

### Wednesdays in Lent – March 4 through April 1

Take time out on Wednesdays during the weeks of Lent for a time at church. We will offer soup suppers and a 30-minute worship time each week. We will sing the well-loved *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy and take time to offer prayers around the cross for healing each week. Here is the schedule for these Wednesday evenings:



- ✠ 6:00 p.m. Soup Suppers in Fellowship Hall
- ✠ 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer (for Healing) in the Sanctuary

Note that there is a post card included in this mailing that lists our entire Lent schedule – from Ash Wednesday through Lent, Holy Week, and to Easter Sunday. We encourage you to save this post card and post it somewhere where you can refer to it so that you can worship with us often during this holy season. Additional copies of the post card will be available in the Narthex at church if you would like to share one with a friend or neighbor.

### Pastor Susan's First "State of the Interim" Report

On Sunday, March 29, after worship, we will have a potluck, and Pastor Susan will present a report of our interim period thus far. Her report will include data from several sources:

- \* the focus group conversations;
- \* an analysis of the last 20 years' financial reports and membership/attendance records;
- \* results of the Holy Cow, CAT, Bridge Builders, and 2019 synod studies; and
- \* Pr. Susan's own observations and impressions of her first four months at GA.

Pr. Susan will help us interpret the data and draw some conclusions about next steps in this time of interim. To accommodate this meeting, Sunday school and Frolic will be canceled, and childcare will be provided during the report. Everyone who considers GA to be their church should plan to attend this important meeting. Please let Pr. Susan know if you have any questions or concerns ([pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org)).



### Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs Sunday, March 1

Join Joel Lurvey, our contemporary choir director, as he leads another session of singing after worship on Sunday, March 1, in the sanctuary. Come prepared to participate and sing – and to be enriched!



### Lent Bible Study Opportunity Thursday Evenings

What kind of an instrument am I? Come and find out Thursdays during Lent from 6:30-8:15 p.m. in the Media Room at GA with Cheryl and Joan. Each Thursday during Lent. Please join us!



### FoodShare Benefit Concert Sunday, March 15 – 4:00 p.m.

See the colorful flyer included in this mailing for *The Seven Last Words of Christ* and plan to attend this beautiful concert to benefit the March campaign of MN FoodShare.

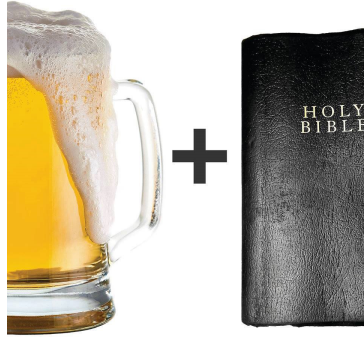
## Bible and Brews

*When: Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m.*

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

Join us on Tuesday, March 17, 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, March 3, at 1:00 p.m.

**Quilters** – Quilting session Thursday, March 12, at 9:30 a.m. **Notice change of date to the SECOND THURSDAY!**

**Men's Breakfast** – All men in the congregation are invited for breakfast, devotions, and conversation on Saturday, March 14, at 8:30 a.m.

## Monday Night Book Group Meets on March 16

Join us on Monday, March 16, as we compare/contrast two foundational documents of the Civil Rights era. We will discuss Malcolm X's speech *The Bullet or the Ballot* and Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. Both documents are available online or are often included in anthologies at your local public library. Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room @ GA. If you need help obtaining copies of either document, please let Andrea Carter know. All are welcome!

## "Seeing White" Podcast Series Continues March 15

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, March 15, 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. This month's episode will be the second half of the episode that was begun in February. Episodes are under 45 minutes. Sean Tessmer and Amanda Hakemian will facilitate.

This series is designed to continue the educational work we started in spring 2019 with the YWCA facilitated racial justice workshops.

March Serving Schedule	Assisting Minister	Lector	Sacristan	Transportation
March 1	Amanda Hakemian	Carlotta Rosebrock	Aaron Bisping	James Hamilton
March 8	Derrick Watson		Brock Bisping	Ron Anderson
March 15	Andrea Carter	Mary Ann Eide	Kathy Schuette	Pat Lynch
March 22	Carlotta Rosebrock	Joan Mitchell	Brandon Bisping	Ron Anderson
March 29	Joel Lurvey	Lynette Paulson	Hannah Rosebrock	Joel Lurvey

## 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**

## A Reminder: GA Choristers Reimagined

### Sunday School Students Grades 1-5 Sing in Worship March 29

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.



## Sunday School: 4th to 12th Grade Opportunity

Our March Sacred Site is visiting and serving at the GA Community Meal on Saturday, March 28. It is the **Great Chili Cook-Off**. Lynn Lurvey is our leader, and she is looking forward to our help. Come



and set up at 4:00 p.m. and/or serve the meal at 6:00 p.m. and/or wash dishes and clean-up at 6:30 p.m. Done by 7:30! Come for an hour or the entire time.

That is up to you. If you want to bring a crock pot of chili, you are welcome to do that, too. We get kind of competitive! This is a great way to

interact with our community and serve them, too. It is a sacred space. Contact Joan for details: [joanmitchell007@gmail.com](mailto:joanmitchell007@gmail.com).

## March Community Meal: The GREAT Chili Cook-Off! Saturday, March 28

For our March Community Meal, we invite participants to bring a pot of chili! Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship on Saturday, March 28. We will set-up at 3:00 and serve at 6:00 p.m.

Congratulations to last year's First Place winner, Andrea Carter! She had a landslide victory with her famous "Made in Northeast" Chili. Game on!! We hope to see you there!

-Lynn Lurvey



## January Financial Report

	January 2020	January 2019
Income	\$24,430	\$19,386
Expenses	<u>31,347</u>	<u>31,417</u>
Income-Exp.	<\$ 6,917>	<\$ 12,031>

### Statement of Financial Position (selected accounts) as of January 31, 2020:

<u>Acct</u>	<u>Description.</u>	<u>01/31/20</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>Assets - Checking and Savings</b>			
100	Checking - General / TCF.	\$	2,031.95
102	Checking - Affinity Plus (Capital Campaign)	\$	84,141.81
101	Checking - Memorial TCF	\$	19,940.67
<b>Assets - Investments (Un-restricted)</b>			
110	Thrivent Money Market.	\$	2,313.03
116	Vanguard Brokerage	\$	4,094.44
<b>Assets - Restricted Investments</b>			
120	Thrivent Income Fund	\$	5,286.39
121	WF Shulte Youth Checking.	\$	571.84
123	WF Shulte Youth Savings.	\$	4,854.08
122	Bremer - Capital Improvement	\$	15,892.64
124	Bremer - Computer - CIF.	\$	5,484.87
125	ELCA Endowment Fund.	\$	50,845.71
<b>Liabilities - Loans</b>			
126	MIF (Mission Investment Fund) Loan	\$	80,136.85

#### Notes regarding January 2020 Statement of Activities:

#601 Pastor's Pension/Insurance - includes approx. \$1,600 for Pastor Jo Bauman Johnson's Jan 2020 health insurance. Coverage thru Feb. 15, \$800, completes the severance agreement with Pastor Jo.

#778 Snow Removal - Actual January cost was \$2,900 compared to a monthly budget of \$583.37

#### February Finance Meeting - Old Business:

MIF (Mission Investment Fund) Loan pay off next steps.

We will request the loan payoff amount from the ELCA MIF.

Upon receipt of the payoff amount, an Affinity Plus check will be issued and sent to the MIF.

#### February Finance Meeting - New Business:

Memorial Request from Deacon Phil Holzman to purchase a new Paschal Candle for the sanctuary in time for Easter was approved. Cost not to exceed \$150.00.

**Next Finance Committee Meeting:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 – 6:00pm (proposed)

## Transition Musings

by Interim Pastor Susan Masters



### Focus Groups

We have completed the focus group conversations, and I am now compiling the 35 pages of data I collected from you into a report. You answered questions such as: “What is the mission of GA?”, “Are there any sacred cows at GA that stand in the way of us doing the ministry God has called us to do?”, and “How does GA handle conflict?”. The consistency of your answers with those provided in previous congregational studies speaks to the reliability of the data we collected and indicates that we have continued to struggle with the same issues for a very long time. So we need to ask ourselves: Are we ready to roll up our sleeves and do the difficult work of sorting through some of these recurring concerns before we call our next settled pastor? My sense is that we are ready, and I look forward to further conversation about next steps in this time of transition.

### State of the Interim Report

On Sunday, March 29, after worship, we will have a potluck and I will present my first official report of our interim work together. Childcare will be provided. Please see the front page of this newsletter for more details about this event.

### New Preaching Schedule

With the Council’s approval, and in keeping with my three-quarter call, I will preach three Sundays a month, and the week will vary. (I will continue to be present to lead worship and preside every Sunday.) This extra week of no sermon preparation will give me an additional 10-12 hours a month to work on additional interim tasks. On the Sundays I do not preach, we will have either an expanded liturgy or a guest preacher. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

### New Communion Table

Council has approved my request to add a Communion table to the chancel (the space where the Assisting Minister and I stand during the offering and Holy Communion). GA has a beautiful attached altar that will remain in place and continue to hold candles and Communion bread and wine. The additional table will provide a spot for the Assisting Minister and me to stand behind throughout Communion, facing the congregation and alleviating the sense that we are “roaming around” on the chancel, without an assigned spot. This is not a new issue for GA, and it came up in a number of the focus groups (“Why does the pastor stand with her back to us?”). We will make this change in time to mark the beginning of Lent, and for the time being, we’ll use whatever appropriate table we can find in the church. But I will work with Property Committee to purchase or create a permanent table that will visually blend nicely with the other furniture on the chancel. As with all things, do not hesitate to let me know if you have questions or concerns about this matter.

### Church Council 2020

Thank you to the following people who have agreed to serve on our church council this year:

#### *Executive Team*

Jenny Parker, President  
Sarah Larson, Vice President  
Andrea Carter, Treasurer  
Secretary – pending

#### *Members at Large*

Cindy Bach  
James Hamilton  
Ed Huble  
Dee Kjera  
Erik Peterson

#### *Staff*

Susan Masters, Interim Pastor  
Phil Holzman, Deacon



thank  
you!

*I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers as I journeyed through a very scary health crisis. I got the call on a Friday morning in early August. "You have breast cancer." I was speechless. It moved very quickly. I had surgery in less than two weeks and then a follow-up surgery two weeks later. I then had radiation therapy for 3-1/2 weeks. I may not have appeared sick Sunday mornings, but evenings, I just wanted to go to bed. I had to sit out a lot of activities. But through it all I felt all of your thoughts and prayers helping me as I traveled a road I never expected. It would have been a much harder journey without you. I was just given a clean bill of health and now am just having routine follow-ups. As I have my name taken off the prayer list, I wanted you to know how much I appreciated all your support.*

*Thank you,  
Adrienne Bisping*

*Thank you for the cards, notes, words of support, and hugs following the recent death of my aunt Ginny in Pennsylvania. Ginny was more than an aunt to me – she was a second mother when I was a young boy; so her death was very hard for my sister, my cousins, and for me. Your love and support made the grieving just a little easier.*

*In Christ's love,  
Deacon Phil Holzman*

### **About Membership at GA Church**

Remember that if you have been dating GA Church and are ready to take the plunge and become a member, please contact the office and tell us the good news. You can indicate your desire on a blue sheet in worship some Sunday, or call the church (612-789-7256). We plan to offer new member classes on a regular basis throughout the year.

### **Easter and Easter Prep Preview**

On Saturday, April 11, join us for a special Easter preparation day, ***Dye-ing & Rise-ing***. Starting at 9:00 a.m., we will be baking caramel rolls for Easter breakfast. These won't just be any rolls! Shirley Erickson will be on hand to teach us her very special recipe. We will also dye Easter eggs and prepare the Fellowship Hall for breakfast.

We will bake and work on eggs until about 11:30, and then eat lunch together.

We will eat our rolls and eggs (and fruit) at Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 12, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. We will need volunteers to help us Easter morning. Watch for sign-ups soon. We will receive a free-will offering for Easter breakfast.



### **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](mailto:pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org)) so that, together, we can make a plan to prepare them to begin receiving as soon as possible.

On February 2, we were delighted to welcome four of our young people to Communion for the first time: Anne Miller, Elizabeth (Libby) Nordling, Ada Peterson, and Jenna Schuette.

## Lent, Holy, Week, and Easter Schedule

### Sundays and Wednesdays in Lent

\*Sunday Mornings, March 1 – April 5

9:30 a.m. – Worship with Holy Communion

\*Wednesdays Evenings, March 4 – April 1

6:00 p.m. – Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. – Midweek Prayer Around the Cross (our theme will be *healing*)

### Holy Week

\*Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service

\*Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service

\*Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon – “Dye-ing and Rise-ing” Event  
*We’ll dye Easter eggs and make scratch caramel rolls!*

### Easter Sunday

\*Sunday, April 12 – Resurrection of Our Lord

8:30 a.m. – Festival Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Festival Worship with Holy Communion  
(Easter Breakfast served from 8:00-10:00 a.m.)

### New Directories Available

We have printed new congregation directories! Everyone is invited to take a copy or two home to have for reference. You can pick yours up in the Narthex at church. If you have information that is missing or incorrect for your household, please contact Deacon Phil Holzman in the office. We try to keep our membership information as accurate as possible.

### Quilters to Host Sewing Event

The GA Quilters will host a Saturday sewing event for adults, youth aged 10+, and children aged 7-10 (with an adult). Refresh or learn sewing skills by making either a grocery bag, pillowcase, or doll quilt. The date is Saturday, May 2. Sewing sessions are for two hours in the morning or afternoon. A pizza lunch will be served in between. Limit of 10 participants for each session, with spaces filled on a first-come basis. A child 7-10 and accompanying adult count as one participant. Registration closes on Sunday, April 26. Registration forms will be available starting March 15 in the Narthex at church.

### Task Tree

We are trying something new for Lent. Look for a “Task Tree” in the Narthex. There will be a tree with tasks the Property Committee would like help accomplishing. Take a leaf (a task) and complete it and log it on the clip board. Do a task while you wait for choir to start or for a child in Sunday school. All manner of general maintenance tasks will be listed on the tree (dusting, polishing, straightening, weatherstripping, putting wheels on carts, etc.). Thanks from Property Committee! For more information, contact Joan Mitchell by email at [joanmitchell007@gmail.com](mailto:joanmitchell007@gmail.com).



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.

## 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. Susan Masters**, Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)  
[pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org)

**Deacon Phil Holzman**, Minister of Word & 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**

Jenny Parker, President

Sarah Larson, Vice-President

(Secretary Election Pending in March)

Andrea Carter, Treasurer

Cindy Bach

James Hamilton

Ed Huble

Dee Kjera

Erik Peterson