

we are called, lead others to experience your steadfast love and faithfulness, and inspire them to delight in doing your will. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO. 2023-03
January 15th, 2023



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our Prayer.*

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

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

God of the saints in every age and time, we are grateful for the privilege of being numbered among them as we invest our gifts from you. Because of your generosity, we have not lacked for anything we really need. Grant now that our words and deeds may follow our offering into loving service in your realm. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN UMH 593 (vs. 1&2)
Here I Am, Lord

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee
*POSTLUDE Sharon Asp

“Fill My House” (Luke 14:23)

“Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday”
“2nd Sunday After Epiphany”



Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

*8:30 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
9:45 AM at Atlas (10:00 AM, Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
January 15th, 2023

“Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday”
“2nd Sunday After Epiphany”

*Please stand if you are able.

*PRELUDE

Sharon Asp

* OPENING HYMN *This is the Day*

UMH 657

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

*CALL TO WORSHIP **Responsive**

Have you understood God’s thoughts toward us?

Have you listened to glad news of deliverance?

We are here to receive God’s message.

Our hearts are open to the Word we will hear.

Listen, all who are near and all who are far away;

God is calling us as servants and as saints.

Usually we do not think of ourselves in that way.

We resist lowly roles, but we do not aspire to sainthood.

Do not be afraid to serve God with your whole being.

Neither fear the call to join the saints of Jesus Christ.

We trust that God will strengthen us for our tasks.

We are ready to be led into new responsibilities. Amen.

*DEDICATING HYMN *I Love to Tell the Story*

UMH 156 (vs. 1 & 2)

*OPENING PRAYER Unison (The Pledge of Allegiance)

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs.1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:29-42

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Who is Jesus for You?”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of peace, your love has graced this planet in Jesus Christ and baptized us with the Holy Spirit. And, we give you thanks for reminding us who Jesus is for us. Reawaken our eagerness to follow where Jesus leads so we may fulfill the discipleship to which

JANUARY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



We will collect donations for the Luck Food Pantry.



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"



Grantsburg will support the following in January:

- Mittens and monetary donations for the Food Pantry in Grantsburg
- Middle School Supplies

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

January's Sailor Hat offering will go to support the Salvation Army

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Indie Tooze
Snow Removal	Tom Goepfert
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	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Sue Olson
Acolyte(s)	Copelan Grimes
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Younger/Older Josie Grimes/Jamie Steffen

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 Law Enforcement officers!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 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) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: "Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday"/ "2nd Sunday after Epiphany" Please give thanks to all "law enforcement officers! God bless all law enforcement officers!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 1/15: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (10:00 am Sunday School)
11:15am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 1/15: 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
- 1/17: 6:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (G)
- 1/19: 9:00 am North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom
- 1/20: 1:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (A)

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries



Pauline Bistram 1/15
Peter & Kathy Gionis 1/16
Vanessa Harmon 1/16
Briella Reid 1/21



If you know anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing, please let pastor Jenny know.

Next Sunday (January 15th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Indie Tooze
Snow Removal	Tom Goepfert
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	Sue Olson
Usher	Don Schween
Acolyte(s)	Chase Steffen
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Younger/Older Cheryl Olson/Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:

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



1/25, Confirmation Class (A)

1/28, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Webinar: Renewing Rural Ministry
(Please let Pastor Jenny know if you are interested in joining it.)



“Who Is Jesus for You?”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Jesus and Moses were hanging out in heaven one day when they got to discussing their mutual boredom. Moses said, “Hey Jesus, you know what we haven’t done in a while? We should go down to earth and perform some miracles.” Jesus thought that was a great idea, so they hopped onto a cloud and floated down to a city.

“What miracle would you like to perform first?” asked Moses. “I think I’ll walk on water,” replied Jesus. “Last time I did it, the people really went wild.” So Jesus walked to the edge of a lake surrounded by hundreds of people, stepped onto the water, and promptly sank. Confused, he stepped out of the water and tried it again, but he sank again. He turned to Moses and said, “I don’t know what’s wrong. Last time I did this, it worked like a charm.” Moses replied, “Well, Jesus, you have to remember: Last time you did this when you didn’t have holes in your feet.”

I want to talk about “who Jesus is” today. I assume you all know about Jesus and who he is, whether you learned from the scriptures, a pastor’s preaching, your own personal experience and there may be some of you who learned about Jesus in Sunday School. If I ask you who Jesus is, we may spend a few minutes naming him. When I stayed at the Wilderness Fellowship Retreat Center, I saw a frame of Jesus’ name entitled, “He shall be called.” There were more than fifty names of Jesus in the frame. It was very impressive to me. I took a picture to share with you. There are many we already know, like “The Savior,” “The Lord,” “The Messiah,” “King of Kings,” “The Lamb of God,” “The Only Son of God,” “The Advocate,” “The Healer,” and more.

However, the important question is “who is Jesus for you?” Jesus asked his disciples at Caesarea Philippi, “Who do people say I am?” His disciples replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” Jesus asked them, “but, what about you? Who do you say I am?” and then, Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” (Matthew 16:13-16; Mark 8:27-29). As Jesus asked his disciples, it is essential to know who Jesus is for you personally. It could be evidence of who you are for Jesus. I mean, our faith in God is relational. Here is an example. There are two girls on the street, and they meet a lady. If a girl calls her “mommy,” it means she is a daughter to her. If the other girl says, “Hello, ma’am,” it means she doesn’t know her well. Therefore, it is essential how you think of Jesus on your personal level. It can be your faithful confession to Jesus. If you believe in Jesus as the Lord, you should be a servant of the Lord Jesus. If you believe in Jesus as a Friend, Jesus might be your friend.

Let’s see more of the scripture. After Peter’s confession that “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” Jesus said, “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.” And then, Jesus said to him, “I tell you, you are Peter (means “Rock”), and on this rock, I will build my church.” And Jesus said to him, “I will give you the key of heaven” (Matthew 16:17-19). Wow, it is awesome! As he confessed, he got the key of heaven. It shows us our confession is relational with Jesus. If you never think of who Jesus is to you, please take time to seriously think about it. Your confession about Jesus can be

your experience in your faith journey. In other words, it can be about the Jesus you experienced. For me, Jesus is the Healer because I believe that he Healed my broken spine and is the Lord who guides me on my way. And then it means that I am a servant of the Lord because I believe in him, my Lord. How about you?

In today's scripture, John the Baptist introduces Jesus to his disciples. For him, Jesus is "the Lamb of God" and "the Son of God," while one disciple calls him "Rabbi" and the other "the Messiah." We may learn what they say about Jesus in their own experience through the scripture. First of all, let's see in the case of John the Baptist, introducing Jesus as the Lamb of God, he says, "I myself didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason he might be revealed to Israel; I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself didn't know him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "he on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And, I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." As you see, John the Baptist said that he (himself) didn't know Jesus two times. But since he saw him as God said to him, he can testify that Jesus is the Son of God.

However, John the Baptist and Jesus are relatives, and they must know each other as Mother Mary and Elizabeth know each other. When Mary conceived, she visited Elizabeth, who conceived John the Baptist in six months, and they stayed together for a while and worshiped God. Even though the scripture didn't tell us what they did after that, we can assume John the Baptist might have heard about Jesus from his mother, Elizabeth. However, John the Baptist says two times, "I myself didn't know him." He might know the One who comes as the Lamb of God to save Israel from the scripture, but after he met Jesus, he confessed that Jesus is the Son of God.

Let's see the other case. John the Baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples as "the Lamb of God," saying, "Here is the Lamb of God." And his disciples followed Jesus and asked him, saying, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Please pay attention: John the Baptist told them Jesus is "the Lamb of God" and "the Son of God" as he experienced him, but his disciples called Jesus "Rabbi." Even though they learned that Jesus is the Lamb of God, they didn't know him personally yet. That's why they called Jesus "Rabbi (Teacher)." It is like using "Sir" today. However, after they followed him as Jesus said, "Come and See," Andrew, one of them, said to his brother, Peter, "I met the Messiah." So, the Jesus Andrew experienced was the Messiah.

My point is that what you know and believe in might be different. In other words, everyone's experience might be different even though we believe in or have learn about the same God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Also, after you have a new experience with Jesus, your confession may be changed. Jesus might be, for the hopeless, hope; for the hungry, a feeder; for the lone, a friend; for the oppressed, the liberator; for the sick, the Healer; and for the weak, the strength. I want to ask you again, "who is Jesus to you?" If you find who Jesus is to you, tell others about the Jesus you met. That will be your testimony, which is an excellent way to invite people to Jesus.

Today, we keep "Law Enforcement Appreciate Sunday." Everyone may experience them differently like our confession of Jesus is diverse. So, don't generalize the experience of others and don't judge them. They work extremely hard to make things safe. I hope you can show your appreciation to all law enforcement but especially our local officers. God bless you all. Thanks be to God. Amen!