



August 8, 2025

“Investing in
God's Treasures”

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

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

Large-print bulletins: there are plenty!

Gathering Music

Ring the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “You Are My Life”

arr. Tornquist

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE.

In some Buddhist traditions, they accompany meditation and chanting.

They now contribute to spiritual practices and well-being in many spaces.

***Invocation** (*responsive*)

As a desert wanderer longs for springs of cool water –
So our thirsty souls reach for you, O God.

How we long for a deeper sense of your presence –
For faith that will embrace you without fear or doubt!

May we set our hearts on your goodness –
Trusting you as both our source and destination. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** (insert) “Seek Ye First”

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

God of love and power, we hear your promises of abundant life but we are afraid to believe them. We worship you with our lips but reserve parts of ourselves for our own plans. Bound by a need for certainty, we often miss your living presence in the twists and turns of life. Renew us by turning our trust back to you. We pray as followers of Jesus. Amen.

Musical Interlude *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

Assurance of Grace (*responsive*)

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Passing the Peace (*seated*)

...smiles and gestures of peace — to those online and seated near us

Sung Invitation *...as young people come forward*

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

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Terri Powell (8/3), John Siegel (8/4)

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 return to families

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

***Nursery** | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery
Older children ... are welcome to use books & games in our downstairs children’s library
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!*

Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | NRSV, Old Testament, p. 614

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 1-14, 2:18-23

Reading from the Gospels | NRSV, New Testament, p. 74

Luke 12:1a, 13-34

One: Here ends the readings. **All:** Thanks be to God!

Morning Message

“Investing in God’s Treasures”

Prayer Song (insert)

“The Open Table”

cantor sings vs. 1 | all sing vs. 2-3

*As reparations for use of 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.*

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 printed in our Prayer Corner*

...God, in your love Hear our prayer

Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.**

Thy kindom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. 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

“Where the Spirit of the Lord Is”

Adams

*Offertory Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*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

Communion Song

“You Belong Here”

by The Many

cantor begins, all join in the chorus

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on D4, moves to E4, then F#4, and continues with eighth and quarter notes. Chords D, Bm7, and G are indicated above the staff. The lyrics 'Come and re-mem-ber who you are here. Do this to__ re-mem-ber who I' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody, with chords A, D, and Bm7 indicated. The lyrics 'am. Come and re-mem-ber you be-long here. All be-' are written below. The third staff concludes the phrase with the chord G and the lyrics 'long here.' The score ends with a double bar line.

As recorded by The Many.
Lyrics by Lenora Rand. Music by Hannah Rand.
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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

Musical Interlude

... as we share in the meal

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone! **Thanks be to God!**

**God of all, may we be as living loaves – kneaded and shaped by your hands.
May we be as fruit of your Spirit – poured out that others might know joy.
Love be the leaven within us. Love be the flavor of thought, word and deed.
Peace be among us. Amen.**

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

...forming a circle (not holding hands)

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

***Parting Music**

...as we greet one another

Today Following Worship:

10:30 am | All are welcome downstairs for refreshments and good company!



Our Church's Table @ Bayport "Night to Unite"

Tuesday, Aug. 5th | 5 - 8 pm @ Lakeside Park

An evening of food, games, and safety demonstrations for all ages!

Our Local Outreach Team invites you to participate:

- Join Pastor Clare at our table (5-6pm, 6-7pm, 7-8pm)
- Bring cookies or bars – store-bought and homemade are both great! Please have them sliced/ready to serve. Mark returnable containers with your name. Drop off on Tuesday, 8:30-3:30 (or use door code at other times).

This is one way we live out our mission statement:

"We unite with the wider community to transform our values into action!"

Contact Pastor Clare if you are able and willing to help.

PRAYER CORNER

*For **all of our members, friends, and neighbors** whose homes and yards sustained damage from the recent storms.

*For **Aidan Gromoll**, safe and fruitful travels while serving as medic with a delegation of MN Conference UCC youth on pilgrimage to Iona Community in Scotland.

*With Cheri Schwartz, we continue to pray for 3-year old **Astrid's** wellbeing as she grows and awaits a kidney transplant.

*With Cheri Schwartz, gratitude for granddaughter, **Bea's**, improving emotional and mental health as she adjusts to her new school and medications.

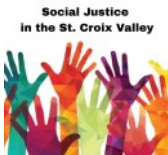
*With **Jackie Savage**, gratitude for truth, honesty, and extravagant kindness in other people after her wallet was returned last week!



Youth Choir Performance

Sunday, August 10th | 11 am

Please plan to linger after fellowship time to support the St. Croix Youth Choir (directed by Telae) as their families and friends come to hear them sing several pieces! The performance will be in the Sanctuary space in our Bayport building.



Social Justice in the St. Croix Valley

Thursday, August 14th | 7 pm

Join with neighbors to connect, build awareness, and take action.

Areas of interest:

- Building a community of justice
- Communication initiatives
- Equitable access to food, housing & transportation
- Promoting literacy and educational freedom

Come with suggestions for actions we can take. Register at <https://Social-Justice-in-the-St-Croix-Valley-August.eventbrite.com>



Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **Aug. 4, 7 pm** | @ Lakeside Park

Gentle Tai Chi | **Aug. 6, 10 am** | @ Lakeside Park

Youth Choir | **Aug. 6, 3:30 pm** | @ Church

FREE Wednesday Supper Club | **Aug. 6, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

Garden Gathering | **Aug. 7, 9:30 am** | @ Lakeside Park

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Congregational Meetings:



Financial Q&A Forum

August 24th, 11 am | @ Lakeside Park Beach House & Zoomed

Special Congregational Meeting

September 7th, 11 am | @ Lakeside Park Beach House & Zoomed

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Jane Hanson & Mary Horak Binger (communion preparers & server), Carol Dusbabek (usher & communion server), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (musical interlude), St. Croix United Choir, Jill Greenhalgh & Rolf Dittman (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sharri Kinhead (altar flowers)



St. Croix United Church

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Seek Ye First

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Descant

D F#m G D G

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia, Al-

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

D Em7 A7sus D F#m

le - - - lu - ia, Al - - - le-

right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

G D G Em D

lu - - - ia, Al - - - le - - - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE FIRST
Irr.

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

♩=72-80

The Open Table

1. Come, oh come, come to the ta - ble. _____
 2. Cir - cle round, let's join to - geth - er. _____
 3. God is love; Love is cre - at - ing _____

_____ Gath - er 'round, come with - out fear. _____
 _____ Share your joys, and bring your tears. _____
 _____ some - thing new, right here, right now. _____

_____ Known by name, here at the
 _____ Strength and hope found at the
 _____ We're chil - dren of God, here at the

ta - ble, _____ this ta - ble; _____ wel - come
 ta - ble, _____ this ta - ble; _____
 ta - ble, _____ this ta - ble; _____

_____ 1., 2. _____ 3. _____
 here, to the ta - ble of love. _____ love.

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).

Text: Mark A. Miller.

Music: *The Open Table*, by Mark A. Miller.

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