

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Reigning God, whom we have glimpsed in creation and in the life of one who shared our common lot, help us to acknowledge the Messiah, not in empty words, but in self-emptying service that risks life for the sake of love. May we come to be so attuned to your precepts that the song of our hearts becomes a contagious attraction, transforming the groups of which we are a part. 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 offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *O How I Love Jesus* **UMH 170 (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)

17th 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 (10:15 AM, Sunday School)
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
September 15th, 2024
17th 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 away from dullness and complacency.

Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers?

How long will we ignore God’s counsel and reproof?

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.

Our waywardness separates us from God.

Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

We gather to renew our relationship with God.

We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *There’s Something About That Name*

UMH 171 (X2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 8:27-38

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28 And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29 He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“It is Only When you Call His Name”*

Pastor Jenny Lee

SEPTEMBER 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>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> 
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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>We will collect financial donations to support the Burnett County Salvation Army's Backpack Program.</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 SCF School Backpack Program</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	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman



Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karan Sciacca
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFllZz09>
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: 17th Sunday After Pentecost. *God Bless you all!*

Worship Service Schedule

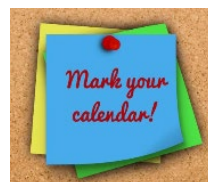
9/15:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am-Sunday School)
	10:00 am	Atlas (10:15 am-Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls
9/15:	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
9/18:	5:30 pm-6:30 pm	K-Up Kids Gathering (G)
9/19:	11:00 am-12:00 pm	Korean Caucus Boarding Meeting via Zoom
	5:00-6:00 pm	Youth Band (G)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Senior Youth Bible Study (G)
9/20:	1:30pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)

Upcoming Events & News

9/18 & 10/2: K5-up Kids Gathering (G)-Go Fish
Kids' gatherings restart every other Wednesday!

Ad Council Meetings:

9/15 SCF; 9/20 :Atlas; 9/24 Central-G



Next Sunday (September 22nd):

VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedmen



Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Josie Grimes

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

Linda Hokanson
9/18





“It is Only When you Call His Name”

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, “What are you doing?” “Playing a game,” the boy replied. “What is your name?” the officer asked. “Mind Your Own Business.” Furious the policeman inquired, “Are you looking for trouble?!” The boy replied, “Why, yes.”

It’s a funny joke, but it highlights how important a name can be. According to biblical references, the Israelites believed that a person’s name reflected their identity and shaped their destiny. This applied not only to people, but also to the names of lands and cities. Several biblical figures had their names changed after significant encounters with God or Jesus, symbolizing a transformation in their identity or purpose.

Here are some notable examples: Abram to Abraham (Genesis 17:5), Sarai to Sarah (Genesis 17:15), Jacob to Israel (Genesis 32:28), Saul to Paul (Acts 13:9), Simon to Peter (John 1:42; Matthew 16:18), and Hoshea to Joshua (Numbers 13:16). Each of these name changes reflects a significant shift in the person’s mission, or identity in relation to God’s plan.

Yes, a name is very important for everyone, and it functions only when it is called by others. If a name is not used, it no longer serves its purpose as a “name.” Today, I want to talk about the significance of a name, particularly the idea that “a name only fulfills its role when it is called.”

The first notable example comes from Genesis 17:5, where God changes Abram’s name. His original name was Abram, meaning “father of many,” but God said, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram.” The new name, Abraham, means “father of many nations.” God extended His blessing from making Abram the father of many children to the father of many nations. This name change symbolized God’s covenant with Abram, marking a significant turning point in his life. It reflected his new destiny as the patriarch of many nations, including the Israelites, Ishmaelites, and others.

I know many of you use a nickname instead of your full name. Do you remember why you started using your nickname, when, and what made you choose it? My original name is Eun Ae Lee, but I didn’t like my name when I was a child. Whenever someone called me “Eun Ae,” I felt like it made me seem like a very weak girl. However, after becoming a Christian, I realized that my name wasn’t just given to me by my parents—it might have been given to me by God. This is because it means “Grace (Eun) and Love (Ae).”

Yes, I am someone who cannot live without God’s grace and love. Until I came to understand this, I wandered through life, thinking I could handle everything on my own. However, after a significant car accident, I realized that I can do nothing by myself—it’s only through God’s grace and love (Eun Ae) that I can move forward.

When I was preparing to come to the U.S., my teacher told me, “It might be better for you to have an English name. An English name will help you blend into American culture and make good friends there.” She then gave me the name “Jenny.” However, I didn’t use it for almost ten years after arriving in the U.S. It wasn’t until 2016, when I was preparing for ministry after completing my Ph.D., that I started using the name “Jenny.”

It’s true—using this name marked a turning point in my life. Many people began calling me “Jenny,” and as a result, they felt closer to me, and I made more friends. My name “Eun Ae” reflects my identity as a person of God, while my nickname “Jenny” helps me open my mind, heart, and door to see, learn from, and understand diverse people and cultures.

In today’s scripture, Jesus seems to reflect on the importance of a name. On his journey toward Jerusalem, where he would suffer and die, he intentionally stopped in Caesarea Philippi with his disciples. In this passage, we encounter two figures whose names were tied to God’s mission: Jesus and Peter.

Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” They responded quickly, uttering, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others, one of the prophets.” People couldn’t quite identify who Jesus was. Even his disciples didn’t fully understand his identity—they called him “Teacher” (Rabbi). So, Jesus pressed them further, “But who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” This was the response Jesus had been waiting for.

At that moment, Jesus was identified by his true name: Messiah. The word “Messiah” means “God’s anointed one,” “Savior,” and “the Lord.” After Peter’s confession, Jesus began to teach his disciples about his mission: “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). In this way, Jesus shifted from being called “Teacher” to being known as the “Messiah,” confirming his mission. He became the Messiah for all nations and all humankind.

What about Peter? His original name was Simon, son of John. Like his father, Simon was a fisherman until his encounter with Jesus. He was called Simon until the moment his name was changed, as we see in today’s scripture. The Gospel of Matthew provides a detailed account of this event. In response to Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 16:16-17).

After this confession, Jesus changed his name from Simon to Peter. He said, “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19a). As we know, Peter became the foundational figure of the Christian Church. Many Christians believe that Peter is the keeper of the gates of heaven because of this passage.

You may reflect on your name, its meaning, and whether you live according to that meaning. However, a more important consideration is that after encountering Jesus, we are given a new name: “Christian,” which confirms our identity and mission. The term “Christian” means “follower of Christ” or “belonging to Christ.” We should live according to our new name, “Christian,” by following our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Christians are identified by their actions—loving God and loving our neighbors as Jesus taught and exemplified.

Therefore, intentionally call Jesus your Savior, Healer, Protector, Comforter, and Messiah. When you call on Him by these names, He will save you and help you whenever you reach out to Him. This can only happen when you call His name, as a name functions through being called. Who do you say Jesus is for you? Thanks be to God. Amen!