



**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**March 23rd, 2025**  
**Membership Caring Month**  
**3rd Sunday in Lent**

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\*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

Come away from the gods of your own creation  
to worship the living God.

**We leave our anxious toil and worries  
to find rest in our Creator’s presence.**

Turn from preoccupation with earthly things  
to ponder truths that are eternal.

**Before all the wonders of creation that we can see  
we come to ponder realities that are unseen.**

fear not, for God is your shield;  
your reward shall be very great.

**God gathers us together in covenant,  
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
UMH 526 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

Eternal One, who grants us rest and raises us to a new day, we  
give thanks for your watchful care. As you gather us here, we open  
ourselves to the vision you would set before us. Help us to build  
with you the kind of community that welcomes your prophets and  
responds in love to all your children. Amen!

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Galatians 6:7-10  
(NRSV, p. 191 in the NT, and p.1017 in the Living Bible)

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

**SERMON** *“Sowing Seeds of Care in the Family of Faith”*  
(Membership Caring Month #4) Rev. Jenny Lee

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

Lord, thank You for calling us into Your family. Help us to sow seeds  
of kindness, love, and encouragement in this church. Strengthen us  
when we grow weary, and remind us that every act of care is a seed  
planted in Your kingdom. May our church be a place of true  
belonging, where no one feels forgotten. 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!*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND  
OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

As our spiritual ancestors brought sacrifices to your altar, O God,  
we bring our costly treasure for your blessing. Use all our  
resources to gather earth’s children under your wings, where we  
may dwell in safety and security, in mutual love and growing  
commitment. Amen!

# MARCH CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

**INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:**  
Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



**LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT**

Requested items:  
eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies.  
Personal Products for men & women.

We will be collecting garden seeds for Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project for our March Mission. Thank you for your support! Here are the suggested seed donations: Beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon.



**February Mission Update:** \$360 was raised for Heifer International last month. Heifer International is doing a 3x match right now, so our donation will have 3 times the impact. Details will be available in the April newsletter.

## 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 financial donations to support UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery. The fund allows UMCOR to respond quickly to meet the emergency needs in the United States.



## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

**Food Shelf**  
  
(Communion Sunday)



**Sailor Hat Offering:**



The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the Harbor House as they renovate their shelter.

Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

**Ministers** All God's People / Rev. Jenny Lee

## Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

## Atlas

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

## St. Croix Falls

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



## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S

Kayleen Branstad	3/23
Chase Steffen	3/23
Meryl Walsten	3/25
Mike Dennison	3/26
Majesty Rehbein	3/27



## 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](http://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: Membership Caring Month (March), 3rd Sunday in Lent.  
Let's love one another in action!

## Worship Service Schedule

3/23:	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
3/24:	10:30 -1:30 pm	Harmony Choir Rehearsal at Rice Lake UMC
3/25	6:30 pm	SPRC Meeting via Zoom
3/26:	5:30-7:30 pm	Youth Activity (G)
3/27	5:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper (SCF)
	5:40 pm	Lenten Bible Study (SCF)
3/28	8:00 pm	Harmony Choir Board Meeting via Zoom
3/29	8:30-12:00 pm	VBS Staff Training at Woodbury Lutheran Church in MN

## Upcoming Events & News

**\*March: Membership Caring Month** (Take care of one another.)

**\*Lenten Bible Study every Thursday at St. Croix Falls**

5:00 pm (Soup Supper) & 5:40 pm (Lenten Study)  
(Questions? Contact Pastor Jenny)

- 4/12: Spring Bake & Craft Sale at Atlas
- 4/13: Palm Sunday
- 4/17: Maundy Thursday Service;
- 4/18: Good Friday Service
- 4/20: Easter Sunday
- 4/26: Spring Sale and Lunch at Grantsburg-Central



## Next Sunday (March 30th):

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

### Atlas

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

### St. Croix Falls

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

## Breakthrough Prayers:

**Please pray for:** Ken Olson (Stroke), Dian Peterson (Healing), Jeff Meister (Healing), Sanci and Rifle Harshman (Healing), Ron Aldorfer (Strength), Jim Loomis (Strength), A. J. Hanson (God's peace and guidance), those struggling with illness and/or addiction, undocumented immigrants, and for the U.S.A and the world.



**Praise the Lord in gratitude and joy:** Megan Baglio (Birth of a baby girl), Deb Hammer (Nice trip), Judy Lien (Finding a temporary place), Anneliese Snyder and Willow Nyland (Nominated as State's representative in Poppy Poster).

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



March 23rd, 2025

Galatians 6:7-10

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



## **“Sowing Seeds of Care in the Family of Faith”**

*(Membership Caring Month #4)*

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, “Mum, why are some of your hairs white?”

Her mother replied, “Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.” The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked, “Mumma, how come all of Grandma’s hairs are white?”

As some of you may know, I love being involved in community activities so that I can get to know the community and its people and serve them in a better way. One of these activities is a women’s club called Grantsburg Women Working Together (GWWT). I recently learned that it was established one hundred years ago, beginning at the Grantsburg Public Library. Their group’s purpose, which all members recite at every gathering, is: “To reach out in our communities, and along the way, plant seeds of joy, encouragement, and hope wherever there are needs. And as we work together, we’ll keep this aim in mind: wherever now our footsteps take us, we’ll leave a better place behind.” —Loretta Brown

I love their purpose. Their identity and mission are clear and inspiring. They are a group of women working together to sow seeds of joy, encouragement, and hope wherever there is need. I have witnessed their work and their effort to make a positive impact in the community.

I have learned a lot through several community clubs. Their identities and purposes are clear—who they are, why they gather, and what they do. This applies not only to Grantsburg Women’s Club but also to other organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Historical Society, and even sports clubs. They maintain their identity and purpose in every step they take.

What about us? Do you think that we, as Christians, have a clear identity and purpose? Yes, surely, we do. Our identity is as followers of Jesus Christ, belonging to God. Our purpose is to love God and love our neighbors through action, just as Jesus loved God and us. But my question is: Do we live this out? If others see us, would they recognize us as Christians even outside the church?

1 John 3:16-18 says: “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” March is Membership Caring Month—a time to reflect on how we care for one another in the church. Today’s scripture, Galatians 6:7-10, reminds us that our actions—our sowing—lead to a harvest. Today, we will explore three key lessons of sowing and caring in the family of faith:

First, we should remember that we harvest what we sow (vv. 7-8): Verse 7 says, “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.” As a gardener, I know this rule very well—I can’t expect beans if I plant cucumbers! Two years ago, while volunteering at the Grantsburg Food Shelf, I received a green sweet squash with a round shape. It was my first time seeing it. I had never cooked or eaten it before, so I found a simple recipe and prepared it. It tasted wonderful! I saved the seeds and planted them the following year. As the plants grew and bore fruit, they looked different from what I had expected. I asked others what they were, but no one could identify them. At first, I was disappointed. However, as they matured, they became exactly what I had originally expected. Then I realized: we harvest what we sow.

What do we expect our church to be? If we do not plant anything in ministry, we cannot expect a harvest. What seeds are we sowing—encouragement or criticism? Presence or absence? Generosity or self-centeredness? Remember, we cannot mock God; we will harvest what we plant. In other words, if we plant nothing, we will harvest nothing.

Secondly, consider patience in doing good. Verse 9 reminds us: “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up.” At times, caring for others may feel thankless or unnoticed. However, the Apostle Paul reassures us that God sees our efforts, and in His perfect timing, a harvest will come.

I know there are gardeners among us who plant apple, pear, or other fruit trees. A tree takes years to bear fruit, but its roots grow deep in the unseen. Similarly, our acts of kindness, though sometimes unnoticed, build a strong foundation.

We have started youth and children’s ministries as a parish collaboration. As a result, the Grantsburg church now has children and youth activities every Wednesday, and sometimes on Thursdays and Fridays as well. Since we began Vacation Bible School in 2023, we have continued it and plan to do so again this year. By God’s grace, our youth and children’s ministry is thriving. Yet, I have heard comments such as, “We provide childcare through this ministry because parents just drop their kids off and enjoy free time,” or “We feed them for free, but we gain nothing from this ministry—it just costs us money and energy.” To those who think or say such things, I want to encourage you: Keep showing up, keep serving, and keep loving, because the harvest will come. As today’s scripture says: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Lastly, consider the priority of caring for the family of faith. Verse 10 states: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Membership in the church is not just about attendance; it’s about belonging and caring. As I mentioned last Sunday, we are one body, united in the body of Christ—the church. Just as a family supports one another, the church should be a place of compassion, service, and love.

The scripture, Acts 2 describes what the early church looked like: “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-47) This passage paints a beautiful picture of the early church’s deep sense of community, generosity, and care for one another. They didn’t just worship together—they lived as a family, showing how the body of Christ thrives when believers support and uplift one another.

Who in our church needs encouragement today? How can we extend care, prayer, and support? How can we actively care for one another in practical ways? You can check on those who haven’t been present for a while through phone calls, visits, or sending cards. Let’s commit to sowing seeds of care in our church family, trusting that God will bring a harvest in due time. Thanks be to God. Amen!