

revitalizers with a missionary mindset within and beyond the church. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER
PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison
Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Establish your rule in our midst so we may proclaim your reign in the world. Send us where you need us most. Use our gifts and talents to build your church and community. Guide us to live as sisters and brothers who find you in one another and respond in love to each other's needs. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

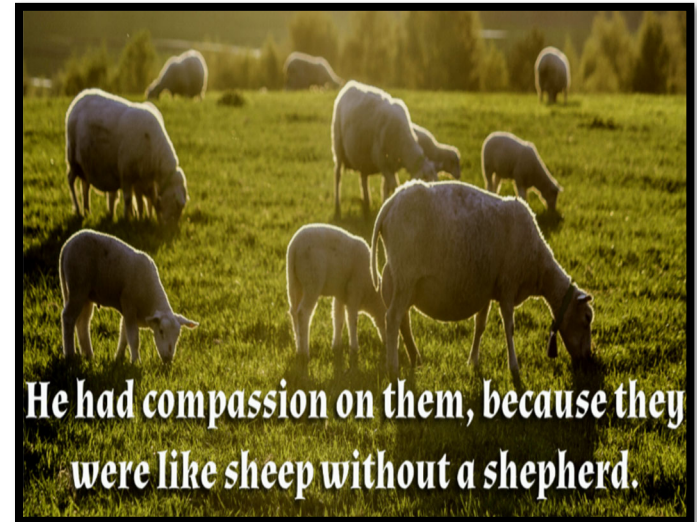
*CLOSING HYMN *I Surrender All* UMH 354 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
July 18th, 2021
"Eighth Sunday after Pentecost"



The United Methodist Church

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

9:45 AM at Atlas

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 – centralumc2016@gmail.com

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
July 18th, 2021

“Eighth Sunday after Pentecost”

* Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you!”

(Wave your hands!)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive**

Come away and rest for a while.

Leave behind your busyness to be fully present to God.

We have come for relief from life’s turmoil.

God gathers us as a shepherd gathers her sheep.

God’s steadfast love surrounds us here.

We are reminded of God’s enduring faithfulness.

This is God’s house, and we are God’s children.

God invites us to feel at home in this place.

We have a covenant with our Creator.

This is a time for renewal of our promises.

God calls for righteousness and justice.

God offers us goodness and mercy all our days. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Hope of the World

UMH 178 (vs. 1 & 5)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Rock of our salvation, we have accepted the invitation of Jesus to gather as your beloved people. We have been far away from you in our thoughts and separated from you in much that we do. Now we are together, seeking reconciliation with you and one another. We call on your steadfast love for assurance and healing. We feel your compassion for us and for all your children. We sense your longing for our wholeness and renewed faith and trust. You call us

to be saints and apostles and prophets. So, we are here before you. use us as you want. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, 55 and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Jesus Christ is the Only Hope!”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Healing God, we have sought your touch for healing, renewing and reconciling. Your compassion has surrounded us like a good shepherd’s care for wandering sheep. O God, lead us once more to the dimensions of wholeness that can restore us to faithful living and revitalizing service. May we become reconcilers and

Announcements (Insert) July 18th, 2021

1. Today is “Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.” May God bless you and your family!
2. Sunday Service times: At 8:30 am in Grantsburg-Central, and 9:45 am in Atlas, and at 11:15 am in St. Croix falls. Zoom service will be at 8:30 am.
3. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- You may find signup sheets for volunteers at the back of the sanctuary.
Grantsburg: Liturgist
This Sunday (7/18): Mark Nelson
Sunday (7/25): Volunteer needed

Atlas: Liturgist
This Sunday (7/18): Sue Olson,
Sunday (7/25): Volunteer needed

St. Croix Falls: Liturgist
This Sunday (7/18): Kathy Gionis,
Sunday (7/25): Karen Sciacca
4. Missions in July:
Grantsburg: Collecting the school supplies (*Questions to Deb Hammer. 715-463-4309*)
Atlas: Collecting the School supplies (*Questions to Sue Olson: 715-554-3126*)
St. Croix Falls: Supporting Harbor House/ Bolivia Mission (*Questions to Karen Sciacca: 715-338-1865*)
5. The deadline for the August Newsletter is at 10 am on July 20th (Tuesday). Please send information you would like to post on the newsletter to Colleen Norenberg (Parish Secretary).
6. Pastor Jenny has a zoom meeting regarding the provisional elder from 9am to noon on July 20th.
7. Administrative Council meetings: Central-Grantsburg will be held at 6:30 pm on July 20th.
8. The United Methodist Women (UMW) will meet at 1 pm on July 21st having a birthday party for all UMW’s members. Please bring a \$5 gift to exchange with one another.
9. We will begin the two small group gatherings in August: Prayer Group and Craft Group. (*See the insert for details, and please sign up on the sheets if you want to join. Questions to Pastor Jenny*)
10. 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 unless we give you the other notice.

Topic: Upper St. Croix Parish's Sunday Zoom Service
Time: Sundays, 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZlZFNumEvaDBIcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460
Passcode: 568271

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

Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271

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

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.*)

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
14. 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

Adam Dahl	7/18	Marguerite Walsten	7/23
Mark Harmon	7/20	Betty Doolittle	7/24
Chelsie Kunze	7/21		



Introduction of Two Small Group Gatherings

You're invited to
Join Us

We will be starting two new small group gatherings. The purpose of these gatherings is to help us build good relationships with God and with one another. This will help revitalize our faith and our church community. In addition, we will evolve in our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ, and contribute to our local community and the global world.

We will begin with two small groups, and later on, we hope to add additional groups. We will meet (gather) regularly (once a week or twice a month). Each group has a leader and an assistant leader (or secretary). Each leader and assistant has the responsibility to communicate with members, and prepare for each gathering. They will also work with Pastor Jenny. These two groups are open to everyone, and they welcome all! We will open our church to the community for these gatherings and plan to start the first week of August 2021.

1. Prayer Group (Breakthrough Prayer)

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

It is an intercessory prayer group for the people, church, community, county and the world. The prayer group will learn about many styles of prayer, and will practice some of them. The prayer group will keep record and report as witnesses of the power of prayer.



2. Craft Group

"A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul." (Acts 16:14)

This group will meet and craft together. Some of the potential projects are crocheting, knitting, handmade crafting, drawing, etc. We welcome everyone from beginners to those who are open to teaching others. The goal of the craft group is to get to build relationships with our church family and neighbors in the community, and to also contribute to a local community through fundraising and mission work.



If you are interested in either of these groups, please contact Pastor Jenny.
(Main Office: 715-463-2624, Cell: 773-793-7307, or Email: jennlee1732@gmail.com).

We look forward to gathering-God always shows up, we hope you do too.



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

July 18th, 2021
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

“Jesus Christ is the Only Hope.”

Last Monday, I had special guests in my home, a pastor’s couple and a missionary couple. I first met them in 2007. The pastor served at a church in which I attended Sunday service as a visitor when I came to the United States, and the missionary couple attended the same church as visitors as well. They were just ordinary people at that time. Later on, they received God’s calling and became missionaries.

At that service in 2007, I felt God’s calling when the pastor announced a mission project of a new church planting in Chicago. As soon as I heard his announcement, I felt strangely warm throughout my whole body and had an “Aha moment.” “Aha, that’s why God sent me to the United States. I came here to study, but God sent me here to plant a new church.” However, I didn’t talk about it to anyone. After that, I went back to a seminary in Chicago, and the missionary couple went back to Korea. Six months later, the pastor called me and invited me to join the mission project of the new church planting in Chicago as the project leader. I started the project with five young adults while still studying at the seminary. We met weekly and prayed. Sometimes we met at a restaurant, sometimes at someone’s house, and sometimes at a cafeteria on campus. We didn’t have a proper place to gather together and we didn’t have enough resources to plant a new church yet.

However, we had full compassion for the young Korean generation wandering in the United States without knowing Jesus, and enthusiasm for planting a new church for them. Finally, we found a place which would become Central United Methodist Church in Skokie, Illinois. We began Sunday services there in August of 2008. One year later, the pastor was appointed at the new church as the lead pastor, and the missionary couple joined the church and became the first missionaries that the church supported. The church sent them to Ethiopia in Africa in 2010, and they were back in the United States in 2013. They currently serve Native Americans in Washington State. The pastor was reappointed to a church in Washington in 2013 and now serves a Korean church in Minnesota. I continually served at the same church until I was appointed to the Upper St. Croix Parish in August 2019. I served at the church for eleven years. With five young adults, I started a new church in 2008, now that church still grows day by day. We know many churches membership numbers have decreased, and many churches are now closed. We might say it is because of the pandemic, because of a lack of the younger generation, or because towns are becoming smaller, etc. Yes, those all may be valid reasons. All situations have changed our ability to reach out to new people. It is a new kind of a crisis for churches. However, a few churches are still growing. Why do some churches still grow?

In today’s scripture, we will see people who seek hope during a crisis in their lives. Mark 6:30 begins, “The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.” This verse follows Mark 6:6-13 (a story of sending the disciples two by two), which means that Mark 6:14-29 (a story of John the Baptist’s death) is an inserted comment to help us [audiences/readers] understand what was going on with the people. That situation was like this: People waited for the Messiah, whom God promised to send to save them. However, God didn’t

send them any prophets for a long time. One day they saw John the Baptist. They thought he must be the Messiah, who God had promised. However, John the Baptist was killed by King Herod. People remembered that John used to say, "I baptize with water but, the one who comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." They thought that Jesus must be the Messiah, who would save them from all suffering from illness, oppression, poverty, injustice, and they even expected that Jesus would release them from the colony of the Roman Empire. Jesus was the only hope for the people.

Mark uses the word "apostle" in today's scripture. "apostle" means "person who is sent." In Mark 6:6-13, Jesus sent his disciples two by two to teach and heal people. Mark uses the word "apostle" because Jesus sent the disciples. After they performed their mission, the disciples [apostles] returned to Jesus and reported what they had done. Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile," because they were too busy to eat. For the disciples and people, Jesus was the only hope. It was most important for them to follow Jesus. So it was not only the disciples, but the people who couldn't rest and eat. Whenever people saw Jesus and his disciples, "they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them" (Mark 6:33). Jesus saw them and had compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd (v.34). Jesus stayed with them and taught them many things. Whenever people heard about where 'Jesus was,' they rushed to follow him and carried the sick. They all were healed. They believe that Jesus was the only hope. They believe that if they touched his cloak, they might heal, and they were healed.

We also face a crisis of church. Perhaps, some of you are facing a life crisis. Some of you are under distress due to a variety of reasons; you're dealing with addiction, have depression caused by family issues, have received bad medical reports, have broken relationships, are experiencing conflict with others, or have financial difficulties. You might feel like you cannot find a solution. Why don't you return to Jesus? Why don't you hurry to follow Jesus? Have you ever hurried to follow Jesus without eating and resting? I experienced this when I was planting a new church as the Projector Leader and working for the young adult conference as an Executive Coordinator. Whenever I faced difficulty, I used to read the scripture passage, Exodus 35:30-35. It is about people who built the first temple by God's calling. God called two people, Bezalel and Oholiab. "[God] has chosen them, filled their divine spirit, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs. And God has inspired them to teach. God has filled them with the skill to do every kind of work done." I believe that God chose me not because I was smart enough, or I was ready to do God's work, but because God just chose me and made me do God's work, whatever God wanted. God chooses us and will guide us to do God's work.

You might think, "Well, I am too old," I may say, "yes, you are old enough to lead younger people with the skill God filled you." You might think, "Well, I did it once upon a time," I may say, "That might be, but why don't you do it again?" Remember, Moses got called from God when he was 80, and Abraham was 75. You might think, "Well, that's a Biblical story." Yes, you are right. But, God is still living with us, and we are God's people. The missionary who visited me got called from God at age 65, and went to Ethiopia at age 68, and he is now 73. He still serves Native Americans as a missionary. I want you all to have a missionary mind at our church and work on the project of revitalizing. Let us try to revitalize our church in a hurry following Jesus. Who knows if it is the last chance God will give for the church or you? Don't follow "the division story" or "a rumor" of the United Methodist Church." Just follow Jesus. Only Jesus is our hope. Jesus will make things happen. Thanks be to God. Amen!