

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of the living and of the dead, whose love embraces countless generations who have looked to you in praise and supplication, lead us beyond divisive debate to eager exploration of your truth. May our lives bear witness to your love, that all flesh may come to bless your holy name forever and ever. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

For the future glory of your church, we dedicate our gifts. Toward the reign of love in our midst, we consecrate ourselves. O, God of all ages, show yourself to us in our time. Work within us individually and among us as a community of faith, that we may experience resurrection and carry your good news into our world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

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

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee

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

Worship Resources "The People of The United Methodist Church"

 **Upper St. Croix Parish**
United Methodist Church

ONE Parish THREE Churches

"22nd Sunday After Pentecost"
"All Saints 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 (at 10 AM Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 6th, 2022
“22nd Sunday After Pentecost”
“All Saints Sunday”

*Please stand if you are able.

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

* OPENING HYMN *This is the Day* UMH 657

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

*CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

We call on God, who is as near as our next breath.

We gather to meet God, who has promised to bless us.

God is great and greatly to be praised.

Through many generations, God has acted among us.

Meditate on the wondrous works of our Creator.

Marvel at the glorious splendor of God’s majesty.

God is the Savior of all who seek refuge.

God hears our cries and fulfills our deepest desires.

Remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.

Make a joyful noise and break forth in song.

Our mouths will speak the praise of God.

Let all flesh bless God’s holy name. Amen.

*DEDICATING HYMN *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*
UMH 712 (vs. 1& 2)

LIGHTING CANDLES IN HONOR OF ALL SAINTS

OPENING PRAYER Unison (The Book of Worship)

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; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14 (See insert)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you

have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the

strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the

name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 20:27-38

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“All Are Alive in God.”

Pastor Jenny Lee

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 20:27-38

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him 28 and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; 30 then the second 31 and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. 32 Finally the woman also died. 33 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

34 Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. 36 Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. 37 And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

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
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Lawn Mowing
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Sunday School

Toni Koons
Volunteer Needed
Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Russ Hammer
Judy Lien
Volunteer Needed
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis
Deb Hammer

Communion

Atlas:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Cleaning
Sunday School

Sharon Asp
Colleen Adams-Schween
Don Schween
Volunteer Needed
Younger/Older
Josie Grimes/attending service
Colleen Adams-Schween

Communion

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Communion

Sharon Asp
Jim Andrews
Karen Sciacca
Peter Gionis
Jim Sciacca
Kathy Gionis
Karen Sciacca



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 lost their loved ones by the tragic events in South Korea and the world.

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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
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: 22th Sunday after Pentecost, and All Saints Sunday. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 11/6: All Saints Sunday/ Daylight saving time ends!
8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (Sunday School- at 10:00am)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 11/8: 7:00 pm, provisional Elder mentoring via zoom
- 11/9: 1:00 pm, UMW meeting(G)
6:30 pm, Youth gathering at G
- 11/10: 9:00 am, North West Clergy meeting via zoom
11:00-1:00 pm, Pastor Jenny Volunteering at Loaves & Fishes in Luck
6:00 pm -8:00 pm. Cultural Competency Training via Zoom
- 11/11: 1:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (A)
- 11/12: 8:00 am, UM Men's Meeting (G)

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:

Marivel Harmon 11/7

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



Next Sunday (November 13th) Volunteers:

Central:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Pianist | Toni Koons |
| Liturgist | Toni Koons |
| 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:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 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 | Jim Andrews |
| Usher(s) | Karen Sciacca |
| Money Counter | Peter Gionis |
| Bell Ringer | Jim Sciacca |
| Flowers | Kathy Gionis |



Nov. 13th: Veterans Sunday, Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

Nov 14- 25: Pastor Jenny on Vacation

Nov. 20th: Thanksgiving Sunday

Nov. 27: The First Sunday in Advent. (Please find the sign-up sheet for Advent Bible Study)



“All are Alive in God.”

I want to share a fun little thought regarding carving pumpkins. You might remember seeing our October newsletter cover: “Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin.” God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off all the dirt. Then God cuts the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. God removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Finally, God carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see. When God holds us, we will have a smiling face filled with the light. Since I read that, whenever I see pumpkins, I smile at pumpkins, remembering this story. What a great parable it is!

Today is “All Saints Sunday.” Last Sunday, a parishioner said, “I wonder what the ‘saints’ mean.” I think it was because you were asked to write “saints’ names” on the signup sheet who you would like to be lifted up on All Saints Sunday. The word “saint,” somehow, is more familiar to Catholic Christians because they have many saints in their religion, such as St. Peter, St. Mary, St. John, and St. Thomas, and they often pray to saints as well. It sounds like ‘saints’ means big believers.

According to the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church, “All Saints Sunday (November 1st Sunday) is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament of all Christian people of every time and place.” In other words, “saints” mean all God’s people beyond time and place. Again, “saints” are like carved Halloween pumpkins, those who are chosen by God and became God’s people by God’s grace. Even though we are human beings, we are saints who died in Christ and are born again in Jesus Christ as “Christians.” It sounds familiar like baptism, which symbolizes how we died in Christ and are born again in him. All Saints Sunday, especially, is a day to celebrate the communion of saints as we remember the dead in the world but now who

rest in a heavenly home with God.

Similarly to asking a pastor a question, in the scripture, many people brought their questions to Jesus. Some asked about growing in faith, but some asked questions about intentionally putting Jesus on trial. When Jesus entered the Jerusalem Temple, Jesus spent his time teaching people at the Temple. Jesus may have wanted to teach more people before he died on the cross. But, several kinds of people tried to put him on trial, asking diverse questions. For example, when Jesus taught at the Temple, Religious Leaders asked him, “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things. Who gave you this authority” (Luke 20:1-8). The other day, some asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right. So, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” (Luke 20:21-26). Caesar was a Rome Empire. If Jesus said, “right,” it went against the Jews; if he said, “wrong,” it went against Rome. However, Jesus was wise enough to say, “Give to Caesar what’s Caesar’s, and give to God what’s God’s.” (Luke 20:25).

Then, today’s scripture shows another group of people who brought a question to put Jesus on trial. The people were “Sadducees.” While Pharisees are very often present in the Gospel, Sadducees rarely appear. Luke mentions them in a short sentence, “those who say there is no resurrection,” instead of naming who they are. As Pharisees were, Sadducees were a Jewish sect. While Pharisees were in charge of studying and teaching God’s Word (Law), Sadducees led worship. In other words, they were a group of chief priests. They were a small group but had the authority of making big decisions in religion and politics. They were descendants of Aeron, a brother of Moses and very rich. While wealthy and political people liked them, ordinary people didn’t like them because they had the highest authority.

However, as Luke mentions, they didn’t believe in the resurrection and the scriptures, except the Torah (Pentateuch-the first five books of the Old Testament), because they believed that Moses wrote the Torah. Can you imagine if a pastor didn’t believe in the scripture and God and preached about God? That’s the Sadducees. Such a people came to Jesus, and asked, “Teacher, Moses wrote

for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother." It was true that Israelite law said, "if his brother dies without a child, his brother should marry his brother's wife and raise a child as his brother's child. If the brother doesn't want to marry, he would be punished by the Israelite elders" (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

As I mentioned several times, God's law is based on "love" toward the poor and the weak. The purpose of the law "marry his brother's wife" was to protect the widow and the success of his lineage in Israel. The Sadducees, who only believed in Torah, but didn't believe in resurrection, asked Jesus, "Seven brothers married the first brother's wife, and all died without having any children. Now, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be, since all seven were married to her?" What a ridiculous question this was and what a terrible example! How could all seven brothers that married her die? Even though it was such a ridiculous question, Jesus answered them calmly and logically. In the Gospel of Matthew and of Mark, Jesus began by saying, "You are wrong because you know neither the scripture nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29; Mark 12:24). It is true because they didn't believe in Scripture and God.

Jesus said, "those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed, they cannot die anymore because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection." If there is no resurrection, many people might pursue more wealth, dealing with untruths in the world, as did the Sadducees. If there is no eternal life, how poor Christians would be! However, Jesus explained to him clearly, "they are like angels and are children of God, being children of resurrection." This means "saints." All children of God, who would be in the resurrection, have no pain, no fear, no suffering, no marriage, and no give to marriage, who would be like angels. The people of God in the resurrection would be not someone's wife or husband, but Christ's bride. And they are not someone's children, but God's children.

Please don't misunderstand, but believe in God and the scripture even though we cannot imagine what it looks like.

Jesus explained it more logically as an example of Moses' story, which the Sadducees knew, saying, "the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now, he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive." In other words, we regard Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as dead in the world, but they are alive in God.

Remember, who God is. God is the Alpha and Omega, who is, who was, and who is to come the almighty (Revelation 1:8). God is identified by himself, "I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14). And Jesus Christ who is the only Son of God said, "in the resurrection, they would be Children of God, and all are alive in God." Today, we live in a world experiencing terrible events which we can't understand. Sometimes we feel heartbroken by the loss of loved ones. Nevertheless, we live through it and overcome it by faith in Jesus Christ. We believe in the final victory with Jesus Christ because we are God's children and saints in God. We are alive in God forever and ever as long as we believe in God. Thanks be to God. Amen!