



**Sunday, October 3 – After Worship**

*We will take action to approve funding for needed tuckpointing repairs to the chimney of the education wing. You can participate in person in the sanctuary or by Zoom. Please plan to participate in this meeting!*

**Two New Connection Opportunities Beginning in October!**

**Zoom Text Study - Tuesdays @ 8:00 - 9:00 p.m., beginning October 5:** Join Pastor Susan for a discussion of the upcoming Sunday's lectionary (biblical) texts, and help her shape her sermon. The Zoom ID is 859 3582 5984 (passcode: text). The link will be shared in the Saturday email so you can directly link in.

**In-Person and Zoom Coffee with the Pastor - Wednesdays @ 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., beginning October 6:** Join Pastor Susan in the fireside area downstairs for a cup of coffee and conversation about whatever's on your mind. Masks required. We will set up a Zoom connection for those who can't join us in person; the meeting ID is 814 1443 0077. The link will be shared in the Saturday email so you can directly link in.



**Can You Help With Our Visitation Ministry?**

One of the things about GA identified by our Transition Team is that we as a congregation would like to be more connected with each other. One way we can do that is by being in touch with and visiting our homebound members. We are currently looking for folks who would be interested in sending cards, making phone calls, or making visits to our homebound members. If this is something you could see yourself being a part of, please let Deacon Phil know. You can contact him by phone at the church or by email: [philh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org).

## Gustavus Bells Rehearsals Begin October 13

*It looks as if the bell choir may be fully staffed for the fall. Stay tuned for further updates.*

## Senior Choir Rehearsals Also Begin October 13

*We will "reboot" our Senior Choir for the fall on October 13 at 7:30 p.m. with 45-minute distanced/masked rehearsals. New and veteran singers are welcome to join us. Let Deacon Phil know if you'd like us to order a Singers Mask for you.*



## Want to Sponsor a Mask for a Choir Member?

*If you're interested in purchasing a special Singers Mask for a member of the Senior Choir, let Deacon Phil know. They cost \$30.00 (including shipping). You can make a check payable to GA and note "Choir Mask" in the memo line.*

## Virtual Choristers in October

All young people in elementary and middle school are invited to join Deacon Phil for a 20-minute singing session on Wednesday, October 27, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. A link will be sent out in the Saturday email the week before!

## Monday Night Book Group Meets Oct. 11 via Zoom



Join us on Monday, Oct. 11, via Zoom to discuss Sue Monk Kidd's *The Book of Longings*. In this novel, Kidd tells the story of Ana, an upper-class educated woman who later marries Jesus. Read about Ana's journey to defy social boundaries as she records the stories of the silenced women around her.

Our Zoom meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss the entirety of the book. See below for Zoom Meeting ID. Questions? Email Andrea Carter at [andreaLcart@gmail.com](mailto:andreaLcart@gmail.com). All are welcome! Zoom Meeting ID: 836 9107 4008; <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83691074008>

## Quilting Session for October

The GA Quilters will meet at the church on Thursday, October 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

## Men's Breakfast

Men in the congregation of all ages are invited to church for breakfast, devotions, and fellowship on Saturday, October 9, at 8:00 a.m. in the church kitchen/fireside room.

### **Sunday Zoom Worship –**

***9:30 a.m. Every Sunday***

***for those who choose not to worship in person***

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 by Interim Pastor Susan Masters

*Our Transition Team has helped us name a shared concern about weak communication, a history of conflict, and a lack of connection here at GA. To help us talk more about these matters, they asked me to preach about forgiveness. Below are excerpts from that sermon on September 19.*

### Forgiveness

.... Over the years, I've come to believe that we struggle with living out what forgiveness IS because we are confused about what forgiveness is NOT. For example:

- Forgiving deeply hurtful behavior is NOT the same thing as forgiving someone for stealing your lunch out of the refrigerator, and it's silly to treat the two offenses the same.
- Some wounds can take a very long time to recover from. Jesus is clear about that. In Matthew, when Peter asks him how many times he's obligated to forgive someone, Jesus tells him: "Forgive 70 x 7" - which is to say: Forgiveness might be a journey ....
- Forgiveness is NOT denial or downplaying that something hurtful has happened. The starting point must be - loud and clear - that wrongdoing has happened, and brokenness is the lingering wound. It's hard to forgive that which has not been named and acknowledged.
- Forgiveness does NOT mean that all the accompanying emotions suddenly go away. You can forgive someone and still experience anguish, and mourning, and lament – these are scripturally appropriate responses to having been harmed.
- Similarly, forgiveness does NOT mean there won't still be work to be done. Repentance and transformation go hand in hand. If a person – or a system – says "I'm sorry, we're sorry", you have a right to expect the wrongdoing won't happen again – to you, or to someone else. And that usually takes ongoing work of some kind. Sometimes even structural change.
- Forgiveness does NOT always lead to healing and reconciliation. Sometimes when the harm is so egregious, we can forgive someone, but never be their friend, or attend a family gathering where they're present, or have any contact with them ever again. Forgiveness does not require that we again and again subject ourselves to the source of our pain.
- And forgiveness is NOT always quick and easy. As theologian Debbi Thomas puts it, "Forgiveness is a process – a messy, non-linear, and often barbed process that can leave us feeling whole and liberated one minute, and bleeding out of every vein the next." If your effort at forgiving someone feels like a roller coaster, that's okay. It probably is.

So, if forgiveness is NOT all these things, what IS it?

- As Christians, forgiveness is something we extend because it has been extended to us. In a big way. By God. And also because few of us will get through our lives without ever harming someone else – in a small way or in a big way. And it's appropriate to extend to others the same forgiveness we claim and hope for, for ourselves.
- Forgiveness is freedom. When we are finally able to say, "Enough. I want to be free of this burden - it no longer serves me in any reasonable or helpful way, in fact, it's harming me a second time" – when we can do this, we free ourselves from the constant pressure of rewriting our past and reliving the pain again and again. We also liberate ourselves from allowing our pain to make us victims and our woundedness to become our identity.

So, yeah, forgiveness is complicated, isn't it? Even Jesus seemed to understand that. AND, to be clear, the call to forgive remains. Jesus does not mince words about that. But we don't need to make forgiveness more difficult with our misunderstandings about what Jesus is calling us to do.

... The missional potential of this congregation is enormous! ... And our testimony to the abundant mercy and forgiveness of God is best borne out by the witness of our own lives. It gets a little tricky to call the world into the hard work of racial justice and reconciliation when we are still harboring conflict over events we may or may not any longer fully remember. Friends, don't underestimate the power of such unresolved conflicts among us to derail the missional efforts we feel called to engage in the world around us. There's a reason Jesus is so urgent about the matter...!

This morning, the transition team invites you to consider the places in your own lives where forgiveness is needed: Forgiving others. Being forgiven BY others. Forgiving ourselves. One time. Seven times. Seventy times seven. For your own sake. For the sake of this community of faith. For the sake of our missional calling. For the sake of the world that is waiting for us to get this right. Amen.

**From the Church Records...**

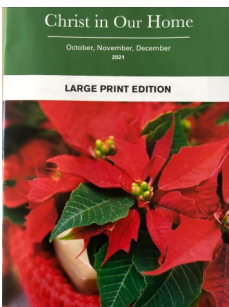
- ◆ *Ja Meece Elise Omar was baptized into the family of Christ and into the church family of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 8. Ja Meece is the daughter of Jessica Hill and Jahhee Omar. Her sponsor was Megan Lussier.*
- ◆ *We held a funeral for Eleanore Miller on Friday, September 3, at the church.*
- ◆ *We held a memorial service for Thomas Parker on Friday, September 24, at the church.*

**Upcoming Memorial Service for Vi Dorumsgaard**

Our GA Church family is invited to attend a memorial service for Vi Dorumsgaard on Friday, October 8, at 11:00 a.m. Vi passed away at the height of the pandemic in 2020, but her family invites us to attend this service in October. The service will be preceded by a visitation at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon.

**Confirmation Ministry News**

- ◆ On Sunday, October 17, during our worship service, we will observe the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for Bergen Elizabeth Hall.
- ◆ Also on Sunday the 17th, after worship (around 11:00 a.m.), our confirmation students will gather for a meeting with Pastor Susan and Deacon Phil at church. Remember to bring a bag lunch!



**New "Christ in Our Home" Devotionals Available**

The devotional booklets for the 4th quarter of 2021, both regular size and large print, are available in the Narthex at church. You can pick up a copy on Sunday morning - or come by on Wednesday or Thursday when Deacon Phil is in the office and pick one up. (Note: it's best to call ahead.)

**Keep Our Prayer List Current**

Remember our new Prayer List policy is that names remain on the list for only six weeks. After that they drop off unless the person contacts Deacon Phil to have their name put back on the list. This way our list remains more current and fresh. Thank you for your understanding.

**Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information...**

- Matthew Streed, President ..... matthewstreed@gmail.com
- Derrick Watson, Vice-President ..... dwmn2012@gmail.com
- Dee Kjera, Secretary ..... deekjera@gmail.com
- Michelle Rinken, Treasurer ..... michellekathleen@msn.com



**GA—Kid Style**  
**Sunday, Sept 12\* & Oct 3**  
**5:00**



**Program with Singing & Stories**  
**Light Dinner\*\***  
**Play**

*20 minutes of singing  
& stories*

*Outside  
Picnic Style*

*A program for all ages:  
Our youngest kids to the  
young at heart*

*Bring your own lawn  
chair*

*Play with friends*

**\*\*Menu includes:**

**PB&J sandwiches**

**Chips, juice, ice cream**

**Contact GA if your child needs  
dietary accommodations**

**\*Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**On Sept 12**

## Can YOU Help With Projects Around the Church?

The Property Committee is sponsoring "Church Project Wednesdays" from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings October 6, 13, and 20. We will have a list of projects to work on. Joan Mitchell will be there to assist you in dusting or painting or weeding or sorting or washing windows. We have some areas that need more attention than our weekly cleaning allows. Come and spend a half hour or a couple hours with us on Wednesdays. Come and bless the church with your presence! Thank you.



**Halloween – Sunday, October 31**

**Watch for more details on our Facebook page and in the Saturday emails!**

## 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 Church (besides bringing your offerings on Sunday morning to worship):

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  
James Hamilton  
Curt Navratil

Jenny Parker  
Beverly Prawalsky