

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of the living, whose will for us is the experience of steadfast love in all our relationships, and in whose hands death is but an entry into new dimensions of life, keep us, we pray, from denying life, either by avoidance of involvement that may bring loss and pain, or by inflicting on others suffering at our hands. Allow us a role in unbinding those who find themselves in the clutches of death in the midst of 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

The earth is yours, O God, and all that is in it. We have received untold blessings from your hand. You set before us the vision of a new heaven and a new earth, inviting us to share in its formation. May the love of Jesus be expressed to others by our sharing of gifts, both person-to-person and through the investment of dollars to support the ministries of others. This offering of service and sacrifice is the high point of our worship. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

Marching to Zion

UMH 733 (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)

24th Sunday After Pentecost/All Saints 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

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 3rd, 2024
24th Sunday After Pentecost
All Saints 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
How often have we imagined the ruler of glory far off?
God is not in some remote heaven but here.

We wait in silence for God’s appearance.

Come, Holy One, to wipe away our tears.

Stretch out your hands and open your hearts.

Purify your lives from all deceit and falsehood.

God reaches out to comfort and cleanse.

We can sense God’s hand of blessing resting on us.

The earth and all things in it are God’s.

The World and all its people belong to God.

We are God’s people, called and saved by Christ.

We are the saints who share in Christ’s ministry. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*
UMH 712 (vs. 1 & 3)

LIGHTING CANDLES IN HONOR OF ALL SAINTS
(When Pastor says their name, you may come forth and light the candle of your loved one, or the Lay leader can help light it.)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Jesus Christ, you know before we speak, that as individuals and a fellowship we have had to say farewell too often. As we gather today to worship you, we humbly request that you strengthen our memories of those who have inspired us, challenged us, lifted us up, bore us in

their arms, taught us the gospel, broke bread with us, and served with us in the great mission of your kingdom. On this All Saints Day may we celebrate, with hope and a few tears, the lives from which we have been separated, but which we shall be reunited again someday. These things we pray in your great 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 GOSPEL LESSON** John 11:32-44 (See insert)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

NOVEMBER 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. Pack-Donate-Pray...Thank You!</p> <p>NON-PERISHABLE THANKSGIVING DINNER GOODS</p> <p><i>Canned vegetables, box stuffing, canned cranberries, canned yams, etc. Donated items will be given to the food shelf to help those who are in need for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thank you!</i></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>OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD</p>  <p>We will be collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. There are shoe boxes available at church along with information on suggested items to include in your shoe box.</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 families in need with Thanksgiving Gift Cards</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Barbara Loomis
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
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	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Karen Sciacca
Communion	Karen Sciacca

Breakthrough Prayers:



Please pray for those who are sick or scheduled for surgery: Kay Lampher, Shane and Deni Tooze, Virginia Hill, Harley Koser, Lynn Hanson, Jameson Koser, Briana, Trinity Wall, Suzie Retzer, Sancy Olson, Emily, and Molly, Ally Bistram, Georgeann Koons, and those who you know.

Please pray for those who lost a loved one: Sally Schmitt (Funeral Service, 11/6 at 10:00 am at the Baptist Church in Taylors Falls)

"This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)

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: 24th Sunday After Pentecost/All Saints Sunday (Daylight Saving Time Ends)
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

11/3:	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
11/5:		Election Day/Church Office will be Closed
11/6:	5:30-7:30 pm	Youth Gathering
11/7:	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Food Shelf in Grantsburg
	6:30-8:30 pm	Youth Bible Study
11/8:	5:30-7:30 pm	Family Game Night
11/9:	8:00 am	UM Men's Meeting (G)
11/10:		Veterans Sunday

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Margie Mattson	11/3
Mike Steffen	11/4
Linda Harmon	11/4
Marivel Harmon	11/7



Next Sunday (November 10th):
"Veterans Sunday"

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman



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

Upcoming Events & News

- 11/10: **Veterans Sunday**
Baptismal Service (SCF-Harley and Jameson Koser)
- 11/12: **2024 Charge Conference at 4:30 pm at Central-Grantsburg**
- 11/13: **Go Fish from K-up ... All kids are Welcome!**

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

John 11:32-44

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet
and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have
died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her
also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He
said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and
see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved
him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of
the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave,
and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a
stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I
not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So
they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I
thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I
have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may
believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud
voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet
bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to
them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!



*To Remember &
Give Thanks...*

Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

Below are those loved ones who have passed in the last year. We want to remember them by giving thanks and lifting them up in prayer.

Central UMC	Atlas UMC	St. Croix Falls UMC
Larry Dauer	Gage Michael	Lori Ahrens
Nancy Froelke	Frederickson	Sally Schmitt
Marlys Hedberg	Bonnie Nutter	George Williamson
Bruce Kalk		Joan Ziegler
Barb Kallman		
Jean Lundberg		
John McCane		
Lori Warren		

November 3rd, 2024

John 11:32-44

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“The Most Precious Tears”

Today is “All Saints Sunday.” On All Saints Sunday, we often feel grief as we remember our loved ones. “Saints” refers to the people of God, those who belong to Him. In Catholic tradition, saints are those who have lived and died in God’s love, honored as examples of faith to inspire others. All Saints Sunday is observed on the first Sunday in November, following Halloween. Halloween was originally the “holy day’s eve”—the day before All Saints Day.

Halloween traditions began as a way to drive out evil spirits and cleanse the home in preparation for All Saints Day, which some refer to as “All Saints Day’s Eve.” Reflecting on the true meaning of Halloween and All Saints Day, we can find significance in honoring our loved ones who have returned to their heavenly home. When we name each of them, we recall their faithful journey on earth. Lighting candles in their memory, we may weep as we remember moments of joy, pain, suffering, separation, and longing for them.

Also, this season, we never miss getting and carving our Halloween pumpkins. Most of you have carved Halloween pumpkins before. I once heard that being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. Imagine if you were a pumpkin and went through the same process in the life of a Halloween pumpkin:

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off all the dirt. Then God cuts off the top and scoops out all the “yucky” stuff—removing seeds of doubt, hate, greed, and so on. Finally, God carves you a new, smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for the world to see. When God holds us, we have a smiling face with His light shining through.

A smiling face is always good. It makes us feel happy. As you know, I love taking selfies. Most of my pictures show my big smiling face. My Facebook friends often tell me that when they see my page, my smile refreshes them. Hearing that makes me feel good too.

But there is something even more precious in the world than a smiling face. Can you guess what it is? Here’s a story from the Jewish Talmud: One day, God asked the angels to bring Him the most precious thing in the world. The first angel brought a diamond, and the second brought the beauty of a young woman. However, God was not particularly interested in either of these. But when the third angel brought a vessel containing the tears shed by sinners who repented, God was deeply satisfied and said, “You have brought the most precious thing.”

Today, I want to talk about “the most precious tears.” In Korean culture, there’s a saying: “A man should only shed tears three times in his life—when he is born, when his parents pass away, and when his country perishes.” Outside of these, a man is expected never to cry, making such rare tears all the more precious. If that were true, then what about the tears of Jesus? Jesus wept for His people when they cried.

In today’s scripture, we find Jesus wept for his people. There was Martha, Mary, and Lazarus in Bethany, near Jerusalem, all of whom received the Lord’s special love. However, while Jesus was preaching in another town, Lazarus became ill. Jesus didn’t come right away, and in the meantime, Lazarus died. Four days later, when Jesus finally arrived, the body already smelled. Martha, Mary, and many people wept. When Jesus arrived, Mary said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” It sounds like she was questioning Him,

perhaps even asking, “Why were you late?” But Jesus saw her tears, not just her words. The scripture says, “When Jesus saw Mary’s weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.” And then, Jesus began to weep. Those around said, “Look how he loved him!” When we cry for others, God weeps with us.

The most precious tears are shed for others, especially for another’s life. Our tears for someone’s life can move God’s heart to compassion and mercy for our loved ones. Jesus told them to move the stone from the tomb, and when He called, “Lazarus, come out,” Lazarus came walking out, four days after his death. Jesus’ tears represent mercy and compassion. When Jesus wept, He showed His mercy and compassion to the weak, the grieving, the sick, and those despairing in the face of death. Jesus’ tears expressed His compassion and mercy toward His people. Our salvation is rooted in His unconditional love and mercy.

What our Lord asks of us is mercy rather than sacrifice (Hosea 6:6). Compassion is sharing in the suffering of the afflicted; it’s crying with them, crying for them, being present with them in their hardship. This is Jesus’ heart and love. I hope that we carry Jesus’ mind at the center of our hearts, so that we might be those who weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. Jesus’ heart is moved when someone weeps for matters of life. He met their sadness by sharing in their tears and brought healing.

There are many types of tears in the world: tears of sorrow, tears of pain, tears of joy. Yes, even happiness can bring tears to our eyes. When we face injustice, we may shed tears. When our voices go unheard, we may cry. There are also tears of victory and even physiological tears, shed simply because our bodies need to release them. Among all these tears, which would you say is the most precious? I believe that all tears matter. Perhaps you’ve heard the saying, “Tears cleanse the soul.” After crying, we often feel a sense of peace. Psychologist Henry Maudsley said, “Tears are the gift of God for healing.” Your tears can heal not only your soul, mind, and spirit, but also the hearts of others.

Do you weep for injustice or unfairness? If so, God will count your tears. King David, whom we remember as a great king of Israel, experienced hardship due to King Saul’s jealousy and became a refugee in the wilderness. David wrote his prayer in Psalms: “You have kept count of my tossing; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?” (Psalm 56:8). He wept before God. God remembers your pain and oppression, just as He heard David.

Do you cry for reconciliation? If so, weep before God, for He hears your tears. Joseph wept over his broken relationship with his brothers after they sold him into slavery, but his tears ultimately brought reconciliation between them.

Do you weep over a medical issue, a difficult diagnosis, a health problem, or concerns for a loved one? If so, remember Hezekiah’s prayers. God extended his life for 15 years as he prayed with tears.

God is moved by tears, and in those tears, miracles happen. God gave Hannah her son Samuel in response to her tearful prayers, hearing her suffering and the unfairness she endured. God gave David the throne through his tearful prayers. Hezekiah’s prayers extended his life by fifteen years. The disciple Peter’s tears of repentance empowered him to become an outstanding disciple of Jesus. Where there are tears, there is also forgiveness and reconciliation.

Do you weep in grief over your lost loved ones? Your tears may purify your soul and mind, and give you a vision of heaven. Tears are God’s gifts for healing. When you shed tears, you may experience spiritual awakening. Khalil Gibran (1883–1931, a Lebanese-American poet, philosopher, and artist) once said, “Tears wash my heart and make me understand the secrets and hidden things of life.” If you want to weep, cry before God; He hears you. Remember, when you grieve, God also weeps with you. May your tears in prayer bring you peace and comfort, healing your spirit and body. Thanks be to God. Amen!