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

Be still, and know I am God. (Pratom 46:10)
All things God works for the good.
Cast all my anxiety on Him. (17457)
Know whose I am! (1 galan 3.1)
Trust in the Lord with all my heart.
Open my eyes to see the truth. (************************************
Show me your ways, Lord. (Platm 25.4)
Create in me a clean heart. (Fratom 5/30)
He who is in me is greater (1941)
Obey the Lord my God. (200122730)
Oh Lord, you are my strength & shield.
Let love and faithfulness never

SEPTEMBER

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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

September 2020



Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Be a Good Gardener"

Be a gardener.
Dig a ditch
toil and sweat,
and turn the earth upside down
and seek the deepness
and water the plants in time.
Continue this labor.
And make sweet floods to run
and noble and abundant fruits to spring
Take this food and drink
And carry it to God
As your true worship.

-Julian of Norwich-



The medieval mystic Julian of Norwich describes the gardener's life as a true worshiper in her poem. She sings of the gardener's labor and effort to get fruits, and the gardener's true worship through gardening. I am not a gardener, but I am enjoying gardening. I guess that you have probably experienced gardening at some point in your life. Through gardening, I learned about precious life and nature's provision in God's grace. Gardening is a means of grace for me to connect with God. Through gardening, I experience the purification of my spirit. And, I experience rest and healing through gardening. Perhaps, we all are gardeners for our spirit and mind. To grow in faith well by the Holy Spirit, we probably should give good care to our soul and mind as a gardener gives the plants good care.

When I moved to Wisconsin from Chicago, Illinois, I brought plants. Some of them are outdoor plants. I planted them around the parsonage. But, we had snow earlier last winter than I expected. I took one of the plants (wild sesame) inside the house and planted it in a small flowerpot to get the seeds before it died. Finally, I was able to get the seeds. In spring this year, I made a gardening spot and planted the seeds in that spot. And I watered them every morning and evening. I found a lot of sprouts on that spot about two weeks later. How amazing!

It is a mystery how the seeds become the plants. A small seed has life even though we cannot see it. The seeds seem to die, but when the seeds meet soil, water, and sunshine, life finally manifests into the world through the plants. To sustain the plant's life, we should provide water when needed, and God delivers sunshine. Not only that, but we also have to protect the plants from weeds and wild animals. Even though a gardener works hard like "toil and sweat," if God does not provide sunshine, the plants would not grow well, and although God may offer sunshine, if we do not work for a weed-free environment and water them, the plants will not grow well. Therefore, to sustain the plants' life, the plants need God's grace and human labor.

Like that, we may be a gardener in our own life. We should work hard to sustain our lives, provide good food and good care physically, spiritually, and emotionally the same way we provide good soil and water to our plants. Besides, we have to protect our souls, minds, and spirits from harmful environments the same way we try to make weed-free environments in our garden and protect our plants from wild animals. During gardening, I realized that if I skip watering my plants or do not look after my plants for one or two days, wild animals pick my plants off or disturb my garden. It affects me emotionally and spiritually. So, I try to give proper care to my plants every day because it is the way to keep my mind and emotions healthy.

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

I encourage you to be spiritual gardeners who may "toil and sweat" to keep your souls and minds healthy. And, you may protect your soul and mind from bad thoughts and a negative mindset. You may take your soul and mind to God as a gardener carries the fruits to God for true worship. And, God may provide you grace at all times.

The apostle Paul saying, "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attending to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13). As he says, we are perhaps still immature, which needs to grow to Christlikeness. So, we need good food and good care to be mature adults in Christ. As if a gardener takes care of plants providing water in time, we all need spiritual living water to grow in Christ well. As you may know, spiritual living water is Jesus Christ. I hope that you provide spiritual living water to your soul and mind. Jesus says, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:38). As if the plants die without water, our spirit also may die without the spiritual living water. So be a good gardener for your soul and mind and your physical body.





GIVING Resilience in Clay Jars September 2020

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)

There is much being written about the need for resilience in our home lives, in our churches, in our communities and in our institutions. Resilience is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties; think of the tree that bends but does not break. Clearly, the Apostle Paul had resilience in mind when writing to the Corinthians.

There are three things that I believe a resilient church needs:

- 1. Devotion to a vision of ministry and mission
- 2. Knowledge of the spiritual gifts of members and friends of the congregation (the "treasure in clay jars")
- 3. Nurturing of gifts through spiritual disciplines of prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

In these pandemic times, we will need to discover and nurture resilience because, first, our affliction will not be ending any time soon. Until there is an effective vaccine that has been broadly implemented (2 or 3 or more years in the future), church attendance will be dangerous to members over 60 or those with chronic illnesses. Our churches must be resilient, second, because we are not going back to where we were. A mix of online and inperson worship, participation and giving will be the new normal going forward. Finally, we must be resilient because the newcomers we need to survive will judge us according to how we adhered to Christian values during the pandemic.

In all ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.

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

Our Pandemic Wilderness Journey

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. (Exodus 16:1-2)



Most of us are engaged in a daily, ongoing conversation about the pandemic. Our response to the COVID-19 raises more questions than it answers. "How long will this go on? When can we return to our churches? Will we be back in time for Rally Day, for fall activities, for our suppers and sales, for Advent and Christmas? Aren't our churches "essential" services? Can we go back if we follow all the guidelines and precautions?" These are all good questions, and none of them invite simple answers. As the Bishop, I am asked for my guidance, for my "ruling," for my decisions. When we wander together in discomfort and uncertainty, we become desperate for clear answers, but in the words of Paul from the letter to the Philippians, we are "work(ing) out (y)our own salvation with fear and trembling."

However, as your bishop, I want you to hear my reflections clearly and concisely, so you know my thinking and my recommendations. We are all working hard to journey faithfully through our wilderness so that ALL may emerge together in God's promised land future.

- I am deeply grateful and appreciative for the hard work of our COVID-19 Task Force and all the resources and information they provide
- I am deeply grateful and impressed by the faithful leadership of our clergy and laity to find creative ways to continue in excellent ministry and service.
- I pay very close attention to health experts and the excellent information and instruction coming from the Center on Disease Control (CDC), National Health Institutes (NHI), and the World Health Organization.
 - At the same time, I want to acknowledge the pain, suffering, loss, and grief people are suffering by not meeting together in person. No one takes this lightly, and we are doing everything we can to return safely to regular church engagement and attendance. With this in mind, I give you my recommendations:
- Our guiding value and practice must be to preserve and maintain life, health, and well-being
 of our members and friends.
- We should err to the side of caution as a witness to our community and world that our love for our neighbors is one way we love God and all God's creation.
- Our clergy and laity should follow the strictest guidelines including not worshiping
 in person until the New Year. All indications point to a very bad autumn and winter as
 we continue with COVID and enter the new flu season. No in-person worship is advised
 until 2021, and then only after thorough review and reevaluation.
- Setting a clear target date for reevaluation and return help provide clear communication and can avoid unnecessary disappointment. Clergy and laity leadership can then plan creatively for the fall, for Advent, and for Christmas. Perhaps we will join the Wise Men on their journey to arrive on Epiphany...

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

SOUL FOOD CONTINUED...

I want to emphasize that these are recommendations, but they are strong recommendations that I deeply believe to be good and appropriate. As Bishop, along with the entire cabinet, I will not prevent any church from returning to in-person worship before the New Year, as long as the highest standards of precaution are maintained and enforced. We realize that the worshiping reality of churches across this Conference are very different. There are places where safe reentry can happen much earlier than in other places. It is in consideration of the most vulnerable and at risk that we establish the start of 2021 as our target for safe return.

Historically, our Christian movement began in "house churches," individual households where prayer, reflection on teachings, fasting, and singing occurred. Our current situation reminds us that sanctuaries, chapels, and cathedrals came later. Congregating, the way we have come to expect as normal, was a rare thing that we have come to value so much more for its absence. Regardless of our ability to be physically together, by God's gracious Spirit, we are "one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world." God will see us through this difficult time, so take care of yourself, take good care of your neighbors, and give thanks to God!

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



▼ PREVENT

Grace and Peace, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

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



GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS

Central UMC will be holding in-church services Sunday's at 8:15 am. We hope these procedures will make you safe and feel safe. COVID-19 recommended safety measures:

- 1. Entrance and exit to the building will be through the southeast doors on Pine Street. Other entrances will not be available. Phased exit to keep social distancing will also be through this entrance.
- 2. All attendees, including staff and volunteers, will have their temperatures checked upon entry using a non-contact thermometer.
- 3. Protective facial masks are required for all attendees throughout the entire service—please bring your own mask with you. A small supply of masks will be available for those who forget or for guests.
- 4. Social distancing, six (6) feet intervals at arrival, seating, and departure will be observed. Families may sit together.
- 5. No hand shaking or physically passing of the peace.
- 6. No passing of items, attendance cards, sign-up sheets, offering plate, etc. Offerings can be deposited in offering box upon departure.
- 7. Singing may be possible wearing a protective facial mask. No Bible books and Hymn books can be used, but we provide info on a screen. Piano music will be provided.
- 8. Bathroom accessibility only through the door by the baptismal font.
- 9. All other areas of the church, including Wesley room, dining room, kitchen, nursery and basement, will be closed.
- 10. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available.
- 11. No social time in church, no food or beverages will be served.

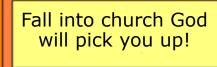
These changes are designed for everyone's safety!



Happy September Birthdays

Andy Loomis 9/6
David Roelfs 9/12
Don Anderson 9/12
Ravi Roelfs 9/12
Linda Hokanson 9/18
Matt Elmgren 9/19
Jennifer Huff 9/20
Eliza Paulson 9/24
Louise Reisewitz 9/26
Terry Giles 9/26
Doris Olson 9/27
Mariah Zastrow 9/28

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH JULY 2020



			~
Funds	July 2020	Ye	ear-to-Date 2020
General Funds Gifts	\$ 6,077.00	\$	34,412.00
Loose Offering	\$ -	\$	242.55
Upper Room	\$ -	\$	20.00
Sunday School	\$ -	\$	-
Total General Funds	\$ 6,077.00	\$	34,674.55
Equipment			
Replacement Fund	\$ -	\$	168.00
Capital	\$ -	\$	100.00
Missions	\$ 50.00	\$	366.00
Specials	\$ -	\$	131.00
Other-Pastors Youth			
Fund	\$ 50.00	\$	830.00
A/C Fund	\$ -	\$	-
UMW	\$ -	\$	-
UMM	\$ -	\$	-
Other	\$ 390.00	\$	400.00
All Funds	\$ 6,177.00	\$	36,669.55

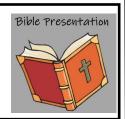
GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS



Admin Council

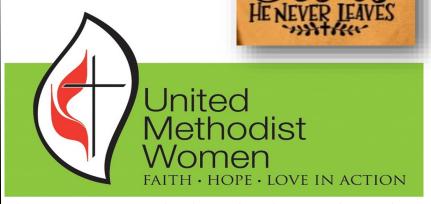
6:30 pm ~ September 15th Central UMC

3rd Grade Bible Presentation on Rally Sunday, Sept. 20th at Central





There will not be a meeting in September.



The next UMW meeting is Wednesday, October 14th at 1:00 pm at Central UMC in Grantsburg.

Where did Labor Day come from?

Labor Day was created as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the workforce for all that they have done to make our country prosperous and strong.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City, and other cities followed this example in the following years. It was in 1894 that Congress passed a law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday.

Now that you know... have a great Labor Day!

Labor Day ~ Monday, September 7th

MISSION INFORMATION

School supplies and financial donations of \$70.00 for supplies were collected and Grantsburg School District students will benefit from this. Thank you for your generosity.

In September we will continue to focus on some of the Salvation Army programs. This has been a difficult year financially for the Salvation Army. They were not able to have their summer kettle drive due to the coronavirus.

-We will be collecting financial donations for Moola for Milk. This program allows for milk vouchers to be given to students in the Salvation Army's Backpack Program. Our donations will be given to the Alliance of Grantsburg Churches, which is an organization made of eight local churches, which I am the Central United Methodist Church representative. The Alliance is working together to fundraise with the goal of covering the total cost of the Grantsburg Backpacks. I will have a milk carton for donations at the back of the church where the offering basket is. As always we will continue to collect mac n cheese for the Salvation Army Backpack Program.

I would also like to support the Faith House Shelter in Siren. The shelter is run by the Salvation Army. I recently received an email with the request for supplies. Here is a list of items that they need.

Deodorant (Men's and Women's), Cloth Face Masks, Shampoo and Conditioner, Dish Soap, Surface Cleaners, Bleach, Feminine Products, Oven Cleaner, and Office Supplies

These supplies can be dropped off at the church and be put in the bushel basket that is at the front of the church. Thanks again for all your support. ~ Deb Hammer





Upper St. Croix Parish



Sundays, Through September

10:00 am Atlas Park next to Atlas UMC

If possible please print out your own materials that will be emailed out to everyone. There will be some hard copies at available.

There will be individual packets for the Communion service on August 6th.

We look forward to seeing you!

INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offerings:

8/2 \$1250.00 8/9 \$ 395.00 8/16 \$ 98.37 8/23 \$ 00.00 8/30 <u>Unavailable</u>



Total \$1743.37 (as of 8/23)

\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses. **\$1535.47** shortage for August.

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



PLANET 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!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES
Briana & Jared Olson 9/10
Troy & Kristie Olson 9/10
Dustin & Chelsie Kunze 9/20
Monica Mattson 9/24
Barb Melin 9/25
Kristie Olson 9/28

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

August 21st at 6:00 pm Atlas UMC







LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Monthly Report June 2020

Households Served 52
Adults 89
Children 5
Total People 94

Luck School District 39
Unity School District 12
Other 0
New Families:
Unity 0, Luck 1, Other 0

USDA Food Received 1155# NON-USDA (Donations) 704# Groceries Purchased 585# Volunteer Hours 55 1/2

Items Needed: Cereal & Person Items

LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

You are invited to bring food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Luck. As we are not currently holding church services, please drop your food shelf donations off in person at the food shelf.

September Collection:

Shelf Stable Milk or 100% Juice





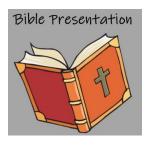
September 22nd



First Day of Autumn

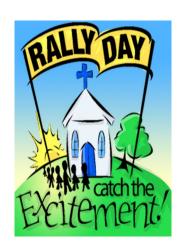
Confirmation

Confirmation
Ceremony and
3rd Grade Bible
Presentation



Sunday, Sept. 13th at Atlas Park weather permitting or in Atlas Church if the weather doesn't allow for an outdoor service and ceremony.





Join us for USCP's Rally Sunday on September 20th!

SEPTEMBER MISSION

Moolah-For-Milk

We're asking you to bring in your coins to fill the kids' little milk cartons! On the

Sundays of
September, the
children will be
asking for your
loose change. Your
donations reach into
the community and
care for children and
their families who
are in need.





Currently there are no Helping Hands signed up for September as we will continue our outdoor Drive-In Services as long as weather permits.

We will keep you posted as to when the church will open for Sunday Services.

Thank you!

A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDU(ATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR (HILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY (ONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR (OMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT (OMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.

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: 9/6/20





St. Croix Falls Admin Council Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, Sept. 17th 4:00 pm

Fay Andrews 9/1

LeAnn Sylvester 9/29

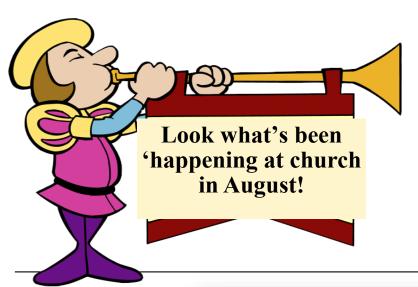


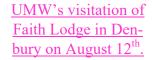
SEPTEMBER MISSION:



AMEN

September's
Sailor Hat
offering will go
to support
the St. Croix Falls
Backpack Program
and School Store.











In-Door Service at Grantsburg on August 16



Week 4, Virtual Sunday School



Confirmation kids and parents on August 19th.





Kids' Beach Night at
Christian Retreat Center in Skonewood on
August 19th

AUGUST IN PICTURES CONTINUED...



Drive-In Service at Atlas Park on August 9th & 16th







MISCELLANEOUS



Charge Conference via Zoom Oct. 27th 6pm



Virtual Sunday School
4-6 pm Monday's via Facebook
Pick up prepared supplies at
church on Sunday
Sunday Lesson posted
'Mondays at 4pm on Facebook

FALL FUN ACTIVITY PAGE



Autumn Word Search



See how many of these autumn related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- 1. Autumn
- 2. Fall
- 3. Leaves
- 4. Colors

- 5. Raking
- 6. Harvest
- 7. Pumpkins
- 8. Apples

- 9. Gourds
- 10. Football
- 11. Season
- 12. Scarecrow
- 13. Corn
- 14. Maize
- 15. Yellow
- 16. Orange

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









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 appear in the content of 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.