

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR: Jo Bauman Johnson

WEBSITE: gachurchmpls.org

OFFICE: 612-789-7256

FAX: 612-789-1334

The Gazette

December 2018

EMAIL: info@gachurchmpls.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 a.m.

Advent and Christmas at Gustavus Adolphus

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. It is a season of waiting and hope as we wait for the coming of the Savior – both the second coming of Jesus and recalling how God sent his Son in the form of a baby born in Bethlehem. We invite you to worship with us each week and to take part in some special activities both at church and at home as outlined in this newsletter to enrich the meaning of this holy season. Here is a week-by-week schedule of our worship services for the month of December, as we celebrate Advent and Christmas together...

- **Sunday, December 2 ... First Sunday of Advent**
9:30 a.m. – Advent Worship
- **Sunday, December 9 ... Second Sunday of Advent**
9:30 a.m. – Advent Worship featuring the Sunday School children presenting their Christmas program:
O Come, Let Us Adore Him
10:45 a.m. – Potluck Lunch for everyone
- **Sunday, December 16 ... Third Sunday of Advent**
9:30 a.m. – Advent Worship
4:00 p.m. – A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols presented by the musicians of GA Church and the Northeast Chorale.
Come early (3:45) for beautiful music by a string quartet!
- **Sunday, December 23 ... Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:30 a.m. – Advent Worship
- **Monday, December 24 ... The Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Eve**
3:45 p.m. – Handbell Prelude by the Gustavus Bells
4:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship
(Note that we will only have one Christmas Eve service!)
- **Tuesday, December 25 ... The Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Day**
9:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Worship
- **Sunday, December 30 ... The First Sunday of Christmas**
9:30 a.m. – Worship



Give a Good Gift this Advent: God's Global Barnyard at GA!

An animal can make a difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and offspring to sell on the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. Give a good gift of chicks, a pig, honey-bees, or even a cow for a family farm. GA is participating in a variety of ways this Advent season:

- ♥ **Donate money:** Sunday School kids will each build a coin box to raise funds for God's Global Barnyard good gifts. **You** can take a coin box home, too. There will be some available in the narthex at church. Collect your money during Advent and return the bank to church at Christmas time.
- ♥ **Help with noisy offerings** during worship this Advent season. Bring loose change to worship each Sunday.
- ♥ **Choose and buy your good gift:** Select an animal gift ornament from the decorated tree in the Narthex and pay for the good gift during collected offering during worship or mailed check to GA.



Give a good gift that grows the church, fights hunger, and transforms lives! Reach out to Hannah Rosebrock for further questions!

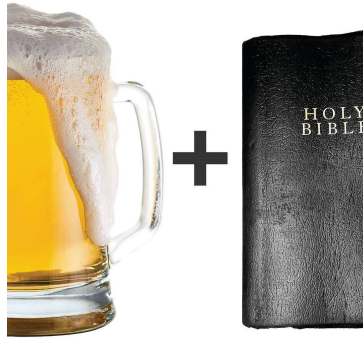
Bible and Brews

When: Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Join us on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 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 meet on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 1:00 p.m.

Quilters – Work session beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6. Lunch with current and former quilters at 12 noon that day. (See article.)

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

Deborah Circle – The circle will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 12:00 noon.

Thank You, November Ministry Circle

Thank you to everyone who served coffee, ushered, and served as greeters during the month of November!

– *Joan Mitchell*, November Circle Coordinator

Quilters' Sale - December 2

Quilts of various sizes and other items will be on sale at church on Sunday, December 2. Proceeds will help fund the Hat/Mitten Drive, Sheridan Story, and our Community Meals.

Quilters Past and Present

On Thursday, December 6, the quilters will be having a holiday luncheon. Active members, try to come at 10:00; guests can come for lunch at noon (or earlier if you want to work). There will be time if people want to work on projects after lunch. Also, if you would like to participate in the cookie exchange, please bring a dozen of your favorite cookies!

Mitten and Hat Collection

We will again collect new mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for local school children in January. So when you are doing your Christmas shopping, scoop up an item or two for the kids. Or relieve that holiday stress by knitting or sewing something warm.

February Crafty Women Retreat

There is room for a few more people at the retreat in February. It will be at the Oak Forest Retreat Center.

Contact Mary Larson for more details: larson1953@msn.com or 612-781-4104.

Dec. Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
Dec. 2	Cheryl Johnson	Lynette Paulson	Joan Mitchell	James Hamilton
Dec. 9	Hannah Rosebrock	Carlotta Rosebrock	Nicole Navratil	Joel Lurvey
Dec. 16	Gary Anderson	Adrienne Bisping	Brandon Bisping	Pat Lynch
Dec. 23	Andrea Carter	Gary Anderson	Brock Bisping	Brian Hendrickson
Dec. 24 – 4:00 p.m.	Calvin Huseonica	Kim Huseonica	Andrea Carter	
Dec. 25 – 9:30 a.m.	Hannah Rosebrock	Julie O'Donnell		
Dec. 30	Justin Navratil	Joan Mitchell	Nicole Navratil	Ron Anderson

Dec. Ushers:
Ministry Circle 1
(Mary Larson,
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

December Community Soup Meal

December is a busy season, and we are looking for someone to be our lead for the December Meal which is scheduled for **Saturday, December 22**. One idea is to have a Soup and Bread Supper. (Not to be confused with what will be the 2nd Annual Great Chili Cook-Off in 2019!) We can have several people bring a soup for 12, and then guests can enjoy a few varieties.

Please reach out to Lynn Lurvey if you are able to **take the lead** for this meal and/or if you are willing to **drop off soup** on or before December 22.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Community Meal. It is always such a wonderful opportunity to sit with our neighbors and connect. God's blessings to you all.

Lynn

llurvey@gmail.com

612-245-6099 - leave a message and I can return your call.



Join Us at Church for Advent Movie Nights

Advent is full of waiting. We wait and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the



world to save us. This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of hope. Come and wait together as we watch "waiting" movies on Monday nights (December 3, 10, and 17) at GA at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Room. Movies include: *The Waiting Room*, *The Way*,

The Big Night, and *Babette's Feast*. Questions? Contact Joan Mitchell. See you in the Media Room on Monday nights!

Hear the Northeast Chorale at the IDS Center – Dec. 1

The Chorale will be singing this Saturday, Dec. 1, at 12:00 noon at the IDS Center, 80 S. 8th St., downtown Mpls. Start your Advent season with some music of the season by our very own NE Chorale!

Monday Night Book Club on Hiatus until January!

Monday Night Book Club will **not** meet in December. Look for information in Sunday bulletins about our next book and meeting date/time in January.

Sheridan Story Help Needed in December

We need folks to distribute food at NE Middle School on three Fridays in December (7th, 14th, and 21st). You can sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex at church (at the top of the stairs).



From Jenny Parker, Sunday School Coordinator

Help put up the stage for the Sunday School program. A few good volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 2, to help assemble the stage. Please bring your own drill. (Note: we'll need some help on Dec. 9 after the program to take the stage down again!)



Sunday School Program rehearsal for Sunday School children is Saturday, December 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Lunch will be provided. We are seeking help with the lunch. If you could help serve lunch, please let Jenny Parker or Mary Larson know.

Congregational Potluck will follow the worship service on Sunday, December 9. Please plan on attending. Dessert will be provided. Please provide a main dish, appetizer, or salad.

Volunteers are needed to help with the congregational potluck. We need help setting up on Saturday, December 8, starting at 11 am. And help is needed before, during, and after the potluck on the 9th. Please let Mary Larson know if you can help.

Baptism...

On Sunday, November 18, we welcomed Sylvie Jane Reopelle into the family of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Sylvie is the daughter of Joy Anderson and Nathan Reopelle and sister to Natalie. We pray God's richest blessings on Sylvie, her family, and her sponsors.

Funerals...

Duane F. Lussier, November 2;
Lyle S. Johnson (former GA member), November 14.

We extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of these two men as they grieve their loss.

More from Lona About Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services (One of our Mission Partners)

Hello Gustavus Adolphus,

This month as I am going to focus on the eligibility and resettlement selection process of refugees. This entire process happens before refugees arrive in the United States and start working with organizations like our mission partner: the Minnesota Council of Churches- Refugee Services (MCC). There tend to be quite a few misconceptions about how easily it is for a refugee to arrive in the United States and I would like all of us to look at this a little closer.

Once refugees flee their hometown, they seek safety and shelter in neighboring regions or even countries. Not everyone has connections outside of their home area and seek out a refugee camp. Although many of these camps are set up for temporary stays, the length of time that a refugee will live at a camp can be many years (even decades). Some refugees were born and raised in a refugee camp and have never been to their hometown.

To be considered eligible for refugee resettlement into a third country (such as the United States), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) will need to determine that they are not able to safely return to their homeland. Less than 1% of refugees in the world will qualify for resettlement in a third country each year. Refugees chosen to enter the United States go through quite a few steps and the smallest inconsistency will delay the process. Since it is a lengthy process, I have included a handout from the White House that MCC has provided on their website.

Some of you have asked about the origin of the most recent refugees. For a very detailed look at the statistics about refugee resettlement in the United States, please read over this information by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) provided on the next page.

Many of us are fortunate to have never had to think seriously about where we would go or what we would do if suddenly our hometown is no longer safe for us to reside. During this holiday season, take some time to think about what you would do in this situation and remember the many families that will not be celebrating the holidays safely in their hometown.

I will leave you this month with a quote from one of my previous asylee clients, "I will not tell you about what I have been through; I do not want to *burden your heart*."

Lona Hendricks

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACTS

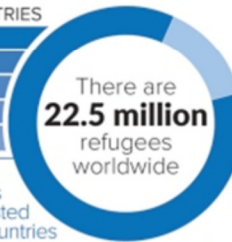
REFUGEE: A person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war or violence.

RESETTLEMENT: The careful selection by governments – for purposes of lawful and secure admission – of the most vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in their current host country.

TOP HOST COUNTRIES

Turkey | 2.9M
Pakistan | 1.4M
Lebanon | 1M
Iran | 979K
Uganda | 941K

86% of the world's refugees are hosted in developing countries



WHY IS RESETTLEMENT IMPORTANT?

Resettlement is a life-saving solution for the most vulnerable refugees in the world, and is also an important way to share responsibility and show solidarity with developing countries that host the majority of the world's refugees.

HOW DOES REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WORK?



UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be referred to resettlement countries. **Refugees do not apply for resettlement themselves.**



UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases – refugees whose lives are in danger in their current host country – to be considered for resettlement. **Refugees do not pick their country of resettlement.**



Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others **would not be referred** for resettlement to another country.

VULNERABILITY CATEGORIES

All refugees referred for resettlement must fit at least one vulnerability category, some of which include:



Less than **1%** of the world's refugees are ever resettled

GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

UNHCR estimates that **8%** of the refugee population may be in need of resettlement

The number of refugees resettled worldwide **dropped by over 50%** in 2017 vs. 2016

34 countries around the world accepted refugees for resettlement in 2017

Refugees from almost **70** countries of origin were resettled globally in 2017. The top countries include: **Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar**

RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

THE U.S. RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

In addition to UNHCR's screening measures, the U.S. conducts its own security process to decide whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. **The entire process is done abroad and can take up to two years.**

→ **UNHCR refers a refugee to be considered for resettlement**

UNHCR collects detailed biographical and biometric data – which may include iris scans, fingerprints and facial scans – for each refugee referred for resettlement

→ **The U.S. Government screens the refugee and solely decides whether to admit them to the U.S. for resettlement. This process includes:**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 U.S. Government Agencies | 5 Background checks |
| 6 Separate security databases | 3 In-person interviews |

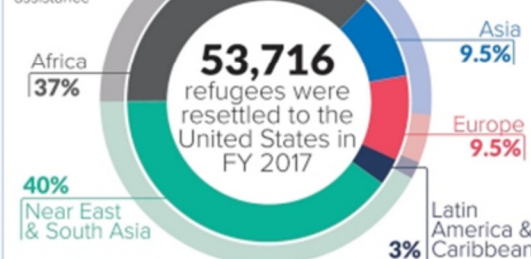
→ **Once a refugee has been accepted for resettlement, the State Department assigns their case to one of nine U.S. NGOs**

The NGO works closely with partners in the local community to help the refugee find work, integrate, and adjust to their new life in the United States

REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S. IN FY 2017 BY REGION OF ORIGIN*

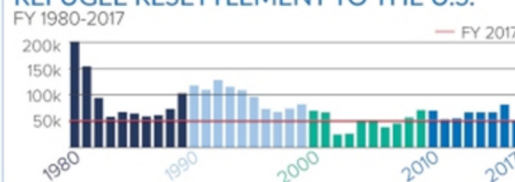
OCT. 2016 - SEPT. 2017

*Includes refugees resettled with and without UNHCR assistance



TOP ORIGINS: 1 DEM. REP. CONGO | 2 IRAQ | 3 SYRIA

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TO THE U.S. FY 1980-2017



RESETTLEMENT TO THE U.S. BY MONTH IN FY 2017

OCT. 2016 - SEPT. 2017



TOP U.S. STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN FY 2017

OCT. 2016 - SEPT. 2017

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 CALIFORNIA | 49 states (and the District of Columbia) received refugees for resettlement in FY 2017 |
| 2 TEXAS | |
| 3 NEW YORK | |
| 4 WASHINGTON | |
| 5 OHIO | |
| 6 MICHIGAN | |
| 7 ARIZONA | |
| 8 PENNSYLVANIA | |
| 9 NORTH CAROLINA | |
| 10 GEORGIA | |

Lutheran Disaster Response – California Wildfires

As we all are aware, wildfires have ravaged several areas of California recently. There has been loss of life, loss of property, and loss of hope. However, we can help the victims of these wildfires by giving through Lutheran Disaster Response. At its November meeting, GA's Church Council designated \$5,000 from the large check we received this fall to go to Lutheran Disaster Response to help with wildfire relief.



Lutheran Disaster Response has already begun addressing immediate needs, including providing food and other necessities to survivors. They are also preparing to address long-term needs. The need will be great.

There are Lutheran Disaster Response brochure/mailers in the Narthex at church. Take one home and mail in your gift directly to help in this relief effort. Or you can give online at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/US-Wildfires>. Remember that 100% of your donation to LDR goes directly to those affected by disaster. Thank you for your consideration.

Financial Reports – General Fund and Capital Appeal

October General Fund Financials

	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2018 YTD	Oct. 2017 YTD
Income	\$21,724.82	\$271,863.40	\$242,145.16
Expenses	<u>28,202.47</u>	<u>277,418.17</u>	<u>253,727.48</u>
Income-Exp.	<\$ 6,477.65>	<\$ 5,554.77>	<\$ 11,582.32>

In October, Council approved to Build Community with God at the Center by gifting \$5,338.00 to our Ministry Partners and \$13,348.00 to GA's Endowment Fund for future benevolences. (These numbers will be reflected in YTD expenses in the January Gazette.) In November, Council approved to Build Community with God at the Center by gifting \$5,000.00 to ELCA Disaster Relief-California Wildfires.

On Nov. 2, Washburn-McReavey donated \$10,000 to GA for general expenses (this amount will be reflected in income in January's Gazette article). In September, GA received a donation from the Minneapolis Foundation in the amount of \$26,696.00. I can't help but wonder if these donations are a mere coincidence or God at work? Are these gifts reciprocated blessings of our own giving?

As of the writing of this article, GA is running a deficit in our YTD giving. Our giving, however, is contributing to God's powerful work in the world. As we come to the end of 2018, please remember that your financial offerings Build Community with God at the Center. Thank you!

Thinking of contributing to GA from your IRA? If you designate funds toward GA out of an IRA, it will not be a part of your taxable income for 2018. If you have questions about this, feel free to contact Dan Hager, Finance Manager.

Daryl Mattson is resigning from the Finance Team after many years of service. Thank you, Daryl!
Next Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.

Andrea Carter, Treasurer

Capital Appeal Update

Capital Appeal funds report that as of Oct. 11 we were at 95% of goal. We have received \$241,280.60 of our pledged goal of \$254,352.00. We are thankful to those who pledged and have given; we are thankful to those who have pledged and continue to give; we are thankful to those who did not pledge but have given! We will wrap up the campaign on Pentecost 2019. If you have not given your pledge or if you want to give to the appeal, it is not too late. Simply designate "Capital Appeal" on your gift or mark it in Simply Giving. We give thanks to all of you.

The "All Are Welcome" Appeal Team

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
8:30am - Confirmation 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Frolic 10:45am - Sunday School	6:30pm - Advent Movie 1pm - WELCA Mtg. 6:30pm - NE Choral 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir	6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir	10am - Quilters 12pm - Quilter Lunch 7pm - NA	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - S.S. Practice 11am - Lunch Set-up		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am - Confirmation 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Frolic 10:45am - Sunday School	6:30pm - Advent Movie 1pm - WELCA Mtg. 6:30pm - NE Choral 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir	6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir	10am - Quilters 12pm - Quilter Lunch 7pm - NA	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - S.S. Practice 11am - Lunch Set-up		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am - Confirmation 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Potluck	6:30pm - Advent Movie 12pm - Deborah Circle 6:30pm - Bible & Brews 6:30pm - NE Choral 6:30pm - Senior Choir	6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells	5:45pm - Property 6pm - Finance Committee 7pm - NA	7pm - AA		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am - Confirmation 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Frolic 10:45am - Sunday School 4pm - Lessons & Carols	6:30pm - Advent Movie 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir	6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir	6pm - Church Council 7pm - NA	6pm - Community Meal		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am - Worship	Christmas Eve 3:45pm - Bell Prelude 4pm - Worship	Christmas Day 9:30am - Worship	11am - Dinner Bell Delivery	7pm - NA		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - Worship						

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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

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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 (Ext. 10)

pastorjo@gachurchmpls.org

Cell phone: 952-285-6945

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