

command to bring others into discipleship. Send us and our gifts on your mission, O God, and equip us by your grace to make a difference as stewards of your good news. Amen.

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

\*CLOSING HYMN     *Lord, I Want to be a Christian*  
  UMH 402 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION                                   Rev. 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)***

**Stewardship Month  
Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday**



**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**

**Rev. 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 9th, 2025**  
**Stewardship Month**  
**Souper Bowl of Caring 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 at one another)*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of God’s glory.

**We give you thanks, O God, with all our hearts  
for your steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Your name, O God, is exalted over all things,  
and your word goes forth to the ends of the earth.

**When we call to you, O God, you answer,  
and preserve our lives in the midst of trouble.**

You stretch out your hand to deliver us,  
and fulfill your purposes through us.

**We will sing of the ways of God,  
for great is the glory of God forever. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us* UMH 398 (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison

Come to us, O God, when we are discouraged and afraid. Fill us with the vision of your majesty and the reality of your care. Touch our feelings as well as our understanding, that we may walk by faith as well as by knowledge and trust in you even when the way before us is not clear. Amen!

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 5:38-42

*(NRSV, p. 5 in the NT, and p. 803 in the Living Bible)*

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

**SERMON** “Do Good and Share with Others (2)” Rev. Jenny Lee

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

Gracious God, you call us to go beyond what is required—to walk the second mile with love. Teach us to serve with joy, give without expectation, and forgive freely. When we grow weary, remind us that the second mile is where Your grace shines. May our actions reflect Your love, turning burdens into blessings and duty into devotion. Help us to live not by obligation, but by the generosity of our hearts. We pray in Jesus’ name, who walked every mile for us, 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 LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

May our offerings provide places where the voice of Jesus may be heard. May they empower those who let down the nets at Christ’s

# FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS



## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b> Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p><b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men &amp; women.</p>	 <p>We will be collecting financial donations for Heifer International &amp; Souper Bowl of Caring in February. We will also be collecting canned soup which will be donated to Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Shelf.</p> 
--	---	--



## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></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 and canned soup to support Souper Bowl of Caring. All donations will be given to the local food shelf.</p> 
---	--

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</b></p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the family in need.</p> 
--	--

Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

**Ministers** All God's People / Rev. Jenny Lee

## Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Judy Lien
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>



## Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Colleen Adams-Schween

## St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Karen Sciacca
Fellowship	Admin Members

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSAIRES**

Kathleen Gionis 2/12



## 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](http://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: Stewardship Month (Feb.), Souper Bowl Caring Sunday  
God bless you all!

## Worship Service Schedule

2/9:	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
2/12:	10:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting (G)
	5:30-7:30 pm	Youth Gathering (G)
2/13	10:30 am-1:00 pm	Pastor Jenny volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck
	6:30-8:30 pm	Calm Psalms Group (G)

## Upcoming Events & News

\*February: Stewardship Month

Ad Council Meetings:

SCF: Feb. 16; Central-G: Feb. 18; Atlas: Feb. 21



3/4: **Fat Tuesday Supper (G)**

3/5: **Ash Wednesday**

3/9: **1st Sunday in Lent**

3/11: **SPRC Meeting**

## Next Sunday (February 16th):

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>



### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson

### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Karen Sciacca
Fellowship	Admin Members



## Breakthrough Prayers:

**Please pray for:** Mikala Hammer (safe travels), Dorothy Miller (healing), Ruby Baker's family (loss of loved one), Don Anderson (strength), Beverly Finch-Trevatowsky (passed away), Darryl Dahl (healing & strength), Lynn Hanson (strength and peace), Bakey Hanson's kids, those struggling with illness and/or addiction, undocumented immigrants and the families who were affected by recent airplane and helicopter crashes.

**Praise the Lord in gratitude and joy:** Tom Fedje (going on a fish trip), Peter and Kathy Gionis (family birthday party), Jim and Karen Sciacca (family reunion) and Judy Lien (moving to a temporary house after house fire).

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



February 9th, 2025

Hebrews 13:16; Matthew 5:38-42

Rev. Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

## **“Stewardship Month: Do Good and Share with Others (2)”**

I want to start with something funny that I found an internet site: A pastor stood up on Stewardship Sunday and said, “I have good news and bad news!” “The good news is—we have all the money we need to fund the church’s ministries!” The congregation cheered. “The bad news? It’s still in your wallets.”

What if we had enough money—what would you like to do? When I attended a winter family retreat last Christmas season, I led a small group session. I gave the participants a few discussion questions to share in their groups. One of the questions was: “If you had all the necessary resources—money, people to work with, and other support—what would you like to do?” This question applied both to ministry and personal life. The most common answers were: Personally: Traveling the world. In ministry: Building a senior community (Silver Town) and expanding children’s ministry. One key takeaway from these discussions was that money is an important resource to make dreams come true.

However, let me tell you the truth: There is something even more important than money. That is love. God came into the world as Jesus Christ because of love. Jesus became an example for all humanity because of love. Jesus died on the cross and rose again because of love. Today, we are here before God because of God’s love. Is there anything greater than the love of God?

We observe February as Stewardship Month. The word “Stewardship” is often misunderstood as being only about “money.” When we hear it, our minds immediately go to tithes, offerings, and finances. But stewardship is not about money. It is about “love.”

God created all things in love and entrusted all things to humans in love. We are called to care for and manage all that God has given us with love. Stewardship, at its core, is our response to God’s love. If you have ever thought of stewardship as only financial giving, I encourage you to see it differently: stewardship is love in action.

The love-call of God to us in 2025 is found in Hebrews 13:16: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, taught three simple rules that Christians should follow in everyday life: “Do Good, Do No Harm, and Stay in Love with God.” I know that many of you really already live out these principles in your daily lives. But today, I want to challenge you to step into the second mile as part of your New Year’s resolution.

In today’s scripture, Jesus teaches us: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone

who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38-42, NRSV). This passage, part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, challenges His followers to live with radical grace, generosity, and love, going beyond what is expected.

“Do Good” is not passive act. It requires active generosity. Let’s look again at Jesus’ words: If someone strikes you on the right cheek—turn the other. If someone sues you for your coat—give your cloak too. If someone forces you to walk one mile—go two. Give to those who beg; do not refuse those who ask. Jesus is calling us to a life of radical generosity—to give freely, serve joyfully, and love extravagantly.

In Israel under Roman rule, there was a law: if a Roman soldier commanded someone to carry their burden, that person was required to go one mile. It was an unfair and oppressive law for the Israelites. But Jesus said, “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two” (Matthew 5:41). This means we do good not out of obligation or duty, but out of love.

I want to share a story about “the second mile.” It was a hot afternoon in Judea. The sun blazed down on the dusty road, and the crowd barely noticed the Roman soldier standing at the gate. His armor gleamed, his spear rested at his side, and his eyes scanned the people passing by. Then, his gaze landed on a young Jewish man—perhaps in his twenties—carrying a bundle of wood. The soldier stepped forward, and barked, “You! Carry my pack.” The young man had no choice. Roman law required any citizen to carry a soldier’s pack for one mile.

The burden was heavy, the leather straps rough against his skin. He hated the Romans. Their rule was oppressive, their taxes unbearable. And yet, here he was, carrying the pack of the very people who made his life harder. He knew the rule: One mile. No more. But as they reached the mile marker, something surprising happened. Instead of dropping the pack and walking away, the young man smiled and said, “I’ll carry it another mile.” The soldier stopped in his tracks. No one did that. No one went the second mile.

As they walked on, the soldier grew uneasy. Finally, he asked, “Why are you doing this?” The young man smiled. “Because my Rabbi taught me to.” The soldier frowned. “Who is your Rabbi?” And the young man shared the teachings of Jesus—about love, grace, and a kingdom where enemies become friends.

That second mile wasn’t just about carrying a heavy pack. It was about carrying the love of God where no one expected it to go. The second mile isn’t just about doing extra work—it’s about showing the world a different way to live. It’s forgiving when we don’t have to. It’s serving when no one is watching. It’s loving even when it’s inconvenient. This is the way of Jesus—the way of the second mile.

As we begin Stewardship Month, let us remember: Stewardship is not about money—it’s about love. God calls us to do good and share what we have. Following Jesus means going the second mile—not just fulfilling obligations, but giving with a heart of love.

So, I ask you again: What will you do with the resources God has given you? Will you walk the second mile in 2025? Those who have already walked the second mile in love of God and love of neighbor, let’s step even further than before. And for those who are taking it step by step in the teachings of Jesus, why not begin stepping into the second mile of love? Do not turn away when you see those in need—give with a generous heart. If you only love those who love you, how are you any different from non-Christians? As followers of Jesus, let us strive to love even those who stand against us. That is the stewardship mindset of God. May we be faithful stewards of God’s blessings—not just in what we give, but in how we love, serve, and live.

Thanks be to God. Amen!