

our own satisfaction but that we might share good news and practical help with confidence and joy. Amen!

NO. 2024-19
May 12th, 2024

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 LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

May our offerings leave no doubt that you are head of our church and the inspiration for our lives. Empower our ministries with the fullness of Christ that we may be inclusive in our outreach and effective as teachers and healers. Help us to find joy in our praying and in our serving. For these purposes and to the glory of your name, we dedicate our money and our lives. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

BLESSING OUR MOTHERS

*CLOSING HYMN *Faith of Our Mothers (Fathers)* UMH 710

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

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

Worship resource "led by Love" by Lavon Bayler

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

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

**7th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day
Ascension Sunday/Graduation Sunday (A)**



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICES:

**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 Zoom

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@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 12th, 2024
7th Sunday of Easter-Mother's Day
Ascension Sunday-Graduation Sunday (A)

*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 at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Come together expecting great things.

Wait for the promises of God.

Is this the time when God will come to reign?

Will we receive power and authority?

In God's time, the Holy Spirit will come to you.

You will be empowered as faithful witnesses.

We are here to learn about all that Jesus did.

We are ready to listen to all that Jesus taught.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

Sing praise to God, sing praise.

God is ruler over all the earth.

We seek to experience God's rule in our lives. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Precious Name* UMH 536 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Appear to us again, risen Savior, for we have lost sight of you. We have come to find you here so we may recognize you among all who suffer. We seek wisdom and revelation to cope with the confusion we face every day amid competing claims. We are here to remember the authority with which you spoke so we may walk amid the rulers of our day, speaking in Christ's name. We who seek to be your body, the church, need the eyes of our hearts enlightened so we may once more embrace hope and know your joy. Amen!

BLESSING OUR GRADUATES (A)

CHILDREN'S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 17:6-19

6 “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

“A Mother's Prayer”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Holy God whose word has come to us through the law of Moses, in the poetry of the psalms, in the passion of the prophets, and our mother's legacy of faith, speak to us again through the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, who calls us as witnesses in our own times and places. May we know your blessing and empowerment, not for

MAY CHURCH MISSIONS

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items: cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.</p>	<p><u>Community Referral Agency (CRA)</u></p> <p><i>In May we will support CRA in Milltown. They provide shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.</i></p> <p><i>They are specifically in need of condiments, sugar, batteries and refill cleaning pads for their Swiffer. There is a general list of items they are looking for in the May newsletter and on the bulletin board at church.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that items should be new or in good to very good condition.</i></p> 
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Backpack Program"</p> 	<p><u>Global Mission Secondary School in Tanzania</u></p> <p><i>In May we will be collecting Donations for Yung Seon (Christine) Kim in Tanzania. We sent money to support the building of the Global Mission Secondary School in 2020 and our donations will go to help support this school.</i></p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support The St. Croix Food Shelf!</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

Ministers

All God's People

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Barbara Loomis
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Russ Hammer
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Jamie Steffen
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Colleen Adams-Schween
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson-Last Sunday School until Fall 2024

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Communion	Jim and Karen Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis



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!

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 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: 7th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Sunday/Ascension Sunday
Graduation Sunday (A)
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

- 5/12: 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
- 5/14: 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting via Zoom
- 5/16: 10:00 am-Noon New Ministry Strategy Board Meeting via Zoom
12:30-3:00 pm Diversity Council Meeting via Zoom
2:00 pm C.C.C. Residence Birthday Party (UMW)
6:30-8:00 pm Senior Youth Gathering (G)
- 5/18: 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)
3:00 pm Max Dauer's Graduation Party
6:30-8 pm Senior Youth Gathering
- 5/19 Pentecost Sunday (Dress Code: Red)/Graduation Sunday (G)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Claire Mathson 5/12
Peter Gionis 5/15
Shayna Schmid 5/16
Mary Lou Wright 5/17



Next Sunday (May 19th): Pentecost Sunday/Graduation Sunday(G)

VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Ad Council members
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

Upcoming Events-Mark Your Calendar

- May 19 Pentecost Sunday/Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
- May 21 Ad Council Meeting (G)
- May 24-27 Senior Youth Retreat at Lake Lucerne Camp
- June 2 Joint Worship Service at St. Croix Falls UMC (10:30 am)
- June 7-10 Annual Conference & Pastor's Ordination
- 8/6-8/8 2024 VBS (We received a grant of \$1,000)



May 12th, 2024

John 17: 6-19

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



A Mother's Prayer

(Mother's Day & Ascension Sunday)

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Three sons left, went out on their own, and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the Mother's Day gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes-Benz with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You know how Mom enjoys the Bible, and you know she can't see very well. I sent her a brown parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks in a monastery 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for 10 years, but it was worth it. Mom just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks: "Milton," she wrote the first son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Marvin," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay home all the time, so I never use the Mercedes-Benz. And the driver is so rude!" "Dearest Melvin," she wrote to her third son, "You were the only son to have the good sense to know what your mother likes. That chicken was delicious."

Today is Mother's Day. What have you done to prepare a Mother's Day gift for your mother? And what kind of gift do you expect your children to bring to you for Mother's Day? Only once a year, on Mother's Day, I cooked a meal for my mother, made her a paper flower, and put it on her sweater. Again, I did this for her only once a year, and I received a great legacy of faith from my mother. I know it's not because I did this, but because of God's grace, which poured out on our family members, leading them to convert to Christianity. I have shared my mother's story several times. I can recall my mother every Mother's Day. After my mother's funeral service, the pastor told me that my mother never stopped praying for her children. I believe that I am here today because of my mother's prayers.

Last Monday, we had a celebration of life service for one of St. Croix Falls' long-term members. During the service, we shared a video recording that I took when she was staying at a nursing home. In the video interview, I asked her how she came to our church. She answered, "I wanted to send my boys to Sunday school, and a church member would give us a ride. So we came to the church with my boys, and they were confirmed there, and I spent most of my spare time at church joyfully, praying, singing, and working." I realized that she came to church for her boys. That's a mother's legacy of faith. I'm sure she prayed for her children every day.

I believe that most of you are here because of your mother's prayers and her legacy of faith. How easily we forget their love, care, and prayers for us. Mothers are the unsung heroes of our faith journey, nurturing us with love, instilling in us values of compassion and empathy, and

teaching us to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Theirs is a legacy of faith that transcends generations, shaping the course of history and leaving an unforgettable mark on our hearts. Let's honor the mothers in our lives—those who have nurtured us, prayed for us, and showed us the way of faith. Let us give thanks for their sacrificial love and unwavering devotion, and let us strive to emulate their example as we seek to fulfill the great commission entrusted to us by our Lord.

In today's scripture, we find a prayer uttered by Jesus himself, a prayer that echoes through the hallway of time, resonating with the essence of love, protection, and divine purpose. Right before Jesus' arrest, he knew what would happen, and he prayed to God for his people who would remain after him. He prayed, "They are mine, but all that is mine is yours. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me." Jesus recognizes the disciples as those whom the Father had given him out of the world. This acknowledgment speaks to the depth of relationship, a relationship rooted in divine love and purpose. As we celebrate Mother's Day, we are reminded of the sacrificial love, unwavering guidance, and fervent prayers of our mothers, those who have been entrusted to us by the Divine God.

Just as Jesus prayed for his disciples, our mothers have prayed for us. They have interceded on our behalf, seeking God's grace, protection, and guidance in every step of our journey. Reading this scripture, I can imagine how my mother prayed for me. As I mentioned before, her last wish was for me to "go to America, study, and become a pastor." My mother was concerned about leaving me behind in a society where discrimination against women is prevalent. Having had an encounter with an American missionary, receiving an education, and being baptized by him, she believed America would provide a good environment for me to live and minister. She may have prayed, "Father, I am no longer in the world as I am going to you. Please protect my daughter and guide her. You entrusted her to me, and now I offer her to you. She is yours." My mother's prayers have been a beacon of light, guiding me through the darkest of nights and the storms of suffering.

I believe most of you pray for your children. Remember that your prayers can bring about change in your children and grandchildren, just as Jesus' prayers transformed his disciples. His disciples were filled with fear and scattered after Jesus died on the cross, and even hid and suspended after his resurrection. However, they stood confidently in faith and courageously spread the Good News after Jesus's ascension. As Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, he did not leave them alone. He promised to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to guide them and empower them in his absence.

Just as Jesus entrusted his disciples into the Father's hands, he entrusts each one of us into the loving care of our heavenly Father. His prayer was not only for his disciples, but for all who would believe in him through their message. That includes us. We are the recipients of those prayers, the beneficiaries of his divine intercession.

Why don't you make your children and grandchildren beneficiaries of both your prayers and Jesus' prayers? Let's draw strength and inspiration from the prayers of our mothers and the promise of Christ's presence in our lives, extending it to the next generation. May we, like Jesus, be bearers of light in this world. May we, like our mothers, be vessels of love in this world! And may we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, fulfill the divine purpose for which we have been entrusted into the hands of our heavenly Father. Thanks be to God, Amen!