

PRAYER SONG

UMH 487

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

NO. 2024-33
August 18th, 2024

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Are Called* **TFWS 2172 (vs. 1 & 2)**

***BENEDICTION** **Pastor Jenny Lee**

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

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

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Let’s Replant it” (Galatians 6:7-10)

12th 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
August 18th, 2024
13th 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

God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

Let us join our voices in giving thanks.

The works of God are all around us.

Those who share in God’s work lack for nothing.

We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful.

We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.

Holy and awesome is God’s name.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

Come, then, as wise and faithful people.

Come as a beloved community of the redeemed.

We are amazed that God remembers us.

We reach out to the God who cares for us. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Because He Lives* UMH 364 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God of steadfast love, your works delight our hearts and expand our thoughts. Your grace and mercy draw us together to praise you and to celebrate your wonderful deeds. Dwell among us today, and reign within the lives of each one gathered here, helping us to grow in discernment and understanding. Grant wisdom and courage that we may walk in your ways and keep your commandments. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 6:51-58

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, 55 for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“We are the Deliverers of The Bread of Life”*

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Bread of heaven, drink of eternal life, whose sacrifice for us calls forth a daring love of neighbor, feed us now and lead us to your Word every day, that our lives may be hymns of thanksgiving to our Creator, leading others to love and serve in your name. Amen!

Vow of New Members & Welcoming to the Body of Christ

(Atlas, see insert)

Howard and Cindy Berenschot

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP VOW(A)

INTRODUCTION

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Howard and Cindy Berenschot (*Renewal Membership*)

CONFIRMATION & MEMBERSHIP VOW

1. Do you here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that you made, or that was made in your name at your Baptism? If so, answer, **“I DO.”**
2. Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and pledge your allegiance to His Kingdom? If so, say, **“YES.”**
3. Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as found in the Old and New Testament? If so, say, **“I DO.”**
4. Do you promise to continue to read God’s Word and to allow His teachings to live in you? If so, answer, **“I PROMISE WITH GOD’S HELP.”**
5. Do you promise according to the grace given you, to live a Christian life and always remain a faithful member of Christ’s Holy Church? If so, say, **“I DO”.**
6. As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? If so, answer, **“I WILL”.**
7. As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? If so, answer, **“I WILL”.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONFIRMANDS

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

People: We Do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

People : With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, and pray for them that they may grow in their trust in God and in service to others, and be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Pastor: As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

People: We will

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

BLESSING

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> 
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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> 
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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> 
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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	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Toni & Georgeanne Koons
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Russ Hammer
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
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 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: 13th Sunday After Pentecost.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

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|-------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/18: | 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 |
| 8/19: | 7:00 pm | Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom |
| 8/20 | 6:30pm | Ad Council (G) |
| 8/21 | 5:30-7:00 pm | Open House- Grantsburg Parsonage:
<i>Pastor Jenny's Ordination Celebration</i> |
| 8/22 | 10:30 am-1:00 pm | Pastor Jenny at Loaves & Fishes in Luck |
| | 4:30 pm | Youth Band |
| | 6:30-7:30pm | Senior Youth Gathering |
| 8/24 | 2:30-5:00pm | Pie & Ice Cream Social (G) |

This Week's Birthdays

Valetta Walton 8/20
Adeline Dauer 8/22



Next Sunday (August 25th):

VOLUNTEERS:

Joint Service at Atlas Park:

Blessing of the Backpacks, our Teachers and our Pets.

(Atlas church will provide lunch; please bring a lawn chair if you have one)

Atlas

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

Ad Council Meetings:

Atlas: 8/16, SCF: 8/18 and G: 8/20

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|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/21 | Open House-Grantsburg Parsonage:
<i>Pastor Jenny's Ordination Celebration</i> |
| 8/22-25 | Burnett County Fair (G) |
| 8/24 | Pie & Ice Cream Social (G) |
| 9/5-9/6 | Participatory Theater Ministry & Diversity Council Meeting at Pine Lake Camp |

August 18th, 2024

John 6:51-58

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



“We are the Deliverers of The Bread of Life”

I want to start with a funny story. I heard about an old nun who lived in a convent next to a construction site. She noticed the coarse language the workers used and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways. Determined, she packed her lunch in a brown bag, walked over to the spot where the men were eating and sat down with them. Sporting a big smile, she asked, “Do you men know Jesus Christ?” The workers shook their heads, looking at each other in confusion. Then one of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, “Is there anybody up there who knows Jesus Christ?” a voice from above responded, “Why?” The worker yelled back, “Cause his wife’s here with his lunch.”

Have you ever tried to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others? I often wonder what would have happened if the pastor who visited my hospital room about thirty years ago hadn’t talked to me about Jesus Christ. What if that pastor hadn’t visited my hospital room at that time? It was like a lifeline for me, pulling me out of the deep despair of a hopeless situation.

I often recall my younger days when I didn’t know God. I worked and studied hard to succeed without the support of my parents or grandparents. As I mentioned before, I grew up in a patriarchal family where my grandfather didn’t support my education because I was a girl. My mother used to say to me, “If a woman doesn’t receive an education, she will become a slave to the world. You must get an education if you don’t want to live as a slave.”

Even though my grandparents didn’t allow me to attend high school, I refused to give up on my education. I managed to graduate from a private boarding school and later from the university, all without my family’s support. After I got a job, I felt successful and wanted to show my family what I had achieved without their help. However, I was involved in a traffic accident, and my doctor told me that I would never walk again due to a broken spine.

Can you imagine how I felt at that moment? A whirlwind of emotions overwhelmed me: regret, resentment, bitterness, anger, despair, depression, and loneliness. On top of that, the people around me discouraged me with words of hopelessness, filling my mind with negative thoughts.

However, God cared for me even though I didn’t know Him yet, sending a pastor to my hospital room. Through the pastor, I heard the Good News that Jesus is my Savior, Healer, and Comforter. After that, my mindset shifted towards a hopeful future filled with gratitude and confidence. Eventually, I underwent another surgery on my spine and received therapy, and I was able to walk again

Faith in Jesus is a great gift from God. It leads us to true life in Christ. I believe in Jesus Christ by God’s amazing grace. If I hadn’t believed in the Good News at that time, I’m not sure how my life would have turned out. It was truly a gift from God. Therefore, our faith is not something to boast about, but something to share with others. 1 Corinthians 4:7 says, “For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?” The Lord has chosen and called us because He wants to save many people through us. We are the deliverers of the Good News. It is essential to spread the Good News to everyone you meet. Who knows? Your courage to share the Good News may change someone’s life, just as it changed mine.

Today’s scripture continues Jesus’ sermon about the bread of life. He spoke in detail, saying, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food,

and my blood is true drink.” Jesus delivered this sermon in the synagogue in Capernaum before the institution of the Lord’s Supper (John 6:59).

Many people who heard this sermon were very confused. The Jews were alarmed by His words, asking, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” In fact, in the first century, many Christians were persecuted due to rumors that they ate human flesh.

We may understand His sermon in the context of Communion since we regularly partake in it, eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ. However, imagine how the people felt when they first heard Jesus’ words. It’s true that His sermons were often difficult to understand, even for His disciples. The reason His teachings are challenging is that they are about spiritual matters, not physical ones.

Jesus often said, “He who has ears, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15). Who doesn’t have ears? He was referring to the ears of the heart. The reason non-Christians struggle to believe in Jesus is that their hearts are not yet open to the Good News. Therefore, we should persist in knocking on the door of their hearts until it opens.

Since moving to Wisconsin, I’ve often used online shopping services like Amazon. It’s very convenient to find what I want, and it saves me time and energy. The delivery person often leaves packages at my front door. If I’m out of town and return the next day, I sometimes find them wet from the rain. However, this isn’t the delivery person’s fault. Their job is to bring the mail or package to your house and place it in the mailbox or at your door. The responsibility to bring it inside is yours. Whether it’s an important or urgent piece of mail, the delivery person just delivers it to the correct place. If it gets damaged because you didn’t take it in promptly, that’s not their responsibility.

Similarly, when it comes to sharing the Good News, our job is to go and speak, whether people accept Jesus or not. Invite your loved ones to church, whether they choose to come or not.

I want to clarify whether Jesus really meant that the bread of life is a symbol of Communion. No, He was not referring to Communion because this sermon occurred before He taught His disciples about the Lord’s Supper. In today’s scripture, Jesus was speaking about His own death—His real body and blood—because He knew the future plan, which is God’s will, concerning His death on the cross. Those who believe in His death, in the tearing of His body and the shedding of His blood on the cross out of love, and those who believe in His sacrificial love and that Jesus will return to judge, shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus says, “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). He continues, “This is the will of Him (God the Father) who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given me, but raise it up on the last day” (John 6:38-39). If we believe in Him, we shall not perish but have eternal life on the last day.

This raises a question: Why do we celebrate Communion? Communion is one of Jesus’ last commandments: “Do this as often as you do it, in remembrance of me.” Through the act of Communion, we remember how He loved us, how He died, and what He promised us, so that we grow in faith and draw closer to God.

Let’s share the Bread of Life with our neighbors. It is the way to love our neighbors. For our neighbors, let’s share not only perishable bread but also imperishable bread! God bless you! Thanks be to God! Amen!