



# The Gazette December 2022

God's Mission for GA Church: To build community where God is at the center.



# Advent Begins Sunday, November 27

# Here is our Advent and Christmas Schedule at Gustavus Adolphus Church!

### Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Worship **NO** Sunday School this day...Thanksgiving weekend break

### Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School...Christmas program rehearsal 10:45 a.m. – Social Ministry Conversation

### Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Worship...Sunday School Christmas Program 10:45 a.m. – Congregational Potluck Lunch

# Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Worship
10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Party
4:00 p.m. – "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" presented by GA Choir and Northeast Chorale

Saturday, December 24 – Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. – Candlelight Worship

Sunday, December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. – Worship (with Mt. Carmel as our guests)







# **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.

# **Calling all Crafters!**

On Thursday, December 1, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., we will be cutting fleece to make scarves for elementary students in our area. Even if you don't consider yourself a crafter, it's just cutting in a straight line. Come for an hour or stay as long as you can. Please bring a pair of large scissors if you have a pair. Quilters – please bring your 8-1/2 x 24 ruler, cutting board, and rotary cutter. Also bring a lunch if you plan to stay. Questions? Call Bonnie Mattson at 651-784-7168.



# Social Ministry at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church Sunday, December 4, After Worship



Join Nick Tangen for a conversation about opportunities to build relationships in NE Minneapolis, work alongside our neighbors for the common good, and follow Jesus' command to love God and love neighbor. We'll discuss existing opportunities, the nature of asset-based community work, and imagine some possibilities for our community in the future. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at <u>nicholastangen@gmail.com</u>.

# **WELCA Meeting**

All women of the church are invited to the WELCA (Women of the ELCA) meeting on Tuesday, December 6, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

# Bible & Brews – December 8, 6:30 p.m.

### Meeting at Church This Month! (Note change of location for December!)

Exactly what it sounds like...Grab your favorite beer and your Bible, and join us on the second Thursday of every month for a relaxed conversation about scripture, the church, and this life of faith. If you would like to be added to the reminder email list, please contact Nick Tangen at <u>nicholastangen@gmail.com</u> or 651-808-7067.



# Men's Breakfast

We invite all men in the congregation to join us for breakfast and devotions on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8:00 a.m. Come for the fellowship and some delicious food. Questions? Contact Gary Arvidson at 763-755-3987.

# Wednesday Morning Coffee Hour

Everyone is welcome each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for some coffee, cookies, and conversation. Please join us.

# **Monday Grief Group**

Each Monday at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, talk to Pastor Sara.

# The Pot Luck is Back!

The Sunday School pageant is a favorite here at GA and so is the pot luck afterwards. It's been a while. In fact, some of our kids have never experienced the joy of a Lutheran Pot Luck. Everyone is welcome to gather in the Fellowship Hall right after the Worship service on December 11. We'll need:

\*Main Dishes (sandwiches, hot dishes, etc.) \*Salads (Jell-O or otherwise) \*Breads and side dishes \*Desserts Beverages will be provided.

Bring your food to the kitchen before church and a crew will take care of it.

We don't assign dishes, so bring something that would serve 10 to 12 people. (Really, this always seems to magically work out. Well, there was that one pot luck when everyone brought brownies...). **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** 

# Winter Gear Drive for Local Schools

We'll have a goodly amount of scarves for school kids after the Quilters event on December 1 (see article on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of this newsletter), but we will still collect hats, mittens, and gloves. Everything will be distributed to local elementary schools in January. There will be baskets in the Narthex from December 4 to January 8 to collect your donations.

# Contribute to the Poinsettia Memorial Garden

You'll notice that there's an envelope included in this mailing for our Poinsettia Memorial Garden. This is an opportunity for you to contribute towards the purchase of poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. You may contribute any amount you wish in the envelope and indicate your desired dedication, which will be listed in the Christmas bulletins. Please place your envelope in the offering plate, or return to church, by **Sunday, December 18.** 





# Coming Soon to the Narthex at Church!

- $\Rightarrow$  2023 calendars from Washburn-McReavy;
- $\Rightarrow$  2023 offering envelopes for those who use envelopes;
- $\Rightarrow~$  First quarter 2023 "Christ in Our Home" devotional booklets.

# **Holiday Worship Schedule**

As a result of some conversations at our Better Together task force, we have decided to share worship services on the Christmas and New Year's holidays with Mt. Carmel as follows: **Sunday, December 25, at 9:30 a.m.** – Joint Worship at GA (no service at Mt. Carmel) **Sunday, January 1, at 9:30 a.m.** – Join worship at Mt. Carmel (no service at GA)



# **Confirmation Classes in December and January**

We will continue our joint monthly classes with Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church on Saturdays, December 3 (at Mt. Carmel) and January 14 (at GA) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thank you to all parents and volunteers for their leadership in the first half of the school year! May our 16 students learn and grow in knowledge, wisdom, love, and hope. With any questions, please contact Pastor Sara at <u>pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org.</u>



# New Members Received November 13, 2022

#### Bryan Kumlin

Bryant was born and raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis. He came to Northeast, where he has lived for 15 years, while studying at the Univ. of MN. Bryant is now studying history at Luther Seminary and works at the library there. Bryant is very passionate about adult education and community building.





#### Dustin McIntee

Dustin is a Minnesota native and has lived in the Twin Cities for most of his life. After living in North Carolina for almost 9 years, Dustin moved back to Minneapolis in July 2019. He is a football, wrestling, and track & field coach at Minneapolis South High School, and he has worked numerous other jobs to support his coaching habit. Dustin first came to GA on Easter Sunday of this year. He lives in Northeast with his wife, Tiffany, and their 3 cats.

### Barb O'Connor

I was raised Lutheran in the small town of Proctor, MN. I was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and was active in Sunday School, Junior and Senior Choir, and Luther League. When I married my husband, Jon, in 1972, we had an ecumenical service at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Both a priest and a minister presided. I never completely forgot my Lutheran roots, so when we started attending GA, initially for my daughter's wedding, then for Sunday school programs, youngest granddaughter's baptism, and oldest granddaughter's confirmation, we felt GA was such a welcoming congregation. Once the pandemic hit, things changed for everyone. My husband and I started attending GA through Zoom along with son-in-law Travis, daughter Amy, and daughter Kelly. By this time, unfortunately, my husband was quite ill, and he passed away on June 1, 2020. I wish he was still here, because if he was we could have made this journey together. For me, I am now coming full circle and I am once again going to join the Lutheran Church. I feel so grateful for this opportunity. Thanks to all who have made is such a great experience, and I look forward to becoming active here, too. The day I actually become a member of this church – November 13, 2022 – is a special day. On that day 11 years ago, our youngest granddaughter was baptized!





### Kelly Prebish

I was raised Catholic in Minneapolis. I attended St. Charles Borromeo Church and went to school at St. Charles from 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. By the time I was an adult, I was lucky if I attended church twice a year. When my dad became quite ill in 2020, on one of my visits with him, he told me he was disappointed that I wasn't doing anything with my faith. I made a promise to him and to myself that I would somehow get to church weekly again. I started attending GA via Zoom with my sister, Amy, her husband, Travis, and my mom, Barb, shortly after that. I feel very welcomed at GA. I live in Minneapolis with my husband, Shane, and our kitty, Bailey. I have been working at Cub Foods in St. Anthony for 25 ½ years, so I am sure some of you have seen me there.



I want to offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone in the GA congregation for the wonderful celebration of my 15th anniversary of service that was held on Sunday, October 30. I was truly humbled by the spirit of love and appreciation that was evident by everyone present. Thanks to everyone who participated in the program, to those who prepared and served the reception, and to everyone who attended – and for the congregational gift. It was truly a wonderful day. I am certainly blessed to be serving here among you, and I look forward to what the future holds as we continue to serve God here at the corner of 27th and Johnson in NE Minneapolis. Blessings to all of you as we approach this holy time of year!

> In Christ's love, Deacon Phil Holzman

### **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

The next meeting of the Church Council is Thursday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m.

# 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

# **Transition Notes from our Interim Pastor**

October and November were busy months for congregational input. The Call Committee offered two invitations and you responded well. Thank you! What you shared is helping both the Call Committee and the Mission Site Profile (MSP) writing team. Thank you for sharing what you are excited about at GA and what you believe is needed in a new leader. All this to continue living into our calling as God's people together. And, humanly speaking as well, a healthy church family adds strength to its community, neighborhood, and the individual lives of its members. Period!

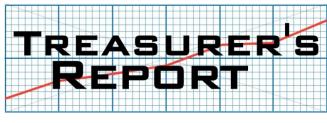


All this (conversation, input, and synthesis) takes time, especially when systems are complex and congregations are committed to hearing as many voices as possible and sharing the leadership load. In addition, sometimes congregations take a slight "pause" in forward movement while they seek new pastors, but that isn't true of GA. You have continued a strong re-entry after the brunt of the pandemic and are looking toward committing again to your future with a hoped-for capital campaign to care for your south parking lot, building, and technology goals. [Note: The final commitment to this campaign will be made at the annual meeting.]

Looking ahead, wisdom and life experience say that these last weeks of the year will warrant a different amount of focus and time given by all of us to these things. While we continue taking steps in all our church planning and administration, let us also make time to enjoy the beauty and joy of Advent and Christmas. The power of God's love and the miracle of Jesus' birth will be our central focus and we will all be renewed as Christians for God's call on our lives.

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79 (NRSV)

# Note from the Treasurer



If you were in church or on Zoom on the Sunday that I high-kicked and we all clapped, you'll know that we have hit ZERO!!!!!! The numbers above reflect just before we got a few more amazing gifts that balanced our books!!!!

This is an absolutely AMAZING accomplishment. I've come to learn in the church world, that a deficit is pretty typical but in full transparency, it still gives me lower back sweat =p

I will caveat that this incredible achievement might be a little short-lived now that the boiler is on... BUT I think it is so important to recognize and celebrate our generous efforts together!

As we head into the end of the year, I'm reminded of the wonderful first full year that Nick and I are back at GA. I am so grateful for you all.

So what does GA mean to me? It means that I get to share my gifts with a community that shares their gifts with me and our neighbors. I get to rejoice in the good, lament in the sad and grow in faith for the challenges ahead.

I'm very blessed to be a part of building a community where God is at the center.

I also want to give a special THANK YOU to all of you who turned in your pledge cards or updated your giving online. It has been so helpful when planning for next year's budget.

Thank you again for your stewardship.

I love you all!

Kristin

We would like to thank the dedicated church members who have served on our Church Council this past year! Your commitment is so appreciated!

We are planning a small celebration to show our thankfulness!

# **New Church Council Members Needed!**

# **Information:**

We are in the process of looking for new people to join our Church Council beginning January 2023. Serving on Council is an incredible way to share your gifts and add your voice to the vision and mission of this incredible congregation! We hope you will consider this opportunity!

We need 4+ people who are willing to serve the congregation in this way.

People typically serve a 2 year term. People can serve three 2-year terms if they so choose.

# **Details:**

#### **Council Member Responsibilities**

- 1. Attend a monthly evening Council meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
- 2. Participate on one of our church committees:
  - Congregational Life
  - Social Ministry
  - Property
  - Finance

# **Questions:**

Please see someone currently serving on our church staff, church council, or church nominating committee if you have questions.

Staff: Pastor Sara Vanderpan, Deacon Phil Holzman

Council Members: Dee Kjera, Wendy Bradshaw, Curt Navratil, Jenny Parker, Bev Prawalsky, Michelle Rinken, Matt Streed, Kristin Tangen, and Derrick Watson

Nominating Committee: Nick Tangen, Mary Larson and Lynn Lurvey

A Prestival of Nine Sunday, Wecember 18 essons and ba

musicians of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church Presented by the Northeast Chorale and the

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Directed by Phil Holzman

Freewill offering received (\$10 suggested donation)

At Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

1509 27th Avenue NE, Minneapolis (27th & Johnson)

31 10 17 24 3 10am - Confirmation Class-MTC 9:30am - Sunday School practice 8am - Men's Breakfast Sat Christmas Eve 4pm - Worship 30 16 23 2 6 Ξ 15 22 29 æ 6:15pm - Property Comm. 5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6:30pm - Bible & Brews 6pm - Finance Comm. 6pm - Church Council Thu 9:30am - Crafting 28 21 14 30 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - Contemp. Group 10am - Coffee Hour 10am - Coffee Hour 10am - Coffee Hour 10am - Coffee Hour Wed 10am - Coffee Hour 13 27 20 29 9 6:30pm - NE Chorale 6:30pm - NE Chorale 6:30pm - NE Chorale Tue 1pm - WELCA Mtg. 12 26 19 28 S Mon 1pm - Grief Group 25 18 11 27 10:45am - NO Sunday School 10:45am - Pot Luck Lunch 10:45am - Sunday School 10:45am - Social Ministry 10:45am - Sunday School 4pm - Lessons & Carols Sun 8:30am - GA Choir 8:30am - GA Choir 9:30am - Worship 9:30am - Worship 8:30am - GA Choir 9:30am - Worship 9:30am - Worship 9:30am - Worship 4pm - AA Mtg. Christmas Day 4pim - AA Mtg. 4pim - AA Mtg. 4pm - AA Mtg. 4pm - AA Mtg. Advent 3 Advent 1 Advent 4 Advent 2

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... November 27 – December 31, 2022

| <b>Financial</b> U | Jpdate |
|--------------------|--------|
|--------------------|--------|

|           | Oct          | Oct          | Oct          | Oct          |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|           | 2022 YTD     | 2022 YTD     | 2021 YTD     | 2022 vs 2021 |
|           | Actual       | Budget       | Actual       | YTD Actual   |
|           |              |              |              |              |
| Income    | \$247,547.87 | \$287,345.04 | \$289,975.94 | -\$42,428.07 |
| Expense   | \$259,149.71 | \$287,344.98 | \$256,241.66 | \$2,908.05   |
| Inc - Exp | -\$11,601.84 | \$0.06       | \$33,734.28  | -\$45,336.12 |
|           |              |              |              |              |

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

October 2022 YTD Actual Income of \$247,547.87 represents 86% of our budgeted \$287,345.04. October 2022 YTD Expenses of \$259,149.71 represent 90% of our budgeted \$287,344.98. The -\$11,601.84 difference constitutes our YTD deficit.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is -\$42,428.07 and our expenses are up \$2,908.05.

Kristin Tangen, Church Council Treasurer

# Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation Church Phone: 612-789-7256 Fax: 612-789-1334 Website: www.gachurchmpls.org

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. Just click on the 'Donate" button on any page. Or scan QR code!

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 Beverly Prawalsky Derrick Watson

Jenny Parker Michelle Rinken