u>no longer need</u>	<u>want</u>
Billy: 263-1000	couch	desk
Bob: bob123@gmail.com	skill saw	roof nailer

Vacation Bible School

We had a virtual Vacation Bible School at the end of July; this was hosted with Glen Hills Parish and served at least 22 children and at least 11 families. This was posted virtually so some of the videos were watched over 100 times. Those that still want to participate can go back and watch the videos on the Faith Family Facebook page. Thank you for all those that donated supplies and helped with the videos.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

@ FAITH FAMILY

We are currently conducting online Sunday school lessons. Please check out our Faith Family Facebook page for details.



...Because you eat

Ruby's Pantry food

distribution will take place September 12th in the AmTec parking lot at 241 Venture Drive Amery. There is a \$20 cash donation per share. You will receive an abundance of grocery items. 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. We will start sending cars through as soon as we are set up which is much quicker with our drive through set up. Please do not be late because it goes fast. Also we will load your vehicle from the passenger side and prefer to just put the items into the back of your vehicle. For everyone's safety, please have your vehicle empty to receive food in the back so volunteers do not need to walk around to the other side of the vehicle. We look forward to seeing you. 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.

Offering

Because we will not be physically meeting for church service this month, it is very important that we continue our offerings in order to keep the parish operating. Our church counts on all of you!!! If you wish to continue your giving, please send your offerings to: Arlene Althoff (CL); Terri Wilson (FF), and Janice Thompson (DP)

Youth Night

Back to School Youth Night-
Taco Night
Sun. Sept. 13th
5:30-7:00
Roger Blanchard's Yard
Tacos, Talk and Teams



UMW is still on hold until church resumes.

Faith Family Update

It has been an interesting time the last few months of COVID-19. I was asked to write an update about what is happening at Faith Family Church. I think the better answer is what is "not happening"--we have had some pretty exciting times. During COVID we had a decommissioning service, sold our building, opened a "new" church in the old Emerald Location called Faith Family Church. We have done remodeling to make the building our own and bring life from our old building into this space. We are working on creating a safe space for many individuals to be able to use. We added an outdoor storage building and took down two very large trees to make the entrance more welcoming. We were asked to start a recovery ministry and are working with the district to make that happen in our building. We recently donated money to four local school districts for COVID related expenses. We have continued to make our apportionment and keep up with our noisy can donations. We are avidly working toward keeping members included and involved. We have a Facebook presence, email thread and messenger, text and phone call tree set up to keep communication fluid. We are working on getting a new sound system. We now have WiFi in the building and parking lot to offer our virtual services and to be able to offer a service to our community for those that do not have internet access at home. We have made our bathrooms family friendly and offer a baby changing station. We updated the flooring in the bathroom. We are working with a stain glass specialist to find a way to bring life to our old stain glass windows. We are in the middle of a kitchen remodel and new countertops. Most recently we have the bell from Forest and will be planning a way to restore and refurbish this beautiful piece of history. This has been an exciting time. We have been meeting as an ad board approximately monthly via zoom so we can stay connected. I know I am excited to see everyone in person; however, as the bishop just announced it is recommended that we stay virtual until the end of the year. Let's all keep praying and connecting with each other as we are able in safe ways. Thank you for all of your hard work through this pandemic in keeping everyone safe and keeping our church growing and thriving. Sending lots of prayers & love,
Heather Greene, Ad Counsel Chair

Reflection by Bishop Jung

A Song of Ascents

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life for evermore. (Psalm 133)

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” Isn’t this a nice, comforting, friendly statement? Yet, how difficult, especially when our communities both local and global face such differences, divisions, and threats. We are politically divided, geographically divided – and for a time socially distanced – and we are threatened by a disease that is attacking our health, our well-being, our employment, and our security. Oh, peaceful, graceful unity – where art thou?

I believe we make a mistake with Psalm 133 when we read an English translation and interpret through modern Western eyes. What appears to be a very sweet, yet passive passage of scripture for many of us was intended differently in the ancient Hebrew context. The purpose and celebration was still unity, but hearers might have heard the words of this hymn/song and thought “Uh, oh...” You see, for this song to have meaning, it was an expression of expectation and responsibility. It is both “good and pleasant,” and it is the responsibility of the whole congregation to make it true! This isn’t a precious wish or even a passive observation – it is the will of God, what God has “ordained” for us all. It isn’t an option, and heaven help the person who sows discord, division, or disharmony. The purpose and goal of our life and faith is to work together to create, sustain, and strengthen unity.

This is an important word for our church, for our families, for our congregations, our country, and our world. There are all kinds of forces at work to divide and destroy; the witness of our Christian faith is to prove a better way – the way of unity, harmony, grace, and love. In other words, the way of God. And from this unity that

we work so hard to maintain, we raise our voices in singing, celebrating the liberating truth of God’s ordained will for our lives and for God’s people.

Parsonage Update

We have been busy preparing the parsonage for Pastor Min & his family. Due to COVID we hired a professional cleaner to deep clean & sanitize the parsonage. We have replaced the carpeting on the open stairs. We are having the air ducts cleaned and an exterminator is coming to take care of the mouse infestation, due to the fact we will be having a baby in the parsonage. We also have been repainting & staining the front porch. It looks so much better.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to help with all the yard work and clean up in the basement. I know a lot of you are also donating items like paper products, food items and other useful items, Thank You & God Bless!



Thank you Mark Tellijohn and Charlie Barney for taking the bell out safely and thank you Jeff and Terri Wilson for transporting it for safe keeping.

Thank you Faith Family Congregation for all of your hard work pertaining to remodeling, moving and recreating our church life.

Thank you John and Sarah for recording music for us to enjoy during church. (Stay tuned we plan to use in September)

Thank you to all of those involved in cleaning and making the parsonage “new” again.

Thank you to everyone at Willow River Parish for making a smooth transition and welcoming environment for Pastor Hakki!

We received a thank you from St. Stephanus church in St. Paul for the donations of supplies for the St. Paul and Minneapolis communities that were looted and destroyed by rioting. *Thank you* to those that donated.



Megan Zimmer	9/02
Craig Paulson	9/02
Steve Larson	9/04
Dick Danielson	9/05
Ariel Petersen	9/06
Naomi Sook-Peterson	9/06
Bryan Kuhl	9/08
Camilla Pietz	9/08
Summer Webster	9/09
Pastor John Hazen	9/11
Brooks Wilson	9/12
Don Althoff	9/15
Maddie Thompson	9/15
Peyton Lillie	9/15
Nancy Stutter	9/16
Pete Thompson	9/19
Diane Blanchard	9/21
Debi Ahrens	9/24
Carrie Blanchard	9/25
John Frank	9/26
Jeff Wilson	9/27
Craig Longfellow	9/28
Madison Zimmer	9/28
Don Warner	9/30



Chris & Kristin Ahrens	9/02
Gregory & Heidi Olson	9/04
Randy & Brenda Olson	9/10
Tyler & Mandy Sharpe	9/10
Craig & Julie Longfellow	9/11
Roger & Diane Blanchard	9/14
Duane & Mary Stuntz	9/16
Don & Arlene Althoff	9/17
Dick & Vickie Danielson	9/24
John & Sandi Reed	9/24
Pete & Janice Thompson	9/27

WI UMC Conference Grants

All three churches have applied for a possible \$1,000 grant. Some monies will be used to purchase the new parish computer.

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) corner:

Meet your committee members:

Faith Family Church

Cindy Warner: 715-265-4482;

boobocindy@hotmail.com

Paul Webster: pwebster@wisconsinumc.org

Heather Greene: 612-799-6215;

mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com

Clear Lake

Dawn Cress: 715-265-4483;

carldawncress@gmail.com

Ruth Severson: 715-269-5322;

imruth@hotmail.com

Deer Park

Bernice Goodrich: 715-246-5180;

bernicegoodrichv@gmail.com

Janice Thompson: 715-269-5598;

dpdear76@yahoo.com

Elden Setter: 715-269-5696;

tvman@amerytel.net

We have been and will be meeting monthly via zoom to work with our new pastor as he comes into our parish. We want you to know we are here for you if you have any joys or concerns or want help through any staff parish relations issues.

We want to make sure that we are offering a loving and supportive environment as Pastor Hakki Min and his family joins our congregation. As we remember our open minds, open hearts and open doors motto. We will be having a meet and greet once he arrives (hopefully virtual and in person). Due to COVID-19 Pastor Hakki will be quarantining for 14 days upon his arrival. We want to respect this time for him and his family.

We have been given an amazing opportunity to love and support this young family as they start their ministerial career here in Wisconsin. Included in this newsletter, you will see a couple devotionals that our bible study has deemed beneficial for us all to experience as we accept Pastor Hakki into our church family.

In conclusion we would like to thank Pastor Hakki for accepting the position with our church and welcome him into our communities.

Welcome and thank you all!

Heather Greene, SPRC Chair



THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH

CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FAITH FAMILY
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches
Hakki Min, Pastor

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmarek
Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700
E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com
Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m. virtual service via ZOOM

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