

Looking Ahead...



to Lent

Shrove/Fat Tuesday – March 1

Join us online for a Pancake Supper on Zoom from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This is something new for us at GA, but it promises to be an enjoyable fellowship activity on this day before Lent.

Ash Wednesday – March 2

Joint worship with Mt. Carmel **at Mt. Carmel** at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Susan will preside and preach. There will be an online worship option as well, which will be shared later.

Wednesdays in Lent – March 9 through April 6

Evening Prayer services at GA (and on Zoom) using the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week Worship – Maundy Thursday (April 14) and Good Friday (April 15)

Joint worship with Mt. Carmel **at Gustavus Adolphus**.

More details to come for all of these worship and fellowship opportunities in the Saturday emails and the March “Gazette,” but mark your calendars/save the dates now!

Ashes for Ash Wednesday

Do you still have ashes from last year at home? If you do not have a packet of ashes and need one for this year’s Ash Wednesday service on March 2, please let us know. We will be preparing packets of ashes for those who need them. If you would like to receive a packet, simply email Deacon Phil at philh@gachurchmpls.org or call him at the church office (612-789-7256, ext. 11), and he’ll put you on the list to receive a packet.



Sunday Zoom Worship –

9:30 a.m. Every Sunday

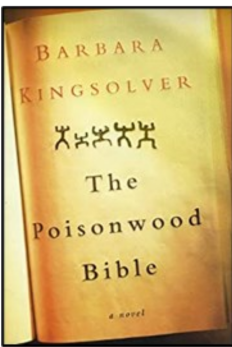
for those who choose not to worship in person

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.



No Men's Breakfast in February

The guys have decided to skip breakfast this month. Stay tuned for news about the March breakfast meeting in next month's newsletter.



Monday Night Book Club Meets in February!

Monday Night Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. In this novel, follow the Price family's often self-created struggles as they navigate missionary life in the Congo's tumultuous years following colonization.

See below for Zoom ID. All are welcome!

Zoom ID: 864 1931 6403

From the Parish Records...

We are delighted to welcome new members Kristin and Nicholas Tangen to our church family! They were received into membership on January 30.

We hold the family and friends of the following individuals who have passed away recently in our prayers:

- ♦ *Paul Bradshaw* (a service will be held sometime in the spring)
- ♦ *Mildred Larson*
- ♦ *Jackie Ramin*

Thank You, Linda Lindahl!

Linda Lindahl has resigned her position as our church custodian. Thank you, Linda, for your service to our church these past several years. We appreciate all you have done for us! We will use a cleaning service (Two Bettys) until council and property can research a path moving forward.



Eastside Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

Do you have one Wednesday a month from 11:15 -12:30 to help deliver hot meals to seniors? If so, please contact Kathy Schuette at 612-720-3806 for more details.

Like to Look for Bargains? Have We Got An Idea For You!

Too early to think of next winter? Not really, when it comes to our annual mitten, hat and scarf collection for local school kids. There are bargains out there right now - pick up a few items. Yarn sales too - knit up a storm. We'll hold our collection a little earlier - in November 2022 - rather than January 2023.



2021 Annual Reports

Gustavus Adolphus
LUTHERAN CHURCH



1509 27th Avenue Northeast
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

Phone: 612-789-7256
Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 30, 2022

Get Your Booklet of Reports!

If you attended our recent annual congregational meeting via Zoom - or if you weren't able to attend at all - you can receive a booklet of reports. There are paper copies available in the Narthex at church. Or you can email Deacon Phil (philh@gachurchmpls.org) and request an electronic/pdf copy.

New Congregational Directory - February 2022

Deacon Phil has just prepared and published a new congregational directory. It's hot off the presses! Paper copies are available in the Narthex at church if you'd like to pick one up. You can also request an electronic/pdf copy by emailing Phil at philh@gachurchmpls.org. You can also help by checking your household's information for accuracy and letting Phil know of any updates or changes.

Congregational Directory

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Office Phone: 612-789-7256

Office Fax: 612-789-1334

Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

The Rev. Susan Masters pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org	Interim Pastor Extension 10
Deacon Phil Holzman philh@gachurchmpls.org	Worship & Music/Parish Administration Extension 11
Zachary Cope zachco@gachurchmpls.org	Finance Manager Extension 14
Joel Lurvey joel.lurvey@gmail.com	Contemporary Choir Director

Crafting Retreat at GA



Need a little "crafty" time, a little "me" time, and a whole lot of "get me out of this house" time? Join the Crafty Women from March 9 through March 12 and take all the time you want. Bring your supplies and equipment, set them up, and come and go as you need. Doors open at 9:30 on Wednesday morning and won't close until 3:00 on Saturday afternoon. Bring your lunch, snacks, and mask. \$5.00 donation requested. We'll be in the Fellowship Hall; and while there is lots of space, it's not unlimited – so RSVP.

RSVP and Questions:

Mary Larson 612-781-4104 – Text or Call

larson1953@msn.com

All Are Welcome...Our Mission Statement

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 socioeconomic backgrounds. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all.

The Rev. Susan Masters, Interim Pastor
Annual Report, 2022 (for 2021)

A couple days ago I wrote in a Facebook text, “I have been blessed to be in lockdown with a gorgeous congregation that has taken such good care of me in this dreadful time.” And I meant it. Again and again, you have put aside your own needs for the good of the whole community. When you yearned to be back together in the sanctuary, you patiently waited until it was deemed safe. When we recently needed to tighten up our safety measures again, you cooperated. Friends, it is precisely this sort of selfless care for others that will ultimately get us through this very difficult time and help us find our way again in ministry and mission for the sake of the world.

And to be clear, we have not been sitting on our hands this past year. Although the interim/transition train has been slowed way down, it has continued to roll down the track on behalf of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church:

- We moved to hybrid worship (both in-person and on Zoom) in June.
- We have continued to reach out to our children through activity mailings and Sunday morning story time.
- Our council and committees have continued to meet and conduct the business of this congregation.
- Our transition team continued its work, with congregation-wide conversations this past summer about mission, money, and conflict.
- Deacon Phil Holzman has seized every safe opportunity to expand music – bringing back the sanctuary choir, handbell choir, and ensemble whenever possible.
- The quilters group, Wednesday morning coffee hour, and men’s breakfast have continued to safely meet and offer social connection to folks.
- We’ve had several baptisms this year, and this fall we were finally able to begin holding funerals again.
- Open Door language school has begun holding classes again.
- I have no doubt there are other things I’m not remembering

So, while maybe this isn’t the robust report you’re accustomed to, it IS the report of a faithful community of faith that has endured much, weathered greatly, and held fast to their love of God and one another. It hasn’t been perfect (turns out we’re a group of flawed humans ...), but it has been full of heart and kindness. I’ll take that over perfection any day.

Finally, about your call process: We are ready to get it started. And, as you will hear about later in this meeting, we have an opportunity to discuss exploring deeper partnership with Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church - also currently in interim – in ways that will expand mission for both congregations. It seems wise to take the time to see how such conversations might inform our call process. Stay tuned!

As always, I am truly blessed and humbled to be mixed up with the lot of you in this ridiculous time. Thank you for your kindness, your partnership, and all that you have taught me in the past 2 ½ years. I am a better person for having walked this time with you. And I love each one of you so much.

Tenderly,
Pastor Susan



Financial Update through December 31, 2021

	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec
	2021 YTD	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	2021 vs 2020
	Actual	Budget	Actual	YTD Actual
Income	\$315,609	\$325,079	\$308,509	\$7,101
Expense	\$316,434	\$325,079	\$321,409	(\$4,975)
Inc - Exp	(\$825)	\$0	(\$12,901)	\$12,076
*Income Post Adj	\$357,534			
Adj Inc - Exp	\$41,100			

The figures above represent our income/expenses through December 30, 2021.

Dec 2021 YTD Actual Income of \$315,609 represents 97% of our budgeted \$325,079.

Dec 2021 YTD Expenses of \$325,079 represent 97% of our budgeted \$325,079.

The (\$825) difference constitutes our YTD deficit.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is up \$7,101 while expenses are down (\$4,975).

*Note: We recognized \$41,925 of income on our 2020 PPP Loan in Aug of 2021.

Funds were used to pay 2020 expenses; income was not recognized until 2021 when the loan was forgiven.

The "Adj Inc-Exp" of \$21,413 reflects this adjustment.

We are so grateful for your faithful support to help us close out 2021 with an extremely small deficit!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Gary Anderson and Andrea Carter for their faithfulness to count our church offering bi-weekly throughout 2021 as well as their continued service on GA's Finance Committee. We are also grateful for the many years of service from Larry Knoebel and miss his presence in our monthly meetings.

As we transition into 2022, please consider how you might continue to faithfully support our ministry growth here at GA.

Michelle Rinken,
Church Council Treasurer

Deacon's Report for 2021

2021...What can we say about 2021? Year two of a global pandemic that has continue to throw all our lives – and the life of our congregation – into upheaval. My goodness, it's been challenging!

Let me start by reminding you how my year started on a personal level. It started with a bang ... literally ... on January 18, 2021, as I observed the MLK holiday with my daughter and granddaughter by going ice skating. I took a nasty fall and broke both my left arm and left wrist – requiring surgery and rehab on both. I was away from the organ and piano until mid-March, but only away from my church computer for a day or so! My wrist healed well, but it's been a long year with my injured arm; I'm due to have surgery on it again on January 25 (rescheduled to February 25) of this year to hopefully correct the “frozen shoulder” that has set in and limited my movement.

Enough about that. Church life continued through the pandemic as best that we could. Last January we held our annual congregational meeting virtually (on Zoom) – a first, but we did it! For the first part of the year, I was working mostly remotely/from my home office, coming into the church usually one day a week – on Wednesdays. People soon got to know that Wednesday was my “church day” and would stop by to say hello or conduct some business with me while I was in the office. By mid-March, I was back playing for worship again as we looked toward another Holy Week and Easter of worshiping online with an empty sanctuary. We ordered palm branches and had people pick them up at the church to wave at home on Palm Sunday and did have a Prayer Vigil at the church, which got some people into the building for a bit. April brought Holy Week and Easter, with a full complement of worship services. I hired a trumpet player to spice up the music for Easter a bit. (I figured a full brass quartet was a bit of overkill for an empty sanctuary!)

We planned an outdoor worship service for Pentecost Sunday in May, but those plans were thwarted by a forecast of rain that threatened to ruin the thousands of dollars' worth of electronic equipment we had rented for the occasion. We did eventually hold three “Holden Evening Prayer” services outdoors over the summer, attended by a cadre of folks who love that liturgy.

In June we began the return to in-person worship...slowly. We've been having hybrid worship ever since, with some of our folks attending in person and many still worshiping on Zoom each Sunday. This pandemic has surely forced us to learn new ways of doing things. We had to make the difficult decision to cancel our summer children's musical for the second year in a row, due to safety concerns. I have been able to connect with a small group of our kids on Zoom and sing with them several times throughout the year – I call it “Virtual Choristers.” It's not the same as meeting in person, but it's a connection nonetheless. By summer, I was also working more in the office, usually two days a week, while continuing to work two days a week at home. Thank goodness for technology which allows this kind of schedule to work.

I meet with two church committees on a regular basis: the Property Committee and the Congregational Life Committee. You will find reports from those committees elsewhere in this booklet, so I won't expound on what they have done this year, other than to thank the members of those groups for their service this year. I also meet monthly with the Church Council, who has done a marvelous job of helping us navigate through these pandemic waters this year. I have met with a few *ad hoc* committees as well, including a group charged with keeping us safe as we gather in the building and a group meeting with members of Mt. Carmel Church.

In fall, the Senior Choir and Gustavus Bells began meeting for rehearsals after not getting together since March of 2020. It was good to be back together, though not everyone chose to return for safety concerns. These groups provided music on several Sundays through the fall up until Christmas Eve. They're on a bit of a winter hiatus right now, but we're hopeful that they can resume for Lent and Easter – if it's safe to do so.

Yes, this year has been challenging. You don't need me to tell you that. But I'm also extremely grateful:

- I'm grateful that our church is still here – preaching, telling, and singing the Good News of Jesus Christ to a weary world every Sunday morning.
- I'm grateful to everyone who has faithfully supported this church financially throughout the pandemic and allowed us to keep going.
- I'm grateful to everyone who has been so kind to me all year long – when I was injured and throughout the year with their kind and encouraging words.
- I'm grateful to those who help lead worship: our song leaders, assisting ministers, lectors, children's sermon leaders, greeters, and everyone who helps out on a Sunday morning.
- I'm grateful to our lay leaders – those on Church Council and committees – for the time and energy they devote to helping to further the ministry of our congregation.
- I'm grateful for my office and "Gazette" volunteers.
- I'm grateful to Joel Lurvey for his great musical companionship on staff.
- I'm grateful to Linda Lindahl and Zachary Copa for their roles on our staff in 2021.
- And I'm especially grateful to Pastor Susan Masters, my pastoral colleague, for her wonderful companionship as we have navigated these strange waters of the pandemic together. I can't imagine doing this without her partnership!

Blessings to each one of you as we enter the year 2022. May you be healthy and safe as you live out your calling as a Child of God!

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Holzman



Happenings at the Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting took place on Sunday, January 30, with some members attending in the sanctuary and some members attending online via Zoom. Church Council president Matthew Streed presided over the meeting where the following actions were taken by the congregation:

- * Dee Kjera was re-elected to a second two-year term on the Church Council.
- * The 2022 operating budget was unanimously approved.
- * After a presentation by Pastor Susan Masters and Jenny Parker, the congregation approved moving forward/continuing conversations with Mt. Carmel Church as we explore possibilities of shared ministries and staffing – with a report due back from the task force to the congregation after Easter. Representing GA on the task force so far have been Pastor Susan, Jenny Parker, Deacon Phil Holzman, Matthew Streed, and Wendy Bradshaw. Two additional members will be recruited going forward.

James Hamilton was thanked for his service on Church Council. (There were no nominations from the floor to fill James' spot on the council, so the council has the discretion to appoint someone to fill the slot.) Pastor Susan gave her report, which included an update on the interim/call process.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information

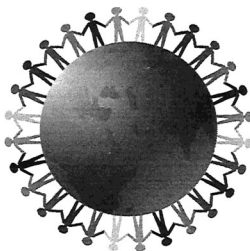
Matthew Streed, President matthewstreed@gmail.com
Derrick Watson, Vice-President dwmn2012@gmail.com
Dee Kjera, Secretary deekjera@gmail.com
Michelle Rinken, Treasurer michellekathleen@msn.com



One of our Members Shared This With Us!

Random Acts of Kindness Week

February 13-19, 2022



Sunday, Feb 13

Wear: Bright Colors

Kind Act: Call someone you have not talked to in a long time and ask them how they're doing



Monday, Feb 14

Wear: Red, Pink, and/or Hearts!

Kind Act: Show what a big heart you have and say "Hi" to someone new



Tuesday, Feb 15

Wear: Your Favorite Sports Team Shirt

Kind Act: Do a chore for someone without them knowing



Wednesday, Feb 16

Wear: Superhero Shirt

Kind Act: Go out of your way to be helpful today



Thursday, Feb 17

Wear: Your Silliest Outfit

Kind Act: Compliment someone on being unique



Friday, Feb 18

Wear: Your Favorite Top

Kind Act: Greet everyone you see with a big "Hi"



Saturday, Feb 19

Wear: Your Favorite Color

Kind Act: Be kind to yourself, spend at least 10 minutes doing something you love



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



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 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
Curt Navratil Beverly Prawalsky
(New officers will be elected Feb. 17.)