

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of mystery, We give you thanks for you entrusted us with everything to manage for you. We want to be faithful stewards to extend your kingdom as you intend. Grant to us such understanding of conditions around us and spiritual discernment that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

PRAYER SONG

UMH 487

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Righteous God, accept our gifts of gratitude for the dawning awareness among us of your healing presence. You have satisfied our need in parched places and made our bones strong. Now we wish to offer to the world the amazing wonders we have experienced. Let our good work and generosity make the world brighter. May our loving care of others make the world better. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

Marching to Zion UMH 733 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

 **Upper St. Croix Parish
United Methodist Church**

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

"5th Sunday After Epiphany/Stewardship Month"



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 (at 10 AM Sunday School)
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
February 5th, 2023

“5th Sunday After Epiphany/Stewardship Month”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

***MISSION STATEMENT** Responsive

Let us shout our mission statement together.

Let us make the disciples of Jesus Christ all generations with open hearts, open minds, and open doors for the transformation of the world. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

We delight to draw near to you, Gracious God.

We rejoice in the many gifts you have given us.

We lift up our hearts and voices in praise.

We humble ourselves before the God of all worlds.

We gather to remember we are God’s stewards.

We seek for the wisdom of God to manage everything given from you.

The wisdom of God is not like any other.

It draws us away from the world’s agenda.

God sends us into the world as the steward of God.

We are grounded in the Spirit that we might be discerning.

We are filled with the mind of Jesus Christ.

We are the faithful steward, following Jesus’ footprint. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *I Am Thine, O Lord* UMH 419 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

(John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer-*in contemporary language*)

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your hope and service.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth,

let it be made also in heaven. 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.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Genesis 1:26-31

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

**(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 OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our
likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the
birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the
earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and
fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and
over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the
earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that
is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you
shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every
bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that
has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was
so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

Thanks be to God.

FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

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



Souper Bowl of Caring:
We will collect canned soup and donations to support 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"



The missions for Grantsburg in February are:

- Souper Bowl of Caring: We will be collecting cans of soup and monetary donations for the Food Pantry in Grantsburg by 2/12
- Financial support of the church

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

February's Sailor Hat offering will go to UMCOR Human Relations

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

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
Communion Barb Loomis
Sunday School Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher(s) Colleen Adams-Schween
Acolyte(s) Chase Steffen
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Communion Sue Olson
Sunday School Younger/Older
Cheryl Olson/Attending service

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Karen Sciacca
Usher(s) Kathy Gionis
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer Jim Andrews
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 the one who you invite to God!

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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIzZz09>
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: "5th Sunday after Epiphany/Stewardship Month"
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 2/5: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (10:00 am Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 2/5: 2:30 pm Pastor Jenny leads C.C. Center's Worship Service
- 2/8: 1:00 pm UMW Meeting (G)
6:30 pm Confirmation Class (A)
- 2/9: 6:00 -9:00 pm SPRC Training via Zoom
- 2/10-2/11: Provisional Elder Winter Retreat at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, WI (Pastor Jenny)
- 2/11: 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)

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

Lee & Peggy Frederickson 2/7

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



Next Sunday (February 12th) 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)	Copelan Grimes
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Younger/Older Josie Grimes/Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:

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



February is Stewardship Month

February 12-14, Racial Ethnic Clergy Leadership Workshop with Bishop at Green Lake Conference Center (Pastor Jenny)

February 15th, Youth Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp



February 5th, 2023
Genesis 1:26-31

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

“The Stewards of God”

I want to start with something funny. I heard about this boy who attended a Sunday worship service with his parents. In the church, the little boy watched as the ushers passed the offering plate. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so everyone could hear. “Don’t pay for me, Daddy. I’m under five.”

Some misunderstand that the offerings or tithes are dues for church membership. I want to clarify that tithes and offerings are not our dues as church members, but rather a channel of grace and blessing and a way to honor God. Proverbs 3:9 -10 says, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with your first fruits of all your produce, then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” We are blessed to offer ourselves and produce to God to share with those in need.

I will talk about “stewardship” for the next four weeks, as February is stewardship month. I spoke about the meaning of stewardship last year during stewardship month. But I want to repeat it again because it is crucial. The word “steward” comes from an economic manager who oversees whole house affairs. For these reasons, when we talk or hear about stewardship, money (offering), tithes, or apportionment comes to our minds first. That being said, we can find a more profound meaning of steward in the biblical world. In the scriptures, “*oikonomos*” is sometimes translated to “manager” (Luke 16:1-13; Matthew 20:8), steward (Luke 8:3), slaves or servants (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:13). These words’ common points are that a master entrusted them with his property with authority. That is, the steward had the authority for decision-making to sell, buy, share, or give away the Master’s property. The steward could sign the document instead of his Master. Therefore, stewardship is based on discerning who we are. If we know who we are, we may discern who our Master is.

To discern who we are, we should look at the scripture Genesis. “God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” The stewardship might begin with a humble mind to believe that God is our Creator, Lord, and Master. If you think you are a master of your life, stewardship doesn’t matter to you. Today’s scripture says God is the Creator, and the Master of all the universe, who entrusted us with everything, which means we are made and called by God as the steward of God. So, we may be proud of ourselves as God’s stewards.

Let’s look at verses 26 and 27: “Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” It is very clear that God created all things, and entrusted them to humans. After God created humankind in his image, God blessed them, and God said to them,

“be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Genesis 1:27-28). It is the original stewardship message from God. As God is the Creator and owner of all creatures, God gave Adam and Eve the authority to manage all creation. Humankind is the steward of all creations and we should manage it well. We have to manage water, nature, animals, mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, oceans, fish, birds, and more.

If you feed birds, you did well as the steward. You are also a faithful steward if you care for nature, like gardening, collecting recycled materials, and conserving water. However, we should know God gave us things to manage differently according to our abilities. Some may like feeding birds and wild animals; others may like to cook and feed people. Some work outside, and others work inside. Some may like raising and teaching children; others may like teaching and leading adults. It is like how our hobbies are different.

We are all different in appearance, abilities, hobbies, and interests. The difference is, in other words, diverse and abundant. Therefore, we shouldn't compare our capabilities with others. The important thing we should keep in our mind that everyone is chosen by God, regardless of age, gender, race, class, or what background you have. As we are unique, others are also unique to God. The First Letter of Peter says, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may come out of darkness into his (Christ's) wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9). God calls each of us, and gives us different talents and gifts so that we may make a beautiful community together.

The word steward (*oikonomos*) is used in “*Diakonia*” in the New Testament. The biblical term “*Diakonia*” means “to serve one another in the body of Christ.” It is like serving a table, as Martha did. It is like distributing food as the Food Pantry does it. It is like devoting or committing to a church mission with your time, energy, and materials. Therefore, “*Diakonia*” means a commitment to serve others in the church's servant ministry. This includes the UMW and UMM's activities, Mission Work, Food Pantry ministry, coffee or food fellowship, and many other tasks for the church and our neighbors.

We should keep in mind that we can improve our abilities as we work faithfully with our abilities. Sometimes we complain about what we have rather than giving thanks for it. Have you ever complained about your abilities as compared with others? You may remember the parable story of talent in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 25:14-30). I often think about the person who receives one talent rather than those who receive two or five talents because I used to think of myself as a person with one talent. However, we may miss more important things if we focus on the number. The more important thing is that God makes it possible for everyone to get another chance. The Master gave them each according to “his ability.” If the one who received one talent works diligently and makes it double like the others, he may have another chance to work and enjoy his Master's joy. We should know and accept our ability given by God. It is an opportunity to extend your ability if you have one talent.

On the other hand, if you keep one talent itself as the person did in the parable story, you miss your chance to improve your talent. If you are the person who keeps it, it is time to start working as God's steward. The steward of God is the person who opens his mind and opens his heart, not only to others, but also yourselves. We should open our minds to others and ourselves and God, our Master because God calls us his stewards, giving us different talents and gifts. We should work together for God's ministry. Let's work together with open minds and open hearts. Thanks be to God. Amen!