

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

Creator and Parent of all humankind, your love for all of us was revealed in Jesus Christ. Draw us into a relationship of trust in you that will help us day by day to discern more clearly the way, the truth, and the life you intend for us. Help us to follow Jesus, and to do the works of Christ. We long to become that spiritual household of mutually caring people that Jesus sought to model among us. 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

We commit ourselves to you, gracious God, as we dedicate material gifts that represent our labor. When we ponder the amazing wonder of life, we are filled with awe. When we remember Jesus as the cornerstone of the spiritual house you are seeking to build in our midst, we are eager to help. Let your face shine on us and on this offering that your mighty acts may be proclaimed to all the world. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Jesus Is All the World to Me*

UMH 469 (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

**\*POSTLUDE**

Toni Koons

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

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**



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 (at 10:15 AM Sunday School)  
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

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**  
**May 7th, 2023**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**

**Toni Koons**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

**Leader:** Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen!

**All people:** Jesus is risen. Hallelujah! Amen!

**Leader:** Peace be with you!

**All People:** And, also with you!

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

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

Gaze into heaven and see the glory of God.

Lift up your eyes to behold the risen Christ.

**God is our rock of refuge, a strong fortress.**

**Christ leads us and guides us every day.**

Indeed, you have tasted the goodness of God.

You have known the presence of Christ, God's chosen one.

**Every day we long for pure spiritual milk.**

**Each day, we are inspired by the living Christ.**

Then let us lay our troubles at Christ's feet.

Let us enter the sanctuary God prepares for us.

**We have come to find the way, the truth, and the life.**

**We are here to ask and to receive and to serve. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**    *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**UMH 400 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER**    **Unison**

**Open your heaven to us, God of all worlds. We long for the pure spiritual milk you provide so we may grow into salvation. We are your people, sisters and brothers of your Chosen One. Let us this day be built into a spiritual house, a community of your faithful people. Keep us from judging those whose views differ from our own, or from throwing stones at those with whom we disagree. Incline your ear to us and rescue us from ourselves, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**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 (RECEIVING) 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 GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 14:1-14 (See insert)**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

***"Ask Anything in my Name"***

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

## 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 GOSPEL LESSON

**John 14:1-14**

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in  
me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were  
not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3  
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take  
you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you  
know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him,  
“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the  
way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No  
one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you  
will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have  
seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be  
satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time,  
Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen  
the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not  
believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that  
I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in  
me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the  
Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works  
themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will  
also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than  
these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask  
in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my  
name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

# 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

Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Central:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Acolyte(s)  
Snow Removal  
Fellowship  
Counter  
Cleaning  
Communion  
Sunday School

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



### Atlas:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Acolyte(s)  
Cleaning  
Communion  
Sunday School

Toni Koons  
Sue Olson  
Jamie Steffen  
Copelan Grimes  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Sue Olson  
Younger/Older  
Cheryl Olson/Attend Service

### St. Croix Falls:

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

Toni Koons  
Karen Sciacca  
Jim Andrews  
Karen Sciacca  
Jim Sciacca  
Ladies of the church  
Jim & Karen Sciacca



### Break through Prayer:

- 1) Baby Lila (Second surgery (5/2))
- 2) Baby Harley (Upcoming surgery)
- 3) Joan Zeigler (Husband Charlie Zeigler passed away)

## 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](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: Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Christ is risen, Hallelujah, Amen!

### Sunday Worship Services:

- 5/7: Fifth Sunday of Easter  
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 5/9 7-8:30 pm Pastor Jenny Shepherd Team Meeting via Zoom
- 5/10 12:00 pm UMW Lunch (Questions to Mary McNally)  
6:00 pm Youth Gathering (G)  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
- 5/12 1:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (A)
- 5/13 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!**

Important Dates  
and INFORMATION

5/14 Mother's Day Sunday  
5/21 Graduation/Confirmation Sunday  
5/28 Pentecost Sunday

## Next Sunday (May 14th) Volunteers:

### Central:

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

### Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Usher	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Chase Steffen
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Younger/Older <b>Volunteer Needed</b>

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the church

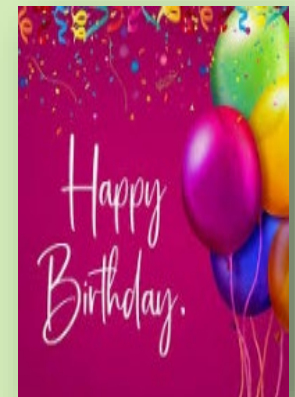


Casper Rahkola 5/7

Jim Sciacca 5/10

Nathan Murtaugh 5/11

Clarie Mathson 5/12



May 7th, 2023  
John 14:1-14

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



## **“Ask Anything in My Name!”**

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A college student was in Philosophy class, where a class discussion about whether God exists or not was in progress. The professor had the following logic: “Has anyone in this class seen God?” Nobody spoke. “Has anyone in this class touched God?” Again, nobody spoke. “Has anyone in this class ever heard God?” When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated, “Then there is no God!”

One of the students did not like the sound of this and asked for permission to speak. The professor granted it, and the student stood up. “Has anyone in this class seen our professor’s brain?” he asked.

We, Christians, believe in God, who we can’t see. We believe in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross more than 2000 years ago. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who we can’t see, but is with us. It sounds strange, but it is true. Even the disciples of Jesus, who Jesus taught, were also confused, but later understood and wrote about the truth. That is the Bible we have today. Therefore, we trust in the Bible; through the Bible, we can know God. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29). Yes, we are blessed!

Today’s scripture is Jesus’s last discourse, like a farewell speech. Jesus knew how he would go and worried about his disciples, who may tremble with fear after he was gone. He said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; also believe in me.” And he also said he would go to the Father God to prepare a place for his people and that he would be back to take his people to the place he prepared where he would be with them. He said, “You may know where I am going and where the place is.” However, his disciples needed clarification about where he would go. Thomas asked him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Yes, we know God through Jesus, his teachings, and his love, which he showed us when he laid down his life for us. We know God and believe in Him through the scriptures even though we can’t see Him. The scriptures are the Words of God, written by “God-breathed and are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If you are still suspicious about whether God exists or not, please read the Bible. The scriptures are evidence that God exists and God loves us.

Jesus said, “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.” Do you remember that I talked about the blind man who got his sight back from Jesus last Sunday? He said, “It is strange. Why don’t you still believe that he comes from God? He cured my sight, and I can see. I know God never listens to sinners, but He listens to His people.” The blind man had experienced Jesus and wondered why others couldn’t believe in him. It is another way we can know God, which is through the

witnesses and testimonies of the people. Many saw Jesus' miraculous works, but still didn't believe in him. But, let us believe in him, and we may gain eternal life. Jesus is the only way to get to God the Father and eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Jesus told his disciples an essential thing that day. "The one who believes in me will also do the work that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father." What did Jesus mean when he said "do the work"? Jesus said if we believe in Him, we can do what Jesus did, and we may do greater work than he did. What kind of imagery comes to mind when you think of Jesus' work? Some may think of many miraculous works, such as raising the dead, curing the sick, feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish, making wine from water, walking on water, and more. Some may think of his teachings, such as the Beatitude, the Golden Rule, the Sermon on the Mountain, the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission. Some of you may think of his love, that he loves his people until the end of the world, and that he laid down his life to save his people. Yes, the Gospel of John says, "Greater love has no one this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). I believe that the work Jesus did and that the greatest work Jesus did was to teach us to love God and love our neighbors with our whole heart, mind, and soul. Love is what Jesus taught us through many teachings, what he showed us through many miraculous works, and what he expected from us. We are Christians who follow Jesus' teaching by acts. Even though we can't see God, we can show God's love to many people through our deeds, such as mission work locally and globally. Many people may know we are Christians by our acts. The First Letter of John says, "Dear Children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence" (1 John 3:18-19).

Also, Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it." Wow, this is great. If you have anyone, who did whatever you asked, what a blessing that is to you! Do you have anyone who always listens to you? Well, even with our loved ones, listening to them is not always easy. You know, that's why Jesus' love is greater than anything else, or anyone else's love. In Korean society, there is a black card. It is like a credit card, and you can purchase anything you want. It is an unlimited credit card that only the royal family and the richest people may have. As a student pastor at a rural church in Korea, I saw that kind of credit card. I was in charge of the education ministry. One day, the president of Sunday School gave me his black card and said, "Whatever you need in your ministry, you can use this card for." I was surprised he would give me his black card, and I asked him, "Do you trust me to use your card?" He said, "Yes, I trust you because you are one of God's people." If you have someone who trusts you, that's the best encouragement to work forward. So, I know what it means when Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask me." Indeed, Jesus trusts in us. It is like he gave us a black card. What about you? Do you trust in Jesus? If you trust in Jesus, please ask him for whatever you need, and see how Jesus trusts in you and loves you! Ask him anything in his name and see how sincere he is for you. Thanks be to God. Amen!