

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Loving God, whose revelation in Jesus Christ has demonstrated humble obedience to your will, lead us this day to the joy through serving you, that our witness may be authentic and be influential in the lives of all we meet, adding to your realm in heaven and on earth. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our Prayer.*

PRAYER SONG

UMH 487

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

We empty our pockets, trusting you, O God. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love. 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)

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

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

**18th Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**



**Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897**



**Atlas
Since 1887**



**St. Croix Falls
Since 1859**

SUNDAY SERVICES:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

(9:15 AM, Sunday School)

10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 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
October 1st, 2023
18th Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

*Please stand if you are able.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

Peace be with you!
(*Waive your hands with one another*)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Come, let us remember God's presence with us.
Come, let us join the Lord's table.

Our ancestors have told us about God's might.
They have celebrated God's wondrous deeds.

Let us celebrate God's works for us.

Let us taste God's steadfast love through the bread and wine!

Yet the Israelites questioned God's presence.
They needed assurance amid their doubts.

Come as who you are!

God welcomes questions that seek new truth.

We want to see God's larger picture.
We are here to join the Lord's table to see God's vision.
Amen!

***DEDICATING HYMN** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*
UMH 614 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We marvel, O God, at the thought that you care about us. We are amazed that the Creator of the universe would take on human flesh to draw near to us in ways we could begin to understand. As Jesus emptied himself to serve, modeling your love even in the face of death, we seek in these moments to lay aside self-interest that we might take direction from you. Help us to humble ourselves in

order to obey you, to listen in order to hear, to care in order to serve. Lead us day and night through the dangers of the wilderness of our times. Lead us in these moments to honest and fervent worship. Amen.

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 (RECEIVING) 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**

Matthew 26:26-28 (See insert)

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

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.

**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

Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing
it^[a] he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my
body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them,
saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the^[b] covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

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

Thanks be to God.

OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

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



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

We will be collecting Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

Deadline 11/23/23



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"



We will be collecting loose change for Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.



ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR!

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland
Mowing Russ Hammer
Fellowship Deb Hammer
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Sunday School *Volunteer Needed*
World Communion Barbara Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher Colleen Adams-Schween
Acolyte(s) *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Josie Grimes
World Communion Sue Olson

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Lynn Hanson
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca
Flowers Church Gardeners
Fellowship Ad Council Members
World Communion Karen Sciacca & Kathy Gionis



Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for the kids and teachers who are back to school.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 am and 11:15am.** 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>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

This Week's Calendar:

Today: 18th Sunday after Pentecost; God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 10/1: World Communion Sunday
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am, Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 10/3: 1:00 pm SPRC Meeting at SCF
- 10/4-10/6: Pastor Jenny attends the School for Ministry in Green Lake
- 10/7: 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

Karen Sciacca

10/5



Next Sunday (October 8th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Sunday School	Volunteer Needed

Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Acolyte(s)	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Church Gardeners
Fellowship	Ad Council Members



Upcoming Events



- 10/10 All Charge Conference Documents Due
- 10/22 Joint Worship Service & Charge Conference at Central-Grantsburg



“What a Grace Filled Table it is!”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A four-year-old boy was in church when the wine and communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him he was not old enough to partake in Communion. Later, when the offering plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, saying, “If I can’t eat, I’m not paying.”

The good thing is that the communion table of our church is open to everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, and any background of church denomination, social class, and faith journey. We welcome everyone; come as you are. No matter who you are, the point is that you are here, and your willingness to join the Lord’s Table at this moment.

Some churches have a restriction for participants who want to receive Holy Communion, such as age, baptism, and membership. Some churches strongly recommend that only those over 14 years old, who are confirmed and are professional members of their church can receive it. I think I shared my experience: When my father and I attended a Korean Methodist Church as new attendees, they wouldn’t allow us to receive Holy Communion because we were not baptized and not church members yet. I felt rejected and unwelcome. I looked at my father. My father said, “I’m okay because I used to drink wine often before becoming a Christian. I know how it tastes.” But I was not sure he was really feeling okay.

The good thing about the United Methodist Church is that we have open hearts, minds, and doors. One of the ways we practice being open to all is how we welcome everyone to the Lord’s Table. God loves you no matter who you are, and Jesus invites you to his Table. Everyone is welcome because it is the Lord’s Table and Jesus’ invitation to receive his love and grace. What a grace filled table it is!

Going back to Korea, I attended a Korean Methodist Church, which is relatively conservative. They used homemade bread and homemade wine and believed the bread and wine, after the pastor’s blessing, became very holy, and then they treated them carefully. After the service, they buried the leftover elements in a similar fashion to burying a dead body. The Holy Communion service was like a sad funeral service with the grief of the loss. Yes, we remember how Jesus died on the cross for us. We must also move forward to see hope in our union with Jesus, which Jesus brings us through His resurrection. This beautiful communion table is for all of us to show how God embraces all of his creatures by his grace.

The Lord’s Last Supper with his disciples was a feast celebrating the Jewish Holy Day, “the Passover.” “The Passover” is the day to remember and celebrate that God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. Holy Communion also celebrates our salvation by Christ’s love and God’s grace, remember Christ’s death for our sins, and celebrate our union with the Lord and with one another in the Lord. It reminds us we are one in the Lord, one with the Lord, and one for the ministry in the world as we share the bread and a cup. After the service, we can enjoy the

leftover bread and juice during fellowship as Jesus did with his disciples.

Today, we have several kinds of bread on the Lord's Table to share with one another. I appreciate all your dedication and preparation of the Table. Early Christians brought bread and wine to the church for Holy Communion. As we signed up for who would bring the bread, they back then also. Some could always bring it, but others couldn't for several reasons. They ate their own bread without sharing after service. Some who couldn't bring bread and wine were mainly those living in poverty. Eventually, Communion divided them between those who could bring bread and wine and those who couldn't. The Apostle Paul told them, "Holy Communion is a new covenant of the Lord to love one another and unite with one another. Therefore, if you bring bread, you may share it with others who can't bring it. Do not judge each other, but love one another." What a grace filled table it is, He suggested!

Today is World Communion Sunday. Let's consider the meaning and name of "Communion." "Communion" is from the word "Community," which means "being together," "Union," and "Unity," focusing on "unity with Christ" and "unity with one another in the Lord." Some denominations believe that the communion elements, "the bread and wine," became the real body and blood of Christ as the minister blessed them. Some believe that Jesus Christ is present in the elements by the Holy Spirit, and some believe it symbolizes Jesus Christ's presence. The United Methodists believe that the bread and juice elements symbolize Jesus Christ's presence. Furthermore, some denominations use real wine, but the United Methodists use grape juice. As for the bread, there are no restriction. We can use any proper loaf of bread to share with people, such as wafers, unleavened bread, homemade bread, sweet honey bread, etc.

World Communion Sunday is the day we practice sharing our bread with those who don't have enough bread, especially with the next generation, our young adults. If we share bread with one another monthly in our community, once a year we share with one another in a global way on World Communion Sunday. United Methodist Church keeps World Communion Sunday to share God's grace with others who experience the lack of bread. We share several kinds of bread in a global way, but also share God's grace and love through collecting a special offering. I am deeply grateful to the United Methodist Church for keeping World Communion Sunday. Since I studied in a seminary in the U.S.A. and struggled financially, I met a good friend who shared good information. She was a Methodist Seminarian who knew about the Methodist policies. She suggested I apply for a scholarship to the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM), an institution of the United Methodist Church, to support global students and seminarians who would be ministers and leaders in the future. I applied for and received a scholarship from GBHEM from 2009 to 2017. They collect special offerings from the church on World Communion Sunday every year and support many global students, American college students, and seminarians. If I had not received the scholarship, I may not be here today. I encourage you to support many needy students by giving a special offering, note "World Communion Offering" when doing so. We collect this offering and send it to the Conference. It is like we are sharing our bread with those who don't have enough bread. Let's join and make tomorrow different. Thanks be to God. Amen!