

the lost. We would join you in rejoicing when anyone responds to your love and enters into your service. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO. 2022-37
September 11th, 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
O Gracious God, we are delighted to share because we have been blessed by you. We search for ways to help more people because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, we pray in your holy name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Freely, Freely* UMH 389
*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee
*POSTLUDE Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

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

ONE Parish THREE Churches
“14th Sunday After Pentecost”
“Rally Sunday (A)”



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

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Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com
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www.upperstcroixparish.org
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
September 11th, 2022

“14th Sunday After Pentecost/Rally Sunday (A)”

*Please stand if you are able.

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

***OPENING HYMN** *Spirit of the Living God* UMH 393

***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

God looks on humankind to see if any are wise.

Who is seeking after God above all else?

**We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth;
we reach out to be strengthened for service.**

The winds of God blow among us to winnow and cleanse.

They sweep through our midst in judgment.

Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our sin.

Do not let your wrath burn against us.

Remember your promises to us, O God.

Create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits.

We seek to know you and to grow in understanding.

Confront us here and light our way out of the void. Amen!

DEDICATE HYMN *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707 (vs. 1&2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Here our cries, O God, for we recognize our need for your mercy. We are fearful to encounter you, yet we cannot live without you. We are

like lost sheep who have wandered away from the best we know and cannot find our way back. We want you to find us, but we fear your punishment. Come, Good Shepherd, to rescue us from ourselves. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs.1)

BIBLE PRESENTATION (A)

Landon Olson & Wren Grimes

BLESSING OF THE KIDS & TEACHERS

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 15:1-10

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

8 “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Lost and Found”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of all people, who sent Jesus Christ to be a friend to tax collectors and sinners, fill us with love for all your children, that we may be saved from violence to share in patiently searching for

SEPTEMBER 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 (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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TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

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

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Colleen Adam-Schween
 Usher(s) Sue Olson
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
 Sunday School **Rally Sunday**

St. Croix Falls:

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



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!

Please pray for our Sunday School kids, the Youth Group, and our teachers.

Thank you for your support!

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: 14th Sunday after Pentecost. God bless you all!
Rally Sunday (A). Welcome back to Sunday school!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 9/11: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (Rally Sunday-Bible Presentation)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 9/11: 12:00 pm, Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
2:00 pm, Pastor Jenny leads service at Continuing Care Center
- 9/13: 7:00 pm, Provisional Mentoring Meeting via Zoom
- 9/14: 1:00 pm, UMW Meeting (G)
- 9/15: 1:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (A)
- 9/17: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, UMW Fall Gathering at Barren UMC

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Sasha Chute 9/11
Don Anderson 9/12

If you know anyone's birthday is missing,
please let pastor Jenny know.



Next Sunday (September 18th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
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	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>



St. Croix Falls:

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



Sept. 20th: Ad Council Meeting (G)

Oct. 1st: Grantoberfest
Check the signup sheet if you can donate candy

Oct. 2nd: World Communion Sunday
(Check the signup sheet if you can provide your family traditional bread for World Communion Sunday)



September 11th, 2022
Luke 15:1-10

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

“Lost and Found”

I want to start with something funny: One humorist said: “Life is unfair. I lost my car keys at a ball game and never found them. I lost my sunglasses at the beach and never found them. I lost my socks in the washing machine and never found them. I lost three pounds on a diet, but I found them and five more.”

Today, I want to talk about “lost and found.” We have often “lost” things-that is easy to do, but “finding” does not happen so easily. After we had a joint service at St. Croix Falls Church in June, I found a lost pair of eyeglasses, but no one asked for them. They are still at SCF church. After the service at Atlas Park, one parishioner lost her lawn chair. We emailed out inquiring if anyone had seen it, but she still couldn’t find it. Perhaps, the eyeglass or chair might be replaced, and eventually, they may give up on them being found. However, if you lost a loved one, perhaps your precious child, it would be painful, and you would never give up searching for them. If you eventually found your lost loved one, you would most likely give them your love and care even more than before.

I was my mother’s lost child. Going back to my childhood, I was once lost in a marketplace. I lost my mother among many people. I kept walking to look for my mom, crying among many people for half a day. Someone found me and brought me to a room in the police station where they bring lost children. I thought I would never see my mom again. I felt scared. But she found me. I still remember being scared of being lost and the joy and relief of that reunion once found by my family. I can’t imagine how my mother felt after losing me. My mother gave me loving care more than she did before. However, that experience brought me trauma being map blind. I’m still afraid when I plan to go far. But the good thing is I have GPS.

In today’s scripture we read two stories of the lost sheep and the lost coin. These stories Jesus offers are to respond to the grumbling Pharisees and the scribes. They didn’t like Jesus, who “welcomes sinners and eats with them.” They thought that if Jesus was a good teacher, he should be with the Pharisees and scribes rather than with the sinners. They believed that they were righteous people who were reserved in heaven. Jesus told them that these parable stories are not a judgment of the grumblers but good news to them. “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” These stories are about the divine mercy of God and the unbounded joy of God when the lost are found. The issue is, however, who the lost is in the text.

Let’s catch up on why Jesus was with all the tax collectors and sinners. As we talked about the cost of being of Jesus’ disciples last Sunday, Jesus explained to many people who followed him that if they wanted to be his disciples, they should love God more than their family. And, he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” And then, now, “all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.” The Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Who were the sinners? The sinners they judged were the sick, the poor, the tax collectors, and the outsiders socially, economically, and politically. You may be curious about why the tax collectors were treated as sinners by Israelite society. They were rich, but outsiders. They collected taxes for

Rome and stole some parts of them for their wealth. Furthermore, they collected more than the Roman government asked in order for them to steal it. Therefore, the Pharisees and religious leaders regarded them as sinners. They thought they were the only righteous and even judged Jesus, the Son of God.

Again, the poor, the sick, and the outsiders came to Jesus to listen to him and be his disciples, but the religious leaders judged them. These two stories have an obvious common point: the compassionate concern of a searching God. The shepherd has a risk of temporarily abandoning the ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness and goes looking for one sheep out of one hundred. For the shepherd, a hundred sheep are more important than one sheep. But, even though he risks losing ninety-nine, he chooses to look for the lost one. Why? The lost ones can't find a way by himself. The lost one is in need. The lost one looks for a helper.

The woman who lost a coin is described as lighting a lamp and taking a broom in hand in her attempt to recover her missing coin. Neither the shepherd nor the woman has a moment's hesitation as to what to do. Neither gave up the search until the sheep/coin was found. Such searching gives value to those being sought. They become treasured and significant because they are not left for lost, but are made the objects of divine concern. Furthermore, the shepherd and the woman overcome the risk and the difficulties of their search. And they call their friends and neighbors to come to a party. It perhaps spends costs more than one sheep or one coin to celebrate. The reason they do so is that we may find guidance in the conclusion of these stories. The narrator makes a point of speaking of the heavenly joy "over one sinner who repents" (15:7, 10) as the conclusion of these stories. However, we know that sheep and coin cannot repent. What's the parable for?

Let's see in the scripture again. Jesus begins, "which one of you, having a hundred sheep...?" (15:4). They are asked to reflect on their own experiences of losing a valuable thing, of the search, and of the delight in finding it. By association, they are invited to share with God and the angelic host in the celebration over the reclaiming of a lost sinner. Here is the good news. God is searching for a lost one beyond our thoughts. God never gives up no matter who you are.

Again, who are the lost? From the leaders' perspective, it is the sinners. If it is so, the leaders were invited to the celebration table. It is clear if you see the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). When the lost son comes back home, the father has a celebrated party with many people. But the older son refuses to join the party. For sure, the shepherd and woman imply to God who looks for the lost ones. What about your position if you reflect on your spiritual Life? We might think that we are not like sinners. We might think that God is searching for the lost one, who is out of one hundred. We might think that we are staying in the group of ninety-nine as the Pharisees and the scribes thought of themselves. However, Jesus tells them, "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance" (5:32). And he says about the heavenly joy "over one sinner who repents" (15:7, 10). Whether you think you are the lost one or the one abiding in God, God is searching for us. The scripture says, "There is no one righteous under sin, not even one; whether Jews or gentile (Romans 3:9-10).

Here is the good news. We all are sinners, lost ones from God, but God never gives up on us until God finds us. Even God made His Only Son sacrifice to look for us. Let's repent and return to God. And then, let's join his invitation for searching for lost ones. Think of our faith family. We have lost a lot. We feel pain. And God may feel more painful for us. It is time to join God's divine search for the lost ones. Remember, the grace of God is endless. Let us join God in searching for the lost so we may experience the heavenly joy. Thanks be to God, Amen!