

## 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

Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Establish your rule in our midst so we may proclaim your reign in the world. Send us where you need us most. Use our gifts to reduce alienation and to build beloved communities. Be to us a watchful Parent, and teach us to live as sisters and brothers who find you in one another and respond in love to each other's needs. Amen!

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

\*CLOSING HYMN *Marching to Zion* UMH 733 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

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

NO. 2024-29

July 21st, 2024

# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

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

## 9th 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

Pastor Jenny Lee: [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

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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 21st, 2024**  
**9th 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**

Come away and rest for a while.

Leave behind your busyness to be fully present to God.

**We have come for relief from life’s turmoil.**

**God gathers us as a shepherd gathers her sheep.**

God’s steadfast love surrounds us here.

We are reminded of God’s enduring faithfulness.

**This is God’s house, and we are God’s children.**

**God invites us to feel at home in this place.**

We have a covenant with our Creator.

This is a time for renewal of our promises.

**God calls for righteousness and justice.**

**God offers us goodness and mercy all our days. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**

*Seek Ye First*

**UMH 405**

**OPENING PRAYER**      **Unison**

**Rock of our salvation, we have accepted the invitation of Jesus to gather as your beloved people. We have been far away from you in our thoughts and separated from you in much that we do. Now we are together, seeking reconciliation with you and one another. We call on your steadfast love for assurance and healing. We feel your compassion for us and for all your children. We sense your longing for our wholeness and renewed faith and trust. You call us to be saints and apostles and prophets. We are overwhelmed, even as you draw us close. Amen!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME (G)**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

**Proclamation of God’s Word**

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Mark 6:30-34; 53-56**

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him 55 and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SERMON**      *“Jesus’ Compassion vs. Our Passion”*      **Pastor Jenny Lee**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**RESPONDING PRAYER**      **Unison**

**Healing God, whose touch we have sought and known and whose compassion has surrounded us like a good shepherd’s care for wandering sheep, show us once more the dimensions of wholeness that can restore us to faithful living and fruitful service. May we become reconcilers within and beyond our home, the church, the community and the country. Amen!**

# 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>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support CRA and Butterfly House!</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	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	<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: 9th Sunday After Pentecost.  
*God Bless you all!*

### Worship Service Schedule

- |       |              |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
| 7/21: | 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                                    |
| 7/21: | 12:15pm      | Ad Council Meeting (SCF)                           |
|       | 5:30-7:30 pm | VBS Volunteer Training Day 1 (G)                   |
| 7/23  | 10:00 am     | August Newsletter & Calendar Information Due       |
|       | 2:00-4:00 pm | Rotary Club Pontoon Party (Questions to Dave Huff) |
|       | 6:30 pm      | Ad Council Meeting (G)                             |
| 7/24  | 7:00 pm      | Participatory Theater Committee Meeting via Zoom   |
| 7/25  | 4:30-5:30 pm | VBS Songs Rehearsal (G)                            |
|       | 6:30-8:00 pm | Senior Youth Gathering (G)                         |
| 7/27  | 1:00 pm      | Bishop Jung's Farewell Service at Stevens Point    |

### **This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Betty Doolittle 7/24

Logan Smestad 7/26



## Next Sunday (July 28th):

### VOLUNTEERS:

#### Central -Grantsburg

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

#### Atlas

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

#### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Maeta Burns-Penn
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

### Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

- 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.*
- 7/28 VBS Volunteers Training Day 2 (5:00-7:30 pm) (G)**
- 7/30 SPRC Meeting (Zoom)**
- 8/3 Annual Bakes & Thrift Sale (Atlas)**
- 8/4 VBS Decoration**
- 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 21, 2024  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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



## “Jesus’ Compassion vs. Our Passion”

I want to start with a funny story I heard: There was a man who lived alone. One day, he bought a parrot, thinking she might be a good friend to chat with. But she never spoke a word. The man went back to the store where he bought the parrot and said, “You know, the parrot never says anything.” The clerk said, “Give her a mirror, and she might start talking.” He bought a mirror for the parrot, but it still didn’t say anything. The man went back to the store and said, “She still hasn’t said anything.” The clerk said, “You might need to give her a ladder. Then she’ll feel better and talk.” So, the man bought a ladder and put it in the cage. But she still didn’t say anything. Then, one day, the parrot died. The man went to the store and said, “You know, the parrot didn’t say anything and died.” The clerk asked him, “Didn’t she say anything before she died?” He said, “She did ask me, ‘Doesn’t the store sell any food for me?’”

It is sad to think that this might be a parable about our story, that we missed what is most important. Some of you have believed in God your whole life; some have done so for half of your life. However, I wonder if we are living out our daily lives as if we believe in God.

Last week, I went to Chicago for the Jurisdiction Conference. The speaker really challenged us by saying, “we may forget what the first commandment Jesus said is—the love of God—and instead only focus on the second commandment, the love of our neighbors.” It was spiritually awakening for me. It was a time to open my eyes and see the scriptures from another perspective, which means I should carefully review the scriptures to understand what God really wants us to grasp from the passages. Therefore, today, I want to talk about how different “Jesus’ compassion and our passion” are.

Today’s scripture is Mark 6:30-34 and 53-56. Between these passages, there are the stories of Jesus feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish, and of Jesus walking on water. We know these stories very well, but today’s scripture skips them. Hmm, I wondered why today’s lectionary excluded these important stories. I read the passage several times: “30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.”

What message do you see in this passage? You might notice how the disciples worked hard without rest, and some pastors may focus on that. But the word “apostle” catches my eye. Did you notice that the Gospel of Mark began using the term “apostles” instead of “disciples”? I see Jesus’ compassion here through the word, “the apostle.” The word “Apostle” means “a person who is sent.” Let’s think about why Mark changed the term for the disciples.

This change happened after Jesus sent his disciples two by two from village to village. They reached out to many people, curing the sick, casting out the demons, and preaching about the kingdom of God. When they returned to Jesus, they reported what they had done. Yes, the Gospel of Mark calls the disciples “apostles” because they were sent by Jesus for the mission of God. Those who are sent by God for His mission might be called the apostles.

We usually call Paul the apostle because he was not one of Jesus' original disciples. He believed in Jesus after Jesus died, and he met Jesus in a vision. There were many arguments that he was not Jesus' disciple. Therefore, Paul used the term "apostle," which means that he was not a disciple of Jesus, but was sent by Jesus through the Holy Spirit. In most of his letters, he begins, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." (Ephesians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 & 2 Timothy 1:1); Paul, an apostle-sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father" (Galatians 1:1); Paul, called to be an apostle (1 Corinthians 1:1; Romans 1:1). Paul had confidence that God called him, and sent him for God's missions, which were teaching, preaching, and healing the people as Jesus did in his ministry.

It is the same to us. God calls us from the world to the church. God wants us to grow in faith through worship, Bible study, and fellowship at the church, and God wants to send us into the world to reach out to people. This is the reason our church, the body of Christ, exists. According to God's will, we gather together at church once a week, or more, for worship, Bible study, listening to sermons, and having fellowship. Then, we go out into the world to reach out to people for a week and return to church again. We share what we did during the week when we are sharing our joys and concerns, or during fellowship. That is the church and the duty of apostles. During the week, we should practice the love of God and the love of our neighbors, including our families. Are you an apostle? I ask you again, do you live out your everyday life as an apostle?

Here is Jesus' compassion. Jesus' compassion is always toward his people. Whenever people saw Jesus and his disciples, "they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them" (Mark 6:33). Jesus saw them and had compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd (v.34). Whenever people heard about where Jesus was, they rushed to follow him and carried the sick, who were all healed. Jesus' compassion is to heal the sick, teach the people, and preach about the kingdom of God. Therefore, he sent out his disciples to work according to his will.

How about all of us? What are our passions? Do we truly pursue Jesus' healing and fulfill the duty of an apostle? What is our role in God's plan? If you need healing spiritually, emotionally, or physically, please pursue Jesus for your healing with all your effort. If you consider yourself a mature Christian, you must be an apostle. You should reach out to people, share Jesus' story, pray for the sick, and care for others.

If you think, "Well, I am too old," I may say, "Yes, you are old enough to lead younger people with the wisdom God has filled you with." If you think, "Well, I did it once upon a time," I say to you, "that might be true, but why don't you do it again?" Remember, when God called Moses, his was 80, and Abraham was 75. You might think, "Well, that's a Biblical story." Yes, you are right. But God is still living with us, and we are God's people. The biblical story is the testimony of the people of God who experienced the living God. As Timothy says, "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Biblical story is about God's compassion toward His people.

There is a reason God called you. God still wants you to do His mission. If you love God, you should love the people of God. We are not perfect in loving others; it often challenges us. But God sent us to teach, preach, and heal people, and we should fulfill the mission with God's help. I believe that God chose us, not because we are smart enough, or ready to do His work, but because God sees our hearts and desire to do good. Be confident, and go with God's help. You are the apostle Jesus sent! Do it with passion, bringing Jesus' compassion to the people. Thanks be to God. Amen!