

### **Incremental Re-Opening of GA for In-Person Worship...** ***From the Re-Entry Committee & Church Council***

Members of GA recently received a letter regarding opening the church for worship in June. The Church Council has approved moving to Phase III of our Re-Entry Plan effective June 1. We won't reproduce the entire letter here except for the part that explains the procedure for church attendance during June:

*Each Sunday throughout the month of June, a different group of people, according to the last name(s) of the adults in each family/household, will be invited to attend worship in the sanctuary. This schedule ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to worship in person one time during the trial month of June, and it gives us four weeks to work out any kinks and glitches with the return to in-person worship. The schedule is here:*



- ♦ June 6 - A through H
- ♦ June 13 - J through M
- ♦ June 20 - N through P
- ♦ June 27 - R through Z

*(Immediate families/households that include more than one last name are asked to pick one Sunday on which to worship together in June.)*

We will continue to livestream worship on Zoom each Sunday for those not attending worship in person. The link for that service will continue to be shared in the Saturday e-mail blast. **Please read the entire letter that you received so that you can be fully up-to-date on what is happening regarding our re-opening plan.** We thank you for your patience and understanding through this process!

### **Holden Evening Prayer Services (outdoors)**



We will hold three outdoor evening services this summer using the much-loved *Holden Evening Prayer*. We invite you to bring a lawn chair and join us to sing and pray this liturgy on the following dates:

- ♦ Wednesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday, August 18, at 6:30 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.



## Quilters Meet June 3

The quilting group is planning to meet for a quilting session on Thursday, June 3, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Bring a mask and join us.

## Monday Night Book Group on Break

Andrea Carter reports that the Monday night book group meetings are paused until September. Watch for our next book group pick and date in the September "Gazette." Have a great summer!

## No Summer Children's Musical This Year

Kim Huseonica and Phil Holzman are sad to report that again this summer there will be no summer musical. Given the fact that most of the kids involved in our musicals fall into the age group that are not eligible for COVID vaccines and being involved in a musical requires singing, dancing, and speaking in close quarters, we simply feel we cannot safely stage a musical yet this year. We look forward to next year!

## Northeast Chorale Rehearsing on the GA Lawn

The Northeast Chorale is rehearsing again! The group is meeting outdoors, on the GA Church lawn, on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 -8:00 p.m. following safety guidelines (masks and distancing). We're sharing this for two reasons: interested singers are invited to come sing with us; and folks are invited to stop by and listen.



The group will not be giving a formal concert this spring - just gathering to rehearse and sing on Tuesday nights through June 15. Come and listen – you have two more opportunities!

## Our Lean Postage Coffers – A Grateful Update



Thank you to the many people who heeded our call for donations to help offset our extra postage expenses during the pandemic. We received several hundred dollars in financial donations and several rolls and sheets of stamps.

Thank you for your continued generosity toward the ministry of GA Church.

## Continuing Prayer Concerns of the GA Family

Sharon & Paul Banitt; DJ Bedah; Dorothy Bohn; Peggy Bowman;  
Charline Burns; Amy Cersier; Bill Eads; Katie Falang;  
Rena Frasee; Kimberly Garner; Nancy Johnson;  
Iva Lou Jones; Cindy Koolmo; Dan LaBelle; Judy & Katie Mahoney;  
Darlene McQuarrie; Jeff McQuarrie; Norma Munson; Juliana Palmer;  
Judy Reeves; Jean Rosebrock; Kermit Sommers; Gayle Turnquist;  
Stephanie Vavrich; Andrew; Gretchen; Lukas; Toye; Cyndy; Alex; Katrina;  
those who are homebound or in nursing homes or care centers.



*Our continual prayers are offered for peace. We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders, and peoples, especially for those who work toward peace; and for those working on the front lines of this COVID-19 crisis.*

To have someone's name added to or removed from this list, contact Phil Holzman at [philh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org).

## **Thank You to Our “Congregational Voices”**

As we transition to “hybrid” worship where we will have some people in the sanctuary and still be live-streaming worship on Zoom, we will no longer need the leadership of the following folks who have served as our “congregational voices” in worship from their homes over these past months:

*Steve Arnold; Shirley Fors; Aaron, Anne, and Caleb Miller; Stephanie & Scott Morris, Evan, Brynne, and Marin; Amy Prawalsky; Emily & Scott Prawalsky, Rachel and Nathan; Taryn & Matt Streed, Isaac, Asher, and Jonah.*

Thank you all for your faithful service to our worship ministry during this unusual time.

## **More Thank You Notes Received Recently...from two of our Mission Partners**

*Dear Partners in Ministry,*

*Thank you for your 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Member Contribution of \$500.00 and for your ongoing ministry partnership. We could not be more grateful in this year of challenge. Your support will go a long way in sharing God’s love and grace with the next generations.*

*Luther Park is excited to welcome all ages for summer camp on-site or at home, retreats and safe getaways for families and church groups. We hope you consider coming up sometime (in a safe COVID-friendly way) and enjoy God’s great outdoors. We are ready to host you!*

*Our prayer for our world is that our pandemic would cease and peace and health will triumph in 2021. Thank you for partnering with Luther Park and supporting Bible camp ministry. You are so valued and appreciated. God bless you.*

Sincerely,

Joel Legred  
Executive Director



*Dear Friends at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for awarding Exodus Lending another generous gift of \$125. These funds...help Minnesotans break free from predatory debt. On behalf of our entire team, we are incredibly grateful for your donation during these profoundly challenging times.*

*Since enrolling our first participant in 2015, we have helped hundreds more...we will serve our 500<sup>th</sup> in 2021. As the years go by, though, the disturbing practice of predatory lending evolves. While Minnesotans are still struggling with payday loans, many people reach out to us with even higher debts from either auto title or online installment loans.*

*Your support allows us to be a responsive, resilient, and reliable resource for Minnesotans ready to replace a debilitating debt with a pathway to financial stability. Because of you, we can lift more Minnesotans out of spiraling predatory debt. Thank you.*

Gratefully,

Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer  
Executive Director

## Transition Musings

### by Pastor Susan Masters

Friends, I can think of no better way to sum up the interim work we have been doing this past month than to share with you the two letters we recently sent out to the congregation. One highlights our progress toward slowly returning to in-person worship; that letter is referenced on the front page of this issue. The other introduces the work of our transition team, which will begin in early June. Both represent the rewards of patient waiting and hard work among this congregation and our leadership.

As with all things, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns about either matter.

Blessings,  
Pastor Susan

#### Transition Team Conversation Topics

Dates	Topic	Setting	Goals
Sunday, June 13	State of Interim/ & Theological Foundation	Worship Service	To remind us of information provided earlier and establish a path forward grounded in our faith.
TBD	Mission/Vision, 101	Temple Talk /Breakout Rooms	To better understand the importance of mission and vision and begin conversations about the work we are called to do.
TBD	Stewardship/ Finances, 101	Temple Talk /Breakout Rooms	To understand where we are and how to move forward with a healthy framework for Stewardship.
TBD	What holds us back/What will move us forward?  Communication and Connection	Temple Talk /Breakout Rooms	To acknowledge that healthy communication, clear mission and vision and helpful conflict resolution systems can keep us moving forward in God's work for us in this world.
	The So-What of All This?	Pastor Susan Sermon	Summary and next steps.

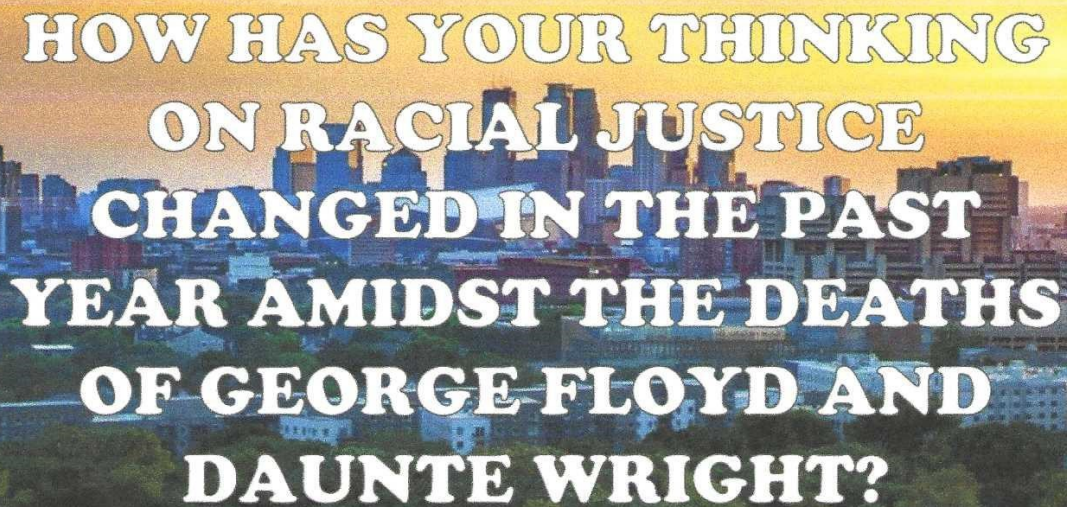
Sincerely,  
Transition Team

Hannah Rosebrock, Aaron Miller, Aaron Olson, Jenny Arneson  
Gary Anderson, Lynn Lurvey, Interim Pastor Susan Masters, advisor



**Dear Community Members,**

**The Racial Justice Committee is asking our congregation to do some reflecting on the following question prior to our first in-person meetings of this long and trying year**



**HOW HAS YOUR THINKING  
ON RACIAL JUSTICE  
CHANGED IN THE PAST  
YEAR AMIDST THE DEATHS  
OF GEORGE FLOYD AND  
DAUNTE WRIGHT?**

**Join the Conversation...**

**In-Person**

**There will be a physical station to engage with this question through writing or drawing at our services in June. Bring your thoughts and experiences to our community dialogue.**

**Online**

**Message our Facebook page a photo or typed answer in response to this prompt and we will share your contribution at our in-person station. All responses will be anonymous.**

## From the Re-Entry Committee: Phase III

As of June 1, Church Council voted that we are in Phase III of our Re-Entry process, thus allowing us our gradual re-opening of the church to in-person worship. Want to learn more about Phase III? You can find the entire **Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church COVID-19 Preparedness Plan** posted on our website – [gachurchmpls.org](http://gachurchmpls.org). On our website, navigate to “events” and then to “announcements” and you will be able to click on a link to the complete document. A link to the document will also be shared in the Saturday email.

## Third Quarter Devotionals Available

The latest “Christ In Our Home” devotional books (for July-September) have arrived at church and are ready for distribution. They will be available as you pass through the Narthex on Sunday mornings in June – or you can come by on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and pick up a copy.

## ELCA Advocacy Action Center

Writing to Congress is a great way to impact real change in America on issues that are vital to our communities, and the ELCA Advocacy action center makes it super easy. They have done all the research and created letter templates for you to modify and use.

### Take Action Now:

- Scan the QR Code below (or go to <https://support.elca.org/advocacy> and click on the Action Center)
- Click on the topic(s) that you feel passionate about
- Personalize the message (optional)
- Type in your name and address
- Click submit



Thank you for sharing your opinion with congress! Your voice makes a difference.



## 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.

## Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information...

Matthew Streed, President ..... [matthewstreed@gmail.com](mailto:matthewstreed@gmail.com)  
Derrick Watson, Vice-President ..... [dwmn2012@gmail.com](mailto:dwmn2012@gmail.com)  
Dee Kjera, Secretary ..... [deekjera@gmail.com](mailto:deekjera@gmail.com)  
Michelle Rinken, Treasurer ..... [michellekathleen@msn.com](mailto:michellekathleen@msn.com)



# Congratulations, High School Graduates!

*On Sunday, May 23, during worship,  
we recognized Brandon Bisping and Calvin Huseonica, two high school graduates.*

*Congratulations to Brandon and Calvin on this milestone in their lives!*



If we have any college graduates this year (or if we missed any high school graduates), we want to recognize everyone for their achievements. Please contact the church office with your information.

## Monthly Financial Report

	Apr YTD	Apr YTD	Apr YTD	Apr YTD
	2021	2021	2020	2021 vs 2020
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual
Income	103,162	109,729	120,801	(17,639)
Expense	106,348	108,360	117,032	(10,684)
<b>Inc - Exp</b>	<b>(3,186)</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>(6,955)</b>

While YTD expenses continue to exceed giving, we continue to close the gap!

- Our YTD deficit is now (\$3,186) as compared to (\$12,484) in Feb & (\$5,049) in March.
- April income exceed expenses by \$1,863 – this is month #2 of income exceeding expense!
- YTD our income is down (\$17,639) vs. 2020 while expenses are down (\$10,684).

TCF has now forwarded on our PPP Loan Forgiveness Application to the Small Business Administration as of 4/21 with recommended forgiveness of the principal amount. However, loan forgiveness is subject to the final confirmation, approval and remittance by the SBA which can take up to 90 days.

We ask that you continue to consider how you might further support the ministry here at GA. We would love to see this increase in giving continue in the coming months! This momentum would serve us well as we look to call either a full-time or part-time pastor later this year. Thanks for your continued support. ☺

Michelle Rinken, Treasurer

## Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

***A Reconciling in Christ Congregation***

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

Sunday 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

**Zachary 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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

2) Give electronically at our website,  
[www.gachurchmpls.org](http://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	