

**PRESENTATION OF NARRATIVE BUDGET & FURNACE
FUND CAMPAIGN (G)**

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**

**Living God, You have blessed us with life, freedom, and faith.
On this day of remembrance, we give thanks for those who have
served and sacrificed so others may live in peace. Receive our gifts,
offered in gratitude and love. Use them to bring healing, hope, and
new life to a world in need. May all we give and all we do honor
You, the God of the living. Amen.**

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *The Old Rugged Cross* **UMH 504 (vs. 1 & 2)**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jenny Lee

***POSTLUDE**

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

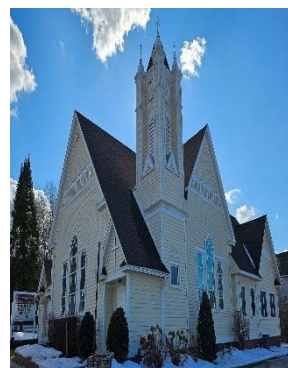
 **Upper St. Croix Parish
United Methodist Church**

The 2025 Parish Ministry Theme:

“Do Good and Share with Others” (Hebrews 13:16)

“Veterans Sunday”

“22nd 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 9th, 2025

22nd Sunday After Pentecost/Veterans Sunday

*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

*** THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Holy God, we give you thanks for our nation’s veterans!

**We honor them for their faithful service to our country,
and for what they have done to defend and preserve our
freedom.**

Generation after generation, your men and women have answered
our country’s call, and their lives have been changed forever.

**We are grateful for all who have served, whether
in peacetime or in conflict.**

But these days, we especially remember those who have been
tempered by fire, those who continue to bear wounds of the body or
the spirit as a result of what they have endured. They lie in our
veterans’ hospitals or struggle for recovery in rehabilitation centers;
they suffer from post-traumatic stress and survivor’s guilt.

They yearn for peace in their souls.

Loving God, we ask you to heal their wounds, to banish whatever
inner demons may haunt them.

**Give them peace within so they may return fully to their
families and to society.**

We thank you, O God, for all of our country’s veterans ... those of past

generations and those who continue to earn this title today. May we never
forget what our country has asked of them and what they have given in
return.

Help us to give them the respect and honor they are due.

Strengthen our resolve to build a world molded on your realm, where war
will be pursued no more.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *America* **UMH 697 (vs. 1 & 2)**

HONORING AND BLESSINGS TO THE VETERANS

OPENING PRAYER Unison

**Gracious God, You are the God of the living, the giver of peace and
hope. Today we thank You for our veterans and their families—
for their courage, sacrifice, and faithful service. Bless them with
strength, healing, and peace that endures. May their witness remind
us to live with gratitude and serve with love, trusting always in Your
living presence. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S TIME (A) **UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Luke 20:27-38**

(NRSV, p. 84 in the New Testament, and p. 887 in the Living Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“God of the Living”* **Rev. Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

**God of the living, we thank You for the gift of life and for those who
have served to protect it. Renew in us courage to live faithfully, hope
to see beyond death, and love that reflects Your eternal grace. May we
honor our veterans by living as people of peace, trusting that in You,
life never ends. In Jesus’ name we pray. 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 donations for Interfaith Caregivers of ~~Bourne~~ Bourne 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	Russ Hammer
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Janelle Zastrow

11/13



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: **22nd Sunday After Pentecost and Veterans Sunday!**
May God bless all the veterans!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

11/9:	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
11/11:		Veterans Day
11/12:	1:00 pm	UMW meeting
	4:00-5:00pm	Gi Fish (G)
	6:00-8:30 pm	Youth Group Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp
11/13-11/14:		Pastor Jenny attends Harmony Choir Board Retreat at Pine Lake Camp
11/15:	9:00 am-2:00pm	UMW Fall Fling Sale (G)
11/16:	12:15pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

Upcoming Events & News

- 11/18: Ad Council Meeting (G)
11/21: Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
11/22: Thanksgiving Fun Day for all Kids (G)
11/24: Thanksgiving Sunday

Next Sunday (November 16th):

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	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Colleen Adams-Schween

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: Jim Andrews (brother, George's healing), Colleen Adams-Schween (Sheryl Simon and Bob Determan's healing and God's peace), Sharon Asp (volunteer, Jerry's surgery), Toni Koons (friend, Michelle's healing), Julie Branstad (friend, Julie's healing).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Kathy and Peter Gionis (joy of Halloween), Lynn Hanson (moving into a new home), Sharon Asp (granddaughter won a custom competition).

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



November 9th, 2025
Luke 20:27-38

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



“God of the Living”

I want to start with something a little funny that I found an internet site: I heard a story about a six-year-old boy standing in the church lobby, looking at a large wall filled with names and small American flags beside them. He asked the pastor what the names meant. The pastor explained that it was a memorial to all the young men and women who had died in the service.

The little boy stood there silently, looking very concerned. Finally, he looked up and asked, “Was it at the 8:30 or the 11 o’clock service?”

Today is a special Sunday — a time when we pause to honor our veterans and their families; to say *thank you* for the sacrifices made, the courage shown, and the peace and freedom we are privileged to enjoy.

Each year, when our veterans stand before us — or some quietly sit among us with years of service behind them — we are reminded that peace is not something to take for granted. It is a gift that has been protected and preserved by the dedication of those willing to serve.

And as we honor them, we also turn to Scripture — to the words of Jesus that speak not only of life and death, but of the God who holds us all in life — *the God of the living*.

In our Gospel lesson from Luke 20, Jesus is approached by the Sadducees — religious leaders who didn’t believe in the resurrection. They thought that when you die, that’s the end.

But without the resurrection and eternal life, the Christian faith in Jesus’ promised salvation would be meaningless. The Christian belief in the resurrection is unique among all religions — resurrection is found only in the Christian faith.

The Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with a tricky question about marriage in the resurrection. They described a woman who married seven brothers, one after another, each of whom died without leaving children. Then they asked, “In the resurrection, whose wife will she be?”

They weren’t really asking about marriage — they were mocking the idea of resurrection. But Jesus didn’t fall into their trap. Instead, He reminded them — and us — that God’s reality is far greater than our limited imagination.

He said, “Those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage... for they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God.”

Then Jesus gives a powerful statement of faith: “Now He is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to Him all of them are alive.” What a powerful truth — God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. That means all who have gone before us — those we love, those we remember, those who gave their lives in service — are still alive to God. Death does not end the relationship that God began with us. The love that created us, redeemed us, and sustains us in this life continues beyond the grave.

That’s why, when we gather on this Veterans Sunday, we don’t only remember the past. We remember with *hope*. We remember with *faith*. We remember believing that those who lived and served with courage and faith are still held in the arms of the living God.

Many of our veterans know better than most that freedom often comes at a cost. They've seen the fragility of life. They've faced fear and hardship. And yet, their service reminds us that life's greatest meaning is found not in avoiding danger but in serving others.

In their willingness to protect, to stand for peace, and to sacrifice for something greater than themselves, they give us a glimpse of God's own heart — a God who loves so deeply that He gave His Son for the life of the world.

So today, as we bless our veterans and their families, we are also blessing a living witness — a witness to faith, courage, and sacrifice that continues to inspire and shape us.

When Jesus says, "God is not God of the dead, but of the living," He's not only talking about heaven. He's also calling us to live as people of the living God — here and now.

That means:

- Living with courage in the face of fear.
- Living with compassion in the face of division.
- Living with faith that love is stronger than hate, and life is stronger than death.

Because when we trust that God's life cannot be extinguished — not even by death — then we are free to live boldly, serve generously, and hope joyfully. That's the kind of faith our veterans have modeled for us. And that's the kind of faith Christ calls each of us to live.

I once heard a veteran say, "The hardest part is not the memories of war, but the fear of being forgotten." But in the eyes of the living God, no one is forgotten. One thing I would like to share with you is my deep gratitude to the Korean War veterans. I learned about the Korean War from school and from my parents and grandparents. Even though I did not experience it myself, I understood how terrible it was. My mother lost her father during the war — she never saw him again and never even heard any news about him. I experienced her grief and pain indirectly through her stories and sorrow.

Since coming to the United States, whenever I meet a Korean War veteran, I pause and express my heartfelt appreciation for their sacrifices. One of the people I met was my American mom's husband — he was a Korean War veteran. While they were engaged, he went to fight in the Korean War. During the war, he was seriously injured and sent to Japan for treatment. In the meantime, he and my American mom lost contact for several years. Later, after he returned to the U.S., they married. He brought her a beautiful traditional Korean dress as a wedding gift.

When my American mom passed away, her daughter sent the dress to me, saying, "I think you may want to keep this beautiful dress in remembrance of my mom." I still keep it. The dress reminds me not only of my American mom's love and care but also of her husband's sacrifice during the Korean War. Even though I never experienced the war, I have never forgotten him — I remember him through his wife and the precious gift he gave her. I believe that every act of love, every whispered prayer, and every sacrifice made in faith all live on in God.

So today, as we honor our veterans and their families, let us remember this truth: Our God is not the God of tombstones and endings — our God is the God of life, renewal, and eternal hope. And in that hope, we live, we serve, and we remember.

As we bless our veterans and their families today, let us give thanks to the God of the living — who holds our past, our present, and our future in His hands of eternal love.

"To God be the glory — for life, for freedom, and for the living hope we share in Christ."

Thanks be to God, Amen.