

**RESPONDING PRAYER Unison**

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of this holy story, shared through the voices and hearts of our children and teachers. In the telling of Jesus' birth, you remind us that your love enters the world in humility, hope, and joy. Receive our gratitude for their faithfulness and courage. Open our hearts to welcome Christ anew, and send us to live as bearers of your light, your peace, and your love. Bless our children and teachers as they learn and grow in faith day by day. We pray this in the name of Emmanuel, God with us. 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**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious God, all that we have and all that we are come from you. As we offer these gifts, we give thanks for your generous love made known in Jesus Christ. Receive our offerings and our lives, and use them to bring hope, healing, and light to a world in need. Shape us into faithful stewards of your grace, for your glory. Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **UMH 240**

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Jenny Lee

**\*POSTLUDE** Sharon Asp

Worship resource "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler

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

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

**"4th Sunday of Advent"  
"Christmas program Sunday"**



**Grantsburg-Central**  
Since 1897



**Atlas**  
Since 1887



**St. Croix Falls**  
Since 1859

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

*10:30 AM at Atlas  
With Sunday School Christmas Program*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**December 21st, 2025**  
**“4th Sunday of Advent”**  
**Christmas Program Sunday(A)**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE** Sharon Asp

**\*ADVANT SONG** TFWS 2090 (vs. 4)

**\*LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE**

**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 magnify the name of our God together  
and ponder the wonder of God’s majesty.

**Our Creator knows our names**

**and chooses us to be carriers of good news.**

Rejoice that God restores our strength  
and equips us for tasks to which we are called.

**God has done great things for us;**

**Holy is God’s name, now and forever.**

God values us even when others ridicule and scorn;

God turns even our mistakes into blessings.

**From generation to generation, God is faithful;**

**We leap for joy when we feel God near us. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *The First Noel* **UMH 245**

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

Loving and faithful God, as we light the candle of love on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we thank you for drawing near to us through the promise of Jesus. Open our hearts to receive your love anew, just as Mary welcomed your Word with trust and joy.

Bless our children as they share the story of Christ’s birth. May their voices remind us of your hope, your peace, your joy, and above all, your love. Prepare us to welcome Emmanuel—God with us—today and always. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, the promised Savior. Amen.

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Matthew 1:18-25**

(NRSV, p.1 in the New Testament, and  
P.799 in the Living Bible)

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

*Thanks be to God. Amen!*

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**Atlas Sunday School**

**The First Christmas**

**Wren- shepherd**

**Landon- Joseph**

**Elli- Mary**

**Josie & Mariah - Wiseman**

**Readers:**

**Noah**

**Chase**

**Copelan**

**Music:**

**Oh Little Town of Bethlehem** **UMH 230 (vs. 1 & 2)\***

**Away in the Manger** **UMH 217 (vs. 1 & 2)\***

**Angels We have heard on High** **UMH 238 (vs. 1 & 3)\***

**Go Tell it on the Mountain** **UMH 251 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**Joy to the World** **UMH 246 (vs. 1, 2, & 4)**

*(\* Congregation please join the children and sing.)*

# DECEMBER 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>We will be collecting Thanksgiving food items in November. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church</p> 	<p> <b>Mitten Tree Day</b></p> <p>The Mitten Tree and will be on Sunday, Dec. 7th. We will be collecting new or gently used hats, scarves, mittens or gloves for our neighbors in need throughout December.</p> <p>Thank you!</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!</p> <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p><b>In December we will have two missions. We will continue collecting financial donations for Interfaith Caregivers of Burnett County for Christmas for Kids.</b></p>  <p>We are also bringing back the Socks Box. Donations of socks, gloves, hats &amp; coats, new are gently used. Donations will be given to the food shelf.</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>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support families in need with Christmas food gift cards.</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

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

**JOINT SERVICE at Atlas UMC at 10:30 A.M.**  
*Christmas Program and Potluck Lunch*

**Atlas**  
Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Sharon Asp  
Sue Olson  
Colleen Adams-Schween  
**Volunteer Needed**  
Christmas Program



## The First Christmas



Wren- shepherd  
Landon- Joseph  
Elli- Mary  
Josie & Mariah - Wiseman

**Readers:**  
Noah  
Chase  
Copelan

## BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Brittney Woltz 12/22  
Charles & Mary Lou Wright 12/23  
Janelle Smestad 12/25  
Lee & Peggy Frederickson 12/27



### PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) There is **NO Live Zoom service**
- 2) **NO Sermon this Sunday due to Christmas program**
- 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: **4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Program Sunday**  
May God bring you joy as you need!

### Worship Service and A Week Schedule

12/21:	10:30 am	Atlas UMC (with Christmas Program)
12/22:	10:00 pm	Korean Caucus Task Force Team Meeting via Zoom
	5:30-7:30 pm	Advent Bible Study & Soup Supper at SCF & via Zoom
12/23:	Noon	Rotary Club Christmas Luncheon
12/24:	10:00 am	Christmas Eve Service (SCF)
	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service (A)
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service (G)
12/25:		Christmas Day
12/26:	5:30-7:30 pm	Family Game Night (G)
12/29-12/31:		Korean Caucus Family Retreat at Wisconsin Dells
12/26-1/8:		Pastor Jenny's Vacation

### Upcoming Events & News

**12/22:** Advent Bible Study with Soup Supper at St. Croix Falls UMC and via Zoom (*The Women of Christmas* by Liz Higgs)

**12/26-1/8:** Pastor Jenny's Vacation

Pulpit Supplies: 12/28: Sharon Asp  
1/4: Kathy Gionis

### Next Sunday (December 28th):

#### Central -Grantsburg

Preach	Sharon Asp
Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	Russ Hammer
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson

#### Atlas

Preach	Sharon Asp
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Christmas break

#### St. Croix Falls

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

### Breakthrough Prayers:

**Please Pray For:** Deb Hammer (pray and help the family who were involved in the car accident), Sandre Erickson (son, Mike's surgery was postponed), Sharon Asp (friend, Jennifer's 4th surgery on 12/16), Kayleen Branstad (those involved in the shooting crisis), Barbara Loomis (husband Jim-biopsy on 12/18), Sally Alderfer (Kay Lamphere, her sister, and brother-in-law).

**Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude:** Kayleen Branstad (daughter, Allison got her license), Barbara Loomis (grandson, Link's team won 5th place in aerobics competition), Kathy Gionis (church railing replaced), and Karen Sciacca (good to be with grandsons).

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

