

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 a.m.

WEBSITE: gachurchmpls.org

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The Gazette

February 2020

EMAIL: info@gachurchmpls.org

INTERIM PASTOR: Susan Masters



Wednesday, February 26

6:00 p.m.
Soup Supper

7:00 p.m.
**Worship with Imposition of Ashes
and Holy Communion**

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the great festival of Easter. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. Join us in worship on Ash Wednesday – February 26 – as we begin our Lenten journey together as a community of faith.

Annual Congregational Meeting Held January 26

Members and friends of GA Church gathered after worship on Sunday, January 26, for the annual meeting of the congregation. We heard and read reports, recognized leaders who served in 2019, elected three members to the church council, and approved the church budget for 2020.

Congratulations (and thank you) to James Hamilton, Ed Huble, and Dee Kjera who were elected to serve on the church council. James and Dee were elected to two-year terms. Ed was re-elected to fill a one-year term left vacant by a resignation. Adrienne Bisping and Joel Lurvey volunteered to represent GA at this year's Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly in April.

If you were unable to attend the annual congregational meeting on January 26, we encourage you to pick up a copy of the booklet of reports and take some time to read the reports from staff and groups within the church from 2019 as well as take a look at financial reports from 2019 and the 2020 budget that was adopted at the meeting. Copies of the booklet are available in the Narthex at church.



Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Sunday, February 2

Join Joel Lurvey, our contemporary choir director, as he leads another session of singing after worship on Sunday, Feb. 2, in the sanctuary. Come prepared to participate and sing – and to be enriched!



30-Minute Organ Concert Sunday, February 23

Deacon Phil Holzman will provide another after-worship musical opportunity on the last Sunday in February, Feb. 23, when he will present another of his 30-minute organ concerts. This concert will feature a few familiar pieces of organ literature; come and enjoy them as shared by Phil on the organ here at GA.



2020 Offering Envelopes

Remember to pick up your box of envelopes in the Narthex if you haven't done so. Thank you!

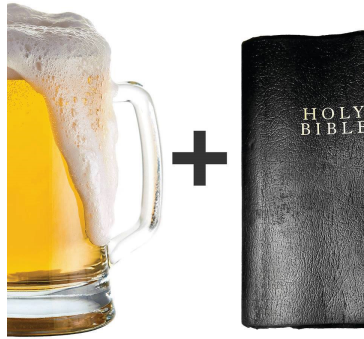
Bible and Brews

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

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

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 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) –

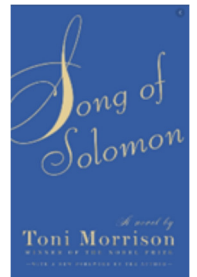
All women of the congregation are welcome to our meeting on Tuesday, February 4, at 1:00 p.m.

Quilters – Quilting session Thursday, February 6, at 9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast – All men in the congregation are invited for breakfast, devotions, and conversation on Saturday, February 8, at 8:30 a.m.

Monday Night Book Group Meets on February 10

Join us on Monday, February 10, to continue our discussion of Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. Follow the life of Milkman Dead from the rustbelt to the place of his family's origins. Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at GA whether you've read the book or not! It's good reading weather! Please join us!



"Seeing White" Podcast Moving to the Third Sunday of the Month

The Congregational Life Committee continues its monthly education series: The award winning series "Seeing White" from *Scene on Radio*. What does it mean to be white in America? When did humans start to distinguish based on race? How has America constructed it's society based on race? How have we adapted?



We meet monthly and will next meet on **Sunday, February 16, at 10:45 in the Faith Room**. There is no preparation required and it does not matter if you miss a month. Join us in the Faith Room as we listen to episodes together. Episodes are under 45 minutes. Sean Tessmer and Amanda Hakemian will facilitate.

This series is designed to continue the educational work we started last spring with the YWCA facilitated racial justice workshops.

Feb. Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
February 2	Carlotta Rosebrock	Joan Mitchell	Aaron Bisping	James Hamilton
February 9	Hannah Rosebrock	Adrienne Bisping	Brock Bisping	Joel Lurvey
February 16	Andrea Carter	Kim Huseonica	Brandon Bisping	Pat Lynch
February 23	Derrick Watson	Carlotta Rosebrock	Joan Mitchell	Brian Hendrickson
February 26 – 7 p.m.	Joel Lurvey	Gary Anderson	N/A	N/A

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

Voting for 2020 Mission Partners

GA Members and Church Council have advanced six potential Mission Partners for consideration. We want to hear from you on where GA is being called. Vote for up to two Mission Partners. A ballot is enclosed in this mailing. Additional ballots are available in the Narthex at church. One vote per person please! Return your ballot by February 16.

Sacred Sites Visits Move to Third Sunday of the Month

Sacred Sites, our learning and fellowship opportunity for grades 4-12, will move to the third Sunday of the month. What makes a space sacred? Who uses these spaces? Why? This year are looking at different spaces around GA and Minneapolis, and our visits will occur on the third Sundays of the month.

In January, Sacred Sites class visited Fire Station 15. We learned fire fighters save lives and answer every call. Next up for the Sacred Sites class is a visit to Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday, February 16. Fr. Spencer Howe will lead us in discussion and mass at 9:30 a.m. Parents, please bring class participants to GA at 9:10 a.m. on that Sunday and we will be back for Sunday School close at 11:30. Questions: contact Joan (joanmitchell007@gmail.com).

Here is a picture from the class' January visit to Fire Station 15 – right across Johnson Street from GA.



Annual Winter Gear Collection Recap

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Hats, Mittens and Scarves collection. This year we collected 45 pairs of mittens and gloves, 34 hats, seven scarves and neck warmers, and one jacket. We sent these off to Waite Park, Sheridan, and Pillsbury Elementary schools and Northeast Middle school. A lot of children will be warmer.

December Financial Report

	December 2019	December 2019 YTD	December 2018 YTD
Income	\$36,542	\$325,315	\$325,598
Expenses	<u>35,357</u>	<u>343,270</u>	<u>344,754</u>
Income-Exp.	\$ 1,185	<\$ 17,955>	<\$ 19,156>

Statement of Financial Position (selected accounts) as of December 31, 2019:

<u>Acct</u>	<u>Description.</u>	<u>12/31/19 Balance</u>
Assets - Checking and Savings		
100	Checking - General / TCF.	\$ 9,927.53
102	Checking - Affinity Plus (Capital Campaign)	\$ 85,210.89
101	Checking - Memorial TCF	\$ 20,446.61
Assets - Investments (Un-restricted)		
110	Thrivent Money Market	\$ 2,313.03
116	Vanguard Brokerage	\$ 4,094.44
Assets - Restricted Investments		
120	Thrivent Income Fund	\$ 5,286.39
121	WF Shulte Youth Checking	\$ 571.72
123	WF Shulte Youth Savings	\$ 4,853.95
122	Bremer - Capital Improvement	\$ 15,891.73
124	Bremer - Computer - CIF	\$ 5,484.87
125	ELCA Endowment Fund	\$ 52,136.23
Liabilities - Loans		
126	MIF (Mission Investment Fund) Loan	\$ 80,852.25

2020 Budget:

- The 2020 budget was approved at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday 1/26/2020.
- The budget for 2020 is \$329,185.90. This is \$16,349.10 less than the 2019 budget.
 - This decrease is due primarily to our interim pastor being called at 75% and to our switch from a contract cleaning service to having a janitor on staff.
 - We have added a new general ledger account - #614 Administrative Staff. This account reflects the administration portion of Deacon Phil Holzman's duties at GA.
Note: Deacon Phil is called to spend 70% on Music and Worship (#613 Minister Worship/Music) and 30% on administration.

Simply Giving:

- Thank you to all who are enrolled in Simply Giving. This commitment to GA helps ensure a consistent cash flow throughout the year.
- If you would like to enroll in Simply Giving, or if you would like assistance making changes to your existing Simply Giving account, please contact Dan Hager, Finance Manager (contact information on back of this mailing).

Next Finance Committee meeting: Thursday, February 6, at 6:00 p.m.

– Gary Anderson, Treasurer

February Transition Musings

by Interim Pastor Susan Masters



We are in full swing with our interim tasks here at GA! As promised, in January, we launched our focus groups, which are the small group conversations that help us to identify the areas most in need of our attention during this interim time. We have held half the groups so far, and already much good information has emerged that will help shape the next phase of our interim work together.

Next steps include:

- We will conclude the focus groups and summarize the findings. We will also analyze your membership, worship attendance, and financial reports from the past 20 years (taken from annual meeting reports).
 - *In March, I will present all this data in a comprehensive report to the full congregation – likely on a Sunday after worship. At that time, I will give my recommendations about where and how we should focus our work for the remaining of this interim time.*
- With council's input, I will soon be putting together a Transition Team to help me guide us through the rest of the interim time. This is not the Call Committee, which we will not likely be ready to seat until much later this year or early 2021.

In my very best guess, I would estimate that this interim will last at least one to one-and-a-half years (from when we started in November, 2019). While GA is, in many ways, a very stable congregation, it's clear to me, your council, and many of you (based on focus group conversations) that there are some problematic areas that keep coming up, year after year, and we need to take the time necessary to deal with these issues in some definitive way so as to put them to rest. Or at least get better on top of them. These issues are, I believe, contributing to GA's relatively high pastoral turn over, our anxiety about money, and our general lack of clarity about our mission. These are all easily managed areas of concern – let's take the time we need – right now, in this interim – to finally address them and at least defuse them so that we can move forward in missional faithfulness, ready to call our next settled pastor.

Our Life Together

One way to measure the health of any congregation is to assess how much of the shared life together is led solely by the pastor and how much includes lay participation. Ideally, the pastor provides leadership and guidance in many areas, with teams of lay people also helping to carry out those tasks.

*Here at GA, we have several such areas that need more lay leadership: **Visitation, Children's Sermon, and Confirmation.** Please consider whether you might be able to serve on one or more of these teams. All training, resources, and support will be provided – and I will, of course, continue to remain involved on all teams.*

Relatedly, I would like to grow our already existing team of **Assisting Ministers**, who help to lead our worship services on Sunday mornings. The team we already have is wonderful, and I simply want to add a few more people to it. A training session for all current and new Assisting Ministers will be held on Sunday, March 15, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this team.

Finally, as our interim work together requires more of my 75% time, council agrees that I should preach three times a month instead of four (which is increasingly standard for a three-quarter call). I will still be present and preside at all worship services, but preach at only three. On the Sundays I do not preach, our worship service will lend itself to more liturgy, ritual, and music, and occasionally to members bringing the Word. Stay tuned for more about this as plans unfold.

Friends, things at GA are brewing with anticipation! Many of you have told me that you feel it, too. There's a sense of hopefulness about resolving some ongoing concerns and discerning with fresh eyes and hearts where and how God is leading us into the future. This hopeful work will, of course, include an appropriate opportunity to grieve the past – particularly recent, difficult events – even as we also look to the future with imagination about all the ways we can be God's heart and hands to our neighbors. And to one another. I am genuinely excited about all that is possible at GA – I hope you are, too.

Thank you for allowing me to come along with you, on this exciting journey! Peace be upon you.

Pastor Susan

Renewing our Enthusiasm for the Community Meal

Dear Friends,

We are hoping to move forward with a great opportunity for our congregation to connect with the neighborhood in 2020.

Our church hosts a community meal on the 4th Saturday of each month. We prepare the meal at 3:00 in the church kitchen and serve the meal at 6:00. We are usually all finished with clean-up by 7:30/8:00 p.m. We have been doing this for 5+ years now!

You are welcome to come and join us.

You can choose any of these options:

1. Come and eat. Relax and visit with the folks who are so kind to come. (6-7 p.m.)
2. Set-Up and Cook - No planning required. (3:00-5:30 p.m.)
3. Serve and Clean-Up (5:30-7:30 p.m.)
4. Prepare a dish ahead of time and drop it off at church. (flexible timing)

The reality is, our crew has dramatically downsized in the past year and we are in need of volunteers. You may want to visit one time to see if this is something you might enjoy!

If you have questions, please talk to some of the current volunteers: Lynn and Joel Lurvey, Jean Jensen, Joan Mitchell, Steve Arnold, Marv and Nancy Johnson, Andrea Carter, Cheryl Johnson, and Pat Norring-Johnson).

**OUR NEXT MEAL IS ON THE 4TH SATURDAY
OF FEBRUARY - FEB 22 AT 6:00 p.m.
WE WILL HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

God's blessings and love to you all.

Lynn Lurvey,
Community Meal Coordinator



GA Choristers Reimagined

Deacon Phil, in consultation with the Congregational Life Committee, is putting forward a new model for children's music for the rest of this program year. We are going to involve all our Sunday school students in grades 1-5 in singing for worship two times (March 29 and April 26). The students will rehearse with Phil several Sunday mornings during part of the Sunday school time. This new model will take the place of the Wednesday night GA Choristers choir for the balance of this school year. Parents will hear more about this in the coming weeks.



Welcome, New Members!

We were happy to welcome two new members into our congregation on Sunday, January 26: Cheryl Johnson and Brooke Nordling. Cheryl has been active in the congregation for some time and has now taken the step to make her membership official. She is a member of the Gustavus Bells and the Senior Choir, helps with the Community Meal, and is excited to become involved in other areas of ministry. Brooke joins her husband, Eric, and son, Thomas, plus other extended family here at GA. We are excited to welcome them into our church family and look forward to getting to know them even better in the coming months.



Remember that if you have been dating GA Church and are ready to take the plunge and become a member, please contact the office (612-789-7256) and tell us the good news. We plan to offer new member classes on a regular basis throughout the year.

Lenten Schedule

Final plans for the Lenten season are not yet complete, but, as is our tradition, we will gather on Wednesdays for mid-week evening prayer. One theme this year will be healing: of our world, our country, our congregation, and ourselves. In addition to the Sundays of Lent, please join us for the following additional services:

- ♦ Wednesday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service (see front page for more information)
- ♦ Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, at 7:00 p.m. – *Holden Evening Prayer* (Wednesday services will be preceded by soup suppers at 6:00 p.m.)

Holy Week Services as follows:

- ♦ Maundy Thursday, April 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Good Friday, April 10 – 7:00 p.m.

In Loving Memory

We extend Christian sympathy to Vi Dorumsgaard and the family and friends of David Dorumsgaard who passed away on January 3. David's memorial service was held at GA on January 14.

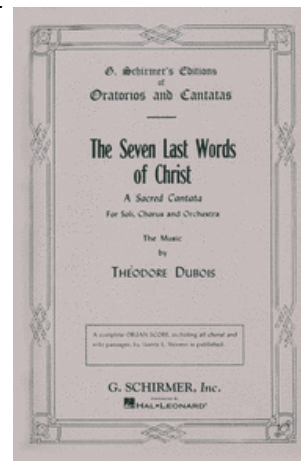
A Reminder About First Communion

In the ELCA, there are no age requirements for when someone can receive the bread and wine from our Lord's table. One of our greatest joys as a community of faith is to invite our children to join us at the table as soon as possible. To that end, if your child (of any age) is not currently receiving Communion, please talk with Pastor Susan (612-789-7256, ext. 10, or pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org) so that, together, we can make a plan to prepare them to begin receiving as soon as possible. We are excited that a group of children will be receiving first Communion on February 2.



Join the Northeast Chorale to Sing Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

The Northeast Chorale will once again join with GA's Senior Choir to present the oratorio *The Seven Last Words of Christ* on Sunday, March 15, at 4:00 p.m. as this year's MN FoodShare Benefit Concert. Our Senior Choir is rehearsing pieces from the oratorio at its Wednesdays evening rehearsals. Members of GA (and the northeast community) are most welcome to join the Northeast Chorale for this mini-session to learn and present *The Seven Last Words...* in March.



Chorale rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at GA Church beginning on Feb. 11. There is no participation fee for this mini-session. High school and adult singers are welcome to join. If you aren't a singer, you can plan to be in the audience for this benefit concert. Mark it on your calendar now for Sunday, March 15, at 4:00 p.m. Last year we raised over \$1,900 at our FoodShare concert. Let's see if we can do even better this year!

Coming Soon to a Church Near You: New Ways to Serve at GA!

Pastor Susan will soon convene three new teams to help lead us in our life together here at GA: a Visitation Team, a Children's Sermon Team, and a Confirmation Team. Please see Pastor's *Transition Musings* article (page 5) for more information. And consider how you might help out with these important ways to serve our congregation going forward!

HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP

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.

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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. Susan Masters, Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)
pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister of Word & 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

Cindy Bach	Dee Kjera
Andrea Carter	Sarah Larson
James Hamilton	Jenny Parker
Ed Huble	Erik Peterson

The council will elect officers for 2020 at its meeting on February 20.