

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER

Unison

Gracious God, help us to acknowledge the Messiah, not in empty words, but in self-emptying service that risks life for the sake of love. May we come to be so attuned to your precepts that the song of our hearts becomes an act, transforming the groups of which we are a part. 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

We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. WE pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*HYMN

In the Garden

UMH 314 (vs. 1 & 3)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

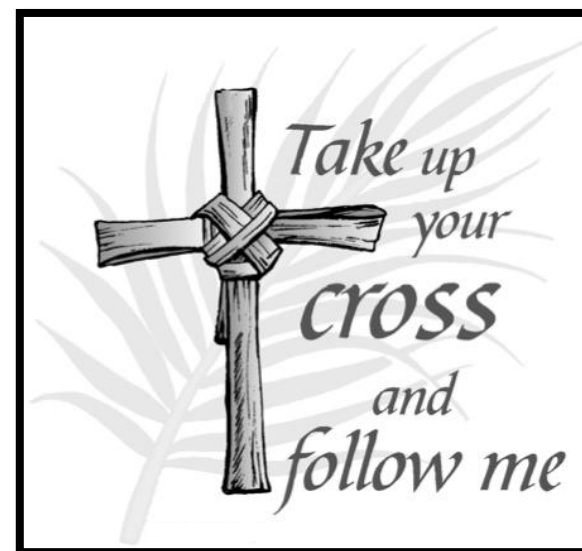
Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

September 12th, 2021

“Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost”



The United Methodist Church

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

9:45 AM at Atlas Park

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
September 12th, 2021
“Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost”
Rally Sunday

*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

Come away from dullness and complacency.

Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers?

How long will we ignore God’s counsel and reproof?

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.

Our waywardness separates us from God.

Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

We gather to renew our relationship with God.

We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

UMH 301 (vs. 1 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kids & Teachers)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESSION 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**

Mark 8:27-38 (See insert)

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

Thanks be to God.




SERMON

“Who Do You Say that Jesus Is?”



Pastor Jenny Lee

CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS ... September

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Collecting donations for the food shelf.</p> <p>Communion Sunday: Shelf-Stable Milk or 100% Juice</p> 	 <p>We will be collecting loose change during worship to support & Operation X-Mas Child Shoe-Box</p>
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GRANTSBURG... September

<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 Backpack Program"</p> 	<p>Moolah For Milk</p> <p>Collecting loose change to support Moolah for Milk!</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS - September

**Sailor Hat Offering:
To School Backpack Program**

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers	All God's People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
Today's Service Central:	
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Erickson
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Church Doors	Open/Close <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Older/Middle/Kindergarten LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis
Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Little/Bigger Cheryl Olson/ Colleen Adams-Schween
St. Croix Falls:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Karen Sciacca
Fellowship	Ad Council Members
Altar Flowers	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>



PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.
Topic: Upper St. Croix Parish's Sunday Zoom
Service Time: Sundays, 08:30 AM Central Time
Click the LINK to join the Zoom Service
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZlZFNummEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear "the service by Phone," whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Communion/Rally Sunday 8:30 am Service @ Grantsburg;
9:45 am Atlas, and 11:15 am St. Croix Falls.

Sep. 15: 1 pm, UMW Meeting (G)

Sep. 16: 4pm, Administrative Council Meeting (SCF) via Zoom

Sep. 17: 10:30 am, Administrative Council Meeting (A)

Next Sunday: Bible Presentation/Vow for New Members (G)



- 9/21 6:30 PM ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING (G)
9/16 9:00 AM, DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING VIA ZOOM
9/23-9/24 ICD TRAINING
9/27-9/29 SIREN HARVESTFEST-SIREN, WI

Next Sunday (September 19th) Volunteers:

Ministers	All God's People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
Central:	
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Erickson
Fellowship	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Church Doors	Open/Close <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Older/Younger LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis
Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher(s)	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Bigger/Little <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
St. Croix Falls:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Karen Sciacca
Fellowship	Ad Council Members
Altar Flowers	



This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

Don Anderson 9/12

Linda Hokanson 9/18



***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 8:27-38

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28 And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29 He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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.



September 12th, 2021
Mark 8:27-38

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

“Who Do You Say That Jesus is?”

Today, I want to talk about “who Jesus is for you.” I guess you may say, “Jesus is the Savior.” But, I’m curious. Do you live like Jesus is your savior and Lord in everyday life? I met an amazing lady while on my vacation. I had an appointment with a Korean friend of mine. Before I met my friend, she sent me a text, “May I bring a young lady to join us? I know it is your vacation. But, I want you to see her.” The young lady is an American woman who cannot speak Korean and attends my friend's church, a Korean church in Minnesota. According to my friend, she is attending Sunday services and joins fellowship and weekday church events. My friend and her husband thought she might come one or two weeks and stop coming because she doesn’t understand the Korean language. But, she continues attending the church. In addition, she sometimes brought her siblings to the church. I was curious why they were attending the Korean church. I had a chance to talk with her. She and her siblings are missionaries. Her elder sister is a missionary in Bolivia; her brother is a missionary in Thailand, and she was a missionary in Mexico. When they are back home, they attend the Korean church like a home church.

I asked her why they chose this Korean church even though they don’t know Korean. She said, “We chose this church because it is the church we looked for. Jesus works beyond language. We like the humble pastor; we like his sermon; we like the fellowship and Korean food; we like the church’s passion for mission.” I asked her, “How do you understand the pastor’s sermon?”

She said, “They give us the translated written sermons. We love to learn about new cultures, meet new people, and see how God works through all nations beyond all barriers. For me, normal life is nothing. I love to adventure to the kingdom of God because I can find joy and happiness in Jesus only. Jesus is everything to me.”

Her confession amazed me. “Normal life is nothing. I became a missionary because I love to adventure to the Kingdom of God. Jesus is everything to me.” Her confession challenged me. I asked myself, “What about you? Who do you say that Jesus is? Is Jesus everything to you also?”

In today’s scripture, Jesus asked his disciples the same question with me, “Who do people say that I am?” His disciples didn’t hesitate at all and said, “John the Baptist, and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” Jesus was famous among people because he healed the sick, raised the dead, and fed the hungry. People still couldn’t identify who Jesus was even though there were many rumors like he must be John the Baptist, or perhaps, Elijah or one of the prophets. Because the disciples knew the rumors about Jesus, they could answer Jesus directly. Jesus also surely knew those kinds of rumors. Jesus said, “But, who do you say that I am?” Jesus’ actual curiosity was what his disciples thought, not other people’s minds. “Okay, I see who they say that I am. But, what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” That was the right answer that Jesus expected.

The word “Messiah” means “God’s anointed Son,” “Savior,” and “the Lord.” In other words, “You are my savior, my Lord.” Most people thought of Jesus, John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. But, how did Peter know about Jesus’ identity. In the Gospel of Matthew 16:16, when Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus said, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.” Yes, we may know the truth of God by God’s grace. However, we wonder if

Peter really knew that Jesus was the Messiah, furthermore if Peter accepted that Jesus was his personal Savior.

The disciple Peter perhaps knew that Jesus was the Messiah in knowledge as we know Jesus is Son of God and our Savior and our Lord. But, the issue is whether he accepted him as his Savior in an intimate relationship at that moment. When Peter answered that you are the Messiah, Jesus began to teach his mission project that “the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by elders, the chief priest, the scribes, and be killed, and after three days, rise again” (8:31). As soon as Jesus talked to them clearly about his mission project, saying that he will die and resurrect after three days, Peter became upset and scolded him, “no way, you cannot die, leaving us alone.” The disciples were the powerless people, socially and politically. But, as they met Jesus, they seemed to like being powerful people because of Jesus. They expected that Jesus would be the king in the world, and they would be the influential people. However, if Jesus would die, their dream will disappeared. The disciples couldn’t imagine Jesus would be suffer and die. Jesus must have known what they were thinking.

The place where Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” was in the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Jesus was going toward Jerusalem and his death. Pointing towards that goal, he begins with the challenge “Who am I?” in the land of pagan gods. Caesarea Philippi is the place where gods are born and made. In ancient history, the city gained its fame as the center for Baal worship. In addition, in the time of Jesus, the town was a province of the Roman Empire named Caesarea Philippi in honor of Caesar Augustus, the Emperor of Rome. The place is the religious center of the pagan gods and the center of power politically. At that place, Jesus challenged his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus meant, ‘Can you accept that I am the Messiah for you here and now?’ Jesus meant ‘Can you give up your desire for the power of world and follow

me? My way is the way of the cross, not the way of wealth and honor.’

Today, Jesus may challenge us with the same question, “Who do you say that I am?” We know Jesus is the Messiah; Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus is the Savior. But, who is Jesus for you? When I heard the young American lady’s confession, “Jesus is everything for me,” I asked myself, “What about you? Is Jesus your Savior, Lord?” I said, “Yes, he is my Savior and Lord.” At that moment, another question came to my mind, “How do I live, keeping that Jesus is my Lord?” Suddenly, one book I read a long time ago came to my mind, entitled “*In His Step: What Would Jesus Do?*” by Charles Sheldon. This book began with criticizing Christians’ behavior, which is ‘saying love without actions.’ If we believe that Jesus is our Lord, we should love everyone with actions without any bias. I want to say again if you accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you should love people in action without any bias. Let us love one another in acts so that they may know we are Christians. The First Letter of John says, “Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18). I ask you, “Who do you say that Jesus is for you?” Please think about it seriously and act boldly as a Christian with action. Thanks be to God. Amen!