

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Creator of all, you have demanded our complete devotion and obedience. You call for risk-taking loyalty and commitment that puts you before family and friends in our attention. We want to build the quality of life you intend for us and for all people. Show us how to become fully engaged as disciples of Jesus Christ. Help us to straighten out our priorities so we can witness faithfully to your will. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Loving God, there is no way we can settle accounts with you. We have no way to repay you for all we have received from your hands. Yet we want to give our best to the work you call us to do through this community of seekers. We enter, with renewed commitment and confidence, the costly venture of spreading love through your world. We pray in your holy name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Where He Leads Me* UMH 338 (vs. 1 & 4)

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Jenny Lee

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

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

**ONE Parish THREE Churches
"13th 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

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
September 4th, 2022
“13th Sunday After Pentecost”

*Please stand if you are able.

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

*** OPENING HYMN** *This is the Day* **UMH 657**

***MISSION STATEMENT** Responsive

Let us shout our mission statement together.

Let us make the disciples of Jesus Christ all generations with open hearts, open minds, and open doors for the transformation of the world. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Hear the choices God sets before us:

Life and prosperity or death and adversity.

O God, you have searched us and known us.

You know our thoughts and every move we make.

Listen to the ordinances of our God;

love God and walk in the way God commands.

O God, we will listen for your words.

We will seek to walk on the paths you intend.

Happy are those who delight in God’s law;

blessed are all who meditate on God’s Word.

Wonderful are all your works, O god.

We are your creation; we are in your hands. Amen!

DEDICATING HYMN *It is Well with My Soul*

UMH 377 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Like a skilled potter, O God, you have shaped each one of us as a unique design. You know us better than we know ourselves. You value us more highly than we can imagine. We gather now to assemble our prayers for one another and all the world’s people in

a chorus of devotion. We are here for you, and we trust you are with us, gracious God. We pray in your Son, Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

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**

Luke 14:25-35 (See Insert)

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“The Cost for being a Disciple of Jesus”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

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.

**(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 GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 14:25-35

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife
and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a
person cannot be my disciple.

27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my
disciple.

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit
down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to
complete it?

29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone
who sees it will ridicule you,

30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t
he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men
to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a
long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you
have cannot be my disciples.

34 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty
again?

35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.
“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

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 Collecting loose change to support the Moolah for Milk program.</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>September Mission will be Moola for Milk. This is the Salvation Army program to raise money to supply milk vouchers for the backpack program.</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf</p>  <p>(Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>September's Sailor Hat offering will go to support the SCF School Backpack Program & School Store.</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	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Communion	Mary Lou & Charles Wright
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis
Atlas:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adam-Schween
Usher(s)	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Communion	Sue Olson
Sunday School	<i>Summer Break</i>
St. Croix Falls:	
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the church
Communion	Karen Sciacca



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!

For our parishioners:

Jim & Barb Loomis (G)- recovery from COVID, Tom Fedje (G)- surgery at Abbott, Dorothy Miller & Sue Ott (A)-at Pioneer Home, Charles Zeigler (SCF)-on hospice care.

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: 13th Sunday after Pentecost, and Communion Sunday. God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

9/4: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom

9/5: 11:30 am, Korean Clergy Gathering at Grantsburg Parsonage

9/6: Noon -1pm, Webinar for Rural Church Ministry

9/8: 9am, North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom

9/10: 8am, UM Men's Meeting (G)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Richard Benjamin 9/4
Betty & Richard Benjamin 9/7

If someone's birthday or anniversary is missing, please let pastor Jenny know.



Next Sunday (September 11th) Volunteers:

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)	Don Schween
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Rally Sunday

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the church



September 11th:

**Rally Sunday &
Bible Presentation (A)**

Pastor Jenny Leads CCC Worship





September 4th, 2022

Luke 14:25-35

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

“The Cost of Being a Disciple of Jesus”

I want to start with something funny: A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly Gates waiting for them. “Come with me,” said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had anything you could imagine, from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool. “Wow, thank you,” said the taxi driver. Next, St. Peter led the Pastor to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. “Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,” said the Pastor. “Shouldn’t I be the one who gets the mansion? After all, I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God’s Word.” “Yes, that’s true. But during your sermons, people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.”

I am confident of getting all things in heaven like the taxi driver did because I know I make you all pray to understand my sermon without any trouble due to my accent. My American mom told me that when she had an international pastor in her congregation, they prayed for the Pastor and their ears to hear her sermon well. I trust you all pray for me while I preach instead of sleeping.

Today, I want to talk about “the Cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.” While I read today’s scripture, a curiosity comes to my mind. If we asked people who were going to join our church whether they wanted to pay a membership fee monthly or annually, how many people are going to join our church joyfully and willingly? I have heard some people have left the church because they misunderstood the responsibility of tithing or offering as Christians. Please understand that the Christian church never has any membership fee. Imagine, when you get treasures from a rummage sale, or when you taste your favorite pies at Pie & Ice Cream Social, you may provide an offering willingly and joyfully. Because you got unexpected or expected good stuff from a rummage sale, you feel happy and offer a free-will offering. Because you taste good pie at the Pie & Ice Cream Social, you want to provide a free will offering. We Christians appreciate God’s grace and forgiveness, which free us from sin, and we give free-will offerings to the church so that the church ministry works to help out more people who don’t know God and who need God’s grace and forgiveness. Think about God’s amazing grace saving you. You may offer free will offerings with gratitude so that your offerings may help more people, just like God saved you.

We are Christians. Simply we call people Christians who believe in Jesus Christ. I want you to know what it means to be a Christian. The word “Christian” was named after the early church Antioch. Barnabas and Paul (Saul) made people gather together and taught a significant number of people at the church. At that time, the disciples were called “Christians” first at Antioch (Acts 11:19-26). That is, “Christian” doesn’t mean those who only believe in Jesus Christ, but also those who follow and live out Jesus Christ’s teachings and life. In other words, “Christians” are those who believe and are justified with hearts (Romans 10:10), furthermore, those who love one another in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another” (John 13:35). Again, like the parable of the cucumber plants I talked about a few weeks ago, whoever attends church service, may be called Christian whether they give free will offerings to the church or whether they commit to church events, or whether they love one another in acts. However, with

God's help, we may bear the fruits of love as we love one another in acts, which means "being the disciples of Jesus Christ."

Let us see today's scripture. If we were disciples of Jesus Christ, what else would we need? Jesus talked about the cost of being his disciples in several ways: If you don't hate your family members, you cannot be his disciples; if you don't carry your own Cross, you cannot be his disciples. It doesn't make sense. Well, let's see the scripture in detail. After seeing Jesus' miraculous work, large crowds traveled with Jesus. The people who would be disciples of Jesus, might expect not to have to work hard any longer, but get free food and watch miracles like enjoying the fun things in everyday life. What a wonderful life that would be! But, as Jesus saw the crowd, he said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brother and sisters, yes, even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). What's wrong with Jesus? He always said, "love one another as I have loved you," or "love others as you love yourself." But then, "If you don't hate father and mother, brother and sister, wife and children, cannot be his disciple." We are curious if Jesus requested the people to hate their biological families and their lives. Does he call us to hate our loved family?

Please pay attention to the word "hate." The word "hate," in Hebrew's idiom, refers to using "order of priority." For example, Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, and Leah was "hated" by Jacob (Genesis 29:30-31). Jacob didn't hate Leah, but he loved Rachel more than Leah. Like this, Jesus is not calling his disciples to hate their families in terms of emotional response. Instead, he calls for undivided loyalty to himself above family loyalties. The next request for being his disciples is "to carry their own cross," saying, "whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." This word indicates that giving up self-interest and competing loyalties are central to discipleship. In other words, we can't love others more than our children and grandchildren, and we can't carry their cross of faith. As we are saved in the faith of Jesus Christ by God's grace, the redemption goes by individual faith. With our faith, we cannot save our children and grandchildren, but we can encourage and pray for them to grow in faith. They should believe in Jesus to be saved. That's why we should carry our own cross to be the disciples of Jesus.

Both requests for being his disciple indicate that you should be in a God-centered mind. In other words, you love one another in a God-centered mind. A God-centered mind is like going to the second mile. The Gospel Matthew talks about the second mile's love: "If anyone forces you to go one mile, also go the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you" (Matthew 5:41-42). The Christians' responsibilities to love God and love their neighbors is, perhaps, to be forced to walk with lonely persons, live with those who don't have enough food and shelter and be friends with those in need. However, like the second mile's love, if we can go the extra mile, we have already become Jesus's disciples.

A few weeks ago, a Rotarian shared at the Grantsburg Rotary weekly meeting about why Rotarians keep their membership, using the Rotary Club Magazine (Rotary August 2022). Even though Rotarians pay expensive membership fees, they choose to keep their membership because they find values in being a Rotarian, such as being welcomed, respected, and valued for who they are. Furthermore, they value friendship and fellowship, learning new things from guest speakers, and getting opportunities to be involved in the local community. It was interesting to compare it with the church (faith) community. I wonder how we can find value in being a Christian and encourage people to engage with the faith community. Remember, we have free membership in the church, because Jesus paid it off for us already. Therefore, Christian membership is valued itself because we got it through the payment of Jesus' blood, his life on the Cross. It can't be compared with the other memberships. Therefore, with gratitude, we would go to the second mile with those in need. That's it. That's cost for discipleship in Jesus. Thanks be to God. Amen!