

**We Respond to God's Word****RESPONDING PRAYER Unison**

God of all generations, whose revelation in Jesus Christ calls us as missionaries to serve our church, home, town, and workplace faithfully, we dare to listen for your call, knowing that we are special to you and that you send us to our church to be faithful stewards. We respect one another and work together. Through us, all nations shall worship before you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*After each prayer request:*

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy (Grace),*

*All: Hear our Prayer.*

**PRAYER SONG**

UMH 487

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

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

UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *I am Thine, O Lord* UMH 419 (vs. 1 & 2)

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

**\*POSTLUDE**

Sharon Asp

Worship resource "led by Love" by Lavon Bayle



# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:  
"Let's Replant it" (Galatians 6:7-10)

**Stewardship Month/Second Sunday in Lent**

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 (10:15 AM, Sunday School)**

**11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor Jenny Lee: [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)

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**  
**February 25th, 2024**  
**Stewardship Month/Second Sunday in Lent**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**

**Sharon Asp**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

*“Peace be with you”*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP    Responsive**

We are invited to walk with God.

We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

**How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!**

**We bring our praise to glorify God.**

God calls us by name and gives us new names.

We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

**God not only speaks to us but also listens.**

**God hears our cries and meets our needs.**

Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God.

Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

**We will pay our vows to the One who calls us.**

**We praise the God of all nations and all people. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN    *Hymn of Promise*    UMH 707 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER    Unison**

**In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you glory and praise, we gather to do the same. As they have passed on their faith to new generations, we seek to teach and live in such a way that our children and their children will be drawn to minister in your name. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

**Thanks be to God.**

# FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

### INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

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



### LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.

In February we will be collecting soup and monetary donations to support Souper Bowl of Caring & our local food shelf.



## 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 February we will be collecting soup and financial donations to support Superbowl of Caring through 2/11/24. Superbowl of Caring also benefits the Grantsburg Food Shelf. For the rest of February will be collecting donations in support for our church.



## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



### Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR Human Relations!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS "Stewardship Month"

### Ministers

All God's People  
Pastor Jenny Lee

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland  
Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**  
Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek  
Snow Removal **Volunteer Needed**



### Atlas

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Sue Olson  
Usher Cheryl Olson  
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
Sunday School Colleen Adams-Schween

### St. Croix Falls

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
Usher(s) Jim Andrews  
Money Counter Karen Sciacca/Jim Andrews  
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca  
Flowers Lynn Hanson



### Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are in need, the sick, those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace for all over the world!

Thank you for your support!

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 am at Central at 11:15 am by request.** 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIzZ09>  
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>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

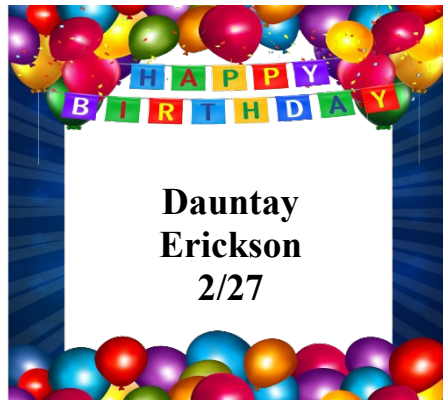
## This Week's Calendar:

Today: Stewardship Month/The Second Sunday in Lent  
God bless you!

### Worship Service Schedule

- 2/25: 9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)  
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am, Sunday School)  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 2/27: 6:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (G)
- 2/28: 6:30 pm Junior Youth Gathering (G)
- 2/29: 5:30 pm Soup Supper (SCF)  
6:15 pm Lenten Study Session #1 (SCF)
- 3/1: 1:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (A)  
5:30 pm, Youth Leaders 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!**



## Next Sunday (March 3rd)

### VOLUNTEERS

#### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Snow Removal	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Communion	Barbara Loomis



#### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Communion	Sue Olson
Sunday School	No Sunday School-Children attend regular service

#### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Karen Sciacca
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Lynn Hanson
Communion	Jim & Karen Sciacca

### Upcoming Events-Mark Your Calendar

- Lenten Bible Study, 2/29, 3/7, 3/21, and 3/28
- March 23, Easter Spring Craft & Bake Sale (A)
- Youth Retreat, April 19-21 at Wood Lake Camp  
(Contact their Youth Director)
- VBS 2024, August 5-8

# Youth Group Retreat Donation Needs

Youth group is going on a retreat to Wood Lake Bible Camp April 19th to 21<sup>st</sup>.

We are looking for donations for our weekend to save costs. Please reach out to Shayna with any questions 920-312-2857.

- ✚ Old T-shirts
- ✚ Fleece Scraps
- ✚ Empty Water Bottles
- ✚ Yarn
- ✚ Fabric Fill
- ✚ Socks (don't need to be pairs)
- ✚ Snack bags of Chips
- ✚ Individual wrapped snacks (No Nuts)

**Donations can be left in the church office or given to Pastor Jenny. Thank you for your support!**



## Youth retreat benefits:

- ✚ Developing community with other believers who are dealing with similar circumstances in life
- ✚ Refocusing on and growing in relationship with God
- ✚ Intentional time for prayer and meditating on Scripture
- ✚ Learning from and being mentored by godly adults
- ✚ Spending time surrounded by God's creation
- ✚ Having fun

February 25th, 2024  
Matthew 25:14-30

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



## **“Finding Our Mission” (Stewardship Month #4)**

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: An old dollar bill and an even older \$50 arrive at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. “I’ve had a pretty good life,” the \$50 says. “I’ve been to Vegas, the finest restaurants in New York, and even on a Caribbean cruise.” “You did have an exciting life!” the dollar says. “Where have you been?” The \$50 asks. “Oh, I’ve been to the Methodist church, the Baptist church, spent some time with the Lutherans...” “Wait,” the \$50 interrupts. “What’s a church?”

We observe February as Stewardship Month. Today, for the final session of the stewardship sermon series, I want to talk about “Finding Our Mission.” I was taught that “mission” entails going overseas to evangelize others in other countries, especially in unchurched or developing nations in need. While I learned about the missions, I prayed, “I will do whatever you ask of me, except being a missionary,” because I would like to stay with my family members.

One day, I participated in a mission conference in Chicago with members of our church. I was inspired by a speaker who was a missionary in Mongolia. He said, “Mission is our duty as Christians. God calls each of us to be missionaries. You don’t need to go far away to evangelize; you can do it where God places you in your everyday life.” At that moment, an idea came to my mind: ‘If this is true, I can be a missionary.’ Then, as if God knew my thoughts, the missionary asked the audiences, “If, at this moment, there is anyone willing to be a missionary, please stand and come forward so I may pray for you.” Without hesitation, I stood and went to the front with many others. After that experience, I delved into studying missions again.

The word “Mission” originates from “*missio*” in Latin, which means “sending.” Because of this, we might assume that a mission entails going far away to a distant place. However, in missiology, mission means “the sending of people who have been called by God for a special purpose to fulfill that purpose.” In other words, missionaries are those who God sends for special purpose. I used to think, perhaps, that might not include me. Missionaries may be special, but I am not special. Do you believe you are as special as missionaries, whom God calls and sends?

Last week, while I was driving down to Pine Lake for the interview, I was listening to the K-Love channel on the Radio. I didn’t catch the preacher’s name at the beginning. When I turned the channel, it seemed like I had tuned in during the middle of the sermon. He said, “All Christians are special missionaries; God calls each of you, and sends each of you to where you are. The place God sends you might be your workplace, your home, your school, your town, your country or even another country. God has chosen you who are special, and sends you where you are.” It felt like God’s voice to me, especially since I had been contemplating “mission” for this week’s sermon. I thought, ‘Yes, I would share this with our congregation.’

Today’s scripture is very familiar to us. Some of you may have heard this parable story many times before. The story goes like this: A man entrusted his property to his slaves before going on a journey. One particular aspect of the story is that the man gave each servant talents differently; for instance, he gave five talents to one, two to another, and one to yet another, each according to

God created each of us uniquely for a special purpose and called each of us to be missionaries, sending us to this church. It is important to discover the talents and gifts given to us by God. We don't need to compare ourselves with other churches. The mission of the church is not about competition but about supporting one another and building together. As much as we receive talents and gifts, we must work on them faithfully before God. I want to conclude the sermon serious of Stewardship Month with the words of the Apostle Paul: "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy" (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). Thanks be to God. Amen!

(Romans 12:4-5).  
 function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and each member belongs to all the others" just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same talents and gifts, we need to support one another and work together. The Apostle Paul says, "For talents, we can contribute making a better world together. Because each of us has received different compete with each other, nor do singers and musicians. Because we have each received different share in his joy." If God had given everyone the same talents, the world would be much more intention in entrusting his property to his servants was to test their faithfulness and invite them to things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." The master's two talents more: "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few received the same reward and compliment, regardless of whether they gained five talents more or I noticed that both the servant who received five talents and the one who received two talents master."

trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your talents.<sup>22</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, '19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.<sup>20</sup> Then the However, I have discovered a secret within this parable. Let's listen to verses 19-22 again.

We live in a world that is full of competition and comparison. From birth, we are compared with siblings, friends, and neighbors, and as we grow older, we find ourselves competing with them. So, from my selfish perspective, having been born and raised in an environment of constant comparison and competition, it all feels entirely unfair. I feel deep sympathy for the servant who received only one talent. I felt so discouraged reading this passage because I experienced discrimination during my childhood. How about you? I know you are not as selfish as I am.

their ability. As I read this passage, I often wonder why the man gives each person talents differently. Even though it says, "according to their ability," if I were the one who received only one talent, I might feel inadequate and do nothing with it, much like the slave in the story.