

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS

NO.2022-28
July 10th, 2022

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

May these gifts and our lives bear fruit in many good works,
increasing among all people knowledge of God, patience and
endurance, wisdom and understanding, love and joy. We would
act with compassion toward one another and toward neighbors
near and far. Thankful for the mercy you have shown us, we
pledge ourselves and these offerings to extend mercy to all. We
pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *My Jesus, I Love Thee* UMH 172 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

ONE Parish THREE Churches
"5th Sunday After Pentecost"



Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

8:30 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

9:45 AM at Atlas

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snssnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

Parish Office: 715-463-2624 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 10th, 2022
“5th Sunday After Pentecost”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** **Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive
 God calls together a divine council to render judgment.
 God holds a plumb line to measure our faithfulness.
Who can stand before the judgments of God?
How shall we know what God expects of us?
 Lift up your prayers for God’s mercy.
 Earnestly seek to know the ways of truth and salvation.
Can we distinguish faithfulness from popular success?
What must we do to inherit eternal life?
 God’s judgment comes to all nations of the earth.
 God’s covenant with us involves care for all people.
Will God deliver us from the hands of the wicked?
Will God put an end to wanton treachery? Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*
 UMH 402 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison
Almighty God, we tremble with the knowledge that you know all our thoughts and deeds and judge them by your perfect will. Yet we are bold to protest the evil around us that seems to go unpunished. So many innocent and good people die randomly or suffer cruelly. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? O God, we know this is really your question for us. Help us to take seriously these moments of encounter with you, knowing we can trust you to be just. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON** **Luke 10:25-37**
 25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“What Do You Read in the Bible?”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison
Gracious God, whose judgments stretch our thinking and challenge our doing, you have placed us in the midst of your eternal realm to be neighbors to sisters and brothers we have not yet acknowledged. Draw us into a circle of mutual caring, where the suffering of one is felt by all and injustice is confronted at every level, to communicate your mercy to the world. Commission us through your Word to grow, to bear fruit, and to serve. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

JULY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry</p> 	<p>We will CONTINUE supporting the food shelf!</p> 
--	---	---



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>SCHOOL SUPPLIES</p>  <p>We collect school supplies to support schools in Grantsburg.</p>
---	---

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p>  <p>JULY's Sailor hat offering will go to support HARBOR HOUSE.</p>
---	--

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers	All God's People Pastor Jenny Lee
Today's Service Central:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Sally Aldorfer
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis
Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday school	Summer Break
St. Croix Falls:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Kathy Gionis



BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

"This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)
Please pray every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

" Let us pray for our neighbors like the sick, the weak, and the powerless who you know near and far. "

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15 am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIz09>
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 may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: 5th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

7/10: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

7/10: 1-4 pm, Youth and Children's Pool Party (*Questions to Youth*
Director Shayna Schimid)

7/11-12: Pastor Jenny will be out of town for her medical exam.

7/12: 7:00 pm, Provisional Elder Mentoring Meeting via Zoom

7/13: 1:00 pm, UMW's Birthday Party. Bring a birthday gift. (*Questions to Mary McNally, 715-791-8010*)

3:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (A)

7/14: 4:00 pm, Pastor Jenny's One on One Meeting with DS

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Jamie Steffen 7/12

Walden Erickson 7/14

Andy & Monica Loomis 7/14

Brodie Kunze 7/15



Next Sunday (July 17th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing *Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Usher(s) Don Schween
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Jim Andrews
Usher(s) Karen Sciacca
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca
Flowers Kathy Gionis
Fellowship Ad Council Members



July 15-17, Water-Cross Festival (G) / Wannigan Days (SCF)

July 17-19, Provisional Elder Retreat at Pine Lake



July 10th, 2022
Luke 10:25-37

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

“What Do You Read in the Bible?”

I want to start with something funny. I heard about this story. At Sunday school, a teacher was teaching the children Bible lessons. “If I sold my house and car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?” A teacher asked the children in her Sunday school class. “No!” the children all answered. “I cleaned the church daily, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy. Would I get into heaven?” Again the answer was, “No!” “Well,” she continued, “then how can I get to heaven?” A five-year-old boy shouted out, “You gotta be dead!”

We believe that the Gospel John 3:16 is a piece of significant-good news about eternal life, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” Some may memorize this verse because it is a special message. However, I wonder what your understanding is after reading through this message. Some of you may focus on, “Only way of salvation is through Jesus Christ.” Some may focus on, “God loves us so much.” Some may focus on, “We, Christians, must be getting into eternal life.” And the answer is “Yes”, all are right. Did you also catch that salvation is open to everyone in this message? I say, “Everyone.” I read this message, “God loves everyone so much, wants everyone to believe in the Only Son Jesus Christ, and wants everyone to be saved.” Even though we read the same sentence, we sometimes think of it differently. Our thoughts often leads us to a different belief. Therefore, it is essential how we read the Bible and how we understand it. Furthermore, how we believe it. Even though we may read the Bible every day, and may memorize all the books of the Bible, if we misunderstand it, we may miss what God’s wills for us are.

In today’s scripture, there is a lawyer. In the scripture, a lawyer doesn’t mean an attorney but means a teacher of Jewish Law. In the scripture, they are described as Pharisees, teachers, lawyers, or rabbis. In other words, they are professional biblical scholars who know about the Jewish Bible (the Old Testament, especially Torah- the first five books in the Old Testament) very well. The law teacher stood up to test Jesus before many people and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He called Jesus a teacher, which is implied, “Is it true you are a teacher? You should answer me well if you are a teacher like us.” The Jewish teachers knew Jesus was an uneducated carpenter in Nazareth of Galilee. However, they also knew that many people respected him and followed him as a great Rabbi (teacher). So, they wanted to put him to shame before many people. Jesus knew the teacher’s purpose and asked him, “What is written in the Law? What do you read there?” Because Jesus knew him as an arrogant law teacher, he asked him about the Law. Of course, he answered it well because he was a professional biblical teacher, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” It is the Great Commandments Jesus taught people the first and second commandments of God (Matthew 22:37-40). It is originally from the Old Testament Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, the so-called “The Shema” (the Law of God, Israelites must keep).

Jesus asked him two questions, “What is written in the Law? What do you read there?” The teacher knew how the Law was written and answered it well, meaning he answered one question. Jesus said, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” So far, it sounds like Jesus taught him that his good work could save him. However, Jesus knew his arrogant attitude and said, ‘Okay, if you know what to do, go ahead as you know.’ Jesus might have wanted to say, ‘I know it, but I can’t practice it alone without God’s help.’ But the teacher wanted to justify himself that he did practice it well and said, “And, who is my neighbor?”

In the Israelite custom, they had a clear idea about their neighbors; their neighbors should be not sinners, not gentiles (Non-Jewish), not Samaritans, not the poor, not the women, not children, not the sick, but only good Jewish men. According to their own belief, they took care of each other. They thought they kept the Law well. As Jesus knew their customs and mindset, he gave them a parable story about a good Samaritan. In the story, a man met robbers on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho, and the robbers took all his stuff and possessions, even the clothes he wore, and then beat him, leaving him half dead. After that happened, a priest was going down the road and saw him on the street, but the priest passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite came to the place, saw him, and passed by on the other side.

As I mentioned the other day, Priests and Levites mean ministers and religious leaders who know the Law very well. They thought that keeping the Law meant they should avoid the sick and bleeding people. They believed the sick and the bleeding were unclean and sinned, and they avoided them without helping them. However, a Samaritan who didn’t know about the Jewish Law and God came and saw the wounded man and was moved with pity, which means he had compassion and an empathic mind on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on his wounds. And he put the wounded man on his animal to bring him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he asked the innkeeper to take care of the wounded man, promising to give him more money if needed when he returned. The Samaritan gave the wounded man his whole heart as well as his all materials. And Jesus asked the Law teacher, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

Please pay attention to what Jesus asked him, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” When the Law teacher asked Jesus, “who is my neighbor?” Jesus, rather than asking him, “Whose neighbor would you to be?” “Go and do likewise.” In other words, “Go and be the neighbor of the sick, the weak, the powerless, and the outsiders.” Our neighbors are not only those who live nearby our place physically but also those who live in a different group from us socially, culturally, economically, politically, ethnically, and beyond. Remember, Jesus didn’t go against God’s Law but completed it by love. No one can keep God’s Word in everyday life without God’s help. How can we love others like ourselves? How can we love God with our all hearts, minds, and souls? We cannot keep the Great Commandments. Our good work can’t save us. Therefore, we all are sinners before God, and at the same time, we all as Christians are righteous people in Jesus Christ by the grace of God. We can’t judge anyone because everyone is precious to God. Jesus died not only for our sins but also for many of all nations. Therefore, we should open hearts, open minds, and open doors to God and everyone as God loves everyone.

As Jesus asked the Law teacher, “What is written in the Law? What do you read there?” I want to ask you, “What do you read in the Bible?” I read, “Love everyone regardless of boundaries as God loves us” in the Bible. We are the people who can’t live even one day without God’s grace and love. As debtors of God’s love, let us pay it forward in everyday life. Thanks be to God. Amen!