

look up and listen, speak to us now. We are troubled by many things. Break into our thoughts to reveal great joy at the heart of life, that we may worship wholeheartedly, offer you our best, and lead others to the discoveries of faith in everyday life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER  
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND  
OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

For the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness among the principalities and powers of this world. Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards. Amen!

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

\*CLOSING HYMN *We Three Kings* UMH 254 (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

\*BENEDICTION Responsive

God sends us on our way, a bold and confident people  
Look up, and be guided by the star of joy.

**We will open our eyes to the presence of God.**

**We will look for God's activity all around us.**

God's purposes in Christ are to be lived out by us.

We are called to invite others to share in God's grace.

**We will witness to all we have seen and heard.**

**By God's power, we will minister to others.**

The Glory of God has risen among us.

We are blessed beyond all deserving.

**What we have received, we pass on with joy.**

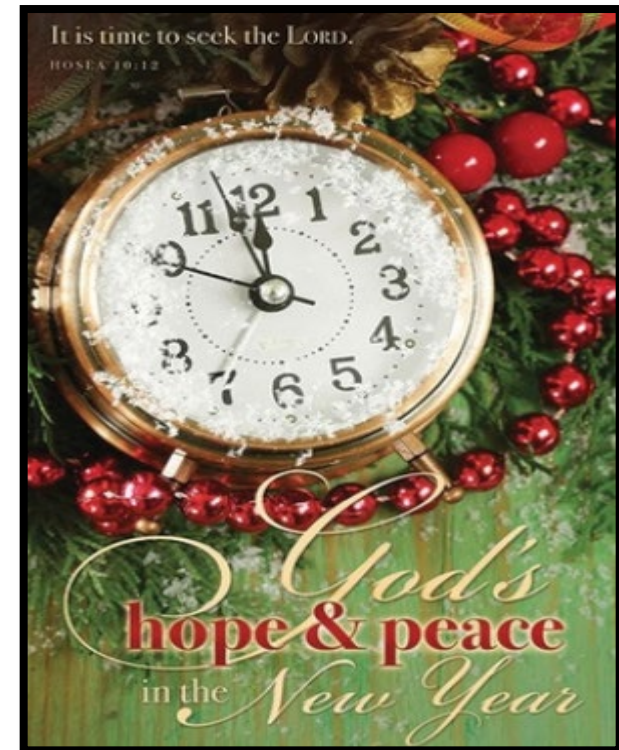
**We offer to all the unsearchable riches of Christ. Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

# Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:  
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls  
January 2nd, 2022  
"Epiphany of the Lord Sunday"



**The United Methodist Church**

8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service  
9:45 AM at Atlas ~ 11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 715-463-2624 – [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

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

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**January 2nd, 2021**  
**“Epiphany of the Lord Sunday”**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**      *“Peace be with you”*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      Responsive

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The glory of God has risen among us.

**We are awake; we are alive!**

**Praise God for deliverance and blessings.**

Lift up your eyes to see all around you.

Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

**May justice water the earth like a shower;**

**Let righteousness and peace abound.**

Receive again the promises of the gospel.

Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

**God’s ways are being revealed to us today.**

**Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *What Child is This*      **UMH 219 (vs. 1 & 3)**

**OPENING PRAYER**      Unison

**Eternal God, we come with boldness to claim our relationship with**

**you because your purposes become clear to us in Jesus Christ. We**

**are grateful for pioneers in the faith whose stewardship has**

**salvaged for us a way of life rooted in the gospel. The flames you**

**ignited in them have not gone out, in spite of our faithlessness.**

**Your wisdom is still proclaimed in the church, challenging centers**

**of earthly power with the claims of heaven. Today our search for**

**meaning has led us to this place of worship. You are here; we**

**rejoice! Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 2:1-12 (C & A)**

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Isaiah 60:1-6 (SCF)**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Barb Loomis (C & A)**

**Kathy Gionis (SCF)**




**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER**      Unison



**God of the stars, whose guidance is always available to those who**

# CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS...January

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	 <p>We will be collecting soup and monetary donations to support Super Bowl of Caring.</p>	<p><b>Help Support the Food Shelf in Luck</b></p> 
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## GRANTSBURG...January

<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>Collecting soup and coins to support Souper Bowl of Caring</p>
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## ST. CROIX FALLS...January

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b></p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p>  <p>Funds will go to the Salvation Army.</p>
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Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People  
Pastor Jenny Lee

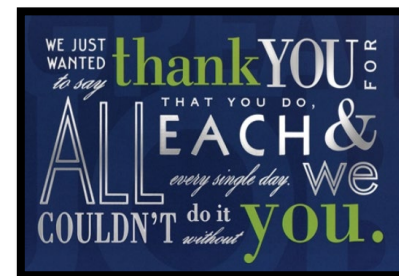
### Today's Service

**Central:**  
 Preacher Barb Loomis  
 Pianist Toni Koons  
 Liturgist Toni Koons  
 Snow Removal Stan Chute  
 Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson  
 Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**  
 Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
 Sunday School Younger/Older  
 LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis

**Atlas:**  
 Preacher Barb Loomis  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Colleen Adams-Schween  
 Usher(s) Sue Olson  
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**

No Sunday school

**St. Croix Falls:**  
 Preacher Kathy Gionis  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
 Usher(s) Jim Andrews  
 Money Counter Peter Gionis  
 Flowers Kathy Gionis  
 Fellowship Ad Council members



**BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:**  
 "This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)  
 Please pray every morning at 8:30, if it is possible!

1) For those who lost everything due to the tornado in Kentucky. You may donate support through "UMCOR."

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page. Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZlZFNumBEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear “the service by Phone,” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

### This Week’s Calendar:

Today: “Epiphany Sunday.” “Happy New Year! and May God’s presence be with you!”

We have new 2022 signup sheets for volunteers. Please find a spot where you can be a part of the church. We are the church, which is growing in faith together.

### Sunday Worship Service:

- 8:30 am Grantsburg  
9:45 am Atlas “Christmas Program”  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls

12/28-1/7 Pastor Jenny’s Vacation

1/2 No Sunday School (A)

1/5 6:30 pm, Youth Gathering (SCF)

1/8 8am, UM Men’s Meeting (G)

### This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:



Mike & Terry Giles

1/6

### Next Sunday (January 9th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

#### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons  
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*  
Snow Removal Stan Chute  
Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson  
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*  
Counter *Volunteer Needed*  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

#### Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*  
Usher(s) *Volunteer Needed*  
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
No Sunday School

#### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
Usher(s) Jim Andrews  
Money Counter Peter Gionis  
Flowers Kathy Gionis  
Fellowship Ad Council Member (3rd Sunday)



1/9/22 COMMUNION SUNDAY, “LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION SUNDAY.”

1/12/22 1PM, UMW MEETING (G)  
6:30 PM, CONFIRMATION CLASS (G)

1/16/22 NEW COVENANT SUNDAY (RECOGNITION OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP)

## SCF SERMON

### THE GIFT

The Scripture reading for today is from Isaiah 60:1-6. At first it seems an obvious reading for Epiphany Sunday, what with its references to camels, foreign countries, and gold and frankincense. But, it isn't written as a prophesy of Jesus birth nor of the Magi bringing gifts of gold and frankincense to Jesus as a young child, although the reference is surely reminiscent of what happened centuries later. This particular scripture was written as a magnificent vision of Zion's future---full of light, prosperity and prestige. This text envisions a new beginning, a new life for the returning exiles. Isaiah 60:1-3 is flooded with divine light, "Arise, Shine; for your light has come." Verse 2 speaks to darkness covering the earth and the peoples; with verse 3 having nations and kings coming to the light of Zion. Verse 4 has the exiles returning to their home land, the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of the exiled people. Verse 5 refers to trade returning to Zion and the wealth of Nations coming to Zion. Camels from Midian and Ephah and Sheba shall come and they shall bring gold and frankincense.

If you continue on in Chapter 60 of Isaiah, it turns a little less glowing in that the vision for the new empire does not change the organization of imperial power. There would be zero intolerance for disobedience to the new system. In the new empire, forgiveness, compassion and redemption are only available to those who obey the rules of the new empire. So, what is the lesson to be learned from this text?

Martin Luther gives a profound lesson in how to wield power in society in his essay "The Freedom of a Christian". Luther maintains that all the riches of heaven are given to us in Christ, not so that we can subjugate others, but so that as Christians, we may take on the role of a servant. Luther urges us to deal with one's neighbor as God, through Jesus Christ, has dealt and still deals with us. Instead of domination over the weak, and power which enables the powerful to inflict revenge, power can free us to serve, heal, and provide resources not for our exclusive use, but for those less fortunate.

Isaiah's grand vision never actually came to fruition in history, although when Isaiah wrote this passage, Judeans had begun to return to Jerusalem, after being in

exile for 70 years. Likely, this poetry reminds people of God's desire to restore and rebuild the community. It would be a few centuries later that Jesus came along and some will say started to bring Isaiah's vision to fruition. Certainly Jesus embraced the values of loving and serving ones neighbor. And visions of camels coming from foreign lands bearing gifts of gold and frankincense during Isaiah's time and later when the Magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to a young Jesus got me to thinking about God's gift to all of us, that is Jesus, and the gifts the Wise Men brought, and the gifts we give to each other.

My Grandfather, Rev. Cecil R. Gaylord, was a Methodist pastor in northern Wisconsin, active in years 1925-1957 and appointed to mostly rural Methodist churches including St. Croix Falls, Eureka and Wolf Creek, from 1931-1934. Then, as now, he was assigned churches for three or four years and then was moved on. Grandpa was a supply pastor, assigned full time during the 32 years he was active with the Methodist church. During World War II, he was assigned to Elroy, Camp Douglas, and Union Center. From 1928 through 1930 he was preaching at Birchwood and Mikana churches, which are about 6 miles apart. I recently received a trove of historical information about Cecil and Lilian which a cousin has taken the time to organize electronically. I have a letter Lilian wrote to her parents when they were at Birchwood/Mikana, as young parents, of five children: Curtis, Joyce, Shirley, Stanton, and Lester.

SEE TRANSCRIBED INSERT

The gifts given to my Grandparents were truly gifts of love and self-sacrifice.

AMEN.

INSERT

Dear Folks. Am trying to hold Lester till he goes to sleep so will drop a few words. So as to give typewriter a bit of exercise while Dada gone. Lester so cross needs a licking I think and then some. Yesterday afternoon Curtis and Joyce fooling me every once in a while so while I was upstairs they called and said someone to see me. They had a hard time getting me, [I went] down and I found a neighbor lady in, who is going away for the winter. She handed me a basket of blue grapes for the Mr. and family and put something in my hand for the Mrs. When she was gone I see it was a five dollar bill. So I took it down and paid for the stove. So that's that. I'll have that much to tell Cecil when he gets back. At the post office I got a letter from Mrs. Oftedahl at Mikana, wanting to know if it was alright if she and some of her family came over Wed. Eve, if nice. We had invited them some Sun. afternoon as they can't get away other days. She said if not to call her. I called her and told her Cecil was gone. She says "well well. Ain't I welcome anyway." I told her sure but thought that if Cecil was home they would enjoy it more. She says, "Well, we'll come anyway." Then last night about 7:30 it stormed something fierce and Joyce was so scared for Dad. Then I heard the awfulest honking of horns. I thought maybe the house was afire or the church, as there was an awful crash just before that. As I opened the door in drifted first one and then another, till the kitchen was full. Mr. Oftedahl says, "Well, why don't you say something?" Curtis says, "Ma, this is something funny, you'd better turn on the kitchen light." Then I come to I guess and realized it was a surprise party, and if I ever was surprised, it was last night. I usually smell it before hand but I was just swamped last night. They talked and laughed and then served chicken supper. Two cars turned back on account of the storm. Later on they presented us with a purse of \$12 and 50 cents. Ain't quite sure of the cents. It was \$12 tho. Joyce got a new dress and Shirley got one and Curtis got a shirt and Stanton a pair of shoes. Then there were some second hand dresses two or three, one I can fix for Joyce, it is very worn, but the other dresses are too short for Shirley but maybe I can fix them some way. Joyce's is cotton but Shirley's is wool. We had foodstuffs—cake, chicken, biscuits, sandwiches, cream and milk. I was so sorry Cecil was gone. But they said they had planned and were ready to come and couldn't call [it] all off. Well, I suppose he will have good feeds at hunky dory. I found a gunny sack full of potatoes an half a sack and another small one of carrots in the garage this morning. The small carrot sack was something like a flour sack.

Well, I guess this will do. Lester don't seem to want to sleep. He had a gay time last night. He wants to write to you's so here he goes: I like you Grandma. I like you Grandpa, so you had better try and come up to see me, both of you. From Lala.

He calls himself Lala. But if I say my Baby Boy, he says, No no, man, big man. Well, must get to work. Grandma Wisse and girl that lives with her invited themselves over for dinner.

Lilian

Note from KMG in transcribing this, Mikana is near Birchwood, so probably this was written when the family was at Birchwood.