

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** John 10:22-30 (See Insert)
This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "*A Relationship that will Never Taken Away*"
Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Great God, who is the source of our lives. Thank you for welcoming us into the world. Thank you for sending our mothers who gave birth and raised us. Bless all mothers, even if they don't have their own babies, who have a mother's heart and caring love. We know as our relationship between you and us will never be taken away in Jesus Christ, a relationship between a mother and child sustains in caring love. Give your mercy on all mothers who suffer because of their child, and give them strength so that all mothers and their children praise your name together forever. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Make these moments a feast of dedication to your purposes among us, loving God. May we serve you night and day, wherever we are, in all we do, Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Blessed Assurance* UMH 369 (vs. 1 & 3)

***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
May 8th, 2022
"Fourth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day"



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

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 8th, 2022
“Fourth Sunday of Easter & Mother’s Day”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

INVITATION OF MOTHERS

(We will bless all mothers with flowers!)

***BLESSINGS TO MOTHERS** Responsive (The Book of Worship)

For our mothers, who have given us life and love,
that we may show them reverence and love,

we pray to the Lord.

For mothers who have lost a child through death,
that their faith may give them hope,
and their family and friends support and console them,

we pray to the Lord.

For women, though without children of their own,
who like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,

we pray to the Lord.

For mothers, who have been unable to be a source of strength, who
have not sustained their families,

we pray to the Lord.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so
you watch over your church. Bless these women, that they may be
strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and
love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor
them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Happy the Home When God is There*

UMH 445 (vs. 1 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Draw us together, Eternal God, from paths of aimless wandering.
Lead us today toward the community you intend. Draw the
fragments of our lives together into some meaningful whole. Help us
deal with present concerns in constructive ways yet point us beyond
ourselves to engage with you in larger issues. Help us feel the hunger
and thirst of others; then lead your church to make a caring
response. May your love fill us and overflow into other lives. 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:22-30

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.
It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of
Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How
long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us
plainly." 25 Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe.
The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; 26 but you do
not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear
my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal
life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my
hand. 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no
one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are
one."

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
Snow Removal	Stan Chute
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Communion	Barb Loomis
Sunday School	Younger/Older
	LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Communion	Sue Olson
Sunday school	Younger/Older
	Cheryl Olson/Jamie Steffen

St. Croix Falls:

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

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 Farmers in Wisconsin Land"

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 upperstcroixparish.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: Fourth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day. May God bless all mothers!

Pastor Jenny's office hours will change to the following beginning in May:

Tuesday: 9am to 5pm at Grantsburg

Wednesday: 10am to 2pm at SCF & 3pm to 7pm at Grantsburg

Thursday: 11am to 4pm at SCF

Friday: by appointment only

Sunday Worship Service:

5/8: Communion Sunday & Mother's Day

8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom

9:45 am Atlas

11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

5/9-5/20: Pastor Jenny on vacation. In case of emergency please contact Pastor, Yul Kwon (St. Luke UMC, Frederic, 715-327-8383).

5/11: 1:00 pm, UMW Meeting (G)

6:30 pm, Confirmation Class with Barb Loomis (G)

5/14: 8:00 am, UM Men's Meeting (G)

5/15: Barb Loomis preaches at all three churches (A, G, & SCF)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Jim Sciacca	5/10
Nathan Murtaugh	5/11
Clarie Mathson	5/12



Next Sunday (May 15th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Preach	Barb Loomis
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Bob Branstad
Snow Removal	Stan Chute
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older
	LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Preach	Barb Loomis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Younger/Older
	<i>Summer break</i>

St. Croix Falls:

Preach	Barb Loomis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Jim Andrews
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 (5/7, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26) PLEASE CHECK WITH PAULIE KRATCHMER.

5/18 GO FISH & YOUTH GATHERING (G)

5/19 THE BIRTHDAY PARTY OF THE CONTINUING CARE CENTER IN BURNETT MEDICAL CENTER. PLEASE CHECK WITH MARY McNALLY

May 8th, 2022
John 10:22-30

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



“A Relationship That Will Never Be Taken Away”

I want to start with something funny. I read this story on an internet site: One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, “Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?” Her mother replied, “Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.” The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked, “Mumma, how come all grandma’s hairs are white?”

Today is Mother’s Day. We have memories of our mothers. Some are sad; some are joyful. Even though we are aging, we still miss our mothers. A relationship between a mother and child will never be taken away, if it is a good relationship. The memories about our mothers sometimes come to a corner of our hearts as regretful or grateful stories. What kind of memories comes to your mind on Mother’s Day? These tissue flowers come to my mind first in a mingling sense of gratitude and regret every Mother’s Day. I am thankful to my mother for her scarifying and loving care for me, and I am regretful that I should have listened more to her well and been a better daughter. Since I learned how to make tissue flowers in school when I was 9, I made tissue flowers for my mother and father every year. Korea has a “Parent’s Day” on May 8th. I used to make two flowers every Parent’s Day for my mother and father. I also gave a present to my mother and father along with the flowers. The presents I prepared for Parents Day were handkerchiefs. I wished they would wash out my mother’s tears and my father’s sweat. It was the best way I could express my love to them. My mother told me that I was the only one among her five children to give her flowers and gifts on Parent’s Day when we were children. Of course, my siblings gave my parents much better gifts than I did when they became adults.

What kinds of presents do you expect from your children? You may say, “Well, I wish they would grow healthy. That’s enough.” My younger sister said, “I think money is the best present. When I gave money to my in-laws, they looked happy.” I asked her again, “What about you? What do you expect from your children?” She said, “Well, I wish they would come and visit me as often as possible.” I think the best present children can give is to be present in their parents lives. You may be happy when you see them face to face. One of my friends, who has grandchildren, said, “You know, when they don’t visit me for a long, I miss them and wait for them to visit me, but when they are staying with me, I wish they would go home soon.” There is a saying, “if your grandchild come to you, you are happy, but if your grandchild is back at their place, you are happier than when they came.” A relationship between parents and children is special and will never be taken away whether they have a good or bad relationship because they are connected with DNA, blood and/or love, which is a deeper connection than the DNA or blood.

Today’s scripture tells us about another relationship that will never be taken away. It is a relationship between God and those of us who believe in Jesus Christ because the love of Jesus Christ connects us. God and all of us are connected by the blood and the love of Jesus Christ as if it is a relationship between a mother and her child.

In today's scripture, it is the season of the Feast of Dedication, which can be called "Hanukah." Jewish Hanukah is held 25 days in December (winter) to celebrate for recovery of the Temple of Jerusalem. While they had a festival at the Temple, they thought of their Messiah and when the Messiah would come. The people asked Jesus to clarify if he was the Messiah because they were confused seeing Jesus' miraculous works and suspected him after hearing his teachings. They were suspicious of him as the Messiah, but they didn't believe in him. Their intention in asking him was to stone him (John 10: 31), not believe in him. Jesus knew their purpose well and said to them, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, but you don't believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I gave them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."

Jesus used the metaphor "shepherd and sheep" for a relationship with Jesus Christ and believers. You may hear that sheep notice their shepherd's voice and follow only their shepherd as if a baby notices their mother's voice, smell, and gesture. A baby may know who loves them. As a relationship with a mother and her child will never be taken away, a relationship with Jesus and us will never be taken away. No one can ever be taken away from Jesus Christ because God the Father, who is greater than all else, has given us to Jesus Christ. No one takes us away from God the Father's hand because God the Father and Jesus Christ are one God (John 10:27-30). In addition, Jesus said, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish" (John 10:28). This verse reminds us of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

The good news is that the love of God is open to everyone, and God wants everyone to get an opportunity to hear that God loves them, whether they are poor or rich. Perhaps, among the many people who have listened to the good news, some may not believe in him as the people in today's scripture didn't believe in him. Nevertheless, we should proclaim the good news to everyone regardless of age, gender, social or ethnic background, and boundaries. Remember the Prophet Isaiah's proclamation, "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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). The good news is Jesus came to the poor as their friends, to the blind as the Healer, to the captive as the Liberator, and to the oppressed as the Advocate. If whoever believes in Jesus Christ, no one can make them separate from the love of God in Jesus Christ because the blood of Jesus Christ connects them to the love of God.

Now I want to ask you, "Can you hear Jesus' voice to love God and love others? And do you follow Jesus Christ?" If you do so, you are in a relationship with Jesus Christ that will never be taken away. Thanks be to God. Amen!