



May 31, 2026

“Restoration”

Sabbatical Leave-taking
Sunday

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

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

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Trad

...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.

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

O God, our God, how majestic is your name in all the Earth!
**When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars –
we marvel that you also think of us!**

You have made us with glory. You have created us with honor and joy.
O God, our God, how majestic is your name in all the Earth!

Let us praise God for the works of wonder that surround us!
O God, our God, how majestic is your imprint in all the Earth! Amen!

***Opening Hymn (NCH #21)** “God Reigns o’er All the Earth”
verses 1-3

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

Gracious Spirit — when distrust swirls among us, when fear echoes every
step, when envy and remorse grip our hearts –
**We confess that we lose sight of our connection to your love. Restore our hope,
that we might trust your presence.**

When every door seems locked tight, each thought weighted down –
Restore our hope, that we might trust your presence.

When the ground feels unstable, when nourishing streams run dry –
Restore our hope, that we might trust your presence. 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

Choral Anthem “We Resist!”

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Sue Favilla (6/3)

Sabbatical Leave-Taking & Sabbatical Support Team Commissioning

Brief Reflections

Mary Horak Binger, Naomi Kirstein

Questions of Pastor Clare

Will you take off the responsibilities of pastoring this church for the next three months?

Do you entrust us with care for the congregation in your absence?

Do you commit to return to us after three months' time?

Question of the Sabbatical Support Team

Mary Horak Binger, Nat Graf, Naomi Kirstein, Debbie Knox,
Dan Warnes, Eli'jah Carroll, Megan Adams

*Do you commit to supporting our congregation this summer through caring presence
and communications?*

Question of the Congregation

*Do you release Pastor Clare from the responsibilities of Pastor of this church for the next
three months? And will you turn to our Sabbatical Support Team and one another with
your pastoral and leadership needs?*

**We do and we will. Pastor Clare, we thank you for your leadership and care. We
pray that you will be granted moments of rest, connection, learning, and
blessings on your sabbatical.**

Prayer

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

All: And also with you

As reparations for use of Black spirituals, we support Walker 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.₃

Sung Affirmation

...as young people depart or return to families

Ev'rywhere I go...

Children's Activity | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) can go downstairs with Claire
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) can go with Eli'jah to their downstairs meeting space
Nursery | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Psalms | *The Inclusive Bible*

Psalm 8

Reading from the New Testament | *NRSV, p. 186*

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Contemporary Reading | *Jan Richardson*

“The Healing That Comes”

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

Morning Message

“Restoration”

Prayer Hymn (NCH #451) “Be Now My Vision”

verses 1-3

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

O Great Spirit, our Parent from above, your name is sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways

in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day — the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.

The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.

All the things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong,

in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road.

Amen.

Invitation to Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)

Blue electronic giving cards found in pew pockets.



Offertory

“We Seek to Love”

Coffman

***Song of Thanks**

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Gracious One, we offer common gifts through our daily living. With gestures of strength, words of daring, prayers of kindness – we shape the tone and texture of how your vision is realized. Remind us that we are each part of your body. We dedicate our financial gifts and our whole selves to your way of love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn (NCH #391)** “In the Midst of New Dimensions”
verses 1, 3, 5

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

...forming a circle (not holding hands)

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

**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 a potluck and good company!

PRAYER CORNER

*With Sarah Thorson, prayers for her best friend's twin newborn grandchildren, **Forest and Kennedy**, in and out of NICU with respiratory problems.

*With Dave and Wendy Staberg, prayers for the family and friends of **Mike Erlitz**, the 31 year old son of Dave's cousin, Kevin. Mikey was killed while riding his ATV, one of his passions.

*With the Gromoll family, peace and comfort in the wake of deaths of **Aunt Rebecca, Aunt Sarah, and Aunt Dusty** as she approaches death.

*With Betsy Runke, gratitude for the variety of **spiritual gifts within this congregation** and all the ways they allow us to do wonderful ministry.

*Gratitude for the responsiveness we show to one another's needs - that we feel seen and cared for.

*For those struggling with depression and without someone with whom to share it.

*With Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux, gratitude that justice prevailed as **Kilmar Abrego Garcia's** deportation case was dismissed.

*Prayers for the safety of our brave **firefighters** all over our country and gratitude for the risks they take.



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

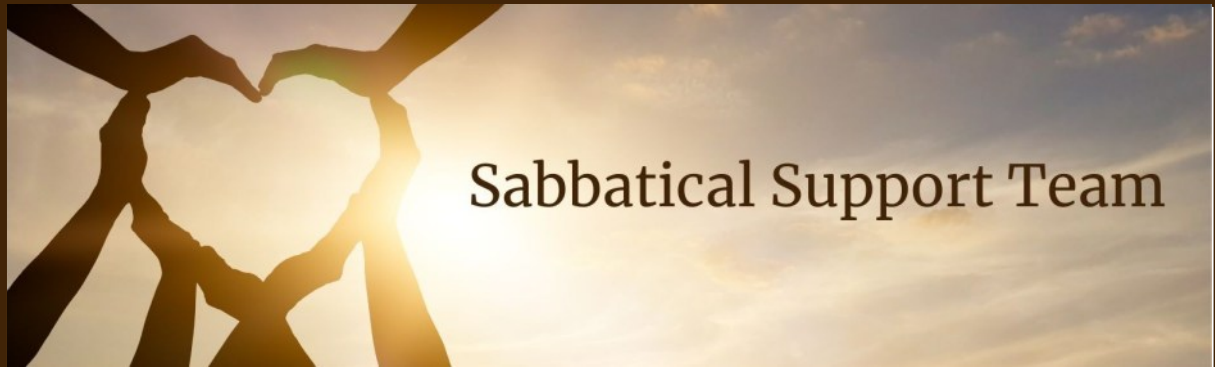
Mackenzie (Kenzie) Killen, granddaughter of Dave and Wendy Staberg, graduated from High School in Siren, WI, on May 15th. Kenzie looks forward to studying Early Childhood Development.



Sparks of Goodness: Sharing bright spots from our lives

Each Sunday of sabbatical, we will enjoy a brief speak-out from one of our friends about all that adds goodness to our lives!

Would you like to offer a 2-5 minute spark of goodness on **Aug. 23rd**?
Simply let Mary Horak Binger or Megan Adams know.



Sabbatical Support Team

Your Sabbatical Support Team

Mary Horak Binger, Pastoral Relations & Finance Committees

Nat Graf, Moderator & Personnel Committee

Naomi Kirstein, retired pastor, Worship & Sanctuary and Youth Ministry Teams

Debbie Knox, Welcome & Care Team

Dan Warnes, hospice chaplain & church member at large

Eli'jah Carroll, Youth Coordinator (staff)

Megan Adams, Office Coordinator (staff)

This team is available to visit when you need a listening ear or a caring presence (during an unexpected hospitalization, other challenging circumstances etc).

Megan (651-439-5667, office@stcroixunitedchurch.org) and

Nat (651-470-0408, ngraf11@gmail.com)

will serve as main lines of contact, though we welcome you to reach out to any of us.



"Rooted and Growing" Sunday Activities for Children & Youth

Begins Sunday, June 7th | 9:45 am

This summer, our children & youth will participate in "Rooted and Growing," a multi-age experience designed to help them grow deeper in faith and community together.

Just as strong roots help plants grow and flourish, we hope this time will help our children and youth become more rooted in God's love while growing in faith, confidence, and connection with one another.



Week at a Glance:

Pastor Clare's Sabbatical Begins | June 1

Wednesday Community Meal | June 3, 5:30 pm | @ Church

Fireside Friends | June 4, 9:30 am | @ Church

Finance Committee | June 9, 4 pm | @ Church

Wednesday Community Meal | June 10, 5:30 pm | @ Church

Leadership Council | June 10, 6:30 pm | @ Church & Zoom


Community Collective | June 11, 7 pm | @ Church

Outdoor Worship | June 14, 9:30 am | @ Lakeside Park Beach House

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flute), Gary Piasecki & David Kirstein (ushers), Sharri Kinkead (greeter), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Sharon Binger & congregation (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Claire Spilseth & Kim Klisch (children's activity)



St. Croix United Church

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Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator

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God Reigns o'er All the Earth

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Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994