

*This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen!*

SERMON “Remember Who Brought You Here!” Rev. Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, we remember your faithfulness and give you thanks. You have carried us through every wilderness and brought us this far. Forgive us when we forget your love and provision. Help us live as your beloved children, free to love and serve one another. As we share this Communion Table, unite us with Christians around the world. Make us one family in Jesus Christ. We pray 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 and loving God, we remember all you have given us and offer these gifts with grateful hearts. Receive our tithes, offerings, time, and talents. Use them to share your love, feed those who hunger, care for those in need, and bring hope to your world. As one family in Christ, help us give generously and faithfully. May our gifts reflect your grace and love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

Freely, Freely

UMH 398

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jenny Lee

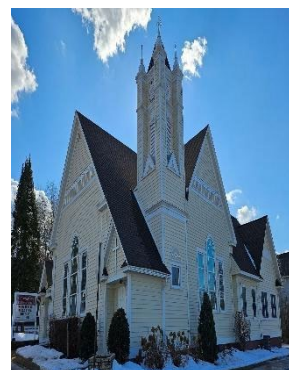
***POSTLUDE**

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

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

The 2026 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Sent to Serve, Sent in Love” (Micah 6:8)

**19th Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**



**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 A.M. Sunday School)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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
October 4th, 2026
“19h Sunday After Pentecost”
“World Communion 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Come, people of God!

Remember who brought you here.

**We remember the God who heard our cries
and led us to freedom.**

Remember the God who walked with the Israelites
through the wilderness.

**We remember the God who provided bread
from heaven and water from the rock.**

Remember the God who has walked with us
through every season of our lives.

We remember God’s faithfulness, love, and grace.

Today, Christians around the world gather at the Lord’s Table.

**Though we are different in language, culture,
and tradition, we are one in Jesus Christ.**

One Lord, one faith, one family.

One Communion Table, one family in Jesus Christ.

Come, let us worship the God who has brought us this far.

With grateful hearts, we come to worship and remember! Amen!

***DEDICATING HYMN** Jesu, Jesu UMH 432 (vs. 1, 2, & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, we gather today with grateful hearts,
remembering your faithfulness throughout our journey. You
heard the cries of the Israelites and led them from slavery into
freedom. You have also walked with us through every season of

our lives. On this World Communion Sunday, remind us that we
are one family in Christ. Though we come from different places,
cultures, and traditions, unite us in your love. Prepare our hearts
to worship, remember, and share your grace. In Jesus’ name, we
pray. 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 OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Exodus 20:1-20

(NRSV, p. 66 in the Old Testament; G & SCF Pew Bible)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14

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

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges year-round.



LOAVES & FISHES



Suggested donation items: diced tomatoes, green beans, Chinese foods, saltine crackers, tuna without soy, spices, personal needs. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church!

For the month of October Atlas will continue collecting funds for Moola for Milk-the Salvation Army Milk Voucher program. This program provides milk vouchers to children and families in need.



We will also be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Additional information is available at the church. Thank you for your support!

GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

We will be collecting and recycles ink jet cartridges year-round. Thank you for your support!



In October we will continue to support Operation Christmas Child.



Throughout the month, we will invite financial contributions to this special fund, and collect items for the shoeboxes. (UMW take care of the monetary donations to buy the items for shoeboxes.) Additional information will be available at church and on the Mission Board.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

Food Shelf

(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:



The Sailor Hat offering will support the Butterfly House and World Communion Sunday-UMCOR.

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers: All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist
Scripture Reading
Acolyte(s)
Fellowship
Counter
Mowing
Cleaning
World Communion

Toni Koons
Toni Koons
Willow Nyland
Volunteer Needed
Russ Hammer
Dave Huff
Sandra Erickson
Together

Atlas

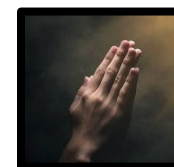
Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School
World Communion

Sharon Asp
Sue Olson
Colleen Adams-Schween
Volunteer Needed
Cheryl Olson
Together

St. Croix Falls

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
World Communion

Sharon Asp
Karen Sciacca
Jim Andrews
Peter Gionis
Jim Sciacca
Women of the church
Kathy and Peter Gionis



Guests last Sunday: We welcomed Rev. Lynn Tricker (G).

Prayers: Please Pray for: Sandra Erickson (her son, Mike, & her husband, Jeff), Barbara Loomis (healing and recovery), Kay Lamphere (health), Deb Hammer (her niece's husband), Toni Koons (her mother, Georgeanne, and friend, for healing), Charles Wright (healing and strength), Rev. Lynn Tricker (new ministry at a new appointment, beginning 10/11), Peter Gionis (his nephew's healing and comfort), and Sharon Asp (her daughter, Shea).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude — Thank You, Lord, for: Kay Lamphere's birthday (10/3), Don & Pam Erhardt (30th wedding anniversary), Deb Hammer (thanks to those who prepare refreshments for fellowship), Karen Sciacca (enjoyed time with her two grandsons), and Pastor Jenny (enjoyed visiting Sylvester's garden).

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

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **There is Zoom Live Service this Sunday.**
- 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.
- 4) 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: 19th Sunday After Pentecost and World Communion Sunday!
God bless you all!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

10/4 (Sun):	9:00 am	Central-Grantsburg UMC with Live Zoom Service
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
	2:00 pm	New Membership Class (G)

10/5-10/8: Pastor Jenny will attend the 2026 KAUMC Annual Convocation in San Francisco

10/8 (Thur): 4:30-6:00 pm Youth Gathering (G)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Kay Lamphere 10/3
Derek & Jenni Stedman 10/3
Karen Sciacca 10/5
Lynn Hanson 10/9
Brody & Brittney Woltz 10/9
Josie & Pat Grimes 10/10



Next Sunday (October 11):

Central - Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Dave Huff & Russ Hammer
Mowing	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)	Jim Andrews
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flower	Women of the church



Upcoming Events & News

Laity Sunday-Joint Service at Central-Grantsburg UMC on Oct. 18:

We celebrate Laity Sunday by sharing our ministry on October 18 at 10:30 a.m. (Ad Council Chair, UMW President, UMM President, and Youth Director). Central UMC will provide lunch.

Children & Youth Programs (G)

Children-Go Fish (K-4th Grade): 10/1, 10/15
Youth (5th Grade and up): 10/8
Crex Carving: 10/28

Bible Reading Challenge: Please pick up the Bible Reading Planner card! We encourage you to read the Bible using the reading card.



“Remember Who Brought You Here”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A four-year-old was in church when the wine and communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this, and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion.

Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, saying, “If I can’t eat, I’m not paying.”

Today is World Communion Sunday, a fitting time to reflect on the meaning of Holy Communion.

Jesus taught his disciples to celebrate Communion in remembrance of him. Here at our churches, we celebrate Holy Communion regularly, remembering Jesus' sacrificial love, his death and resurrection, and his promise to be with us.

Different Christian traditions celebrate Communion in different ways. Some use grape juice; others use wine. Some emphasize the solemn remembrance of Jesus' suffering and death. Others emphasize the joy of Christ's resurrection and the hope of new life.

The words, prayers, music, and even the elements may look different from one church to another. But there is something beautiful about that. Because today, Christians all around the world are coming to the Lord's Table. Different languages. Different cultures. Different traditions. Different kinds of bread. Different ways of worshiping. And yet, we are remembering the same Lord. We are sharing in the same grace. And we are part of the same family of God.

World Communion Sunday is a time to reflect on how we are one in Jesus Christ, even though we come from different cultures and traditions. Today, we are celebrating this unity by sharing different kinds of bread: our own family breads, unique breads that may remind us of the traditional bread of the Israelites, naan, and other breads from different cultures.

I deeply appreciate everyone who contributed a family bread or a unique bread to share with us today. Thank you for helping us make this celebration special. As you look at the Lord's Table, you can see that we have several different kinds of bread. I invite you to enjoy them and experience the variety of breads that represent our diverse cultures and traditions. Though the bread may be different, we share one table, one faith, and one Lord, Jesus Christ.

I wonder what your first impression of Holy Communion was. Do you remember the first time you received Communion? Was there a Communion service that made a lasting impression on you?

We often remember our first experiences. My first experience with Holy Communion was actually not a very happy one. It was the first time my entire family attended a Sunday worship service together. We were excited and deeply grateful because God had called all of us together. But when it was time for Communion, my father and I were not allowed to receive it. At that time, in the Korean Methodist Church I attended, only baptized members were permitted to receive Holy Communion. I remember being disappointed and confused.

Later, after I was baptized, I received Communion for the first time. And I cried. I remember standing before the pastor who was serving Communion, and I felt something very deep in my heart: “Now I belong.” I felt that God had accepted me. I felt forgiven. I felt that I had become a child of God.

But the Communion service itself was very solemn. In the Korean Methodist tradition I experienced, Communion was often centered on remembering Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. The atmosphere could feel almost like a funeral. It was not a celebration of life, but rather a solemn time of mourning, filled with grief over the loss of Jesus Christ.

Then, when I came to the United States and attended chapel services at the Lutheran School of Theology, where I received my Ph.D., I experienced something quite different. The Lutherans celebrated Holy Communion with great joy. They used bread and wine, and the service emphasized Christ's presence, our unity with Christ and one another, the hope of new life, the resurrection, and Christ's promise to return.

There was singing. There was joy. Sometimes, there was even dancing. I thought to myself, “Is this Communion, too?”

The two traditions looked very different. But over time, I came to understand something important: There are many ways to celebrate Communion, but the heart of Communion is the same: we remember Christ, and we are united with Christ and with one another.

And that brings us to our Scripture lesson today. Let us go back to the Israelites. We have been following their story. They were slaves in Egypt. God called Moses through the burning bush. God sent Moses to Pharaoh. And finally, after the ten plagues and the Passover, the Israelites left Egypt.

They walked toward the Red Sea, and God made a way for them. Then they entered the wilderness.

God was with them, guiding and protecting them. When they became hungry, God rained bread from heaven. When they were thirsty, God gave them water from the rock. God guided them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. And eventually, they arrived at Mount Sinai.

Imagine the scene. A group of former slaves is standing at the foot of Mount Sinai. They have left Egypt, but they have not yet reached the Promised Land. They are in between—delivered from slavery, but still on the journey. And there, God speaks: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Before God gives them the Ten Commandments, God reminds them who they are and what God has done: “Remember who I am. Remember what I have done for you.”

Then God teaches them how to live as God’s people. Their freedom is not simply freedom from Egypt; it is freedom for a new life with God and with one another. Martin Luther expressed this beautifully: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” In other words, we are free—but our freedom is not freedom to live only for ourselves. We are free to belong to God and to serve God and one another. Don’t live like slaves in this world. Live in the freedom of belonging to God as children of God.

This message is not only for the Israelites; it is also for all Christians. We may not have crossed the Red Sea, but we each have our own stories. Some of us have walked through difficult seasons, experienced loss or disappointment, or wondered, “Where is God?” And yet, here we are. Maybe we don’t understand every step of our journey, but by God’s grace, we are here.

That is what Holy Communion invites us to do: remember. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me.” What would you like to remember about Jesus? Perhaps we remember His love, His sacrifice, His death and resurrection, and His promise. And remember this: You are not alone.

Communion means sharing, fellowship, and union. We do not come only as individuals. We come together to one table, sharing one bread and one cup. That is why World Communion Sunday is so meaningful.

Today, Christians around the world are gathering in different countries, speaking different languages, singing different songs, and sharing different kinds of bread. Yet we remember: One Lord. One grace.

One body. One family. When we come to this table, we come not only as members of Upper St. Croix Parish, but as part of the worldwide body of Christ. We come with people we know and people we will never meet. We come with people whose cultures are familiar to us and people whose cultures are very different from ours. But Christ’s table is big enough for all of us.

So, on this World Communion Sunday, remember the Israelites standing at Mount Sinai. The God who brought Israel out of Egypt is the God who has brought us this far. The Christ who gathered his disciples around a table gathers us today. And the Holy Spirit continues to draw us together. So let us remember: Who brought us here. Who loves us. Who carries us. Who calls us.

And remember that we belong to a family much larger than this congregation. Around the world, God’s children are coming to the same table. Different bread. Different languages. Different cultures. Different traditions. But one Christ. One grace. One family. One table. One hope.

Thanks be to God. Amen.