

receive a response to our earnest requests. We want to persist in prayer amid all the competing distractions of life. We see this, not just for our own satisfaction, but that the world might become a more wholesome place for all your children. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO. 2022-30  
July 24th, 2022

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

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison  
Holy God, whose name is before all names, we worship you with our offerings. They represent our labor, our investment of time and energy. We want them to be put to the best possible use. May they save many from the course of evil and turn them toward faithful discipleship. May they provide bread for body and soul, that your people may be preserved and strengthened for ministry. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen!

*We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another*

\*CLOSING HYMN *Sweet Hour of Prayer* UMH 496 (vs. 1 & 2)  
\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee  
\*POSTLUDE Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

 **Upper St. Croix Parish  
United Methodist Church**

**ONE Parish THREE Churches  
"7th 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](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)  
**Youth Director Shayna Schmid:** [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)  
**Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg:** [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)  
**Parish Office:** 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494  
[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**July 24th, 2022**  
**“7th Sunday After Pentecost”**

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\*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 is eager to restore us to the right relationships.  
The creator is waiting to claim us now as God’s own.  
**We have come to meet the God who welcomes us.**  
**We have gathered to experience God’s steadfast love.**  
Listen, for God will speak to those who want to hear.  
Turn your hearts toward the one who saves.  
**We bow down to receive God’s mercy.**  
**We open ourselves to the source of peace.**  
God will answer us and will give what is good.  
God restores us to faithfulness and righteousness.  
**We come asking, searching, and knowing.**  
**We seek the good gifts only God can provide. Amen!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Take Time to be Holy* UMH 395 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison  
Living God, we come as your children to be reclaimed and blessed.  
We need the inner strength that comes to us through worship. All  
week long we have wrestled with emptiness and deceit on every  
hand. Take away the noisy clamor that would make us captives of  
human traditions. Turn us toward the source of our salvation,  
toward your steadfast love and faithfulness. We pray in Jesus’  
name. Amen.

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 11:1-13**

1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."  
2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.  
3 Give us each day our daily bread.  
4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."  
5 And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;  
6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'  
7 And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'  
8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.  
9 "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.  
10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.  
11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?  
12 Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?  
13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

**SERMON** “The Key that Can Open the Door of Prayers.”  
Pastor Jenny Lee

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison  
Teacher and Friend, whose doors are ever open to receive your children, we give you thanks for reminding us today how to pray. We long to sense your answering voice when we call. We are eager to

# JULY CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

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

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

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

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p><b>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</b></p> 	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p><i>JULY's Sailor hat offering will go to support HARBOR HOUSE.</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Today's Service

**Central:**  
 Pianist Toni Koons  
 Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
 Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder  
 Lawn Mowing Dave Huff  
 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 Colleen Adams-Schween  
 Usher(s) Sue Olson  
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
 Sunday school **Summer Break**

**St. Croix Falls:**  
 Pianist Sharon Asp  
 Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
 Usher(s) Kathy Gionis  
 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!

*"Pray for our youth, on their mission trip and at bible camp."*

## 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://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: 7th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!

### Sunday Worship Service:

7/24: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom  
9:45 am Atlas  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

7/24-30: Youth Mission Trip to Ashland (G)

7/24-29: Youth Bible Camp at Luther Point (A)

7/26: 10:00 am, August Newsletter & Calendar Information Due

7/28-31: Polk County Fair

### This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Betty Doolittle 7/24  
Logan Smestad 7/26  
Jim Andrews 7/28



### Next Sunday (July 31st) 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 Colleen Adams-Schween  
Usher(s) Don Schween  
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*  
Sunday School Summer Break

#### St. Croix Falls:

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



**August 2: Annual National Night Out (G)**  
**August 3: Youth & Kids Geocache Hike Night**  
**August 6: Thrift & Bake Sale (A)**  
**August 11: Parsonage Open House**





July 24th, 2022  
Luke 11:1-13

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

## **“The Key that Can Open the Door to Prayer.”**

I want to start with something funny. I read this story on an internet site: Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. “Kneeling is definitely best,” claimed one. “No,” another contended. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.” “You’re both wrong,” the third insisted. “The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor.” The repairman could contain himself no longer. “Hey, folks,” he interrupted, “the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole.”

Which one do you think is the best position for praying? As you may know, what position you’re in doesn’t matter for praying. What’s important about prayer is building a good relationship with God. Some may say, “Well, I think I am good with God. But I don’t know how to pray, or how to start praying.” It is true. We know and feel we should pray, but sometimes we don’t know how to pray. Today, I want to talk about “the key that can open the door to prayer.” Some of you very often have heard that prayers are the key that can open many doors. That may be true. Jesus also says, “Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it for you.” And then we pray in Jesus’ name. However, above all, if we don’t know how to pray, in other words, if we don’t know how to use the key, how can we open the door and enter?

Many of you, perhaps at least once in your life, have lost a key, such as your car, or house key. And you may worry about where you lost it and struggle to find it. If you lost your house key, you cannot get into the house. If you lost your car key, you cannot go to work or back home. Likewise, there is a key that can open the door to prayers. If you don’t find the key that can open the door, it may get difficult to pray. Furthermore, even though you find the key, if you forget how to use it, you may have to ask someone how to use the key instead of staying locked out. Sometimes we hesitate to ask how to pray because we feel shame as if you don’t want to share your forgotten experience because it embarrasses you.

In today’s scripture, one of his disciples said to Jesus, “Lord, teach us how to pray as John (the Baptist) taught his disciple.” Do you think his disciples asked Jesus how to pray because they didn’t know how to pray? They knew how to pray because they were Jewish. Jews prayed three times a day regularly. But, they thought Jesus was something different from other teachers as John the Baptist was different. So, his disciples were curious about how Jesus prayed. They saw Jesus pray very often even though he was busy. Sometimes he disappeared to pray alone. He prayed more than three times a day. While he was busy in his ministry, he used to pray between moving from village to village. His disciples saw that Jesus’ prayed very often, but they were curious about how to pray and asked him how to pray.

One day, Jesus prayed at a certain place, and as soon as he finished his prayers, one of his disciples, who saw him pray, said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” He said to them, “When you pray, say, “Father, hallowed be your name.” Remember, to whom we pray. It’s God. Yes, Jesus’ disciples have prayed to God, but they never called God Father. But Jesus used to call God, Father. When he prayed for Lazarus, who was brought back from the dead; when he prayed at

Gethsemane with deep concern, and when he prayed on the cross for the forgiveness of the people who crucified him, he called God Father. So he told his disciples to call God the Father when praying as did he. That's the key that can open the door of our prayers. You know, the other faith communities (the other religions) may also call God for their prayers, but they didn't call God Father. It is a very transformative moment. Jesus taught us to call God Father. As we call God Father, we confess our life is from God; God is my father; God is the head of our family, and more. But, we may find the other Gospel, "Our Father" as we do every Sunday. That means God is not only my father but also the father of all nations. Some people do have not a good experiences with their father, and they do feel not good about calling God Father. But, listen carefully! When we call God Father it does not literally mean "Father," but the symbol of a father which means the Supporter, the Provider, the Protector, and the One who knows everything about me, and about what I need, as if a baby thinks about their daddy.

It is like if you are good with your mother and father, it may be easy to ask them whatever you want; but even though you are good with your parents, as you grew older, you don't want to tell everything to your parents. You might want to hide some things, or you think that it is not necessary to tell them everything, and then even though you need help, you don't ask. Furthermore, you feel your father is different now than he was from your childhood. Therefore, the reason we call him Father is to remind ourselves that we are the children of God. Children are just children to their parents even though they grow older. Again, the key that we can open the door of our prayers is our mindset in thinking of God the Father. If you think that God is your father and you are children of God who need your father's help, you have the key that can open the door of your prayers.

Now, you have to know how to use the key for prayer. The way to use the key is our humble attitude before God. We have to be humble before God like a baby who doesn't know anything, and who really needs God's help. And then, call God the heavenly Father, Mother, or the Holy Spirit whatever makes you comfortable and whatever relationship you are familiar with. After Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer, he gave us a parable for prayer. A story of a friend, which means even though your best friend asks you something, if you're not in a good situation, you may not be able to answer your friend's request. However, if your friend asks you continually, you may answer because it is bothering you. It means that you may need to pray over and over like the Apostle Paul says, "Pray continually." The other parable is that we as parents may provide good things to our children, but God the Father provides us with the better thing. Therefore, trust God who sends us the Holy Spirit, helps us to pray, and guide us on how to pray. The Apostle Paul says, "Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

If you don't know how to start praying, call God the heavenly Father, and keep silent for a while until the Holy Spirit guides you on how to pray. If it doesn't work for you, you may repeat it again and again. And God knows everything about you and whatever you need, God may guide you. Some people may ask, "Well if God knows everything, why do we need to pray to God?" That's a good question, but God wants us to build a good relationship with Him, like you are pleased when your children visit you or call you or talk to you. Remember, the key that can open the door to our prayers is a humble mindset before God, and call God Father, like a child calls their daddy. And practice praying just like a baby learns a language. May God bless you all to open the door of your prayers with a good relationship with God. "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." May you all experience the power of prayers! Thanks be to God! Amen!