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



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A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Connecting Vision and Generosity September 2021

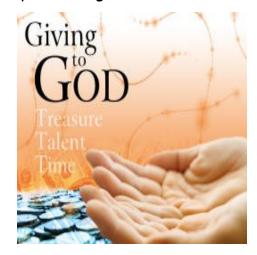
Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8



After serving my first local church part-time as a college student for two years, I had just finished leading my last worship service and was greeting folks at the door. One gentleman shook my hand and said, "Jason, thank you for being our pastor. I think one of the things I liked about you the most is that you never talked about money."

I've thought about his statement many times over the years. I've also heard the same sentiment repeated by both laity and clergy in many ways. We tend to see financial stewardship and money as a "necessary evil." It's something we must deal with to get to real ministry.

In his short book, A Spirituality of Fundraising, Henri Nouwen challenges this view of money and stewardship (which he calls fundraising). He writes: Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate



with us in our vision and mission. We are declaring, 'We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you - your energy, your prayers, and your money - in this work to which God has called us.

I wonder what vision God has entrusted to you and your congregation that you can invite others to be a part of through their prayers, their presence, their service, their witness, and their gifts.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

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



"It is My Life, Not a Job"

"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

What is your name? Where are you from? How long have you been here? These questions are what most people asked me when I met them for the first time. However, recently I had people say, "Hi Jenny, how are you?" It had happened at the store, on the street, and even at the Library or Community Center. Especially when I come to the Convention Center in Grantsburg and the Community Center in Webster, I hear people's welcoming voices, saying, "Hi Jenny, how are you?" instead of the questions I used to get. I feel like I am now settled in this community, and I am a Wisconsinite.

I've been here two years. Technically, I've been here for two years and twenty-four days. I cannot believe that I've been here for more than two years already. Since I was appointed to this parish in August of 2019, I lost my American mom in October of 2019. In the grief of the loss of my mom, I began my ministry in Wisconsin. Before I knew about our congregation and parish, the COVID 19 pandemic hit our area and all over the world. We closed our churches. I indeed felt isolated in Wisconsin. However, the COVID 19 pandemic made me busy figuring out a new way of ministry. I tried to keep a connection with others in our parish because not only did I feel isolated, but all of us felt the same. Getting busy somehow helped me to forget the isolation and loneliness. During the pandemic, working on my garden helped me not to get homesick as well. Gardening refreshes me and meditates my soul and mind. Gardening sometimes gives me the wisdom of ministry as well as makes me familiar with this community.

Meanwhile, I have joined a ping-pong group in Webster, and I play ping-pong once a week with them. It is an activity and exercise I do in my leisure time to hang out with those in the community. The people are like my new friends. I also joined the Rotary Club in Grantsburg, and I meet the Rotarians once a week. Rotary Club helps me to know about community life. While I meet people in the community, I can listen to them and learn about what's going on in our community Finally, I have moved into this community emotionally and mindfully, not just physically. I have met the people of Jesus in our community, who gave me a warm smile and encouragement, and I have met neighbors who made me feel passionate to help them build a good relationship with God. For example, I am moving into our community deeply with my whole mind and heart. It is my way to live as a Wisconsinite beyond a pastor of the Upper St. Croix Parish. I enjoy my life and my ministry in this community, meeting the people of Jesus and my neighbors. Meanwhile, it seemed the pandemic had passed over, and we could reopen our churches and enjoy seeing each other again.

However, before people come back to the church, we recently heard that our community is in the red zone of the Delta Variant Virus. The Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church recommends wearing facemasks inside the churches, keeping social distances. We are afraid of reclosing our churches. We are also fearful of what our future church looks like. Many members didn't come back to the church. What will happen in the Methodist Church? We don't know about tomorrow and what the future holds. We just live day by day. However, we know one thing and that is that God is with us. The Gospel of John says, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." Yes, it means Jesus Christ. As God created all things by His Word, God's Word is powerful. The Word came to us as Jesus Christ and showed us how much God loves us through Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. Even though Jesus lifted up heaven, we believe in his Last Words, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b).

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED...

We believe in His promise that he will be with us to the end of the ages. As our faith ancestors overcame severe persecution and disaster to keep their faith, I trust that we can overcome the challenges, difficulties, and dangers we might face because God is with us. Many rumors make people leave the church. Looking at the people who left the church hurt us emotionally and spiritually. I am also hurt when I can't help people. Whenever I face difficulties in my ministry, I ask myself, "Is this the job for you? Or, is it your way of life?" If I say, "it is my job," it is easy to avoid the difficulties. However, if I say, "it is my way of life," I have to live out through the difficulties. I will live through the difficulties I might face in my ministry because it is my life. I encourage you to go together. We can go through all challenges because God is with us. I am more excited than fearful of how God works for us. Let us expect God's wonderful work for us rather than have fear in what the future brings. God is with us!

Blessings!

Pastor Jenny Lee



Webster Ping-Pong Group



Received Rotary Member Certification

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!





GRANTSBURG: CENTRAL NEWS



Central UMC is holding church services at 8:30 am on Sundays. We are looking for volunteers to help out at each service. Sign up sheets are available at the church. We appreciate your willingness to help out!



Most all of us are vaccinated, but we respect everyone whether masks are on or off. As we are still living with the Coronavirus we are encouraging people to avoid hugging or shaking hands with each other.

We welcome everyone to join us for Coffee Fellowship after service each Sunday. Please be safe.





Andy Loomis 9/6 Don Anderson 9/12 Linda Hokanson 9/18 Jennifer Engelken 9/20 Anneliese Snyder 9/22 Terry Giles 9/26 Louise Reisewitz 9/26 Doris Olson 9/27



A GLANCE AT CENTRAL'S OFFERING INCOME THROUGH JULY 2021



Funds	July Year-to-Date 2021 2021		
General Funds Gifts	\$ 6,130.00	\$	27,550.00
Loose Offering	\$ 63.00	\$	195.00
Upper Room	\$ -	\$	10.00
Rummage Sale	\$ -	\$	506.50
Easter Offering		\$	90.00
Total General Funds	\$ 6,193.00	\$	28,351.50
Missions	\$ 125.00	\$	175.00
Specials	\$ -	\$	285.00
Other		\$	-
All Funds	\$ 6,318.00	\$	28,811.50

GRANTSBURG: MISSIONS & MEETINGS & MISC.

The UMW ladies carpooled to Mary McNally's cabin for our August 18 meeting. After a lunch of pizza, breadsticks and melon we had our meeting and election of officers for 2022 was held. A pontoon boat ride followed the meeting and we ended the afternoon with ice cream and brownies.

Our next meeting will be September 15 at the church.1;00 pm. If you have questions call Mary 715-791-8010.

2022 UMW Elected Officers:

- Mary McNally President,
- ✤ LuAnne Martell Vice President,
- ✤ Kayleen Branstad, Treasurer
- ✤ Paulie Kratchmer Secretary.
- ✤ Judy Lien will be in charge of funerals
- ♥ Valetta Walton will take over the College Kids Program



Admin Meeting September 21st 6:30 pm Central UMC





September 11th Meeting

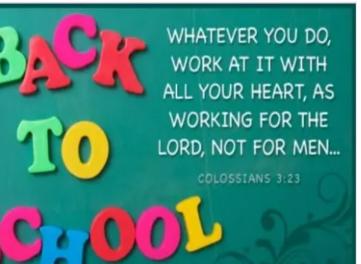
United

Women

Methodist

8:00 am at Central UMC

The United Methodist Men will meet the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am. No masks are required.



SEPTEMBER MISSION MOOLAH FOR MILK

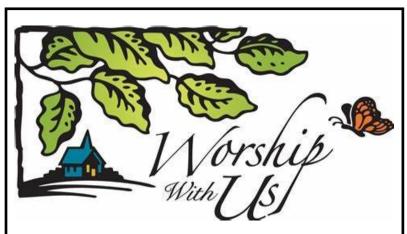


This month Central will be collecting loose change to support the Moolah for Milk program. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile program!









In-person (indoor) worship services Sundays at 9:45 am.

We will be needing volunteers so please check the sign up sheets if you are able to help. Thank you!

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 indoor services, please drop your food shelf donations off in person at the food shelf.

August Collection:

Canned Vegetables





INCOME TOWARD ATLAS' BUDGET

Offerings:

August Other Total \$ 1520.00 <u>\$ Unavailable</u> \$1520.00 as of 8/22/21

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

\$3278.84 - Needed per Month to cover expenses. **\$1758.84** shortage .



Troy & Kristie Olson 9/10

Briana & Jared Olson 9/10



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!





Church News

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Dear Lord, use my eyes to Dear Lord, use my eyes to Dear Lord, use my eyes to See new friends. Open my ears to hear my teacher. Open my mind to learn new things. Let my heart remember YOU are near when I'm afraid. Help me to lorse others like you do. I want to shire your light so bright in my school."

SEPTEMBER MISSION Moolah for Milk

In September the children will collect loose change to support the Moolah For Milk program. Thank you for your support!



Please join us for a Celebration of Life In Memory of Wesley Evan Skeie



We will gather to share some of our favorite memories of Wesley. We will laugh and cry but most importantly remember a truly amazing person who is greatly missed.

> Saturday, September 11, 2021 10:00 am Visitatian 11:00 am Service Lunch Fallawing the Service

Servant af Okrist Lutheran Okurch 740 E Hayden Lake Rd, Okamptin, MM 55316

Thank you for all the love and support. Colleen, Barry & Chaz Norenberg



LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY Monthly Report ~ July 2021

Households Served33
60
ChildrenTotal People75USDA Food Received1366#
0#

Luck School District 22 Unity School District 11 Other 0 New Families: Unity 0 Luck 0 Other 0 NON-USDA (Donations) 618#

Volunteer Hours 43 1/2

Items Needed: Peanut butter, tuna fish, canned vegetables.



HELPING HANDS

Volunteers for the month of September

Liturgist Money Counter Usher Fellowship Flowers Communion Jim Andrews Karen Sciacca Karen Sciacca Admin Council Silk Arrangements Using Communion Packets

In-person services will be held Sunday's at 11:15 am. We hope to see you there!

We will still also hold ZOOM Video services at 8:30 am every Sunday. Check out our website and Facebook page for details. We





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: 9/5/21



St. Croix Falls Admin Council Meeting

September 16th 4:00 pm via Zoom

SEPTEMBER MISSION

The Sailor Hat Offering for September will go to support the backpack program and the SCF School Store.



Thank you for your support!



Fay Andrews 9/1 Richard Benjamin 9/4 LeAnn Sylvester 9/29 Betty & Richard Benjamin





My Beloved Wisconsin Siblings in Christ,

I greet you in the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, and I would begin with gratitude for the faithfulness and witness of your discipleship during the pandemic. I write today concerned about grounding our Christian practice as the Delta Variant has become the predominant strain in Wisconsin.



We cannot eliminate risk in our life together, but we can be wise and bear witness to Jesus by what we place in the center. Psalm 84 begins, "how lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!'. The temple is considered lovely in verse three because, "even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young." The temple and temple community are lovely because they have made room for the sparrow who looks for protection.

Consider, dear Siblings, that with the Delta Variant we are seeing increased transmissibility and impact on the unvaccinated, as well as breakthrough cases for the vaccinated. We are experiencing turnover in clergy leadership from stress. Children are unable to be vaccinated. Many have compromised immune systems and our health care professionals are under great strain. In such a time as this, might we train our eyes on ways we make room for the vulnerable? How might we be children of a God whose eye is on the sparrow?

In January of this year, I asked you to consider the accountability and practice of three simple rules for United Methodists in Wisconsin: be cautious, be gracious, and be flexible.

I thank God for our Coronavirus Task Force. Their Q & A is below. Please read it prayerfully. Leaders, these are important days for spiritual leadership. Thank you for every way you walk the moral high ground, and every time you humbly surrender your personal preferences to benefit the mission of Jesus. How lovely is the temple where the sparrow finds a home.

Know that I am praying for you.

In Christ's love, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Covid- 19 FAQ Sheet - Updated August 16, 2021

Due to the changing nature of Covid-19 and the Delta Variant, the Covid Task Team has summarized some commonly asked questions and new guidelines.

We live in a precarious time where a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons create a high risk of a COVID strain developing that is resistant to all vaccines, which means the pandemic could start all over again with another year or more of not being able to gather as a congregation. This adds to the urgency to get more people vaccinated.

What is the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mask guideline?

As of July 27, 2021, the CDC states that those fully vaccinated can "participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic", **unless there are local rules that require a different mandate.**

Masks are not required for those fully vaccinated if you live in an area of **Low or Moderate** Covid-19 transmission.

In areas with **Substantial or High** transmission, the CDC recommends masks be worn in indoor, public places regardless of vaccination status.

Currently, most of Wisconsin is in the High category. Therefore the Conference strongly urges people to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Please be sure to follow your local county guidelines if different from the current CDC guidelines.

Here is a visual map showing the transmission level for each county in Wisconsin.







United Methodist Women's Birthday Party (G)



Celebration of Life for Norma Kratchmer, 8-28-2021 (Pastor Jenny Lee and Norma's family)



Thrift Sale at Atlas UMC, 8-7-2021, (Colleen Adams-Schween, Cheryl Olson and Sue Olson)

Polk County Fair, 8-29-2021 (Jim & Karen Sciacca with Pastor Jenny Lee)





Infant Baptism (G), 8-1-2021,

(Sasha Maria Rose Chute, her Parents Stanley Chute & Donna Norman, and Godparents Dallas & Rita Chute)

National Night Out (G),

8-3-2021

(Free Ice Cream Cones from Central UMC. Sharon Huff, Barb Loomis, and Bob Branstad)





United Methodist Men's meeting (G), 8-14-2021, (Charlie Wright, Don Anderson, and Stanley Chute with Pastor Jenny Lee)



United Methodist Women Hanging Out, 8-18-2021, (Dave Holt (Captain), Valetta Walton, Mary McNally, Linda Hokanson, LuAnne Martell, Barb Loomis and Judy Lien)

New College Student Blessings, 8-15-2021, (SCF, Nathan Murtaugh and his family)



New College Student Blessings, 8-15-2021 (Atlas, Tanner Gaffey and his mother Mariah Gaffey with Pastor Jenny Lee)



Visitations



Sue Ott (A)





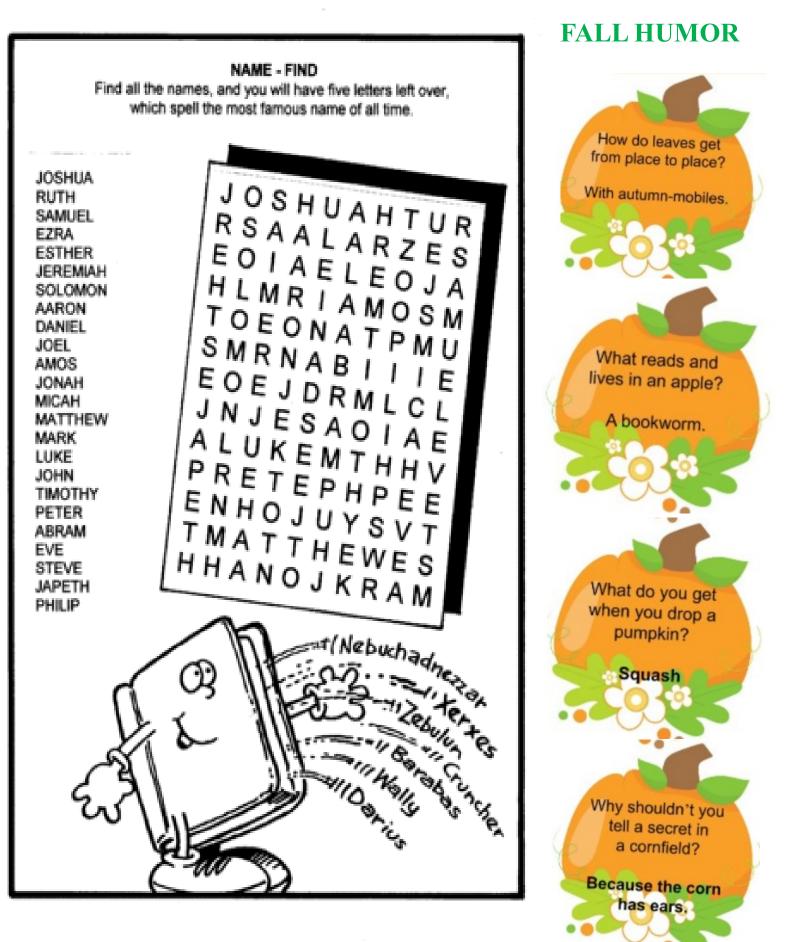
Louise Reisewitz (G)



Charlie & Joan Ziegler with Karen Sciacca (SCF)

Dorothy Miller (A)

SEPTEMBER FUN PAGE



ZOOM VIDEO WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 am Sunday's

There will be a parish-wide ZOOM video service at 8:30 am every Sunday until further notice. The worship materials will be mailed out to those without email, emailed out to everyone in the parish we have email addresses for and posted on our website. The sermon and ZOOM login information will also be sent with the service material and posted on our website. The video of the worship service will be posted on the parish Facebook page after the service.



MINISTRY TABLETS AVAILABLE

Just a reminder we have ministry tablets available for all churches to use for their members, please let Pastor Jenny know if you would like to use one.

Our experiences are that users really appreciate them, they are able to hear and see other members during the service. -Karen Sciacca



Youth & Children's Ministry Directors Wanted

The Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church is looking for two high energy, fun spirited directors to join our team. Must have a Christian sense of call to compassionate service, a love for working with youth and children, passion for faith development, excellent communication skills, creativity, and the ability to work effectively with others. Both positions will be part-time: Youth Director position is about 5 hours per week, and the Children's Director position is about 7 hours per week. Duties include coordinating programs, leading activities, and monthly meetings with volunteers and the pastor. Pay based on experience.

Please email resume with cover letter to jennlee1732@gmail.com.

Contact: Pastor Jenny Lee

Address: 301 S. Pine St., Grantsburg, WI 54840

Website: <u>www.upperstcroixparish.org</u>

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)

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

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

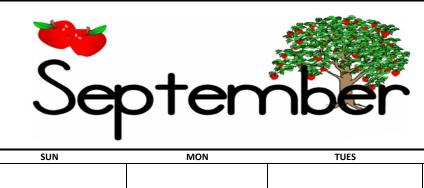
24663 Angeline Ave., Webster II 349-2195, Becky Reynolds Food distribution: Monday to Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm (Native American Income Eligible Only)

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.





"If you love me, feed my sheep." John 21:15-19





Calendar of the Upper St. Croix Parish

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Pastor Jenny's Office Hours Grantsburg-Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 am - 5 pm St. Croix Falls-Thurs, 11am - 4 pm	Colleen's Office Hours (<i>Times are approximate</i>) Remotely: Tuesday's 8:00 am-4:00 pm Friday's 8:00 am-12:00 pm		Grantsburg: LuAr	2 vacation 8/30-9/10-(Emerge ine Martell, 715-222-3016, ren Sciacca, 715-338-1865)	Atlas: Sue Olson, 715-554	
5 8:30 Worship (G) Baptism (G) 8:30 Zoom Worship Service 9:45 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF) Pastor Jenny on vacation 1 3126, St. Croix Falls: Karer	6 Labor Day LABOR DAY 8/30-9/10-(Emergency contacts	7 7 S Ad Chairs for each church: Grants	8 burg: LuAnne Martell, 715	9 -222-3016, Atlas: Sue Olson	10	11 8:00 UMM Meeting (G) Celebration of Life for Wesley Skeie at Servant of Chri: Lutheran Church, Champlin MN 10am Visitation 11am Service Lunch Following
12 Communion Sunday 8:30 Worship (G) 8:30 Zoom Worship Service 9:45 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF)	13	14 7-8:30pm Provisional Elder Mentoring Meeting (Zoom)	15 1:0 UMW Meeting (G)	16 9-10 am District Clergy Meeting (Zoom) 4:00 St. Croix Falls' Ad Council Meeting (Zoom)	17 10:30 am AD Council in Person (A)	18

Se	pter	nber	2	021		ndar of the er St. Croix Parish
SUN 19 8:30 Worship (G) Welcoming New Members (G) 8:30 Zoom Worship Service 9:45 Worship (A) Rally Sunday (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF)	MON 20	TUES 21 10:00 am Deadline to submit Newsletter and Calendar information Construction 6:30 Ad Council Meeting (G)	WED 22	THUR 23 ICD Training fo	FRI 24 r Pastor Jenny	SAT 25
26 8:30 Worship (G) 8:30 Zoom Worship Service 9:45 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF)	27	28	29	30 9-10 am District Clergy Meeting (Zoom)		
29 8:30 Worship (G) 8:30 Zoom Worship Service 9:45 Worship (A) 11:15 Worship (SCF)	30	31	Check us out on the web at upperstcroixparish.org or on Facebook!			