

to impress, we ask in these moments to lay aside our anxiety that we might hear and respond to your word and be empowered to live by it. Amen!

NO. 2024-45
November 10th, 2024

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (SCF)

Candidates: Harely Koser and Jameson Koser (See insert)
Parents: Mike and Sara Koser
Godparents: Robert Koser and Lynn Hanson

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!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

We give in the spirit of Jesus, whose whole life was committed to proclaiming your love, gracious God. May our lives give evidence that we understand the care and compassion you have for all people, near and far, attractive and offensive, rich and poor. Our offerings today are a token of all the gifts we now invest in the work of your realm that is forever, with beginnings among us now. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *The Old Rugged Cross* UMH 504 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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

Worship designed "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)

25th Sunday After Pentecost/Veterans 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
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Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com
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www.upperstcroixparish.org
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
November 10th, 2024

25th Sunday After Pentecost/Veterans 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

*** THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Holy God, we give you thanks for our nation’s veterans!

**We honor them for their faithful service to our country,
and for what they have done to defend and preserve our
freedom.**

Generation after generation, your men and women have answered
our country’s call, and their lives have been changed forever.

**We are grateful for all who have served, whether
in peacetime or in conflict.**

But these days, we especially remember those who have been
tempered by fire, those who continue to bear wounds of the body or
the spirit as a result of what they have endured. They lie in our
veterans’ hospitals or struggle for recovery in rehabilitation centers;
they suffer from post-traumatic stress and survivor’s guilt.

They yearn for peace in their souls.

Loving God, we ask you to heal their wounds, to banish whatever
inner demons may haunt them.

**Give them peace within so they may return fully to their
families and to society.**

We thank you, O God, for all of our country’s veterans ... those of past

generations and those who continue to earn this title today. May we never
forget what our country has asked of them and what they have given in
return.

Help us to give them the respect and honor they are due.

Strengthen our resolve to build a world molded on your realm, where war
will be pursued no more.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *America* **UMH 697 (vs. 1 & 2)**

HONORING AND BLESSINGS TO THE VETERANS

CHILDREN’S TIME **UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Mark 12:38-44**

38 As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in
long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces 39 and to have
the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They
devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They
will receive the greater condemnation.”

41 He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money
into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came
and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he
called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has
put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of
them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has
put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“All In: Living as a Christian”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

**Gracious God, whose favor rests on those who are poor as much as
on those who possess many things, and whose attention is drawn to
our simple petitions more than to long, eloquent prayers that seek**

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 yams, etc. Donated items will go to the food shelf to help those who are in need during 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><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support families in need with Thanksgiving Gift Cards</i></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	Mary Lou and Charles Wright
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
Communion	Karen Sciacca

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are sick or scheduled for surgery: Kay Lampher (Recovery), Lynn Hanson, Harley Koser (surgery, 11/14), Briana, Sancy Olson, Emily, and Molly, Ally Bistram, Virginia (assisted living), Dorothy Miller (Pioneer Home), and those who you know.

Praise the Lord: Dani Tooze -Given birth to a boy (10/31), Georgeanne- surgery went successfully (10/27)

"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: 25th Sunday After Pentecost/Veterans Sunday
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

11/10:	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-Baptismal Service (Harley and Jameson Koser)
11/11:		Veterans Day
11/12:	4:30-6:00 pm	Charge Conference at Central-Grantsburg UMC
11/13:	1:30 pm	UMW Meeting (G)
	5:30-6:30 pm	Go Fish from K-UP(G)
11/14	11:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
	5:30-7:30 pm	Youth Bible Study (G)
11/15	1:30 pm	AD Council Meeting (A)
11/17:	12:15 pm	AD Council Meeting (SCF)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries



Janelle Zastrow

11/13

Next Sunday (November 17th):

Central -Grantsburg

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



Atlas

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

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

- 11/12: 2024 Charge Conference at 4:30 pm at Central-Grantsburg
- 11/13: UMW will pack Christmas Child shoe boxes (G)
(Please return Christmas Boxes by November 12th)
Go Fish from K-up ... All kids are Welcome!

November 10th, 2024

Mark 12:38-44

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“All In: Living as a Christian”

I’d like to start with something funny. I heard a story about a six-year-old boy standing in the church lobby, staring at a large wall filled with names and small American flags beside them. He asked the pastor what the names meant. The pastor explained that it was a memorial to all the young men and women who had died in the service. The little boy stood there silently, clearly concerned. Finally, he looked up and asked, “Was it at the 8:30 or the 11 o’clock service?”

Today is Veterans Sunday, and I want to take a moment to honor and appreciate all veterans for their service and sacrifice. We should never forget what they’ve given. Because of their sacrifice, we’re able to live in a safe country. You may have heard the saying, “Freedom is not free.” Indeed, it is because of their sacrifice that we enjoy freedom. Personally, I am especially grateful to those who served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.

Today, I want to talk about being “All In.” “All In” is a phrase that means giving your complete commitment or dedication to something without holding anything back. It’s often used to describe full-hearted involvement or a strong, determined decision to pursue something with no reservations.

For example, if you’re “all in” on a project, it means you’re fully invested—putting in all your energy, focus, and resources to make it succeed. When I say “All In,” what comes to mind? You might think of a gambler. Yes, “all in” is a term used in gambling. In poker, when a gambler bets everything on a hand, they say they’re “all in,” fully committed to the game with everything they have. What mindset does a gambler have when they go “all in”? Perhaps they’re willing to risk everything for the chance to gain everything, facing a make-or-break moment where it’s either victory or defeat.

What about veterans? I don’t have any military experience, but when I was in high school, all students participated in war simulation training twice a week. The boys received military training, while the girls learned nursing skills to care for wounded soldiers. We trained with strict discipline, almost as if it were a real war. If we weren’t “all in” during training—fully committed in heart and mind—we might not have survived in a real conflict.

Of course, Korean students no longer train like that, but I can imagine that veterans had to give up many things to commit fully to military training. And if they faced actual combat, they had to be “all in” just to survive.

Our Christian life is similar. Being a Christian means being “all in” when it comes to loving God and loving our neighbors. Jesus taught us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31). We know this as Jesus’ teaching, but we often struggle to live it out in our everyday lives. Today, we can learn more about it through Jesus’ lesson on the widow’s offering.

When I read today’s scripture about the poor widow’s offering, the phrase “all in” came to mind. I wonder if, in a way, she was “betting” everything she had on God. In today’s scripture, let’s watch and listen to Jesus:

“Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’”

Why did Jesus watch people giving their offerings to God? Was he truly interested in how much they were offering? Does he want us to be “all in” with God like the widow—or even like a gambler? We might wonder if God expects us to give everything we have. Yet, we know this doesn’t mean that God’s will is for us to sacrifice everything essential for our livelihood. The prophet Micah reminds us, “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

If Jesus’ intent wasn’t simply to praise the widow’s offering, then what was he trying to convey? To fully understand this, we should read verses 38-40. Here we encounter two types of people: the scribes and the widow. Their lives were very different. The scribes were teachers of the law, greeted with respect in the marketplace. They wore expensive robes, sat in the best seats in the synagogue, and held places of honor at banquets. But what about the widow? Widows were not respected or greeted publicly. They had no access to good places or fine clothing, living instead in poverty and often treated as outcasts.

Jesus says, “They devour widows’ houses.” In other words, the scribes exploited the poor and the widows instead of caring for them. Just before this, Jesus had taught the scribes about the greatest commandment: loving God and loving one’s neighbor (Mark 12:28-31). Yet, the scribes loved money instead of God and their neighbors. Jesus teaches us that we cannot serve two masters. As an example, he says, “You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24).

Sometimes we misunderstand God’s will. God gives us resources and gifts—some receive more, and some less. Why doesn’t God provide everything equally? If you know the joy and happiness of sharing, you may understand. We know the joy of sharing what we have. That’s why we work for missions. We hold thrift sales to help others in need. We serve at the food pantry. We collect coins for mission, make Christmas shoeboxes, and send our donations to UMCOR. All of this is because we know God’s love. Early Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, sold their possessions and goods and gave to anyone in need (Acts 2:45). God wants us to live together, practicing love for God and for one another. Jesus said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). Jesus showed us his love through his actions. The church should follow Jesus’ teachings and actions—that’s the reason it exists.

Let us reflect on ourselves through the example of the scribes. Have we also become dull to sensing God’s will? What does it mean to be “all in” for God? As the prophet Micah said, God’s will is “to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Let’s be all in, loving God with our whole hearts, minds, and souls. Let’s be all in, loving our neighbors! Thanks be to God. Amen!