

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of all nations, whose dominion spans all time and space, we thank you for receiving us as your children, for softening the hardness of heart that locks us into our own narrow points of view, and prevents us from fully sharing our lives with those who are different from us. We now ask you to touch us in ways that heal, calm our fears, awaken hope within us, and open us to self-giving love. We long to live in a world renewed by mutual care and honest commitment. Teach us to fulfill our role in bringing this vision to life. 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!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

O Lord, we dedicate to your service all the good things we have received from your hand. May we proclaim your name to our brothers and sisters in this congregation. May our gifts carry the good news throughout our community, making a difference in the quality of life experienced by many, near and far. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN For the Healing of the Nations**

UMH 428 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

***POSTLUDE**

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

Worship resource "led by Love" by Lavon Bayler

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

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Let's Replant It" (Galatians 6:7-10)

20th 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

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
October 6th, 2024
20th 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 at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

God’s Word has been lived among us!

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Christ is a part of God’s ongoing creation.

We gather before the One who is heir to all things.

Long ago, God spoke to our spiritual ancestors.

Today, God continues that revelation through Jesus.

Who are we that God is mindful of us?

Yet God crowns us with glory and honor.

Jesus has named us as brothers and sisters.

We are called to recognize all humanity as children of God.

The realm of God is for all people.

God’s dominion is over all creation. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Gather Us In* TFWS 2236 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison (The Book of Worship)

O God, we join with our sisters and brothers around the world in remembering Christ’s sacrifice for us. For the opportunity to eat and drink together and for the life we have received, we give you thanks and praise. In the abundance of your many gifts, grant us grace to fill one another’s lives with love. Redeem, restore and remold us until we are made new. Transform our daily bread into the bread of life, and the cup that we drink into the cup of salvation. We pray in Jesus’ name. 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 you 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.

(prayers 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

SHARING THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

TFWS 2260

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 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

(See insert)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“World Communion Sunday: Openness and Unity”*

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 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

17 Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. 20 When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord’s supper. 21 For when the time comes to eat, each of you proceeds to eat your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. 22 What! Do you not have households to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For all who eat and drink without discerning the body eat and drink judgment against themselves. 30 For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 If you are hungry, eat at home, so that when you come together, it will not be for your condemnation. About the other things I will give instructions when I come.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<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: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men & women.</p>	<p>OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD</p> <p>We will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through Sunday, Nov. 10th.</p> <p>Information is available on the table at church.</p> <p>Pack-Donate-Pray... Thank You!</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>This month will be collecting financial donations to support Trick or Treat for UNICEF.</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

VOLUNTEERS:
Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Lori & Chris Grady
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman
Communion	Barbara Loomis

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are in need, the sick, those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace and justice for all over the world!



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
 - 2) 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
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 4) Sunday's video may be uploaded on late Sundays!
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) 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: 20th Sunday After Pentecost. World Communion Sunday.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

10/6:	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
10/8:	3:30-4:30pm	Provisional Elder Mentoring via Zoom
	4:30 pm	SPRC and Treasurers Meeting at Grantsburg Parsonage
10/9:	1:00pm	UMW Meeting
	5:30-7:30 pm	Junior Youth Gathering
10/10:	10:00am-3:00 pm	New Ministry Strategy Board Meeting via Zoom
	5:00-6:00 pm	Youth Band
	6:30 pm-8:00 pm	Senior Youth Bible Study (G)
10/11:	5:30-7:30pm	Family Game Night

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries



Derek & Jenni Stedman 10/3
Chris Grady 10/8
Lynn Hanson 10/9
Brody & Brittney Woltz 10/9
Emma Anderson 10/10
Doug & Deb Kunze 10/10
Josie & Pat Grimes 10/10
Sue Olson 10/12

Joint Worship Service/Laity Sunday at Central-Grantsburg October 13th at 10:30 am



VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Barbara Loomis
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Central UMC
Counter	Russ Hammer, Sue Olson, and Peter Gionis
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Volunteer needed
Sunday School	Jenni Stedmen

Upcoming Events & News

- 10/6: **World Communion Sunday: Please offer your family bread or diverse bread. Please take a look at the signup sheet! If you signed up, please bring your bread to the church on Saturday or contact those who are in charge of communion.**
- 10/6: **The Roses of Rotary Club-pick your flowers up on Sunday at church (10/6)**
- 10/25-10/27: **Youth Fall Out Camp at Wood Lake Camp (Contact Shayna Schmid)**
- 10/30: **Halloween Party for K-up Kids**

October 6th, 2024

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

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



“World Communion: Openness and Unity”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A four-year-old 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 that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion.

Later, when the collection 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.”

Today is “World Communion Sunday,” a fitting time to reflect on the meaning of Holy Communion. Jesus taught us to observe it often in remembrance of Him. We celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month, remembering His sacrificial love and promise. In our tradition, we use bread and grape juice. The United Methodist Church does not recommend wine due to concerns about alcohol, although some denominations use real wine. The rites and elements of Holy Communion may vary depend on culture and circumstance.

What was your first impression of Holy Communion? Is there a church’s Communion service that you remember especially well? We usually don’t forget our first impression. My first experience with Holy Communion was actually a bad one. It was the first time my entire family attended a Sunday service together, and we were excited and deeply grateful that God had called all of us. However, when it came time for Communion, we were deeply disappointed because my father and I were not allowed to receive it. In the Korean Methodist Church, only baptized members can partake in Communion. Their Holy Communion service is solemn, with a mourning atmosphere, as they remember Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins. It feels like everyone is grieving the loss of Jesus Christ. After being baptized, when I received my first Communion, I cried in front of the pastor, the Communion officiant. I felt as though God had finally accepted me and forgiven my sins, making me a child of God. However, the atmosphere was still like a funeral service for Jesus, filled with a sense of grieving.

Since coming to the United State, I have regularly attended the chapel service at the Lutheran School of Theology, where I received my Ph.D. I was surprised by the way Holy Communion was celebrated in the chapel. Lutherans believe that the bread and wine (they use real wine) are the actual body and blood of Christ. They celebrate the unity with Jesus and with one another through partaking in the bread and wine, focusing on the hope of new life, remembering Jesus' death and resurrection, and the promise of His return. Their Communion service is filled with joy, with dancing and singing, which is very different from the serious atmosphere of the Korean Methodist Church.

Let’s review Communion among early Christians. As we can glimpse in today’s scripture, the Corinthian church experienced division and conflict during Holy Communion. According to Jesus' teaching, early Christians practiced Communion frequently, often at every gathering, sharing bread and wine. Acts says, "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people" (Acts 2:46-47a). They met at the temple (church) daily, and whenever they gathered, they shared Communion meals.

Communion in the early church was more like a potluck. The intention was to share food at one table like a family. Those who could bring more food shared with those who couldn’t bring enough. However, this didn’t work well in the Corinthian church. Corinth was a highly developed industrial city with a large gap between the rich and the poor. While most people could bring food, some couldn’t afford enough. As a result, their potluck-style Communion didn’t follow Paul’s teaching. The church divided into two groups: those who could bring food

and those who couldn't. These groups didn't eat together. Those who brought food ate first—some even became drunk before the service—while those who couldn't bring food were left hungry, only smelling the food. Instead of fostering unity, as Holy Communion intended, the Corinthians faced division and conflict.

Therefore, the Apostle Paul reminded them of what Jesus taught through Communion. He said, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Yes, if you lose your way, it's best to return to where you started. Let's go back to what Jesus taught us about Communion. The Holy Communion was an agape table where food was shared in love, in remembrance of what Jesus did for us. By partaking in one loaf of bread and one cup, symbolizing the one body of Christ, one church, one God, and one faith, we experience unity with our Lord Christ and with one another as a whole congregation—a family in Jesus Christ.

Most United Methodist churches use the term "Holy Communion." The word "Communion" comes from "com" and "union," meaning "being together" or "united with one another." If you look up "Communion" in the Oxford Dictionary, you'll find it defined as "the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level." This means that, as we receive and eat the bread (the body of Christ) and drink from the cup (the blood of Christ), "we are united with Jesus Christ." Additionally, "we are united with one another" as we share one bread and one cup.

Therefore, we use the term "Holy Communion," inviting everyone—regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, political stance, or any other barriers. The United Methodist Communion table is open to all, emphasizing unity in Christ.

The word "Communion" shares the same root as "community," which means "Dining Table Community." This is similar to the agape meal in the early Christian community, referring to a group of people coming together to share meals, symbolizing togetherness, sharing, and support. In some contexts, this also refers to social welfare organizations that provide meals to those in need.

The significance of Communion lies in offering ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, receiving the bread and cup, and uniting with Christ and one another in a mission to all nations. To share the bread (the body of Christ) with all nations and unite in Christ, we observe "World Communion Sunday." This tradition began with the Presbyterians in 1936 and was adopted by the Methodists in the 1940s. On World Communion Sunday, we sample different kinds of bread, symbolizing our unity with brothers and sisters around the world who may be different from us. At the Lord's table, we are all equal as His beloved people.

Remember His words: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." His new covenant is for you, no matter who you are or what you have done in the past. What matters is that you are here with Him now. It is the new covenant in His blood, poured out for you. Thanks be to God. Amen!