

What Should We Do About the South Parking Lot?

Special Congregational Gathering

This Sunday, May 1 - Immediately following worship

We will meet in the Sanctuary (and on Zoom!)

You may have noticed that the south parking lot is rapidly deteriorating. In addition to being a neighborhood eyesore and environmentally unfriendly (due to storm water runoff), the condition worsened such that the lot could not be plowed this winter. Prior to COVID, the Property Committee presented multiple options to the congregation, including re-purposing the property, repaving, or selling. Any option would require significant investment or a strategic decision by the congregation. A Parking Lot Task Force was commissioned, which found the congregation divided on how best to move forward. Now, the Property Committee and the Church Council have restarted these conversations with the goal of identifying a path forward.



Join us for a conversation, led by an outside facilitator, *Proximity Project*, to discern missional alignment and church property stewardship, specifically in relation to the church parking lot. If you attend worship in person, we invite you to remain in the Sanctuary. If you attend on Zoom, you can stay on the Zoom meeting for the presentation.



Sorry folks,
The GA Variety Show for May 1 is off for now!

Stay tuned...we hope to stage a show in the fall.
Thank you for your understanding!!



Men's Breakfast

Men in the congregation of all ages are invited to church for breakfast, devotions, and fellowship on Saturday, May 14, at 8:00 a.m. in the church kitchen/fireside room. Please join us – and note that this will be our last gathering until September. We take the summer off!

Monthly Quilters Session

The quilting group will meet on Thursday, May 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to come and join us.

Celebration of Life for Paul Bradshaw

Wendy Bradshaw and her family would like to invite the GA Church family to a celebration of Paul's life on Sunday, May 15, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. There will be a service led by Pastor Susan, with music by Deacon Phil and Joel Lurvey, at around 4:30 that afternoon. The event will be held at Jimmy's Event Center, 3565 Labore Road, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110.



First Communion and Third Grade Bibles

We have two faith milestone events scheduled for May for our young people. Read on!



On **Sunday, May 15**, Pastor Susan and Deacon Phil will meet for about half an hour after worship with any children who are either ready to begin receiving communion or who began receiving during the pandemic. In the ELCA, there's no particular age at which a child begins receiving – and the increasing practice is to commune them as soon as possible. Especially if your child is asking about Communion or indicating that they've noticed they do not yet receive, they are ready. Then on **Sunday, May 22**, we will have First Communion during the worship service.

And, we have not forgotten about Bibles for our third graders. We had scheduled a Sunday to hand them out twice now, and both times we had to cancel when the virus ramped up again. We now plan to distribute Bibles to our third graders in worship on **Sunday, May 22**. We hope all our third graders can be with us in the sanctuary that day to receive their Spark Bibles.



Families should watch for some other special features in our May 22 worship geared toward our children!



**Church
Clean-UP**

Sunday, May 15

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (begin after worship)

Please pitch in as we give a much-needed clean-up to the church yard.

Bring your favorite yard implement/lawn tools. You can even wear your work clothes to church! Property Committee will have leaf bags!

Open Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous: “Language of the Heart”

(starting Sunday May 1)
Sundays 4:00—5:00 p.m.
In The Fireside Room at GA Church
Coffee and tea provided
Short readings from AA literature--
and sharing (from the Heart)
Contact Cheryl J. 612-708-2204

Some Words of Thanks from Deacon Phil

- ☺ Thanks to Adrienne Bisping for serving as Zoom Host and Brock Bisping for serving as Tech. Support person for our Wednesday Lenten services.
- ☺ Thanks to everyone who helped make our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful.
- ☺ Thank you to the members of the Gustavus Bells and the Senior Choir for coming back together in Lent and providing music for our worship services. The choirs will continue through May and Pentecost Sunday.

**Thank
You!**

Chimney Restoration Work Happening in May

Update from the Property Committee: The masonry work/chimney repair approved at the congregational meeting in September is scheduled for May 19 and 20 (Thursday/Friday). Power will be shut off to the building, so plan accordingly. Please keep the workers and the project in your prayers.

Church Council Corner...

Highlights from the April 21 Meeting (in no particular order)...

- Voted to make a “masks optional” policy for worship/other activities in the building effective June 1;
- Heard that the May 1 Variety Show has been canceled;
- Approved a special financial appeal for May and June;
- Heard an update on conversations with Mt. Carmel;
- Approved the hiring of Analisa Hillman as our new church custodian;
- Approved a new Alcoholics Anonymous group to meet at the church on Sunday afternoons;
- Heard an update on the chimney restoration project.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information

Matthew Streed, President matthewstreed@gmail.com
Curtis Navratil, Vice-President curtnavratil@gmail.com
Dee Kjera, Secretary deekjera@gmail.com
Kristin Tangen, Treasurer ksnobeck@gmail.com



Transition Musings

Interim Pastor Susan Masters

(excerpted from the Easter Sunday sermon - for the full sermon text, email pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org)

... In Luke's account, those hearing the women's testimony of the empty tomb call it an "idle tale" – which in the original Greek can mean everything from pointless to garbage to delirious... And on the face of it, it IS an idle tale. No one is expecting resurrection here – grave snatchers, maybe - they were common at the time - but not resurrection. Nothing about the events in the past three days could possibly have prepared them for anything other than a body in a tomb. The followers of Jesus have barely wrapped their minds around crucifixion. Death is the assumption. Fear is the assumption. Despair is the assumption. ... Resurrection would, indeed, be an idle tale. It would be garbage. It would be pointless. It would imply delirium.....

And it is also the good news of the gospel.

Because resurrection, with all its ridiculous claims, pushes them beyond the circumstances of the past three days and reminds them that something bigger than them is at work. They actually CAN look for the living among the dead because death no longer holds them. Not in the ways it used to.

... Resurrection is the YES in response to the NO of Roman empire. It is the YES that, 2000+ years later, continues to give us the audacity to look for the living among the dead. The audacity to hear an idle tale that can't possibly be true, yet still believe it. Believe it despite the circumstances of the past three days. Or the past two years. Or a past lifetime.

Resurrection is real, my friends, and we're all part of it. Sometimes we are the women who show up at the tomb, then run to bear witness to what we have seen. Sometimes we are Peter and the others struggling to believe because of everything that has happened in our lives. Sometimes we are all of it, multiple times on the same day, moving in and out of belief. And that's OK. Theologian David Lose writes, "If you don't find resurrection at least a little hard to believe, you probably aren't taking it very seriously."

Indeed. If you stick around over the next couple of Sundays, you will witness the Belief Roller Coaster that all the disciples take a ride on in the days following resurrection - and they were first-hand eyewitnesses! Struggling to believe, it seems, is an acceptable part of the journey... And, apparently, there's space for all of it....

My friends, what is the idle tale that you are bold to believe this morning? What far-fetched truth are you tenaciously hanging on to despite the circumstances swirling around you? And what is the idle tale you WANT to believe this morning, but you can't? What is the NO of your life that you need the YES of resurrection to shout down? Or at least to quiet down?

Is it about your job? Is it about a relationship that is precious to you? Is it about your health? Is it about the overwhelming injustice in our world that just never seems to take a break? Is it about simply being done with a pandemic that has gone on 2 ½ years too long and you are simply not coping as well as you did in those early days?

No one who went to that tomb expected resurrection. Not a single one of them. And still - resurrection happened. A resounding YES to the ongoing NO of their lives. A story that was true whether anyone believed it - or them.

And it's the story into which we have all been invited this morning. With belief, without belief. Still deep in the throes of the trauma of crucifixion - or with healing swirling around us. This is your story, this is my story. And never has an idle tale been so sweet and offered so much hope.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



From Our Church Council President

Dear Congregation,

Our chimney is finally ready to be repaired! As you may remember, the Congregation approved an increased annual budget to cover the cost of repairing the chimney as well as to cover other rising costs that seem to be affecting all aspects of our lives these days. The church has not been immune to these cost increases, most recently the utility costs this winter. While our expenses are aligned with the approved budget, our giving has fallen short and we're looking at a significant deficit.

Here are ways that our congregation can help improve our financial situation:

1. Consider a one-time special offering to help pay for the chimney and utility costs. We're calling this our "Fire and Ice" fund. We need approximately \$25,000. That is around \$250 for each giving unit in the congregation. (See "Call to Action" article below.)
2. Consider raising your regular offering by six percent, commensurate with the annual budget increase that was approved.
3. Keep an eye out for a capital campaign to kick off this summer. We will be raising money to improve our technology in the sanctuary and tackle some much needed building maintenance.

Matthew Streed



Due to chimney repair needs and unexpected additional utility expenses from our super awesome MN winter... We're starting a ***Fire & Ice Fund*** from May 1 - June 30.

Our goal is to reach \$25,000 additional dollars to cover these expenses. If every giving unit (approximately 100 households) each contributed \$250, on top of your current giving, in the next two months we'd make that goal! (Make your checks payable to GA Church and note "Fire & Ice Fund" in the memo line!)

So, to all my Game of Thrones fans out there...Grab your big coats and your dragons and **LET'S DO THIS!!!**

Kristin Tangen,
Church Treasurer

#GOT #GA-T #fireandice #goals

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church ... May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <p>9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Garage Forum 4pm - AA Mtg.</p>	<div>2</div> <p>1pm - Grief Group</p>	<div>3</div> <p>6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<div>4</div> <p>10am - Coffee w/Pastor 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir</p>	<div>5</div> <p>9:30am - Quilters 6:15pm - Property Comm.</p>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <p>10am - Confirmation</p>
<div>8</div> <p>9:30am - Worship 4pm - AA Mtg.</p>	<div>9</div> <p>1pm - Grief Group</p>	<div>10</div> <p>6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<div>11</div> <p>10am - Coffee w/Pastor</p>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p>
<div>15</div> <p>9:30am - Worship 11am - 1st Comm. Class 11am - Outdoor Clean-Up 4pm - AA Mtg. 4pm - Bradshaw Life Celeb.</p>	<div>16</div> <p>1pm - Grief Group</p>	<div>17</div> <p>6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<div>18</div> <p>10am - Coffee w/Pastor</p>	<div>19</div> <p>Chimney Repair 6pm - Church Council</p>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <p>1st Comm./3rd Grade 9:30am - Worship 4pm - AA Mtg.</p>	<div>23</div> <p>1pm - Grief Group</p>	<div>24</div> <p>6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>	<div>25</div> <p>10am - Coffee w/Pastor</p>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <p>9:30am - Worship 4pm - AA Mtg.</p>	<div>30</div> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<div>31</div> <p>6:30pm - NE Chorale</p>		<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
						<div>4</div>

Financial Update

	March	March		March		March
	2022 YTD	2022 YTD		2021 YTD		2022 vs 2021
	Actual	Budget		Actual		YTD Actual
Income	\$66,151.24	\$86,203.68		\$78,796.86		-\$12,645.62
Expense	\$83,537.42	\$86,203.41		\$81,929.83		\$1,607.59
Inc - Exp	-\$17,386.18	\$0.27		-\$3,132.97		-\$14,253.21

The figures above represent our income/expenses through March 30, 2022.

March 2022 YTD Actual Income of \$66,151.24 represents 77% of our budgeted \$86,203.68.

March 2022 YTD Expenses of \$83,537.42 represent 97% of our budgeted \$86,203.41.

The **-\$17,386.18** difference constitutes our YTD deficit.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is **-\$12,645.62** and our expenses are up \$1,607.59.

Kristin Tangen,
Church Council 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

Analisa Hillman, Church Custodian
Email TBA



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
Curt Navratil, Vice-President
Dee Kjera, Secretary
Kristin Tangen, Treasurer

At-Large Members:

Wendy Bradshaw	Jenny Parker
Beverly Prawalsky	Michelle Rinken
Derrick Watson	