

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
August 1, 2021
"Tenth Sunday after Pentecost"

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

"Peace be with you"

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

*CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Draw near to God, who has heard your complaining.
Come in the name of Jesus, who understands your need.

We have received manna in the wilderness.

We have been offered the bread of life.

Open yourselves to God's steadfast love.

Be honest before the Holy One who knows all you do.

We are judged according to our deeds.

Our secret sins are known to our God.

The Holy Spirit has come to restore your joy.

God's presence is real to those who accept God's gift.

Whoever comes to Jesus will not be hungry.

Whoever trusts in Christ will never be thirsty. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *Christ for the World We Sing*

UMH 568 (vs. 1 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We hear you calling us, loving God, to a life of humility, gentleness, and patience. Keep your call before us in this hour that we may recognize and celebrate our oneness in Jesus Christ. May your Spirit unite us in the bond of peace. Speak to us of the Savior, who bore humanity's shame that we might learn to bear with one another in love. Draw us to a common faith, in spite of our differences. Lead us into new depths of trust beyond our knowing, and along new pathways of service outdistancing our fears. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (G) (See insert)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESION AND PARDON Unison

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.

(All pray 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 (See insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

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 6:24-35

24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life,

which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" 31 Our ancestors ate

ATLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THRIFT SALE



Saturday, August 7th, 2021

9:00am-1:00pm

Downtown Atlas

2110 - 295th Avenue, County Road B



\$1 per Bag begins at Noon



Household items, clothes and much more!

Most items FREE WILL OFFERING

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) August 1st, 2021

1. Today is “Tenth Sunday after Pentecost.” May God bless you and your family members!
2. Sunday Service time: 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 sign-up sheets for volunteers at the back of the sanctuary.

Grantsburg: Liturgist

This Sunday (8/1): LuAnne Martell

Sunday (8/8): Volunteer needed

Atlas: Liturgist

This Sunday (8/1): Colleen Adams-Schween

Sunday (8/8): Volunteer needed

St. Croix Falls: Liturgist

This Sunday (8/1):Kathy Gionis,

Sunday (8/8): Kathy Gionis

4. Mission 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: Interfaith Care Center(*Questions to Karen Sciacca: 715-338-1865*)

5. National Night Out is August 3 from 5-8pm. Central-Grantsburg will be serving free ice cream at 5-8pm. Please join us!
6. Central-Grantsburg has an infant Baptism on August 1. Infant: Sasha Chute, Parents: Stan Chute and Donna Norman. Congratulations!
7. We will have the prayer group gathering every Sunday from August 1st through the end of September. We will meet at Central-Grantsburg at 8:15 am before service and at St. Croix Falls at noon after the service. Everyone is welcome.
8. Atlas Thrift Sale: 8/7/21 from 9am to 1pm at Atlas Church.
9. Pastor Jenny has an ICD training from 9 am to 3pm on August 3rd via Zoom. She may not be available to contact.
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: USCP Sunday Zoom Service Time: Sundays, 08:30 AM Central

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZlZFNummEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>

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 the 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

Reed Olson 8/1	Peter Branstad 8/3	Lucy Anderson 8/5
Sally Scmitt 8/1	Jodi Elmgren 8/4	Corey Smestad 8/7





August 1st, 2021
John 6:24-35

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

“The Gift of Life”

I want to start with a serious story today. There was “a play” called “Fifteen Minutes.” In the play, there was a young man who was running towards success and advancement. He dreamed of future happiness and rejoiced. But one day, the young man who was being examined at the hospital heard shocking words from his doctor. The young man’s life had only fifteen minutes left. Hearing this, the young man ripped out his hair in agony. At that moment, a mail carrier appeared and handed him the notice of conferment of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.). Shortly afterwards, the mail carrier brought another letter, a message that he would inherit a million dollars. Then the doctor next to him said, “Dear man, you are now a millionaire. But, sadly, you only have five minutes left, so what good is all that wealth?” Then the mail carrier reappeared and handed him another letter. It was a marriage consent letter from a woman whom the young man had longed for and proposed to. The doctor next to him said again, “Now, all your wishes have come true. But, don’t forget that you only have one minute left to live.” Hearing this, the young man was extremely troubled, and then he collapsed and died.

What do you think of this story? For sure, none of us wants failure. Perhaps, we all want success and wealth. However, if we lose our lives, how are success and wealth useful to us? We shall all die someday, but there is good news for us; if we believe in Jesus Christ, we do not perish, but we have eternal life (John 3:16). It is amazing news! God sent us Jesus Christ as the gift of life. Everyone who believes in him will be born again with a new life in Jesus. In today’s Scripture, it is very clear that God’s will is that we all believe in Jesus Christ and have eternal life (John 6:29). Believing in Jesus Christ is God’s will and, at the same time, the work of God, which God expects us to do. We may start God’s work at the point of believing in Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives. And our Lord may lead us to the next step.

As you may remember in the last Sunday’s Scripture, after Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish, he disappeared. When it was dark, he came to his disciples, walking on water. People only saw the disciples on the boat without Jesus (John 6:22). They were looking for him everywhere. Finally, they found Jesus on the other side of the sea and asked him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Let us listen to their irrelevant conversation. The people asked him, “When did you come?” Jesus answered, “You are looking for me not because you saw the sign, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” Jesus continually said, “Don’t work for the food that perishes, but for food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” Jesus clearly said, “Don’t work for the perishable food, but work for food of eternal life, which is the Son of Man will give you.” However, they asked him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus said, “Only believe in him. That’s God’s work.” They said, “Show us the sign, and we may believe in you. We learned Moses fed our ancestor in the desert.” Actually, Jesus showed

them the sign that Jesus is the messiah: sat them down on the grass, and fed them. Jesus fed them with five loaves of bread and two fish a day ago, but they still didn't know who Jesus was, while they knew the Scripture very well. And they asked him show a sign.

How about us? We also know the biblical story well, but it is not easy to apply the biblical story to our lives. We believe that the Scripture is the word of the Living God, which was inspired by the Holy Spirit [God] (2 Timothy 3:16). However, we often realize how different knowing and believing are. Perhaps, we all agree that living out the word of God in everyday life is not easy. However, it is not by our effort but by God's grace. As if we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ through the grace of God, faith and salvation are the gifts of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

I often recall my younger days when I didn't know about God. The story I told you earlier reminds me. I worked and studied hard to succeed without my parents and grandparents' support. As I told you before, I grew up in a patriarchal family, and my grandfather didn't want to support my education because I was a girl. But, with my mother's encouragement, I studied hard to succeed. I graduated from a private high school and a university without my family's support. After I got a job, I felt successful, and I wanted to show my family what I achieved without their support. However, I was involved in a traffic accident and heard from my doctor that I would not walk anymore because of a broken spine. Can you imagine how I felt at that moment? Many feelings were mixed up, such as regret, resentment, complaint, unfairness, grumbling, anger, forsakenness, despair, depression, and loneliness. Besides, the people who were around me discouraged me with words of hopelessness. My mind was full of negative feelings.

However, God cared for me even though I didn't know about God yet, sending a pastor to my hospital room. Through the pastor, I heard the good news that Jesus is my savior and the healer, and the comforter. After that, I changed my mind toward that of a hopeful future with gratitude and confidence. Finally, I got surgery on my spine and had therapy, and then I could walk again. Faith is the great gift of God. Faith leads us to true life in Jesus Christ. I believe in God by God's amazing grace. If I didn't believe in the good news at that time, I am not sure how my life would be. It was the gift of God. Otherwise, I cannot explain it. Therefore, we shouldn't be proud of faith but should be humble. And it would be best if you spread the good news to whoever you meet. Who knows, your courage to tell the good news may change someone's life, as it did my life.

We often pay attention to things like food, money, and materials in the world as if the people asked Jesus to give them the bread in verse 34. The people asked for the bread of life from Jesus because they couldn't notice Jesus was the bread of life. We too often focus on what we don't have rather than what we have. Why don't you try to focus on what you have now? This simple change may lead you to be a positive and grateful person. You may see how much God loves you. Don't forget that you already received the gift of life in Jesus Christ by the grace of God. May the gift of life make you and your family, and your loved ones full of God's grace! Thanks be to God! Amen!