

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 3rd, 2026
“5th Sunday of Easter”

*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**

Look up and see the heavens open to us;
sense the mystery of God’s presence with us.

It is our custom to gather, so that God may uplift us;

God is our refuge, in whom we trust.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid;
celebrate the good news: Christ is risen.

We will not fear losses or suffering;
we are raised with Christ to a new life.

Come to Christ, the living stone, rejected by many.
Come to Christ, chosen by God, and precious to us.

We rejoice in God’s steadfast love.

We are glad for God’s faithfulness that redeems us. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Only Trust Him* **UMH 337 (vs. 1 & 2)**

OPENING PRAYER **Unison**

Loving and gracious God, we gather in Your presence with thankful hearts. You are the One we trust, even when we cannot see. Calm our anxious minds and open our hearts to Your Word. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may hear Your voice and follow Your way. Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us. Guide our worship, shape our lives, and be glorified in all we do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION
CONFESSION AND PARDON **Unison**

Rev. Jenny Lee

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(prayers in Silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ,

We are forgiven!

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14 (or See insert)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SHARING THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

TFWS 2260

COMMUNION PRAYER **Unison**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 14:1-14

(NRSV, p. 108-109 in the New Testament, and p. in the Living Bible)

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

“Faith You Can’t See, Love You Can Show”

Rev. Jenny Lee

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Gracious God, we believe in You even when we cannot see. Strengthen our trust in Jesus and calm our troubled hearts. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may love one another as Christ has loved us. Help us live out our faith through our actions, so others may see Your grace in us. Teach us to pray with confidence, to serve with compassion, and to reflect Your love in all we do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

PRAYER SONG

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

UMH 487

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Gracious and generous God, all that we have comes from You. With thankful hearts, we bring these gifts as an offering of our love and trust. Receive them, we pray, and use them for Your work in the world. Multiply what we give, that it may bring hope, healing, and the good news of Christ to many. Shape our hearts to be generous in all we do, and teach us to serve with joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Jesus Is All the World to Me* UMH 469 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jenny Lee

***POSTLUDE**

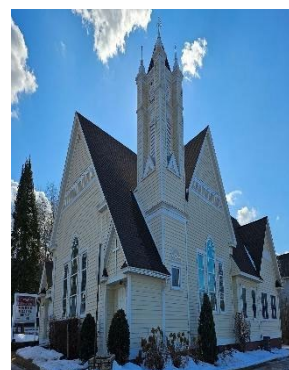
Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Worship resource "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler

 **Upper St. Croix Parish
United Methodist Church**

The 2026 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Sent to Serve, Sent in Love" (Micah 6:8)

"5th Sunday of Easter"



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICES:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg (with Zoom Service)

(9:10 AM, Children's Time)

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

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>

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his
disciples, and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it
to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on
these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and
blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.**


By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy
Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

MAY CHURCH MISSIONS

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>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>Heifer International</p> <p>Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For 80 years, Heifer has been working to empower impoverished families by providing them with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Your donation will help us provide small-scale farmers and communities worldwide with livestock, training, and related services to create sustainable solutions to poverty and hunger. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED. Please see the May newsletter or Mission bulletin board for more details. Thank you!</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!</p> <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program".</p> 	<p>We will be collecting supplies and or financial donations for CRA. Community Referral Agency (CRA) provides safe shelter, advocacy, and support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children, helping them rebuild their lives. Current needs: Shelf stable milk, juice, coffee sugar, pickles, ketchup, hot dogs, Hamburger Helper or one box meals, size 6 & 7 diapers, Tampons, sanitary pads, bath towels, sweat pants L & XL, bleach, Lysol Wipes, Lysol spray, liquid laundry soap, deodorant (Men & Women's), dish soap, kitchen garbage bags, Mr. Erasers, postage stamps, 9-volt batteries.</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 support the St. Croix Falls Food Shelf.</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	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson



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)	Lynn Hanson
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Women of the church

Prayers: (From 4/12)



Please Pray For: Deb Hammer (Peace over the world), Kayleen Branstad (Giacomo's father Steve's health), Barbara Loomis (strength), Sandra Erickson (Husband Jeff and son Mike), Sally Aldorfer (continuing care), Karen Sciacca (Wendy passed away), Peter and Kathy Gionis (safe trip), Cheryl Olson (friend LuAnn lost loved one), Lynn Hanson (grandson A J and great-granddaughter Eliana), Betty Doolittle (three cousins passed away), Sharon Asp (friend Jen), Jim Andrews (brothers Joe and Jared).

Praise the Lord with Joy and Gratitude: Thank you, Lord!
Cheryl Olson (Darlyne Jorgensen's thank you card to Sunday School), Sharon Asp (new grandchildren).

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

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: Communion Sunday/Fifth Sunday of Easter
Happy Easter!

Worship Service and A Week Schedule

5/3:	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
5/4-5/5:		Spring Provisional Elder workshop at Pine Lake Camp
5/6:	6:00-8:30 pm	Youth Worship Night at Woodlake Camp (G)
5/8:	10:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
5/10:		Mother's Day Sunday/Last Day of Sunday School

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

LuAnne Martell	5/3
Kaelyn Richter	5/4
Ashleigh Olson	5/4
Colleen Norenberg	5/4
Casper Rahkola	5/7



Next Sunday (May 10th):

Central -Grantsburg

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

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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



Upcoming Events & News

5/3: SPECIAL OFFERING: We encourage you to give a special offering for a safety doorbell for the pastor's parsonage and office. (Hardware: \$168.71; annual plan: \$105.48.)

Bible Reading Challenge: Please pick up the Bible Reading Planner card!

Pulpit Supplies: April 26-Sharon Asp (G), Kathy Gionis (A & SCF)

5/4-5/5: Spring Provisional Elder workshop at Pine Lake Camp

May 10th: Mother's Day Sunday

May 31st: Joint Worship Service & Lunch at St. Croix Falls UMC

Thank you for your ministry!

May 3rd, 2026
John 14:1-14

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



“Faith You Can’t See, Love You Can Show”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site. A college student was in a philosophy class where a discussion about whether God exists was in progress. The professor presented the following logic: “Has anyone in this class seen God?” Nobody spoke. “Has anyone in this class touched God?” Again, nobody spoke. “Has anyone in this class ever heard God?” When nobody responded for the third time, he concluded, “Then there is no God!”

One of the students did not like the sound of this and asked for permission to speak. The professor granted it, and the student stood up. “Has anyone in this class seen our professor’s brain?” he asked.

We Christians believe in God, whom we cannot see. We believe in Jesus Christ, whom none of us here has seen, because he died on the cross more than 2,000 years ago. We also believe in the Holy Spirit, whom we cannot see, but who is with us. It may sound strange, but it is true. Even the disciples of Jesus, who learned directly from him, were confused at first. But later they came to understand and wrote down the truth. That is the Bible we have today. Therefore, we trust in the Bible, and through it we come to know God, even though we cannot see Him. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29). Yes, we are blessed!

Today’s scripture is part of Jesus’ final discourse, like a farewell speech. Jesus knew the path he was about to take, and he was concerned about his disciples, who might tremble with fear after he left. He said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” Whenever I read this passage, I recall my mother’s final moments. Sometimes I wonder what my mother really wanted me to know at the end of her life. She told me, “When you were in the hospital with no hope of walking again because of your broken spine, I did not know what to do. I believed the only thing I could do was pray to God. I promised God that I would dedicate you in my prayers if He would heal you. You would become a good pastor and serve around the world, so please go to America. I worry about how you will go this way.”

At that time, I did not fully understand what my mother meant. I tried to stop her from talking so she could save her energy. I wondered why she spoke so much about me and worried about me, rather than about herself. Later, I realized that it was the last moment she could speak to me. She perhaps knew something at that moment that I did not know.

I wonder, in your final moment, what you would want your loved ones to know? Our Savior Jesus truly wanted his beloved disciples to know how much he loved them. So he told them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” In other words, Jesus was saying, “Even if you face difficult moments, do not be afraid. Trust in me, because I will be with you.” It sounds like what our parents often say to us. Yes, he is like a father and mother who always care for our safety and our growth in God.

Jesus also said, “You know the way to the place where I am going.” However, the disciples were confused. Thomas asked him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Yes, we know God through Jesus—through his teachings and through his love, shown when he laid down his life for us. We come to know and believe in God through the Scriptures, even though we cannot see Him. The Scriptures are the Word of God, “God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

If you are still unsure whether God exists, I invite you to read the Bible. The Scriptures testify that God exists and that God loves us.

Jesus said, “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.” We know it is not easy to believe in someone we have never seen or experienced. So it is also difficult to invite others to believe in God in our daily lives. Even though many people saw Jesus’ miracles, only a few truly believed in him and followed him.

However, there is a way we can invite others to believe in Jesus and God the Father: by loving one another. Jesus says, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34–35, NIV). Through the lives of those who believe in Jesus—through their love in action—others may come to know him.

I’m not sure if I’ve shared this with you before: When I was in the hospital, my mother brought her pastor and members of her church to pray for me. After they prayed, they gave me a Bible and told me that if I read it, I could walk again. But I threw the Bible back at the pastor and the church members because I didn’t believe it. However, much later, I began to read the Bible. And in time, by the grace of God, I was able to walk again. Yes, I believe in God because I have experienced Him. Later, after I became a pastor, friends and people around me said to me, “I believe in God because I saw your life.” Yes, we can invite our loved ones to Christ through our actions.

Jesus also told his disciples something very important: “The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.” What kind of works did Jesus do? When you think of Jesus’ works, you might imagine miracles—raising the dead, healing the sick, feeding the five thousand, turning water into wine, or walking on water. Others may think of his teachings—the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, the Sermon on the Mount, the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission. Still others may think of his love—that he loved his people to the very end and laid down his life to save them.

The Gospel of John says, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). I believe that the work Jesus did—and the greater work he calls us to do—is to love God and love our neighbors with all our heart, mind, and soul. Love is what Jesus taught through his words, demonstrated through his actions, and commanded us to live out. As Christians, we follow Jesus not only in belief but also in action. Even though we cannot see God, we can show God’s love to others through our deeds—through mission work both locally and globally. Many people will recognize that we are Christians by our actions. The First Letter of John says, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence” (1 John 3:18–19).

Jesus also said, “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” What a powerful promise! Imagine having someone who grants whatever you ask—what a blessing that would be! Do you have someone who always listens to you? Even among our loved ones, it is not always easy to be fully heard. That is why Jesus’ love is greater than any human love.

In Korean society, there is something called a “black card.” It is a type of credit card that allows you to purchase almost anything—an unlimited card, usually reserved for the wealthiest people. When I was a student pastor at a rural church in Korea, I encountered something like this. I was serving in education ministry. One day, the president of the Sunday school handed me his black card and said, “Use this for whatever you need in your ministry.” I was surprised and asked, “Do you really trust me to use your card?” He replied, “Yes, I trust you because you are God’s servant.” When someone trusts you like that, it becomes a great encouragement to move forward in your work. In a similar way, when Jesus says, “I will do whatever you ask,” it reveals his trust in us and his love for us. It is as if he has given us a “black card” of grace.

What about you? Do you trust in Jesus? If you trust in him, bring your needs to him in prayer and see how he responds with love and faithfulness. Ask in his name, experience his grace, and show others how much you love them—and how much Jesus loves them as well.

Thanks be to God. Amen.