

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

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

God of clouds and devouring fire, we are amazed by the experiences of the people of God. They point us beyond our everyday attempts to be faithful to you. Enrich our lives in the season we are entering, that we may see the lamp of your love shining amid the shadows. Let your new day dawn among us as we invest ourselves in your purpose for humanity. May we sense the morning star rising in our hearts, giving hope to a world reclaiming the values of your reign among us. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *We Are Called* TFWS 2172 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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

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

2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Fill My House” (Luke 14:23)

Transfiguration Sunday/Stewardship Month



Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com
Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snssnyder@gmail.com
Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com
Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494
www.upperstcroixparish.org
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

February 19th, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday/Stewardship Month

*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

The coming of a new day calls us to anticipate God’s dawn.

The day of God’s dawning is like a morning star rising.

The light of God is like a devouring fire.

God’s brightness is too intense for our gaze.

Come up to the mountain of God’s presence.

Wait for God to reveal divine intentions for us.

We are eyewitnesses to God’s majesty.

We have sensed God’s presence in stories of Jesus.

Look up, and do not be afraid.

Jesus, whom you seek, is transfigured before you.

We will serve our God with fear and trembling.

Happy are those whose refuge is in God. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Only Trust Him* UMH 337 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Amazing God, lift us up above the fogs of our technology and theology that we might meet you in this hour. If you have instructions for us, we want to hear them. If our lives need a change of direction, turn us around. If there is a prophecy we have ignored, reveal to us its meaning for us. If the Scriptures hold truth we have overlooked, awaken our attention and grant us courage to respond in new and positive ways. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs.1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Romans 12:1-5

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The People of God”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of all nations, we gather together here before you. Make us renew, remold and reform as your faithful steward. Grant to us a vision of your intention for our lives and equip us to fulfill the destiny you entrust to us as followers of Jesus Christ. Banish our fear of one another that we may experience together the awesome wonder of community, serving you in a loving act. 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!

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

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers	All God's People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
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 LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Acolyte(s)	Chase Steffen
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Younger/Older Cheryl Olson/ Jamie Steffen

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
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 a person who you want to invite to God's house.

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 am.** 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: Transfiguration Sunday/Stewardship Month
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 2/19: 9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 2/19: 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
- 2/21: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper & Ash Service (G)
5:30 pm Pancake Supper (G)
6:30pm Ash Service (G)
- 2/23: 6:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (G) via Zoom
- 2/24: 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

Mark Nelson 2/19
Debra Kunze 2/19
Landon Olson 2/20
Deb & Russ Hammer 2/22
Scott Andrews 2/22
Hannah Smestad 2/23



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

Next Sunday (February 26th) 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 Volunteer Needed/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

2/26: First Sunday of Lent: Recognition of the Good Steward

Lenten Bible Study & Craft Group

Every Tuesday (6:30pm)-Bible Study (G) &
Thursday (5:00pm)-Bible Study with Soup Supper (SCF)
Every Wednesday at 1pm, Craft Gathering (G)



“The People of God” (Stewardship Month #3)

I want to start with something funny: For the most part the pastor doesn't like to preach about money. But when the coffers were running low, he has no choice. He told the congregation, “There's good news and bad news. The good news is that we have more than enough money for all the current and future needs of the parish. The bad news is, it's still in your pockets.”

Today is the third Sunday of stewardship month. On the first Sunday, we talked about how we all are stewards of God because God created all things and entrusted all things to us to manage well and multiply them. Among all things, last Sunday, we talked about the church. God entrusted the church to us through Jesus Christ. Each of us is building the church together according to our abilities, gifts, and talents. Some may be charged with a big portion; some a smaller portion; however, all of us are a precious part of our local church. Somehow, even though our church may be smaller, if we manage it well, doing our best with sincerity and faithfulness, God may give us a chance to improve our abilities, talents, and gifts to extend our ministry and add more people of God.

Today, I want to talk about the people of God in a stewardship mind. Who do you think the people of God are? What kind of people come to your mind when you hear “the people of God”? Perhaps, you may think about those who attend Sunday services regularly, those who work at the church, and those who commit to community service by volunteering. When I think of the people of God, the story of a rich young man in the Gospel of Matthew comes to my mind (Matthew 19:11-24). He said he kept God's commandments well from his youth, such as “do not murder,” “do not commit adultery,” “do not steal,” “do not give false testimony,” “honor your father and mother,” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” He thought that he was one of the people of God. What more does he need to do? It sounds like he is a perfect person of God. He is proud of himself and says to Jesus, “all these I have kept. What do I still lack?” I want to ask you, “How do you think of this rich young man? What more does he need to do to be a person of God?” We know this story very well. And then, without needing to form our own idea, we got the conclusion to the story. Well, you may think the problem is that he is rich. Jesus said that he should sell all his possessions and distribute them to the poor. But because he had many possessions, he worried about selling them and returned home. It is the conclusion we expected. If that's the case, Christians should be poor. Indeed, is the problem because he is rich? If the people of God shouldn't gain any possessions, how could we help the poor?

The point is not “to sell his possessions and give them to the poor.” He has done it already. He indeed said that he kept all God's commandments, including “love your neighbor as yourself.” He might keep helping the poor with his possessions. The point Jesus was making was to “follow me.” He was a person who followed the money. We remember that Jesus said, “You can't serve two masters; you cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24). He couldn't choose Jesus instead of money. My point is that the people of God are those who follow Jesus.

Non-Christians can help the poor. However, the difference between Christians and non-Christians is whether they follow Jesus. Please pay attention. Jesus is “love.” We can give money to those in need without love, but we cannot love others without giving. The Letter of James says, “If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?” (James 2:16). We help others in need because we love them as Jesus loves us. Jesus’ love is the love he gave when he gave himself up for us. Those who follow Jesus must be the people of God.

Today’s scripture shows us how the people of God live the love of Jesus in everyday life. The Apostle Paul says, “Worship God in the spirit in everyday life, which we may present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.” Jesus Christ became a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God for our sins. If we follow Jesus, we should be a living sacrifice for others. You may remember when we have a communion service, we pray “the Great Thanksgiving; “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.” And then, after giving communion, we pray: “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.” It is a short prayer, but it has a profound meaning. We will give ourselves to others as a living sacrifice, as Jesus has given himself for us. Have you ever thought of these prayers mindfully?

We pray this great thanksgiving and communion prayer every month, but we, perhaps, keep them as a liturgy in Sunday worship service without thinking about how we live it out in our everyday life. However, let’s truly be the people of God now and evermore. We are the masterpiece of God, and God made us in his image. Even though we sometimes go far away from God, God still loves us. Even when we hadn’t yet recognized God’s love, Jesus died for us to forgive our sins. The best stewardship mind is that we offer ourselves to God and others as Jesus offered himself to God for us. So, how can we be a living sacrifice for others? Should we die on the cross as Jesus did? No, we shouldn’t.

A living sacrifice means to live it out. In other words, we should live following God’s will in everyday life. Today’s scripture says “do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what the will of God is.” Remember that if we are confused about what the will of God is, we should open our minds and hearts to God. The scripture says, “Be transformed by renewing of our mind so that we may discern what the will of God is.” The people of God are those who transform not only the world but also themselves by renewing minds. If we don’t transform ourselves, how can we transform the world? If we aren’t the disciples of Jesus, how can we make others the disciples of Jesus? We should transform ourselves by renewing our minds in everyday life. The stewards of God are those who offer themselves to God and others. Remember, we can give ourselves without love, but we cannot love without giving. If you love God, give yourself to God. “If we give all we possess to the poor and surrender our bodies to the flames but have not to love, we gain nothing”(1 Corinthians 13:3). The people of God are those who love God and love others by their acts. Let’s show how we love God and our neighbors! Thanks be to God. Amen!