

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

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

God of wind and fire, blow through our sharing a sense of empowerment, both for us and for all who are reached through our offerings. Set us ablaze with eagerness to hear and respond to the message you want us to carry into all the world. May many lives be touched and renewed today and throughout this season. Let us see the signs of your presence and the direction of your leading-and inspire our following. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Spirit Song* UMH 347

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee

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

Please take a plant home with you as a way of sharing life. If you want to share your seeds or plants, please bring them to the church and share them with others.

NO. 2023-22
May 28th, 2023

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

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

Pentecost Sunday/Memorial Sunday



Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

*9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
(9:15 AM, Sunday School)*

10:00 AM at Atlas (Sunday School-Summer Break)

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
May 28th, 2023
Pentecost Sunday/ Memorial Sunday

*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!
(*Waive your hands with one another*)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***LIGHTENING FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN WARS**
***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive
(Memorial Day Prayer in the Book of Worship)

Almighty God, before whom stand the living and the dead,
we your children, whose mortal life is but a hand's breadth,
give thanks to you:

For all those through whom you have blessed our pilgrimage,
whose lives that have empowered us,
whose influence is a healing grace,

We lift up thankful hearts.

For the dear friends and family members
whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us forever.

We lift up thankful hearts.

For the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth,
and for the members of our household of faith
who worship you now in heaven.

We lift up thankful hearts.

For those who sacrificed themselves, our brothers and sisters who have
given their lives for the sake of others.

We lift up thankful hearts.

That we may hold them all in continual remembrance, and ever think
of them as with you in that city whose gates are not shut by day and
where there is no night.

We lift up thankful hearts.

That we may now be dedicated to working for a world where labor is
rewarded, fear dispelled, and the nations made one,
**O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage. Day by day we
magnify you, and worship your name, for ever and ever. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *This is My Song* UMH 437 (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 UMH 191 (vs.1) (G)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Acts 2:1-21 (See Insert)

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "*Is it All for Jesus Christ*" Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison
**Holy God, come to us out of the clouds of our doubt and
inattention. Speak to us in ways that reach deep into our
consciousness. Let your Spirit rest on us, creating excitement and
anticipation, empowering us to speak and act as your
representatives. Make us all, in some way, prophets who observe
the larger picture and help one another sense your truth. We look
to you today for all we need. May your glory fill this place. 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!

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 2:1-21 (See Insert)**

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

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MAY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

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



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

We will be supporting Native American students through UMCOR



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"



In May we will support Grantsburg elementary school kids. Financial donations are requested and will be used at the discretion of the school's social worker to help meet the needs of the students.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the St. Croix Falls Food Shelf

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Mowing
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Sunday School

Toni Koons
Volunteer Needed
Willow Nyland
Volunteer Needed
LuAnne Martell
Volunteer Needed
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Acolyte(s)
Cleaning
Sunday School

Sharon Asp
Sue Olson
Colleen Adams-Schween
Chase Steffen
Volunteer Needed
Younger/Older
Summer Break-VBS coming soon

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Fellowship

Sharon Asp
Karen Sciacca
Jim Andrews
Karen Sciacca
Jim Sciacca
Ladies of the Church
Ad Council Members



Break through Prayers:

- 1) Graduates
- 2) Those who lost loved ones due to war.
- 3) Those who are suffering from illness whether physically, emotionally or spiritually.

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: Pentecost Sunday & memorial Sunday
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 5/28: Pentecost & Memorial Sunday Service
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)
10:00 am Atlas (no Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 5/31 5:30 pm Youth Fundraiser-Spaghetti Dinner at Central UMC in Grantsburg
- 6/1 9 am-3 pm Annual Conference-Clergy Session at Stevens Point
- 6/2 4:30 pm VBS Initiate 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!



- 6/4 10:30 am-Joint Service at St. Croix Falls UMC
- 6/9-6/12 Wisconsin UMC Annual Conference
- 6/13-6/27 Pastor Jenny's Vacation

Next Sunday (June 4th) Volunteers:



Joint Service: SCF Homecoming Sunday 10:30 AM at St. Croix Falls UMC

Preach	District Superintendent Rev. Barb Certa-Werner
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Special music	Dan Hartke and his family
Money Counter	Peter Gionis (SCF), Sue Olson (A), Dave Huff (G)
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the Church
Communion	Peter & Kathy Gionis
Fellowship	SCF Members



THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Link Loomis 5/28
Dave Huff 5/30
Colleen & Barry Norenberg 5/31

May 28th, 2023

Acts 2:1-21

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“Is it all for Jesus Christ?”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A priest is walking through the jungle when he comes upon a hungry lion. Just as the lion goes to attack, the priest crosses himself and says, “Lord, if you can hear me, please instill the Holy Spirit in this beast’s heart.” The lion stops as a bright light begins to glow around him. He looks to the sky, folds his paws in prayer, and says, “Thank you, Lord, for this meal I am about to eat.”

Let me ask you, was that God answering him in the funny story? We are sometimes confused as to if God answers our prayers. God may answer us differently from what we expect, and therefore we may overlook it, or it may just take long for us to identify it.

I have a friend of mine whom I met in high school. I was able to attend boarding school in the city with my middle school’s principal’s help, because my grandparents and father wouldn’t support me in attending high school. Most students visited their parent’s houses on weekends, but I was not particularly eager to visit my parent’s house. So, I stayed at the school. She was the one who invited me to her house most weekends. She was a sincere Christian. After we had our meals, we usually played at her church, playing ping-pong, piano, or some games together there. But I never attended church services. After graduating high school, I went to Seoul to attend the university, and she didn’t go to college. So, we didn’t see each other for a long time.

After I became a Christian, I remembered her and looked for her. She was still living in her hometown and she married a faithful Christian husband. I then invited her to attend our first celebration service for our new church in Korea in 1996. She came to our church with her husband. Her husband told me, “I wanted to see who you were because ever since I married my wife, she never ceased to pray for you and even asked me to pray for you, even though we’ve never met. It is crazy. But it is because of Jesus Christ. No, to tell you the truth, it is all because of you. She really cared for you.” Finally, she said, “You know, since I met you in high school, I prayed for you to become a Christian, but I never expected you to become a pastor. God is good all the time. The first became the last; the last became the first.” She prayed for me for fifteen years. Finally, she noticed that God had answered her prayers. What if I hadn’t looked for her? What if she had never heard that I became a pastor? What if I had never heard she prayed for me all these years? Why did she pray for me? Is it all for Jesus Christ? No, it is all for me. She deeply cared for my soul and for my salvation. Even though we didn’t see each other for fifteen years, the Holy Spirit was working for her and me through her prayers.

Today is the universal church’s birthday; we call it “Pentecost Sunday.” The day of Pentecost means the fiftieth day since Jesus was resurrected. It is the day that finishes the Easter season. What happened with Jesus’s disciples after Jesus was lifted up to heaven? They gathered together at the Upper Room, where they had the last Supper with Jesus, and prayed all the time. Jesus’ last recommendation was that all the disciples stay in Jerusalem and pray so that God may send them the Holy Spirit within a few days, who could help them and guide them to move forward. They didn’t have any other choice because all Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers tried to find them to kill them after Jesus died. Their severe persecution threatened the disciples more after the news of Jesus’ resurrection spread out over Judea and Israel. Then, the disciples gathered all together in one place and locked the door.

It was Pentecost day. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the

Spirit enabled them. Others saw them and thought they were drunken because they became crazy after losing Jesus Christ.

Why did Jesus recommend that they stay in Jerusalem? Why did Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit and finally send them the Holy Spirit? Is it all on behalf of Jesus Christ? No, it is all for his disciples. In other words, it is all for Jesus' disciples; Jesus wanted to protect them from persecution and waited for them until they gained the strength of faith and courage to move forward.

Remember that human desire scatters people and divides or separates them, but the Holy Spirit (God) makes people unite, reconcile, and restore one another. We already have lessened from the Babel Tower: When people desired to build their city up to heaven, suddenly they faced chaotic situations with confusion in diverse languages. Finally, they were scatted over the world (Genesis 11:1-9). But, on the Pentecost day, they could speak and understand all various languages by the Holy Spirit. Then, the Holy Spirit strengthened and empowered them, sending them all over the world as Jesus' witnesses. Do you think it is all for Jesus Christ? No, it is all on behalf of human beings. Jesus Christ was just a sacrifice for God's love for us. God's purpose is for us, not Jesus Christ, who says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one, and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God sent Jesus Christ to save us, and sent the Holy Spirit to protect and guide us.

When I was a little younger in my faith, I thought God was too selfish because I thought God handled people however He liked. Yet, as much as I grow in my faith, I notice how God's grace is deep and long. God says through Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Even though we don't yet know, God must still work for us.

God sent the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples of Jesus and made them begin the church on earth. The disciples, who were depressed by the loss of their beloved teacher, Jesus Christ, got up strongly and boldly because of the Holy Spirit and lived out the life of witnesses of Jesus day by day. And, more than one hundred years ago, our ancestors, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, built our church here and lived out the life of witnesses of Jesus Christ. And then, we did so as well.

And, now what? It is our turn. We should keep our faith, live out the life of witnesses of Jesus, and turn to our kids and grandkids. Do you think it is all for Jesus Christ or only for our church ministry? No, it matters not only to our church ministry, but also to your children and grandchildren. If you give up the life of witnesses of Jesus, who cares for your children and grandchildren?

Think about the veterans who died in war. Why did they die? Did they fight for their own benefit? No, it is all for their loved ones. They wanted to turn freedom over to their loved ones, and they sacrificed. Today, we are here because of someone's love, sacrifice, and prayers. Your commitment and prayers really matter to our church ministry as well as our next generation. Please make a little more of a commitment to the church ministry and encourage your kids and grandkids to live Christian lives. Let's do it together! Thanks to God. Amen!