

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of all nations, we come to your word. It challenges our previous assumptions and calls for undivided attention. May we find in these lessons your purposes for us and the love that moves us toward realization of your will. Lead us to love one another as we are a family in the body of Christ. Guide us to act in faith as your will. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

O God, we bring our outpouring of thanksgiving and the products of our labor to you. Also we offer our talents and gifts for your kingdom and our families in the love of Jesus Christ. May our offerings and our service bring glory to your name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***HYMN** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

TFWS 2223 (vs. 1 & 4)

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
June 6th, 2021
“Second Sunday after Pentecost”



The United Methodist Church

8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

10:00 AM at Atlas Park

11:30 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

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St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

Atlas UMC: PO Box 254, Luck, WI 54853

Grantsburg-Central UMC: PO Box 128, Grantsburg, WI 54840

St. Croix Falls UMC: PO Box 458, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

13. This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries:

*If we miss your birthday, please let us know by email or phone call: centralumc2016@gmail.com / 715-463-2624

Charlie Olson 6/7

Rod Dahl 6/9



***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 3:20-35

20 and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." 23 And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

28 "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." 33 And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.)

(You may hold the communion elements with your two hands.)

(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.

Announcements (Insert) June 6th, 2021

1. Today is “Second Sunday after Pentecost.” May God’s Living Spirit be with you!
2. Sunday Service time: At 8:30 am in Grantsburg-Central, and 10 am in Atlas Park (You may bring your lawn chair if you want to sit outside of your vehicles.), and **11:30 am in St. Croix Falls**. Zoom service will be at 8:30 am.

**Please notice that we should use the same safety protocol wearing facial masks and keep social distance.*

3. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- Grantsburg-Central has signup sheets for volunteers at the back of sanctuary. We need ushers as well. If you are able to be an usher for both churches, please let Pastor Jenny know.

Grantsburg: Liturgist

This Sunday (6/6): Mark Nelson, next Sunday (6/13): LuAnne Martell

Atlas Park: Liturgist

This Sunday (6/6): Sue Olson, next Sunday (6/13): Sue Olson

St. Croix Falls: Liturgist

This Sunday (6/6): Karen Sciacca

4. Ad Council members of Grantsburg will meet with DS Rev. Barb Certa-Werner at 6:30 on June 10th in the church.
5. UMM will meet at 8am on June 12th in Grantsburg (not requiring facial masks).
6. Pastor Jenny’s office hours and schedule for this week: Grantsburg is 9 am to 5pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and St. Croix Falls is from 11 am to 4 pm.
 - June 10 at 9-10 am North West District Clergy meeting via Zoom.
7. We do “**Tablet Ministry**” for those who don’t have a computer and internet at home. Please let Pastor Jenny know if you need a tablet to view the service’s video clip, or to make a connection to the Live service.
8. An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. Here is the Zoom service LINK. **This link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.** The link will be the same in June.

Topic: Sunday Zoom Service in June

Time: Jun 6, 2021 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87930509037?pwd=c1pWTHVLUIFnVHhUZC81VXdPTk4yZz09>

**Please notice that it works only when the host opens it at service time on Sunday. When you check the other time, it doesn’t work.*

- If you are attending the Zoom service for the first time, you may be asked to download the Zoom app. It is free and you will need it.
- If you want to join from your smartphone with video, click the link.
- If you want to dial the number without video, you may dial the number below and enter the meeting ID and passcode.

Phone: +1 312 626 6799,

Meeting ID: 879 3050 9037, Passcode: 257400

Any questions regarding technological issues of the service, contact Pastor Jenny.

9. You can hear “**the service (the scripture lesson, song, sermon and prayer-about 30 minutes) by phone**” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854. We will upload a new one every Sunday afternoon.
10. If you miss a Sunday service, you may view a video clip on Facebook or use materials (mailed, emailed or on the Parish website) for a home service. **We have the link to our parish Facebook page on the homepage of our website. New clips will be uploaded every Sunday afternoon.**
11. **We no longer use the conference call for Sunday service.**
12. You may want to send your giving (offerings) to your church. If you have any questions regarding services or offerings, please email the church office at: centralumc2016@gmail.com.

You may send your giving (offering) to the church at the address listed below (***Please make your check payable to your individual church’s name.***)



June 6th, 2021
Mark 3:20-35

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

“What Makes a True Family?”

I want to start with a funny story. One day Adam was feeling very lonely. God said, “Adam, I’m going to make you a companion who would be called “a woman.” This person will cook for you, wash your clothes, and bear your children. She will never ask you to get up in the middle of the night. She will always agree with you. If you do disagree, she would be the first to admit you that she was wrong.” Adam said, “Wow, God, what do you think this woman will cost?” God said, “It will cost you an arm and leg.” Adam said, “What can I get for just a rib?” And the rest is history.

Today, I want to talk about “What makes a true family?” According to the dictionary, “Families or households simply mean the people who live together in a house are the primary social and economic units” However, I wonder if we can only call it a family if they live together in a house? As Adam asked God in the story I just shared, do you think we can get a family if we only want to give a little of ourselves? A true family is not made accessible. Instead, it is made through costly values, such as loving each other, caring of each other, and trusting each other.

In Korea, “family” means “people who eat meals together.” When I was a child, I grew up in an extended family. I lived with my grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters. However, my parents and siblings moved out of my grandparents’ house when I was a teenager. According to the Korean meaning of “family,” my grandparents, uncles and aunts might not be my family, but just my relatives, because they didn’t eat meals with me anymore. What about my siblings? My siblings married, and each of them has their own households now. They didn’t eat meals with me. Do you think they are not my family anymore?

Nowadays, very few people live in a larger family. Living in nuclear family units is becoming more common. I guess most of you would also be considered a nuclear family. Do you think your children are not your family anymore because they live separately from you? Perhaps, some of you think about family as blood-kinship. Some of you think of family as “households.” Did you ever hear about a “Christian family,” “Community family,” or “Church family”? You know what I’m talking about. The paradigm of the family is changing. I tell you the truth. Actually, it was Jesus who told us already in the first century.

In today’s scripture, Jesus tells people about a new paradigm of family, “a new definition of family.” When people said to Jesus that his family called him from outside the crowded building, Jesus said with a shocking statement. “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And, looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Whoever does the will of God are my brother and sister and mother.”

Here is the background of this story. After Jesus called his twelve disciples, he got busy with his ministry. He was busy healing the sick, driving evil spirits out from the evil-possessed, and teaching people about the kingdom of God. He went home, and the crowd came together again so that they couldn’t even eat food. When his family heard, they went out to restrain him

because people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” In addition, Jesus said, “who are my mother and brothers? Here are my mother, brother, and sister.” His family, who heard that Jesus is out of mind, perhaps might think that he was indeed crazy.

If one of your family members works hard without eating anything, especially working in church ministry without eating and sleeping, what do you think of him/her? When my father and I didn't believe in God yet, my mother believed in God and attended the church program, especially Methodist Women's activities (it's like UMW). My mother's priority was church ministry instead of preparing food for our family. At that time, my father used to say, “Your mother is crazy for the church.” My father and I couldn't understand my mother, thinking about a wife, and a mother's first duty was to prepare for her husband and her children's meals. I know that's a selfish idea, my father were self-centered and never understood who she was with regards to her dignity and ministry at that time.

Like this, Jesus' family and the crowd perhaps, couldn't understand who Jesus really was. Jesus was the first-born son who had a responsibility to care for family affairs in that society. Perhaps, Jesus' family and relatives were disappointed that the first-born son wasn't supporting his family. Instead, he was hanging around Galilee with many people as the self-appointed prophet. Since he began his public ministry, his priority was to do the will of God. The religious leaders concluded he was possessed by Satan. His family assumed he had lost his mind. He seemed not to care for his family and to not eat food because he was too busy working for the ministry. That's why his family came and called him from outside to take control of him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” I guess that Jesus' whole family came to take him back home. Perhaps, they worried that Jesus was really out of mind. But Jesus replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” and looking at the people around him, “here are my mother and my brothers!” Perhaps, everyone thought of him as crazy. However, pay attention to the next word, “whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” What do you think about that?

Through today's scripture, Jesus redefines the criteria for who constitutes his true family. Jesus claims what it might mean to belong to other people. He claims the identity of the family. Jesus speaks to deeply embedded cultural assumptions with a proclamation that his true family is not by blood relations or kinship ties but by doing “the will of God.” What is the will of God? In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “This is indeed the will of my Father [God], that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life” (John 6:40a). Namely, the will of God might be that all nations believe in Jesus and are saved in faith. Furthermore, it might be that all nations become a family in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we might be a family by God's grace as we are saved in faith through Jesus Christ. To be a family with others in Jesus Christ our Lord, we always think of the will of God. The Letter of Romans says, “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect”. (Romans 12:2)

The prophet Micah says, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8b). A true family is a community of love, which is to care for one another in the love of Jesus Christ. We are a family in the love of Jesus Christ. Let us care for one another. Respect one another. Love one another and walk humbly with God. Thanks be to God. Amen!