

**PRAYER SONG**

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

**UMH 487**

NO. 2023-33  
August 13th, 2023

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

God, we cannot deceive you with the appearance of generosity. You know how we manage the wealth entrusted to our care. Help us to know the joy of sharing from the abundance you provide. Help us to trust when we feel we do not have enough. We give thanks that you enable us to be givers, not just receivers. May what we offer here provide a helpful ministry to many. May what we offer to our families, friends, and co-workers tomorrow also be blessed as ministry. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *We'll Understand It Better By and By*  
**UMH 525 (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)

**11th 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:** [snssnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snssnyder@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>

Worship Resources “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler.

**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**August 13th, 2023**

---

\*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 at one another*)

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**    **Responsive**  
Over the wind and waves, Christ comes to us.  
Do not fear to meet Christ here.  
    **We have heard the invitation.**  
    **Our hopes have brought us together.**  
The storms of life do not have the last word.  
Our faith keeps us from sinking.  
    **Our doubts lead to greater faith.**  
    **Our losses open us to greater possibilities.**  
Let us call on God's name and give thanks.  
Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.  
We will sing of God's wonderful works.  
    **We will share with others God's marvelous deeds. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**    *Be Still, My Soul*    **UMH 534 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER**    **Unison**  
We seek your presence, holy God. Break through all our pretenses that we might sense the vibrant energy embracing the whole universe yet know ourselves to be personally loved within the vast expanse of space and time. How amazing are all the miracles of life that surround us! We praise you. We thank you. We bow in awe before you. In this hour, we pray that our faith may be enlivened, our trust deepened, our commitment expanded to meet the challenges of our times. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

**CHILDREN'S TIME (G)**                                      **UMH 191 (vs.1)**

**Proclamation of God's Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**                                      **Matthew 14:22-33**

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**            *"Take Heart, and See God is there!"*    **Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God's Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER**    **Unison**  
Glorious God, whose word took on flesh in Jesus, and whose saving grace can be known by all who believe in Christ, open our hearts and minds to encounter your word personally, that the church may more fully express our identity as the body of Christ, carrying on the mission Jesus began, assuring a frightened world of the power of love. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**  
*After each prayer request:*  
*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*  
*All: Hear our Prayer.*

# AUGUST 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!*

We will focus on the financial support of our church to help expand our ministry.



## 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"



We will collect school supplies which will be distributed on August 17th. We appreciate your ongoing support of our monthly missions. Thank you!



## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



**Food Shelf**  
(Communion Sunday)



### Sailor Hat Offering:

*The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Interfaith Caregivers!*

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  
Sunday School

Toni Koons  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Willow Nyland  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Sandra Erickson  
Barb Loomis

### Atlas:

Pianist  
Liturgist  
Usher  
Acolyte(s)  
Cleaning  
Sunday School

Sharon Asp  
Colleen Adams-Schween  
Sue Olson  
*Volunteer Needed*  
*Volunteer Needed*  
Younger/Older  
*Summer Break*

### St. Croix Falls:

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

Sharon Asp  
Karen Sciacca  
Jim Andrews  
Karen Sciacca  
Jim Sciacca  
Church Gardeners  
Ad Council Members



***Break through Prayers:***  
Please Pray for the kids and teachers (including VBS and Sunday School).

## 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: 11th Sunday after Pentecost; God bless you all!

### Sunday Worship Services:

8/13: 11th 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

8/13: 2:00 pm Youth Bowling Day!  
8/15: 6:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (G)  
8/17: 7:00-8:30 pm Provisional Elder Mentoring Meeting via Zoom  
8/18: 1:30 pm, Ad Council Meeting (A)  
5:30-8:00 pm Youth Family Night (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

We appreciate your support and prayers!  
VBS went very well by the grace of God. It was full of children's joyful noise in the church, and the hard work of many volunteers!  
Continue to pray for the kids so they may grow in faith.  
Glorify God's name and praise the Lord!

## Next Sunday (August 20th) Volunteers:

### Central:

Pianist Toni Koons  
Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**  
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland  
Mowing **Volunteer Needed**  
Fellowship Charles & Mary Lou Wright  
Counter **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning Sandra Erickson  
Sunday School Barb Loomis

### Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Sue Olson  
Usher Colleen Adams-Schween  
Acolyte(s) **Volunteer Needed**  
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**  
Sunday School Younger/Older  
*Summer Break*

### St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp  
Liturgist Karen Sciacca  
Usher(s) Jim Andrews  
Money Counter Karen Sciacca  
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca  
Flowers Church gardeners  
Fellowship Ad Council Members



## Upcoming Events

August 20<sup>th</sup> AD Council Meeting (SCF)  
August 26<sup>th</sup> Pie & Ice Cream Social (G)  
August 27<sup>th</sup> Joint Worship Service at Atlas Park

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Wright

8/15



August 13th, 2023  
Matthew 14:22-33

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



## **“Take Heart, and See God is There!”**

I want to start with something funny I found on an internet site: Jesus decides to come back to earth. He gets his friend Moses to go with him, and Moses tells him he should warm up doing miracles before he shows anyone. They rent a cabin on a lake out in the middle of nowhere.

On the first day, Jesus takes a wine glass, fills it with water, and turns it into wine! Moses is suitably impressed. On the second day, they go out on the lake and catch two fish, and Jesus multiplies them so they'll have plenty. Moses is, again, impressed.

On the third day, Jesus decides to walk across the lake. He walks out, but the water is up to his knees pretty soon, and he heads back. “Why can't I walk on water, Moses?” he asked. “I have no idea. Let's take a break and try again tomorrow.” The next day, Jesus wades out, and again he sinks. “I just can't understand it!” he cried. “I still can't figure it out,” said Moses. “We'll give it one more try tomorrow.” The next day, Jesus walked out into the lake again. “Why can't I walk on water anymore?” Moses thinks for a moment, then asks, “Well...did you have the holes in your feet last time?”

Today's scripture is a famous story about Jesus walking on water. It happened right after Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish and got twelve baskets full of leftovers. And then, Jesus immediately made his disciples get into the boat and go on to the other side while he sent all the people. The disciples who left in a hurry met the wind on the boat, and the waves battered the boat. They were still far from the land and afraid of the wind blowing against them. Can you imagine? While they were struggling with the wind in the middle of the lake, they saw someone coming toward them on the water. They were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” and crying out in fear. But Jesus immediately spoke to them, saying, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” And among the twelve disciples, Peter said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water,” while others were in fear.

The twelve disciples all experienced Jesus' miraculous work, and they even saw that Jesus rebuked the winds and waves when they feared the storm and that it was completely calm. Here is the story: Jesus and his disciples got into a boat after they healed many illnesses. As soon as Jesus got on the boat, he fell in sleep. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. The disciples woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We're going to go down.!” Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and waves, and it was completely calm. They were amazed that the winds and waves obeyed him (Matthew 8:23-27).

The Letter of Isaiah says, “It is I who made the earth and created humankind upon it. It was my hands that stretched out the heavens; I commanded all their host” (Isaiah 45:12). Peter might believe that Jesus is the Lord who made all creatures, and rules all universes. Otherwise, how could he say, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water?” It was early morning, which meant they were struggling against the wind and the waves over the night on the lake. While they were struggling with the winds and waves, someone was coming by walking on the water. Moreover, he said, “It's I. Take heart. Don't be afraid.” Peter might believe that if it was Jesus, he could also walk on water by Jesus, who could calm winds and waves.

Does anyone have faith like Peter? While the other disciples still stayed in the boat with fear, he asked Jesus, "Say to me to come out of the boat and walk on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So, Peter exited the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. Some people are, perhaps, still suspicious of how someone could walk on water, while others believe we can do it with God's help. The disciples' situation was challenging: it was at midnight; the wind and waves coming towards them, and what appeared to be a ghost walked on water toward them. But, remember, Jesus was there with them.

It is not just a story from the Bible, but it is our story. In our life journey, we often face winds and waves, whether it is a big or small deal. Sometimes in the middle of the night, when we can't find a way to go forward, somehow, we face the winds and waves, which are the burdens that we have to deal with; somehow, we face the ghost. We may experience the loss of a loved one unexpectedly. If that happens what do we do? Are we going to stay in the middle of grief, scared, heartbroken and fearful? Remember, when we face difficulties, God is there whether we realize it or not. God may give us a sign as God is there. It is likely as if when the disciples faced difficulties on the lake, Jesus came to them like a ghost. However, a few people realize it was Jesus, while others feared it was a ghost. When you feel lost in the middle of the night in your life journey, take heart, and see God is there with you and for you.

Right before I got appointed at this parish, I struggled wondering what if God's answer didn't come to me. At that time, after I finished my Ph.D. studies, I had also completed a degree of Master of Divinity with God's strong calling. However, God's calling made me wait for longer than I expected. While waiting for God's answer, I worked at a hospital as a chaplain for one and a half years. My plan was I would work at a hospital for six months. Then, I was suspicious if God's answer was that I was to become a chaplain. Meanwhile, my visa was about to expire, and I had to go back to my country, South Korea. I was confused about God's calling, which made me study for a Master of Divinity degree after getting a Doctoral degree. I felt that all doors were blocked. Many confusions led me to getting stressed. Should I go back earlier, right after finishing a PhD?

One day, when I watered my garden, I saw a rainbow in my garden. As soon as I saw it, I recalled God's promise: "Wherever you go, I will be there." So, I just kneeled in my garden and prayed, "Lord, if it is a sign, you are here with me; please lead me out of this darkness." And then, I got an email from the bishop that evening.

If you feel that you are lost in the middle of the night, could you pray to God? And then, take heart, and see God is there for you. I know sometimes God's answer comes to us very slowly. However, even if it is slow, keep it going. Even if you go further and face difficulties again, don't worry because God may hold you. It is like when Peter bravely came out of the boat and walked on the water a little bit, but he fell sooner. However, remember, when Peter fell into the water, he shouted, "Lord, save me!" then, Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

God sometimes makes us wait for a long time, and He sometimes answers us immediately. We don't know when it will be. But the good thing is that God is with us always. Whenever you have turmoil in your life, take heart, and see God is there. Thanks be to God. Amen!