

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

NO. 2025-37  
September 14th, 2025

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Generous God, You seek us when we are lost and rejoice when we are found. Out of gratitude for Your steadfast love, we bring these gifts to You. Bless them, that they may be used to proclaim Your Word, nurture children in faith, and extend Your joy to the world. Bless also our lives, that we may be instruments of Your love and grace. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another*

\*CLOSING HYMN

*In the Garden*

UMH 314 (vs. 1 & 3)

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Jenny Lee

\*POSTLUDE

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

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

The 2025 Parish Ministry Theme:  
*“Do Good and Share with Others” (Hebrews 13:16)*

“14th Sunday After Pentecost”  
“Rally Sunday (A)”



Grantsburg-Central  
Since 1897



Atlas  
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls  
Since 1859

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

*9:00 AM at Grantsburg (with Zoom Service)*

*(9:10 AM, Children’s Time)*

*10:00 AM at Atlas*

*(10:15 AM, Sunday School-Rally Sunday celebration)*

*11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rev. Jenny Lee: [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Worship resource “Refreshing Rains of the Living Word” by Lavon Bayler

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**September 14th, 2025**  
**“14th Sunday After Pentecost”**  
**“Rally Sunday (A)”**

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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**

Let us return to God who heals and binds up,  
that we may recall God’s constant presence.

**We will call to mind the deeds of God  
and remember God’s wonders of old.**

Press on to know the God of lightning and thunder,  
whose judgments crash in on our murderous ways.

**God has redeemed our ancestors  
and led them gently like a flock.**

God pursues us wherever we go  
and searches for us when we are lost.

**We rejoice in God’s steadfast love  
that draws us near in the company of friends. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**    *Jesus Loves Me*    **UMH 191 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER**    **Unison**

Loving God, You are the Shepherd who seeks the lost and the One who rejoices when we are found. As we gather in Your presence this morning, draw us close to Your heart. Remind us of Your steadfast love that never gives up, and let our worship echo the joy of heaven. May every song, prayer, and word glorify You, and may we rejoice together in the saving grace of Christ. Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism (G)**

**Candidate:** Giada Virginia Baglio

(See insert)

**Parents:** Giacomo and Megan Baglio

**Godparents:** Michael and Jessica Faust

**Bible Presentation (A)**

Elli Olson (3rd Grade)

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 15:1-10**

(p. 77 in the New Testament, NRSV (G and SCF’s Pew Bible),  
and p. 880 in The Way- the Living Bible (Atlas Pew Bible)

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SERMON**

**“Joy in Heaven Over the Found”**

**Rev. Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER**    **Unison**

Gracious God, we rejoice with heaven today. Thank You for seeking us when we are lost, for claiming our children in baptism, and for placing Your Word in their hands and hearts. Help us echo heaven’s joy by nurturing these little ones with love, prayer, and faith. May our lives shine with Your steadfast love, so all may know they belong to You. 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**

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

**Pastor:** People of the household of faith, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

**People:** We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

### BLESSING

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



**Candidate: Giada Virginia Baglio**

**Born: March 16th, 2025**

**in Woodbury, MN**

**Baptized: September 14th, 2025**  
at Central United Methodist Church  
Grantsburg, Wisconsin

**Parents: Giacomo and Megan Baglio**  
**Godparents: Michael and Jessica Faust**  
**Officiant: Rev. Jenny Lee**

# BAPTISM OF GIADA VIRGINIA BAGLIO

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND PARENTS/GODPARENTS

Candidate: Giada Virginia Baglio  
Parents: Giacomo and Megan Baglio  
Godparents: Michael and Jessica Faust  
Officiant: Rev. Jenny Lee

Pastor: Having experienced God's love in the world, in the Christian community, and in your family, I now charge you to seriously consider the commitment you are about to make before God and before these friends and family in Christ.

### RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:  
Do you reject the evil powers of this world,  
and repent of your sin?

**Parents: We do.**

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?

**Parents: We do.**

Pastor: Do you, in presenting this child for Holy  
Baptism, confess your faith in our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ?

**Parents: We do.**

Pastor: Do you accept as your duty and privilege to live before this

child a life that reflects the Gospel; to exercise all godly care so that she may be brought up in the Christian faith, taught the Holy Scriptures, and guided to learn reverent participation in both private and public worship of God?

**Parents: We do.**

Pastor: Will you nurture this child in Christ's Holy Church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

**Parents: We will.**

Pastor (**to the Godparents**): Thank you for coming and joining in the baptismal covenant and celebration.  
Recognizing that there are many persons who touch the lives of children, do you promise to give your time and yourself to this child, supporting her in her faith journey?

**Godparents: We do.**

Pastor (**to the people**): Do you, as Christ's body, the Church reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**People: We do.**

Pastor (**to the people**): Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, include this child now before you in your care, and surround her with a community of love and forgiveness?

**People: We will.**

### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

# SEPTEMBER CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b> Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p><b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men &amp; women.</p>	<p>For the month of September Atlas will be collecting funds for Moolah for Milk. This is the Salvation Army program to raise money to supply milk vouchers for the Backpack program. Thank you for your ongoing support!</p> 
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## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p><b>September's Mission is Moolah for Milk!</b></p> <p>We will be collecting money to support the Salvation Army's milk vouchers provided in the Backpack program. Thank you for your continued support!</p> 
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p><b>Food Shelf</b></p> <p><b>(Communion Sunday)</b></p> 	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the SCF School Backpack Program!</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
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Mowing	Dave Huff
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>



## Atlas

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

## St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Women of the church

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Linda Hokanson  
9/18



## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Live Zoom service will be at 9:00 am through the Grantsburg-Central Service.
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail (if requested) and email.
- 4) Please note that we send you the weekly **USCP Weekly E-News with Photos & Sunday Worship Materials through email**. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today: 14th Sunday After Pentecost and Rally Sunday(A)  
May God bless you!

## Worship Service Schedule

9/14:	9:00 am	Grantsburg-Central UMC (Infant Baptism)
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC (Bible Presentation & Rally Sunday)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
9/16:	6:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (G)
9/17:	4:00 -5:00 pm	Go Fish (Kindergarten to 5th Grade) (G)
	6:00 -8:30 pm	Youth Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp (G)
9/18:	6:30 pm	Grantsburg Historical Society Annual Meeting at Grantsburg Library
9/19:	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Family Game Night (simple dinner provided)

## Breakthrough Prayers:

**Please pray for:** Sally Aldorfer (husband, Ron's pacemaker procedure, 9/12), Toni (healing for those who suffer with mental health issues and anxiety), Deb Hammer (Ravie's safe travel), Mary Lou Wright (daughter, Renee's pain relief and recovery), Sharon Asp (friend, Jennifer's healing), Lynn Hanson (granddaughter, Harley's surgery, 9/22, and grandson, AJ's safety), Karen Sciacca (son, Dereck's safe trail trip), and Pastor Jenny Lee (parsonage furnace repair).

**Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude:** Barbara Loomis (improvement of health, and joyful time with grandchildren) and Karen Sciacca (son, Drew bought a new house).

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

## Next Sunday (September 21st):

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Pie and ice-cream social
Mowing	<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	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Women of the church



## Upcoming Events & News

- 9/21: Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
- 9/22-9/26: Pastor Jenny will attend the Continuing Education Program in Tucson, AZ.
- 9/27: Atlas Thrift and Bake Sale-20th Anniversary of the River Road Ramble



### “Joy in Heaven Over the Founding”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: One humorist once said, “Life is unfair. I lost my car keys at a ball game and never found them. I lost my sunglasses at the beach and never found them. I lost my socks in the washing machine and never found them. I lost three pounds on a diet, but I found them—and five more.”

Have you ever lost something really important? Maybe your car keys, right when you were in a hurry? Or your phone—how helpless do we feel without it? I remember one of our parishioners who lost her cell phone in the park after our joint service last year. That phone held a lot of personal information—hers and her friends’. We asked everyone who was there to help and retraced her steps again and again, but it couldn’t be found. What a stressful experience, having to replace so many important things!

I was also once my mother’s “lost child.” When I was young, I became separated from her in a crowded marketplace. I searched for her, crying and wandering through the crowd for what felt like half a day. Eventually, someone found me and brought me to the police station, where lost children were kept. I was so afraid I would never see my mother again. But then—she found me. I will never forget the joy and relief of that reunion.

I can’t imagine how my mother must have felt in those long hours of searching. Afterward, she seemed to love me even more tenderly than before. But that experience left me with a kind of trauma—I still struggle with being “map-blind.” Even now, when I plan to travel far, I get anxious. Thankfully, I have GPS now!

Jesus takes that very human experience—the fear of being lost, and the joy of being found—and says, “That’s how God feels about you. That’s how heaven feels when one person is found in God’s love.” If you’ve ever lost and found something precious, you can begin to understand today’s scripture.

Today, our scripture about joy in heaven comes alive in a special way. We at Central UMC in Grantsburg will celebrate an infant baptism today, where God’s covenant love claims a little one before they can even speak. And today, we at Atlas UMC, present Bibles to our children, placing God’s Word into their hands so they may grow in the story of God’s love. These moments are not just nice traditions—they are signs of God’s joyful pursuit, God’s delight when each one is brought into His loving arms.

In the parables, Jesus tells of a shepherd who notices one sheep missing and leaves the ninety-nine to search. He tells of a woman who lights a lamp, sweeps her house carefully, and keeps at it until she finds her lost coin. These pictures reveal something powerful: God does not sit back, arms folded, waiting for us to come home. God is the One who searches. God goes out. God shines a light. God sweeps every corner until we are found.

That is what we see in baptism. Before this child can say, “I love you” to God, God has already spoken: “You are mine. You are beloved. I will never give up on you.” Baptism is not our act of searching for God—it is God’s act of searching for us, claiming us in steadfast love.

A single sheep. A single coin. To some, that might seem insignificant. But not to the shepherd, not to the woman—and not to God. Each one matters. Each one is worth searching for. And so it is in the life of the church. Embracing a baby into our faith community through infant baptism is a

celebration of great significance in heaven. There is more joy over one baby than over ninety-nine people who are already in the community. It is like we have a new granddaughter today.

Today, as we at Atlas UMC place Bibles into the hands of our children, we are making a bold statement: “You are so valuable to God, so precious to us, that we want you to have God’s Word to guide you all your life.”

Think about that: the Bible is not just a book of rules or stories—it is a love letter, a living witness to the God who searches for us. By giving our children Bibles, we are equipping them to discover, again and again, how much they matter to God.

This summer, at Vacation Bible School, we gave Bibles to all the children and youth volunteers who participated. This was made possible thanks to the financial support of St. Croix Falls UMC. We prayed that they would continue to grow in God’s Word, discovering how deeply God loves them.

The infant baptism and Bible presentation both proclaim the same truth: no one is expendable, no one is overlooked, no one is forgotten. Each child is worth heaven’s celebration.

Notice how both parables end. The shepherd calls his friends and neighbors, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” The woman calls her community, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.”

Yes, we have reason to rejoice too—because God’s joy is here among us. Do you hear it? Heaven rejoices. The angels sing. God delights in each one who is brought close.

And so today, we join in that heavenly joy:

- When a child is baptized, heaven rejoices—because God has claimed another beloved child into His covenant family.
- When a child holds their very own Bible, heaven rejoices—because God’s Word is taking root in another heart.
- When any one of us turns back to God—whether for the first time or the hundredth time—heaven rejoices, because love has done its work again.

The church’s role is to echo heaven’s joy. To be the kind of community that celebrates, encourages, and supports. To say to these children—not just today, but every day: You are loved. You are not forgotten. You belong here.

God rejoices when the lost are found, when the wandering are brought home, when the little ones are welcomed into His family. Today is a reminder that the story of God’s joy is not just about “those out there”—it’s about us, right here. When we gather at the baptismal font, when we place Bibles in small hands, when we live as a community that supports and loves, we are joining the party that has already begun in heaven.

Atlas Church observes today as Rally Sunday, marking the beginning of the Sunday School year. Grantsburg also begins its Go Fish program for children this week, and the youth embark on a new school year. This is not only a joy for each individual church, but for our entire parish, because we are one parish that supports and cares for one another.

So today, let us rejoice with heaven. Let us support these children with our prayers, our presence, our teaching, and our love. And let us never forget: the same God who rejoices over the found is rejoicing over you, even now.

Beloved family in Jesus Christ, heaven is rejoicing today—over this child, over these children, and over each one of us who has been found in the love of Christ. Let us join in heaven’s joy!

Thanks be to God. Amen.