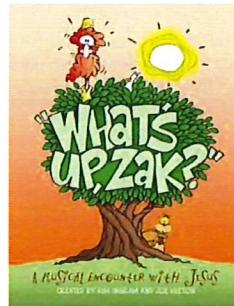


### 2019 Summer Children's Musical – *What's Up Zak?*

**Performances: Friday, August 23 – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, August 25 – 7:00 p.m.**

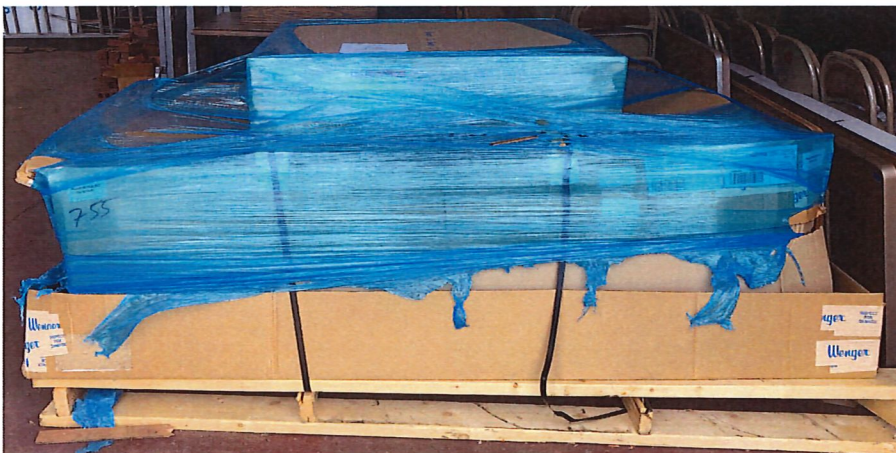
You won't want to miss our 9<sup>th</sup> annual summer children's musical, *What's Up Zak?* It's a delightful re-telling of the story of Zacchaeus and his encounter with Jesus. Rehearsals began on July 30 and will be held two times a week until "crunch week" when there will be a 3-hour tech rehearsal and two 2-hour dress rehearsals.

This summer's musical is once again directed by Kim Huseonica and Phil Holzman. Publicity fliers will be included in Sunday bulletins in August for folks to share with family and friends. Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of our performances on our brand-new stage – August 23 or 25!



### Help Us Assemble Our New Stage

Using funds from memorials and receipts from previous musical productions, we have purchased a professionally built stage for the sanctuary to be used for our annual summer children's musical, the Sunday school Advent/Christmas program, and other musicals that we stage at various times. The old stage platform, which is older than anyone can remember, has been put up and taken down so often that it is no longer safe to let people walk or stand on it. Our new stage was built by Wenger Corp. in Owatonna, Minn. and delivered to our garage in mid-June. (These are the cartons, waiting in the garage!)



Now comes the interesting part. . .unpacking the cartons and assembling the stage for the first time in anticipation of this summer's children's musical! We could use help after worship on Sunday, Aug. 11...help carrying boxes from the garage to the sanctuary and then

help assembling the stage. If we have enough help, it could actually be fun and rather exciting to see this new piece of equipment go up for the first time.

For those who might be a little intimidated by assembling the stage, we could also use help removing the pieces of the old stage from the storage shed and placing them in the alley for trash pick-up. This will be happening at the same time – after worship on Aug. 11.

Pizza and beverages for lunch will be provided to everyone who stays to help. Think about helping us... after worship (10:45 a.m.) Sunday, Aug. 11.

### New Member Sunday...

#### Sunday, August 18

We look forward to welcoming a group of new members to our church during worship on Sunday, August 18. Many of these folks have been worshipping with us for quite some time now and have become familiar names and faces in the congregation. Nevertheless, we are delighted to have them officially become part of our church family on the 18th and we welcome them. We will list their names (and hopefully pictures) in the next "Gazette" so that you have a chance to welcome them.



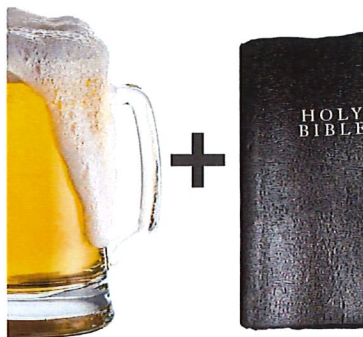
## Bible and Brews

When: Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Join us on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 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) –**  
No meetings until October 1.

**Quilters –** Quilting session on  
Thursday, Aug. 1, at 9:30 a.m.

**Men's Breakfast –**  
On summer break. See you in Sept.

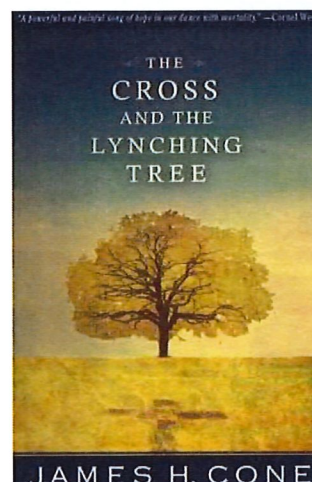
**Deborah Circle –**  
Also on summer break. Back in Sept.

## Monday Night Book Group on August 12!

Join Monday Night Book Club as we begin our discussion of *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. In this book, James Cone explores the symbols of the cross, the lynching tree, and the Church and their interconnections to the lives of African Americans (and all American Christians).

We will discuss this dense, but important book, on two different nights. On Monday, August 12, we will discuss the introduction through chapter 2. We will decide our next meeting the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Our conversations will take place in Fellowship Hall at GA at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome! Questions? See Andrea Carter.



## August Community Meal

Saturday, August 24 – 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome to our monthly GA Community Meal. Food is served at 6:00 p.m. Everyone from the congregation is welcome to come and eat with our guests. You are also welcome to come early and help prepare the meal/set-up and/or to stay after the meal for a bit and help with clean-up.

## August Fellowship Opportunities

- \* **Summer Walk** on Thursday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m. Meet at the Silverwood Park Welcome Center on Silver Lake Rd. NE in New Brighton.
- \* **Music/Playdate** on Wednesday, August 7, at 10:00 a.m. at the Shoreview Community Center, 4580 Victoria Street North, Shoreview. Everyone is invited to both of these family-friendly events.

Aug. Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
August 4	Hannah Rosebrock	Adrienne Bisping		James Hamilton
August 11	Amanda Hakemian	Amanda Hakemian		Joel Lurvey
August 18	Carlotta Rosebrock	Lynette Paulson		Pat Lynch
August 25	Andrea Carter	Carlotta Rosebrock		Brian Hendrickson

## 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**

## Northeast Chorale and GA Singers to Join Forces This Fall "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat" In Concert

Ten years ago, a group of actors and singers from GA presented the Broadway show here at the church. This fall, the Northeast Chorale and interested singers from GA (NOT just choir members) will join together and present the **concert version** of "Joseph..." at three performances November 22, 23, and 24. The Nov. 24 performance (a Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.) will be held here at GA and will be a benefit concert to raise money for our Mission Partners. You'll be hearing more about that this fall.

Right now, we're inviting interested singers from elementary school through adults who are interested in participating in this venture to come to a potluck and sing-through of "Joseph..." here at GA on **Thursday, Aug. 8**, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. You do need to know that rehearsals this fall will take place on Tuesday evenings and that you would need to make a commitment to those rehearsals from September 3 until the November performances. However, if this is something of interest to you, it will be well worth your time! There is a \$25.00 participation fee for adults; \$10.00 for students.

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**

Lyrics by Tim Rice  
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber



If you have any questions about this, please contact Phil Holzman (612-789-7256, ext. 11 – church; [philh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org); or 320-304-1774 – text). We hope to have a good group from GA join with the Chorale this fall!

## Art in the Park, Part 2

GA is partnering with Antioch Community Church in NE Mpls. to bring art to our church families and the community in Mpls. parks this summer. We are hosting two separate events where kids can create art through painting, bead bracelets, coloring, and more. There will be a brief story time featuring the book "Shine!" by GA member Kari Navratil. Each child will also have the opportunity to build a homeless kit to take home with them and serve someone in need within their neighborhood. Registration for each event is recommended (contact the church office) but not required.



The second event will be Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at Jackson Square Park, 2212 NE Jackson Street, Minneapolis.

## Book Review by Pastor Jo

On a quarterly basis, I will be reading a book on the general theme of “theology” and writing a review for the “Gazette.” And yes: “too many books, not enough time” applies!

### Barbara Brown Taylor, Learning to Walk in the Dark, 2015

Barbara Brown Taylor is a former Episcopal priest, and well known for both her preaching and book writing. She is also a frequent guest speaker in both secular and religious contexts. In 2014, Time magazine named her as one of their famous “Top 100 Most Influential People in the World.”

Preachers, like myself, read her past sermon collections for her theological insights and her love for the people to whom she preached.

She has left her Episcopal priest collar behind, but not book writing. Learning to Walk in the Dark is one of her latest books.

In this review, I’m going to abbreviate her name to BBT – makes it not so long!

As a priest, leaving the Episcopal church was a significant challenge for her, one that left her often in doubt and unsure of direction. Since that time (2007), BBT has come to believe that instead of fleeing difficult times and situations, we should embrace the “dark parts” of ourselves, of situations, of even the literal sense of darkness. Each chapter in the book contains a description of a physical darkness which she enacts: descending into a deep underground cave with expert cave explorers, to sit in silence and pray; spending the night in a small outbuilding on her land, where no town or city lights disturb the night sky; walking a path in night darkness, letting her other senses do the work of the eyes; being “blind” in the city, with a guide to help her experience sightlessness in an urban setting.

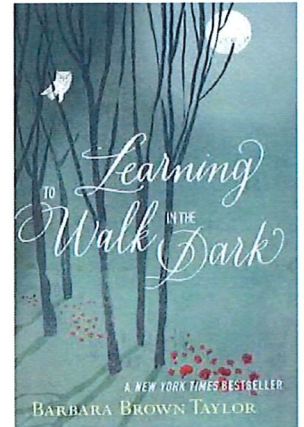
BBT is wary of the way modern Christianity has declared light to be “good,” and dark to be “bad,” with its implications for sight impaired people, racial issues, and our tendency to toss threatening issues into a closet and slam the door.

Her newer version of Christian faith has left certainty behind, and in its place is curiosity. BBT now looks for God in unexpected places, and the darkness is one of those. In fact, she is rather disdainful of what she calls “solar Christianity”: *“Continue to speak of them (darkness, difficult thoughts, great sadness) and you may be reminded that God will not let you be tested beyond your strength. All that is required of you is to have faith. If you still do not get the message, sooner or later it will be made explicit for you: the darkness is your own fault, because you do not have enough faith.”*

I found this book to be wonderfully “permission giving” in the sense of allowing one to experience hard times without sugar-coating it or pretending it is no big deal. And even if one is not going through a difficult time at the moment, it is good to have a resource if “darkness falls on your life, which can happen in any number of unsurprising ways.”

As a child, I was afraid of the dark, and it is a fear that I find is growing less intense each year. This book helped immensely to make quite a jump on lessening that fear even more.

BBT’s thoughts on darkness aside, as always, her thoughts on theology and the love of God are apparent throughout the book. She brings a sense of quiet joy to the aftermath of these difficult times, hard-won, but not to be undervalued. I recommend this book very much.



## Update About the Garage Parking Lot

### Join Us for a Coffee Hour on the Lot August 25

What's wrong with the south parking lot? Why can't we leave it the way it is? Do we need to do something? The Property Committee has been wrestling with these questions for over two years. Over this past winter, a task force was formed to research options and gather input from the congregation. Have you read their report? Copies are sitting in the narthex. (Thanks to the volunteers of the Parking Lot Task Force). The report indicates most people want to keep the parking lot for Gustavus Adolphus use. The majority are also unlikely to contribute funds towards the upkeep of the parking lot. Back to our original questions. What's wrong with the south parking lot? Why can't we leave it the way it is? Do we need to do something?

Property has discerned that the south parking lot matters. It matters how it looks. It matters enough to do something. Why?

1. *GA is called to be a good neighbor.* We are part of the Northeast community. Our neighbors live next to our lot. They see it when they come home. They see it when they take walks. They see it when they come visit us for the Farmer's Market. A property in despair is not neighborly.
2. *GA is called to be good stewards of the environment.* Our parking lot contributes to the surface runoff. All water from the lot is shed directly into the Mississippi River – or onto our neighbors' properties. There is no tree canopy over our lot, contributing to the heat island. Elements to handle storm water and trees to provide shade are required elements in a new lot. Though we are not a new lot, we know that we are not doing all we can to take care of our planet.
3. *GA is called to keep people safe.* There are cracks and potholes in the lot, which get bigger every year. It is an uneven terrain that can lead to trips.
4. *GA is called to care for our visitors.* According to "experts," people are less likely to visit a church in disrepair. Why? Because subconsciously, they perceive that a church that cannot adequately take care of their facilities cannot take of them.

On Sunday, August 25, Property will host a special coffee hour in the south parking lot. We will block off parking for that Sunday only – but will offer fun treats! We invite everyone to meander over and really look at the parking lot. As you look, ask yourself if GA is living out our call through the parking lot and if that matters.

### June Financial Report

	June 2019	June 2019 YTD	June 2018 YTD
Income	\$36,963	\$167,122	\$154,689
Expenses	<u>25,489</u>	<u>183,813</u>	<u>173,055</u>
Income-Exp.	\$11,474	<\$ 16,691>	<\$ 18,366>

Due to your generous giving in June, a surplus of \$11,474.21 has reduced our 2019 YTD deficit from <\$28,165.91> to <\$16,691.70>. Total income for the month of June was \$36,963.34, compared to a budget of \$28,794.57. Approximately \$10,000 of that income was due to members donating the annual Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) directly from their retirement accounts to Gustavus, thereby avoiding paying taxes on the distribution.

Total expense for June was \$25,489.13 compared to a budget of \$28,802.90. One example is: Utilities had actual expenses of \$1,204.70 vs. a budget of \$2,083.33.

Thank you for your continued support of GA.

**Liabilities - LOAN** – MIF (Mission Investment Fund) Loan. Balance: \$85,112.57 as of June 30, 2019.

Note: 10 year loan, \$100,000. 4.5%, \$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: Tuesday, August 13, at 6:00 p.m.

– Gary Anderson, Treasurer

## From Pastor Jo

It's summer, and we know what that means: summer reading, right? Usually described as light, simple, books that can be read in relaxing places, my version of summer reading may be different.

My summer reading is done in a hammock, with my dog Tekla right beside me. I tried to read aloud to her, it just sent her to sleep.

I'm on a quest to get some reading done on "everyday theology," not the academic things I read in seminary (which was good in it's own way), but books which illuminate the spiritual in our daily life. How God loves us, always. Where to see God's promises revealing themselves around us.



Phil and I have taken on some personal goals alongside of our duties here at GA. As I hope you have already enjoyed, Phil is presenting "mini-concerts" after designated Sunday worship services. They have been lovely; watch the bulletin for an announcement for the next one.

You will see a first fruit of my goal in another section of this *Gazette*, which is to read everyday theology books (as I mentioned above), and then post *Gazette* book reviews. This *Gazette* has a review of Barbara Brown Taylor's [A Walk in the Darkness](#).

The reviews are written for you, the members of the congregation, and anyone else reading the *Gazette*. The complexity and nuances of many issues of faith I cannot give appropriate time for in a sermon; but there are wonderful books which bring thoughtful focus to these topics. These books are neither watered-down or barely legible Systematic Theology; they are simply pleasurable to read as an inquiring person of faith.

I hope you enjoy both the reviews and the books; let me know what you read. Find a hammock, and blessings to all in this summer heat!

*Pastor Jo*

P.S. Just because I'm reading theology doesn't mean I'm not getting in my share of People magazine as well!

## From the Parish Records

**Baptism** – *Mara Marè Lindback*, daughter of Geoff and Sara Lindback and sister to Harrison, was baptized during worship on June 30.

### Funerals and Memorials –

- **Walter Schopf's** service was held at GA on Friday, July 19.  
Walt died on December 30, 2018.
- **Robert Moren's** service was held at the Billman Hunt Funeral Home on Monday, July 22.
- **Betty Mae Torvik's** service was held at GA on Saturday, July 27.

## Something New for Kids Grades 4-10

The newly formed Congregational Life Committee is concentrating on three areas previously covered by separate committees: faith formation, worship, and hospitality. Our committee will address all these areas throughout the year but started our work by considering how to enhance support for our young people, especially those in grades 4-10.

This year, Sunday School students in grades 4 and 5 can expect a new curriculum designed for older elementary students. Additionally, once a month we will offer a new "Sacred Sites" experiential learning experience (designed by our own Joan Mitchell and Hannah Rosebrock) for these Sunday School students along with our Confirmation students and our recently confirmed high school students. We look forward to connecting our students to faith-based spaces in our community.

For example, there may be journeys around NE in search of stained glass windows with discussions about what it represents, or visits with other faith communities. We hope this group experience can support those transitioning into Confirmation, enhance the experience for those in Confirmation, and continue a church connection for those just completing Confirmation.

We imagine and hope that this may interest those outside of their tween and teenage years! We are seeking volunteers interested in spending time with the young people in our church! Specifically, we would like additional co-teachers for weekly Sunday School prepared to focus on grades 4 and 5. We would also like regular monthly volunteers to assist with the Sacred Spaces field trips. Contact Phil in the church office or Joan Mitchell ([joanmitchell007@gmail.com](mailto:joanmitchell007@gmail.com)).

*A Thank You Note from One of our Mission Partners!*



Dear Gustavus Adolphus of Minneapolis,

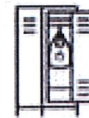
From our entire team, we want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** for your partnership throughout the 2018-2019 school year. The Sheridan Story would not be able to fight child hunger without your support and dedication each and every week. This school year, your organization helped to distribute 1,082 bags (4,148 meals!), and fed a weekly average of 36 kids!



This year our weekend food program was available in 207 schools



213,357\* weekend food bags (817,797 meals) distributed throughout the school year



6,500 kids enrolled to receive a weekend food bag each week

With gratitude,  
The Sheridan Story

\*preliminary numbers  
\* 1 bag = 3.833 meals





# MAKE HOME FEEL LIKE HOME AVENUES WISH LIST

- Bed in a Bag (full size long)
- Pillow
- Laundry Basket
- Shower Caddy
- House Slippers
- Wash Clothes
- Shower Shoes
- Bath Pouf
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Bar Soap
- Bath Gel
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste (full size)
- Lotion
- Sweatpants
- T-shirt
- Socks
- Water bottle
- Earbuds
- USB Flash Drive
- Playing Cards
- Fidget Spinner
- Stress ball
- Chapstick
- Kleenex

Support our Mission Partner **Avenues for Homeless Youth** and help us prepare for our **God's Work, Our Hands** mission project in September by donating the supplies listed here.

We will be collecting supplies listed on both sides of this sheet all through the month of August. There will be laundry baskets in the Narthex for people to put the items in.

\*Avenues does not accept travel sized items, clothing or used items unless otherwise noted on the wish list. Donation drop offs must be scheduled. Unscheduled donations and donations not on the wish list will not be accepted.



In Minnesota, 6,000 youth experience homelessness every night. **Avenues partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.** We provide youth-centered shelter, housing and supportive services to get youth where they want to be.

[www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org) | 612-844-2005 | [mzimllin@avenuesforyouth.org](mailto:mzimllin@avenuesforyouth.org)



# MAKE HOME FEEL LIKE HOME AVENUES WISH LIST

## ART THERAPY BAG NEEDS:

- Reusable FUN Bag
- Sketch Book—mixed media
- Water Colors
- Paint Brushes
- Color Pencils
- Charcoal
- Adult Coloring Book
- Pastels
- Stress Ball
- Fidget Spinner
- Thinking Putty



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A publication of

# 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](http://www.gachurchmpls.org)

E-mail: [info@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:info@gachurchmpls.org)

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

### Church Staff ...

**The Rev. Jo Bauman Johnson**, Pastor (Ext. 10)

[pastorjo@gachurchmpls.org](mailto: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](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org)

**Dan Hager**, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)

[danh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:danh@gachurchmpls.org)

**Joel Lurvey**, Contemporary Choir Director

[joel.lurvey@gmail.com](mailto: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

Cindy Bach

Amanda Hakemian

Ed Huble

Jenny Parker

Erik Peterson