

## Proclamation of God's Word

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON                      Luke 13:31-35 (See insert)

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON        *"Let Us Keep on Our Ways!"*        Pastor Jenny Lee

## We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER    Unison

Self-revealing God, whom we meet in quiet retreats and on busy streets, take us now to the mountaintop. Be to us an overshadowing presence that gathers us into the community so we may hear your voice and receive your Word. No matter what kind of situation we face, we may keep on our ways with you. Empower us that we may be authentic witnesses for Jesus Christ wherever you send us. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION    Unison

In the confidence that you will multiply our best efforts, we bring our offerings for the work of your church in the world. Holy God, it is a joy to present our sacrifices, for we are as blessed in our giving as we have been in receiving abundant goodness from your hand. Keep us from seeking to build permanent structures that might block spontaneous responses to your love. Amen!

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

\*CLOSING HYMN    *I Love to Tell the Story*    UMH 156 (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  
March 13th, 2022  
"2nd Sunday in Lent"



**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 with Online Zoom Service

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 715-463-2624 St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

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

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

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**March 13th, 2022**  
**“2nd Sunday in Lent”**

---

\*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**

Put away your hesitation to come before God;  
quiet your fears and anxieties, for God welcomes us.

**God is our light and our salvation;  
whom shall we fear?**

Look to the heaven for inspiration and assurance;  
look around you, for God’s presence is everywhere.

**God is the stronghold of our lives;  
of whom shall we be afraid?**

Let us watch and wait with our Creator;  
let us trust in the one who gives life and hope.

**Teach us your ways, O God,  
and lead us on a level path. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN    *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days***  
**UMH 269 (vs.1 & 5)**

**OPENING PRAYER    Unison**

**In this place, our hearts take courage. Your goodness is all around us. The trials and cares of life are stilled before you. Show us your face, O God; let your love be known to us. We need this hour to remember who we are, to let you gather us under your wings. We need this time to feel close to one another, to recognize ourselves as brothers and sisters. We need reminders of the humanity and glory of Jesus Christ that empower our discipleship. Hear our cries and help us. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**INVITATION FOR COMMUNION**

**Pastor 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.**

*(All pray 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 (See insert)**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**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.**

**Ash Service (A & SCF)**

**THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES    Unison**

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and repentance, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

*Receiver: Amen, I believe it.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14

## \*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:31-35

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.)**

*(You may hold the communion elements with your two hands.)*

**(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.

## The Lament over Jerusalem

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away  
from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He said to them, “Go and tell  
that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures  
today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today,  
tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible  
for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How  
often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her  
brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is  
left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when  
you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

# MARCH CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p><b>Support Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Pantry</b></p> 	<p><b>Collecting Canned vegetables</b></p> 
--	---	--



## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<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>Providing support to the middle school by collecting personal items, notes, shampoos, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and school supplies.</p> 
---	--

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b> (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b> Support the Polk County Drug Court</p> 
---	---

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 LuAnne Martell  
 Snow Removal Stan Chute  
 Acolyte(s) Willow Nylend  
 Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**  
 Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
 Sunday School Younger/Older  
 LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis



**Atlas:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Sue Olson  
 Usher(s) Sue Olson  
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
 Sunday school Younger/Older  
 Cheryl Olson/Colleen Adams-Schween

**St. Croix Falls:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
 Usher(s) Jim Sciacca  
 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 you are able!

"Please pray for Ukraine, and its people and its leaders!"

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15am.** 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIzZz09>

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: Second Sunday in Lent! Let us come closer to God in Lent!

*\*We have 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:

3/6: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom

9:45 am Atlas

11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

3/13: Daylight Saving Time starts on March 13th.

3/15: 6:30 pm, Ad Council meeting via Zoom (G)

3/16: 1:00 pm, Lenten Craft Group Gathering-Session 1 (G)

*\*Go Fish and Youth gatherings are canceled this week.*

3/17: St. Patrick’s Day

9:00am, North West District Clergy Meeting via Zoom

4:00 pm, Ad Council Meeting via Zoom (SCF)

6:30 pm, Lenten Bible Study -Session 2 via Zoom

### This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Peter & Kayleen Branstad 3/14

Barry Norenberg 3/16

Dan Rahkola 3/16

Mike Alderman 3/17

Deloris Olson 3/18

Abbey Vaksdal 3/19



### Next Sunday (March 20th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People  
**Pastor Jenny Lee**

#### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons

Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**

Snow Removal Stan Chute

Acolyte(s) Willow Nylend

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

**Volunteer Needed**

#### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp

Liturgist Karen Sciacca

Usher(s) Jim Sciacca

Money Counter Peter Gionis

Flowers Kathy Gionis

Fellowship Ad Council Members (3rd Sunday)



**IN THE LENT SEASON: LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (THURSDAYS) AND CRAFT GROUP GATHERING (WEDNESDAYS)**

**3/22: AD COUNCIL MEETING(A)**

**3/23: LENTEN CRAFT GROUP GATHERING-SESSION 2**

**3/24: LENTEN BIBLE STUDY-SESSION 3**

March 13th, 2022

Luke 13:31-35



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

## **“Let’s Keep on Our Way!”**

I want to start with something funny. Two brothers are terrible trouble makers. They were always breaking things, stealing things, lying, and making all kinds of general trouble. The parents tried everything to get the boys to change, to no avail. Finally, they asked their pastor if he could help as they were out of options. He said he would talk to the boys, but only one at a time. The parents dropped off the youngest and went home, promising to return to get him soon. The boy sat in a chair across from the pastor’s desk, and they just looked at each other. Finally, the pastor said, “Where is God?” The boy just sat there and didn’t answer. The pastor began to look stern and loudly said, “Where is God?” The little boy shifts in his seat but still doesn’t answer. The pastor is started to get angry at the boy’s refusal to converse and practically shouted, “Where is God?” To the pastor’s surprise, the little boy jumped up out of his chair and ran out of the office. The boy left the church and ran all the way home, up the stairs, and into his brother’s room. He shuts the door and panted, “We’re in BIG TROUBLE. God’s missing, and they think we did it!”

It is the second week in Lent. Because the Lenten means for “forty days”, we say, “in Lent, not “of Lent.” With the imposition of Ash, we remind ourselves that “we are dust, to dust we shall return.” It is a meaningful rite that we repent and return to God. It is time to invite God into the center of our life. It is time we come closer to God and grow deeper in our faith. As a symbol, we decide on some sort of self-control or self-promise to give up something like during the forty days of Lent. But, this giving up should be for something toward hope. What did you choose to give up? I decided to fast one meal a day, save \$5 for each meal, and send the money to UMCOR to support the Ukraine. I hope you join me, or that you do find a way to commit to being closer to God.

Today, I want to talk about “keeping on our way no matter what.” At times in our life we face sleepless nights. There are critical moments like walking through the valley of the shadow of death. It is like when someone hears the diagnosis of cancer for themselves or one of their family members; it’s like when you lose a loved one unexpectedly; it’s like when a relationship with your loved one is broken; it’s like when you lose everything due to a natural disaster; it’s like when we hear that our children break away and suffer with addiction, or that they have an incurable illness. How should we respond when faced with a crisis like one of these? No one can avoid crisis for their entire life. I assume you have experienced these or similar situations in your life. They never stop. It’s like one comes after the other. However, do we suffer so much more than Jesus had during his life on earth?



Jesus, from his birth to his teenage years, had experienced being a stranger. He was born in a manger in an inn in Bethlehem, traveling from Galilee to Jerusalem. As soon as he was born, his family became refugees in Egypt because they avoided being killed by King Herod. After he was back in his hometown, his life, perhaps, was not good enough, as we may guess. Many rumors followed him, and a poor environment might have forced him to be uneducated. Instead, he had to work hard for his family. When he was thirty, he finally decided to do public ministry. He was baptized by John the Baptist to start the public ministry. But, as soon as he was baptized, the Holy Spirit led him to the wilderness and he was tested by Satan after forty days of fasting. He overcame all Satan's testing in the wilderness. However, he faced many challenges everywhere while working on his ministry, healing the sick, teaching people, and proclaiming the good news.

Today's scripture implies the difficulties Jesus experienced in his ministry. It begins, by saying, "at that very hour, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'" Most Pharisees tackled Jesus' ministry, but some Pharisees wanted to protect him. Perhaps some Pharisees might be at his side in today's scripture. They worried that King Herod might kill Jesus. However, Jesus said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day, I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way because a prophet can't be killed outside of Jerusalem.'" Jesus had a firm mission, which was healing the sick, casting demons out, and teaching people about the kingdom of God before he would die in Jerusalem even though King Herod blocked Jesus' ministry like a fox did terrible things to people.

Therefore, Jesus said, "I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day, I finish my work." Jesus knew how he would die, and on the third day, he would be resurrected. Even though he knew of his death, he said, "Nevertheless, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way." In other words, "because I must go to Jerusalem to die soon, but until that, I must keep on my way no matter what" And then, Jesus cried, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings!" Jerusalem is a kind of metaphor, which implies Israelites. God sent many prophets to bring His people back to Him, but the people of Israel stoned the prophets and didn't listen to God's Word. And then, finally, they would kill the only Son of God. However, Jesus loved them and died for their sins and our sins.

What about us? Can we compare Jesus' suffering and ours? Can we be patient for our loved ones and our children, who would add to our suffering sometimes? Even though your loved ones are in addiction, don't judge them, but embrace them with caring love and patience. They may need loving caring more than judgment. Even though sometimes your children go far away from what you expected, try to embrace them like a hen embraces her chicks or as Jesus loves us. Forgiveness and embracing love may bring miraculous healing and reconciliation as God's forgiveness and everlasting love lead us to keep on our way today and tomorrow. Please show up for your loved ones and children and show them how much you care and love them before too be late. No matter what, let us keep on our ways in God as Jesus did so. No matter what, let us show we are Christians by loving acts of kindness. Thanks be to God. Amen!