

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God, whose law is perfect and whose covenant with us is sure, teach us today as Jesus taught the crowds long ago. May we hear the voice of compassion and sense the healing touch which we need as much as they did. Multiply among us the food of your Word, that as we are fed. We may be eager to pass on your gifts to us with a transforming generosity of spirit, and so we may feed many as you did so, in Jesus' name. 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**

Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hunger when we turn to you. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from your hand. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593 (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)

10th 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

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
August 6th, 2023
10th 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!
(*Waive your hands with one another*)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Come into the presence of God to be fed.
Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

We gather to seek God's face.

Let our eyes see all that is right and true.

Incline your ears to hear all God would teach.

Seek to experience God's steadfast love.

We are here to receive God's blessing.

God is our refuge in a frightening world.

God is near to all who call and seek.

Come to praise God and receive a blessing.

Open all our senses to pay close attention, O God.

We want to renew our covenant with the living God. Amen!

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Take Our Bread* **UMH 640**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We are in awe before you, God, for you have provided for us in rich abundance. The earth is full of your provisions. There is beauty all around us from the work of your hands. You have surrounded us with people who care about us with the love of Christ. Help us, O God, to count our blessings. Point us beyond our cries and complaints that we might realize our capacity to act in your name for the sake of others. As we wrestle with issues of faith and trust, help us to risk our false security for the venture of feeding others in the Spirit of Christ. 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 14:13-21 (See insert)**

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON **"You Give Them Something to Eat!"** **Pastor Jenny Lee**

Atlas United Methodist Church
Annual Thrift and Bake Sale
Saturday, August 5th, 2023



Downtown Atlas

2110 295th Avenue/County Road B

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*****\$5/BAG SPECIAL BEGINS AT 12:00*****

Most Items
Free Will
Offering

Household items, holiday
decor, clothes, books,
picture frames
and much more!!



BAKE SALE

Lots of great baked goods for
sale as well!!

MINECRAFT THEMED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Is your child looking for something to do this August?

Parents
need a
break for
a few
hours?



*Don't feel
like
cooking for
the kids?*

Have us entertain and feed them dinner!!

UPPER SAINT CROIX PARISH is having an
evening VBS August 7th - 10th nightly
from 4:30-7:30 pm.

Where: 301 N PINE STREET, GRANTSBURG

When: August 7-10 4:20-7:30 each night

Who: Children Ages Kindergarten to 6th grade

Register by calling or texting Shayna at 920-312-2857

Register by July 14 for free t-shirt.

Registration closes July 28 at 6pm.



**We look forward to seeing everyone at our
Minecraft themed Vacation Bible School!**

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 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

Thanks be to God.

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
Communion

Toni Koons
Volunteer Needed
Willow Nyland
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
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
Karen Sciacca
Jim Andrews
Karen Sciacca
Jim Sciacca
Church Gardener
Ad Council Members
Jim & Karen Sciacca



Break through Prayers: Please pray for those who are moving, traveling, and transitioning in this season.



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=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>
- 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: 10th Sunday after Pentecost; God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

8/6: Communion Sunday

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

8/7-8/10: 4:30 pm-7:30pm Vacation Bible School (VBS)

8/10: 5:30 pm Grantsburg Food Shelf Picnic

8/12: 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

COME & SEE!

You are invited to the VBS Opening & Closing Services!
Please join us at 4:30 pm on August 7th & 10th at
Central-Grantsburg UMC

Questions: Contact Shayna Schmid (Youth Director)

Next Sunday (August 13th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Barb Loomis

Atlas:

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

Summer Break-VBS: Aug. 7th-10th

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Siacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Karen Siacca
Bell Ringer	Jim Siacca
Flowers	Ladies of the Church
Fellowship	Ad Council Members



Upcoming Events

August 13th	Youth Bowling Day
August 15th	Ad Council Meeting (G)
August 18th	Ad Council Meeting (A)
August 26th	Pie & ice Cream Social (G)
August 27th	Joint Worship Service at Atlas Park

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Corey Smestad
8/7





“You Give Them Something to Eat!”

I want to start with something funny I found an internet site: A little girl from Alabama went to church for the first time while visiting her grandparents in Michigan. When the pastor announced it was time for Communion, she was excited—and hungry. The congregation filed up to the altar rail, and the child watched in confusion as her grandparents received a wafer and a small plastic cup of wine. She could hardly wait to get back to the pew to tell her grandma that Jesus wasn’t from Alabama. “How do you know that dear?” asked her grandma. “Because that was the poorest meal I’ve ever seen,” she said. “Mama would’ve at least given everybody some cornbread and sweet tea.”

It is Communion Sunday today. While we keep Communion the first Sunday of every month, some churches keep Communion every Sunday. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me.” Yes, “Communion” is to remember what Jesus did for us; How Jesus loved us. And as often as we can do Communion, it benefits us. Some might raise a question; what is the benefit for us?

We share a piece of bread and a small cup of juice at the Communion table. It might be nothing significant in and of itself. But sharing a piece of bread and a cup of wine has profound meaning. Communion supper is from Jesus’ compassion for his people who were hungry, who were sick, who were oppressed, and who were under burdens. Eating a piece of bread and drinking a cup of wine is a way to confess we are satisfied, healed, forgiven, and released by Jesus’ steadfast love. It is a tangible means of grace, experiencing Jesus’ presence at the table and among us. It symbolizes our Lord Jesus Christ feeds us the living bread for eternal life as Jesus said, “I am the bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35). Also, it symbolizes that we unite with Jesus Christ through eating the bread and wine (juice) from Jesus’ table as well as unite with one another who eat together from one table, which is the Lord’s table.

Eating meals together is very significant in Korea for building a good relationship, such as making a close friend, becoming good companions, and being a harmonious family member. In Korea, a family literally means “those who are eating together at a table.” Israelite’s customs were similar. When Jesus enjoyed eating and drinking with people, the Pharisees looked at him and said, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” (Luke 7:34). Israelites also regarded that people who ate together, were close friends. How about American customs? Is it similar? So, we are also friends and family members in Jesus Christ because we eat together from the Lord’s table. It is a covenant that we may feed the hungry until we eat with Jesus in heaven as Jesus fed us.

As we read today’s scripture, many people followed Jesus always wherever Jesus went. Some of them looked for food; some looked for healing; some looked for some miraculous works; some might just have followed him because many people had gathered; perhaps, a few looked for his teachings and wisdom. Many people followed Jesus all day, even to the desert, which means Jesus taught them and healed them all day long. And then, it was about supper time.

The disciples were concerned that the people must be hungry and thought they should send them to find their own food by themselves. However, Jesus said, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." Jesus said, "Bring them here to me."

Don't you think the disciples are similar to us? Some may say, "We have nothing here so if we make any church ministry plan, how can we make it happen?" When we received the VBS grant, someone said, "I don't think we can do it because we don't have anybody who can do the work." But, I said, "Let's see if God, who gave us the grant, doesn't send us the people." Now, we have more than twenty volunteers for VBS.

Do you know where the five loaves of bread and two fish came from? Yes, they were from a boy. The Gospel of John addresses that Jesus asked his disciples, "Where can we buy enough food to feed the crowds?" And then, a boy brought five barley loaves and two fish to his disciple. Can you imagine? More than five thousand people, with women and children, gathered together and were hungry. Jesus said, "Where we can buy enough food for them?" and a boy came to Jesus and said, "I have five loaves of bread and two fish." He might have heard Jesus say, "You give them something to eat." And he came and joyfully said, "Here you are." How authentic he was!

If you saw this scenario before you, what would you say? You may do like the disciples said, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" (John 6:9). Perhaps, those who count well may say, "No, we cannot buy enough food for these many people even if we received six months' wages. Don't try to do anything. Just send them away whatever they do."

However, Jesus' love and compassion toward the people would love to feed them and said, "Bring them to me." Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate and they were filled; they got leftovers of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

Remember, God received a boy's dedication, not the adult who counted well. God's thought is different from ours. God's works may not be in numbers, but authentic minds believe that "We can do everything in HIM who can give us strength" (Philippians 4:13).

We often think of what we don't have first. But try to count what you have first. You may have many things that are immeasurable. Jesus may ask you, "You give them something to eat;" "You may give them something to drink;" "You may give them something to wear." Do you think you don't have anything worth giving? Something you would give away might be treasure to others. When you give Jesus even the smallest amount of faith, it may be the size of a mustard seed, but it will grow and becomes the size of a big tree, and then it will help many others.

Our VBS starts tomorrow, August 7th through August 10th. I may say, "Come and see and help them out." Don't say, "I can't do anything." Your presence is very encouraging to the kids and other volunteers; your prayers may powerfully work; your kind words help many kids to enjoy VBS. We are one family who live together, eating together from the Lord's table. We can make things happen with the grace of God when we work together. You can encourage them. You can give them a good impression of the church. Let's make things happen together by the grace of God! Thanks be to God! Amen!