

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Gracious God, we give our best for the world. Your rule among us is more to be desired than riches. Therefore, we share what you have allowed us to use, giving thanks for the joy of helping others and entering into partnership with them. This is only the beginning of our offering, for we dedicate here our varied gifts as apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, administrators, speakers, workers. In all we do, we will seek to serve you by sharing your love. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *We Are Called* TFWS 2172 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION

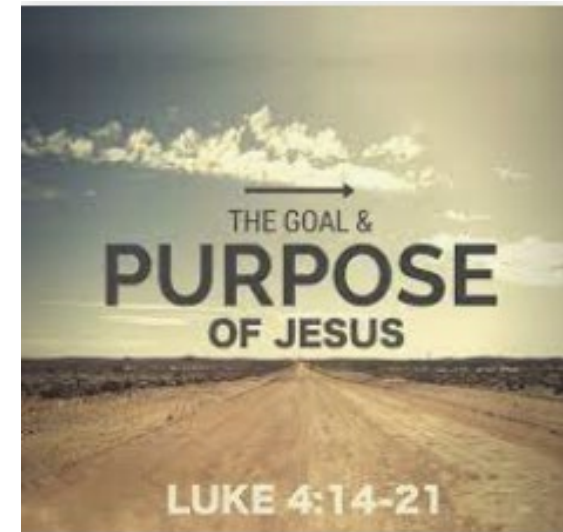
Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
January 23rd, 2022
"3rd Sunday After Epiphany"



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

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
January 23rd, 2022
“3rd Sunday After Epiphany”

*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

Let the ears of all people be attentive;
the heavens are telling the glory of God.

Everything around us proclaims God’s handiwork.

Let us bow down and worship our Creator.

Day and night, God is at work among us.

We are drawn together into one body, the church.

As we commune with God, we know we need one other.

Let us honor the good to be found in all people.

Here once again the laws and commandments.

Find them sure and right and true for all.

We weep and mourn our lack of faithfulness.

We seek a true community in which all are honored. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
UMH 57 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

On this holy day, we come together to make sense of our lives. We look to your Word, O God, as a source of understanding. Review our souls that our hearts may rejoice in your presence. Cleanse and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from self-imposed limitations. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight. O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 4:14-21

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Power of the Gospel

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Spirit of God, open our eyes to the gifts you have entrusted to each one of us and show us how to work together to realize your purposes in our midst. Help us to experience the power of the Gospel that mutual caring and support replace competition and violence so that everybody embodies your love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER

CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS...January

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</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>Help Support the Food Shelf in Luck</p> 
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GRANTSBURG...January

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</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

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf</p> <p><i>(Communion Sunday)</i></p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>Funds will go to the Salvation Army.</i></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:
 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 Colleen Adams-Schween
 Usher(s) Sue Olson
 Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
 Sunday school Younger/Older
 Josie Grimes/Jamie Steffens

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

THANKS
FOR
BEING
AWESOME

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 are scheduled for surgery and in illness.

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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at 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: 3rd Sunday After Epiphany! As we remember the Wise Men's presents to Baby Jesus, we may enjoy gifts of a new year from God! 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

- 1/24 10 am, Due the February Newsletter information
1/25 4 pm-5:30 pm, District New Ministry Team meeting via Zoom (Pastor Jenny)
1/26 6:30 pm, Confirmation Class (G)
1/27 6:30 pm, SPRC Meeting via Zoom
1/27-1/30 Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg’s Vacation

This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Renee Tooze 1/26
Max Dauer 1/27
Russ Hammer 1/29



Next Sunday (January 30th) Volunteers:

Ministers	All God’s People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
Central:	
Pianist	Toni Koons <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Liturgist	Stan Chute Willow Erickson <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snow Removal	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Younger/Older
Fellowship	LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis
Counter	
Sunday School	
Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Younger/Older
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)



FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF STEWARDSHIP

- 2/1 YOUTH GATHERING
2/4-2/5 PROVISIONAL ELDERS’ WINTER RETREAT AT ST. ANTHONY RETREAT CENTER IN MARATHON, WI



January 23rd, 2022
Luke 4:14-21

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

“The Power of the Gospel”

What comes to mind when you hear the word “Gospel?” Perhaps, the Book of the Gospel in the New Testament comes to mind. We call the first four books of the New Testament the Book of Gospel, or the Gospels, they are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The reason we call the first four books of the New Testament the Gospels is that they are “the records of Jesus’ life and teaching.” If you look up the word “Gospel” in a dictionary or via a search on Google, it says, “the teaching or revelation of Jesus Christ,” and “the record of Jesus’ life and teaching in the first four books.” If we say it literally, the Gospel is “Jesus Christ’s life and teaching.” The Gospel of Mark 1:1 says, “The beginning of the Good News [Gospel] about Jesus, the Son of God.” The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible translates it as “Good News,” but the New International Version of the Bible translates it as “gospel,” as it says, “The beginning of Gospel about Jesus, the Son of God.” So, we may know, that the word “good news” and “Gospel” have the same meaning.

The word “Gospel” reminded me of when I was in the hospital. Whenever I hear or mention it, I remember listening to the good news for the first time. I shared my story several times, I will repeat it today. When I was in the hospital due to a broken spine, I was depressed and hopeless because my doctor told me that I wouldn’t be able to walk again. At that time, a pastor and his wife from the church my mother attended visited me. After they prayed for me, the pastor’s wife said to me, “Sister, please read the Bible. When you are done reading the whole Bible, God may heal you. You may walk again.” It must be the good news for me that I may walk again if I read the Bible. However, I didn’t trust them because I did not believe in God. I thought that the doctor told me he couldn’t heal me and how could it happen through reading the Bible. Two years later, God gave me a second chance. A pastor visited a girl who shared a room with me. I heard his prayers for the girl. At that moment, I felt strangely warm throughout my whole body. I asked him to pray for me. I thought that it worked by the Holy Spirit. Through his prayers, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and my Lord, and finally, I could believe in the good news that God could heal me. I started reading the Bible, hoping I could walk again. Meanwhile, I received surgery on my spine and received several physical therapies. Finally, I could walk again. I still often think about how my life would be now if I hadn’t accepted that second chance.

The core of the good news is that Jesus is the Lord. I hope that you can sense that God gives you a chance. God may notify us through several channels. The Book of Revelation 3:20 says, “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me.” God’s grace is open to everyone, but only a few people notice it. We wonder how do we know if it is the good news from our Lord Jesus or our own interpretation. We may figure out from today’s scripture how the power of the Gospel works.

Verse 14 says, “Then Jesus, filled with the power of the spirit, returned to Galilee.” It was right after Jesus overcame the temptation of Satan in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-12). Jesus was filled with the power of the Spirit and he went to the synagogue on Sabbath day “as his custom.” We may know Jesus was filled with the power of Spirit and used to go to synagogue and read the scripture “as his custom.” Going to the synagogue on Sabbath day as his custom means that he used to go to the church every Sunday. To experience the power of the Gospel,

we practice going to church every Sunday and reading the scripture in everyday life with the guidance of the Spirit. Romans 10:17 says, “faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” If we didn’t go to church and read the scripture, how could we expect to grow in faith? In other words, if we didn’t hear the good news, if we didn’t believe in the good news even though we heard it, the good news didn’t work for us.

Through my experience, if I see people who don’t believe in “the good news,” I have compassion for them. I met a man working at a hospital as a chaplain. He’d just received his diagnosis of brain cancer. He was a good Christian dedicating his whole life from the time he was confirmed in the faith. He was as a Sunday school teacher, a choir member, and committee member. But, as soon as he heard his diagnosis, he rejected eating, speaking, seeing people, and even taking medication. So, his nurse asked me to help him. When I visited him the first time, he ignored me as he used to reject several chaplains’ visitations. However, I felt compassion for him as if I saw myself when I was stubborn. I got close to him, even though he didn’t look at me or answer my greeting and said, “I understand you are angry with God.” He boldly said, “No, I am one hundred percent a Christian.” I smiled at him because he started speaking and said, “Well, I don’t think you are a hundred percent a Christian. Maybe 50 percent or a little more.” He looked at me and asked me with an angry voice, “Are you from India?” I said, “No, I am from Korea. How about you? Where are you from?” He was a white American, but I just asked him to continue talking. However, he said, “I’m a German American.” And he kept talking about his family stories and his story. He grew up in a strict Christian family, and oppressed by the family tradition. That was the moment the Holy Spirit led us. After spending more than an hour crying and him sharing his stories, he confessed, “I am born again. Now I’m okay whether God heals me or not because I believe that Jesus is my Savior.” And he started eating and talking therapies.

The power of the Gospel is not from practicing the laws but is from believing in Jesus Christ. In other words, when we confess that we cannot practice God’s laws on our own, and ask for God’s help, finally the Spirit of God works for us, among us and within us, and then we can believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord. Romans 4:2-3 says, “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’”

In today's scripture, Jesus read the core of the Gospel, “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed to go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he said, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” That scripture Jesus read is written by the Prophet Isiah before Jesus was born. However, as Jesus came to us, and as we heard him and believe in him, the good news may be fulfilled within us. That’s why Jesus said, “Today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Let us be the poor in spirit and hear the good news today. May the power of the gospel work for you and your loved ones so that “release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.” Be humble before God, and hear and read the scriptures, and the Holy Spirit guides you to believe in Jesus. May the power of the Gospel work for you by the Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God. Amen!