

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
February 15th, 2026
“Stewardship Month”
“Transfiguration 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

Come to the mountaintop, all God’s people;
leave all else behind to reach out to the Eternal.

**How shall we climb the mountain when we cannot walk
or reach spiritual heights while weighed down with cares?**

In Christ, God brings the mountaintop to us
and meets us, even in the depths of despair.

**We see a lamp shining in a dark place,
and the morning star rises in our hearts.**

Pay attention to the signs through which God speaks;
for those with discernment, they are everywhere.

**The dazzling splendor of God’s glory is real,
even to those who have no eyes.**

Like a devouring fire, the Spirit sweeps through our midst,
and we are transformed in its glow.

**Let us come without fear or thoughts of favor,
opening ourselves to all God has in store for us. Amen.**

***DEDICATING HYMN** *His Name Is Wonderful* **UMH 174**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and glorious God, on this Transfiguration Sunday we
come before you, longing to see you more clearly. As you revealed
your glory to the disciples on the mountaintop, reveal your

presence among us today. Transform our hearts, our vision, and
our worship. Lift us from distraction into holy attentiveness, and
prepare us to listen for your beloved Son. May your radiant love
guide us as we worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 9:28-36

(NRSV, p.69-70 in the New Testament, and p. 872 in the Living Bible)

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

SERMON *“When God’s Glory Changes How We See”*

(Stewards of God’s Grace #3) **Rev. Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, we thank You for revealing Your glory to us. May
Your presence guide our vision, our hearts, and our hands. Help us to
steward the gifts You have entrusted to us with love and faithfulness.
May we live each day reflecting Your glory in our giving, serving, and
living. We pray in Christ’s 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!

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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




***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

FEBRUARY CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<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>Suggested donation items: Spaghetti sauce, macaroni, peanut butter, pasta and rice. Please leave them in the basket at the front of the church!</p> 	<p>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING</p> <p>The idea is simple but powerful: SMALL GIFTS, BIG IMPACT. We will be collecting cans of soup and financial donations in February to support our local food shelf.</p>  <p>Thank you for your kindness and generosity!</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 Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on February 8th, coinciding with Super Bowl Sunday, and aims to support local food charities through community involvement.</p> <p>We will be collecting cans of soup and financial donations that will go to our local food shelf in February. Thank you for your support!</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf</p> <p>(Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>The Sailor Hat offering will go to help a local church family with medical expenses.</p> 
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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	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Peyton Smallwood	2/17
Betty Wilson	2/18
Dani Tooze	2/19
Debra Kunze	2/19
Mark Nelson	2/19
Landon Olson	2/20



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Live Zoom service will be at 9:00 am through the Grantsburg-Central Service.**
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail (if requested) and email.
Please note that we send you the weekly **USCP Weekly E-News with Photos & Sunday Worship Materials through 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/Transfiguration Sunday!
May God bless you!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

2/15:	9:00 am	Central UMC - Grantsburg (with Live Zoom)
	10:00 am	Atlas UMC (10:15 am-Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls UMC
2/15:	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
	7:00-9:00 pm	Musical Performance at Grantsburg Highschool Auditorium
2/16:	8:00 pm	Harmony Choir Board Meeting via Zoom
2/17:	2:00 pm	GWWT will sing at CCC
	6:30 pm	SPRC Meeting via Zoom
2/18:	4:00-5:00 pm	Go Fish (G)
	5:00 pm	VBS Staff Meeting
2/19:	10:30 am -1:00 pm	Pastor Jenny volunteers at Loaves and Fishes in Luck
2/20:	4:30-6:30 pm	Family Game Night (G)

Upcoming Events & News

February: Stewardship Month

- 2/15: The First Sunday in Lent (Purple) "Ash Sunday"
2/24: Ministry Task Force Team meeting (G)

2026 Lenten Bible Study: Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross by Susan Robb, on Thursdays at 5:30 pm with Soup Supper (2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 and 4/2) at St. Croix Falls UMC and via Zoom. Register with Pastor Jenny by February 15th.

Next Sunday (February 22nd):

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please Pray For: Julie Branstad (Donna's family, who died in a house fire); Toni Koons (Georgeanne and her friend, Michelle); Charles Wright (John Elmgren, who has passed away); Deb and Russ Hammer (safe travels); Sharon Asp (loss of granddaughter); Lee Frederickson (Paul, great-grandson's healing and recovery); Kay Lamphere (healing); Barbara Loomis (Jim's recovery); Karen Sciacca (Wendy's healing and recovery); Julie Branstad (Sally Aldorfer's healing and recovery).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Jasper Sylvester (sister April's new baby), Lynn Hanson (birthday celebration for her grandchildren).

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



February 15th, 2026
Luke 9:28–36

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



**“When God’s Glory Changes How We See”
(Stewards of God’s Grace #3)**

I want to start with something funny that I found an internet site: A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, “Boys and girls, what do we know about God?” A hand shot up in the air. “He is an artist!” said the kindergarten boy. “Really? How do you know?” the teacher asked. “You know we pray— Our Father, who does art in Heaven...”

We often begin our prayers with “Heavenly Father.” But this doesn’t mean God the Father dwells only in heaven. When we pray to “Our Father in heaven,” we are reminded that God is both holy and all-powerful, yet intimately close to us. Heaven is not just a place above—it is a symbol of His perfect rule and loving presence in our lives. In other words, God the Father is present everywhere.

You know how some mornings, before your first cup of coffee, everything looks blurry and confusing? I am a coffee drinker. Every morning, I have a cup to wake up my mind and body, and late at night, I have a cup to calm my mind and body so I can be ready for sleep. Perhaps the disciples felt a bit like that on the mountain—except instead of caffeine, they needed the clarity of God’s glory to see what was really happening.

Today, we gather on this Transfiguration Sunday to hear the story of Jesus shining in glory on the mountaintop. Picture it with me: Peter, James, and John climbing the mountain with Jesus. They are tired, perhaps weighed down by worries and the ordinary routines of ministry. Maybe they were still thinking about Jesus’ earlier words about his death, suffering, and resurrection, or about their next schedule—what towns they would visit, whom they would heal, and how they would share the Good News. It’s like when we are in worship, our minds can still wander to our next schedule or concerns about our family.

When they finally reach the mountaintop, they begin to pray. And then it happens—Jesus’ face shines, his clothes gleam bright white, and suddenly everything they thought they knew is bathed in God’s light. Mountaintop moments are like this: moments when God’s presence becomes undeniable, when clarity breaks through confusion, when our perspective is transformed, when long-held prayers are answered, and when we experience that “aha” realization of how God is at work. These are the moments that change how we see ourselves, one another, and the gifts God has entrusted to us.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that the disciples were in awe—they were seeing Jesus fully revealed. And in that awe, their vision changed. Life was no longer measured by the ordinary things that often weigh us down, but by the reality of God’s kingdom.

Stewardship is much the same. It’s not just about money, programs, or church projects. It’s about how we live as caretakers of God’s gifts—time, talents, relationships, and resources. When we truly see God, our priorities shift. What seemed urgent may fade; what was overlooked may now matter greatly. Giving, serving, leading—all of these become acts of worship when they flow from seeing God clearly.

I want to share my own mountaintop moment. In 2001, I climbed a mountain in Korea, a place set aside for prayer, during a time when I had just lost my mother unexpectedly. I was overwhelmed by grief and depression. At the time, I had been serving as a pastor in a new church

for six years and running a preschool for five years after graduating from seminary. But suddenly, this devastating loss struck our family.

I went up to that mountain carrying my grief, fasting for 40 days, seeking to confirm that God is the living God and to reaffirm my calling. I also wanted to honor my mother's last wish—to "go to America to become a pastor"—if it was indeed God's will. In that moment, I recalled how God had worked in my life—rescuing me when I was in danger of death and healing me when I could not walk. I confessed that whether I live or die, I would live and die in Jesus Christ, who had given me the gift of life and the grace to steward God's gifts. Coming down from that mountain, I felt renewed and ready to continue my journey in ministry, prepared to follow wherever God would lead me next.

Mountaintops are not where we live—they are moments of vision, not a permanent home. The disciples came down from the mountain and returned to ordinary life, changed forever.

The moments of mountaintop change us. They reshape how we see ourselves, how we see one another, and how we understand the gifts God has entrusted to us.

That is what happens on the Mount of Transfiguration. The disciples glimpse Jesus in radiant glory and see who he truly is as they pray. As Peter says, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Yes, they want to stay—build tents, hold onto the moment, and preserve the holy experience.

But Jesus does not stay on the mountain. He leads them back down—back into the valley, back into ordinary life, back into real needs and real decisions. The mountaintop is not the destination; it is the revelation that prepares us for faithful living below. It is like the moment of pray right before the big discission-making; affirming moment of God's grace.

Stewardship is what that looks like in the valley. It is living out the vision we receive on the mountain—faithfully, practically, day by day. Jesus may have wanted to show his disciples the vision of God's glory before his crucifixion. They likely needed that holy experience to understand and confirm God's plan before facing the terrifying reality of Jesus' death on the cross.

We see this in our own ministry. As you may remember, the Grantsburg church faced a real and pressing need: repairing multiple furnaces with funds that were not sufficient. There was uncertainty. There were questions. But instead of turning away, the congregation stepped forward in faith. A clear goal was set. A generous matching fund was offered. The church was invited not only to give, but also to pray. And together—by God's grace—we reached the \$12,000 goal.

That wasn't a flashy miracle. It was faithful stewardship. It was people carrying a mountaintop vision of trust in God into the valley of real responsibility. And God was glorified—not just on the mountain, but in the faithful steps taken afterward.

This is the call of the Transfiguration: to see Christ clearly, to listen deeply, and then to go down the mountain—ready to serve, ready to steward, ready to live transformed lives.

God calls us to steward what we have, not as owners, but as faithful caretakers. The mountaintop experience shows us God's glory—it shapes our priorities, our generosity, and our service. As you leave today, may you go down into your ordinary life transformed by this vision.

Thanks be to God. Amen!