



Our CAPITAL APPEAL, Our Pledges

We launched our *Life Together Capital Appeal* at the end of April. It was a fun, information-filled weekend. If you were not able to join us, your packet was mailed to you and will give you what you

need to be a part of this campaign, including a pledge card and return envelope. *Please let us know if you did not receive a packet.*

We are inviting everyone to make a *Life Together Appeal pledge* to fund four important projects: new audio/visual equipment for worship, repairs to our south parking lot, long-term maintenance for our building, and 10% of raised funds to support neighbors, partners, and ministries.

Will you join us? We invite everyone to be generous in their support as God calls them personally. Every gift is an offering to God and helps us in this endeavor. Please return your pledge to the church office, or in the Sunday offering, with any initial gift, on or by May 14.

Whenever you decide to return your pledge, thank you (!), and please add your name to one of the leaves on our colorful giving tree in the lobby. You can also watch the roots of this tree to see the collective amount of our pledges grow over the weeks. Our goal is \$254,000.

One final aspect of our appeal is our Prayer Board, helping us join together in grateful prayer for the various areas of our life together. You'll find this board in our narthex as you coming to worship. Each week we'll add a new question for you to answer. Again, please join us!

Your CAT,

Pastor Sara Vanderpan

Kristin Tangen

Matt Streed

Andrea Carter

Kathy Schuette

Tim Johnson (Kairos & Associates)

Pictured at right:

Our first and second grade Sunday school students posting their prayers on the Prayer Board on April 23.

Thanks, Jenny Parker, for the picture.



First Communion Instruction Sunday, May 21

Pastor Sara will offer Holy Communion instruction on **Sunday, May 21 at 10:45 a.m.** Parents, if you feel your child is ready to learn and be welcomed into this special meal, please contact Pastor Sara. We want all children to feel invited to this meal and trust they will grow in understanding over the years.



Sunday School "Concert" Sunday, May 14 – After Worship

Everyone is invited to grab a cup of coffee and a treat and then return to the sanctuary as our Sunday school students will present a Mother's Day "concert" as their year wraps up on May 14.

Piano Recital at GA Sunday, May 21

GA member Oliver Hall is a senior in high school and is quite an accomplished pianist. He will present a senior piano recital in our sanctuary on Sunday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy Oliver's music.



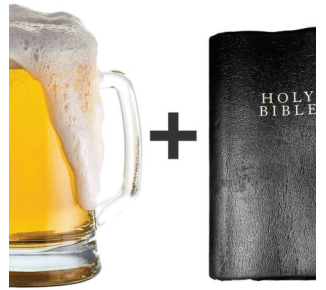
Bible and Brews

When: Thursday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Tangen Residence

1939 Pierce Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Exactly what it sounds like...Bring a Bible and your favorite brew for a relaxed conversation about scripture and our life together as church. We will meet at the Tangen residence. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at 651-808-7067.



ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement

Conversation after Worship on May 7

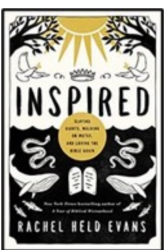
In April, the ELCA committed to a Truth and Healing Movement to increase our church's understanding of the impacts of colonization on Indigenous people past and present. This effort follows the ELCA's 2016 Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and a commitment to accompany Indigenous communities and learn more about our own history alongside native people. The Social Ministry Committee invites you to remain in the sanctuary following Worship on May 7 for a conversation about the Truth and Healing Movement, Land Acknowledgements, and opportunities for GA to participate in this important work in our own context. Coffee and treats will be provided. If you have questions, contact Nick Tangen at 651-808-7067.

Conversations on "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Check Changes in Times!)

We will keep our conversation going about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together" in April and May. Bonhoeffer's book was written following his time living intentionally with seminarians as a part of the Confessing Church in Germany right around the time German forces were beginning their push into Czechoslovakia. "Life Together" is Bonhoeffer's treatise on the church's daily practice and the qualities of Christian community that center Jesus Christ and resist the human impulse to create a church in our own image. Join us following worship for a relaxed and engaging conversation as follows:

- April 30 – Conversation on Chapter 2: "The Day Together" **after worship**
- May 7 & 14 – Conversation on Chapter 3: "The Day Alone" **before worship (8:30 a.m.)**

Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nicholastangen@gmail.com



Monday Night Book Club Meets in May (on Thursday)!

Monday Night Book Club is switching things up *again!* We will meet on *Thursday, May 4* (yes, Thursday!) at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. In this book, the author explores how we read and interpret the Bible and how we *could* read the Bible. Please join us for this conversation at Andrea Carter's house: 2648 Arthur Street NE, Mpls. on Thursday, May 4.

LOOKING AHEAD: New Members Class

If you are new to GA and considering membership, please join us for an information class following worship on **Sunday, June 4**, from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. In addition to getting to know your story a bit, we'll give a brief history of GA, introduce you to some of our leaders, and answer any questions. Those who would like to become members will be received in worship the next **Sunday, June 11**.

With questions or to sign up for the New Members Class on June 4, please send an email to Pastor Sara at pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org or sign up using the communication slip in the Sunday bulletin. Just add a note that you plan to attend the June 4 class.



From Deacon Phil ... I'm Going on Sabbatical This Summer!

I want to share with the congregation that I've been granted a six-week sabbatical leave by the Church Council. My plan is to be away from GA from June 26 through August 6. Earlier this year, the Mutual Ministry Committee developed a Sabbatical Policy, which the Church Council then approved. In March, I submitted a plan to the council for my specific six weeks away from GA, which was also approved.

My plan for my six weeks includes some rest and relaxation with family and by myself, attending two or three music workshops, participating in some spiritual direction, and spending some time (on another church's instrument) preparing a recital which I will present at GA sometime this fall.

It is important to note that my sabbatical is NOT vacation time away from GA. I will still take vacation time, so this year I will be gone from GA more than any other year so far in my almost 16 years of service. That will be a change! The Mutual Ministry Committee followed the ELCA's guidelines in developing our sabbatical policy. If you're interested in reading the entire policy, please contact me and I'll get you a copy. An important thing to note is that GA's policy "will grant six weeks of sabbatical to full-time rostered leaders (pastors/deacons) after six years of service, and thereafter at five-year intervals." This will not be a once-and-done occurrence going forward in our congregation.

Again, if you have any questions about this, you are invited to talk to me, Pastor Sara, council president Jenny Arneson, or one of the Mutual Ministry Committee members (Kim Huseonica, Jenny Parker, or Nick Tangen). I look forward to this time as a time of renewal of my Call here at GA and look forward to our future of serving God together.

Everything Old Is New Again!



You've probably noticed as you're reading this newsletter that we've gone back to our pre-pandemic format for the newsletter of a booklet-style newsletter. We started having some trouble with our copier/printer and found out that the cause of the trouble was running the pre-gummed envelopes through the printer. They were leaving adhesive residue on the inside of the printer. Who would have thought?! Therefore, we have been advised to stop printing envelopes on our printer to prevent this problem in the future, so we're back to this booklet style of newsletter. Thanks for your understanding.

Summer Camp at Luther Park Danbury, Wisconsin

GA is excited to be able to offer scholarships to our families to attend a family camp weekend at Luther Park in Danbury, Wisconsin. Our congregation has a long association with Luther Park. In fact, GA was a charter member of Luther Park, going back decades! Many GA members have attended Bible camp at Luther Park over the years. The Congregational Life Committee would like to encourage a revitalization of this tradition!



In order to do that, we are offering an incentive to families to attend a Family Camp Weekend on July 21-23. GA will offer a \$100.00 scholarship toward the cost of that family camping weekend. Further, if any children in the family wish to stay for camp that following week, GA will offer the following scholarships: \$250.00 for a full week and \$100.00 for a half week. (And if those dates don't work for your schedule, you can choose another weekend/week.) If you're interested in attending camp at Luther Park Danbury, contact Deacon Phil or Pastor Sara for some more specific registration information, including a GA-specific registration brochure.

Church Council Report

The council reconvened in person this month. While there is a role for on-line meetings, we all appreciated the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and work next to one another. This is especially appropriate as we continue to focus on ensuring strong systems and structures are in place to support our *Life Together, particularly as we prepare for pastoral transition.*

In April we:

Reflected upon our systems for resolving conflict and maintaining healthy relationships within our congregation, identified gaps, and developed next steps.

- Considered human resource best practice established in our bylaws and reviewed our systems for supporting staff.
- Discussed our finances to date, including our larger than average deficit.
- Reviewed needed constitutional and by-law changes to present to the congregation at a future date including
- Adding Better Together as a standing committee with an updated mission.
- Allowing hybrid congregational meetings on a permanent basis.
- Incorporating recommended technical changes from the Synod .

Volunteer Opportunities & Thank You's

The Council relies heavily on others to support Gustavus Adolphus. Each month we will highlight volunteers who are implementing plans to support our *Life Together, and make suggestions on how others might get involved.*

- The last day of Sunday School is May 14. *A huge thank you to our Sunday School volunteers: Dee Kjera, Gayle Huble, Charissa Peterson, Amy Prawalsky, Stephanie Morris, Kristen Peterson, Jenny Parker, Kathy Schuette, Travis Schuette, Shirley Fors, Sarah Olson, Mary Ann Eide, Alyssa Schutte, Phil Holzman, Michelle Rinken, Patrick Arneson, Alyssa Schuette*
- Our life together in worship is enhanced by our choirs! Before they take their summer hiatus, we want to extend our thanks to the individual choir members who bless our worship with their music.
 - *Thank you to our GA Choir members, led by Phil Holzman: Adrienne Bisping, Brandon Bisping, Wendy Bradshaw, Shirley Fors, Cheryl Johnson, Jenny Parker, Nancy Rathbun, Carlotta Rosebrock, Derrick Watson, Glen Yunker.*
 - *Thank you to our Bell Choir members, led by Phil Holzman: Adrienne Bisping, Brock Bisping, Matt Brown, Andrea Carter, Shirley Fors, Mary Larson, Bonnie Mattson, Jenny Parker, Mary Nelson Yunker.*
 - *Thank you to our Contemporary Group, led by Joel Lurvey: Adrienne Bisping, Lynette Paulson, Carlotta Rosebrock.*

Volunteer Opportunity Highlight:

- Join Sunday Ushers. Ushers play an important role in welcoming worshipers and organizing our service. Thank you to Dave and Kathy Schuette for reliably serving almost every Sunday! We would like to build out this team. Perhaps you and/or your family can help occasionally?
 - Talk to Kathy and Dave any Sunday to learn more.
 - Or, approach Pastor Sara about your willingness to help.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

Jenny Arneson, presidentarneson.jenny@gmail.com
Matt Streed, vice-presidentmatthewstreed@gmail.com
Dee Kjera, secretarydeekjera@gmail.com
Kristin Tangen, treasurerksnobeck@gmail.com



Prayer List

As the body of Christ and a family of believers, let us pray for each other.

- ♥ *Paul & Sharon Banitt – Carlotta Rosebrock requests prayers for her parents, as her father has ongoing health issues, and her mother is his caregiver in the home.*
- ♥ *Dorothy Bohn*
- ♥ *Rodney Christopherson*
- ♥ *Roger Cropper – Roger would like prayers for declining health and challenges that come from changes in his life.*
- ♥ *Pam Evangelist – Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.*
- ♥ *Corey Geng – Prayers continue for recovery following major surgery.*
- ♥ *James Hamilton – Prayers of thanksgiving for his progress and prayers continue for his improved health.*
- ♥ *Marv Johnson – Prayers for healing following back surgery.*
- ♥ *Sarah – Ongoing health challenges.*
- ♥ *Sharon Leba – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Linda Lindahl – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Bev Moody – Ongoing health issues as Bev has entered hospice care.*
- ♥ *Barry – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *For our congregation’s Call Committee – for guidance and wisdom as they move forward with the call process.*



To have someone’s name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jenson, at mplsjean@yahoo.com or Pastor Sara or Deacon Phil.



Recent Baptism

On Sunday, March 12, we welcomed a new member into the family of Christ and into the family of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church.

*Welcome to **Maeve Amelia Lucke**. Maeve is the daughter of Lindsey King and Peter Lucke and was born on September 9, 2022. Maeve’s sponsors were Kyle Thomas and Kyle Semestad.*

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

Note from the Treasurer

Hey friends!

Let's hope that when you're reading this we're all wearing shorts and flip flops...

We know we kicked off our Life Together capital appeal and we're all very excited about all the possibilities!

But I don't want us to lose sight of the monthly commitments that we have in our 2023 budget. It's a big ask to keep a healthy budget on top of an appeal, but **I know we can do it!**

Just a friendly reminder of what the ideal giving would need to be for each of the 80 giving units:

- \$85 every week OR
- \$368/month OR
- \$4,400 yearly

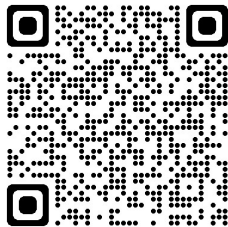
**We are already 5 months into the year so there is some catchup to do.*

We know these numbers may not be possible for everyone but we wanted to show the ideal to give everyone a guide for how we could make our goal this year.

We know there are members who give gifts in stocks and end-of-year gifts as well (and that's AMAZING!).

We know that you may already feel strapped and we totally get that.

If you are able to update your giving you can scan the QR code below, go to GA's website or email me (ksnobeck@gmail.com) and I'm more than happy to help!



Thank you again for your support and for creating community where God is at the center.

Kristin

All Are Welcome

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



March Financial Report

	March 2023 YTD Actual	March 2023 YTD Budget		March 2022 YTD Actual		March 2023 vs 2022 YTD Actual
Income	\$67,510.43	\$88,297.31		\$66,323.66		\$1,186.77
Expense	\$83,547.64	\$88,297.04		\$83,537.42		\$10.22
Inc - Exp	-\$16,037.21	\$0.27		-\$17,213.76		\$1,176.55

March 2023 YTD Actual Income of \$67,510.43 represents 76% of our budgeted \$88,297.31.
 March 2023 YTD Expenses of \$83,547.64 represents 94% of our budgeted \$88,297.04.
 The **-\$16,037.21** difference constitutes our YTD deficit.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is up \$1,186.77 and our expenses are up \$10.22.

A Few Photos from the "Life Together" Kick-Off Event on April 22



Thanks to Lynn Lurvey for the photos!

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

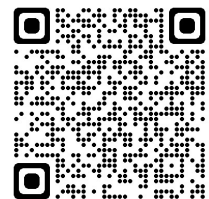
Ways You Can Support GA Church (besides bringing your offerings on Sunday morning to worship):

1) Mail your offering to GA:
1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

2) Give electronically at
our website,

www.gachurchmpls.org. Click

on the **Donate** button on any page. **Or scan QR
code above!**



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

Jenny Arneson, president
Matt Streed, vice-president
Dee Kjera, secretary
Kristin Tangen, treasurer

At-large Members:

Wendy Bradshaw
Stephanie Morris

Beverly Prawalsky
Kathy Schuette