

**RESPONDING PRAYER Unison**

God of all truth, whose reality is far beyond the religion we profess, and whose ways are broader than our flawed human precepts, we would honor you with our lips and our lives, worshiping you above all else in life and welcoming your transforming presence within us, that we might become doers of the word who offer healing to the world. We pray 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**

Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the bounty you entrust to our stewardship, O God of love. You have reached into the shadows, where we often flee, to rescue us and give us your work to do. As you have freed us from the chains of sin, we seek to offer healing to others as we listen and share and do. Bless our offering of self and substance. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore**

**UMH 344 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

Worship resource "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)

**15th 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)

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: [snssnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snssnyder@gmail.com)

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**  
**September 1st, 2024**  
**15th 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  
Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.  
God has given us birth by the word of truth.  
**We are drawn to God as a lover.**  
**We leap for joy when we know God’s care.**  
Every perfect gift comes to us from God.  
God’s image is a part of each one of us.  
**God’s grace has been poured into our lives.**  
**Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.**  
Who will dwell on God’s holy hill?  
Those who walk uprightly and speak the truth.  
**We will honor God by honoring our neighbors.**  
**We will act toward them as we wish to be treated. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN** *Jesus Loves Me* UMH 191 (vs. 1 & 3)

**OPENING PRAYER** Unison  
Our hearts overflow with longings too great for words, gracious God. We have many things to enjoy, but seldom have we found our home with you. Meet us here to anoint us with the oil of gladness. Awaken us with singing and speak your truth to draw us away from the attraction of evil things. May this time of worship help us to become wise and understanding people, eager to live as the body of Christ, making a difference in the world as Jesus did so long ago on the Galilean shore. Amen!

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**INVITATION FOR COMMUNION**  
**CONFESSION AND PARDON** Unison  
**Merciful God,**

Pastor Jenny Lee

**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 you 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.**  
(prayers 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**  
**SHARING THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG** TFWS 2260  
**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** John 21:1-17 (See insert)

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SERMON** *“Because Jesus Loves You”* Pastor Jenny Lee

## 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.**

**(Together) 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

**John 21:1-17**

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the  
Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there  
together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in  
Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon  
Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go  
with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught  
nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not  
know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish,  
have you?” They answered him, “No.” 6 He said to them, “Cast the net to  
the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now  
they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That  
disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon  
Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had  
taken it off, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the  
boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only  
about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on  
it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have  
just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore,  
full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so  
many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have  
breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?”  
because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and  
gave it to them and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third  
time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon  
son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes,  
Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16  
A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He  
said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him,  
“Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John,  
do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do  
you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you  
know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

# SEPTEMBER 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: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men &amp; women.</p>	<p>We will be collecting financial donations for Moolah for Milk and supplies for DIF, an agency in Mexico which is responsible for child welfare.</p> 
--	---	--



## 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>We will collect financial donations to support the Burnett County Salvation Army's Backpack Program.</p> 
--	--

## ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p><b>Food Shelf</b> (Communion Sunday)</p>	 <p><b>Sailor Hat Offering:</b> The Sailor Hat offering will go to support SCF School Backpack Program</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	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Deb Hammer
Counter	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman
Communion	Charles & Mary Lou Wright



## Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Fall 2024 Classes Begin 9/8/24
Communion	Sue Olson

## St. Croix Falls

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

## 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: 15th Sunday After Pentecost.  
*God Bless you all!*

### Worship Service Schedule

- 9/1: 9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)  
10:00 am Atlas (Sunday School begins next Sunday)  
11:15 am St. Croix Falls
- 9/2: 12:00 pm North West Korean Clergy & Family Gathering in Eau Claire
- 9/5-9/6: Pastor Jenny attends Participatory Theater Ministry & Diversity Council Meeting at Pine Lake Camp

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### Upcoming Events & News

- 9/8 **Rally Sunday (A)**  
**Pastor Jenny leads C.C.C Worship**
- 9/9 **North West Harmony Choir Rehearsal at Rice Lake UMC**
- 9/10 **Pastor Jenny Volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck**
- 9/11 **Provisional Elder Mentoring via Zoom**  
**UMW Meeting (G)**
- 9/14 **UM Men's Meeting (G)**

Next Sunday (September 8th):

## VOLUNTEERS

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Jenni Stedmen



### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Cheryl Olson (Rally Sunday)
Communion	Sue Olson

### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karan Sciacca
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

### This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Derek Stedman 9/4  
Jenni Stedman 9/4  
Sam Chute 9/5





September 1st, 2024  
John 21:1-17

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



## **“Because Jesus Loves you!”**

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: After the Baptizing of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, “That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!”

Your kids learn by what they see, not by what they hear. In other words, your kids follow what you do, not what you say. Back in Korea, I ran a preschool from 1997 to 2001. I sometime watched the kids playing during break time. Through their play, I could get a glimpse of their home environments, such as their parents’ jobs, their relationships, and even what their parents did during leisure time. I often used this information during parent counseling sessions, and they were surprised by how much I knew about their lives. I explained that their kids saw everything they did, and they grew up based on what they observed.

A few weeks ago, my friend and her two kids visited me from Chicago. She shared her concern about her son, who never lets her rest. So, I gave her some time to relax and babysat her son for a while. During that time, I observed how she had influenced him. While playing with some toys, he pretended to clean up, using a scolding voice, saying, “Why did you do this? Who did this?” He had learned this behavior from his mom.

It’s similar in church. New believers often learn from older believers, especially from church leaders. Church leaders can have a significant influence on the rest of the congregation. They should serve as examples for new members in Jesus Christ. In some cases, new members may learn more from observing how church leaders act than from what the pastor preaches.

There is a similar story in today’s scripture. It tells us about the disciples and Jesus, who appeared to them for the third time after His resurrection. The disciples had learned from Jesus for three years how to “fish for people” since the time He called them at the lakeshore, saying, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people” (Matthew 4:19). However, after Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected, as He had taught them would happen, they returned to their old ways before they met Jesus. Even though Jesus had appeared to them twice after His resurrection, and they had seen the holes in His hands and side, they still lost their faith in Him.

Most of Jesus’ disciples gathered at the lakeshore where they first met Him after He had died and was resurrected. Peter said, “I am going fishing.” They had completely forgotten why they were at the lakeshore and that it was where they first met Jesus. Perhaps they gathered there because Mary Magdalene told them that the risen Jesus would go to Galilee, where He first met His disciples, and meet them there. However, the disciples were doubtful that the risen Christ would actually come to see them. So, Simon Peter said, “I am going fishing.” Then the other disciples said, “We will go with you.” Notice, they followed their senior leader Peter, rather than what Jesus had said.

The influence of church leaders and parents can significantly shape the next generation. If you are late to church service, your children likely will be too, even if the pastor says, “Please, come on time.” The truth is that some of you may follow the example of our church elders more than what I, as your Pastor, teaches. I’m not saying this to complain, but because it’s common sense: people tend to follow what they see, not just what they hear. This happens because you’ve seen the elders for more years than you’ve known me, and your kids see you more often than they do their school or Sunday school teachers.

For such foolish human beings, God came into the world as Jesus Christ, who was the living Son of God. He died on the cross and resurrected on the third day because He loves us. Even though His disciples completely forgot what He taught them, Jesus never gave up on them. Let's imagine how Jesus cares for each of us individually through Peter's story.

Jesus set the scene like a drama stage for His disciples, especially for Peter. Jesus guided Peter to return to the lakeshore where they first met—in other words, to the place of Peter's calling. But it wasn't time yet for him to recall Jesus' calling because he went fishing with the other disciples. Think about it—they were fishermen. Even though they had stopped fishing for three years to follow Jesus, they were still expert fishermen at that lake, meaning their bodies and instincts automatically remembered how and where to fish, right?

I learned to ride a bike when I was 8 years old, taught by my mom, who never rode a bike herself. She held the back of my bike until I could ride on my own. I continued riding until I was twelve. After I left home for boarding school, I didn't have a chance to ride again. However, three years ago, I bought a bike at someone's moving sale, remembering my mom. Even though I hadn't ridden in a long time, my body still remembered how to bike.

Back to the scripture. Surprisingly, the disciples couldn't catch any fish at all, despite their efforts. At that moment, Jesus stood on the beach and said, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered, "No." Jesus continued, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." It's interesting how Jesus called them "Children" and knew they had caught nothing. They had fished all night—hadn't they tried fishing on the right side of the boat? Despite their doubts, the disciples followed Jesus' instruction and cast the net. They were then unable to haul it in because there were so many fish. Finally, the disciple John said, "It's the Lord." Peter, hearing this, hurried to Jesus. When Peter approached, he saw that Jesus had a charcoal fire going. What does the charcoal fire remind you of? Yes, it reminds us that Peter had denied Jesus three times by a charcoal fire when Jesus was arrested. However, Jesus didn't ask Peter, "Why did you deny me?" or remind him of that denial. Instead, He asked Peter, "Do you love me?" three times. This is because Jesus loved him and never gave up on him.

Jesus called Peter, who was the oldest disciple among the twelve. Peter had denied Jesus three times, lost faith, and returned to a worldly life. Nevertheless, because Jesus loved him, He came to him again and gave him a second chance by asking, "Do you love me?" and "Do you love me more than these others?" If your spouse often asks you, "Do you love me?" it's because they truly love you. If they ask, "Do you love me more than others?" it means they love you deeply and uniquely. Similarly, Jesus loved Peter more than others. He couldn't give up on Peter even regardless of his returning to a worldly life, so He gave him a second chance at the place where He first called him, and by the charcoal fire—symbolizing that even though you denied me, I still love you. Jesus' love transformed Peter, and Peter, in turn, transformed many people.

Yes, Jesus died on the cross because He loved you and continues to love you. He resurrected from the dead to show that His love for you is everlasting. He may come to you wherever you are because He will never give up on you. Remember, the reason Jesus chose and called you is that you are an important person who can influence many around you. We have a mission statement: "Let us make disciples for Jesus Christ in all generations with open hearts, open minds, and open doors for the transformation of the world." The path to transforming the world begins with each of us transforming ourselves into disciples of Jesus. Remember, the reason you are here today is because Jesus loves you. God bless you! Thanks be to God. Amen!