

The Day of Pentecost ... Sunday, June 9

Confirmation Sunday and High School Graduation Recognition

In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the 50 days of the Easter celebration. After showing himself to the disciples and after having ascended, Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. On the fiftieth day of Easter, our Lutheran worship is filled with festivity and color as we conclude the Easter celebration and welcome anew the gift of the Holy Spirit. Consider wearing red to worship on June 9 as a sign that the Holy Spirit comes to all believers!

On Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism/ Confirmation of five young people of our congregation. These young people have completed their confirmation studies and will affirm their baptismal vows during worship:

Cullen Victor Arneson

Aaron Victor Bisping

Brandon Paul Bisping

Brock Adrien Bisping

Oliver Armstrong Hall



That morning during worship we will also recognize three members of our congregation who are graduating from high school this spring and going on to college in the fall:

Brandon Arneson –

Graduating from Edison High School;
attending University of Denver majoring in business.

Connor Arneson –

Graduating from Edison High School;
attending Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa majoring
in history.

Olivia Huseonica –

Graduating from St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists;
attending University of Utah majoring in ballet (BFA) with a
nutrition minor while completing prerequisites for a
masters program.

There will be cake and punch to honor these young people after worship. Please join us in worship for the Festival of Pentecost and to honor our young people as they celebrate these milestone moments in their faith journeys and lives.



If there are members of GA Church who are graduating from college or other higher education programs, please let us know so that we can share your accomplishments in the next *Gazette*.

World Religions Class

The continuation of the "World Religions" class and discussion, led by Pastor Jo, will begin again in June. Starting on June 2 - but taking a week off on the 9th to celebrate our confirmands and graduates - and continuing June 16, 23, and 30. If you didn't participate in the first group, no problem - start now! In June we will be studying Judaism, and Pastor Jo's Orthodox Jewish neighbor Daniel Shertok will be a guest to describe his faith and what it means to him and his family. Join us!



June Community Meal...

A Cook-Out/Barbecue

If you are interested in supporting the community meal on June 22, feel free to contribute hamburgers and brats! You can drop them off in the freezer at church anytime! We will be sure to use them well! In April we had 60+ guests! Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please talk to Lynn Lurvey or e-mail her at lclurvey@gmail.com.



From the Parish Records

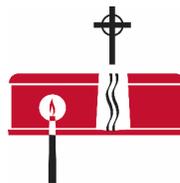


Baptism...

On May 5, we celebrated the baptism of Jeramiyah Massiyah Hinton, son of Jessica Hill and John Hinton. We pray God's richest blessings on Jeramiyah, his parents, siblings, and baptismal sponsors.

Death...

We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to the family and friends of April (Arvidson) Berg who died on April 11. A memorial service for April was held later in the month at Hillside Chapel.



Group Meeting Schedule

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) – Meetings resume October 1.

Quilters – No sessions in June or July.

Men's Breakfast – Off for the summer. Back in September.

Deborah Circle – June meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, at 11:30 a.m. No meeting in July.

Enjoy the summer!

Bible and Brews Continues in June and July

When: Tuesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Join us for our monthly meetings 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!



On Saturday, July 13, there will be a special Bible and Brews Barbecue, also held at Sean and Jenny's home, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!



Audubon Farmers Market Once Again in GA Parking Lot

Once again, the Audubon Farmers Market will operate on our garage parking lot late Thursday afternoons into Thursday evenings beginning Thursday, June 13. GA Church has been partnering with the neighborhood association for many years now, providing the space for this market, which has grown from a mini-market into a full-sized Farmers Market. We are happy to be able to provide the space for this neighborhood activity. The corner of 27th & Johnson is really busy on Thursday evenings!

June Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
June 2	Hannah Rosebrock	Joan Mitchell	Kathy Schuette	Jon Stoewer
June 9	Justin Navratil	Amanda Hakemian	Brandon Bisping	Joel Lurvey
June 16	Andrea Carter	Gary Anderson		Pat Lynch
June 23	Carlotta Rosebrock	Lynette Paulson		Brian Hendrickson
June 30	Justin Navratil	Adrienne Bisping		James Hamilton

Our Congregation's

Vision Statement

(The congregation adopted this vision statement at the annual meeting of the congregation 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

From Pastor Jo

The act of giving back to God what we have been blessed with - and churches usually apply it to finances - is often called Stewardship. Stewardship is a tricky thing, because it often turns out that the less you talk about it, the more healthy a church will be, in all areas: financial, outreach, people.

That's because the path to personal and church "health" is less about Stewardship (finances), it's all about discipleship.

There are so many good things going on at GA! The Mission Partners effort is thriving, our worship and music feeds our people and visitors, the voices of children in worship on Sundays testifies to the love of GA for its children and the future of the church.

The steps to take now are ones to create deep discipleship in our people. Introduce everyone to the living, caring Christ Jesus. We do our good deeds in the name of Christ - not to gain heaven (already done!) but to show Christ's love in visible form to those who do not know it. Those "old" basics of Bible study, prayer, contemplation, service, and yes - financial giving - are fundamental. But all of it flows naturally from a heart touched by the love of Christ, and nothing stands alone as a category to be increased.

When people understand the love and grace of Jesus, take steps to imitate Jesus in all areas of their lives, lives are transformed, and God's grace is allowed to take hold in more and more places. Our goal at GA is not to raise more money as a goal by itself. Our goal is to help all at GA and those we come in contact with to grow into the image of Christ.

We have exactly what we need to do God's work in the world - just as Pr. Bonnie Wilcox told her congregation at First Lutheran. Every church is "right sized" to do what needs to be done, at that moment. Money is never the issue - but lack of other things might be. The intangibles of imagination, flexibility, outreach are not necessarily easy for everyone, but increasingly more important in an era in which more and more people do not see any point in the need for organized religion.

I see many examples of imagination, flexibility, and outreach at GA - we have history to stand on.

Faithful stewardship is the natural progression of people who have been blessed, know it, and want to pass on God's blessings to others.

That's where we start.

Pastor Jo

2019 Summer Children's Musical

GA Church will once again host a production of a summer musical for children in Kindergarten through middle school, directed by Kim Huseonica and Phil Holzman. While Kim and Phil are still in the process of selecting the musical, we do know that the performance dates will be August 23 and 25 – Friday and Sunday nights.

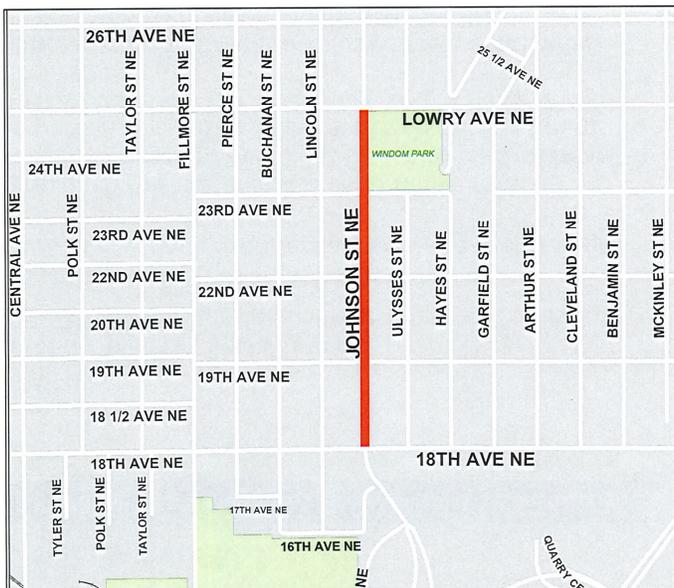
This year's rehearsal schedule will be different, however. Instead of having one rehearsal a week for eight weeks, we will condense our schedule into four weeks. We will have **two rehearsals per week** beginning July 30 and 31 (for three weeks). As is normally the case, we will have three rehearsals the week leading up to the production (the fourth week).

We hope that lots of GA kids in this age group will want to be a part of this fun summer event – and that they will invite friends to join, too. We always enjoy welcoming a group of guests as part of our musical cast each year. Watch for more details about the musical in Sunday bulletins and the e-mail newsletter as the end of July approaches.



This Just In! Pot Luck and Conversation Time With Open Door Learning Center Students!!

Everyone from GA is invited to come to church the evening of Wednesday, June 26, for a pot luck dinner and some guided conversation with students from the Open Door Learning Center that operates in our building. Remember that this ESL school is one of our Mission Partners. This is one way that we can partner with them in addition to giving them money. By coming and spending time with the students, it gives them practice with their English conversation skills, builds relationships between the students and church members, and helps build a bridge between cultures. And when there's food involved, that's always a plus! 6:00-8:30 p.m.



Project location of street reconstruction in 2021

Johnson Street NE Reconstruction Project Coming in 2021

We've been asked by the city to share the news that in 2021, the Minneapolis Public Works Dept. plans to reconstruct approximately one half-mile of Johnson Street NE from 18th Ave. NE to Lowry Ave. NE. While this does not directly impact the portion of Johnson Street that runs by our church building, it obviously will have an impact on the neighborhood and on our members and staff coming and going to church.

The project is a full reconstruction, involving the entire right-of-way. Everyone is invited to Open House #1 on Monday, June 3, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Northeast Recreation Center, 1530 Johnson Street NE.

Learn more at the project website:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/futureprojects/johnson-st-ne>

If you have questions about the project, you can visit the website cited in the graphic to the left or contact Caroline Miller, Transportation Planner, at 612-673-3884.

Parking Lot Task Force Completes Work, Submits Report

As announced at the annual congregational meeting in January, a task force was formed to explore our options regarding the future of the garage property/parking lot because the parking lot needs repair. The task force, consisting of the following people, met throughout the winter: Jenny Arneson, Adrienne Bising, Matt Brown, Aaron Miller, Diane Ott-Hager, Jenny Tessmer. They conducted a survey of the congregation in late March/early April. They submitted the results of this survey and a complete report of their findings to church council on May 16.



There are copies of that report available on the ushers' table in the Narthex for those who might be interested in reading it. The Property Committee will now take the lead in guiding us through future steps of education and discernment regarding the parking lot and garage property. Thank you to the task force members for your thorough work on this project; stay tuned for more information.

Interested in Joining GA Church?

Although we will be sending out emails to people we know are interested in joining GA, we want to make sure that everyone is welcome! If you have been thinking about joining GA, please email, call, or chat with Pastor Jo. She will be talking to people to find a date for a New Member class that will work for most people, and we also will have a dinner at the home of a GA member once we settle on dates.

Just as Christ welcomed us, we welcome all to this house of worship and prayer. Blessings!

New Twelve-Step Group to Meet Weekly at GA

We want to welcome "You Are Not Alone," a women's AA group, that will begin meeting in our church building on Sunday afternoons beginning June 2. The group will meet each Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall area. GA has a long history of supporting and hosting twelve-step recovery groups.

April General Fund Financial Report

	April 2019	April 2019 (YTD)	April 2018 (YTD)
Income	\$30,412	\$109,159	\$ 99,165
Expenses	<u>28,920</u>	<u>134,452</u>	<u>125,343</u>
Income-Exp.	\$ 1,492	<\$ 25,293>	<\$ 26,458>

Thanks to your generosity, the April 2019 surplus reduced our YTD deficit.

Simply Giving Reminder:

- Current Simply Giving (Vanco) participants wishing to make a change to their Simply Giving account can do so in writing or by email to Dan Hager. danh@gachurchmpls.org
(Some accounts are still designating donations to the recently completed Capital Campaign. Please consider shifting your Capital giving to the General Operating Fund.)
- Do you wish to sign up for Simply Giving? Please contact Dan Hager or Gary Anderson.
gary_anderson@comcast.net

Liabilities - Loans

Mission Investment Fund Loan – Current Balance: \$87,208.72

Note: 10 year loan, \$100,000. 4.5% interest, \$1,073/month payments.

This loan was initiated as a bridge to fund church capital renovations as pledges were being received over a three-year period.

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

GA Church is Happy to Host the Spring Concerts of the Northeast Chorale!

The Northeast Chorale Presents...

Journey to the



Saturday, June 1

7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 2

7:00 p.m.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
27th & Johnson (1509 27th Ave. NE)

Phil Holzman, Director
Kevin Hobbs, Accompanist

Come hear some great chorale arrangements of
songs from these three great decades!

\$10.00 suggested donation per adult.
All ages welcome!

Church YARD SALE

Fundraiser for

Little Kitchen
FoodShelf 

Friday, June 14: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday, June 15 : 9 am to 4 pm

Sale held at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church parking lot on the corner of 27th and Johnson St. NE, Minneapolis



All Proceeds Benefit the Little Kitchen Food Shelf, a ministry of Grace Lutheran Church

<http://gracenempls.org/community-services/little-kitchen-food-shelf>

Your donations of sale items needed.

Please bring your gently used items to the sale on Friday 6/14 between 8 am and 12 pm, no large furniture please. The more we have to sell, the more money we can raise for the food shelf.

If you would like to **volunteer** or need to drop off donations early, please contact Beth at bbreiter92@gmail.com 612-735-0625 or Linnea at linnea0914@gmail.com 612-707-1262

Thank you to our partner churches, Gustavus Adolphus and Mt. Carmel for your support.

Editor's Note: The following two pages are written accounts of what Julie O'Donnell and Phil Holzman shared at the RIC Anniversary Celebration after worship on May 5, 2019.

RIC BEGINNINGS AT GA

In the early 2000's, the ELCA held an informational meeting at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis which I attended along with Pastor Kelly. We heard sad and tragic stories of broken families and the ambivalent role the church played in those stories. But there was momentum at that time to welcome all not just to open membership, but to pastoral leadership and to sanctification of same sex marriage within the ELCA. But ELCA leadership was trying to walk a tightrope between embracing the momentum to welcome and appeasing the resistance to it.

At GA, a committee formed to study the issues involved in the movement the ELCA called Reconciling in Christ or RIC. I can't recall the exact date of our first meeting, but by 2006, we were meeting regularly with 4-6 members attending. We went to synod conferences and networked with other Lutherans and Lutheran congregations. Staff changes in 2007 and 2008 brought renewed energy to the committee and we were able to establish a timeline which eventually would lead us to the 2009 vote.

During those 2-3 years before the vote, the committee concentrated on bringing as much information as possible to the congregation to support a positive vote for becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. This included local and national supporters of the LGBTQ community who offered personal testimonies and a theological foundation to underpin welcoming all. GA, never known for embracing change willingly, made the road bumpy at times. There were stony silences and there were heated discussions. And there were many questions. But in the end, when the vote was taken in May, 2009, the outcome was for inclusion, reconciliation, and most of all love. And GA did it before the ELCA was able to jump off their tightrope and into reconciliation for all. GA can be proud. The journey was thoughtful and driven by Christ's love for all.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the RIC committee

Julie O'Donnell



Reflections on “After the RIC Vote”

Phil Holzman – May 2019 (10 years later)

Even though the RIC congregational vote was ten years ago, I remember it vividly like it was ten days ago. I don't remember a time when I was so nervous. After a year or more of preparation for the vote – of meetings and educational events, conversations, movie showings, etc. – the time had finally come for the long-awaited vote. I arrived at church early that Sunday morning, as was my habit, to practice and get ready for worship. I encountered Lynn Lurvey in one of the rooms. She had come to church early to pray about the meeting. She said something to me that has stuck with me these ten years, and I paraphrase: *Whatever the outcome of the vote today, our congregation will never be the same.* She was right. And that's what made me so nervous. Because I knew that if the congregation voted “no” on becoming a RIC congregation, I would need to leave this congregation that I had already grown to love; and I knew that a whole group of other like-minded people would probably do the same.

I stayed silent during the meeting, which was difficult. As a gay man, I had only come out to a select group of people at GA so far. I did not want to speak at the meeting as a gay man and make the decision about me in any way; I also decided that I had had my chance as a member of the Task Force to speak and make my opinions widely known for the year-plus leading up to the vote. I listened as people spoke for and against us becoming RIC. As people spoke against welcoming GLBT people into our church, I was struck by how much fear there was. I wanted to ask: “What's so scary about me and people like me? We're just people.” But I stayed silent.

Finally, the debate ended and we voted. The results were close but clear. Those present had voted that Gustavus Adolphus would become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. There was an awkward silence after the results were announced. Then Pastor Stefan Rickman did something that people on both sides of the vote still talk about as one of the most spiritual things they ever experienced: he asked everyone present to form a large circle around the sanctuary and pray the Lord's Prayer together as a show of unity in Christ.

The weeks and first few months after the vote were difficult. Tensions ran high. Some people stopped attending worship. Others made it known that they were leaving GA for good because of the action we had taken. The biggest “hit” we took was in the Sunday School. Several families in our modest-sized Sunday School left the church because of the rumored “rainbow curriculum” that was going to be forced on the children now that we were becoming a “gay church.” I never understood that way of thinking, and it still makes me sad. Fortunately our Sunday School has rebounded and now has more children attending than any of us can remember in a very long time!

As spring turned into early summer, I had an idea for something I hoped would build some unity and some spirit. I called a meeting to see if there would be interest in staging a production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat.” The response was huge, and rehearsals were held all summer long and into the fall. We did three shows of “Joseph...” on a weekend in November in the sanctuary of GA. Cast members included people on both sides of the RIC issue. We filled the sanctuary for all three shows, and our mood began to pick up.

As the years have progressed, we saw something interesting happen: we began to have young couples and young families join our congregation who said that they were attracted to GA because they saw the RIC logo and the rainbow logo on our website. As one of those people said: *We would never have even visited GA if it weren't for the RIC status. It's a matter of social justice.* We have had some GLBT members join over the years. Some have come and gone; some have stayed. But the pattern of young people coming here because of our RIC designation has been consistent. As a member of the Reconciling Works Twin Cities Board, I can attest that this is a pattern that is consistent with other RIC congregations as well. When congregations take this step, it attracts people who want to find a progressive church home that believes in social justice issues.

What about me? I'm still serving at GA all these years later. I'm 100% “out” to the congregation and feel 100% accepted as a gay man by the congregation. I love this congregation as I have since I started serving here. I respect so many people here for the faith and courage they show. And as our current church council president, Jenny Parker, stated in worship on Sunday, May 5, 2019, when inviting people to our celebration program: “We're a better church” because we became a RIC congregation. Thanks be to God!

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - World Religions 2pm - Women's AA 7pm - NE Chorale Concert	27	28	29	30	31	1 7pm - NE Chorale Concert
2 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - World Religions 2pm - Women's AA 7pm - NE Chorale Concert	3	4	5	6 6pm - Finance Committee 7pm - NA	7	8
9 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Reception 2pm - Women's AA	10	11	12	13 7pm - NA	14 Little Kitchen Fundraiser Sale - GA Garage Parking Lot 7pm - AA	15
16 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - World Religions 2pm - Women's AA	17	18	19	20 6:30pm - Church Council 7pm - NA	21	22 6pm - Community Meal
23 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - World Religions 2pm - Women's AA	24 7pm - Cong. Life Comm.	25	26 6pm - ESL/GA Social	27	28	29
30 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - World Religions 2pm - Women's AA	1	2	3	4	5	6

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30am - Worship 2pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>5:30pm - Property</p> <p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Independence Day Offices Closed 7pm - NA</p> <p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>9:30am - Worship 2pm - Women's AA</p> <p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>7pm - NA</p> <p>6:30pm - Church Council 7pm - NA</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>9:30am - Worship 2pm - Women's AA</p> <p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>6:30pm - Bible & Brews</p> <p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>7pm - NA</p> <p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>6pm - Community Meal 27</p>
<p>9:30am - Worship 2pm - Women's AA</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>7pm - Musical Rehearsal</p> <p>30</p>	<p>7pm - Musical Rehearsal</p> <p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

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Gustavus Adolphus

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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.

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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 – 2019

Jenny Parker, President

Sarah Larson, Vice-President

Amanda Hakemian, Secretary

Gary Anderson, Treasurer

Cindy Bach Andrea Carter Ed Huble

Erik Peterson Sean Tessmer