Upper St. Croix Parish Grantsburg, St. Croix Falls, Atlas P.O. Box 128 Grantsburg, WI 54840

FEBRUARY

The Month of Love



United Methodist Messenger

THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH



715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg) 715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church

Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com, pastor.kookho@gmail.com or pastor.ranyoo@gmail.com Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org

Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches

February

February 2019

THE REASON WHY I LOVE OUR CHURCH CHILDREN

"Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:43).

In Christ I love all men and women, but I especially love the sweetness of children. There are three main reasons why children inspire me. First, children have very pure hearts. Second, they do not lie to people on purpose. The last reason is that they are good teachers to me.

Here is one example of how I learned about some English culture and language from children.

When I served at St. James UMC in East Troy, WI, in 2015, I was one of the Sunday School teachers. One day, we shared our thoughts about our favorite candies and chocolates. The kids said that their favorites were Snickers, KitKat, Hershey, and Skittles. One cute girl named Gracy said to me, "Pastor Kook Ho,. I love candy corn!".

Unfortunately, I did not know what candy corn was, so I guessed that she meant she loved both candy and corn. So I answered her, "Yes. I also love candy and corn. I love sweet corn especially. There are a lot of corn fields here in Wisconsin, so I like to live here."



After I finished my reply, the kids smiled a lot. And then, one of them explained to me why they laughed. Candy corn, of course, is a kernel style sweet candy. In addition, they gave me one more piece of information kindly: that I could buy it in any grocery store in the U.S.

Through this situation, I learned two things from the children. First, that it is better to say "Sorry" or "Pardon" than guessing, when I do not understand perfectly. Second, that candy corn is a kernel style of candy and there are two kinds of corn. One is a kernel, and the other is taffy.

Jesus said that "whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:43). As Christians, to be servants and serving other people is our mandatory duty.

We generally think that as parents, we take care and serve our children very well and try to do our best every time. Yes, this is true. You are good parents and try to do your best any time not only for your children, but also our Sunday School children. However, we often forget that our children also serve their parents very well with their smiles, love, dedication, pure hearts, and by showing us God's spirit through their actions.

I think that the first step of servant leadership is to express your thankful heart to other people, and I believe that it will be one of key points to deal with once the upcoming result from 2019 Special General Conference is announced at our church.

Anyway, how could you better say, "Thank you for your service at church and home" to your children and our faithful little people at church this upcoming Sunday?



Why Our Church Needs Unity

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.



Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

I Corinthians 12:12-26 (NRSV)

One of the greatest challenges to our United Methodist Church is currently under global consideration. We will gather as a worldwide denomination in February in St. Louis to truly determine our collective future. Our ability to fulfill our mission of disciple-making for the transformation of the world, and our witness to the world of the saving grace and loving compassion of God is at stake.

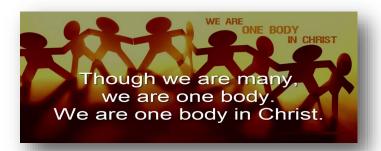
Spiritual leaders throughout our church are calling United Methodists everywhere to make a commitment to the unity of faith in Jesus Christ and the continued positive impact of our theological and missional work in the world. To the consternation of many, our "unity" has become a topic of debate and division. This indicates a deep misunderstanding of "unity" as used in our Christian scriptures. The Greek word Ενότητα (enotita) is more rich and complex than the English translation unity. By applying simplistic modern definitions to the word unity, we can deny the scriptural intention, which has great power to help us through our current challenges.

Many opponents to the idea of unity in The United Methodist Church incorrectly say it implies full agreement, lack of disagreement, regimented acceptance of a narrow set of moral standards, or homogenized sameness for all believers and members. Interestingly, this is almost the opposite of what Paul and Jesus taught in our New Testament.

While Paul calls those who claim Christ as Lord and Savior to be of one heart and mind, and to proclaim the faith with one accord, his intention is that Christ followers would choose to unite around those things most important, and to set aside those things over which they disagreed. Repeatedly, Paul



acknowledges that there will be disagreements. It is not disagreement that is the problem, but how we address our disagreements that is most important. No matter how vehemently we disagree, our baptism, our belief in the risen Christ, and our proclamation of the love and grace of God is more powerful. We do not choose unity; we are already made one with Christ, one with each other, and one in service by God's redeeming act through Christ. We do not unite to honor God; we honor God by recognizing the unifying work of God in our lives through our faith. Once again, we do not choose God; God chooses us! What we choose is how we will live this unity together.



SOUL FOOD CONTINUED....

This is the elegant and beautiful intention in Paul's teaching in I Corinthians 12. We ARE ONE BODY – the body of Christ. Many parts, many functions, many differences, but still all one. No part of the body may judge and reject any other part of the body. And it is not our task to merely tolerate the other parts of the body, but to come to recognize their value and to honor those we struggle to accept.

Some say that Jesus said he did not come to bring peace, but to bring a sword of division and dissolution. This is a skewed interpretation. The division that Jesus brought was from one paradigm to another – a fundamental and defining faith different and separate from that which was the accepted norm. People were forced to choose to remain in the old paradigm or to bravely and boldly risk entering a new paradigm. The reality was that this would divide families, tribes, communities, and cultures. It was not a justification of splitting over disagreement, but an honest acknowledgment that an "either/or" decision was demanded.

In our context, we are trying to decide which Christian brothers and sisters are acceptable and which we will not accept. This is not our decision to make; it belongs to God and God alone. Our decision is how we can live faithfully with those who are different; how we can honor the sacrament of baptism and what God has done for all of us, not just some of us; and, how we can witness to the world that when Christ is truly in our hearts, we navigate disagreement and division in ways very different from our dominant culture.

Our unity is a gift and grace to us from God. God makes us one. We can always choose to separate and go our way, rejecting what God has done for us, but we do not have the right to tell someone else they do not belong. John Wesley offered the simplest and most helpful wisdom when he wrote, schism is "...evil in itself. To separate ourselves from a body of living Christians with whom we were before united is a grievous breach of the law of love. It is the nature of love to unite us together, and the greater the love the stricter the union...It is only when our love grows cold that we can think of separating from our brethren. And this is certainly the case with any who willingly separate from their Christian brethren. The pretenses for separation may be innumerable, but want of love is always the real cause." (On Catholic Spirit, John Wesley)

Let us pray that our General Conference delegates might discern and embrace the sacred gift of unity that is the core characteristic of our identity as the Christian church, and that we might honor God by being the body of Christ for the transformation of our world.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung





GIVING Prayer & Gratitude February 2019

15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Henri Nouwen has said, "As our prayer deepens into constant awareness of God's goodness, the spirit of gratitude grows within us." This implies a cause and effect relationship: prayer causes gratitude. Therefore, it seems that just saying, or praying, "Thanks" is not enough.

What does prayer do to grow gratitude?

Focuses us on God. Prayer moves our focus from ourselves to God. It reminds us that we are not intended to be self-sufficient, rather, God provides us with we need, sometimes, even with the gift that moves us toward God's grace.

Reminds us Who is the Giver. God is the giver of all good gifts and graces. All of our blessings come from God. Through prayer, we come to recognize that we have so much to be thankful for... just pray for the most important people and blessings in your life and you will find that the list gets very long very quickly.

Keeps us Positive. With our eyes on our blessings, we have little room for complaining and negativity. One cannot be thankful and negative at the same time.

Moves us closer to God. Debbie McDaniel has pointed out that prayer, "opens up the door for continued blessings. It invites His presence. Our spirits are refreshed and renewed in Him. God loves to give good gifts to His children. He delights in our thankfulness and pours out His Spirit and favor over those who give honor and gratitude to Him."

This is what Stewardship looks like in the Kingdom of God. Let us pray ourselves and our churches into the Kingdom.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org
Or call 1-888-903-9863



2018 Central UMC Finances

I thought it would be good to stop and take a look back at last year. We were able to meet all our financial obligations thanks to the strong support of our congregation, the generosity of a couple of families, and the continued support by St. Croix Falls and the Conference.

We were able to pay 100% of our apportionments this past year. We added a significant amount of money to our Designated Funds. Much of which did not have a specific purpose when given and thus could be used for improvements, or unanticipated maintenance.

The donations received for our general operations were \$81,862 while we spent \$85,974. The difference has been covered in the Church's checking account by our Designated Funds.

At years end our balance in the Designated Funds account was \$ 24,725. We have established two accounts in the United Methodist Foundation, they are the Equipment Replacement Fund with \$7,662, and the Designated Investment Fund with \$30,359.

The Finance Committee is going to consider transferring some of the designated funds to general operations. This would allow a more realistic budget tracking through 2019. The general operations budget would than show a zero balance rather than a negative \$4,112.

For those looking for more specifics, the following is being submitted to the Conference in our annual EZRA Statistical report.

Pastoral Support	Salary	\$36,202	CHUAC
	Benefits	\$26,117	<u> </u>
Parish Secretary		\$6,390	
St. Croix Falls - Parish Support		(\$7,584)	
	**		FINIANCIAI
Central Staff		\$6,591	I II W XI YOU IL
Central Programs		\$1,583	∼ LIF Δ I TH
Central Operating	Expenses	\$9,865	
Central Apportion		\$6,806	A A

If you would like further details or information, feel free to contact me.

Mike Giles - Finance Chair

GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL

Feb, 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb, 24	Liturgists Steve Briggs John Elmgren Carol Drohman				
	Ushers				
Feb, 3 Feb 10 Feb 17 Feb 24	Valetta Walson Floyd & Carol Drohman Charles Wright				
Open Close	Church Doors on Sund				

Coffee Fellowship Floyd & Carol Drohman Feb, 3 Hammer Family Shayna Feb 10 Feb 17 Snyder Valetta Walton Feb 24 **Altar Flowers** Feb, 3 Feb 10 Feb 17 Feb 24 indays Feb, 3 Feb 10 Feb 17 Feb 24

Acolytes Anneliese & Leland Snyder **Sunday School** Laura Harmon Feb, 3 Feb 10 **Brad Rehbein** Feb 17 Feb 24





BIRTHDAYS

All Feb.

Feb. Counter

February

Snow Removal

Brad Rehbein

Lydia Benge Briggs 2/4 Stephanie Anderson 2/8 Zach Manley 2/14 Grace Harmon 2/15 Janet Dahl 2/16 Peyton Smallwood 2/17 Sue Bunting 2/17 Deb & Russ Hammer 2/22 Hannah Smestad 2/23 Adrianne Covey 2/24 Emmons Olson 2/24 Dauntay Erickson 2/27



A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH **DECEMBER 2018**



Funds	December 2018		Year-to-Date 2018	
General Funds Gifts	\$	7,510.00	\$	67,522.86
Loose Offering	\$	300.64	\$	2,160.41
Upper Room	\$	1.15	\$	37.15
Sunday School	\$	-	\$	100.00
Pie & Ice Cream Social	\$	-	\$	448.00
Harvest Supper	\$	-	\$	1,829.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$	-	\$	65.00
Christmas Offfering	\$	93.00	\$	93.00
Other			\$	775.00
Total General Funds	\$	7,904.79	\$	73,030.42
Equipment Replacement				
Fund	\$	84.00	\$	2,847.82
Capital	\$	50.00	\$	600.00
Missions	\$	75.00	\$	2,193.99
Specials	\$	-	\$	582.00
A/C Fund	\$	-	\$	120.00
Other-Pastors Youth Fund	\$	25.00	\$	650.00
Central's Youth Fund	\$	-	\$	85.00
Undesignated Memorials			\$	37,747.45
имм	\$	-	\$	518.00
UMW	\$	9.00	\$	9.00
All Funds	Ś	8.138.79	Ś	118.383.68

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS

FEBRUARY MISSION



Collecting canned soup and cash donations for Souper Bowl of Caring. This will go to support our local food shelf.

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!

UNITED METHODIST



FEBRUARY MEETING

Saturday, February. 9 at 8:00 AM Central UMC

Devotions - Steve Briggs

Refreshments - John Elmgren

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS CURRENTLY NO ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY. IF SOMETHING COMES UP MEMBERS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S

Upcoming Events

A planning meeting for 2019 was held at church on December 29th following service. We will continue to have our general meetings on the second Wed. of ever other month: February, April, June, August, October and December (Christmas Luncheon). We are planning to organize a Family Evening again in July, a late afternoon meeting followed by Ladies Night Out in August and a fourth annual Heritage Christmas Boutique on Saturday November 30th. Our main topic of study for 2019 will be "Living Simply" to follow through with our church's "Treasures" study, financial campaign theme and a UMW mission study "What About Our Money". We will be gathering ideas for reusing, repurposing, reducing waste, organizing our homes, recycling and living in harmony with our planet. Also, to tie in with this year's 150 Year Legacy Celebration, we hope to resurrect some of the depression/war era recipes and practices of those women who have gone before us. Bring your ideas, in writing, to the meetings. We also welcome ideas from non-members. Place them in the UMW mailbox at church or send them to LuAnne Martell at lbmavon@gmail.com. Hopefully all of the submitted ideas can be compiled into a booklet. Other areas of study for the year are "Homelessness in Our Region" and "Racial Justice for Native Americans." Members are encouraged to continue with the UMW reading program, and strive to complete at least Plan I. Terry Giles will be adding books to our already well stocked library. We will try to fit in book discussions or related movies as time goes on. We will continue to strive to be a Mission Today Unit and to earn the 5 Star Award. It was suggested that we explore the use of prayer beads with our prayer goals.

February: UMW General Meeting at 1pm, February 13th. Kitchen cleaning will be from 10am-noon, then we will have bag lunches (some people may want to bring take out food from Subway, Fire It Up, or other local restaurants) and follow with our meeting.

March: UMW will serve food during the Grantsburg Blood
Drive on March 13th, to be held at the T Dawgs convention
center. We will plan for this event at our February meeting
and place a sign up sheet for food and workers on the
church clipboard by mid February.

Members are encouraged to attend the 150 Year Legacy Celebration in Eau Claire on March 23rd. Further information will be available at the February meeting and in the February "Weaver" newsletter. Terry Giles, as district officer, has worked hard on this celebration. She encourages those who attend to go dressed in "days gone by" clothes be it the 1960's, the 1890s, or whenever. She also encourages those who attend to bring baskets or items for the silent auction.

ATLAS NEWS





Liturgists

Feb. 3 Toni Koons Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb. 24

PLEASE NOTE: THERE
WILL BE NO FEBRUARY
ADMIN COUNCIL
MEETING

Ushers

Feb. 3 Don Schween Feb. 10

Feb. 17 Roxane Brock Feb. 24

Cleaning

(Note the date starts with the Sunday to be cleaned and the rest of that week is your responsibility also.)

1/27 & 2/3 2/10 & 2/17 Briana Olson

2/24 & 3/3

Feb. 3

Sunday School

(Older/Middle/Primary)
Mariah Gaffey/Colleen Adams-Schween/Josie Grimes

Feb. 10 Cheryl Olson/Jamie Steffen/

Feb. 17 Colleen Adams-Schween/Kristie Olson/Cheryl Olson

Feb. 24 / /Josie Grimes



Betty Wilson

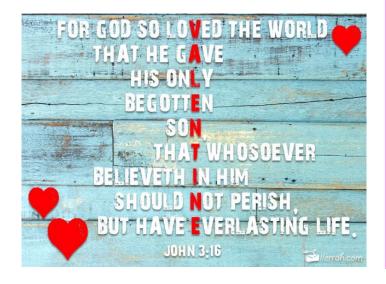
2/18

Debra Kunze

2/19

Fellowship

Feb. 17 Briana Olson



Plant Green Ink Jet Recycling Program

Do you have used ink jet cartridges or old cell phones? Every one that you donate to the church provides extra money to fund Atlas Church's Ministry and outreach.

Thank you for your continued support of this program!













FEBRUARY 2ND

Q. What flower gives the most kisses on Valentines Day?
A. Tulips.



LOL Valentine's Jokes for kids by kids!



February 14 ~ Valentines Day

February 17 ~ Funday Sunday after services

February 19-26 ~ Pastors on vacation

February 23-26 ~ General Conference



FEBRUARY MISSION:

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD Collecting Soup and/or \$1.00 to support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

On Communion Sunday, February 3rd you are invited to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck. We do keep a basket out for donations brought at any time as well.

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report ~ December 2018

Households Served 60 Luck School District 29
Adults 92 Unity School District 31
Children 13 Other 0

Total People 105 New Families: Unity 4 Luck 0, Other 0

USDA Food Received 976# NON-USDA (Donations) 2031#

Groceries Purchased 601# Volunteer Hours 44.5

Items Needed: Meat product (canned ravioli etc 8 grams protien or higher) Cereal and Juice.





Liturgists

All of Feb. Sharon Asp

Ushers

Karen Sciacca

All of Feb.

Altar Flowers

All of Feb.

Coffee Hour

Peter & Kathleen Gionis

Feb. 10 Karen Sciacca

Administrative Council

Sharon Asp

Feb. 10 Karen Sol.
Feb. 17 Administra
Feb. 24 Sharon As

Communion / Paraments
Feb. 3 Steve & L

Money Counter(s)
All of Feb. Marjorie E Steve & LeAnn Sylvester

Marjorie Broker

Potluck Peter & Kathleen Gionis

ST. CROIX FALLS

REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF



On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry. Canned vegetables, fruit or meat, fruit juice, cereal, peanut butter and jelly, kid-friendly soups, personal hygiene items ... just be sure your food items have not expired.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 3RD

POTLUCK

Wednesday, February 20th 6:00 pm





Joseph Murtaugh 2/2

Kathleen Gionis 2/12

Scott Andrews 2/22



ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

Sunday, February 3rd 11:00 am, Following Service

FEBRUARY MISSION

Polk County Treatment Court, which is an alternative to incarceration for repeat offenders who also have substance abuse and/or mental health issues.



KIDS FUN SUNDAY

Atlas UMC Sunday, February 17th 12:00 pm

All children are welcome!



SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

February 23rd-26th

St. Louis, Missouri

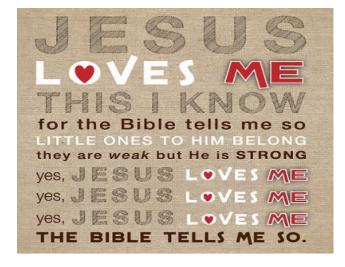


PARISH YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, February 27th 4:30 pm St. Croix Falls Movie Theater

DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!







Wednesday, February 13th 5:00-6:00 pm Central UMC



Polk County Food Shelves

Amery

Amery Food Shelf—230 Deronda Street, Amery

Food Shelf is located in the old Amery Regional Medical Center Building. Call (715) 268-5999 before 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Leave name and number on voice mail. Open Thursday 2-6 pm.

Area of service: Amery school district only

The Congregational Church—201 Harriman Ave. North, Amery

Food distribution: 9-10:30 am every 2nd Saturday of the month . Registration is 7 am to 9:30 am. **715-268-7390 Special note:** No economic restrictions; however, a \$20.00 donation is asked to help cover the cost of the truck.

Ruby's Pantry –www.amery.ucc.org or office.ameryucc@gmail.com Area of service: County wide



People Loving People --- 103 E. Main Street, Dresser

Monday and Saturday 11 am – 1 pm Wednesday 2 pm – 5 pm

Phone: 715-501-4657



Family Pathways Food Shelf—1100 Wisconsin Ave South, Frederic Phone 715-327-4425

Open Tuesday 9 am—6 pm, Thursday 9 am—6 pm, Saturday 9 am—12pm For best service please call for appointment.

Luck

Loaves and Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry—300 North 1st Street, Luck Pantry is located in the back of the DBS Hall

Open Tuesday & Thursday 11 am—1 pm

Phone (715) 472-2003

Area of service: Luck & Unity School Districts

Osceola

The Open Cupboard Food Shelf—402 2nd Avenue, Osceola

Call for appointment: **715-294-4357** Open Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm

(The Open Cupboard also has used furniture & clothing)
Area of service: Osceola & Dresser school district

St. Croix Falls

St Croix Falls Food Shelf—809 Pine Street, St Croix Falls

Phone: 715-483-9138

Open Monday 9 am—11 am Wednesday 3 pm—6 pm Friday 9 am – 10 am Area of service: SCF school district, Dresser elementary, Centuria, Cushing & portions of Balsam Lake & Taylors Falls

Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls

Phone: 715-483-2920

Open Monday 9–5 pm, Tuesday 9-5 pm, Wednesday 12 pm– 6 pm, Thursday 9-5 pm, Friday 9–5 pm, & Saturday 9-Noon









Burnett County Emergency Food Shelves and Distributions

Grantsburg Area Food Shelf No cost

Serving residents of the Grantsburg School District Open Thursday 9:30am-11:30am; **EMERGENCIES ONLY** on Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Allowed to come 2 times a month Located between the Library and the Village Hall Office,

320 South Brad St., Grantsburg, WI



Indianhead Community Action Agency- "Connections" No cost

Serving all Burnett County residents
Open 10am-3pm Monday, Tuesday & Friday
Located in Webster next to the Holiday Gas Station
(715) 866-8151

Ruby's Food Shelf- Siren No cost

Serving residents of the Siren & Webster School Districts Open 10:00am-2pm Monday & Friday 10:00am-4pm Wednesday Closed Thursday

**You`re asked to be there at least 30 minutes before close Located at 24534 State Hwy 35/70 (Ruby`s Secondhand) (715)349-RUBY (7829)



"If you love me, feed my sheep."

Ruby`s Monthly Food Distributions *Bring own boxes or baskets Donation: \$20* For dates, times, and locations (no location restrictions at this time), visit http://www.rubyspantry.org/distribution/distschedule.htm

Second Harvest Food Distribution *No cost*

First and Third Thursday of every month Starts at 11:00am until food is gone Located at Connections in Webster (next to the Holiday Gas Station)

This distribution is offered to anyone in no

This distribution is offered to anyone in need of food; please help get the word out

St. Croix Chippewa Commodities Distribution

24663 Angeline Ave., Webster 349-2195, Becky Reynolds

Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm

(Native American Income Eligible Only)

Closed first week of each month for inventory. Can only receive one time per month. A variety of items are available each month and may include canned meats; juice; canned foods; dry goods; frozen meats; cheese; rice and pasta; fresh produce.