

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**
Generous God, You have given us life, love, and every good gift. As we bring our offerings today, we return a portion of what You have entrusted to us. Use these gifts, and use us, to do good and to share with others, that Your love may be made visible in our community and beyond. Bless our giving and our living, that both may please You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Freely, Freely* **UMH 389**

***BENEDICTION** **Rev. Jenny Lee**

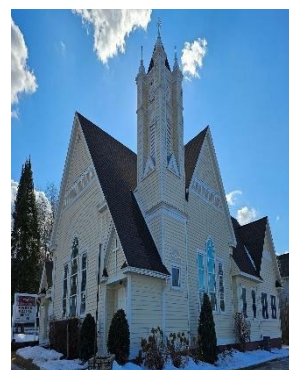
***POSTLUDE** **Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

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

Stewardship Month
“20th Sunday After Pentecost”
Initiative Stewardship Campaign Sunday (SCF)



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)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
October 26th, 2025
“20th Sunday After Pentecost”

*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**

In the name of God we welcome all who come,
trusting or faithless, faithful or rebellious.

**We come because we know our lives are incomplete;
perhaps if we listen, there will be good news for us.**

Seek the God of righteousness and justice,
who comes, unfailing as the dawn, every morning.

**We wait for God to be revealed,
daring to open our lives to God’s correction.**

God, who greets us in the morning, sustains us
through the day and through the night.

**We seek to call on the name of God
and to serve God with one accord. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Jesu, Jesu* **UMH 432 (vs. 1 & 2)**

OPENING PRAYER **Unison**

**Generous and loving God, You are the source of every blessing
and the giver of all good gifts. Open our hearts to gratitude and
our hands to generosity. Remind us that all we have belongs to
You, and all we give is a reflection of Your grace. Bless our
worship, our commitments, and our service, that through our
giving, Your love may be known in this world. In Jesus’ name,
Amen.**

CHILDREN’S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Hebrews 13:15-16

(p.228 in the New Testament, NRSV (G and SCF’s Pew Bible)
and p. 1074 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 **“Do Good and Share with Others”**
(Stewardship Month #3)

Rev. Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER **Unison**

Gracious God, You have blessed us with every good gift.

**Teach us to do good, to share what we have, and to live each day with
grateful hearts. May our lives become offerings that please You,
our hands extensions of Your love, and our church a witness to Your
grace in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

INITIATIVE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAGIN (SCF)

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

OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS




ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM: 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>MOOLAH FOR MILK</p>  <p>For the month of October Atlas will continue collecting funds for Moolah for Milk-the Salvation Army program to raise money to supply milk vouchers for the Backpack program. We will also begin collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Information is available at church. Thank you for your ongoing support!</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>Trick or Treat for UNICEF & Operation Christmas Child</p>  <p>We will be collecting financial donations for both Trick or Treat for UNICEF and Operation Christmas Child along with shoebox donations for Operation Christmas Child.</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf</p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>The Sailor Hat offering will go to World Communion and will be split between the African Agriculture & Student Scholarship programs.</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	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Russ Hammer
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Volunteer Needed

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bob Popham 10/26	 <p><i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i></p>
Kate Murtaugh 10/26	
Wendell & Maxine Hauble 10/26	
Jim Mattson 10/29	

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. 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: **20th Sunday After Pentecost – Stewardship Month Initiative Stewardship Campaign (SCF)**
May God bless you!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

10/26:	9:00 am	Central UMC - Grantsburg (With Live Zoom)
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC (10:15 am, Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC (Initiative Stewardship Campaign)
	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
10/27:	8:00 pm	Harmony Choir Board Meeting via Zoom
10/29	9:00 am -noon	Appreciation and Education of Volunteers of Loaves and Fishes at Luck Lutheran Church
	10:00 am--Noon	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish (K to 5th grade)
11/1:	9:00 am-Noon	Safe Sanctuary Online Training

Upcoming Events & News

- 11/2: All Saints Sunday/ Daylight Saving Time Ends
11/8: UMM Meeting (G)
11/8: Charge Conference at St. Croix Falls UMC, at 3:00 pm.
11/9: Veteran's Sunday
11/15 Fall Thrift and Craft Sale (G)

Next Sunday (November 2nd):

“All Saints Sunday”

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Russ Hammer
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Communion	Barbara Looms

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for: Kayleen Branstad (friend Pat's husband's healing), Deb Hammer (safe trip and family union), Barbara Loomis (physical and spiritual healing), Charles Wright (the world), Sharon Asp (friend, Jan, improved health), and Sandra Ericson (son, Mike's healing),

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Sharon Asp (prayers answered), Deb Hammer (father's 75th Class Reunion and his 95th birthday), Pastor Jenny Lee (Grateful to hear all the church leaders' sharing).

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





**“Do Good and Share with Others: A Year of Living God’s Love”
(Stewardship Month #3)**

I want to start with something funny that I found on the internet: A little boy came home from Sunday School one day and told his mom, “Today we learned to share what we have because that makes God happy.” His mom smiled. “That’s wonderful! So, are you going to share your cookies with your sister?” He paused, thought deeply, and then said, “Well, I think God would be okay if I shared her cookies first.”

Sometimes we all like the idea of sharing—just not our own cookies! But today’s Scripture reminds us that true generosity starts with what we have. I know that sometimes, when we look at what we have, we might feel that it’s not always enough to share. And when we look at others, it can seem like they always have more than enough. There’s a Korean saying: “Other people’s bread always looks bigger than mine.” I hope we don’t go that way!

When we read today’s passage, what comes to mind? It sounds familiar, doesn’t it?

Yes—take a look at our bulletin cover. Did you find it there? It’s our 2025 ministry theme: **“Do Good and Share with Others,”** based on Hebrews 13:16. At the beginning of this year, we received this simple yet powerful verse as our compass—guiding our ministries, our mission projects, and our daily acts of faith.

And now, as we come to this season of stewardship, it’s a perfect time to pause, look back, and give thanks for the ways this verse has come alive among us. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us that doing good and sharing what we have are not just good deeds—they are acts of worship. They are “sacrifices pleasing to God.” Sacrifice here means the offering we live out in everyday life.

Stewardship, then, is not only about what we give—it’s about how we live. It’s about embodying the generosity of Christ in every part of our life together.

Let’s think about the phrase **“Do Good,”** which means love in action. When Scripture says, “Do good,” it’s not referring to random acts of kindness, but to intentional acts of love that reflect God’s heart. Let’s see—this year, we saw that goodness in action:

- In our monthly mission projects, we reached beyond our walls—supporting ministries that feed the hungry, clothe the needy, and uplift the hurting.
- In our Summer Vacation Bible School, we shared Christ’s love with children and families—planting seeds of faith and joy that will continue to grow. We did it together as one parish.
- On World Communion Sunday, we celebrated our unity in Christ—sharing bread that connected us not only with one another, but with believers around the world.
- And in our daily lives, many of you practiced tithing in everyday ways: feeding deer, birds, and wildlife; picking up trash along the street; eating healthfully; or sharing stored clothes with those in need.

Yes, tithing is more than money—it’s a way of living, because everything we have, even our breath and time, is given by God. Every one of these ministries was an act of doing good—not for recognition, but for the sake of Christ’s love.

Again, our ministry theme is **“Do Good and Share with Others.”** What can we share? We can share what we have. If you have little, share a little; if you have much, share much. Today’s Scripture doesn’t say, “Share as much as you can,” but rather, “Share what you have.” Not what’s left over, but what you have—your time, gifts, prayers, presence, and resources.

I’m not sure if I’ve shared this with you before, but when I was about to finish my school program and continue

my ordination process, I faced a challenge. The school asked me to move out of campus housing after graduation, but I had no place to go. I had been a student in the U.S. for many years with very little income, so I couldn't afford to rent a place. At that moment, my spiritual mentor said to me, "You can stay at my place until you find somewhere to live."

I gratefully replied, "Thank you so much! How much should I pay you?"

She smiled and said, "This home was given to me by God's grace. I want to share it with you. That's what I have to share."

I ended up living with her and her daughter for three years, until I moved to Wisconsin. They became my family—not by blood, but through the love and grace of God. Likewise, we can share what we have—our space, time, energy, strength, loving hearts, kind words, and resources. Yes, we shared in many ways this year:

- Through our special offerings for World Communion Sunday and UMCOR Sunday, we extended compassion far beyond our local church, partnering in global mission.
- Through the loaves of bread given to the food shelf, we offered not just physical nourishment, but a tangible sign of Christ's body—broken and shared for all.
- Through our regular giving and tithes, we sustained the ministries that bring hope and life to this community.

In each act of giving, we offered worship—a sacrifice pleasing to God. Through our actions we said, "Lord, all we have comes from You, and we return it with gratitude." Today's Scripture says that doing good and sharing with those in need are sacrifices that please God. In other words, our acts of doing good and sharing with others are offerings that bring joy to God. When we have something to share, it is a sign that we are blessed—and we should be grateful to God for that. Your doing good and your sharing can make tomorrow different.

You may remember that on the first Sunday of October, my sermon was titled "Gratitude as the Foundation of Stewardship." True stewardship grows from gratitude. I said then that stewardship is not about fundraising or obligation—it's about gratitude. We are thankful that Jesus gave Himself for us—that He loved and forgave us even before we fully realized His love.

That's why, with grateful hearts, we want to share what we have with others. Our giving is not driven by obligation, but by thanksgiving.

When we look back at this year, we can see that our church has been a living testimony of gratitude. Last Sunday, on Laity Sunday, wasn't it wonderful to hear our church leaders share about their ministries? Those stories were living testimonies of how we have done good and shared what we have. Perhaps as our leaders prepared their presentations, they were reminded of things they had forgotten we accomplished together. And as we listened, many of us thought, "Yes, we did it! God truly used our churches as channels of blessing!"

When we see how much has been accomplished through our mission projects this year, we realize our churches are not "small churches" at all—because gratitude enlarges the heart!

In every loaf of bread shared, in every offering given, in every child welcomed to Sunday School, VBS, and youth programs, we have said: "Thank you, Lord, for letting us be part of Your work."

Finally, what's our next step as we conclude this stewardship month? As we close our series, this is not an ending—it's a sending. Hebrews 13:16 is both a reflection and a call forward. The world still needs the goodness and generosity of God's people. Our neighbors still need hope. Our church still has stories to tell and love to share. So let's continue to do good.

Let's keep sharing what we have. Let's offer our lives—our time, talents, and treasures—as sacrifices pleasing to God. Because every act of generosity, every shared loaf, every moment of service becomes part of God's ongoing story of grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.