

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

God of the living, whose will for us is the experience of steadfast love in all our relationships. We sometimes experience pain, suffering, grieving, separation and despair at our hands. But, hear our prayers of tears, lead us to peace and comfort. Teach us to cry with those who cry, and to rejoice with those who rejoice, so that we know all are brothers and sisters in you our Lord. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND**

**OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

The earth is yours, O God, and all that is in it. We have received untold blessings from your hand. You set before us the vision of a new heaven and new earth, inviting us to share in its formation. May the love of Jesus be expressed to others by our sharing of gifts, both person to person and through the investment of dollars to support the ministries of others. This offering of service and sacrifice is the high point of our worship. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another***

**\*HYMN** *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* **UMH 702 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**POSTLUDE**

# Upper St. Croix Parish

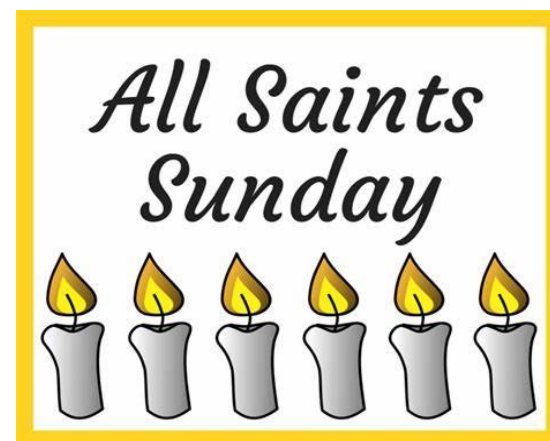
**ONE Parish THREE Churches:**

**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**

**October 31st, 2021**

**“Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost”**

**“All Saints Sunday”**



**The United Methodist Church**

**8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service**

**9:45 AM at Atlas**

**11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Parish Office:** 715-463- 2624 – [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

**St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

**[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)**

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**October 31st, 2021**  
**“Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost”**  
**“All Saints Sunday”**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

*“Peace be with you”*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

How often have we imagined the ruler of glory far off?  
God is not in some remote heaven but here.

**We wait in silence for God’s presence.**

**Come, Holy One, to wipe away our tears.**

Stretch out your hands and open your hearts.

Purify your lives from all deceit and falsehood.

**God reaches out to comfort and cleanse.**

**We can sense God’s hand of blessing resting on us.**

The earth and all things in it are God’s.

The world and all its people belong to God.

**We are God’s people, called and saved by Christ.**

**We are the saints who share in Christ’s ministry. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Hymn of Promise* **UMH 707 (vs.1 & 3)**

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

**We bless your holy name, O God, for all your servants who,  
having finished their course, now rest from their labors. Give us  
grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness,  
to your honor and glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF DECEASED LOVED ONES**

**THE PRAY FOR ALL SAINTS**

**UMH 713**

**Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion  
and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord.  
Grant us grace so to follow your holy saints in all virtuous and godly  
living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which you have  
prepared for those who sincerely love you; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 11:32-44**

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and  
said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33  
When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he  
was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, “Where have you  
laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus began to weep. 36  
So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could  
not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a  
stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the  
sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he  
has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you  
believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone.  
And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42  
I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd  
standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said  
this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came  
out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a  
cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*“The Tears of Jesus”*

**Pastor Jenny Lee**



**We Respond to God’s Word**

# CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS ... October

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p><b>Moolah For Milk</b></p> <p>Collecting loose change to support Moolah for Milk!</p> 	 <p><b>Operation Christmas Child</b></p> <p>We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child-shoe boxes and information is available at church.</p>
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## GRANTSBURG... October

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!</p> <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p><b>Trick or Treat for UNICEF</b></p> <p><i>Collecting Loose Offering</i></p> 
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## ST. CROIX FALLS ... October

<p><b>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</b></p> 	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p><i>Homeless Shelter in Amery</i></p> 
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## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Today's Service

**Central:**  
 Pianist Toni Koons  
 Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*  
 Mowing *Volunteer Needed*  
 Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson  
 Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*  
 Counter *Volunteer Needed*  
 Sunday School Younger/Older  
 LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis

**Atlas:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Sue Olson  
 Usher(s) Sue Olson  
 Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*  
 Sunday School Younger/Older  
 Cheryl Olson/Colleen Adams-Schween

**St. Croix Falls:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
 Usher(s) Kathy Gionis  
 Money Counter Peter Gionis  
 Flowers Kathy Gionis  
 Fellowship Ad Council members



**BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:**  
 "This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)  
 Please pray once a day at least, if it is possible!

- 1) Pray for the Youth/Children ministry.
- 2) Pray for our church's revitalization.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page. Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear “the service by Phone,” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

### This Week’s Calendar:

Today: “23rd Sunday after Pentecost.” God bless you and your family members!

### Sunday Worship Service:

8:30 am Grantsburg  
9:45 am Atlas  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls

11/1-11/3: ICD Training in Steven Point (Pastor Jenny will be out of office)

11/4: 9am-District Clergy Meeting via Zoom.

### The Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Cheryl Olson 11/2

Margie Mattson 11/3

Linda Harmon 11/4

Mike Steffen 11/4



### Next Sunday (November 1st) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People  
**Pastor Jenny Lee**

#### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons  
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
Mowing **Volunteer Needed**  
Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson  
Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**  
Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

#### Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
Usher(s) **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
**Volunteer Needed**

#### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Kathy Gionis  
Usher(s) Karen Sciacca  
Money Counter Peter Gionis  
Flowers Kathy Gionis  
Fellowship Ad Council Members (3rd Sunday of the Month)

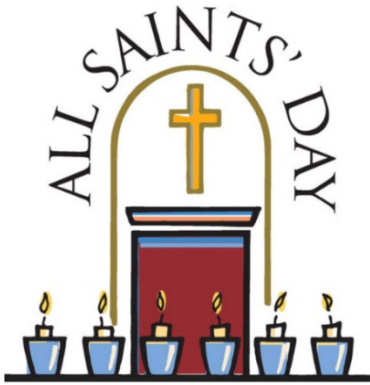


11/7 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

11/10 6:30 PM, CONFIRMATION CLASS ORIENTATION (G)

11/13 8 AM, UMM MEETING (G)

11/14 VETERANS SUNDAY (PLEASE GIVE THE NAMES OF VETERANS IN THE CONGREGATION TO PASTOR JENNY BY 11/7.)



## To Remember & Give Thanks...

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Below are those loved ones who have passed in the last year or so. We want to remember them by giving thanks and lifting them up in prayer.

### **Central-Grantsburg**

John Clewlow  
Donnie Ferguson  
Merlin Johnson  
Mike McCale  
Neil Miller  
Dave Peterson  
Barbara Rahkola  
Dale Soderbeck  
George Wright

### **Atlas**

Marilyn Brissett  
Lois Cruther  
Jerry Dodd  
Diane Dueholm  
Mike Frederickson  
Jack Hale  
Neal Jorgensen  
Leone Montgomery  
Amber Novak  
Rick Novak  
Gary Olson  
Richard Schween  
Jerry Skeie  
Wesley Skeie  
Chris Surprise

### **St. Croix Falls**

Georgine Anderson  
Monte Fay  
Dennie Mclean  
Darrell Peterson  
Barb Peterson  
Randy Zabel



October 31, 2021  
John 11:32-44

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.  
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

### **“The Tears of Jesus”**

I want to start with a story from the Jewish Talmud. One day, God had asked the angels to bring the most precious thing into the world. The first angel brought the diamond; the second brought the beauty of a young woman. However, God was not very interested in these two things. But, when God saw the “vessel containing the tears that sinners shed when they repented,” which the third angel had brought, God was very satisfied and said, “You have brought the most precious thing.”

I want to talk about “tears” today. In Korean culture, there is a saying, “a man can shed tears three times in his life: when he was born, when his parents passed away, and the country has perished.” Other than that, if a man cries, he is regarded as a weak man. If it is true, Jesus must be a weak man because Jesus used to weep for the people. What about you? When do you cry? I know, when you lose your loved ones, you grieve. And then sometimes when you miss them, you might weep, too.

Today is “All Saints Sunday, and also “Halloween.” All Saints Sunday is observed after Halloween, on November 1, or the first Sunday of November. It is the day to celebrate the communion of saints in heaven as we remember the dead, both the church universal and our local congregations. For this reason, we solemnly read the names in the congregation who have died during the past year. You might be curious why we have “All Saints Sunday” after Halloween. Halloween began to drive the ghosts out and clean up the whole house. And we have ‘All Saints Day on the next day. So, some call Halloween ‘All Saints Day’s Eve.’ Thinking of Halloween and All Saints Day’s true meaning, we may keep All Saints Day. All Saints Day is the day to expel all devils and honor our loved ones who returned to the heavenly home. When we name them one by one, we may remember their faithful journey in the world. All God’s people might be saints. When we light the candles naming them one by one, we may weep, tearing in remembrance of a very moment, pain, suffering, grieving, separation, and longing for them.

There are many tears in the world. There are tears of sorrow, tears of pain, tears of joy. Yes, even when we are happy, our tears are shed. And, when we face a very moment of injustice, we may tear up. When our voices are not heard, we may cry. Also, there are tears of victory, and physiological tears, which we shed to wash irritants from our eyes. Of all these tears, which one do you think is the most precious? Well, I think all tears matter. You may have heard, “tears cleanse our souls.” After we weep, we might feel at peace. The psychologist Henley Mossler said, “Tears are the gift of God for healing.” Your tears may heal your soul, mind, and spirit as well.

In today’s scripture, we saw that Jesus wept. He wept at the tomb of Lazarus, who died. Jesus didn’t weep for himself but for the people. When he was carrying the cross, women were



crying. Jesus said to them, “don’t cry for me, but for yourself and your children” (Matthew 23:28). In today’s scripture, there were Martha, Mary, and Lazarus in Bethany near Jerusalem. They received the Lord’s special love. But, while Jesus was preaching in another town, Lazarus became ill. Jesus didn’t come right away, and Lazarus died in the meantime, and four days after he died, the body already smelled, and then Jesus came. When this happens, Martha and Mary and many mourners wept as well. When Jesus came to their house, Mary said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” It sounds like she was complaining to Jesus, “Why are you late?” But, Jesus saw her sorrow instead of her complaint. Today’s scripture says, “When Jesus saw Mary’s weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.” And Jesus also began to weep. People said, “Look, how he loved him!” When we cry for others, God also weeps with us.

Our tears may move God’s mind to compassion and mercy for our loved ones. Jesus told them to move the stone from the tomb where Lazarus was buried, and then when he said, “Lazarus, come out,” the scene was of Lazarus walking out with a smelly body four days after his death. Jesus’ tears signify mercy and compassion. When Jesus wept, it meant that he showed mercy and compassion to the weak, the grieving, the sick, and those who were in despair at the sight of death. Jesus’ tears were compassion and mercy toward his people. Our salvation is from unconditional love and mercy.

What our Lord asks us is for mercy rather than sacrifice (Hosea 6:6). Compassion is sharing in suffering from the afflicted. It is crying together with them. It is crying for them. It is about being involved in the situation they are in. It is Jesus’ love and heart. I hope that we have Jesus’ mind in the center of our hearts. We would be those who weep with those who weep and those who rejoice with those who rejoice. Our Lord Jesus’ heart is weakened when someone weeps for life-related matters. He was the one who solved their sad problems by sharing in their tears.

Do you weep for injustice or unfairness? If you do so, God will count your tears. King David, who we remember him as the great king in Israelite, had a difficult time because of King Saul’s jealousy. He was a refugee in the wilderness. David wrote his prayers in Psalms, “You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?” (Psalm 56:8). He wept before God. God remembers your pain and oppression as God heard David. Do you cry for reconciliation? If you do so, weep before God. God may listen to your tears. Joseph wept for a broken relationship with his brothers because his brothers sold him as a slave. But, his weeping brought reconciliation between him and his brothers. Do you weep for your medical issue, bad medical report, health problem, or for your loved ones’ issue? If you do so, remember Hezekiah’s prayers.

God is weak with tears. So in tears, miracles happen. God gave Samuel to Hannah’s tears of prayer, hearing Hannah’s suffering in unfairness. God gave David the throne through his prayers of tears. And, Hezekiah’s prayers extended his life by fifteen years. The disciple Peter’s tears of repentance empowered him to be the excellent disciples of Jesus. Where tears are, is where forgiveness and reconciliation are. Do you weep for your loved ones in the loss of grief? Your tears may purify your souls and minds, and you may see in heaven. Tears are the gifts of God for healing. When you shed tears, you might awaken spiritually. Khalil Gibran said, “Tears wash my heart and make me understand the secrets and hidden things of life.” If you want to weep, cry before God. God may hear you. Remember when you grieve, God also weeps with you. May your tears of prayers bring you peace and comfort and heal you in spirit and body. Thanks be to God. Amen!