

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

UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Let these gifts follow Christ's lead into the lives of people who live in poverty or despair. O God, use them to heal divisions among your people. Show us how to be instruments of peace and justice. Ready us to follow Jesus, to make an offering of ourselves, not just our money. Teach us so we may teach others. Heal us so we can become instruments of healing. To these purposes we dedicate this offering and our lives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *O Master, Let me Walk with Thee*  
UMH 430 (vs. 1&2)

**\*BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee  
**\*POSTLUDE** Toni Koons(G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

NO. 2023-04  
January 22nd, 2023

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

“Fill My House” (Luke 14:23)

“3rd 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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**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**  
**January 22nd, 2023**  
**“3rd Sunday After Epiphany”**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

*“Peace be with you”*

***We Celebrate New Life in Christ***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**    **Responsive**

Come, all who have known gloom and anguish.

Come, all who have walked amid terrors of the night.

**Sometimes we have felt oppressed and forsaken.**

**Our losses seem greater than we can bear.**

God is our light and our salvation.

God is our stronghold; we need not fear.

**Enemies lose their power when we look up to God.**

**We come now, seeking God's face.**

Come, behold the beauty of our God.

Come to find shelter in a day of trouble.

**We will sing and make melodies to God.**

**We will dare to lift up shouts of joy. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**    *Jesus Calls Us*    **UMH 398 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER**    **Unison**

Shine on us today, gracious God, for we need the light and salvation you offer. Come to each one gathered here, and to all who are a part of this community of faith. Come to our town, our nation, and our world, to still the quarrels and dissolve the enmity among us. Come with good news of health and wholeness for everyone. Do not cast us off, do not forsake us, O God of our salvation. Amen.

***Proclamation of God's Word***

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**                      *“What does it mean to be a fisher of people?”*

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

***We Respond to God's Word***

**RESPONDING PRAYER**    **Unison**

God of the people, who sent Jesus to dispel the gloom in which we choose to live and bring us closer to your realm, call us again today to be fishers of people for commitment to the discipleship of Jesus so that we may unite our hearts and minds around the purpose of serving you, for the sake of all humankind. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*After each prayer request:*

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*

*All: Hear our Prayer.*

# 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 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(s) 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

**WE**   
**VOLUNTEERS**

### 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
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 may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

### This Week's Calendar:

Today: "3rd Sunday After Epiphany"  
God bless you who are fishers of people!

#### Sunday Worship Service:

- 1/22: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
9:45 am Atlas (10:00 am Sunday School)  
11:15am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 1/25: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class (A)  
1/26: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Fishes & Loaves in Luck  
1/28: 9:00 am to Noon, Webinar: Renewing Rural Ministry

**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

Renee Tooze 1/26  
Max Dauer 1/27  
Charlie Glonck 1/28



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

### Next Sunday (January 29th) Volunteers:

#### Central:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Pianist       | Toni Koons                                 |
| Liturgist     | <i>Volunteer Needed</i>                    |
| Acolyte(s)    | Willow Nyland/Indie Tooze                  |
| Snow Removal  | Tom Goepfert                               |
| Fellowship    | <i>Volunteer Needed</i>                    |
| Counter       | <i>Volunteer Needed</i>                    |
| Cleaning      | Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson         |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older<br>LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis |

#### Atlas:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Pianist       | Sharon Asp                                   |
| Liturgist     | Colleen Adams-Schween                        |
| Usher         | Sue Olson                                    |
| Acolyte(s)    | Copelan Grimes                               |
| Cleaning      | <i>Volunteer Needed</i>                      |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older<br>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 |



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

January 22nd, 2023  
Matthew 4:12-23

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



## **“What does it mean to be a Fisher of People?”**

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Two guys are talking about fishing. One says to the other, “I am NEVER going to take my wife fishing with me, ever again!” “Huh, that bad?” the other says. The first man continues to say, “She did everything wrong! She did everything wrong! She talked too much, made the boat rock constantly, tried to stand up in the boat, baited the hook wrong, used the wrong lures, and, WORST of all, she caught more fish than me!”

I never have experienced fishing firsthand. I watched my brother and his friends when they caught fish with a net when I was a child. So, I couldn’t understand what Jesus meant when he said, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people” (Matthew 4:19). A Korean Bible says, “Follow me. I will make you fishermen to catch people.” Because I don’t know how to fish, I couldn’t understand what “making us fishermen for people” meant.

Most likely many of you have experienced fishing and know how to fish. And for that reason, you may better understand about “fishing for people.” Today, I want to talk about “being a fisher of people.” What does it mean to be a “fisher of people”? To understand fishers for people, we should first know about fishing. The idea behind fishing is, we first identify what kind of fish we are looking for and how best to attract it so we can make the catch. To catch a fish, we must know what equipment to use, the habitat and depth of water we are fishing in, as well as the kind of bait the fish will go after. After we understand everything we need for actual fishing, then a question becomes, how do we relate that to being fishers of people?

I wonder if the disciples understood what Jesus meant regarding “fishing for people.” They were professional fishermen. They most likely knew more about fishing than Jesus because they were experts. Jesus approached them using words that they knew very well. However, they didn’t know what is meant to “fish for people” yet because, while they were with Jesus, Jesus often said, “Do you still not understand?” (Mark 8:17; Matthew 16:9). To understand “fishing for people” we should understand what Jesus’ willingness is toward the disciples he called.

Let’s see today’s scripture. Jesus began his public ministry after John the Baptist was arrested. John’s central preaching theme was “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” And surely he said, “the One is coming who is more powerful than me.” As soon as John the Baptist was no longer able to continue his ministry, Jesus finally began his ministry, starting it by recruiting his disciples. He called people who belonged to the poor and the powerless as his disciples, especially, he said to fishermen, “follow me, I will make you fish for people.” And they immediately followed him, leaving their fish equipment, family, and coworkers. Jesus was with his disciples for about three years, training them as intern ministers. Jesus taught them and showed them all about his ministry. The main theme of his ministry was “the good news about the kingdom of God,” with healing, teaching, and preaching. The good news he proclaimed and taught was that the kingdom of God was open to everyone, regardless if they were poor, blind,

deaf, sick, and this even including children and widows. As evidence, he healed the blind, the deaf, and the sick; he heard the widow's request and joyfully welcomed children. It was the good news for everyone, especially for the poor and powerless in society. Above all, the great commandment he gave his people was to love God and to love your neighbors, which means have "open minds and hearts to everyone with love." Furthermore, before he was lifted up to heaven, he gave his disciples the great commission, "go and make disciples of all nations."

Finally, we found what Jesus' willingness is toward his disciples: he called the poor his disciples because he wanted to teach them that the kingdom of God is open to everyone because, at that time, religion was the privilege of the establishment and the leaders. Furthermore, as fishermen have the skill of fishing, he might want them to fish people and make them his disciples, as he did. For more than two thousand years, many disciples consistently practiced Jesus' great commandment and the great commission. Our grandparents and parents also did a great job for our church. Now, it is our turn.

As you know, if we go fishing, we should prepare the proper equipment to fish and decide where we would go fishing. And then, we should think about what kind of bait we should use, how to attract the fish, and so on. It is similar to being a fisher of people; we should think of who we would invite, how we should invite them and what kind of tools we can use to invite them, and we should also know who they are. As we pray and keep "Fill my house" as the theme of our ministry this year, I encourage you to keep at least one person in your prayers and invite them to God. Who knows, it could be the last chance God gives us to commit to discipleship again. It could be the last chance to vitalize our church again. If you really love our church and love your family, friends and neighbors, please try to invite them.

I know it is not easy. For some it is making them change their beliefs completely. For John the Baptist and Jesus, their preaching, "repent, the kingdom of God is near" means that ask people to turn their way. As "repent" means turn back to God from their daily life, to invite people might be like a driver making a U-turn on the highway. However, don't be disappointed if they don't listen to or accept your invitation. The important thing is that we practice it in every life. That is being a fisher for people.

I often recall when I was in the hospital. If the pastor hadn't come to my hospital room; if I didn't want him to pray for me; if I didn't accept Jesus my Lord, where would I be now? Even though I don't remember the pastor's name, I deeply appreciated him, as he brought the good news to me. Whether they accept our invitations or not, our duty as Christians and Jesus' disciples is to introduce Jesus to them and invite them to the church. Try at least to talk with one person each week. We meet many people and speak with many even via the phone every day. I don't think they all are Christians who attend church service regularly. Please don't miss God giving you a chance to spread the good news, which God waits for them.

The Apostle Paul says, "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). In other words, it means that "if you believe in the cross of Jesus, the cross gives you the power of the Gospel in your life." Please do believe in the power of the Gospel in Christ and invite people confidently. Practice being a fisher of people in everyday life. Thanks be to God! Amen.