

**RESPONDING PRAYER Unison**

Eternal God, whose provision for us is generous and compassionate, and whose will for us is total commitment in love of you, of neighbor, and of self, keep us from withholding any part of ourselves from obedience and loyalty to you, so we may be free to give genuine welcome to all people, to your honor and glory. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*After each prayer request:  
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,  
All: Hear our Prayer.*

**PRAYER SONG**

**UMH 487**

*This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!*

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

We bring our offering, not with thought of reward, but because we are grateful. We give you our gifts with our minds and hearts because it is such a privilege and joy to share. It is not to pay bills, but to enable a ministry that meets basic human needs with the good news of the gospel. May your people be empowered to give the service each moment requires, in even a deed as simple as giving a cup of cold water to quench another's thirst. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

**UMH 584 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

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

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:  
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

**5th Sunday After Pentecost**



**Grantsburg-Central**  
Since 1897



**Atlas**  
Since 1887



**St. Croix Falls**  
Since 1859

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

*9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service  
(9:15 AM, Sunday School)*

*10:00 AM at Atlas (Sunday School-Summer break)*

*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 2nd, 2023**  
**5th 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!  
*(Waive your hands with one another)*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Early in the morning, our thoughts turn toward God.  
We have been led to this mountaintop of worship.

**We come, trusting in God's steadfast love.**

**We gather, seeking the way of salvation and peace.**

God has made an everlasting covenant with us.

Let us proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

**Sometimes we think God has forgotten us.**

**Often we do not understand what God expects of us.**

God deals bountifully with us in much that we take for granted.

God shows us the value of life and helps us celebrate it.

**We bring our sorrow and pain to this healing time.**

**May God provide what we need to grow in Christ. Amen!**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH 140 (vs. 1 & 2)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison (Psalm 13)

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed.' But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**INVITATION FOR COMMUNION**  
**CONFESSION AND PARDON** Unison

Pastor Jenny Lee

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 (RECEIVING) 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**

Matthew 10:40-42 (See insert)

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

Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**

*"The Channel of Blessings"*

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.**

**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

**Matthew 10:40-42**

40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me  
welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the  
name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes  
a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the  
reward of the righteous, 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to  
one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of  
these will lose their reward.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**



# JULY CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

### INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



### LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

### *We appreciate your ongoing support!*

1. We will focus on financial support of our church to help expand our ministry.
2. Donate items for the thrift sale (8/5)

## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

### BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER  
... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!  
Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"



CUMC's mission for July is to help support Atlas United Methodist Church financially and through donations to their Thrift & Bake Sale and scheduled for August 5th. Donations can be dropped off at Central for delivery to Atlas prior to the sale. Thank you for your continued support of the Upper St. Croix Parish.

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



### Sailor Hat Offering:

*The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Harbor House*

Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People  
*Pastor Jenny Lee*

### Central:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Acolyte(s)  
Mowing  
Fellowship  
Counter  
Cleaning  
Communion  
Sunday School

Toni Koons  
Barb Loomis  
Willow Nyland  
Dave Huff  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson  
Barb Loomis  
Barb Loomis

### Atlas:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Acolyte(s)  
Cleaning  
Communion  
Sunday School

Sharon Asp  
Sue Olson  
Colleen Adams-Schween  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Sue Olson  
Younger/Older  
*Summer Break-VBS: Aug. 7th-10th*

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher(s)  
Money Counter  
Bell Ringer  
Flowers  
Fellowship  
Communion

Sharon Asp  
Kathy Gionis  
Jim Andrews  
Peter Gionis  
Jim Sciacca  
Ladies of the Church  
Ad Council Members  
Peter & Kathy Gionis



**Break through Prayers:** Please pray for those who are moving and transitioning in their lives.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFlIZz09>  
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>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today: 5th Sunday after Pentecost  
Pastor Jenny is back from her vacation.  
(Thank you for giving me some time to rest-Pastor Jenny)

### Sunday Worship Services:

7/2: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am	Grantsburg (9:15 am, Sunday School)
10:00 am	Atlas (No Sunday School)
11:15 am	St. Croix Falls

7/2: 2:00 pm Pastor Jenny leads worship service at CCC  
7/4: Independence Day (Office Closed)  
7/6: 5:30-7:00 pm Youth Outdoor Games  
7/7: 1:30 pm AD Council Meeting (A)  
7/8: 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)

**PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!**

## VBS is from August 7th - August 10th

**First Registration Deadline: by July 14th (All Kids will get a shirt)  
Second Registration Deadline: by July 28 (Kids may not get shirts)**

We need your help as volunteers. A sign-up sheet is available.  
Find a spot and be a part of Vacation Bible School.

**Questions: Contact Shayna Schmid (Youth Director)**

## Next Sunday (July 9th) Volunteers:

### Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Mowing	Dave Huff
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older Barb Loomis

### Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Acolyte(s)	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Younger/Older Summer Break-VBS: Aug. 7th-10th

### St. Croix Falls:

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



## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Scott Olson	7/2
Elli Olson	7/3
Sharon Huff	7/3
Betty Benjamin	7/8



July 2nd, 2023  
Matthew 10:40-42

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



## “The Channel of Blessings”

I want to start with something funny. I heard about this couple. They were driving down the road. When they came to a crossing sign, it said, “Nakadochis forty miles ahead.” They began to argue about how to pronounce the name “Nakadochis” correctly. The husband got so upset. He told his wife he would stop to prove she was wrong when they got to the town. They drove silently for the next thirty minutes. He pulled their car over at the first fast-food restaurant when they arrived. They both marched up to the counter. And he told a young lady working there. “My wife and I have been arguing for the last thirty minutes. Would you please tell us, very slowly and very clearly, how to pronounce the name of this place?” The young girl’s eyes got big, and she leaned over the counter and said, “Bur~ger~ King [Burger King].”

We sometimes argue with one another about small things. The argument leads us to fight with each other. But, after a while, we forget why we started arguing and fighting, and then we begin to hate each other. If you feel something is going wrong, stop immediately and take a slow, deep breath in and out, and look at each other. There is nothing more important than your family, friends, and neighbors. We all have different ideas, characters, behaviors, tendencies, and preferences. These things may differ between sisters and brothers and even husbands and wives. The thing that can make a difference and keep the peace between us is love. The way a husband and wife, a friend and a friend, a brother and sister, or even you and I may keep our peace is to love each other. Isn’t it the reason we gathered together at church this morning? We gathered here because we “love God” and we “love one another.” You are there because your love is more significant than your hate.

If you ask those who don’t want to come back to the church, they may say, “I don’t like something,” or “I don’t like someone.” They don’t want to come back because their hate for something or someone is bigger than their love. Remember, nothing compares with Jesus’ love, which he showed when he died on the cross for our sins. Our sins are forgiven by Jesus’ love and God’s grace. It is not because we became righteous by our acts, but because God’s grace and Jesus’ love are greater than our sins. The disciple Peter says, “Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). “Love one another as you love yourself” means that others are also as precious as you are. Love yourself and others as Jesus loves you, and become the channel of blessings because God chose you as the channel of his blessing.

While I was on vacation, I met several friends and colleagues. It was such a joy to visit everyone because it was a time to learn and grow in ministerial wisdom. One of them asked me, “What is your favorite thing about becoming a pastor?” I said, “It is that I have the authority to bless people. I believe a pastor that God sent has the authority to bless people, not curse or hate people.” What do you think? God sends a pastor to proclaim the good news, not the bad news, right? I cannot proclaim the bad news to you from the altar. If I hate you, I cannot proclaim the good news to you. As a pastor, my greatest privilege and authority is to bless all people around me. I said, “All people around me.” I cannot distinguish between those who are blessed and those who are cursed. That’s not allowed, but I may bless everyone around me. That is the best reason God sent me here. I may be the channel of the blessings, which means I may share with you God’s grace and Jesus’ love, which I have already received, and am receiving currently. You are the precious people to be blessed.

Today’s scripture is about Jesus’ lessons to his disciples before he sends his disciples to the people. It begins with the Gospel of Matthew 10:1, “Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority

over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.” And 10:7-8 says, “As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons.” As you see, the authority Jesus gave to his disciples was to bless the people. Even though the people don’t welcome them, they can’t curse them. Verse 10:14 says, “If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave home or town.” That’s it. However, it is not only for me, but also for all of you who would be the disciples of Jesus.

We are growing into the disciple of Jesus day by day, practicing Jesus’ teachings. Jesus’ greatest commandment is to love God and to love others. How many times do you practice the love Jesus taught us in a day? How often do you practice the love Jesus showed us in a week? There may be more times you hate someone or something than the times you love them. There may be more times you curse someone or something than the times you bless them. However, think of it in this way: What if what we bless others with comes to us; What if we curse others with comes to us?

We always want to be welcomed, loved, and blessed. There is the Golden Rule among the teachings of Jesus. That is in Matthew 7:12, “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” If you want to be welcomed, loved, and blessed, welcome others, love them, and bless many as you can.

Today’s scripture is short, but it is the crucial conclusion of Jesus’ lesson toward his disciples: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” This passage is called the second golden rule. We are the disciples of Jesus to welcome others, love others, and bring the good news to them. On the other hand, we are also people to be welcomed, loved, and blessed by other disciples. We love others in the name of a disciple of Jesus, and we are beloved by others. We may serve others who are thirsty with a cup of water. We may also face a situation where we are in need of a cup of water. We may be the first, but no one knows if we will become the last later or sooner. Please become the channel of blessings, not a channel of the curse. Love others as you want to be loved; bless many people as you can; if the blessing is not proper to them, the blessing may come to you! God bless you! Thanks be to God! Amen!