

We Respond to God's Word

NO. 2024-30
July 28th, 2024

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Generous God, from whom comes every morsel we eat and every gift we are moved to share, test us, challenge us, feed us, that we may be the thermostat to change the world, where is full of hope, joy, peace, and love, and our wills may be strengthened to follow fearlessly where Christ leads, to your glory, and for the benefit of all humankind. 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**

We join with Jesus in giving thanks for the little things we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we had not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by your grace so there is more than enough for all- more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

Leave It There

UMH 522 (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)

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 (No Sunday School-Summer break)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

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
July 28th, 2024
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 at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

This is the hour to bend our knees before God.

This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

We gather before God, who sees all our deeds.

We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.

Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

We come together proclaiming, “God is with us!”

We come to be strengthened in our inner being.

We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.

God’s presence evokes our joyous worship.

The Holy Spirit empowers our service.

To God be the highest glory in the church.

To God be endless adoration in the world. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *This is My Song* UMH 437 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We are seeking after you, loving God, for you are our refuge. Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware. We want to respond, not as fools, but as faithful friends of Jesus. We have come to discover the riches we did not know we possessed. We are here to offer our best for the good of all. Use us, we pray, to accomplish in and through this church, far more than we can ask or imagine. All glory be to you, amazing God, in this and every hour, forever and ever. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 6:1-21

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. 3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, 9 “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” 10 Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” 13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. 20 But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” 21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON

“Thermometer vs. Thermostat”

Pastor Jenny Lee

AUGUST CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men & women.</p>	<p>LAUNDRY DETERGENT</p> <p>We will be collecting laundry detergent for Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.</p> 
--	---	--



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>DISCRETIONARY FUND COLLECTION</p> <p>This month will be collecting financial donations for CUMC's discretionary fund. This fund is used by the pastor to assist individuals who reach out to the church for help. This can be money for gas, food or other essential needs. Thank you for your support!</p> 
--	---

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Interfaith Caregivers!</i></p> 
---	--

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Sally Alderfer
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	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Summer Break

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Maeta Burns-Penn
Usher	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>
BlyctTRzVxMFIIZz09
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at 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: 10th Sunday After Pentecost.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

- 7/28: 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
- 7/28: 5:30-7:30 pm VBS Volunteer Training Day 2 (G)
- 7/30 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting via Zoom
- 8/1 10:00 am New Ministry Strategy Board Meeting via Zoom
4:30-5:30 pm VBS Songs Rehearsal (G)
6:30-8:00 pm Senior Youth Gathering (G)
- 8/2 4:30-7:30 pm Fundraising Spaghetti Dinner at the American Legion of St. Croix Falls
- 8/3 9 am-1:00 pm Atlas Annual Thrift & Bakes Sale (A)

Week's Birthdays



Logan Smestad 7/26
Jim Andrews 7/28
Sally Schmitt 8/1
Reed Olson 8/1
Noah Dennison 8/2
Peter Branstad 8/3

Next Sunday (August 4th):

VOLUNTEERS:

Central -Grantsburg

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

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Summer Break
Communion	Sue Olson

St. Croix Falls

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



Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

8/4 **VBS Decoration (10:30-11:30am)**
The Last VBS Volunteer Training (3:00-4:00pm)

8/4-8/8 **2024 VBS (except 8/6) Please come and join us!**
We can make VBS happen together!

July 28th, 2024
John 6:1-21

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



“Thermometer vs. Thermostat”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: There was an elderly lady who accidentally locked herself out of the car when she went to the store. She tried to use a coat hanger to get it open, but it didn't work. She prayed, asking God to help her. About this time, a real rough-looking guy drove up on a motorcycle, wearing leathers, tattoos, and a skull cap. Within fifteen seconds, he had opened her car. She hugged him and said, “Lord, thank you for sending me this nice man.” He said, “Ma'am, I'm not a nice man. I just got out of prison after serving time for grand theft auto.” She gave him a bigger hug and said, “Lord, thank you. You even sent me a professional.”

I love this lady's perspective. She didn't have any bias based on his appearance, or his past actions. That's God's perspective. If God looked at us through the lens of our actions, no one could come to God. But God loves us, whoever we are and whatever we have done. God loves everyone!

I believe that different ways of thinking can create a better world. Albert Einstein said, “The world as we have created it, is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” I hope you all have positive and hopeful ideas and thoughts to lead us to a better world.

Today, I want to talk about two kinds of people in the world: those who are like thermometers and those who are like thermostats. As you know, a thermometer always shows the temperature, whether it is cold or hot, while a thermostat changes the temperature — hot to cool or cold to warm. A thermometer is like a weather forecast, while a thermostat is like the controller of the weather.

When I came to Wisconsin in 2019, I felt so cold in the winter. I used to keep the parsonage very warm. I felt so grateful for the furnace. When I turned the switch on in the room, the furnace in the basement would work to warm the whole house to the temperature I wanted. It's amazing. Then, during the summer, when I felt hot in the house, I would turn the switch on, and the air conditioner would work to cool the whole house. That switch is the thermostat, which controls the furnace and the air conditioner. In other words, the switch is the controller of the temperature in the house, which makes me feel so good and comfortable.

Two years ago, in the middle of winter, the thermostat stopped working, which meant the furnace was broken. The entire parsonage froze. After the furnace was fixed, Russ Hammer, who is the Trustee at Grantsburg-Central church, bought me a thermometer and said, “Put this thermometer in the parsonage, and I can check if the furnace is working while you are gone during the winter.” So, I put a thermometer at home. It shows me the house's temperature, but it can't change the temperature, whether it's hot or freezing.

This situation is similar to people's characters. Some people are like thermometers, informing us whether things are bad or good, while others are like thermostats, working to change bad situations into better ones. What kind of person you are. Are you like a thermometer or a thermostat?

Here is an example: If someone says, “It is an awful world because many people die from wars, poverty, disease, and abuses every day,” they are stating a truth that most people already know. A person who is like a thermometer may simply share this news with a sense of despair. However, those who are like thermostats may respond by sending donations to help, or by committing to mission work to make the world a better place. So, what kind of person are you?

Today's scripture tells us two famous stories, which we skipped last Sunday; the story of Jesus feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish and the story of Jesus walking on water. I want to share about two kinds of people through these stories: those who are like thermometers and those who are like thermostats.

Can you guess who is like a thermometer and who is like a thermostat in the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand? In the story, we have Jesus, two disciples—Philip and Andrew (Peter's brother)—a boy who brought his meal (five small barley loaves and two small fish), and many people who followed Jesus.

Wherever Jesus went, large crowds followed him because they saw his miraculous signs. Jesus was full of compassion for them, healing them and teaching them all day long. When supper time came, Jesus asked Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" In ancient times, where could they buy food for five thousand people at once? Even in today's world it would be difficult. It might be impossible. It was a challenging question, and Jesus knew it would be challenging for Philip. That's why it says, "he asked this only to test him."

As we might expect, Philip answered, "Even if we have enough money, where can we buy food for all these people?" Then Andrew said, "Here is a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" I think you've caught on to who is like a thermometer, right? Yes, Philip and Andrew pointed out the impossibility, even if it looked like a fact. They are like thermometers. Let's pay more attention to the disciples. They not only informed Jesus of the facts, but also conveyed a sense of impossibility. That is the function of a person who is like a thermometer. It influences others, leading them to believe that something is impossible.

What about the boy? His role may not be clear, but he opened the way forward. He might have known his meal was not enough for about five thousand people. However, he brought it forward to see if there were any possibilities. As soon as Jesus heard that the boy had brought his meal for others, he made the people sit down and counted them—five thousand people were there. Really? You might wonder how they could count five thousand people. Don't think about it that way. That's the thermometer mindset. The number is not important. What is important is that Jesus changed the situation. He made the impossible possible.

The thermometer showed us it was impossible: we couldn't buy bread for five thousand people; we couldn't feed five thousand people with five small loaves and two fish. But Jesus, who is like a thermostat, changed the situation. He fed five thousand people and had twelve baskets left over.

Today, Jesus challenges us as he tested his disciple, Philip. Can you commit to changing the world? Can you fill the church with the people of God? Can you carry joy, hope, peace, and love to the people? Open your minds and hearts to God, and listen to how He guides you. The boy brought his small barley bread, but it was not small. The word "small" embraces "smoothly all." He gave "all" his meal without any hesitation to see if it was possible to feed everyone. He gave everything to Jesus, and then Jesus used the boy's contribution as a switch (thermostat) to change the world from hunger to fullness.

Do you believe in God? Who is God for you? King David confessed, "I love you, O Lord, my strength" (Psalm 18:1). David was among the first to confess his love for God. Do you love God with all your hearts and with all your soul and with all your mind? If you do, you can be a thermostat, transforming your home, church, community, and country—turning hunger into fullness, oppression into freedom, sickness into healing, and discord into peace and in harmony. God bless you! Amen!