

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

MAY 2020



Inside this issue:

Message from Pastor Jenny	2
Stewardship Message	4
Message from Bishop Jung	5
Central News	7
Atlas News	9
St. Croix Falls News	11
Miscellaneous	12
Mother's Day Fun	13
Mark Your Calendar	14
Polk County Food Shelf Info.	15
Burnette County Food Shelf Info	16

UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

THE UPPER ST. CROIX PARISH

715-463-2624 Parish Office (in Grantsburg)

715-483-9494 St. Croix Falls Church

Church Email: centralumc2016@gmail.com,

Pastor Jenny Lee: JENNLEE1732@GMAIL.COM

Website: www.upperstcroixparish.org

Facebook: Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Churches

May 2020



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.



“Our Mourning Turns into Dancing”

“To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord, I made supplication:

“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!”

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God,

I will give thanks to you forever.”

(Psalm 30:8-12, NRSV)

The fear and anxiety about that we do not know how long it could be under the “Stay at Home Order,” lead us to buy up a large number of daily necessities and foods. So, most shops and groceries sold out them fast. It began before about one month ago, and now it is continuing. Furthermore, COVID 19 pandemic causes an increase in the highest unemployment rate and an economic crisis as well as a shockingly high death rate throughout the world.

We are facing a severe medical war with COVID 19 over the world. Medical staffs are fighting the first line of the war, being exposed to the possible risk contamination seriously. On the other hand, those who are under the “Stay at Home Order,” including students and unemployed people are going to be depressed. I heard that the medications of sleeping aid and alcoholic beverage are selling out more than before. The COVID 19 pandemic brought a spiritual and emotional war as well.

That being said, many people try to encourage one another with “a world of heart.” Even though we could not see in person due to keeping social distancing, some still celebrate their birthdays, anniversaries, and even wedding ceremonies via “drive-thru party.” Moreover, some are getting closer to care one another, using phone calls, texts, emails, social media, and facetime.

When I called our church members, wondering how they are doing in this challenging time due to COVID 19 pandemic, they would take care of me asking how I am doing. Even though I moved here alone in August last year, I got many family members in Jesus Christ. Also, we could not see each other in person due to “Stay at Home Order,” we know, and we feel that we are connected in the love of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

“Stay at Home Order” leads me to grow closer to God. My anxiety and fear of this challenging time made me focus on the words of God and praying for others who suffer against COVID 19. While I was praying to God one day, one passage came to my mind. It is Jesus’ last order to his disciples before he lifts up to heaven. “While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.” (Acts 1:4). After Jesus died on the cross, his disciples stayed at home with fear and anxiety to be arrested and persecuted as Jesus did. After his resurrection, the higher priests and Jewish leaders with Roman soldiers tried to capture his disciples more than before. Therefore, his disciples were getting more difficulties. Whenever they stay at home or gather together, they used to lock the doors with fear.

Jesus presented himself alive to his disciples by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days. However, he should be taken up to heaven soon, and left his last order to them, “not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.” Jesus knew the fear of his disciples. Nevertheless, he must leave them. Instead of staying with them more, he ordered them, “do not leave Jerusalem but wait there for the promise of the Father. Jerusalem was the most dangerous place for his disciples at that time because the Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers were there to arrest them. “Jerusalem” means not only the city but also sanctuary (church) because the temple was in Jerusalem. Jesus promised his disciples that if they do not leave Jerusalem, he will send them the Holy Spirit, who protects and guides them. Therefore, his disciples stayed all together with mourning for Jesus and fear for arresting in one place where Jesus had the last supper with them, focusing to pray at all. Finally, the Holy Spirit came to them as Jesus promised them, and they overcame all their fears. Their fear and mourning turned to dance and praise in convincing faith. Their prayers empowered them to have confidence in God who protects and helps them, and their prayers equipped them for witnesses of Jesus Christ for their new mission.

I hope that we pray all together that our fear and mourning may turn to praise and to dance in God. May switch to empowering those who fight with COVID in the first line! May turn to hope for those who are in depression and sadness! May turn to consolation for those who lost their beloved! May switch to see each other in person for those who are longing for! God may hear us!

Blessings,

Pastor Jenny





GIVING

"In remembrance of me heal the sick" TFWS 2254

May 2020

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:39-40)

In the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, when pagans far outnumbered Christians, a pair of epidemics rocked the Roman Empire. After the second in 252 AD, Dionysius (190?-264), Bishop of Alexandria, wrote in an Easter letter how Christians had behaved better toward the sick, than had the pagans. The pagans had run from the sick, abandoned relatives, ejected the dying from their homes and left the dead in the streets. In contrast, Christians diligently ministered to the sick and prepared the dead for burial. As a result, many Christians, themselves, became ill and died; it was a death akin to martyrdom, in the Bishop's opinion.

The sociologist of religion Rodney Stark, in the *Rise of Christianity*, has argued that this behavior of early Christians, and similar behavior during other epidemics, was critically important in the early growth of Christianity and its displacement of pagan polytheism. Christians survived at higher rates, the plague disrupted their communities less, they exhibited less fear, and they helped those in dire need. The pagans noticed and in subsequent years, the ranks of Christianity swelled.

One can only hope that history will remember the service and witness of our generation of Christians in the time of the coronavirus epidemic. Did we pray together, did we continue to worship, though from afar, did we give to financially support the mission and ministry of the church? Did we support charities caring for the poor and sick, did we help teach the children home from school, did we help the laid off and furloughed apply for benefits, and did we help the disenfranchised vote, and so on?

You are the answer to my questions.

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

A Wake-Up Call

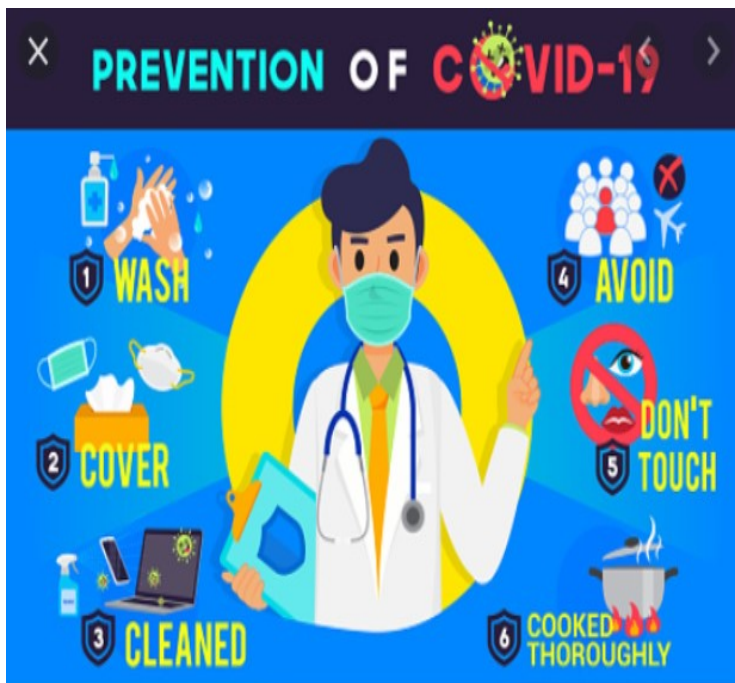


Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. -Romans 13:11-12

The journey through Holy Week is a simple movement from the light and joy of Palm Sunday to the darkness and despair of Good Friday back into the glorious light of Easter. This is an apt metaphor for life in general – cycles through light and darkness.

People like to feel that they are in control of their lives. However, many philosophers say that control is merely an illusion. No matter how many decisions we make, no matter how well we organize and plan, no matter how intentional and clever we are, life lives us as much as we live life. The current COVID-19 pandemic is an emphatic reminder that we are not really in control. For many people, this is a devastating realization. For disciples of Jesus the Christ, this should come as a wake-up call, and a stunning reminder that we need God and one another.

We have left a time of light for a time of darkness. Anxiety, fatigue, frayed nerves, uncertainty, and no idea how long, how wide, how deep this pandemic will stretch all test our faith. It is much too easy to sink into the darkness of despair. We have no control over this virus, but we do have control over our responses and the ways we will live through this dark time.



Physical distancing is hard, but it is the right and necessary thing to do, even at Palm Sunday and Easter. The simple functions of handwashing, coughing into the crook of the arm, not shaking hands are all within our sphere of control. How we reach out to others is something we determine. And our attitudes are ours to direct in whatever way we wish. This period of isolation and challenging communication may last a while, and it may get worse before it gets better. God can provide us with a much-needed reserve of grace, patience, kindness, compassion, and love. The Holy Spirit can be a source of tolerance, serenity, calm, and playfulness. The wake-up call this virus provides is to rely on God and stay connected to the divine light that leads us through the darkness.

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED...

William Lonsdale Watkinson, an English Wesleyan minister, once **instructed** his congregation to choose to be positive in the face of negativity. He originated a famous quote, “Yet it is far better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.” We are inundated by media messages that curse the current darkness. I want to encourage Wisconsin United Methodists to carry the light of Christ through this time. Stop focusing on the darkness and focus on the light. We will get through this by God’s grace and with the strength that comes through our communities of faith.

In the modern version of the Lord’s prayer, the line “and lead us not into temptation,” has been changed to “save us from this time of trial.” This should be our mantra through the pandemic – save us (all) from this time of trial. Give us strength, give us courage, give us hope, and shine your light in us and through us so that we always remember “this too shall pass.”

I am not asking anyone to ignore the pain and grief that the coronavirus is causing. I am not asking people to deny the bad that is happening. I am inviting everyone to see this Holy Week as a metaphor for the current journey through the darkness, where we will emerge in the light as Easter people. We are living in terrible days of suffering and loss, but our God is good. May we truly awaken to the glorious light of God in Christ that is greater than any darkness we may ever encounter. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Managing Stress During COVID-19



Be kind and compassionate.



Remember, you
are not alone.
We’re in this together.



Stay connected with each other.



Find your inner peace.
Try mindful breathing.

GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS

There will be no services at Grantsburg in May so we do not need volunteers for May. Please consider signing up for the summer months if the "Shelter at Home" order is lifted and we can again hold church services. Thank you!



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Rekha Roelfs 5/1
 Kate Lehne 5/2
 Becca Drohman 5/3
 Hazel Paulson 5/3
 LuAnne Martell 5/3
 Dan & Emily Rahkola 5/3
 Tammy & Daryl Anderson 5/4
 Bevan Branstad 5/9
 Kathy Wheaton 5/13
 Mary Lou Wright 5/17
 Laura Drohman 5/21
 Jared Bohn 5/22
 Sharon & Dave Huff 5/22
 Link Loomis 5/27
 Annick Johnson 5/28
 Craig Giles 5/28
 Dave Huff 5/30

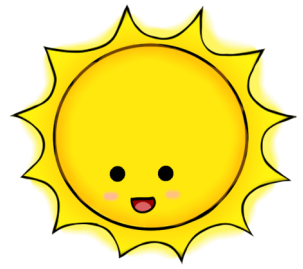


A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH MARCH 2020



Funds	March 2020	Year-to Date 2020
General Funds Gifts	\$ 5,183.50	\$ 12,123.00
Loose Offering	\$ 35.50	\$ 217.55
Upper Room	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00
Sunday School	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Funds	\$ 5,229.00	\$ 12,360.55
Equipment Replacement Fund	\$ -	\$ 168.00
Capital	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Missions	\$ 125.00	\$ 256.00
Specials	\$ -	\$ 71.00
Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 630.00
A/C Fund	\$ -	\$ -
UMW	\$ -	\$ -
UMM	\$ -	\$ -
Memorials	\$ -	\$ -
All Funds	\$ 5,404.00	\$ 13,585.55

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS



Admin Council Meeting via ZOOM

6:30 pm ~ May 19th
Central UMC

UMW NEWS....

Our April meeting was cancelled due to the governor's Stay at Home order not allowing in person meetings. I think we'll all learn to use conference calling and Zoom before churches, schools, business, etc. all open up again. I had my first experience with Zoom for the April Administrative Council meeting.

And I've attended my Caregivers support group via conference calls twice. It works! Our next general meeting is scheduled for June 10th with a short meeting at church at 4pm followed by going out to dinner, as a group, in Grantsburg or Siren. Again, I will confer with the officers as we get closer to that date to determine what we can do.

Check out the United Methodist Women's website and also the UMW Wisconsin website for lots of good information. The national site has Faith Talks, podcasts that you can register for and join or listen to later. Also remember that we have Response magazine and program books at church that you can check out. If you do not have a way to get into church give me a call and I'll meet you with a key.

Living in NW Wisconsin we have much to be thankful for during these uncertain times of the COVID19 pandemic. Don't forget to contribute to your Thank Bank and don't forget that your church needs your continued support—our financial obligations are not "on hold". God's peace and spiritual health be with you. LuAnne Martell



**There will not
be a meeting
in May.**

MISSIONS UPDATE

To My Central United Methodist Church Family,

I continue to miss seeing my church family in person. I hope all are doing well and staying home and remaining healthy.

Please let the church know if there is anything we can do to help you during this time period. We will do our best to assist you with your needs.

During this "Safer at Home" time there is an increased need for food assistance throughout the country. The mission for the Month of May is a request for financial donation (which can be mailed to CUMC) for the Grantsburg Food Shelf. Thank you in advance.



Stay healthy and safe!

~Deb Hammer



Don't let your neighbor be hungry during this COVID-19 pandemic. Demand is high during this pandemic. We need your help to keep the food shelves stock for those in need in our own community. With more people out of work due to the "Stay at Home" order and business being closed, the need is greater than ever. Please help support our local food shelf by sending your monetary donation to:

Central UMC
P.O. Box 128
Grantsburg, WI 54840

Thank you!



ATLAS NEWS

Joint Worship Service



Sunday, May 31st ~ 10:00 am
Atlas UMC ~ Possibly in the Park

If the Shelter at Home order is lifted we will have our first service since the order was enacted on 5/31. This will be a Joint Worship Service and we hope you will join us!



INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offerings:

April 9	\$	840.00
April 17	\$	1775.00



Total \$1190.00 (as of 4/17)

\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses. **\$663.84** shortage for April.

Thank you for your faithful financial support of the ministry of Atlas church!



PLANET GREEN INK JET RECYCLING

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!



Ashleigh Olson 5/4

Colleen Norenberg 5/4

**Barry & Colleen
Norenberg
5/31**



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

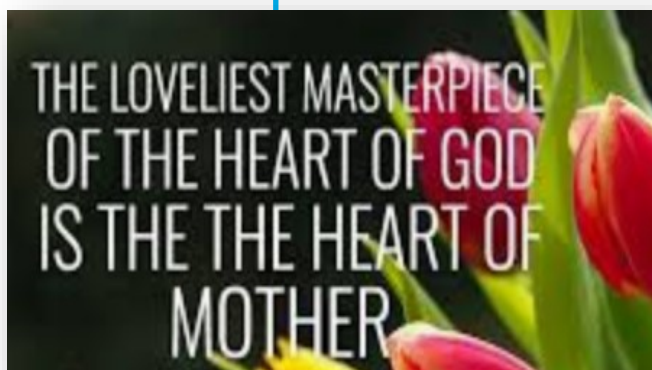
No meeting in May



May



&





LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

We invite you to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck. We do keep a basket out for donations brought in any time! Thank you for your ongoing support.

MAY MISSION

**In-Gathering...
No Information
Available. Please
watch the weekly
insert for more
information.**

Things To Do During COVID Isolation....

Some of the best parenting advice ever received was: "When it rains, play in the rain." There are ways of making the best out of any situation, this one included. We have a unique opportunity here: We can make the COVID-19 crisis into a moment that will live vividly in our kids' memories, so that in other times of uncertainty they'll recall fondly how their family pulled together and made the best of things, and they'll be able to do the same...even if all of our hugs have to be virtual for a little while. Be well!

1. Games & Activities
2. Glean/Fix Things
3. Plan Future Activities
4. Cook
5. Science Experiments
6. Arts & Crafts
7. Perform (play, musical performance, etc)
8. Garden



LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report ~ March 2020

Households Served	71	Luck School District	42
Adults	119	Unity School District	29
Children	<u>42</u>	Other	0
Total People	161	New Families: Unity 2 Luck 2, Other 0	
USDA Food Received	1875#	NON-USDA (Donations)	1429#
Groceries Purchased	511#	Volunteer Hours	58 1/2

Items Needed: Cereal, Mac N Cheese, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Meats



ST. CROIX FALLS NEWS

REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF

On Communion Sundays, you are invited to bring in donations for the SCF Food Pantry... just be sure your food items have not expired.

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 5/3/20



HELPING HANDS

There will be no services at St. Croix Falls UMC in May so we do not need volunteers for May. Please consider signing up for the summer months if the "Shelter at Home" order is lifted and we can again hold church services. Thank you!



MAY MISSION:

May's Sailor Hat offering will go to support the St. Croix Falls Food Shelf



MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Naomi McLean 5/6

Charlie & Joan Zeigler 5/7

Nathan Murtaugh 5/11

Peter Gionis 5/15



St. Croix Falls
Admin Council Meeting via
Zoom

Thursday, May 21st
3:00 pm



MISCELLANEOUS

Amazon Smile—Support us when you shop anytime!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Upper St. Croix Parish.

The money we receive will be used to support our parish's next generation. Thank you to those who are using the link below when shopping through Amazon. Please feel free to share this link with anyone you know who shops through Amazon. You receive the same products at the same price yet you can make a big difference in supporting our youth!

Copy and past the address below (or click on the link if you're seeing it electronically) into your browser and then bookmark the page for future use. Once you log into your account you can bookmark that and it will save your information if you make that selection! Thank you for your support!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7429002>



Vintage Syracuse Mayflower Red China for Sale

If interested please contact:
Mary McNally
715-791-8010



Vintage Syracuse Mayflower Red China	
5 Piece Place setting	\$12.00
Dinner plate	
Cup and saucer	
Luncheon plate	
Dessert plate	
Individual pieces:	
Dinner plate	\$ 4.00
Cup and saucer	\$ 4.00
Luncheon plate	\$ 3.00
Dessert plate	\$ 3.00



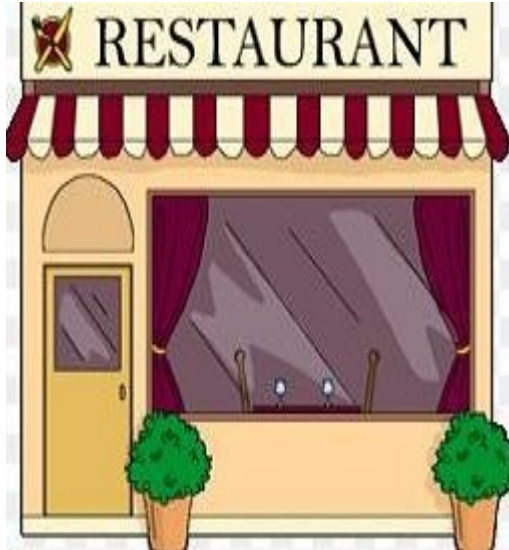
MOTHER'S DAY FUN



More calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. Approximately 122 million calls are made on the second Sunday of May.

Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for restaurants.

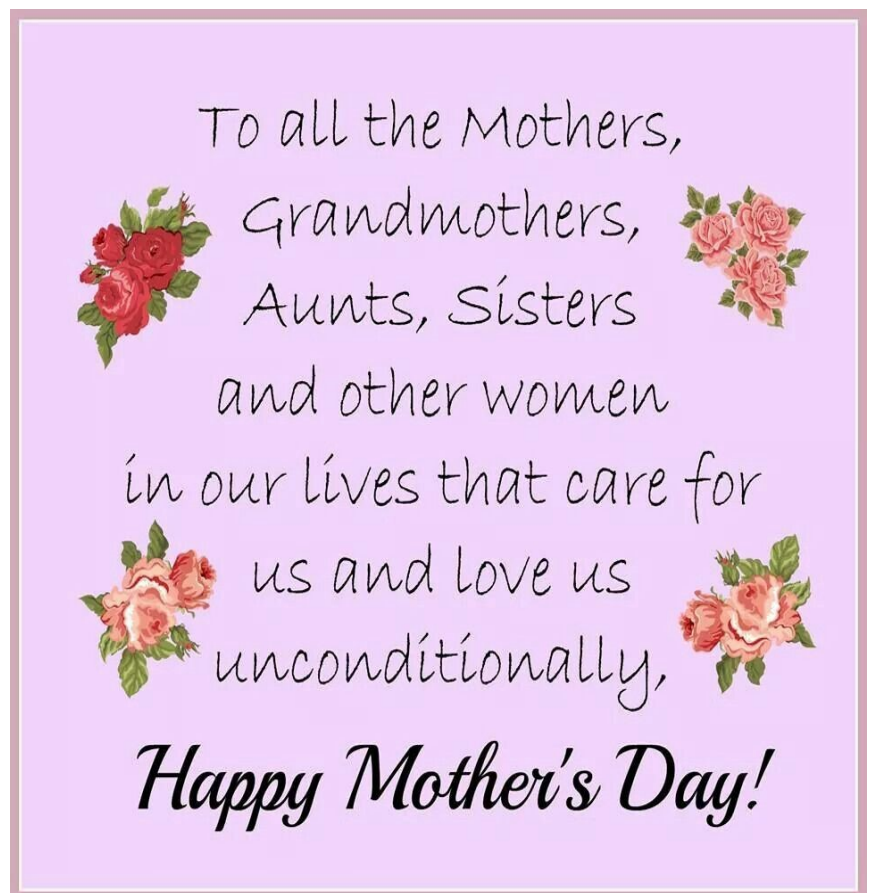
According to the [National Restaurant Association](#), in 2018 about 87 million adults made plans to go to a restaurant for Mother's Day.



Mother's Day is the third highest selling holiday for flowers and plants. After Christmas and Hanukkah, more people buy flowers and plants for their moms on Mother's Day than any other holiday. Around approximately one quarter of all the flowers purchased throughout the year are bought for Mother's Day.



The first thing a baby can vocalize is the 'ma' sound, which is why in almost every language the word for mother begins with the letter 'M' or is some iteration of the 'ma' sound.





Upcoming EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Confirmation Class

May 6th 6:30 pm

Via ZOOM Video Conference

&

May 20th 6:30 pm

Via ZOOM Video Conference

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

- ✦ **May Day** 5/1
- ✦ **Cinco de Mayo** 5/5
- ✦ **National Teachers Day** 5/5
- ✦ **National Nurses Day** 5/6
- ✦ **National Day of Prayer** 5/7
- ✦ **Mother's Day** 5/10
- ✦ **Dance Like a Chicken Day** 5/14
(Yes this is real!)
- ✦ **Memorial Day** 5/25
- ✦ **Pentecost** 5/31

Go Fish Gatherings

**CANCELLED
FOR MAY**

We hope to gather the children
together again soon!

Watch the bulletins and
newsletters for updates.

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

Dresser

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

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

Phone: 715-501-4657

Frederic

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: **715-520-2397**

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

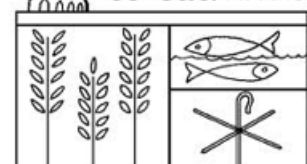
Family Pathways Food Shelf—2000 US Hwy 8, St Croix Falls

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



YOU give them something to eat. Mt 14:16



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)



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 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.



John 21:15-19