

We Have Things to Celebrate!!

Stay After Worship on Sunday, May 5!

Join us for a **double celebration** this coming Sunday after worship as we mark the *successful completion* of our three-year capital appeal and the *tenth anniversary* of GA becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation! There will be a brief program and special refreshments served.



In spring 2016, GA Church embarked on a three-year capital appeal with a goal of raising \$250,000 for building improvements, capital reserves, and some benevolences. We received pledges of just over \$254,000 at that time. We are happy to report that several weeks ago that goal was achieved...right on schedule! On Sunday, we will celebrate this with a slide show of before and after pictures of our building improvements.

On May 3, 2009, our congregation held a meeting and voted to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. On Sunday we will hear a brief presentation recalling the study and discernment process that led up to that 2009 vote and also some reflection on how these ten years have unfolded with regard to being a RIC congregation.

We hope to see you in worship and in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, May 5, as we celebrate being God's people in this place!



We Need Help With May Food Distribution

May is our congregation's month to distribute food at Waite Park School. We need people to distribute weekend food to students on the five Fridays in May (3, 10, 17, 24, and 31). The sign-up sheet is on the large bulletin board in the Narthex. So far the sign-up sheet is almost empty. Your support of this ongoing ministry is important.



Please help as you are able. Contact Sarah Larson (sarahonlowry@gmail.com) or Phil in the church office if you can help out. This is our final month of being responsible for distribution in this school year.

Sunday School News

For the second year in a row, the Sunday School children will share a concert with the congregation in honor of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12. Please join the Sunday School children in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. for a concert of singing and musical instruments. An ice cream sandwich reception will follow at about 11:15. Happy Mother's Day to all mothers!

The last day of Sunday School is May 12. We have enjoyed working with all the Sunday School children this year. Mark your calendars: Rally Sunday is September 8, and the first day of Sunday School will be September 15, 2019.



Frolic News

Join us for the last two Frolic classes in May. The last regular Frolic class will be Sunday, May 5. This is a great day for new families to try it out before next fall. On May 12, we will watch the older Sunday School children's concert. Regular Frolic classes will resume in the fall. Let Kari Navratil know if you are interested in learning more about the Frolic faith classes for 0-36 months children and their caregivers.



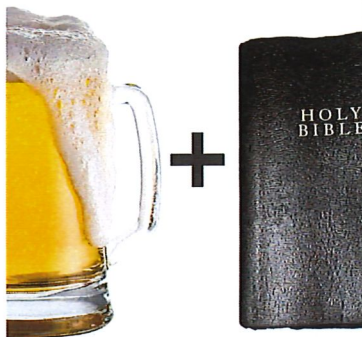
Bible and Brews

When: Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Join us on Tuesday, May 21, as we discuss Scripture, current events, the Church, and of course. . . beer. John 14:23–29 will be the basis of our discussion this month.

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

Quilters – Quilting session on Thursday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) – All women are invited to meet on Tuesday, May 7, at 1:00 p.m. This month's meeting will have a Mother's Day theme.

Men's Breakfast – All men are invited to breakfast on Saturday, May 11, at 8:30 a.m. Bring your appetite!

Deborah Circle – The circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14, at 1:00 p.m.

Two Messages from Lynn Lurvey

Many Thanks!!!

Thank you to the many people who came together to make Holy Week at our little church on 27th and Johnson a joyous and welcoming place for worship and reflection. Thank you to the staff and to the volunteers. The building looked so fresh with the newly polished floors. The planters outside were so colorful! The Word and the sacraments were there as a gift to all. There are so many who do so much to make things come together in this blessed and busy Holy Week. Thank you.

I am particularly thankful for the wide array of musicians who enhanced the worship experiences. Thank you choirs and bells! Thank you visiting musicians! Thank you, Phil, for all you do to bring out the best in us all.

God is so good to love us like only God can do. Such amazing grace.

Community Meal

May 25 – 6:00 p.m.

(This is Memorial Day Weekend)

Join us for cooking/setup at 3:00 p.m. or serving at 5:45.

Bring something to share if you feel inspired. We plan to continue the work of the community meal as long as the people of GA (Gustavus Adolphus) step forward to participate and as long as our community member continue to come for food and fellowship. If you have never come or if you regularly participate, you are welcome. It is a lovely time of service and connection.

God's peace to you and your loved ones.

Lynn Lurvey



May Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
May 5	Carlotta Rosebrock	Joan Mitchell	Joan Mitchell	James Hamilton
May 12	Joel Lurvey	Amanda Hakemian or Emily Miller	Aaron Bisping	Joel Lurvey
May 19	Calvin Huseonica	Adrienne Bisping	Kathy Schuette	Kelli Hoskins
May 26	Andrea Carter	Carlotta Rosebrock	N/A	Brian Hendrickson

Property Committee Report

Thank you to Ward Saba for polishing and waxing the kitchen and fellowship hall floors. They look beautiful! Thank you to all the volunteers who came and polished pews on April 13.

Composting...Composting is not an available service from our garbage collection provider. If anyone wants to compost, please bring your own bags and bring the compost home with you. We support you in spirit, but GA is not able to provide the service.

Northeast Chorale Spring Concerts

June 1 and 2

The Northeast Chorale, directed by our own Phil Holzman, is busy rehearsing each Tuesday evening here at GA Church. The Chorale will present two identical spring concerts on June 1 and 2 (7:00 each evening) called *Journey to the 50s, 60s, and 70s*...featuring familiar songs from those three decades. One of the concerts will definitely be held here at GA. The second venue has yet to be determined. Stay tuned for publicity coming soon. If you are a Northeast Chorale fan/groupie, you'll want to mark these dates on your calendar now!



Worship and Music Notes

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services so meaningful...*Holden Evening Prayer* leaders and musicians; choir members; instrumentalists; Altar Guild; assisting ministers; sacristans; lectors; ushers...the list goes on. Pastor Jo and I appreciate the many people who help make our worship happen each week.

Phil Holzman

Choir Year Wrapping Up

It's hard to believe, but the choir year is coming to a close already. When Easter comes so late in the spring, the end of the choir year comes quickly after Easter. The GA Choristers will sing for the final time this season on May 5; the Gustavus Bells will play for the final time on May 12; the Contemporary Choir will lead worship for the final time before summer on May 19; and the Senior Choir will sing at its last service on June 9.

That means Phil Holzman will be looking for summer musicians. Don't be shy – volunteer your talents to sing or play your instrument in worship this summer!

Summer Children's Musical News

Rehearsals for the musical will not start until the end of July this year as we will be doing a more intensive four-week musical preparation this year. Many more details in the June *Gazette!*

March General Fund Financial Report

	March 2019	March 2019 (YTD)	March 2018 (YTD)
Income	\$40,318	\$ 78,733	\$70,997
Expenses	<u>35,679</u>	<u>105,532</u>	<u>92,927</u>
Income-Exp.	\$ 4,639	<\$ 26,799>	<\$21,930>

Notes about March 2019 financials:

The March 2019 surplus of \$4,639 has reduced our 2019 YTD deficit to <\$26,799>. YTD giving is up by \$7,736 compared to 2018; however, YTD expense are up by \$12,605 from last year. Note that the annual budget approved by the congregation in January is \$345,535.

In addition to the scholarship announced last month for Calvin Huseonica, the Finance Committee approved two additional scholarships for GA members Bergen Hall and Oliver Hall.

Next Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m.

Abundance (part of a series of articles on generosity by members of GA's Church Council)

By Cindy Bach

Proverbs 11:24

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

I'm writing this on Easter Sunday after a day spent celebrating Jesus' resurrection with family and friends. My day started out singing powerful and wonderful "Alleluias" at our Easter church services, and I finished the day with a dinner spent with love and hugs from family and friends. At the days' end, I sat down to write my article for the *GA Gazette*, and I asked God what he wanted me to say.

And here's what came back to me: "Write about living from an abundance from me."

I wondered what God wanted me to know about how he views abundance.

Naturally my first thought was about finances. I am a lucky member of the middle class. College tuition is a very real budget item as is my mortgage, retirement, medical and car payments. I have never thought that I have lived an abundant lifestyle, so what is it that God is trying to tell me?

God is trying to tell me that he creates from an abundance of love – it literally spills out from heaven into Earth. And he tells us what love looks like from **Luke 6:38**: *"Give, and it will be given you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you".*

What does this look like if we press into this abundance and measure it out to others?

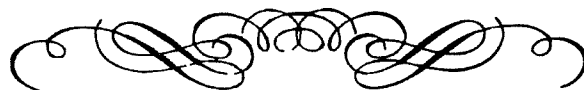
I think that we would be amazed at the love and caring that would flow out of GA and spill out into the neighboring streets. If we stay in community, drawing strength and renewing our faith with regular contact with each other, reading the Word, and prayer, we will multiply. *And the key that unlocks all of this is generosity.*

Generosity is the kingdom currency that fuels God's economy. We are told in **Genesis 1:28**, *"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

With that multiplying effect, we will overflow, and generosity will spill out of us, and we know that God absolutely promises that it will be returned in some manner. We are partnering with God to provide for God's people whom he dearly loves.

Give to others out of an abundance of that love from what is given you. Find joy from what is released back to you. Tapping into the current of love releases abundance in our lives. Build your life on the three pillars of generosity, reading the Word, and prayer.

In other words, *"Seek ye first his kingdom and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33.***



Church YARD SALE

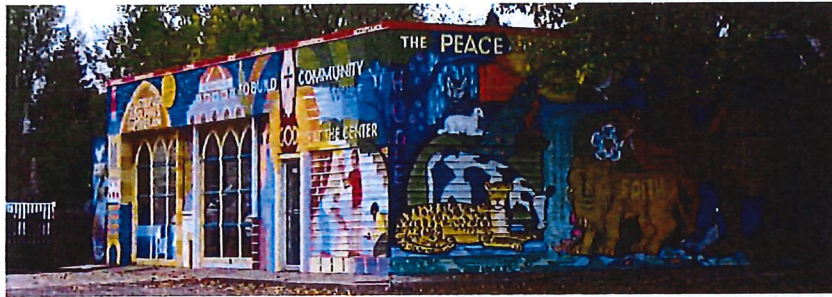
Fundraiser for

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://gracnempls.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.

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

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

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Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

E-mail: info@gachurchmpls.org

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff ...

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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)

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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