

THE LORD'S PRAYER
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS / THANKS CARDS TO GOD

NO. 2023-47
November 19th, 2023

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

For food and water, for all the blessings of the land you have given us, for family and friends who enrich our lives, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving to you, O God. We have been sheltered and educated and empowered by your generosity. In Jesus Christ, we have been shown a way to the wholeness you intend for us. Receive these offerings as a joyous expression of our gratitude. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (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)

**25th Sunday After Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday**



**Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897**



Atlas, Since 1887



**St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859**

SUNDAY SERVICE:

**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: snsnyder@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 19th, 2023
25th Sunday After Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday

*Please stand if you are able.

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

***OPENING SONG** TFWS 2056 (vs.1)

God is so Good (x3), God's so Good to me!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

"Peace be with you"

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Bless God for the good land we have been given.

Praise God, who crowns the year with abundance.

We are thankful for the bounty we have enjoyed.

God has been good to us through another year.

God chooses to love us and draw us near.

God invites us to enjoy the good all around us.

We are grateful for food, shelter, and family.

God enriches our lives with many opportunities.

Let us renew our vows to God in this hour.

May thanksgiving overflow in acts of kindness.

We are here to remember and find renewal.

We have come to listen to God's word. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Give Thanks* TFWS 2036

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Generous God, you are present in all times and places; capture our attention in this time and place. Open our eyes to see the wonders you provide. Open our ears to hear your commandments, your ordinances, and your statutes. Open our hearts to care deeply about people in need, whatever that need might be. Awaken our generosity and sense of justice, that we may be inspired to helpful

action. Open our mouths to shout and sing together for joy, sharing the good news of salvation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

CHILDREN'S TIME

UMH 191 (vs.1)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 17:11-19

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? 18 Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *"The Best Remedy is Gratitude!"* Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Healing God, whose mercy in Jesus Christ is still available to us today, may our lives aspire to the wholeness you offer, daily giving thanks in word and deed for the opportunities you afford us and for the generosity of your abundant grace, that our witness may be a force for good among your people, as we join together in praising you. We pray in Jesus' name. 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!

NOVEMBER CHURCH MISSIONS




ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items: Cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for and women. They appreciate any and all donations.</p>	<p>Thank you for the Operation Christmas Child donations! Your generosity is much appreciated.</p> <p>Mitten Tree <i>December 3rd</i></p> <p>We will collect mittens, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.</p> 
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>Thank you for all the donations for Operation Christmas Child. They will be a blessing to many children.</p>   <p>In addition to Operation Christmas Child, we will be collecting winter clothing supplies for the "Sox Box".</p>
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf <i>(Communion Sunday)</i></p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Buying Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards for Families in Need!</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Sunday School
Snow Removal

Toni Koons
Toni Koons
Willow Nyland
Paulie Kratchner
Volunteer Needed
Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Barbara Loomis & Jenni Stedman
Volunteer Needed

Atlas:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School

Sharon Asp
Sue Olson
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Cheryl Olson

St. Croix Falls:

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

Sharon Asp
Jim Andrews
Kathy Gionis
Peter Gionis
Lynn Hanson
Karen Sciacca
Admin Council



Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace in the middle east area and all over the world!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 am at Central and 11:15 am at St. Croix Falls.** 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIzZ09>
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: 25th Sunday after Pentecost/Thanksgiving Sunday
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

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|--------|--------------|---|
| 11/19: | 9:00 am | Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15am, Sunday School) |
| | 10:00 am | Atlas (10:15 am, Sunday School) |
| | 11:15 am | St. Croix Falls |
| 11/19: | 12:15 pm | Ad Council Meeting (SCF) |
| | 2:00 | Pastor Jenny leads worship at CCC |
| 11/21: | 6:00-8:00 pm | Youth Thanksgiving Night |
| 11/23: | | Thanksgiving-Church Office Closed for Holiday |

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

Beau Gaffey 11/20
Bob Branstad 11/23
Haven Rehbein 11/23
Olivia Brock 11/24



Next Sunday (November 19th)

VOLUNTEERS

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Barbara Loomis & Jenni Stedman
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed



Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Josie Grimes

St. Croix Falls:

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

Upcoming Events



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|--------|--|
| 11/26: | Decorate the church (A) |
| 11/29: | 1:00 pm Advent Craft Group Gathering (G) |
| 12/3: | 1 st Sunday of Advent |

November 19th, 2023
Luke 17:11-19



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

“The Best Remedy is Gratitude!”

I want to start with something funny. I heard about three Catholic ladies who boasted about their sons. One lady said, “My son is a priest. When he walks into the room and talks to the people, people call him, ‘Father.’” The other lady says, “My son is a bishop. When he walks into the room and talks to the people, people say, ‘Your Grace.’” The third lady said, “My son is a broadcaster, six feet and three inches tall, is incredibly good-looking, and dresses impressively. When he walks in and talks to people, all the ladies say, ‘Oh my God!’”

How proud of your children are you? Do you pray for your children as much as you are proud of them? I met a couple in South Korea. They have two sons. The first son was a troublemaker. Wherever he went, problems always followed him. He didn’t like to study. He always went against his parents and teachers.

On the other hand, their second son was picture-perfect. He always obeyed his parents and teachers. He was the president of the student body at his school. He was in first place in his writing, drawing, singing, and even sports studies. Wherever he went, the prize always followed him. “When we think of the second son,” the couple said, “we feel boastful and arrogant, but when we think of the first son, we feel humble. We do not know what we can do for our first son. We believe God gave us two sons not to live in arrogance, but to live humbly and faithfully.”

I know it is not only true in this couple’s case. There may be similar cases among you. Many parents, who had several children, may have had both good and troubled kids. They are, perhaps, your painful fingers. An issue of the most troubled child might be that they want to be recognized by their parents, or the people around them, as “beloved ones.” They are the gifts from God, who you and the people around them should love. I want to tell you the best remedy is “love” and “gratitude.” Whether your child is well behaved and follows your rules or goes against you, give glory to God, and give thanks to God because they are given to you by God. When you embrace them with love and gratitude first, the world will also be restored to see your children as the children of God. In other words, your love and gratitude cure not only your child, but those who interact with your child. Furthermore, it heals the world and transforms the world.

However, be careful. I am not saying that you should be an interfering busybody for your children, but I’m saying that you should encourage their dreams and support them with love and gratitude. As you may know, either way, too much care and indifference may lead them to be troubled individuals. Remember that your children are God’s loved ones, good or troubled. The best way you can encourage them is to make sure they know that they are loved by you and by God.

Recently, many people have excessively loved or had too much concern for their children and grandchildren, treating them like “gods” in their consciousness. The way you put others in your first place may lead your life into trouble because you belong to God. What comes first in your life? Or, who comes first in your life? Please remove other gods from being first in your life and only put Jesus Christ first as our Lord.

We confess that we believe in Jesus Christ and love God and our neighbors. However, think of it as our confession moving according to our situation. If our family members, our

children, and great children are happy and healthy, we may “give thanks to God.” On the other hand, if our family members and our children are not valued, if they give us concern, are you still giving “thanks” to God for them? In other words, if you receive a gift, would you focus on the gift or the person who gives you the gift?

In today’s scripture, there is a famous story about a healed leper who says, “Thank you.” The Israelites thought “leprosy” was one of the cursed diseases. The people who had leprosy were outcasts from the society, community, and even from their family. They lived outside of town. They lived between Samaria and Galilee, faith and unfaith, human beings and unhuman beings. Israelites didn’t treat them as humans. If anyone comes to them because the one doesn’t know their illness, the leper should shout, “I am unclean; I am unclean.” They couldn’t come close to other people, even to their family members, by law. When they were healed, they had to show their bodies to the priest first. Then, the priest allowed them to go back to their family, community, and society. Is there anyone who we can outcast? Is there anyone afraid of showing up to our church family? The church should be a safe place to share our stories praising God.

In today’s case, the lepers also lived between Samaria and Galilee, which are on the border and do not belong to any villages. “On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him, but kept distance” (17:11-12). Jesus knew that his way toward Jerusalem was for the crucified. He intentionally stopped by the village of lepers while most people avoided them. Jesus is such a great God who loves everyone and gives everyone opportunities. Then, the lepers didn’t miss the chance to see Jesus, Master. They shouted, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” They shouted because of the long distance and also because of their urgency, which might be the first and last chance. Jesus saw them and said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” Jesus didn’t give them any gesture or sign of healing them, but paid attention to see them, saying, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” The lepers knew what was meant by that. They didn’t doubt him because they knew who Jesus was. They believed Jesus was “the Master,” who controls everything. And as they went to the priests, they were made clean. Then, one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He bowed down at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. Jesus made clear all ten of the lepers, but only one came back to him and said, “Thank you.” Jesus asked, “Where are the nine?”

Well, they were, perhaps, too busy going back home to see their people and family. They may have been busy going back to their society. Jesus gave ten people the same gift, but only one focused on Jesus, who gave it to them, while the others forgot who gave them the gifts, and they just enjoyed the gift. Yes, they believed Jesus was the Master, the Healer, and the Savior. That’s a big part of faith.

What is different between the one leper who returned to Jesus and the others? Yes, the one who returned to Jesus said, “Thank you.” In other words, he practiced his faith; “Praising God with a loud voice, and he bowed down at Jesus’ feet, and thanked him.” And then, Jesus said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.” Faith believes in God’s pardon and says, “Thank you.” We may grow in faith by being appreciative and saying “Thank you.” How often do you tell others “thank you”? How often do you tell God “thank you”? Who knows, Jesus may pay attention to you! Ask God what for you need, and give thanks in advance. It is time to say “thank you” to people and God. The best remedy for everything is gratitude. Especially give thanks to God for your family. Your gratitude may heal you, your family, our church, and society. Thanks be to God. Amen!