

THE LORD'S PRAYER
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

O merciful God, hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. May the sympathy and comfort we share with those in need draw them closer to You. Keep us strong, so that this church may give radiant witness to the truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the wickedness of our times. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory*
UMH 577 (vs. 1 & 4)

*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)

23rd Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Sunday



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
October 27th, 2024

23rd Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Sunday

*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 gathering us from many different places.

No one is worthy, but all are invited.

God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us back.

God cares for us amid our pain and losses.

We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.

Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.

We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.

Taste and see how good God is.

Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

We will bless our God in all times and places.

Let us exalt God’s name together! Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

UMH 110 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison (The Book of Worship)

O God, the Giver of life, we pray for the Church throughout the world. Sanctify its life, renew its worship, empower its witness, restore its unity. Remove from your people all pride and every prejudice that dulls their will for unity. Strengthen the work of all those who strive to seek that common obedience that will bind us together. Heal the divisions which separate your children from one another, that they may keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 10:46-52

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” 52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“Take Heart and Get Up (Reformation Sunday)!”*

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Amazing God, help us to hear Your call and move our hearts to rise in response to You, so that we may be healed and become instruments of healing in a hurting world. Restore to us the sight that goes beyond seeing, so that Your church may respond with joy to the great High Priest and be revitalized. In His name, we pray and carry out our ministry. 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!

OCTOBER 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>OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD</p> <p>We will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through Sunday, Nov. 10th.</p> <p>Information is available on the table at church.</p> <p>Pack-Donate-Pray...Thank You!</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>This month will be collecting financial donations to support Trick or Treat for UNICEF.</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>The Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee

Central -Grantsburg

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



Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are sick or scheduled for surgery: Kay Lampher, Ron Alderfer, Shane Tooze, Virginia Hill, Herarly Koser, Lynn Hanson, Jameson Koser, Briana, Sally Schmitt, Trinity, Suzie, Sancy Olson, Deni Tooze, Emily, and Moly, and those who you know.

Please pray for those who are stay homebound: Dorothy Miller and Ken Olson

"This kind can come out only by prayer"(Mark 9:29)



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: 23rd Sunday After Pentecost/ Reformation Sunday
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

10/27:	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
10/25-27:		Youth Fall Camp
10/27:	12:15 pm	Ad Council Meeting (SCF)
10/28:	10:30 am-1:30 pm	Northwest Harmony Choir at Rice Lake UMC
10/30:	5:30-7:30 pm	Halloween Party for all Kids (G)
	1:30-7:30 pm	Harmony Choir Blessing Service -Annual Charity Concert at Stevens Point
10/31:	6:30-8:30 pm	Senior Youth Bible Study (G)
11/3:		All Saints Sunday/Daylight Saving Time ends <i>(Please list all saints whom you want to lift up during service on the clipboard at church)</i>

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries



Jim Mattson 10/29

Cheryl Olson 11/2

Next Sunday (November 3rd):
"All Saints Sunday"

Central -Grantsburg

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



Atlas

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

St. Croix Falls

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

Upcoming Events & News

10/31:	Charge Conference Documentation Due
11/10:	Veterans Sunday
11/12:	2024 Charge Conference at 4:30 pm at Central-Grantsburg

October 24, 2021

Mark 10:46-52

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



“Take Heart and Get Up!” (Reformation Sunday)

I want to start with a funny story. There was a Christian who fell in the ocean, and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, “Do you need help, sir?” The Christian calmly said, “No, God will save me.” A little later, another boat came by, and a fisherman asked, “Hey, do you need help?” The Christian replied again, “No, God will save me.” Eventually, the Christian drowned and went to heaven. The Christian asked God, “Why didn't you save me?” God replied, “Fool, I sent you two boats!”

We sometimes misunderstand God's work, even though we believe in God, much like the Christian in the story. God can work through the people around us, and even through our pets and plants. So, keep your minds and hearts open to sense God's work and presence. To believe in God is to trust that God makes things happen that we cannot. As the Letter to the Hebrews says, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). If you earnestly hope for something, it will come true. Even though it may take longer than expected, if you don't give up, God won't give up. Faith is trusting that God will make things happen. If it hasn't happened yet, you might think that your faith is lacking. But what does having “little” or “great” faith mean? Jesus spoke about having little faith in the Gospel of Matthew.

One day, the disciples, who had failed to cast out a demon, asked Jesus why they were unable to do so. Jesus answered them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20). According to these words, if we have “little faith” like a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for us. However, we know there are many things that are impossible “for us.” Is it because our faith is too small? If so, how can our faith ever be big enough?

Today is “Reformation Sunday,” observed on the last Sunday of October. It reminds us of October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses in Wittenberg, sparking the Protestant Reformation. This movement led to the formation of churches such as the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist denominations. In today's scripture, we see the blind man Bartimaeus, who received his sight through faith. Through Bartimaeus, we might find a way to reform our own faith. So today, I will talk about how our small faith can be enough to revitalize both our ministry and our lives.

Imagine the blind man Bartimaeus. He was a beggar, sitting by the roadside every day, begging for his daily food. He could hear what people were talking about as they passed by. One day, he sensed something different. There were more people than usual, and they were talking about Jesus. Hearing about Jesus, Bartimaeus thought that if someone would bring him to Jesus, he might be healed. However, no one cared about him; they simply passed him by.

But then, a chance presented itself. As Jesus and his disciples were about to leave the city of Jericho, Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by. As soon as he realized it was Jesus, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” The people around him scolded him, telling him to be quiet. But Bartimaeus didn't want to lose this opportunity to regain his sight. This might be his only chance, one that might never come again.

If you were Bartimaeus, what would you do? Would you stop? Would you give up? No, you wouldn't stop. You wouldn't give up. Neither did Bartimaeus. He cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Among the many people, Jesus may not have been able to see him as he sat by the roadside. But Jesus

stopped, stood still, and finally heard him. Then He said, “Call him here.” And the people said to Bartimaeus, “Take heart; get up; He is calling you.”

Can you imagine how Bartimaeus felt at that moment? He couldn’t see anything, and a large crowd had gathered around him. How could he possibly go to Jesus? Yet he didn’t think about “how.” Immediately, he sprang up and ran toward Jesus. He didn’t care about throwing off his cloak, which might have been the only one he owned. He sprang up and came to Jesus. Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus replied, “Let me see again!” Jesus said, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately, he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

What can we learn from Bartimaeus? We see his urgent shouting because he knew he couldn’t give up his only chance. He faced many obstacles and difficulties. He had physical challenges—he couldn’t see, and he couldn’t go alone. He had material concerns—he likely worried about daily food, clothing, and shelter. Perhaps, he also experienced emotional struggles: hopelessness, depression, and desperation. We assume he lost his sight at some point in life, as he said, “I want to see again.” He may have spent time asking, “Why me?” He was a man surviving day by day, begging for food on the streets.

Among all these difficulties, his biggest obstacle might have been the people around him, those who blocked him from going to Jesus and didn’t want him shouting. To reach his goal, he gave up his daily begging for food; he cast aside his only cloak. He didn’t care about the people who tried to block or scold him. His primary goal was to meet Jesus. For Bartimaeus, receiving Jesus’ mercy was an urgent matter.

What about you? What about your faith? In order to meet Jesus and receive God’s mercy, are you willing to give up what is most important to you? How urgent are your prayers? Why not ask for God’s mercy? Perhaps, like Bartimaeus, Jesus is standing still, waiting to hear you. Who knows—this might be your only chance to receive God’s mercy.

Let’s focus on Jesus a little more in our everyday lives. If we can’t hear Jesus, perhaps it’s because we are too busy to sense Him. Even though Jesus may be asking, “What do you want me to do for you?”, we often don’t say what we need because we are too busy complaining, or sitting in hopelessness and depression. Listen closely: “Take heart; get up; He is calling you.” It is time to ask for God’s mercy. Even though there are people who may block you from hearing Jesus’ call, are you missing His voice because you are overthinking the “how” and “why?” Trust that God will provide the way, and rise to receive His mercy!

Are there others around you who need God’s mercy? Are you, perhaps, blocking them from coming to Jesus physically, emotionally, or spiritually? If so, it’s time to say to them, “Take heart; get up, God is calling you.” Now is the time to receive God’s mercy! Don’t miss the chance God is giving you. Open your hearts and minds to sense His presence! It is time to take heart, get up, and hear God’s calling. It is time to ask Him for His mercy. Thanks be to God. Amen!