

(NRSV, p. 205 in the New Testament, and p. 1042 in the Living Bible)

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

NO. 2025-40  
October 5th, 2025

\*RESPONDING SONG *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!* (x2) TFWS 2014

SERMON *“Gratitude as the Foundation of Stewardship”*

Rev. Jenny Lee

**We Respond to God’s Word**

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and generous God, we thank You for every good and perfect gift. We thank You for the bread of life, for the fellowship of believers across the world, and for the chance to share Your blessings with others. Teach us to live with open hearts and open hands, that our gratitude may overflow in giving, our faith may grow in sharing, and our lives may reflect Your love. 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

Gracious God, all we have comes from You. Out of gratitude, we return these gifts. Bless them and use them to feed the hungry, share Your love, and build Your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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

\*CLOSING HYMN *Give Thanks* TFWS 2036

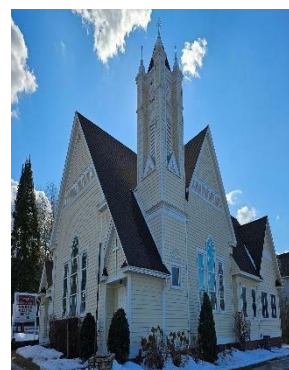
\*BENEDICTION Rev. Jenny Lee

\*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”**  
**“World Communion Sunday/17th Sunday After Pentecost”**



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 (Sunday School on Summer Break)**

**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>

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**October 5th, 2025**  
**“World Communion Sunday/  
17th 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

Rejoice in the Lord always,  
for this is God’s will for us in Christ Jesus.

**We rejoice, for today we gather with Christians  
around the world at one table.**

Give thanks in all circumstances,  
for every good and perfect gift comes from above.

**We give thanks for daily bread, for the Bread of Life,  
and for the bread we share with neighbors.**

Pray without ceasing,  
for God hears the cries of the world.

**We lift our prayers with believers in every nation,  
trusting in God’s mercy and love.**

Do not quench the Spirit, but welcome God’s fire among us.

**Spirit of unity, kindle our hearts with gratitude,  
joy, and generosity.**

Today we break bread together with the whole Body of Christ.

**One table, one Savior, one hope:  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *I Come with Joy* UMH 617 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

Holy God, on this World Communion Sunday, we gather at Your table with believers across the earth. Many languages, many

bread, one Savior, one Body. Unite us in Your Spirit, fill us with gratitude, and remind us that every gift comes from You. As we worship, may our hearts be open, our hands be generous, and our lives reflect Christ’s love to the world. In His name, Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**INVITATION FOR COMMUNION**

Rev. 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 your 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 (or 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 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

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.**

# OCTOBER 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><b>MOOLAH FOR MILK</b></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>  
--	---	--



## 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>Trick or Treat for UNICEF &amp; Operation Christmas Child</b></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>  
--	--

## 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>The Sailor Hat offering will go to World Communion and will be split between the African Agriculture &amp; Student Scholarship programs.</p> 
--	--

Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

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

## "World Communion Sunday"

### Central -Grantsburg

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



### Atlas

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

### 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
Communion	Kathy Gionis and Congregation

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Karen Sciacca	10/5
Chris Grady	10/8
Lynn Hanson	10/9
<b>Brody &amp; Brittney Woltz</b>	<b>10/9</b>
Emma Anderson	10/10
<b>Doug &amp; Deb Kunze</b>	<b>10/10</b>
<b>Josie &amp; Pat Grimes</b>	<b>10/10</b>



### 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: **17th Sunday After Pentecost – World Communion Sunday**

We also observe October as **Stewardship Month**.

May God bless you!

### Worship Service and A Week Schedule

10/5:	9:00 am	Grantsburg-Central UMC
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
10/8:	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting (G)
	5:30 -7:30 pm	Youth Gathering (G)
10/9:	9:00 -10:00 am	Northwest District Clergy Meeting via Zoom
	10:30am-1:00 pm	Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck
	2:00 pm	Ministry Task Force Team (SCF)
10/10:	12:00 pm (Noon)	SPRC and Treasures Meeting at Grantsburg Parsonage
10/11:	6:45 am-7:00 pm	Crex Meadow Fall Festival
	6:00 pm	Rotary Club Fundraising Dinner in Siren

### Breakthrough Prayers:

**Please pray for:** Sally Alderfer (Kay Lamphere-birthday, loss of loved one, and family's medical concern), Lynn Hanson (family-recovery from cold), Toni Koons (recovery from Covid symptoms), and Colleen Adams-Schween (Sue Olson's safe trip).

**Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude:** Charles Wright (wonderful church), Kathy and Peter Gionis (good trip), Pastor Jenny (wonderful seminar and trip), Karen Sciacca (prayers answered).

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

### Next Sunday (October 12th):

#### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
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	Jamie Steffen
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
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



### Upcoming Events & News

10/19: Laity Sunday: Joint Service at Central UMC- Grantsburg (10:30 am, Lunch will be provided by Central)

10/26: Stewardship Campaign Sunday



### Stewardship Month #1: “Gratitude as the Foundation of Stewardship”

I want to start with something funny I found on an internet site:

A pastor asked a farmer, “If you had 100 cows, would you give 50 to the Lord?”

The farmer said, “Of course!”

The pastor continued, “If you had 10 cows, would you give 5 to the Lord?”

The farmer nodded, “Absolutely!”

Then the pastor said, “If you had 2 cows, would you give 1 to the Lord?”

The farmer frowned and said, “Now, hold on, Pastor—you know I actually have two cows!”

Today is a special day—**World Communion Sunday**. Around the globe, Christians of every language, every culture, and every tradition gather at Christ’s table. Some will share rice cakes, some corn tortillas, some naan, some sourdough, some simple crackers. Here at our table today, you see many kinds of bread—breads donated and baked by your loving hands.

Each one is different, but together they remind us of a deeper truth: in Christ, we are one body. And today, we also collect bread for the local food shelf. Bread for us, bread for our neighbors. Bread that becomes a sign of God’s abundance and love.

World Communion Sunday is also a day when United Methodists join together for a special offering. This offering helps support education, leadership, and scholarships for students around the world. And I want to pause here for a personal testimony: I myself was once a recipient of this scholarship for several years. Your giving made it possible for me to pursue ministry and studies. I am standing here today, in part, because someone, somewhere, gave out of gratitude.

When a pastor at my home church in Korea recommended that I attend seminary, I had deep financial concerns. But the pastor said to me, “Don’t worry about finances while you are studying. Because God has called you, God will provide everything you need.” Hearing that, I assumed the church might support my tuition. But they didn’t support me financially—they supported me with prayers. And their prayers worked, because I never had to worry about tuition or living expenses all the way through my Ph.D.

The United Methodist Church has a strong scholarship system through the **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)**. They support Methodist college students, seminarians, and doctoral students with funds gathered through local church offerings and donations. I was one of those blessed by their support. If they had not helped me, I might never have completed my studies, and I honestly don’t know where I would be or what I would be doing today.

So when I say stewardship begins with gratitude, I don’t mean it as just an idea—I mean it as a lived reality. I carry in my heart the call to always pay it forward. We all have moments in our lives when we deeply appreciate someone who helped turn our lives around. For me, World Communion Sunday and Methodist Student Day are among those moments. I am proud to be a Methodist.

World Communion Sunday reminds us that all Christians belong to one body—the body of Jesus Christ. It invites us to reflect on how we live out our faith each day and how God so loved the world that He gave His Son for all people. We know that life goes up and down, but we are never alone. Jesus, who loves us, is always there. And around the world, Christians are praying together in Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, says: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Notice he doesn’t say, “Give thanks only when things go well.” He says, “In all circumstances.” Gratitude is not just a feeling we wait for—it’s a posture, a way of life, a discipline of faith.

The psalmist in Psalm 100 echoes this: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.” Thanksgiving is the doorway into worship. Before we ask, before we confess, before we receive—we begin with gratitude.

And the Letter of James reminds us why: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). If it is good, it came from God. Our breath. Our families. Our daily bread. Our salvation. Every good and perfect gift.

When we come to this table, we are reminded of the most perfect gift of all—Jesus Christ himself. The bread and the cup are not things we earn. They are freely given—gifts of grace.

That’s where stewardship begins—not with our giving, but with God’s giving. Not with our efforts, but with God’s generosity. We are recipients before we are givers. And gratitude is our response.

Today, our gratitude takes the shape of bread. We will collect bread for the food shelf. Someone hungry in our community will eat because you brought bread today. That is gratitude in action. And beyond our community, students across the globe will be supported through the World Communion offering. I can still remember how much it meant to me to receive help when I needed it—help made possible by people I never met. Their gratitude became my blessing. And now, my gratitude becomes part of your blessing. This is how stewardship works: God’s gifts multiplying through grateful hearts.

Dear family in Jesus Christ, stewardship is not about fundraising. It is not about obligation. It is about gratitude.

We give because God first gave to us.

We love because God first loved us.

We share because God has already shared everything with us in Christ Jesus.

When gratitude becomes our foundation, giving is no longer a burden—it is a joy. It is no longer about scarcity—“Will I have enough?”—it is about abundance—“Look what God has already given!”

This October, we will walk together through a stewardship series. But I want you to remember, from the very beginning: it’s not about budgets or numbers—it’s about gratitude. Gratitude that begins at the communion table. Gratitude that flows into our lives. Gratitude that blesses our neighbors.

Our ancestors in the faith gave thanks to God in all circumstances, prayed without ceasing, and rejoiced in Christ Jesus. That is why we are here today. So, as we come to the table and receive the bread with gratitude, let us also share the bread with generosity. The bread is a symbol of Christian life, for Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.”

So let gratitude be the foundation of your stewardship, your life, and your faith.

Thanks be to God. Amen.