

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

O God, we cannot forget all your benefits. Accept our offerings as expressions of praise and acts of true worship. We pour out our thanks for all you have given us and for all you do for us. We are grateful for the opportunities you grant us to help others. May healing come to all who suffer and freedom be granted to those weighed down and bent over with heavy burdens. Use us and our gifts to bring the changes for good that you intend for our world. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

I Know Whom I Have Believed

UMH 714 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

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

NO. 2022-34
August 21st, 2022

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

ONE Parish THREE Churches
“11th 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: snsnyder@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
August 21st, 2022

“11th 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

Assemble before God, our rock and refuge.

Come together to listen for the voice of our Creator.

The Word of God shakes the foundation of the earth.

We expect to be changed by God’s message to us.

God rescues us from cruelty and injustice.

In steadfast love, God delivers us from our enemies.

We remember the rich heritage we have received.

We give thanks for God’s grace and mercy.

This is God’s holy day, a time to lay aside narrow interests.

How will we honor God in word and deed?

We will delight in the Word and works of our God.

We will join together in praise and good works. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

UMH 453 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We are known by you, gracious God, better than we know ourselves. You have given us life and you have renewed our spirits. You have carried us to the heights and you have dwelled with us in life’s depths. You are our hope and our trust. Touch us here, for you are far beyond our reach. Dwell with us here to lift our aspirations and inspire confidence among us. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION (G)

(See insert)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 13:10-17

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."

13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day."

15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?"

16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?"

17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“What is the Sabbath for?”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Ruling God, whose will is broader than our best traditions and whose mercy runs deeper than our finest sympathies, speak your Word to set us free from attitudes that cripple, habits that are hurtful, and dispositions that divide. Lead us to keep the Sabbath in God holy, and guide us to celebrate your all creations so that people may know we are the disciples of Jesus Christ, and they may meet Jesus through us. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

AUGUST 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> 
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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><i>Our August mission focuses on school, supporting the Grantsburg Backpack Program.</i></p>
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>August's Sailor Hat offering will go to support INTERFAITH CARE-GIVERS</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Ministers | All God's People
<i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i> |
| Central: | |
| Pianist | Toni Koons |
| Liturgist | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Acolyte(s) | Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder |
| Lawn Mowing | Dave Huff |
| Fellowship | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Counter | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Cleaning | Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis |
| Atlas: | |
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Sue Olson |
| Usher(s) | Colleen Adam-Schween |
| Cleaning | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Sunday School | <i>Summer Break</i> |
| St. Croix Falls: | |
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Karen Sciacca |
| Usher(s) | Jim Andrews |
| Money Counter | Peter Gionis |
| Bell Ringer | Jim Sciacca |
| Flowers | Steve & LeAnn Sylvester |



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 the joint service and the blessing of the backpacks and the animals"

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 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: 11th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

8/21: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom (Confirmation/Baptism Service)
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

8/21: 12:00pm, Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

8/23: 10am, September Newsletter & Calendar Information Due

10/25-27: Burnett County Fair

10/25: 9am, Clergy Meeting via Zoom

11am-1pm, Volunteer Work at Loaves & Fishes in Luck

10/27: 10am-Noon, Cultural Competency via Zoom

2pm - 5pm, Pie & Ice Cream Social (G)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Adeline Dauer 8/22
Rachel Tooze 8/27



Next Sunday (August 28st) Volunteers:

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee



Joint Service at Atlas Park:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher(s) Colleen Adam-Schween/ Karen Sciacca
Cleaning **All together**
Sunday School Blessings of the Backpacks & Animals



August 28: Joint Service at Atlas Park (10:30am- Blessing of the Backpacks & Animals) "Please bring your own lawn chair with your beloved pets and children with their backpacks."

August 21st, 2022
Luke 13:10-17



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

“What is the Sabbath Day for?”

I want to start with something funny. A Jewish scholar (Rabbi), a Christian minister, and an Islam minister (Mullah) are talking about miracles and their experiences with them. The Christian minister starts: “I was in the middle of a field, and suddenly, there was a storm. The sky started pounding, and I was really afraid that a lightning bolt would hit me, but then I remembered that I must put my faith in God. I prayed to God, and there was rain around me in a flash, but above my head was a clear sky.” The Islam minister continues: “I was in the desert, and my car died, I had no idea how to get back to town, but I remembered that God provides, and I prayed to God. There was scorching heat all around me in a flash, but there was cool air above my head.” The Jewish scholar thinks for a bit and says: “Guys, I have you all beat. On the Sabbath, I went through town, and in front of a hotel, I saw a dropped purse full of money. I wanted to pick it up, but then I remembered that it was the Sabbath and I would break the rest, so I prayed to God, and then I saw it: there was Sabbath all around me, but over my head, it was Tuesday.”

I want to talk about “What is the Sabbath Day for?” I wonder what kind of ideas come to your mind when you think about the “Sabbath.” We may find God’s Sabbath day in Genesis 2:2; after God created all things for six days, God rested from all his work on the seventh day. We also find it in the Ten Commandments, “Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy” (Exodus 20:8). We simply think of Sabbath as the “day off.” Basically, the Sabbath means we shall have at least one day off a week. It is God’s commandment and we should keep it. However, we may not think of the significant meaning of the Sabbath other than “day off.” I wonder how you keep your Sabbath.

The church I attended first had very strict rules for Sabbath days. Here is an example: The church members must keep the Sabbath day. All businesses, stores, and shops should be closed on the Sabbath Day, and they might post a sign on their doors, “We are closed on the Lord’s Day.” If people saw the sign, people knew they were Christians. Most Korean Christians call Sunday “The Lord’s Day.” They call it the Lord’s Day because it is the day Jesus resurrected, the first day after the Sabbath. Therefore, the Jewish faith keeps Sabbath Day on Saturday-from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon. But, Christians keep Sabbath Day on Sunday because it is the day the Lord resurrected. What a wonderful idea!

Back to my story, I have served Sunday school at that church. I often got in trouble keeping the rule of the Sabbath. Sometimes I had to run to the store to buy Sunday school supplies on that day even though I had prepared all I needed, but there was something I missed. If I ran to a store to buy something on that day, the Lord’s Day, guess where I had to go. Right, I had to go to stores belonging to non-Christians because Christians closed their stores on the Sabbath. I felt sorry for Christians who closed their stores. In addition, the pastor of the church told me, “Don’t go against the rule of the Lord’s Day. You should keep the Sabbath day.” So, later on, I tried to prepare for Sunday school and the supplies needed well in advance, so nothing was missed. Above all, we couldn’t hang out with friends and eat at a restaurant with family members on Sundays. Imagine we worked or went to school for five or six days and had only time to be together with friends or family on Sunday. I understood we should worship God on

the Lord's Day. Why couldn't we celebrate a family event after attending Sunday service? Shall we not go out for supper with family or friends? I wondered what we should keep the Sabbath day for. With this question, let's see today's scripture to get wisdom from Jesus' teachings.

In today's scripture, while Jesus taught in a synagogue (Jewish Temple) on the Sabbath, he saw a crippled woman who had a bent back for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight at all. Can you imagine her terrible pain? I know about back pain. As I shared my story, I have experienced a broken spin for three years. To be bent over like that means you have lots of pain in your back. Even though Jesus was teaching the Word of God, he must have felt compassion and mercy for her. Jesus stopped teaching as soon as he saw her. He called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When Jesus laid his hands on her, she immediately stood up straight and began praising God. What an amazing moment! They should altogether praise God.

But the Leader of the synagogue was upset with Jesus and said to the congregation, "there are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day." The Leader was upset with Jesus because he cured her on Sabbath Day, but he told that to the congregation not to Jesus directly. The Leader, perhaps, intended to announce to the whole congregation that Jesus went against the Law of God therefore judged him before the congregation. Jesus answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on Sabbath Day?" They had a can-do list and cannot-do list on Sabbath. The can-do list had that they could give water to their animals because they thought their animals were valuable and they felt mercy for them. The cannot-do list has that they couldn't cook or work. Instead, they asked their servants to work. They have missed what the Sabbath is for. The Sabbath day is based on God's love and mercy toward us.

God's Law is based on God's love toward the people, especially for the powerless, the least, the last, and the sick. If we see the rule of keeping the Sabbath in detail, we may find God's love and mercy on the powerless. Exodus 20:9-10 says, "On it (the Sabbath), you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates." Because they had servants, they didn't work. Mostly their servants worked hard or they used their animals to work. Therefore, it focuses on "nor manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates." However, their can-do list and can't-do list were distinguished depending on what was valuable to them. According to their judgment, their animals were more valuable than the sick and the powerless in society. They could give water to thirsty animals, but they cannot cure the sick on the Sabbath day.

We shouldn't forget that the purpose of Jesus coming to the world was to complete the Law of God with love. The Law without love may be violent to the powerless. The scripture Jesus read first at a synagogue was that "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). Jesus wanted to bring the good news to the poor, the powerless, and the sick to release them from their suffering. The Sabbath day's purpose is to celebrate God's creation, worship God, release us from hard work and stress, and refreshing our mind, soul and body for another new day. Let us keep the Sabbath day holy to take care of yourselves in God-honoring the other's Sabbath. Let's do what God loves on Sabbath Day. Thanks be to God. Amen!