SERMON ***"Stand firm in the Faith in all Circumstances!"***
Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison
Reigning God, whose presence reassures us in times of uncertainty terror, we pray for wisdom and courage to discern your purposes in every time and place. Help us to stand firm by faith in all circumstances. Keep us from being led astray by competing voices that compromise your intentions for us and all people. May we who seek to be the church of Jesus Christ never become weary of doing what is right. 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
We rejoice, O God, in the new world you are creating around us and within us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy, to proclaim your Word among all nations, to work quietly and enthusiastically for a word where your love reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Blessed Assurance* **UMH 369 (vs. 1 & 3)**

***BENEDICTION** **Pastor Jenny Lee**

***POSTLUDE** **Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

NO. 2022-46
November 13th, 2022

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

ONE Parish THREE Churches
"23rd Sunday After Pentecost"
"Veterans Sunday"

Grantsburg-Central, Since 1897

Atlas, Since 1887

St. Croix Falls, Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

8:30 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
9:45 AM at Atlas (10:00 AM, Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION
Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com
Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snssnyder@gmail.com
Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com
Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494
www.upperstcroixparish.org
https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC

Upper St. Croix Parish

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

November 13th, 2022

"23rd Sunday After Pentecost"

"Veterans Sunday"

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** **Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**
***OPENING HYMN** *America* **UMH 697 (vs.1)**
*** THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
"Peace be with you"

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive**
Holy God, we give you thanks for our nation's veterans!
We honor them for their faithful service to our country, and for what they have done to defend and preserve our freedom.
Generation after generation, your men and women have answered our country's call, and their lives have been changed forever.
We are grateful for all who have served, whether in peacetime or in conflict.
But these days, we especially remember those who have been tempered by fire, those who continue to bear wounds of the body or the spirit as a result of what they have endured. They lie in our veterans' hospitals or struggle for recovery in rehabilitation centers; they suffer from post-traumatic stress and survivor's guilt.
They yearn for peace in their souls.
Loving God, we ask you to heal their wounds, to banish whatever inner demons may haunt them.
Give them peace within so they may return fully to their families and to society.
We thank you, O God, for all of our country's veterans … those of past generations and those who continue to earn this title today. May we never forget what our country has asked of them and what they have given in return.
Help us to give them the respect and honor they are due.
Strengthen our resolve to build a world molded on your realm, where war will be pursued no more.
This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *America the Beautiful* **UMH 696 (vs.1)**

HONORING AND BLESSINGS TO THE VETERANS

CHILDREN'S TIME **UMH 191 (vs.1)**
(Watching a video clip-In Honor of Veterans)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Luke 21:5-19**
5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful
stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6 "As for these things that you see, the
days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown
down." 7 They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign
that this is about to take place?" 8 And he said, "Beware that you are not led
astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is
near!' Do not go after them. 9 "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not
be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow
immediately." 10 Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and
kingdom against kingdom; 11 there will be great earthquakes and in various
places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs
from heaven. 12 "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute
you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought
before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an
opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in
advance, 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents
will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents
and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17
You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will
perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

NOVEMBER CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection

Mitten Tree Nov. 27th We will collect mittens, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. They will go to Loaves & Fishes to help our neighbors in need keep warm this winter.

GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER … Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"

1) Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Deadline November 13th

2) We will be collecting winter clothing supplies for the "SoxBox." The donations will be available at the Christmas Store.

See the bulletin board for details.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)

Sailor Hat Offering:

November's Sailor Hat offering will go to buy Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards for families in need!

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

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

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	Russ Hammer
Fellowship	***Volunteer Needed***
Counter	***Volunteer Needed***
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

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

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

"This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)
Please pray every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

Please pray for those who suffer from addiction, autism, and anxiety disorders.

PLEASE NOTE:

1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15 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=SDZIeFNubmEvaDBIcytTRzVxMFllZz09
   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 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 & Veterans Sunday. God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:
11/13: Veterans Sunday Service
8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (Sunday School at 10:00 am)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

11/13: 12:15 pm, AD Council Meeting (SCF)
11/14-11/25: Pastor Jenny on Vacation
11/15: 6:30 pm, AD Council Meeting (G)
11/17: 6:00 pm -8:00 pm, Cultural Competency Training via Zoom

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Janelle Zastrow 11/13
Pastor Jenny Lee 11/17

If you know anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing, please let pastor Jenny know.

Next Sunday (November 20th) Volunteers:

Central:

Preach	Rev. Debra Lind
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	LuAnne Martell
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	***Volunteer Needed***
Fellowship	***Volunteer Needed***
Counter	***Volunteer Needed***
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older
	LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

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

St. Croix Falls:

Preach	Kathy Gionis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

Nov 14- 25: Pastor Jenny on Vacation
Nov. 20: Thanksgiving Sunday (Please bring "Thanks Card to God")
Nov. 23: Youth Gathering
Nov. 26: Christmas Heritage Sale (G)
Nov. 27: The First Sunday in Advent. *(Please find the sign-up sheet for Advent Bible Study at each church)*

Heritage Christmas Boutique

Saturday, November 26, 2022 ~ 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

Giftables - Jewelry and Craft Corner

Bakery and Candy Shoppe

Cookies - Candies - Sweet Breads

Coffee & Treats Saved All Day

November 13th, 2022
Luke 21:5-19

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

"Stand Firm in Your Faith in All Circumstances!"

I want to start with something funny. I heard a story about a six-year-old boy. He was standing in the church lobby, looking at a large wall filled with names with small American flags next to them. He asked the Pastor what the names meant. The Pastor explained that it was a memorial to all the young men and women that died in the service. The little boy stood there silently and seemed to be so concerned. He finally looked up and asked, "Was it at the 8:30 or 11 o'clock service?

Today is Veterans Sunday. I do appreciate and honor all veterans for their service and sacrifice. We shouldn't forget their sacrifice. Because of them, we can live in a safe country. You may have heard the saying that "freedom is not free." Yes, because of their sacrifice, we have freedom. I personally appreciate those who participated in the Korean War.

I feel sad about my country, Korea, because it is the only country to be divided by political ideology in the world. I heard the scary stories of war in my childhood, and often I had to train on how to escape from an emergency during war. I still remember that we were taught once a month how to escape if war broke out. While we had a class, if the emergency siren rang, everybody was to run for refuge under ground within a short minutes. Because many adults had experienced the Korean War, they didn't want their children to have those same terrible experiences of war. However, nowadays, they no longer train for the emergency of war even though we are still in the cold war between North and South Korea.

A few days ago, a friend of mine asked me, "Is there any dangerous situation in your country by North Korea?" She may have heard the news that North Korea tested its missiles toward South Korea. However, now the younger generation worries about war less than our generation and my parent's generation. Korean male adults are required to have military training for about two years to prevent war and have regularly been training with the U.S. Army. Because we trust them, we don't worry about wars. Instead, we can live in peace through their sacrifice. Again, we can live in peace because of someone else's sacrifice. We sincerely appreciate all that the veterans' give up for our safety and freedom.

In today's scripture, Jesus seemed to talk about war. When Jesus and his disciples came out of the Temple after service, they looked at the beautiful and magnificent temple building, and someone said to Jesus, "Look, Teacher, what are the large stones and what is the large buildings?" The Temple they looked at was the Jerusalem Temple, which was a huge temple, beautifully covered by gold and decorated with treasures. Even if we see beautiful flowers on the street, we may say, "Hey, look at the beautiful flowers!" And then we may pause there, looking at the flowers. The disciples said to Jesus excitedly, "Teacher, look, look at the temples, how marvelous they are!" However, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

The Jerusalem Temple was everything to the Israelites. If the Temple was destroyed, it must have happened in a terrible war. Some scholars interpreted this as the Jewish-Roman war in

70 because that war destroyed the Temple. However, the Gospel of Luke was written in 85, which was much later, after the Temple was destroyed. We may find what that means by Jesus' saying, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and 'the time is near!' Do not go after them." As you guessed, it might mean a spiritual war, not a physical one. And we may understand it as the end of the world. You know, if a physical war breaks out, the military may fight for us, but if a spiritual war happens, nobody can fight for us. We should stand firm in our faith individually.

Jesus said as a sign of that happening, "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." As Jesus mentioned, we have experienced many wars, earthquakes, famines, and disasters over many years, but we are still here. Even though it is not the end of the world, we experience spiritual wars, such as the pandemic, family conflicts, and broken relationships. I said, the pandemic because it blocked our spiritual practice.

As Jesus said, those things might happen in our lives, but it is not the end of the world. Let us listen to him carefully. Jesus didn't say, "don't worry. I will remove all bad things, such as wars, earthquakes, famines, etc. Instead, he said, "before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict." We might have been through all kinds of difficulties in our life long. Still, Jesus will give us words and wisdom to overcome these things. In addition, he said, "but not a hair on your head will perish." Veterans may know more than we do. If we had been through wars, our bodies wouldn't be perfectly sustained without any injury. However, Jesus said, "even not a hair on your head will perish at all. By your endurance, you will gain your souls." We can stay safe by standing firm in faith even though we have been through wars in spirit. That's Jesus' promise to us.

Some think that Christians should not experience bad happenings because God protects them. If they had bad happening in their life, some think they are being punished for their sins. God may protect his people, but everyone may experience bad things. God never said that he would remove all obstacles in our lives. Instead, God said, "I will be with you." Here is an example. Daniel and his friends were thrown into the blazing furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar because they kept faith in God (Daniel 3:19-26). Then the King said, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" And his people said, "Yes, certainly we did." But the King said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." It is the promise of God that he will be with his people. Even though we may experience difficulties, God will be with us. As Jesus said, it will be our testimony.

God said through the prophet Isaiah, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, your savior" (Isaiah 43:2-3a). Jesus also said you might experience being imprisoned, persecution, being put to death by your friends, relatives, and even by your family, "but not a hair on your head will perish. By standing firm in the faith, you will gain eternal life." Somehow, spiritual war is more difficult for us, but by standing firm in the faith, let us win the victory. Because we don't know what kind of test or trial is on the way, let us wake up always through prayers and stand firm in our faith in all circumstances so that we may gain a final victory with Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen!