

## Rally Sunday... "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday... Blessing of the Backpacks!

### Sunday, September 11

We look forward to Sunday, September 11, when we will celebrate several important milestones in worship and after worship. We will celebrate "Rally Sunday" and include a Blessing of the Backpacks in worship. Bring your backpack to worship for this special blessing!

After worship we will observe "God's work. Our hands." Sunday with three special activities. By now you've probably see the flyer included in Sunday bulletins and Saturday emails outlining the activities. There's still time to bring in your donations for the Blizzard Meals (or bring or send in financial contributions toward the purchase of food). Just to be sure you've got all the info., we're including the GWOH flyer in this mailing one more time.

Please join us for this special Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

## Special Congregational Meeting

### Sunday, September 18, After Worship



Please join us on Sunday, September 18, for a congregational meeting directly after the worship service to discuss the future of the South parking lot. There will be a brief presentation of the exploration to date and the options in front of us, followed by an opportunity for voting members to voice their opinions and concerns.

The meeting will culminate in a vote to determine if we should:

1. Sell the property;
2. Repair and Resurface (Status Quo);
3. Repair and Resurface but reduce number of parking stalls to create more outdoor program space (Sara Joy's presentation about Enhanced Placemaking).

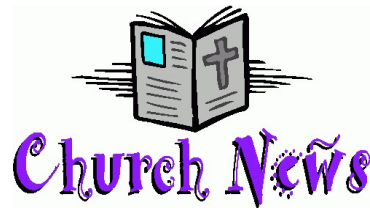
There will be a letter with more details coming to your mailbox later this week regarding this meeting.

## Sunday School Begins Again on September 25

Get ready for a return to *in-person Sunday School*! The first day will be September 25 (after worship). As we make plans, we would like input from our families; so you may have seen Ms. Mary Ann or Ms. Dee at the outdoor worship. If you missed them and have ideas on how we can help make re-entry positive for your family or other post-pandemic adjustments, reach out to Dee Kjera at [deekjera@gmail.com](mailto:deekjera@gmail.com).



We are in need to Sunday School teachers!  
See the article on the next page for more details.



## Mask Policy Reminder

Masks are no longer required to be worn for worship or other church activities. Of course, you may always wear a mask if that suits your comfort level as we continue to make our way through this pandemic.

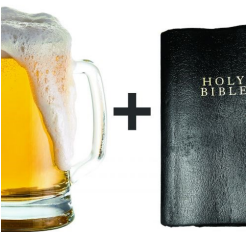
## Monthly Quilters Session

The quilting group will meet on Thursday, September 1 – 9:30 a.m. in the church basement. If you enjoy this craft activity, come join us!

## Bible & Brews

**September 15 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**The Tangen's House – 1939 Pierce St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418**



“Bless, O Lord, this creature beer...” Grab your Bible, grab your tastiest beer, and join us for a relaxed conversation about Scripture, the Church, and all things brewed. We'll plan on gathering outside if the weather cooperates. If we get rain, we'll move indoors – where two cats and a dog live – keep in mind if you have allergies. Nick will send a reminder ahead of time; so if you would like to be added to the Bible & Brew reminder list, please reach out to Nick at [nicholastangen@gmail.com](mailto:nicholastangen@gmail.com) or 651-808-7067. See you then!

## Sunday School Teachers Needed!

We are planning to resume Sunday School at GA on September 25 for the first time in more than two years. To do this, we are in need of adults to serve as teachers/leaders for our children. We *really* need GA adults to step forward to serve in this capacity. If you enjoy working with children age three through grade five, this is the opportunity for you!



If this ministry opportunity speaks to you, please contact Jenny Parker at 612-695-1538 or [Jennifer.Parker@district196.org](mailto:Jennifer.Parker@district196.org).

## Confirmation 2022-2023



All **6th-8th grade students** are invited to participate in our Confirmation ministry this year. Classes will be held the **first Saturday of the month** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our GA and Mt. Carmel teachers met late in August to finalize this plan.

We will begin another year of this three-year program on **Saturday, October 1**. Parents of present GA students should watch for an email with further details. If you are new to GA and want to enroll your student, please **contact Pastor Sara Vanderpan** at [pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org).



### **Senior Choir – Vocal Choir for High School through Adults**

This choir, directed by Deacon Phil, is in need of additional singers as we reorganize this fall. If you enjoy singing in a group, this is just the choir for you. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and usually sing for worship two times a month. Please consider joining us at our first rehearsal on September 21!

### **Gustavus Bells – Our Handbell Choir**

This group is also directed by Deacon Phil. At this point, we could use some substitute ringers to call on when our regular ringers need to miss rehearsals or Sunday “performances” in worship. If you read music and/or have experience ringing handbells and would like to be a substitute ringer, talk to Deacon Phil.

### **Contemporary Group – Message from director Joel Lurvey**

Calling all singers and musicians!

The Contemporary Group will be starting up again this month. We will meet every Wednesday, from 6:00-6:45. We will sing the third Sunday of each month. If you love to sing, have an instrument to share, or want to participate in worship, please feel welcome to join us. Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 7. If you are interested, please email Joel at [joel.lurvey@gmail.com](mailto:joel.lurvey@gmail.com).

Thanks and God's blessings!

### **Regarding Music with Children**

At this point, for this fall, Deacon Phil will be doing music with our children in Sunday School. If there is interest in re-starting a children’s choir (formerly known as GA Choristers) later in the year, we will do that.

If you have any questions about any of our choirs/music groups, you’re invited to contact Deacon Phil Holzman at [philh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org) or call/text him at 320-304-1774.

### **Fall Season of the Northeast Chorale**

Once again, the Northeast Chorale, the community choir directed by Deacon Phil Holzman that rehearses at GA Church, will be meeting for a fall season of making music. Singers from the community are invited to join the Chorale, which meets for rehearsals at GA Church on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning September 6. The music/repertoire for this season will be Randall Thompson’s *Frostiana* – a series of anthems based on the poetry of Robert Frost. For more details about this season, you can visit [northeastchorale.org](http://northeastchorale.org) or contact Deacon Phil Holzman.





## Welcome, Casa de Oracion!

We are excited to announce a new partnership – a Spanish-language congregation, Casa de Oracion, will be renting space at GA for worship and Bible study starting in September. The congregation will worship on Sunday afternoons and hold Bible studies on Thursday evenings in the Fellowship Hall. We asked their Pastor, Robert Dewane,

to introduce their congregation to our congregation. Read on!

*Casa De Oracion Church (House of Prayer) started about 8 years ago as a mission in NE Minneapolis out of our main Apple Valley location. As the Apple Valley church grew out of space, we identified a few families that lived in the NE Minneapolis and Columbia Heights area who were willing to take on the venture of a new church plant in the north metro area. The church is a Spanish speaking ministry, comprised of mainly 1st and 2nd generation immigrants. There is a wide spectrum of nationalities represented within its members from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Brazil. The Hispanic culture is very family-oriented and its people, by nature are very expressive through its worship, fellowship and of course, its food. Lively, up-beat music and warm welcomes can be expected at worship services. It is also common to have frequent fellowship and meals between church families as well as frequent outings. Many of our families have moved to the USA under very hard conditions back home, both economically and politically. Many have suffered greatly to call the USA their home. There is a sincere love and appreciation for people, no matter where you are in your journey of life and faith. You can always expect to be received with a smile and open arms. We are grateful for the partnership and brotherly love that Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church has shown us in allowing us to share the beautiful facility for the glory of God.*

We look forward to sharing the gift of our facilities with Casa de Oracion!

## Thank You, GA Family!

*Thank you to everyone who participated in the GALC Garage Sale.*

*Thank you for volunteering, for donating, and for purchasing.*

*We raised \$2,356.60. It was a great community event.*

*– GA Property Committee*



*Dear Church,*

*Thank you for all of your support for the Franklin Steele Neighborhood Backpack Project. We collected a good supply of things that have been delivered! Along with the parents who organize this event, I extend sincere thanks for all you did to help students be ready for their first days of school! Thank you! God's blessings to all of our children attending school this fall! May it be a joyous year for all learners!*

*– Lynn Lurvey*

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

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



## Notes from Interim Pastor Sara

As summer comes to a close, I have a few updates to share about the call process and my work at GA.



First, the Call Committee has been oriented by the synod and will soon start meeting on its own. The members are already thinking of questions and topics that will prepare them in the first steps of information gathering and planning. The council chose well. This team of people is connected to the rest of the congregation and aware of important issues. The rest of us are invited to continued prayer, love, and support.

Then, my own schedule could change here and there over the next couple months due to a medical issue. I had surgery to remove a non-cancerous tumor three months before I came to GA. I recovered well, yet there was the possibility I would need radiation treatment. Mid-August, I learned that a six-week regime of low-dose radiation was necessary. Personally, I'm ready and eager to begin. In my work at GA, I may be late for a few mid-morning meetings and switch my days off here and there, otherwise things should go forward as planned. I welcome your prayers and support.

Finally, I was able to participate in the August walk in the neighborhood. We started by heading north on Johnson Street. I drive that way often on my route to GA, but the experience was different this time. It was a beautiful summer evening for starters. The people at the outdoor market and the store-front windows of local businesses were somehow more "real" to me this time. I was even introduced to one of the business owners along the way (thanks, Mary). I thank God that GA is not an island, but part of the vibrant NE community — where God is doing new things.

If you haven't heard this from me already, I'm really glad to be at GA for a few months. If you'd like to connect with a question or concern, please reach out. If I don't see you on a Sunday after worship, feel free to reach out via my contact information as listed elsewhere in the Gazette and each Saturday's email.

In peace,  
Pastor Sara

### Church Council Corner...At its August meeting, the council...

- met with Pastor Tim Johnson from Kairos and Assoc. regarding the process of a Capital Appeal;
- heard a report from Pastor Sara about the interim process, including news that the Call Committee had an initial meeting with Pastor Craig Pederson from the Synod office;
- approved a recommendation from the Property Committee that GA rent space to Casa de Oracion (see article elsewhere in this newsletter);
- discussed plans for the Sept. 18 congregational meeting regarding the parking lot property.
- learned that Sunday School will begin in-person on September 25 and that Jenny Parker will continue as the coordinator. Also heard plans for "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.

### 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



## Sign-Up to Host Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Thanks to all our wonderful hosts who responded to the call for hosts over the summer months! It's time to ask for folks to provide treats and serve coffee fellowship for September and October. If you enjoy taking part in the fellowship, perhaps you can take a turn at serving and providing treats. The sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex.



## And Speaking of Coffee Fellowship...

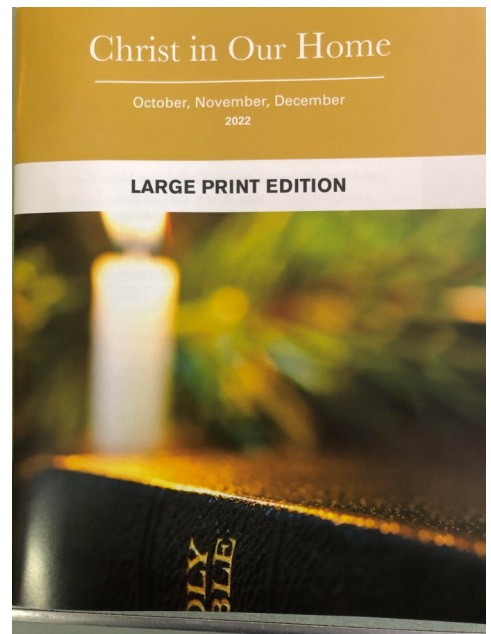
***You're invited to come to Coffee Hour on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.*** for an hour of informal fellowship over coffee and cookies. Here's a picture of the crew that gathered on one recent Wednesday morning. Remember – you're always welcome to join!

## 4th Quarter Devotional Booklets Available

The "Christ in Our Home" booklets for the final quarter of the year have arrived and are on the table in the Narthex. We are so pleased that folks are finding these devotional booklets to be helpful and useful. All but two booklets were picked up for the summer quarter. (If you still would like a booklet for September, there are two available!)



***Don't forget to bring your backpack to worship on Sunday, September 11, for a blessing for the new school year!***



## 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.*



# Donations Needed!



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

**At Gustavus Adolphus**

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**September 11, 2022** is "God's work. Our Hands." Sunday of service to benefit our community. GA will sponsor three projects after worship on September 11th. Please consider volunteering your time.

## **Projects:**

- 1) **Camp Noah birthday cards** - Birthday card templates will be available to decorate in the Fellowship Hall. **Camp Noah** serves children who are living in disaster impacted communities
- 2) **Blizzard Meals** - Create shelf-stable meals for **Meals on Wheels** seniors. Blizzard meal kits will be assembled in the Fellowship Hall.
  - a) Donations are needed for the following items; we would like to make 50 meal kits. Each kit contains 2 ready-made meals. We need:
    - i) 100 cans of tuna
    - ii) 100 can of chicken
    - iii) 100 14-15 oz can of fruit
    - iv) 100 14-15 oz can of vegetables or vegetable soup.
    - v) 400 packs of saltines or two packs of cheese/peanut butter crackers.
    - vi) 200 hot cocoa packets
    - vii) 200 desserts (granola bars, pudding cups, packaged cookies)

Donations will be collected from August 15 - September 9, in the narthex.

Monetary donations to help defray the cost of the project may be made in the form of a check. Checks should be made out to GA, please put "God's Work. Our Hands." in the memo line.

- 3) **Adopt-A-Drain** - Adopt-a-drain in your community and volunteer to clear/clean the drain twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. Register at <https://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/>.



**You're Invited!**  
**Monthly**  
**Men's Breakfast at**  
**Gustavus Adolphus Church**

**1509 27th Avenue NE**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55418**



**Second Saturday of the month beginning**  
**September 10!**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Food...Devotions...Fellowship**

**For more information, contact Gary Arvidson at**  
**(763) 755-3987.**



**“Better Together”**  
**An invitation to women of**  
**Mount Carmel and Gustavus Adolphus**  
**Join us for a Brunch**  
**October 8, 2022**

Whether you identify as a 'Lutheran Church Basement Lady' or not, your invited to a Saturday morning brunch and a chance to hear from Janet Letnes Martin, author of many books on Lutheranism, some of which inspire the popular stage series: Church Basement Ladies. There is no admission fee.

Mt Carmel's women's group, Circle of Friends, will host a brunch and speaker in the fellowship hall at Mount Carmel on Saturday October 8th. Doors open at 9:30, with the brunch to begin at 10:00 am. We welcome our friends from Gustavus to join us. The fellowship hall is in the lower level. You can enter either by our front entrance on St. Anthony Blvd. or either entrance on the 31st street side. Parking is on the street on 31st or one of the streets nearby. Our fellowship hall is handicap accessible, with a ramp entrance and elevator inside the St Anthony entrance.

Although there is no charge, we do need to have you sign up to attend by Friday September 30th. Sign up by email to Leona Olson at [onondave@yahoo.com](mailto:onondave@yahoo.com) or Jenny Arneson at [arneson.jenny@gmail.com](mailto:arneson.jenny@gmail.com). You can also call or text Leona at 612-859-7075 to register or with questions about the event.

# Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... September 1 – October 1, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				9:30am - Quilters 6pm - Cong. Life. Comm.		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am - Worship 4pm - AA Mtg.	Labor Day - Office Closed	6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Choir	6pm - Finance Comm. 6:15pm - Property Comm.		8am - Men's Breakfast
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
God's Work. Our Hands. 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - GW/OH. Activities 4pm - AA Mtg.		6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Choir	6pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Bible & Brews		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Cong. Mtg. 4pm - AA Mtg.		6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir			
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 4pm - AA Mtg.		6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Choir 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - Senior Choir			10am - Confirmation Class

## Note from the Treasurer

Ok... who took my summer?! I want it back!!

When I flip my calendar to September, I start to think about folks settling back into routines and re-engaging with friends and communities that they've missed during summer break.



As we start to re-evaluate our routines and our schedules, I hope that GA is finding its way (back) into your weekly calendars. I miss your faces =)

We have done an **INCREDIBLE** job cutting our deficit in the last few months. Since March, we've cut that almost in half!!

Thank you to all of you for continuing to support this community and its vision to create a community where God is at the center.

When Nick and I do evening prayer together, one of the reflection questions that we ask about our day is "Did you see God in any of this?". And my answer is usually about someone I've been with or talked to. I find God's presence in my relationships.

I asked Lynn Lurvey, a relationship that I hold very dear, to tell me what she loves about GA and here's what she shared with me.

*"I was caught off guard one time when a nun asked me what body part I felt most represented my faith.*

*Would it be my hands - the things I do?*

*Would it be my feet - the places I go?*

*Would it be my heart - the things I feel?*

*I said, 'I think it's my skin.'*

*She smiled and talked about the body of Christ.*

*I am thankful for my church because it is a wonderful space for me to be still and know that God is God and that I am small. It is there, sitting amongst dear friends, that I can hear the words and the songs and the prayers, and I can learn from Jesus.*

*Thank you, little church on 27th and Johnson. God has used you in precious ways."*

Thank you again for your stewardship.

*I love you all!*

**Kristin Tangen**

**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.



## Financial Update

	July	July		July		July
	2022 YTD	2022 YTD		2021 YTD		2022 vs 2021
	Actual	Budget		Actual		YTD Actual
Income	\$174,910.05	\$201,141.60		\$161,903.41		\$13,006.64
Expense	\$185,464.80	\$201,141.45		\$182,411.62		\$3,053.18
Inc - Exp	<b>-\$10,554.75</b>	\$0.15		<b>-\$20,508.21</b>		\$9,953.46

The figures above represent our income/expenses through July 31, 2022.

July 2022 YTD Actual Income of \$174,910.05 represents 87% of our budgeted \$201,141.60.

July 2022 YTD Expenses of \$185,464.80 represent 92% of our budgeted \$201,141.45.

The **-\$10,554.75** difference constitutes our YTD deficit.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is \$13,006.64 and our expenses are up \$3,053.18.

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. Sara Vanderpan**, Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)  
pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org  
Cell phone (for texts/calls): 651-295-8557

**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  
analisah@gachurchmpls.org



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

#### At-Large Members:

Wendy Bradshaw	Jenny Parker
Beverly Prawalsky	Michelle Rinken
Derrick Watson	