

Wednesdays in Lent ... *Holden Evening Prayer*

We will continue our tradition of mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. continuing until the week before Holy Week (March 3, 10, 17, 24). This year, however, we will be on Zoom, but we will use the familiar and much-loved *Holden Evening Prayer* as our liturgy. The Zoom invitation will be included in each Saturday's email; however, the recurring meeting ID is 886 9340 3297 with the passcode 1509. We encourage you to join us for this time on Wednesday evenings.



Service to Commemorate One-Year Anniversary of Our Last In-Person Worship



March 8, 2020, was the last time we worshiped together in person. We will mark this one-year anniversary with a special worship service on Sunday, March 14.

Please plan to join us for a time of lament and hoping together.

A Note from Deacon Phil...

I want to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has reached out with cards, notes, emails, and meals on the Meal Train during my recovery. I'm hopeful that I'll be back at the piano soon (hopefully March 14) and the organ soon after that. I don't promise any fancy hymn playing right away, but I've been playing hymns on the piano at home, and I should be able to play hymns and liturgy pieces for worship very soon. Stay tuned!



Second Quarter Devotional Booklet Available at Church

The new "Christ in Our Home" devotional booklets have arrived and are available for pick-up at church. We encourage members to use this devotional resource. You can pick them up at church on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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. If you don't receive the Saturday email and would like to be included, contact Deacon Phil as well.



Transition Musings Interim Pastor Susan Masters

(excerpted from sermon, February 28, 2021)

Our Transition Team (T.T.) - **Aaron Miller, Lynn Lurvey, Gary Anderson, Aaron Olson, Hannah Rosebrock, and Jenny Arneson** - and I met four times in January and February for some robust conversation about the findings of our focus groups last winter. Specifically, we discussed the eight areas of concern that have been raised repeatedly during congregational studies since 2010. The T.T. strategized how best to lead us in the conversations we need to have about these concerns. To that end, the team ultimately combined the eight areas into five, which are:

- 1. The Three C's – Conflict, Communication, and Connection** - Jenny Arneson and Lynn Lurvey will lead us in our efforts to: a) create ways to better handle conflict; b) improve our lines of communication in all directions; and c) feel more connected to one another (through social events, more opportunities to share our faith together, etc..).
- 2. Mission and Vision** – Gary Anderson and Aaron Miller will lead our conversations to discern our corporate sense of calling and mission here at GA. A healthy mission is one rooted in context, and as the world changes around them, a congregation is ideally flexible enough to change with it. We hope these conversations will help us find out how flexible we are and how we are uniquely called to serve our neighbors, both near and far. We anticipate this discernment to include an intentional focus on the work of racial justice, so we will be asking our Racial Justice Committee to help us in these conversations as well.
- 3. All Things Financial** – Hannah Rosebrock, Gary Anderson, and Aaron Miller will help us imagine a new way to think about our money, both how we take it in and how we send it out. They will help us create some financial structures born out of our sense of blessing and gratitude for God's abundant mercies, with a budgetary priority for mission and ministry.
- 4. Governance** – Aaron Olson and Jenny Arneson will lead conversations to help us tighten up the systems and policies that govern our day-to-day operations. We will review our current procedures to ensure that we are in compliance with state and federal regulations for how organizations like churches should be managed.
- 5. Pastor Stuff** – By early summer, the T.T. will lead us in conversation as we begin to consider what sort of pastor we need and want to lead us, especially post pandemic.
How might reimagining stewardship, discerning anew our mission, improving how we handle manage conflict, communication, and connection to one another, and strengthening our governance structures all inform our call process? Stay tuned!

Because of the lockdown, it won't be easy to meet regularly, so we expect the work of the T.T. to take us into the spring and early summer. And to be clear, we're not going to solve these issues by spring or summer. These are concerns that have long roots here at GA, and our goal is simply to take a hard look at those roots, dig some of them out and nurture others, do some new planting, and tend to whatever new growth starts to come up. We will launch these conversations now, but they will, ideally, become an ongoing part of the culture here at GA.

As these conversations are scheduled, we will inform you through the Saturday email, the Sunday bulletin, our Facebook page, *The Gazette*, and Sunday announcements. I ask that you plan to participate in as many of these conversations as you are able. And as always, I invite you to pray for both the Transition Team as they lead us in this effort, and our Church Council as they faithfully manage the business of this church, which won't pause just because we are in transition. 😊

Friends, I am honored to walk alongside you in this exciting time of discernment as your interim pastor. Please do not hesitate to let me know how I can best serve you.



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).

Virtual GA Choristers to Resume After Easter

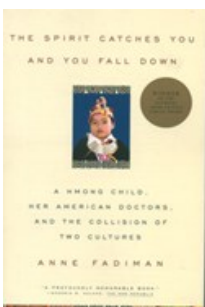
Due to Deacon Phil's injuries and the busy schedule on Lent Wednesdays, we will wait until after Easter/April to meet again with the GA Choristers on Zoom. Stay tuned to the April *Gazette* for a date of the next meeting.

Join us for GA Family Storytime Live on Zoom Sundays at 9 a.m.

We'd love to see your smiling face next Sunday morning at our regular virtual story time for youth or those young at heart. We have several adults and families with children attending. We read stories live on Zoom at 9 a.m. before church on Sundays, with time for show and tell at the end. The replays are available on our Facebook page. Look for the Zoom link in the Saturday email blast, and hope to see you there!



Monday Night Book Club Meets in April via Zoom (No Meeting in March)!



Join us in April via Zoom to discuss Anne Fadiman's *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Read Fadiman's exploration of a Hmong American family navigating through the complexities and discriminations of the American medical system. Our Zoom meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss the entirety of the book. A date has not been set yet. Please see Saturday email blasts for our meeting date in April. Questions? Email Andrea Carter at andreaLcart@gmail.com. All are welcome!

Furlough Fund Money Available

GA's Furlough Fund is still available to provide monetary assistance to help members/associate members who are in financial need due to circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic (you do not necessarily need to be furloughed). Members/associate members can apply for a grant of \$250.00. This gift does not need to be paid back. If you or a member/associate member are in need of this, please contact the church office. Your request is confidential.

Inspiring Easter Stories read to GA families by GA members.

Listen to GA members read inspirational Easter stories for all ages. A new story will come out each Friday of Lent.

- In Jeremy's Egg, read by Sarah Olson, a little boy shares the good news of Easter when his teacher least expects it.
- The Parable of the Lily, read by Kari Navratil, shares the importance of forgiveness and how new life can pop up in unexpected ways.
- The Tale of Three Trees, read by Roberta Knoebel, inspires us to never underestimate seemingly small or unimportant jobs in a beautiful retelling of Jesus' life on Earth.
- In A Lesson of Faith, read by Gayle Huble, a caterpillar grapples with what seems to be impossible, but turns out to be amazingly true.
- The Ragman read by Cassandra Weidmann, is a moving tale of how Jesus takes on the sins of the world one at a time.

Scan the code with the camera app on your device (or see each Saturday's email) to listen to the stories.



See Enclosed Flyer for Lenten Activities

Even though we continue to be apart because of the pandemic, the Congregational Life Committee has planned activities for us to do as a congregation. See the enclosed lilac-colored flyer entitled "**Lent....At GA.**" One update to that flyer is that we will use a *Sign-up Genius* to reserve times for the Prayer Vigil on March 21. The link to that sign-up form will be included in the Saturday email each week leading up to the Prayer Vigil. If you don't have Internet access, you can call Deacon Phil's number at the church (612-789-7256, ext. 11) and he can help you sign-up for a time slot.

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 14

Remember to "Spring Forward"/set your clocks ahead one hour as Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14. If you forget, you'll be late for Zoom worship!



Times for Conversation on Zoom

As the pandemic continues and we continue to be separated from one another, Pastor Susan and Deacon Phil have scheduled times to meet with GA folks on Zoom. There is no agenda. Just log on and chat with us about whatever is on your mind – and have a chance to interact with other people in the congregation. Here are the details:



"Happy Hour" for All!

Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81698251995?pwd=VklUSEtKT3l5eUJhSFFfscjR2ekpldz09>

Meeting ID: 816 9825 1995

Passcode: 1509

"Morning Coffee" for All!

Wednesday, March 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81339693949?pwd=WG9QdGlzYVl1am9FTGxwZERtekZrdz09>

Meeting ID: 813 3969 3949

Passcode: 1509

New Congregational Directories Available

Deacon Phil has prepared a new congregational address/phone/email directory. Normally we would print them and distribute them at church. That's not possible this year due to the pandemic. If you would like a copy of the directory sent to you by email, let Phil know at philh@gachurchmpls.org and he will email a copy to you in the form of a pdf file.



In the week since Phil has created the directory, there have already been updates. Please make note of the following corrections to the directory so far:

Pam Evangelist
909 Main Street NE
Apt. 115
Minneapolis, MN 55413-1849

Matthew Streed
Change Phone Number to 763-300-6310

Jennifer Parker
Change Home Phone Number to 612-781-2356

Annette Parker
2246 Cleveland Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(Phone number remains the same)

Lynn Winkel
550 Lomianki Lane NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421-5031

Beverly Prawalsky
Add Phone Number: 612-790-1498



We extend Christian sympathy to Annette Parker, Jennifer Parker, Jill and Matthew Nielsen, Nora, Dean, and Della following the death of Thomas Parker in January. Blessed be his memory.

Monthly Financial Report

	January 2021 Actual	January 2021 YTD	January 2020 YTD
Income	\$21,212.88	\$21,212.88	\$24,390.33
Expense	<u>\$27,390.78</u>	<u>\$27,390.78</u>	<u>\$31,305.29</u>
Inc-Exp	<\$ 6,177.90>	<\$ 6,177.90>	<\$ 6,914.96>

Thanks to all who attended and participated in January's Annual Meeting. The congregation voted to approve a 2021 budget of \$325,079. Thanks also for generous giving to GA's mission. Winter expenses exceeded giving in January for a -\$6,177.90 deficit; but beginning the year with a deficit is consistent with a giving/expense pattern over the past few years. Larger expenses for snow removal and utilities account for some of the difference. If we continue this trajectory over the next few months, however, we will have financial challenges to contend with. Please consider how you can give to GA.

At February's Council meeting, Michelle Rinken volunteered to serve as treasurer for 2021. Welcome, Michelle!

March Zoom Finance Meeting: March 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

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

Zach Copa, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)
zachc@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, Zach Copa, for details. Zach can also
help you if you are interested in learning how to
contribute stock donations.

Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

Matthew Streed, President
Derrick Watson, Vice-President
Dee Kjera, Secretary
Michelle Rinken, Treasurer
At-Large Members:

Wendy Bradshaw	Jenny Parker
James Hamilton	Beverly Prawalsky
Curt Navratil	



... At GA

Prayer Vigil

Sunday, March 21

Noon—4:00 PM

Join us in community prayer at home or at church. Use the sign-up form in the newsletter or Facebook.



Palm Sunday is March 28

Palms available at church for pick up starting on March 20! Visit the prayer vigil or building tour hours to pick up yours.

Do you miss our building?

March 14 is the one year anniversary service of leaving worship in person. During the season of Lent, building walk-throughs are available from Noon—2:00 PM on:

March 14, 20, 24, 28

No sign up necessary—volunteers will space visitors.

On these dates, the building will be safely organized for a self-guided tour. Visit all your special spots from your regular pew in the sanctuary to your favorite coffee hour table.

March 20 will be a *special* day for Sunday School teachers and children; we invite available Sunday School teachers to staff our stations, and we invite families to say hello!