



June 21, 2026

“The Big Fish Story”

Father’s Day

Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Naomi Kirstein

### 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** “This Amazing Grace” *Farro, Riddle & Wickman*

### Words of Welcome & Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship *(responsive)*

God sees and understands. We pretend that we see – but we misunderstand.

**In worship may we dare to accept your love. May we grow in our seeing and understanding.**

May our spiritual blindness be healed and our inner sight restored...  
**Open our hearts in prayer, song, and story to worship and know that you are God. Amen.**

\* = Sitting or standing

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #28) “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

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**Prayer of Confession and Longing** *(responsive)*

God of Blessing and Beauty; God of earth and sky and all the waters that feed the finned ones—we long to be surprised by your love and wisdom.

**We come grateful today as we prepare to meet the “fishermen” who became disciples of Jesus.**

Forgive us when we become hopeless after we drag empty nets in from overfished waters.

**When we have exhausted our options to do your work of justice help us to brave the deep waters and fish in a new current.**

And when our nets are full, and we can hardly drag in the catch, give us strength and bring others to help us in our time of abundance and need.

**Help us to see again and may your creative word renew our hope as we journey together with each other. 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*

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**Sung Invitation**

*...as young people come forward*

**This little light of mine...**

**Singing “Happy Birthday”**

**Briar Bettin (6/23 - 7 yrs), Jed Seeger (6/23), Forrest Whiterabbit, Jr (6/24), Paul Spilseth (6/25)**

**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...**

**“Rooted and Growing”** | Children (age 3+) and youth can join Eli’jah for an activity  
**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 Gospels** | NRSV, p. 62

Luke 5:1-11

**Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV, p. 115

John 21:1-13

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

## Morning Message

“The Big Fish Story”

“My Favorite Fish Story”

shared by Carroll Fuhr

**Prayer Hymn (p. 5 of bulletin)** “Seek Ye First”

## Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world  
Please tell Rev. Naomi 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

Offertory “Rise Up, Rise Up”

L. Good

Offering a Spark of Goodness

Mary Piasecki

\*Song of Thanks

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!

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Benediction

\*Sending Song

*...forming a circle (not holding hands)*

Irish Blessing  
**sung twice**

May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rain fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again  
Till we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of God’s hand

\*Parting Music

*...as we greet one another*

**Today Following Worship:**

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

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

**Blue electronic giving cards** found in pew pockets.



We, You, Us Seek Ye First

354

*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-

righ - teous - 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

$\text{♩} = 72-80$

## PRAYER CORNER

\*For **Dave Pritchard** and granddaughter, **Violet**, as they journey to the Boundary Waters. May they travel safe and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

\*With Sharri Kinkead, prayers of healing for **Delores Davis** as she recovers from a fall last week shortly after her 95th birthday.

\*For **Mary Horak Binger** as she heads to the Grand Canyon for a two week rafting adventure - may safety and wonder be her companions.

\*For **Val Green's sister** as she navigates the final stretch of a long-awaited pregnancy. May she have health, abundant rest, and be surrounded in love.

\*For **Sharon Neuenfeldt's granddaughter**, recently denied depression medication - may she be surrounded by love and granted hope in the future.

\*With **Paul Spilseth**, gratitude for a successful cataract surgery and prayers for the upcoming surgery on the second eye.

\*For **Lori Mildon's grandson** in a difficult time... May God's grace heal and guide him with love.

\*With Bob Dickie, prayers for a **Connect Center client** experiencing severe delusional thoughts, resulting in needing a new home. Prayers for mental and physical health in this troubling time.

\*For Sharri Kinkead's son, **Peter**, starting a new life in CT while 2 years sober and looking for a new job. Prayers for positive new beginnings and God's grace in the challenges to come.



Thank you to our Social Justice Team and all the volunteers and visitors who made our first appearance at the very first Stillwater Pride Ice Cream Social a great success!

Signs were made, flyers printed, bubbles blown, and smiles shared. A very good turnout and such a fun vibe. Our hearts are full!



### Week at a Glance:

**Conversations from the Heart** | **June 24, 10 am** | @ Church  
**FREE Community Meal** | **June 24, 5:30 pm** | @ Church  
**Conversations from the Heart** | **June 24, 6:30 pm** | @ Church  
**Outdoor Worship** | **June 28, 9:30 am** | @ Lakeside Park

# Community Worship at Lakeside Park

Sunday, July 5th | 9:30 am

95 Central Ave. Pavillion #4 | Bayport | MN | 55003



Together in Christ, the service will be led by



**Bethlehem Lutheran &  
St. Croix United Church**



*Bring a lawn chair and a non-perishable food item.  
Food will go to St. Croix United's Food Share Pantry.  
Loose offerings will go to Valley Outreach.*

\*In case of rain the service will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
490 Fourth St N | Bayport | MN | 55003

## Sabbatical Support Team

**Mary Horak Binger** (out of town 6/19 - 7/4), **Nat Graf**,  
**Naomi Kirstein** (out of town 6/25 - 6/27), **Debbie Knox**, **Dan Warnes**,  
**Eli'jah Carroll**, and **Megan Adams**

This team is available to visit when you need a listening ear or a caring presence.

**Megan** (651-439-5667, [office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org)) and  
**Nat** (651-470-0408, [ngraf11@gmail.com](mailto:ngraf11@gmail.com))  
will serve as main lines of contact, yet we welcome you to reach out to any of us.



## Outdoor Worship This Summer

@ Lakeside Park Beach House (95 Central Ave, Bayport)

Join us in worshipping down by the river every  
other Sunday this summer!


Outdoor Worship Dates:

*June 28, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23*

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Naomi Kirstein (Guest Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flutist), David Kirstein & Gary Piasecki (ushers), Kathleen Dennison (greeter), Betsy Runke (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Diane & Joe Legato (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Cindy Parsons (children's activity), Sharri Kinkead (altar flowers)



## St. Croix United Church

[www.stcroixunitedchurch.org](http://www.stcroixunitedchurch.org)  @SCUCBayport

**Pastor Clare Gromoll**

[pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (651) 600-6409

**Megan Adams | Office Coordinator**

[office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (651) 439-5667

**Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator**

[youth@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:youth@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (920) 650-1225

## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.  
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
Conrad Kocher, 1838  
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861