

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and an evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our presence and gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *The Gift of Love* UMH 408 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee

***POSTLUDE**

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 22nd 2022
“Sixth Sunday of Easter”



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

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

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

www.upperstcroixparish.org

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

Worship Resources “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler.

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 22nd, 2022
“Sixth Sunday of Easter”

*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

Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us.

Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

We have come to hear the Word of God.

We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

Let voices of praise greet the one who calls us.

Be glad together and sing for joy.

Our hearts respond with hope for a new day.

Our voices join in thankful prayers and praise.

God reigns among us and fills the world with light.

We are invited to make our home with the living God.

May God’s ways be known within and among us.

May God guide all nations in ways of peace. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *Because He Lives* UMH 364 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Maker of all things, Ruler of all peoples of the earth, we bring our prayers of thanksgiving and praise. You have provided the water of life for our baptism. You have fed us with the fruits of the earth and nourished us through your Word. Meet us again in the joyous encounter of worship, lest we forget the source of all we have and all that we are. Let all the people praise you, O God! We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 5:1-9

5 After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. 5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 7 The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“The New order by Love and Grace”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of love and grace, whose healing Word is offered to every person and group and nation, we long to hear and see and feel your presence with us. Send your Holy Spirit to overpower our excuses, lend new perspective to our troubled thoughts, and equip us to walk into the future with courage. Reign among us that we may proclaim good news to all who need it. 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

MAY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

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>Support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry</p> 	<p>May Mission We will be supporting the food shelf!</p> 
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GRANTSBURG

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>MAY MISSION: CHURCH SUPPLIES</p> <p><i>Please see list in the newsletter or at church for requested items.</i></p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf</p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>May's Sailor hat offering will go to support the SCF Food Shelf.</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
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Lawn Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older
	LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Wendell Hauble
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday school	Younger/Older
	Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

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 those who are not back to the church yet in any reason.”

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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at uppercroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) **We don't offer "the service by Phone" any longer.**
- 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: Sixth Sunday of Easter. God bless you and your family! Pastor Jenny is back from her vacation. Thank you for your prayers.

Sunday Worship Service:

- 5/15: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 5/24: 6:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (G)
- 5/25: 6:30 pm, Confirmation Class (G)
- 5/26: 9:00 am, North West Clergy meeting via zoom
9:00 am to noon, Volunteer at Food Pantry of Grantsburg (Pastor Jenny)
4:00 pm, Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Wendell Hauble 5/22
Sharon & Dave Huff 5/22



Joint Worship Service

June 5th - St Croix Falls UMC - 10:30 am
Invitational Service Celebration ~ 129 Years
Fellowship and light lunch following service
We hope you can join us! All are welcome!

Next Sunday (May 29th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:
Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Lawn Mowing *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School Younger/Older
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher(s) Don Schween
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Younger/Older
Summer break

St. Croix Falls:

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



MAY IS G-C'S VOLUNTEER'S MONTH FOR FOOD SHELF IN GRANTSBURG (REMAINING DATES 5/19 AND 5/26) PLEASE CHECK WITH PAULIE KRATCHMER.

6/3-6/4 RUMMAGE SALE (G)

6/5: **JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE (10:30AM, SCF)**



May 22nd, 2022
John 5:1-9

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

“The New Order by Love and Grace”

I want to start with something funny: A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, “Here’s how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I will give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in.” The man says, “Okay, I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart.” “That’s wonderful,” says St. Peter, “that’s worth three points!” “What, three points?” he says. “Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service.” “Terrific!” says St. Peter. “That’s certainly worth a point.” “One point?” he says, I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans.” “Fantastic, that’s good for two more points,” he says. “Two points?” Exasperated, the man cries and says, “At this rate, the only way I’ll get into heaven is by the grace of God.” “Bingo, 100 points! Come on in!”

If we were counting on our good deeds on earth to get us into heaven, no one would get it by their good works. The Apostle Paul says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 3:8-9). We can attend worship service, dedicate our time, give our offerings, and share our gifts and talents, but it is by God’s gifts and grace that we get into heaven. Our health, physical and spiritual, is also by God’s grace. The Apostle Paul says, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 3:10).

However, we wonder what the good works are. We live in a chaotic world, which makes us confused about what good work is. We, perhaps, pursue the good things, the best ones, and first place in every moment. For example, if our children or grandchildren win first place in any competition, we feel happy. We also want to win every competition, rather than lose it. It is a so-called “society of competition.” Everyone is in pursuit of being a winner. Everyone pays attention to the one who wins first place. If it was a world in which only the winner survives, how could the losers live in the same world? Today, I want to talk about “The new order by love and grace.” What if we were not judged by our abilities, but by love and grace? How about a world in which we cooperate with love? At least our church should be like that, with an open mind, open heart, and open doors.

I heard a story about an eagle. You may know that eagles train their baby eagles to make them strong. They drop their baby eagles down from high in the sky. The baby eagles are still not old enough to fly, but they must pass that training several times to survive. That’s why eagles become the strongest birds. Perhaps, animals are mostly similar. A few days ago, I met a friend of mine during my vacation. She shared a story about when she lived in a rural area in Korea. There was a swallow’s nest in the eaves of her house. She enjoyed looking at their everyday life. She was happy to see them; a mother swallow fed her babies. She even thought it was cute that they dropped their poo-poo down together. However, one day, she noticed that the mother

swallow fed her babies, according to how strong they were. The weakest ones never got enough food. Finally, the weakest was dropped out of the nest. As soon as I heard it, the idea of “that’s the animals’ world” came to my mind. It means only the strong can survive. And then, I thought about the differences in our human world.

In today’s scripture, Jesus went up to Jerusalem as usual because it was a festival of the Jews. But, Jesus visited a pool called “Beth-zatha” rather than joining a party. The pool of Beth-zatha in Hebrew means “the pool of grace.” According to the scripture, Beth-zatha had five porticoes, in which many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people were waiting for their healing. They believed that if they went into the pool first, the water would be stirred up by an angel and they would be healed. That’s why many of the sick were there to be healed. Jesus visited one man who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, he knew that he had been there for a long time Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be made well?” The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.”

What do you think about this story? I think about how much our mindset used to be focused on the world’s values like competition and self-defense. Beth-zatha means “the pool of grace,” but the pool became the place where people were still judged by their abilities. It is like even though you are sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed, you have to win first place in order to get the grace of God. It represents that you have to be the strongest, the best, and the most powerful if you want to survive. The weak, the last, the least, and the powerless never get it.

You may feel sympathy for the ill man. You may understand the man’s complaint about how he can’t go into the pool first if no one helps him. Of course, we may understand him, but the answer to Jesus’ question, “do you want to be made well?” was not proper. Like the man, we sometimes go into self-defense mode or complain to others about our situation or what we couldn’t do. Don’t look at the problem, but only our Lord Jesus Christ when you pray because he knows our situations better than we do. Jesus is different than our mindset. Even though the man answered with a complaint to Jesus, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me,” Jesus knew what he needed. Jesus said, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” The man was made well at once, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Remember, God makes things happen that we can’t make. God doesn’t look at our abilities. God’s grace and love are open to everyone, whether we are weak or strong, poor or rich, powerful or powerless. We can’t compare our righteousness or value with others. Each of us is special as a Masterpiece of God. We are all sinners before God, and we are all justified by God’s grace in the love of Jesus. The Letter of Romans says, “The righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:22-24).

If we judge others according to their abilities or situations, how are we different from the animals? Remember, Jesus gave us the new covenant by his blood and body, which is the new order by love and grace: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus came to the world for those who are the weak, the poor, the last, the least, and the powerless. If we ignore them, it is like we ignore our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus opens the new order by his grace and love. Let us share God’s love and grace in everyday life. The most precious dedication to God is your presence before God, connecting with God and others by love. Thanks be to God. Amen!