

Transition Musings, October 2020 Interim Pastor Susan Masters



Friends, none of us could ever have imagined that, come October, we'd still be separated from one another. I find my emotions regularly run the gamut of disappointment to anger to resignation to deep sadness about it all. Because here we are, heading into the winter months still conducting our church life over the Internet, still having very limited face-to-face contact with one another, and still uncertain about how this will all shake out. And when.

But what's also true is that, after a reasonable period of shock about how we've been hobbled by a pandemic and all that means for our world, as cliché as it sounds, I – we – need to take stock of all that has NOT been taken away from us and how God's faithfulness remains. So I'm choosing to look into the fall and winter less with an attitude of, "How will we get through this?" and more with an attitude of, "Okay, this is what we have to work with – how can we make the best of it?"

To that end, Deacon Phil Holzman and I are creating some opportunities throughout the weeks to come to help us continue to feel connected to God and to one another. Some of these opportunities you've already heard about and we're finally getting them organized, and others are new. We hope to launch all these new events in the month of October. Stay tuned to our Facebook page, the Saturday email, and Sunday announcements for more information as each event unfolds.

Story Time Hour: Youth and adults will be invited to make video recordings of themselves reading books/stories that will be posted on our Facebook page. This idea originally targeted children and youth, but several folks have commented that adults who are isolated might also enjoy being read to. If you're interested in being a reader, and/or you have suggestions of titles, please let us know.

Mid-week Prayer: We will record a brief, simple prayer service – similar to Matins or Compline – and post it on our Facebook page each mid-week for you to access whenever you want.

Private Prayer Time in the Chapel: We will make the chapel available for folks to stop by for private prayer. Visits must be scheduled ahead of time, and safety precautions (masks, distancing, limited numbers of people, etc.) must be followed at all times.

State of the Interim Report Conversations

The State of the Interim report represented the important interim work we did last winter. The equally important next step in our interim work is to discuss the report and decide together where it will lead us (with a healthy dose of Holy Spirit guidance!). I invite you to re-read the report (let Phil know if you need a copy) and join one of these Zoom conversations about it. (You need attend only ONE conversation, but you're certainly invited to attend more.) Zoom invites will also be in the Saturday email each week throughout October. (If you prefer an individual and/or in-person conversation, please let me know that and we'll get one scheduled.)

(Continued on the next page ... with specific times of conversations)

- **Thursday, October 15, @ 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87629475580?pwd=bHB1bFZEdnpaS1NWaWZKYXF0RExkdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 2947 5580

Passcode: 555557

- **Friday, October 16 @ 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81013767775?pwd=Z3ZYT2RlVvdPYzdQbjNGWVQ1NVJzQT09>

Meeting ID: 810 1376 7775

Passcode: 876372

- **Tuesday, October 20 @ 8:00 – 9:30 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82772150210?pwd=L0NRNDNPVmlJRG9KMFRmeWhYVtB2UT09>

Meeting ID: 827 7215 0210

Passcode: 908455

- **Monday, October 26 @ 8:00 – 9:30 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86432424309?pwd=RnU1dGJjMkxqM3NISjVYtEtKQUJ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 864 3242 4309

Passcode: 659767

- **Saturday, October 31 @ 9:00 – 11:30 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89131728823?pwd=cEZrRFpzZWtkL3dtZzNvSHQzUjQ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 891 3172 8823

Passcode: 225299

A Few Odds and Ends

- **Sunday, October 11, at 11:00 a.m.:** The new Confirmation year will begin.
- **Sunday, October 25, at 9:30 a.m.:** Reformation Sunday and the Rite of Confirmation: Amelia Larson will be confirmed during our worship service.
- **Tuesday, November 3:** DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

As always, do not hesitate to let me know how I can best pastorally serve you, especially in this time of uncertainty and separation from one another.

Greetings from a Deacon in This Continuing Pandemic

We've had two opportunities to gather for worship outdoors recently. Although not ideal, because we couldn't really visit with one another, it was surely great to see people again that in many cases we hadn't seen for six months! This past Sunday, a group of us visited some of our members who are more homebound to let them know that their church is still thinking about them. I'm happy that I can share some pictures of those events in this edition of the "Gazette." I want you to know that I think of all of our GA members very often and hold you in my prayers during this difficult time.

Again, I want to remind you to look on our Facebook page each Wednesday when I post some organ music. Each Wednesday, my trip to the GA office includes a recording session of 6-10 minutes of organ music that I post on my personal Facebook page and on the GA Facebook page. I am grateful for the many encouraging messages that I've received; I am glad that so many of you are finding this music to be uplifting.

Blessings to all of you as we continue to find our way through this challenging time!

Deacon Phil Holzman

philh@gachurchmpls.org

612-789-7256, ext. 11 (leave a voice message)

320-304-1774 (cell phone/send a text message)



Prayer Vigil on Sunday, Nov. 1

A prayer vigil for peace and healing will be held at GA on Sunday, November 1, from 11a.m. -5p.m. The purpose of this vigil is to engage in a period of intentional contemplation set aside for meditation, prayer, and scripture reading. Devotionals on the topics of peace, social justice and healing will be available during the vigil to help guide your prayers. During the 6-hour prayer vigil at GA, we invite individuals, or family units, to sign-up for a 15-minute time slot. Watch the Saturday email blast for information on how to sign-up for a time slot. Please plan to attend this day of prayer (just ahead of Election Day) for our community and world.



Virtual Choristers Meeting – Wednesday, Oct. 21

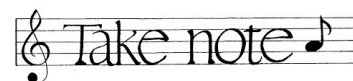


Deacon Phil misses choir rehearsals so much during this pandemic. He is planning to try an informal singing session on Zoom with kids in Grades 1 and above – a virtual GA Choristers session. He would like to meet with interested children on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m. for a time of singing and laughing together. A Zoom invitation will be included in the Saturday email prior to the 21st, but put it on your calendar now!

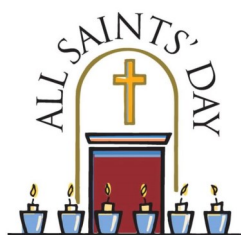
Did you know that our adult choirs meet for choir chat every Wednesday night? They don't sing on Zoom, but they enjoy a time of fellowship and chat and stay connected with one another during this time.

Statement Regarding the Music of Composer David Haas

It has come to light that there have been several credible accusations of sexual misconduct against sacred music composer David Haas. You may have read or heard about these accusations in local press outlets. Haas has four hymns in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, three of which we have sung on a regular basis: *Blest Are They*, *We Are Called*, and *You Are Mine*. Pastor Susan and I, in consultation with the Congregational Life Committee, and with the approval of our Church Council, have decided that until such time that we are able to gather as a congregation in person and have dialog about this situation and its ramifications, we will not sing any of Haas' music in worship. If you have questions or concerns about this decision, please contact me or Pastor Susan.



Deacon Phil Holzman
Minister of Worship and Music



All Saints Day – November 1

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. As is our tradition at GA, we will remember those in our congregation who have died during the past year by lighting candles and with the tolling of a bell.

Sunday Zoom Worship – 9:30 a.m. Every Sunday

See the Saturday email each week for Zoom invitation link.

Or contact Deacon Phil Holzman for call-in information.

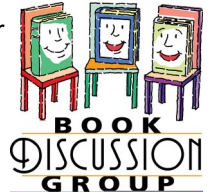




There are ways you can stay connected to your GA family during this time when we are not able to gather in person. The activities listed on this page can help you do just that. If you have any questions about any of these activities or ministries, contact the person leading that particular ministry or contact Pastor Susan or Deacon Phil (their contact information is listed on the back page of this newsletter).

Monday Night Book Club Meets November 9 via Zoom!

Join us on Monday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. as we discuss *The Soul of America: the Battle for Our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham. In Meacham's bestselling book, explore how Lincoln's idea of "the better angels of our nature" have determined outcomes during tumultuous periods throughout American history. If you would like a copy of the book, please email Andrea at andrealcart@gmail.com or call me at 612.757.9474. All are welcome! Zoom Meeting ID: 594 157 3535.



Crafts in the Trunk Has Moved Indoors



The Crafts in the Trunk group will continue meeting every Wednesday morning from 10-12. But, in accordance with our Phase I policy, the group has moved indoors to meet in the Fellowship Hall. Phase I allows for a group of up to 10 people to gather. Please bring a beverage, your craft and of course your mask to wear. Questions? Call Cindy Bach at 763-360-4502. Don't forget your mask!

Quilters to Meet Again in November

The Quilters haven't stopped sewing...we have made over 2,500 face masks that were donated to a variety of organizations. With the church opening up to group of 10 or fewer (Phase I), we will have a shortened meeting on Thursday, November 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with NO LUNCH. RSVP to Bonnie at 651-784-7168 by NOON on Wednesday the 4th if you want to attend. **Don't forget your mask!**

Newly Created Furlough Fund

On Sunday, September 27, following the worship service, the congregation unanimously approved a motion to create a fund to support members/associate members of the congregation who are struggling financially during the pandemic. This newly created Furlough Fund is available to provide monetary assistance to help members/associate members who need it (not necessarily furloughed from their job). Initially, \$3,000.00 will be transferred from our Endowment Fund into the Furlough Fund. Members/associate members can apply for a grant of \$250.00. Further information and the application are included in the Gazette. If you or a member/associate are in need, please complete the confidential application included in this newsletter and send it in to the church office.

Racial Justice Survey Included in This Newsletter

Our Racial Justice Committee prepared a survey which they distributed at the outdoor worship service on September 27. A link to the survey was also included in a recent Saturday email. Paper copies of this survey are included in this newsletter. They really want to get our opinions on what Racial Justice means to our congregation. As noted in Pastor Susan's recent interim report, more than 90% of GA members interviewed mentioned issues of race and racial justice as an area where we need to do more work. Hence this survey, to help our committee learn more about what they can do in this area. Please complete the survey and return it to church by mail – or if you live in the neighborhood, you can just drop it through the church mail slot.

Finance Report

	August 2020 Actual	August 2020 YTD	August 2019 YTD
Income	\$23,848.07	\$216,758.36	\$211,445.07
Expenses	<u>\$19,585.68</u>	<u>\$164,365.31</u>	<u>\$232,431.70</u>
Inc-Exp	\$ 4,262.39	\$ 52,393.05	<\$ 20,986.63>

Thanks for your generous giving in August! Your offerings supported our quarterly giving to our Mission Partners, preparation for two outdoor worship services, Community Meal gift cards, and so much more!

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Carter, Treasurer

Next Finance Zoom Meeting: Thursday, October 8, at 6:00 p.m.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church *A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

Sunday Zoom Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff ...

The Rev. Susan Masters, Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)
pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org
Cell phone (for pastoral emergencies): 612-327-7454

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister of Word & Service (Ext. 11)
(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)
philh@gachurchmpls.org
Cell phone (for texts/calls): 320-304-1774

Dan Hager, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)
danh@gachurchmpls.org

Joel Lurvey, Contemporary Choir Director
joel.lurvey@gmail.com

Linda Lindahl, Church Custodian



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Ways You Can Give to GA During This Time When We Are Apart

1) Mail your offering to GA:
1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418



2) Give electronically at our website,
www.gachurchmpls.org. Just click on the
"Donate" button on any page.

3) Sign up to give electronically through our
"Simply Giving" program. Email GA's Finance
Manager, Dan Hager, for details. Dan can also
help you if you are interested in learning how to
contribute stock donations.

Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

Jenny Parker, President	Ed Huble
Sarah Larson, Vice-President	Erik Peterson
Cindy Bach, Secretary	
Andrea Carter, Treasurer	
James Hamilton	
Dee Kjera	

Outdoor Worship Services – September 13 & 27



“Drive-by” Visits – October 4



Top Left: Diana & David Hendrickson

Top Right: Laura Moren & Pastor Susan

Middle Left: Deacon Phil & Donald Christopherson

Middle Right: Joyce Bailey & Jenny Parker

Bottom Left: Pastor Susan & Nancy Rathbun

We also visited Roger Cropper but neglected to get a photo.

Thanks to Dee Kjera for arranging all the visits and to all those who came along on the visits!