



June 28, 2026

“Two Tough Questions”

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Naomi Kirstein

Gathering Music

Prelude & Lantern Lighting “All Who Are Thirsty for Love”

Makeover

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Spark of Goodness

Jill Greenhalgh

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

Welcome, all, to the journey of faith.

God calls us to follow the path of relationship.

Welcome, all, to the journey of faith.

God calls us to follow the path of compassion.

Welcome, all, to the journey of faith.

God calls us to follow the path of love for one another.

Welcome, all, to the journey of faith.

God calls us to follow even when the path twists and turns.

Welcome, all, to the journey of faith.

God calls us to follow the path of Christ. Amen.

* = Sitting or standing

*Opening Hymn

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

478

I’ve Got Peace Like a River

Isa. 66:12; 1 Pet. 1:8-9; 1 John 4:7-12

African-American spiritual

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4 I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in my

2
 soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in my soul.

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

Compassionate God, you work through us as channels of your care -
inviting us into your great life of love.

But often we refuse your invitation and turn away from your call.

Instead of asking for help when we need it, we rely on our own stubborn
will.

Instead of knocking at the doors of your people, we hide from one another.

Instead of seeking you in the faces of our sisters and brothers, we
pretend not to see the needs and gifts around us.

Deliver us, great God. Grant us courage to live in peace and grace. 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...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Dawn Fetter (7/4)

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 depart or return to families*

Ev'rywhere I go...

“Rooted and Growing” | Children (age 4+) and youth can join Eli’jah for an activity
Children 3 and under | Families supervise their own toddlers
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Gospel | NRSV

Luke 5:17-26

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

Morning Message

“Two Tough Questions”

Contemporary Reading | Frank Bidart

“Queer”

Contemporary Reading | Andrea Gibson

Prayer Song (p. 6 of bulletin) “Your Love is Amazing”

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*)

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.

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

“Teach Me”

O’Shea

***Song of Thanks (next page...)**

***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**

***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 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.*



Week at a Glance:

FREE Community Meal | July 1, 5:30 pm | @ Church

Happy Fourth of July! | July 4

Community Worship w/ Bethlehem Lutheran | July 5, 9:30 am | @ Lakeside Park

Your Love Is Amazing

163

$\text{♩} = 100$
 C_{sus}² G/B

1. Your love is__ a - maz - ing, stea - dy and__ un - chang -
 - ing, I can feel__ it ris -
 - ing, stea - dy and__ un - chang -

C_{sus}² D_{sus}

- ing, your love is__ a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.
 - ing, all the joy__ that's grow - ing deep in - side__ of me.
 - ing, your love is__ a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.

C_{sus}² G/B

— Your love is__ a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift__
 — Ev - 'ry time I see__ you all your good - ness shines
 — Your love is__ a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift__

C_{sus}² D_{sus}

— me. When I am__ sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.
 — through. I can feel__ this God__ song ris - ing up__ in me.
 — me. When I am__ sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.

C_{sus}² G D_{sus} Em⁷

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

C_{sus}² G D_{sus}

your love makes me sing. Ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu -

Em⁷ C_{sus}² 1. 2. 3. G

- jah, your love makes me sing. 2. Your love is__ sur - pris - Hal le - lu - jah.
 3. Your love is__ a - maz -

Words and Music: Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

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PRAYER CORNER

*For **Frank Cole**, as he moves into hospice care. May love surround him and those who love him.

*With Bob Dickie, prayers for his friend **Carol** as she journeys to visit her children after a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. May these days be blessed with love and grace.

*With Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux, gratitude for those men in our lives and on our journey who exude **positive masculinity and energy** in our lives, in our church, and in our world.

*With Bob Heurung, gratitude for warm memories of our fathers - of fishing, boats, and smiles.

*With Cheri Schwartz, gratitude for **Carroll Fuhr** sharing his fish story last Sunday!

*With Betsy Runke, gratitude for **Naomi's** sermon last Sunday. May this church go where God's spirit leads and trust that God will show us who to serve and how to do it.

*Gratitude for **fathers and father figures** present and past.

*For Kathy Whiterabbit's sister-in-law, "**Bright Eyes**" **Elaine**, may she experience healing as she struggles with vision and eye pain.

*For **Erin and her sons** as they seek resources, community, and peace in the midst of many struggles.



Church Properties Task Force | Input Needed

This spring, a task force was formed to determine how to optimize the use of both church buildings in alignment with our values, vision, and mission. The task force contracted with Flourish Placemaking Collective to help assess the properties, our needs & hopes, our short & long-term goals, and our local community needs. With that information, they will develop options for how to best use our properties. We expect these options will be presented to the congregation sometime this fall.

A survey was sent out to congregation members via email to collect input for these important questions. The survey will remain open until **Thursday, July 9th**. We would very much appreciate it if all church members would fill this out to guide the process as we develop recommendations. If you did not receive an email with this link, please contact Megan in the church office. Thank you!

Sabbatical Support Team

Mary Horak Binger (out of town 6/19 - 7/4), **Nat Graf**, **Naomi Kirstein**,
Debbie Knox, **Dan Warnes** (out of town 7/4-7/11), **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) and
Nat (651-470-0408, 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:

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), Carol Dusbabek & David Kirstein (ushers), Jill Greenhalgh (liturgist), Mary Maren Bjork (reader), St. Croix United Choir, Mary & Gary Piasecki (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Val Green (children's activity), Sharri Kinkead (altar flowers)



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