



February 2, 2025

“How Can We  
Mature in the Way  
of Love?”

Annual Meeting Sunday

**Welcome!**

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

**The Love of God Gathers Us**

**Gathering Music**

*We gently settle into sacred time and space*

**Ring the Bell**

**Prelude & Candle Lighting** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*Converse*

*We acknowledge the light of Christ among us*

**Words of Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Words from a Neighbor**

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

**\*Prayer of Gathering** *(responsive)*

God, we need peace—

**so we come for quiet.**

We need joy—

**so we come for singing.**

We need to let things go—

**so we come for forgiveness.**

We need hope—

**so we come for scripture and community.**

We come this morning from our own routines—

**May we leave with the blessings we long for and also unexpected gifts. Amen.**

**\*Opening Song**

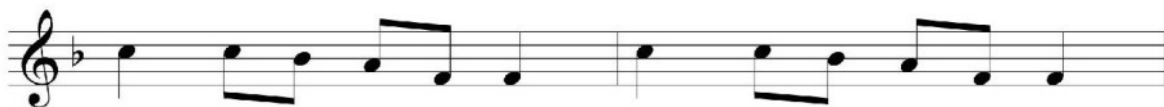
“Come, Let Us Worship God”

**Telae leads, we echo**

## Come, Let Us Worship God



*Leader: Come, let us wor-ship God. Come, let us wor-ship God.*



*Come, let us wor-ship God. Come, let us wor-ship God.*



*Wel - come ev - 'ry - one\_\_ Wel - come ev - 'ry - one*



*to the love of God. to the love of God.*

2. Rest for the weary...
3. Hope for the children...
4. Light for the journey...

## Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

### Centering Ourselves

*...in stillness and breath*

### Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

Gracious God, when we let seeds fall into the good soil of our spirits, your wisdom rises once again. When we receive your affirming welcome with tenderness, your wisdom rises once again. When we shine light to reveal violence and oppression, your wisdom rises once again. When we bind the wounds of intolerance into a balm of kind relations, your wisdom rises once again. Let your Holy Spirit be upon us - affirming, shining, rising up again. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### Musical Interlude

*...to accompany our quiet prayers*

### Assurance of Grace

## A Time With Children and Youth

### Sung Invitation

*...as young people come forward*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...**

### Singing "Happy Birthday"

Laura Mayaka (2/2), Louie Favilla (2/8)

### Wondering Together

### Blessing One Another

*...with arms wide open*

Young Ones: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

### Sung Affirmation

*...as young people depart or return to families*

**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...**

As reparations for use of "This Little Light of Mine" and other Black spirituals, we support Walk West (St. Paul): a music learning community rooted in the African-American cultural experience, where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music.

**Children's Activity** | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Claire and Kim  
**Youth Group** | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Telae to their main-level meeting space  
**Nursery** | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery  
(the worship service can be heard in the nursery)

We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV (New Testament, p. 61)

Luke 4:14-30

**A Reading from the Epistles** | NRSV (New Testament, p. 175)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Here ends the readings.

**May God speak to us through these sacred words.**

**Morning Message**

**“How Can We Mature in the Way of Love?”**

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Song (SPP #66)**

**“Every Step of the Way”**  
**sung twice**

**Prayers of the People**

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world  
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be added to our printed Prayer Corner*

**...God, in your love      Hear our prayer**

**Prayer of Jesus** (*unison*)

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and Earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.**

**Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days —  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)  
**Blue electronic giving cards** represent gifts made electronically.*



## **Offertory**

“What Shall We Give”

*Morris*

## **\*Offertory Response**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below – Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Sharing in Holy Communion**

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages  
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

## **\*The Invitation and Prayer**

God be with you.           **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.       **We lift them to God.**  
Let us give thanks to the God of all.

**Loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth.  
We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and  
flowers, the living and the dead (*pause*), the stars, planets, and all members of  
creation – forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.**

## **Words of Remembrance and Blessing**

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing  
Place your empty cup in a basket on a front pew, returning by a side aisle*

### \*Communion Hymn

**“Eat This Bread”  
sung repeatedly**

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone!      **Thanks be to God!**  
**God of salt and light, for the vulnerability you encourage through the  
sharing of broken bread and poured out cup, thank you. For the community  
you restore in us as we serve one another, thank you. For the courage and  
strength that you promise us, thank you. Send us forth from this place to  
love and do justice with gentleness and power through your Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### Going Forth to Share God’s Love

### \*Closing Hymn (SPP #139)

**“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”  
all verses**

### \*Benediction

### \*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you!      **And also with you!**  
*...to those online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes*

### \*Postlude

*...as we pass the peace*

## PRAYER CORNER

- \*For Jackie Savage's friend, **Chris**, comfort as she stops treatment after a terminal lung cancer diagnosis.
- \*For Sharri Kinkead's **grandson**, struggling with alcohol addiction.
- \*For Jennifer Halvorsen-Albrights's uncle **Rick**, as he grieves the death of his wife from COVID complications after a long battle with MS.
- \*For Lori Mildon's friend, **Carol**, in the wake of losing her sister last week.
- \*For Cindy Parsons' and Bob Dickie's daughter **Erin**, healing after a skiing injury.

## Annual Meeting **TODAY**

*Join us for brunch and meeting, following worship.*

- \*Elections (Leadership Council) \*2025 budget
- \*Rain garden collaboration with the City of Bayport
- \*Update from Telae (youth, outreach, and choir)
- \*Update on the outdoor classroom (worship space) at the new Bayport elementary school
- \*Update on our strategic planning process



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2025

***Annual reports are available in the Narthex and by email request.***



***A reminder that our 2 free pantries offer food  
365 days a year.***

Items that go fast:

Cream of wheat cereal/Oatmeal

Kid-friendly cereal

Peanut Butter in plastic jars

Individual tuna packets

Dinty More Stews (single serving)

Mac and Cheese—single servings

Snacks, Hot Cocoa

“Just-add-water” baking mixes (pancakes, muffins, etc)

*Please be sure to bring items in cardboard or plastic packaging  
as the temperatures drop.*

**No cans or glass!**



### Week at a Glance:

Choir Rehearsal | **Feb. 5, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Welcome & Care Team | **Feb. 6, 12 pm** | @ Church

Sunday Worship | **Feb. 9, 9:30 am** | @ Church & Livestream

Children's Activity & Youth Group | **Feb. 9, 9:45 am** | @ Church


Fellowship | **Feb. 9, 10:30 am** | @ Church

Adult Faith Conversations | **Feb. 9, 11:00 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth and Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Cheri & Bob Schwartz (ushers), Jonah & Sam Gromoll (youth ushers), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (communion preparers), Kathleen Dennison, Mary Maren Bjork, Carol Dusbabek (communion servers), Claire Spilseth & Kim Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Jane Hanson (youth group), Sue Favilla (brunch), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Mary Binger, Naomi Kirstein (altar decor)



### St. Croix United Church

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## Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$   
F C/E Dm C B $\flat$  Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Help me do the jus - tice to be  
done to - day. Help me love kind -  
ness in all I do and say.  
Help me walk hum - bly with you, O God I pray  
ev - 'ry step of the way,  
ev - 'ry step of the way.

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton

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## I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 139

$\text{♩} = 68$

1. I'm gon-na live so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -  
 2. I'm gon-na work so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -  
 3. I'm gon-na pray so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -  
 4. I'm gon-na sing so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -

- time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_  
 - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_  
 - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_  
 - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm gon-na live so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_  
 — I'm gon-na work so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_  
 — I'm gon-na pray so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_  
 — I'm gon-na sing so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_

- an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_  
 — an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_  
 — an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_  
 — an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_