

From Pastor Jo

Dear Members and Friends of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church,

I love being your pastor at GA, and want to continue for as long as I am able, and as long as you will have me! But I have requested, and have received approval from the GA Church Council, to take a two month short term medical disability leave.

A few of you are aware of my struggles lately with pain issues, mostly related to migraine headaches. Unfortunately, there are other problems such as severe Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS), and sleep disorders which combine to make it more difficult.

All of this together has made it difficult to work, but I have done my best to minimize the affects on GA by working extra hours at odd times at home. But this has taken its toll, and I finally need to take some time off to heal.

According to the Portico health insurance we have through the ELCA, the person on leave may not work at all during a short-term medical leave, or jeopardizes any future benefits. I wish this were different, but I'm sure any of you who have dealt with disability insurance in your family realizes how important it is to follow the instructions carefully.

I want you to know my plans are to return to GA after 60 days, healthy and ready to go. I ask for your prayers during this difficult time; it is not in my nature to "just sit," and there will be challenges for me just learning how to relax a bit more. Please know that I will be praying daily for GA and all of you. There is such good momentum at GA; just keep going and when I get back we will pick up and run!

Thank you for you support, and thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Jo



See the following page for a letter from Sean Tessmer, Church Council president, regarding Pastor Jo's medical leave.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, Oct. 21 – Regarding Updated Constitution

Over the last 18 months Sarah Larson, Hannah Rosebrock, and Sean Tessmer have been reviewing the Constitution and By-laws. This has not been done in many, many years and we found that many changes and updates are needed for the Constitution to bring it up to date with Minneapolis Area Synod Guidelines. During the discussion we also made suggested changes and additions to our by-laws and certain portions of the Constitution.

Some examples of changes are reducing the number of Committees we have, making Council terms 2 years instead of 3, and allowing no more than 3 consecutive terms on Council.

The next step in the process is to have a **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 21**, to vote to adopt the Constitution and make any changes. We then need to vote again on the Constitution to make it official; this will be done at the Annual Meeting in January. If you would like a copy of the new constitution emailed or printed for you, please contact Sean, Sarah, Hannah, or the church office.



From Our Church Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 20, Pastor Jo requested a 60 day medical/short term disability leave from Council beginning October 1. Council approved the request and hopes this time away allows Pastor Jo to get healthy and find ways to manage worsening chronic pain issues. During this time we ask the congregation to come together and lift up prayers of healing and support for Pastor Jo to find relief from the debilitating pain she has been experiencing.

For October and November, we ask the congregation for their help and patience during Pastor Jo's time of healing. Council is working to organize the following:

Substitute worship leaders for Sunday services – Pastor Gordon Braatz will be the worship leader for us October 7, 14 and 21. He has been with us a couple of times in the last few months and we hope he will be able to be with us often during these 2 months.

Confirmation will continue to be the first 3 Sundays of the month at 8:30; we are finalizing who will be the confirmation teacher during this time.

Visitation – Phil has put together a list of individuals who have requested visitations. We ask that the congregation assist in visiting our brothers and sisters unable to make it to Sunday worship during this time.

Adult Faith Formation Classes – For now, these will be put on hold.

GA is a strong and vibrant congregation with incredible talents and a giving spirit. There is never a “good” time for medical leave and health concerns rarely give us an option on when they occur. However, Council is confident that we will be able to come together and fulfill our Mission and Ministry these two months while Pastor Jo heals.

If the Congregation has any questions or concerns, please address them directly to Council.

Sincerely,

Sean Tessmer
Church Council President



Church Council Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns during Pastor Jo's medical leave, we encourage you to talk directly to members of church council rather than making assumptions or sharing information that may or may not be accurate! The list of church council members is always listed on the back of the “Gazette.” This month we list it here as well – along with each member's e-mail address. If you need a person's phone number, contact Phil in the church office.

Gary Anderson
gary_anderson@comcast.net

Andrea Carter
andrea.carter@mpls.k12.mn.us

Amanda Hakemian
amandaandaaron@gmail.com

Ed Huble
hubleg@hotmail.com

Sarah Larson
sarahonlowry@gmail.com

Jenny Parker
jennifer.parker@district196.org

Erik Peterson
pete2246@gmail.com

Sean Tessmer
seantessmer@gmail.com

| Oct. Serving Schedule | Assisting Minister | Lector | Sacristan | Transportation |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| October 7 | Cheryl Johnson | Julie O'Donnell | Andrea Carter | James Hamilton |
| October 14 | Justin Navratil | Lynette Paulson | Aaron Bisping | Joel Lurvey |
| October 21 | Calvin Huseonica | Kim Huseonica | Hannah Rosebrock | Pat Lynch |
| October 28 | Melissa Hentges | Adrienne Bisping | Joan Mitchell | Brian Hendrickson |

Oct. Ushers:
Ministry Circle 3
(Andrea Carter,
coordinator)

Our Congregation's Vision Statement

(The congregation adopted this vision statement on January 24, 2016.)

God in Christ loves us; therefore, through the Holy Spirit we will:

Do justice

- We **hope** for our community and all of God's creation
- We feed the poor and comfort the afflicted
- We welcome and **respect** our neighbor and the stranger

Love kindness

- We **love** and care for our congregation and our community
- We practice **forgiveness** locally and globally
- We strive for **compassion** and **acceptance**

Walk humbly with our God

- We find **joy** in creation
- We desire to grow in **spirituality**
- We delight in liturgical worship and creative expression

We are all children of God. Jesus calls us by name. With the Holy Spirit, we seek to live out God's grace.

Our Congregation's Core Values

(These values were adopted by the congregation in 2010, just before our current mission statement was written.)

Love

Joy

Hope

Compassion

Spirituality

Forgiveness

Acceptance

Respect

GA Expanding Sheridan Story Support Help Needed in October and November

School has started, which means that GA will head back into the schools to deliver weekend meals to students in our community. Thousands of children head home on Friday without knowing if they will have meals on Saturday and Sunday. Sheridan story addresses this need by providing food for kids at various schools. GA sponsors Waite Park elementary. With Mount Carmel Church, we provide financial assistance and distribute the food. Sign up for a shift!

It's easy. Go to Waite Park School on a Friday sometime between 10-3. Put bags of food in the assigned lockers. It takes less than an hour. Instructions are provided. You do need to be able to lift about 10 pounds. Volunteers are needed in November, January, March and May.

As a bonus, we are now assisting at Northeast Middle School. They have a financial sponsor but no one to distribute the food. Volunteers are needed there in October.

Sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs in the narthex or with Sarah Larson (sarahonlowry@gmail.com).



Drivers Needed for Sunday Morning Services

We are currently in need of more drivers to provide rides to and from church for some members. Current drivers have conflicting times to be available. Drive just one Sunday per month, if necessary, using your own car. If you're interested in helping with this important ministry, contact Ron Anderson (612-781-4714) or Phil Holzman at church (612-789-7256, ext. 11).

Fall Work Day at Luther Park Bible Camp

Camp Director Joel Legred wants us to know that they have a fall work day coming up Saturday, October 6, to take in the docks and boat lift as well as cutting and splitting wood and other fall projects. There may still be tiling and other tasks going on in the new retreat center. Lodging is available if you want to stay over Friday and/or Saturday evening. Meals are also available if you let Joel know your arrival and departure times. You can contact Joel Legred directly at 612-987-6628 or jlegred@lutherpark.com.

Luther Park
Camping and Retreat Center
Danbury, Wisconsin

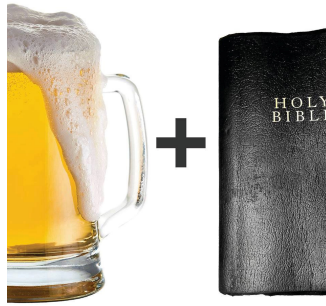
Bible and Brews

When: Tuesday, Oct 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Sean and Jenny's,
1392 Buchanan Place NE,
Columbia Heights

Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 9, as we discuss Scripture, current events, the Church, and of course. . . beer.

Bring your favorite libation to share with the group. (If you'd like to help our hosts by bringing a snack as well, please do!) This month we'll once again meet at the home of Jenny and Sean Tessmer. Hope to see you!



Group Meeting Schedule

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) –

All women are invited to the first meeting of the fall on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 1:00 p.m.

Quilters – Quilting session on Thursday, Oct 4, at 9:30 a.m. Looking ahead, there will be **NO** quilting on Nov. 1.

Deborah Circle – The circle will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 1:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast – All men are invited to breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 13, at 8:30 a.m. Bring your appetite!

Twenty-One Backpacks Packed for LSS



God's work.
Our hands.

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies this summer for our **God's Work. Our Hands.** project. On Sunday, Sept. 9, a group of GA folks packed the supplies into 21 backpacks that were delivered to Lutheran Social Service of MN to be distributed to children and youth in foster care.

Give to Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is on the ground ready to help the victims of Hurricane Florence. Every dollar we give to Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, goes 100% to help those affected by disaster. You can give by making a check payable to GA Church and noting "hurricane relief" in the memo line.



General Fund Financial Report

August Financials

| | August 2018 | August 2018 YTD | August 2017 YTD |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$20,950.95 | \$202,262.50 | \$191,893.96 |
| Expenses | <u>23,728.22</u> | <u>220,549.09</u> | <u>208,861.94</u> |
| Income-Exp. | <\$ 2,777.27> | <\$ 18,286.59> | <\$ 16,967.98> |

Although our summer giving took a dip in August, GA's year-to-date giving is up over \$10,000 compared to 2017. Thank you to the congregation for continuing to give to GA during the summer months.

At our September meeting, Finance continued the practice of a quarterly reconciliation of our TCF checking account to GA's accounting records. This month we reviewed the Memorial account. No discrepancies in reporting were found.

Next Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Andrea Carter,
Treasurer

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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God's Mission for GA Church...
...to build community where God is at the center.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

E-mail: info@gachurchmpls.org

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff ...

The Rev. Jo Bauman Johnson, Pastor
(Currently on leave)

Phil Holzman, Deacon/Minister of Word and Service (Ext. 11)
(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)
philh@gachurchmpls.org

Dan Hager, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)
danh@gachurchmpls.org

Joel Lurvey, Contemporary Choir Director
joel.lurvey@gmail.com



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

All Are Welcome Here!

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church proclaims that the Gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We rejoice in the manner in which diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share in Christ. We know that the world is often an unloving place and that the experience of alienation is all too common. Because Christ reconciles us, we welcome people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, and socio-economic backgrounds. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all. Gustavus Adolphus is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

Sean Tessmer, President

Sarah Larson, Vice-President

Gary Anderson, Secretary

Andrea Carter, Treasurer

Amanda Hakemian

Jenny Parker

Ed Huble

Erik Peterson