

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, we thank You for calling us by name and seeking us even when we hide. Help us to see Your image in those around us, and to treat each person with love and patience. We remember the saints who have gone before us and pray for the lost, the hurting, and those who challenge us. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may respond to Your call and bring Your grace into our homes, our communities, and the world. 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

Generous God, we bring these gifts as a sign of our gratitude for Your endless grace. May they be used to bless others, feed the hungry, comfort the weary, and share Your love in our community.

Transform our hearts as we give, that we may live as faithful disciples, seeing Christ in all we meet and reflecting Your mercy in every action. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River*
UMH 723 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Rev. Jenny Lee

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

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

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

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

“All Saints Sunday”
“21st 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

(10:15 AM, Sunday School)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

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

www.upperstcroixparish.org

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
November 2nd, 2025
“All Saints Sunday”
“21st 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

Praise God in the assembly of the faithful;
sing to God a new song, and dance for joy.

God is our maker, the Ruler over all things.

We take pleasure in our praise and service.

God takes pleasure in those who are faithful
and adorns the humble with victory.

God meets us in our anxiety
and interprets to us what we do not understand.

God calls us to a fresh and abiding hope
and imparts to us the good news of salvation.

God is merciful to all who live in love
and seek to do good to all people. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*
UMH 712 (vs. 1 & 3)

LIGHTING CANDLES IN HONOR OF ALL SAINTS

(When Pastor names your loved one, you may come forth and light a candle for them, or the Lay Leader can help light it.)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Loving God, we gather in Your presence with hearts open to Your grace. You call us by name, seek us when we are lost, and welcome us into Your family. On this All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us and who reflected Your love in

their lives. Fill us with Your Spirit, Lord, that we may see Christ in one another, respond to Your call, and live as Your faithful people. In Jesus' 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 GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 19:1-10

(NRSV, p. 82 in the New Testament, and p. 885 in the Living Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

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.**

NOVEMBER 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

We will be collecting Thanksgiving food items in November. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church



We will continue collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November. Shoe Boxes are due by November 16th. Information is available at church. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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 and shoe box donations for Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes must be turned in no later than Nov. 16th.

Mid November through December we will begin collecting financial donations for Interfaith Caregivers of Burnett County for Christmas for Kids.



ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

Food Shelf



(Communion Sunday)

Sailor Hat Offering:



The Sailor Hat offering will go to support families in need with Thanksgiving gift cards.

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	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Volunteer Needed
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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mike Koser	11/2
Cheryl Olson	11/2
Margie Mattson	11/3
Mike Steffen	11/4
Linda Harmon	11/4
Marivel Harmon	11/7



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: **21th Sunday After Pentecost and All Saints Sunday!**
Daylight Saving Time End!
 May God bless you!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|--|
| 11/2: | 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 |
| 11/5: | 5:30-7:30 pm | Youth Group Gathering (G) |
| 11/6: | 10:30 am-1:00 pm | Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck |
| 11/7: | 9:00 am-Noon | Charge Conference Documentation Filing |
| 11/8: | 8:00 am | UMM Meeting (G) |
| | 3:00 pm | 2025 Charge Conference at St. Croix Falls UMC |

LIGHTING CANDLES IN HONOR OF ALL SAINTS

Ron Bragg, Virginia Dahl-Larson, David Dixen, George Eng, Andyres Harmes, Linda Karas, Dorothy Miller, Warren McQuay, Winona Olson, and Mark Unnasch,



Upcoming Events & News

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 11/9: | Veteran's Sunday |
| 11/13-11/14: | Pastor Jenny will attend the Harmony Choir Board Retreat at Pine Lake Camp |
| 11/15: | Fall Thrift and Craft Sale (G) |

Next Sunday (November 9th):

Central -Grantsburg

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

Atlas

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Sue Olson |
| Usher | Colleen Adams-Shween |
| Cleaning | Volunteer Needed |
| Sunday School | Josie Grimes |

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 |

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for: Toni Koons (friend, Michelle's healing), Julie Branstad (friend, Julie's healing), Peggy and Lee Frederickson (safe trip to Nevada), Deb Hammer (safe trip and family union), Barbara Loomis (physical and spiritual healing), Sharon Asp (friend, Jan lost her cat), and Sandra Ericson (son, Mike's healing), Bob Determan (Healing and strength).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Kayleen (Allison got a license and seeing old members), Kathy Gionis (Kathy's birthday card), Karen Sciacca (seeing grandchildren).

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



November 2nd, 2025.
Luke 19:1-10

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“A Saint in the Sycamore Tree — and Among Us”

I want to start with something funny I found on an internet site: A few minutes before a church service, people were chatting in the pews. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone panicked and ran for the exit, trampling one another in a frantic attempt to escape. Soon, everyone had fled — except for one elderly gentleman, sitting calmly as if nothing were happening.

Satan approached him. “Don’t you know who I am?”

The man replied, “Yep, sure do.”

“Aren’t you afraid of me?”

“Nope.”

“I can kill you with a word!”

“Don’t doubt it.”

“I could cause you unending agony for all eternity!”

“Yep.”

“Why aren’t you afraid?”

“I’ve been married to your sister for 48 years.”

Sometimes, family or friends are like that — they push our patience, challenge our faith, and make us pray harder. We may even wonder, “Why is this person in my life?” I’ve asked that question about my own father.

When I was a child, my father drank often. He was weak, lazy, and made many mistakes. The townspeople gossiped about him. My siblings and I were ashamed, and I avoided him whenever I could. Leaving home for school felt like freedom.

When I had an accident and was hospitalized, my father came — but stood far away, talking to others. I remember seeing his lonely shoulder turned toward me. He never came again during those three years.

But in that hospital, I met God through a pastor. I repented — not of my father’s sins, but of my inability to love him. I began to pray for him.

When I read today’s scripture about Zacchaeus, I thought of my father. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector in Jericho — rich but despised, isolated emotionally and spiritually, seen as a sinner by society. Yet, he longed to see Jesus. Three things blocked him: the crowd, his short stature, and the judgment of others — including himself. Still, he climbed a sycamore tree to get a glimpse of the Savior. When Jesus passed by, He looked up and called him by name: “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

Imagine that moment: Jesus didn’t see Zacchaeus as a sinner to condemn, but as a beloved child of Abraham. The crowd grumbled, but Zacchaeus opened his heart and said:

“Look, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone, I will pay back four times as much.” God’s grace had come to his house, transforming his life and the lives of those around him.

When I came to faith, I thought Jesus had found me in that hospital bed. Later, I realized —

Jesus was also seeking my father through me. My father continued to struggle, causing frustration and shame. But our pastor never scolded him, even when my father shouted in church. He smiled and said, “Welcome to the church.”

One day, I spoke to him openly: “Father, I love you, and we welcome you.” Slowly, he changed. He came to church, was baptized, removed the ancestral temple, and encouraged home worship. Through him, our family became a Christian family.

Jesus seeks not only the one who climbs the sycamore tree, but also the one who challenges us — perhaps that difficult family member, that frustrated friend, that neighbor. They too are beloved children of God. Shall we call them saints?

Today is All Saints Sunday. According to the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church, “All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday in November) is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian People of every time and place.” In other words, “saints” means all of God’s people — beyond time and place. Even though we are human and imperfect, we are saints who die in Christ and are born again as Christians.

And this idea brings us to *The Rabbi’s Gift*: which I have learned at the Spiritual Formation Academy in Tucson. There was a monastery that had fallen on hard times. Only a few elderly monks remained, tired and discouraged. One day, the abbot visited a rabbi and asked for advice. The rabbi simply said: “The Messiah is among you.” The monks wondered: Could he mean one of us? Maybe Brother Thomas... or Brother John?

From that day on, they began to treat one another with reverence, as if Christ were present. Slowly, the monastery transformed — warmth returned, visitors felt God’s presence, and new novices joined.

On this All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us — not because they were perfect, but because they let Christ shine through their imperfect lives. A saint is not someone who never sinned; a saint is someone who, like Zacchaeus, responds to Jesus’ call and comes down from the tree. A saint is someone who, like the monks, sees Christ in the people around them.

Perhaps there is a “Zacchaeus” in your family — someone who makes you pray harder or tests your patience. Perhaps there is a saint sitting next to you, working beside you, or living under your roof. Or perhaps that saint is you — called by name, forgiven, and sent to bring salvation into the world.

Look around. The Messiah may be closer than you think.

Thanks be to God. Amen!