

Guide us from desert to green pasture. Switch our situation from bitter water to sweet water. You are Almighty God. Praise the Lord. 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

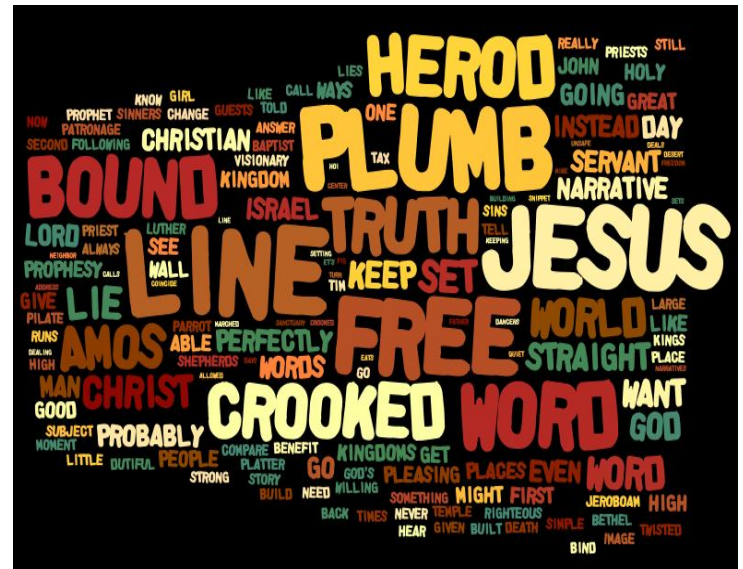
PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison
 Gracious God, you have restored our fortune again and again. Even when we have little, there is enough; and when we share, the blessings multiply. Thank you for treating us with compassion and granting us the honor of serving as your stewards. May these gifts proclaim your peace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (vs. 1 & 4)
 *BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee
 POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
 Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
 July 11th, 2021
 “Seventh 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 11th, 2021
“Seventh 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, workers of evil and seekers for truth.

Come, all who are corrupt and all faithful ones.

**Sometimes we say, “There is no God:”
for God seems absent and unfeeling.**

Come apart for a time to rest and reflect;
bring the hopes that survive God’s silence.

**Through Christ, we are no longer strangers
who call on God in doubt and terror.**

Come from far and near, from trust and fears,
that you may be a dwelling place for the Spirit.

**We are full citizens with the saints of God,
members of God’s own household. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN *Be Still, My Soul* UMH 534 (vs. 1 & 3)**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God, whom we know through deeds of love, and whom we worship, look on us today. Break through our schemes and our plotting to bring wisdom and perspective to our thoughts and our tasks. Bring us near to the source of our being and hold us accountable for the choices we make. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” 15 But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” 23 And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” 24 She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” 25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” 26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“God Knows” Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

O Lord, we are concerned about what is happening in the world, in our family, in our daily life. Sometimes the concern hides our eyes to see the blessings of God. Open our eyes to see your presence, O God. Open our mind to notice your work for us.

Announcements (Insert) July 11th, 2021

1. Today is “Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.” May God bless you!
2. Sunday Service times: At 8:30 am in Grantsburg-Central, 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 (7/11): LuAnne Martell
Sunday (7/18): Volunteer needed

Atlas: Liturgist
This Sunday (7/11): Sue Olson,
Sunday (7/18): Volunteer needed

St. Croix Falls: Liturgist
This Sunday (7/11): Karen Sciacca,
Sunday (7/18): Kathy Gionis
4. Mission in July:
Grantsburg: Collecting school supplies (Questions to Deb Hammer: 715-463-4309)
Atlas: Collecting school supplies (Questions to Sue Olson: 715-554-3126)
St. Croix Falls: Supporting Harbor House (Questions to Karen Sciacca: 715-338-1865)
5. St. Croix Falls Administrative Council Meeting will be held at 4 pm on July 15th (Thursday) via Zoom.
6. We will begin the two small group gatherings in August: Prayer Group and Craft Group. (See the insert for information, and please sign up on the sheets if you want to join. Questions to Pastor Jenny)
7. 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 until further 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=SDZlZFNumEVaDBlcytTRzVxMFllZz09>

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 at other times, it won'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.

8. 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.
9. 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.**
10. 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
11. 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

Jamie Steffen 7/12

Andy & Monica Loomis 7/14

Brodie Kunze 7/15



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 11th, 2021
Mark 6:14-29

“God Knows”

As I mentioned before, I enjoy gardening. It is not because I expect to get much harvest, but because it helps refresh my mind and purifies my soul. In addition, it gives me the wisdom of the mystery of life and the wisdom of pastoral ministry. I can say, ‘it is a means of my meditation,’ which I do, watering my garden every morning.

This spring, I was excited to start my gardening because I have a larger spot for my garden than last year. I planned to make a spot for flowering plants, which I couldn’t last year. I have shared with some of our parishioners that this year I would have an area for flowering plants. Some of them gave me their flowering plants, and some of them gave me flowering plant seeds. I planted the seeds and replanted the flowering plants in a new spot. Finally, I have a garden with flowering plants. The seeds sprouted and are growing well, and the flowering plants are growing. Of course, my vegetable garden is looking great as well. With the knowledge I got last year, I made fences to protect my garden from wild animals. As they grow, I notice that wild weeds grow also. I pulled the weeds off carefully from among my veggies as often as I can. All things looked like they were going well, and I felt happy with my garden.

However, I am getting anxious because recently I discovered my plants began to disappear one by one without a trace. I suspected somehow it involved wild animals. I made a double fence with nets, but those were useless. I heard from one of our parishioners that a “liquid fence” is very helpful in protecting the garden. I bought it and used it in my garden. But, it also didn’t work. I was deeply disappointed. Furthermore, I felt depressed. I’m not happy with my garden, but I am afraid of the loss of my plants. Every morning, I count my plants to see if they all are fine. I am afraid to count them or to go to my garden to see if they are fine. It is painful to see the loss of my plants and vegetables. I felt that it can only go so far. That is all I can do for my garden. I have limited options. I know that it’s not my fault. However, what can I do? Do I have to give up my garden?

In Today’s scripture, we may see two main people: King Herod and John the Baptist. Through them, we learn human limitations and imperfection. King Herod was a person who had the best authority in the political field, and John the Baptist was a person who had the best authority in the spiritual field. It was the time that Jesus’ name was spreading out to the people. King Herod heard about Jesus as well: Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and for this reason, these powers are at work in him.” Others said, “He is Elijah,” whom Jewish believed as the great prophet. And, others said, “He is a prophet like one of the old prophets.” But, King Herod believed that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead because he killed John the Baptist and was afraid of killing the righteous person.

Verses 17 through 29 tell us a story, which he recalled. King Herod was a person who had the best authority, but he couldn’t protect John the Baptist as he wanted. He knew it was a sin to marry his brother’s wife, but he married her in his authority. No one went against him

except John the Baptist. John the Baptist went against King Herod, saying directly, "It is a sin." However, King Herod couldn't kill him because he knew John the Baptist was a righteous spiritual man. Nevertheless, King Herod had to arrest him and threw him in prison for his authority. One day, when the King had his birthday party with many people, his daughter danced and made him happy. He swore to his daughter that whatever she asked him, he would give her. His daughter asked him for the head of John the Baptist, as her mother advised. Finally, King Herod would kill him to keep his oath to his daughter. However, it kept him in fear for a long time. That's why when he heard about Jesus, it reminded him of his sins in marrying his brother's wife and killing John the Baptist. Even though he was the King who had the most authority, he couldn't protect John. Furthermore, he couldn't handle his distress of a guilty consciousness. It was his limitation, which he couldn't handle even with the King's authority. If you were the King, what would you have done? Would you kill Jesus to avoid the fear or cover the sin?

The other person is John the Baptist. As you may know, John the Baptist was a person who prepared for the way of Jesus through baptizing people and preaching the kingdom of God. His ministry was for about one year. Even though he did his great ministry, his death was terrible. Compared with his amazing authority, the period of his ministry was very short. He was the first witness who noticed that Jesus was the Messiah, "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). He was the person who dared to baptize Jesus. However, his death was horrible. We don't know why the righteous people died in a horrible way, but God knows. We don't know about many things that happened in the world. We don't know why it happens to me, why it happen to my family, and why it happens to my friends. We don't understand how God works in these situations, but we trust God.

A Buddhist monk says, "As much as you have possessions, you have worries." He might be right. My garden is my possession, as are my family, and my friends. As much as it makes me happy, it gives me worry also. However, even if my family and friends give me worry, I cannot give up my family or friends. I am upset and discouraged by my garden. No, actually, I'm upset by the unknown wild animals. So, the things that give me disappointment are not my garden but what is destroying my garden. I decided to give God time to work on my garden while I keep doing my part. I don't understand that situation, but I trust God. God knows everything because God is the Creator of all things.

Please, try to count how blessed you are instead of counting the things that made you angry or gave you anxiety. The things or the people that give you worry are actually the sources that give you happiness. Those perhaps might be motivations to give you energy or revitalize your life. We have concern or worry not because we don't have the authority, or we did something wrong, but because we are blessed through them. Evil things might come to our minds like cursing, blaming, or giving up. In other words, all our concerns, such as our family issues, broken relationships, and bad medical reports, might hide our eyes from seeing our blessings, which is on the other side of our life. We cannot handle all our concerns, but God knows about your worries. God knows how to switch bitter water to sweet water because God works in an extraordinary way. God knows how to bring us from desert to green pasture because God is our good shepherd. We don't understand how God works, but we can trust God. Let us give God time to work on it! Thanks be to God. Amen!