

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

O God, we have bread, so we will share. We have pure water, so we will give to dig wells for others. We have faith, so we will tell others of the great things you have done. These sacred moments of giving acknowledge your ownership of all our possessions. We seek to answer your call to responsible stewardship and faithfulness in mission. We are your heralds and apostles. Thank you, God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee
POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
November 21st, 2021
“Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost”
“Thanksgiving 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

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 – centralumc2016@gmail.com

St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
November 21st, 2021
“Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost”
“Thanksgiving Sunday”

*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

Be glad and rejoice, for God has done great things.
 Our mouths are filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

A harvest of abundance surrounds us.

We will eat in plenty and be satisfied.

Praise God for all the bounty we enjoy.

Give thanks for every good and perfect gift.

We lay aside our worries and our fears.

God has dealt wondrously with us, and we rejoice.

Seek first God's realm of righteousness.

Let God reign in all your thoughts and relationships.

We know God is with us here.

We trust God to supply what we most need. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Give Thanks

TFWS 2036

OPENING PRAYER Unison

How good it is to join in prayers of thanksgiving and songs of praise! You have been good to us, gracious God! For sunshine and rain, for the labors of all who harvest the grain, we pour out our gratitude. You have dealt wondrously with us so that we have more than we need. Dwell with us now that we may not only be inspired to share but also prompted to work for a more just world in which all your children have enough to eat and reasons for joy. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 6:25-33

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Give Thanks to God!”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Caring God, your attention is given impartially and completely to each and all of your children, and your love is ever available. Make yourself known to us now. Clothe us with faith, fill us with knowledge of your truth and lift us up to new heights of godliness and dignity, that our thanksgiving might be generously shared and joyously celebrated. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

SHARING OUR JOYS AND GRATITUDE**OFFERING “THANKS CARDS” TO GOD****PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER****INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND****OFFERINGS*****DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS ... November

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p>  | <p>Moolah For Milk</p> <p>Collecting loose change to support Moolah for Milk!</p>  |  <p>Operation Christmas Child</p> <p>We collected 33 shoeboxes! Thank you for your support!</p> |
|--|--|---|

GRANTSBURG... November

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!</p> <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p>  |  <p>Operation Christmas Child</p> <p>We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child-shoe boxes must be dropped off by November 21st early morning.</p> |
|---|--|

ST. CROIX FALLS ... November

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>  | <p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>Gift (Food) Cards for Thanksgiving for families in need.</i></p>  |
|---|---|

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Today's Service

Central:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Pianist | Toni Koons |
| Liturgist | LuAnne Martell |
| Snow Removal | Stan Chute |
| Acolyte(s) | Willow Erickson |
| Fellowship | Deb Harmon |
| Counter | Volunteer Needed |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older |
| | LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis |



Atlas:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Colleen Adams-Schween |
| Usher(s) | Volunteer Needed |
| Cleaning | Volunteer Needed |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older |
| | Josie Grimes/Jamie Steffen |

St. Croix Falls:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Kathy Gionis |
| Usher(s) | Karen Sciacca |
| 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 every morning at 8:30 am, if 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=SDZlZFNumBEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at 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: “26th Sunday after Pentecost,” and Thanksgiving Sunday!

Please bring a “Thank You Card to God.” God bless you all!

Thanksgiving Sunday Worship Service:

8:30 am Grantsburg

9:45 am Atlas

11:15 am St. Croix Falls

11/25 & 11/26: Church offices will be closed. Happy Thanksgiving!

11/27: 9am to 3pm, Christmas Heritage Boutique Sale at Grantsburg

The Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Bob Branstad 11/23

Haven Rehbein 11/23

Olivia Brock 11/24

Marjorie Broker 11/26



Next Sunday (November 28) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist Toni Koons
Snow Removal Stan Chute
Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson
Fellowship Mary McNally & Linda Hokanson
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)



11/21, THANKSGIVING SUNDAY - BRING “THANK YOU CARD” TO GOD, IN WHICH YOU WRITE WHAT YOU ARE GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR THIS YEAR.

11/28, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11/30, AT 6PM, SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE (G) VIA ZOOM

12/1 AT 6:30PM, YOUTH GATHERING AT ST. CROIX FALLS UMC

12/2, AT 6:30PM, SPRC MEETING VIA ZOOM



November 21st, 2021
Matthew 6:25-33

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

“Give Thanks to God”

I want to start with something funny. I read this story on an internet site: An old man in Chicago called his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and said, “I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough. The son screamed, “Pop, what are you talking about?” The father said, “We can’t stand the sight of each other any longer. We’re sick of each other, and I’m sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Dallas and tell her.”

Frantic, the son called his sister, who exploded on the phone. “Like heck, they’re getting divorced,” she shouted, “I’ll take care of this.” She called Chicago immediately and screamed at her father, “you are NOT getting divorced. Don’t do a single thing until I get there. I’m calling my brother back, and we’ll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don’t do a thing. DO YOU HEAR ME?” and, she hung up the phone. That old man hung up his phone and turned to his wife, and he said, “Okay, they’re coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way.”

What a joy it is when we can have a family gathering for Thanksgiving! Last year on Thanksgiving Day, many of you weren’t able to have a family gathering due to the COVID 19 pandemic. How many of you plan to have a family gathering this Thanksgiving? I know some of you can’t gathering again this year. However, don’t call your children and pull a prank like the old man in the story. I hope that you give “thanks” to God whether you can gather with your family for Thanksgiving or not.

Today, I want to talk about how we should “Give Thanks to God.” According to the Christian calendar, today is the last Sunday, and starting next week, we have a new lectionary year, beginning with the advent season. It is a little shocking to me about how time is running so fast! Especially while we have been experiencing the COVID 19 pandemic, I feel like we’ve lost a year. There were many things that happened this year. As some of you have seen in our parish photo album, we didn’t lose a year. We have lived it well. Even though we closed the church for a while due to the COVID 19, we still had an out-door service in Atlas Park, using an FM transmitter, and we offered tablet PC ministry, Zoom service, sermon by phone, and video service, and still do offer them to our parishioners. In addition, we do mail out weekly service materials. We had a Lenten Bible Study, Holy Saturday event, Holy Baptism services, and new members through our new membership class. Our church still functioned while we were closed. As we see throughout the photo album, there were many things that happened. We lived well this year. Let us say, “we did good works.” One of the grateful things I’m grateful to God for is that we were able to make our parish photo album. It is a collection of photos of activities since I was appointed to our parish, August of 2019 to July of 2021.

I wonder how often you give “thanks” to yourself. How often do you praise to yourself, such as, “I am doing well.” “I did a good job.” “I lived well this year.” “I’m good enough.” And, I wonder how often you express your gratitude to others. How many of you wrote “thank you

cards” more than thirty times this year? Okay, how about more than twenty times? We have twelve months, fifty-two weeks, and three hundred sixty-five days in a year. We experience many moments of gratitude, but we rarely express how grateful we are.

What about showing our gratitude to God? I know you might express your “thanks” to God in your daily prayers. But, I wonder how many of you have written “thanks” to God like in a daily journal or prayer notes. My guess is that most of you have never done it. The Apostle Paul says, “so then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness” (Colossians 2:6-7). As we receive grace and love from God, let us express our gratitude overflowing from our hearts. Even though we sometimes face difficulties, we have enough reason to give thanks to God. It is because of Jesus Christ. It is because of God’s love and grace. It is because of who I am. It is because we have loved ones. It is because we have many things in our life. I’m glad we have a chance to write a thank you card to God today, reflecting on our lives this year. What a joy to share our grateful minds! They are overflowing with thankfulness!

In today’s scripture, “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” Honestly, it is true that we are concerned about what we wear every morning, right? It is not because we don’t have enough clothes, but because we have too many clothes. We indeed are concerned about what we eat at every meal because we have an abundance of food. Be thankful for God’s grace and how he provides us with what we need. We often forget God’s provident grace. And then, we often worry about food, clothes, and livelihood rather than give thanks for what we already have. If we attempt to see the lack of things, we might always feel we are lacking. But, if you keep tending a grateful mind, you might always feel you are good enough in everything.

Think of something you are grateful for this year! If you don’t remember what happened, that’s also God’s grace. You may say, "Thank you, God, because I forgot all things." The Prophet Isaiah says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past" (Isaiah 43:18). If you don't remember, you may say, "I obey God and forget former things." So, I may say, "You did a good job. You are a good servant of God." Therefore, whether we remember what happened or not, all are because of God’s grace, and then we give thanks to God.

Jesus says, "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them." I couldn’t make much sense of these verses before because I had never seen many birds. But, since I came to Grantsburg, WI, I now understand what those verses mean. I saw vast numbers of Sandhill Cranes every fall season around my parsonage. Wow, when I saw them first, it took my breath away because it was such an amazing scene that I'd never seen before. Imagine that God feeds such a huge flock of Sandhill Cranes, takes care of them on their flight journey, and then sends back them the next year. It’s amazing that God does that! Jesus says, "Are you not of more value than they?" Yes, we are valued more than the Sandhill Cranes. So, God will take care of us more than Sandhill Cranes. We know even though we worry, we cannot make things happen. But, if we give thanks to God, God makes things happen. Therefore, do not worry at all, but give thanks to God so that God will make things happen for us. We may say to each other, “You did well this year!” Thanks be to God. Amen!

Heritage Christmas Boutique



Saturday, November 27, 2021 ~ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Central United Methodist Church

301 S. Pine Street - Grantsburg, WI 54840

Christmas Vintage Treasures

New and gently used home decor - Jewelry and

Giftables - Gift Bags - Christmas Cards

Bakery and Candy Shoppe

Cookies - Candies - Sweet Breads

