

**RESPONDING PRAYER Unison**

Righteous and holy God, giver of life amid the hatred and cruelty that abounds among us when our rivalries get out of hand, let us hear your judgments as well as your promises, that our thoughts and actions may more nearly match your will for us and equip us to accomplish much good according to your counsel and to your 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!*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH 95**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

With joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate these offerings, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share your word and love all your people. In gratitude for the gospel of salvation, we pledge our first loyalty and highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus' name. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**UMH 577 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

Worship designed "Led By Love" by Lavon Bayler

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

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:  
"Let's Replant It" (Galatians 6:7-10)

**8th 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 (No Sunday School-Summer break )  
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**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 14th, 2024**  
**8th 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 at one another)*

**We Celebrate New Life in Christ**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      **Responsive**

Blessed be the God and parent of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank God for every spiritual blessing.

**May the glory of God be known in this place!**

**May God’s peace dwell in this and every land!**

Who shall ascend the hill to reach for God?

Who shall stand in God’s holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,**

**Those who are not false or deceitful.**

God speaks peace to those who are faithful.

Lift up your heads and your hearts to God.

**We have come to hear the word of truth.**

**We turn to God, eager to receive salvation. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**                      *When Love Is Found*

**UMH 643 (vs. 1, 2 & 5)**

**OPENING PRAYER**      **Unison**

**Ruler of all words, whose glory surrounds our unseeing eyes, our muffled hearing and our dulled emotions, come to awaken us to the mystery of your will. Speak to us a word of truth that reveals our deceit and leads us away from falsehood. Touch us with healing grace that allows us to admit our woundedness and accept the comfort you offer. Let your Spirit move among us so we may recognize your presence in one another and in our own lives. May our response to you be faithful and our praise genuine. Amen!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME (G)**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Mark 6:14-29**

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’s name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” 15 But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” 23 And he swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” 24 She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” 25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” 26 The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SERMON**

**“The Courage of Faith”**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

# JULY CHURCH MISSIONS

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p><b>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</b></p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p><b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Requested items: Peanut Butter &amp; Jelly</p> 	<p><b>SCHOOL SUPPLIES</b></p> <p>We will be collecting school supplies to support children in our own community.</p> 
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## GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p><b>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</b></p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back- Pack Program"</p> 	<p>Will we be collecting financial donations and school supplies for the children in the Grantsburg area. The supplies will be distributed at Faith Lutheran Church in August. Thank you for your support!</p> 
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## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b> (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b></p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support CRA and Butterfly House!</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

# TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

**Ministers** All God's People  
Rev. Jenny Lee

## VOLUNTEERS

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Charles and Mary Lou Wright
Counter	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Mariah Gaffey
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Summer Break

### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Kathy Gionis



## Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are in need, the sick, those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace and justice for all over the world!

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
- 2) 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
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 4) Sunday's video may be uploaded on late Sundays!  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) 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: 8th Sunday After Pentecost.  
*God Bless you all!*

### Worship Service Schedule

7/14:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)
	10:00 am	Atlas (No Sunday School-Summer Break)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls
7/14-7/15:		Pastor Jenny Joining the Provisional Elder Group as a Mentor at Pine Lake
7/16	10:30 am-1pm	Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck
	6:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (G)
7/18	4:30-5:30 pm	Youth Guitar Lessons at Central (G)
	6:30-8:00 pm	Senior Youth Gathering (G)
7/19	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)
7/20	11:00 am	Bishop Jung's Farewell Service in Madison

## This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Walden Erickson	7/14
Brodie Kunze	7/15
Mark Harmon	7/20



## Next Sunday (July 21st):

### VOLUNTEERS:

#### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Counter	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

#### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Summer Break

#### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

### Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

- 7/21 **Ad Council Meeting (SCF)**
- 7/21 **VBS Volunteers Training Day 1 (5:00-7:30 pm)**  
*All who signed up VBS volunteers are invited.*  
*We will provide pulled pork dinner. Please let us know whether you are able to join so we can prepare for dinner.*
- 7/27 **Bishop Jung Farewell Service in Stevens Point**
- 7/28 **VBS Volunteers Training Day 2**
- 7/30 **SPRC Meeting (Zoom)**
- 8/4-8/8 **2024 VBS (except 8/6)** (We received a grant of \$1,000)  
Donations and volunteer signup sheets are posted.  
We can make VBS happen together!





July 14th, 2024

Mark 6:14-29

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



## **“The Courage of Faith”**

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, “Do you need help, sir?” The preacher calmly said “No, God will save me.” A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, “Hey, do you need help?” The preacher replied again, “No, God will save me.” Eventually, the preacher drowned and went to heaven. The preacher asked God, “Why didn't you save me?” God replied, “Fool, I sent you two boats!”

Do you believe in God? Of course, you may immediately and confidently say, “Yes, I believe in God.” I then ask you, “Can you show me your faith in God?” This may cause you to hesitate for a while, thinking about how you could show me. The scripture in the Letter of James says, “But someone will say, ‘you have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do’” (James 2:18). Yes, if you have faith, you should show your faith by your actions in your daily life. “Faith” seems simple, but acts of faith are more complicated, like the preacher in the story. The preacher must believe in God, and his actions seemed to trust in God. But one thing he missed is that God works for us beyond our thoughts. This is why we should open our mind and hearts. God may work through people around us, even if they might seem to be our enemies. We may show our faith through the way we love our neighbors, our family, and even those who hate us. We need courage to love our neighbors, we even need courage to love our family. In other words, we need courage to keep our faith in God.

Today, I want to talk about “the courage of faith.” When you hear me say “the courage of faith,” who comes to mind? For me, young David comes to mind. I think all of you know the story of young David. When everyone else was afraid of the Philistine soldiers, young David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:36). He stood at the very front line in the battle with the Philistine soldiers and said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel” (1 Samuel 17: 45). By God's grace, he led the battle to victory. Somebody said David's three stones led him to victory. Really? I believe that God works through stones or even through a staff. It is the courage of faith, which believes that God works for us, and we can go confidently even carrying just a cane.

There are two important people in today's scripture: King Herod, who lacked courage and John the Baptist, who had the courage of faith. King Herod had the highest authority in the political field, while John the Baptist held the highest authority in the spiritual field. As soon as John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus began his public ministry. Jesus' name was spreading among the people while John the Baptist was imprisoned. There were many rumors. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That's why he has the power to raise the dead.” Others said, “He must be Elijah.” Elijah was the great prophet who was lifted up to heaven without dying. Still others said, “He is a prophet like one of the old prophets.” King Herod believed that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead, feeling guilt and fear because he had killed him.

Actually, King Herod liked John the Baptist and enjoyed his teachings. He knew he was a righteous person, and he also knew it was a sin to marry his brother's wife, but he married her to demonstrate his authority. No one opposed him except John the Baptist. John the Baptist directly confronted King Herod, saying, "It is a sin to marry your brother's wife." In response, Herod imprisoned him to assert his authority.

One day, when the King was having his birthday party where there were many guests, his daughter danced and pleased him. He swore to her that he would give her whatever she asked for. Advised by her mother, his daughter asked for the head of John the Baptist. To keep his oath, King Herod had to kill him. However, this decision haunted him for a long time. Herod's story is a cautionary tale about the corrupting influence of power and the dangers of compromising one's integrity. Herod knew John was a righteous man, yet he was swayed by pride, fear, and the need to maintain his image before others. Power and pride can lead us to make decisions that betray our values and faith. We must remain awake, ensuring our actions are guided by our faith and not by the worldly power or the fear of human judgment.

As you may know, John the Baptist was a person who prepared for the way of Jesus by baptizing people and preaching the kingdom of God. His ministry lasted about one year. Even though he did this great work, his death was terrible. Compared with his amazing authority, the period of his ministry was very short. He was the first witness to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). He was the person who dared to baptize Jesus. However, his death was horrible. We don't know why righteous people die in such horrible ways, but God knows. There are many things in the world that we don't understand. We don't know why certain things happen to us, to our family, or to our friends. We don't understand how God works in these situations, but we only trust God.

John the Baptist stood firm in his conviction, fearlessly proclaiming God's truth, even when it meant confronting powerful people like Herod. John's commitment to the truth cost him his freedom and eventually his life. As followers of Christ, we are called to be bearers of truth, even when it's uncomfortable or dangerous. It is the courage of faith.

Are we willing to stand for God's truth in our lives, no matter the cost? John's unwavering faith and courage serve as an example for us all. Despite the threat of imprisonment and death, he continued to speak God's truth. His life challenges us to live courageously for Christ, trusting in God even in the face of challenges. Do we have the courage to live out our faith boldly, trusting that God is with us in all circumstances?

Please, try to count how blessed you are instead of counting the things that made you angry or gave you anxiety. The things, or the people, that give you worry are actually the sources that give you happiness. They might be the motivations that give you energy or revitalize your life. We have concerns or worries not because we lack authority or did something wrong, but because we are blessed through them. In other words, our concerns, such as our family issues, broken relationships, and bad medical reports, might blind us to our blessings, which lie on the other side of our lives. We cannot handle all our concerns, but God knows about our worries. God knows how to turn bitter water into sweet water because God works in extraordinary ways. God knows how to bring us from the desert to green pasture because God is our good shepherd. We don't understand how God works, but we can trust God. Let us open our hearts and minds to see how God works for us. Let's love our family and neighbors courageously. Thanks be to God. Amen!