

responsiveness by your grace! May we hear your knock, answer your call, and serve where we are sent. We are ready to share in your promises, claim the homeland you offer, and extend to all we meet the invitation to believe and obey. May all people discern the treasure you offer by your grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO.2022-32
August 7th, 2022

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your caring realm, where we claim the needs of others as our concern. We are finding a homeland in your service and we are grateful. Above all, may our offerings be an outpouring of thanksgiving for a God who does not forget us. Your promises are sure and your faithfulness is to all generations. We pray in your holy name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN UMH 593 (vs. 1 & 2)
Here I Am, Lord

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

ONE Parish THREE Churches
“9th Sunday After Pentecost”



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

10:30 AM at St. Croix Falls 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

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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 7th, 2022
“9th 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
Gather before God, people of the covenant.
Listen for God’s Word, O faithful ones.

God has summoned us to this place.

We believe God will speak to us here.

Come to honor God and give thanks.

Seek to learn and follow in God’s way.

We come as willing and obedient servants.

Let your steadfast love, O God, be upon us.

God calls us as workers for justice.

God sends us out as advocates for the dispossessed.

We are here to be equipped for ministry.

We expect to be empowered for our service. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *Faith of Our Fathers* UMH 710 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

For the rich heritage we have received from your hand, we are grateful, O God. You have fashioned our hearts and observed our deeds. Now we come together, awaiting further instructions from your Word. Teach us here what we need to know in order to live faithfully in this troubled world. Lead us beyond the routines of worship to a genuine, life-changing encounter with you. We pray in your only Son Jesus Christ’s name. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION
CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison
Merciful God,

Pastor Jenny Lee

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 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Hebrews 11:1-16

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Meaning of Faith”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of all nations, lead us to deeper faith, fuller trust, and greater

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.

*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-16

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God."

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

7 By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11 By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,

14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Thanks be to God.

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>SCHOOL SUPPLIES</p>  <p>We collect school supplies to support schools in Grantsburg BY THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST.</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
Pastor Jenny Lee

Today's Service

Central:

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

Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher(s)	Don Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Communion	Sue Olson
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
Communion	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 the Parsonage Open House- it is the 3rd anniversary for Pastor Jenny at the Upper St. Croix Parish, pray for her."

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: 9th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

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

8/8: Korean Clergy's Picnic at Devils Lake

8/10: 1 pm, UMW Meeting at Mary's Cabin. (*Questions to Mary McNally*)

8/11: 6:30-7:30pm, Grantsburg Parsonage Open House

8/12: 10am to 2pm, Ping Pong Fair at Gandy Day in Webster

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Corey Smestad
8/7



Next Sunday (August 14th) 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) Sue Olson
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
Sunday School Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

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

**Volunteers
Needed!**



**August 18: Wild Mountain
(Youth & Kids)**

**August 20: Food Shelf of
Grantsburg Volunteers' Picnic**



August 7th, 2022
Hebrew 11:1-16

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

“The Meaning of Faith”

I want to start with something funny I heard about this father: A young woman brings home her fiancée to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out about the young man. The father invites the man to his study for a drink. “So, what are your plans?” the father asks the young man. “I am a biblical scholar.” He replies. “A biblical scholar, hmmm,” the father says, “Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she’s accustomed to?” “I will study,” the young man replies, “and God will provide for us.” “And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?” asks the father. “I will concentrate on my studies,” the young man replies, “God will provide for us.” “And children?” asks the father, “How will you support children?” “Don’t worry, sir, God will provide,” replies the young man. The conversation goes like this, and each time the father questions, the young man answers that God will provide. Later, the mother asks, “how did it go, Honey?” The father answers, “He has no job and no plans, but the good news is that he thinks I’m God.”

Do you remember when you became a Christian? How did you become a Christian? Some of you, perhaps, have grown up Christian since birth; some of you as a teenager through confirmation, or some, much later through some life experience, such as did I. Whenever we began our faith journey, it is a lifelong journey. Some people have left the church and come back to it repeatedly. Some people have been steadfast in their faith. We may say to those who have been consistent that they, “have a strong faith.” And, to those who are back and forth, “their faith is weak.” No doubt, we may judge their faith by their good works. I want to talk about “the meaning of faith,” wondering what you think of faith.

We have often heard about “faith.” When you hear the word “faith,” perhaps, “a mustard seed” comes to your mind. It does for me. When asked by a columnist from Inter-County Leaders, “a mustard seed” came to my mind first as my column’s standing head. Because I think it is an excellent opportunity to spread the Gospel to people, I prayed my column would be a tiny seed of the Gospel to plant in the hearts of those who read it. It is like a mustard seed that is tiny, but when it grows, it becomes a big tree, providing good shelter for many people and birds. My column will be published in the Inter-County Leaders the first week of every month. Please pray for my column that the seeds of the Gospel shall be planted in people’s hearts so that the kingdom of God may be extended. It is my faith, like a mustard seed, and my prayer.

The faith of a mustard seed comes from the Gospel of Matthew. When Jesus’ disciples tried to heal a boy possessed by a demon, they couldn’t heal him. And the father came to Jesus and asked him to heal his son. As soon as Jesus rebuked the demon, it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. The disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” Jesus answered, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:14-21).

Has anyone been able to move a mountain through your faith? If not, does it mean all of us to have no faith? We are sometimes confused about what faith means. When I was 25, a pastor suggested I attend a seminary. As soon as the pastor suggested it, I was concerned about

whether I could make enough money for seminary and my living expenses while I was studying in a seminary. I asked the pastor, "If I go to a seminary, how can I afford the tuition and my living expenses while I am studying." He said, "God will provide what you need." Guess what I thought at that time. I expected that the church might provide my tuition through a scholarship. I thought of the funny story I told you earlier, about the father. But, the church or the pastor didn't provide me with a scholarship. With little faith, I expected it and was disappointed. However, as I grew in faith, I realized God had provided me with all I needed so far. But, still, I cannot move the mountain by faith.

The Letter of Hebrews is the so-called, Scripture of Faith. It says regarding the definition of faith, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Simply I may say, faith is that we have confidence that God makes things happen as we pray. Again, faith is that we have no doubt that God answers our prayers. A good example is Hannah's prayer. Hannah was loved by her husband but had a concern about not having a child and suffered from it because her husband's first wife gave her a hard time. One day, she prayed at the sanctuary like a drunken woman, perhaps, as she was crying and shouting to God. After praying, Eli the Priest told her, "Go in Peace. May God hear your prayers!" She returned to her place, and she was never worried about it again. Rather, she enjoyed eating and no longer felt down. Finally, she gave birth to a son, Samuel, and she believed God makes things happen (1 Samuel 1:9-18).

Likewise, we know Abraham's story, Moses' story, and the Israelites' stories. "By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). However, Abraham also had a hard time waiting for God's answer. The promise that God would give him a lot of his descendants, like the sand of the beach and stars in the sky, took longer than he expected. He got the promise when he left his hometown. His age was seventy-five. Until after the age of eight-five, he didn't have any child. So, he got a child from Sarah's servant Hagar. Even Sarah laughed at God's angel, who said, "You will give birth to a son," because her age was ninety. She thought how it could happen. However, God kept his promise, giving him Isaac when he was one hundred. According to the scripture, Abraham and Sarah hadn't kept their faith in God. God made things happen for them by grace only.

Let's look at Moses' case! "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he chose to share ill-treatment with the people of God" (Hebrews 11:24-25). Well, really? Did Moses refuse to be called a Pharaoh's son so he would save his people? He ran away from Pharaoh after mistakenly killing an Egyptian soldier. If he left the Castle of Pharaoh to save God's people, he should have accepted when God asked him to go to Egypt to save the people first. But he didn't. Only by God's grace, Moses ran away from the Pharaoh safely, and he returned to Egypt to save God's people. All the believers in the scripture are similar to us. Their faith also wavered, sometimes it was less and sometimes it was more.

I conclude that faith is by the grace of God, not by our efforts or good works. We are weak, but God is strong. Our faith is tiny, but God's grace is full in our life. The scripture says, "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God." Even though we cannot move a mountain by faith, God still loves us and is pleased to be our God. By grace, we became Christians. By grace, we live day by day. By grace, we pray, give thanks, and rejoice in God. We are saved in the faith of Jesus Christ by the grace of God. Our faith is only by the grace of God. Thanks be to God. Amen!