

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our Prayer.*

NO. 2025-03
January 19th, 2025

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

Accept our gifts, O God, because we need to give. Use our gifts to the greatest good they can accomplish here in our midst and far beyond our individual reach. We present them on thanksgiving for all you have given us and in gratitude for the privilege of sharing in your work. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

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

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2025 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Do Good and Share with Others” (Hebrews 13:16)

2nd Sunday After Epiphany/ Human Relations Day



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

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
January 19th, 2025

2nd Sunday After the Epiphany/Human Relations Day

*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

God, whose steadfast love fills the universe,
rejoices in our presence here.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

God breaks through the silence of our lives
and calls us by a new name.

**With you, O God, is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.**

God blesses us with varieties of spiritual gifts
and inspires us to use them well.

**Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God,
and your faithfulness extends to the heavens. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*
UMH 365 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Faithful and loving God, we come to the abundance of your house to drink again from the river of your delights. You inspire our gathering and equip us for living. You pour out your Spirit upon us for the common good. Meet us now, so that we may hear what you want us to hear and know what you want us to do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!

CHILDREN'S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. 9 When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“From Empty to Overflowing”* Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Lord, your presence in Jesus blessed the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. Inspire us now as you speak once more through the scriptures. Thank You for the joy and abundance You bring to our lives. Help us to trust You with our needs, obey Your call, and celebrate the transformation You bring. Fill our hearts with Your overflowing grace, and guide us to share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JANUARY CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

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| <p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM: Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p>  | <p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men & women.</p> |  <p>HEIFER INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>We will be collecting financial donations for Heifer International. Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Heifer International is working to end world hunger in 19 countries across four continents. Thank you for your generosity!</p> |
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

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| <p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p>  | <p>We will be collecting financial donations to support the Grantsburg Senior Care Center.</p>  |
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

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

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People / Rev. Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

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|---------------|-------------------------|
| Pianist | Toni Koons |
| Liturgist | Volunteer Needed |
| Acolyte(s) | Willow Nyland |
| Fellowship | Kayleen Branstad |
| Counter | Volunteer Needed |
| Cleaning | Sandra Erickson |
| Sunday School | Volunteer Needed |



Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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|-------------|---------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Kathy Gionis |
| Usher(s) | Lynn Hanson |
| Counter | Peter Gionis |
| Bell Ringer | Jim Sciacca |
| Flowers | Kathy Gionis |
| Fellowship | Admin Members |

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSAIRES

Briella Reid 1/21

Scott Andrews 2/22



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
- 2) 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
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 4) Sunday's video may be uploaded on late Sundays!
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) 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: 2nd Sunday After Epiphany/ Human Relations Sunday
God bless you!

Worship Service Schedule

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1/19: 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 |
| 1/19: 12:15 pm | Ad Council Meeting (SCF) |
| 1/21: 6:30 pm | Ad Council Meeting (G) |
| 1/22: 5:00 -6:00 pm | Go Fish for K-Up to Youth (G) |
| 1/23 10:20 am-1:30 pm | Pastor Jenny volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck |
| 1/23: 6:30-8:30 pm | Calm Psalms Group (G) |

Upcoming Events & News

*Ad Council Meetings:

Jan. 21 Central-G: at 6:30 pm

*February: Stewardship Month



2/2 Recognition of all the Church Committees

Next Sunday (January 26th):

Central -Grantsburg

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|---------------|-------------------------|
| Pianist | Toni Koons |
| Liturgist | Volunteer Needed |
| Acolyte(s) | Willow Nyland |
| Fellowship | Toni & Georgeanne Koons |
| Counter | Volunteer Needed |
| Cleaning | Sandra Erickson |
| Sunday School | Volunteer Needed |



Atlas

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Mariah Gaffey |
| Usher | Sue Olson |
| Cleaning | Volunteer Needed |
| Sunday School | Josie Grimes |

St. Croix Falls

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Kathy Gionis |
| Usher(s) | Lynn Hanson |
| Counter | Peter Gionis |
| Bell Ringer | Jim Sciacca |
| Flowers | Kathy Gionis |
| Fellowship | Admin Members |

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for: Don Anderson (healing and recovery), Karen Chris (healing), Kristy Olson (loss of her father), Christopher Olson (healing), Kaylee Branstad (loss of her mother), those struggling with addiction, and undocumented immigrants.



Praise the Lord: Thank you to those who serve in law enforcement, especially Troy Olson, Adam Morrison, Charles Wright's great-niece, and Karen and Jim Sciacca's neighbor.

"This kind can come out only by prayer." (Mark 9:29)

January 19th, 2025

John 2:1-11

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“From Empty to Overflowing”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Father O’Malley was driving down to Boston on Christmas Eve when got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest’s breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car at the church outreach event. He said, ‘Father, have you been drinking?’ ‘Only water’, replied Father O’Malley. The policeman asked, ‘Then how come I can smell wine?’ The priest looked at the bottle and said, ‘Good Lord! He’s done it again.’

In today’s scripture, we find Jesus at a wedding in Cana. Weddings are moments of celebration, joy, and community. But this story isn’t just about a miraculous provision of wine; it’s a deeper revelation of who Jesus is and what He came to do. Let’s explore the powerful truths from this passage.

The Gospel of John is structured around seven miracles, or “signs,” each chosen to reveal Jesus’ divine authority and mission. These include:

1. Turning water into wine (John 2:1-11).
2. Healing the official’s son (John 4:46-54).
3. Healing the paralyzed man at Bethesda (John 5:1-15).
4. Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-14).
5. Walking on water (John 6:16-21).
6. Healing the man born blind (John 9:1-41).
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44).

The first of these signs, turning water into wine, might seem less urgent compared to healing the sick or feeding the hungry. Yet, it holds profound meaning.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus chose this as His first miracle? To understand, we must remember His mission. Mark’s Gospel reminds us, “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Similarly, John 3:16 explains God’s purpose: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

How does a wedding relate to salvation and eternal life? Revelation 19:7-9 describes eternal life as “the wedding of the Lamb,” with Jesus as the bridegroom and faithful believers as His bride. The wedding at Cana foreshadows this heavenly celebration.

As Christians, we’ve accepted His invitation to this divine wedding. Our lives, even now, should

reflect the joy of that eternal celebration. The Apostle Paul encourages us, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Yet, if our lives feel less like a wedding feast and more like an empty banquet, we must ask: what holds us back? What “empty jars” do we need to bring to Jesus today?

The wine at Cana symbolizes more than celebration—it represents Jesus’ sacrificial love, poured out for us. Just as we remember His love through the wine and bread in communion, the abundance of wine at the wedding reminds us that life in Christ is abundant and eternal.

However, the wine ran out at the wedding party. Without wine, the celebration could not continue, and joy would give way to anxiety, worry, and challenges. Before the steward even noticed, Jesus’ mother saw the need and said to Him, “They have no wine.” Pay close attention to Jesus’ response: “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” At first, His reply might seem puzzling. Why would Jesus respond this way? Consider His perspective—He was on a divine mission. As a guest, what role could He play at the wedding? His statement reflects His awareness of timing and purpose: “What concern is that to you and to me? It is not my time yet.” Despite this, Jesus’ mother turned to the servants and said, “Do whatever He tells you.” Mary understood that Jesus was more than a guest—He was the master of the situation. She invited Him to take center stage.

Jesus then instructed the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” Without hesitation, they obeyed. Next, He said, “Take it to the chief steward.” Again, the servants followed His instructions. When the steward tasted the water, now turned into wine, he found it to be the finest wine of the celebration.

Mary’s invitation to Jesus to take the lead, combined with the servants’ obedience, paved the way for His first recorded miracle. This moment teaches us a profound truth: faith is often revealed through simple acts of obedience and an invitation to make Jesus the center of our lives.

Are you rejoicing in your life, or are you weighed down by anxieties and worries? Will you invite Jesus to be at the center of your life? Are you ready to follow His call, even when it feels unconventional or inconvenient? Remember, faith is not just belief—it’s action.

When the wine ran out, joy turned to worry. But Mary, noticing the lack, turned to Jesus and invited Him to take charge. Her faith and the servants’ obedience opened the way for a miracle.

Their simple faith led to the transformation of water into wine—the finest wine, exceeding all expectations. This miracle isn’t just about meeting needs; it’s about transformation. Jesus turns emptiness into abundance, despair into joy, and ordinary water into extraordinary wine.

The message is clear: Jesus doesn’t just fill what’s lacking—He overflows it with His grace and love. This story invites us to ask: Are we willing to invite Jesus into the center of our lives? Will we trust Him with our needs, even when His instructions seem unconventional? Are we ready to act in faith, no matter how small or simple the task?

As we reflect on the wedding at Cana, let’s remember that Jesus turns our emptiness into abundance. Trust Him with your “empty jars,” whether they represent fear, pain, or uncertainty. Respond in obedience, and let Him transform your life.

This week, think about the areas in your life or community where joy is running low. How can you invite Jesus into those spaces? Trust that He will work in ways that are both miraculous and life-changing. Thanks be to God. Amen!