

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

### GA Congregation Votes to Call Pastor Ian Coen-Frei!

At a special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 18, the congregation voted to extend a call to Pastor Ian Coen-Frei, currently the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Isanti, MN, to be the next settled pastor of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. We are excited for Pastor Ian to begin his ministry with us in early August. You can read a greeting from Pastor Ian on the next page of this newsletter.

### Deacon Phil Is Going on Sabbatical!

Deacon Phil will be on sabbatical leave from June 26-August 6. This fact has been shared for a while with the congregation. He has been working diligently to get all his "ducks in a row" to cover his duties while he is away from GA Church. Pastor Sara, Joel Lurvey, members of the Mutual Ministry Committee, and others in the congregation are going to be very helpful in making things run smoothly in his absence.

What will Phil be doing while he is on leave, you might be wondering?

The answer is: a variety of things! He will be gone from Minnesota for the first three weeks – visiting his sister in Reading, Pennsylvania, attending the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians National Conference in Philadelphia, and attending the Handbell Musicians of America National Conference in Dallas.



When he is back in Minnesota, he will take some time for relaxation and renewal and will also be practicing (at Mt. Carmel Church) for a recital he will present at GA sometime this fall. There will be one more church music workshop he will attend – here in the Twin Cities in late July. He also plans to be open to the spirit for other activities during those last three weeks of sabbatical, including the possibility of meeting with a spiritual director once or twice.

For most concerns that come up during Deacon Phil's six weeks of leave, your point of contact will be Pastor Sara. For announcements for the Saturday email blast, you'll want to send announcements to Kristin Tangen at [ksnobeck@gmail.com](mailto:ksnobeck@gmail.com) by Thursday morning of each week.

Please remember Deacon Phil in your prayers as he heads out on this adventure called "sabbatical." In more than 40 years of ministry, this is a first for him!

### Neighborhood Walks

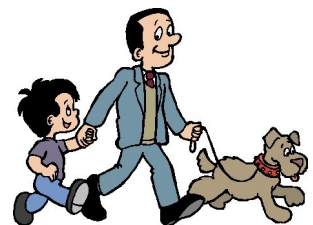
#### Continue in July & August

Join the Congregational Life and Social Ministry committees on neighborhood walks this summer! Walking within our community is a great way for our congregation to be present and learn about our surroundings. We have multiple days planned with varying distances, so hope you find a time to walk with us.

- ◇ **When?** The first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m., and third Sunday of each month following worship.
- ◇ **Weather?** As long as it's not raining, we will walk!
- ◇ **How far?** Thursday evening walks will be longer walks - expect between 1.5-2.0 miles. Sunday walks will be shorter - only about 6 blocks round trip (with a coffee break at the halfway mark).
- ◇ **Treats?** Always.

**Thursdays, July 6 & August 3:** We will walk from GA to Windom Park/ Mt. Carmel and then end at Parkway Pizza for Sebastian Joe's ice cream; these walks will be about two miles.

**Sundays, July 16 & August 20:** Third Sunday walks to coffee hour at The Coffee Shop NE.



## Greetings from Pastor Ian

Dear people of Gustavus Adolphus,

It is with great joy and delight that I greet you following the recent vote to call me as the settled pastor of GA! I can't wait to experience what God has in store for us as we build community with God at the center.

Before the vote, I sent a short biography that gave some of my previous ministerial experiences. I also shared some aspects of my life where I find joy! For this short bio, Deacon Phil said, "It doesn't need to be anything profound. There's time for that later!" So, here are a few fun facts that might help you get to know me a little better before I begin in August:

- \* I love photography, especially film photography. I have been shooting, developing and enlarging my own black/white and color images since high school, and find that the entire process is a good way for me to slow down!
- \* I am in the middle of reading through Arnold Offner's biography of Hubert Humphrey, and hope to finish it before I begin in August. As a transplant to MN, I am always looking for books to learn more about this place and its people.
- \* *Let Streams of Living Justice* (ELW 710) is a hymn that I am always in the mood to sing at church. It was the hymn of the day at my wedding, it was the hymn of the day at my ordination, and it was the hymn of the day at our daughter's baptism.
- \* One of my favorite bible passages is Mark 5:1-20. It was one of the first stories I ever experienced being examined critically in seminary. It has helped me remember to seek out other perspectives and ideas as I learn, preach, and teach.

I am so excited to connect and get to know each one of you. I know these next few weeks will fly by and we will be worshipping together before we know it!

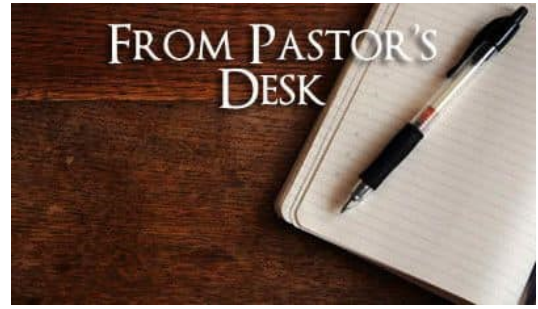
Blessings,  
Pastor Ian Coen-Frei



\*\*The Photo is of Pr. Ian and Sarah standing in front of the Theses Doors in Wittenberg where Luther posted the 95 Theses.

## From Pastor Sara

Congratulations, GA! You did it! You have voted to call a new pastor, and done so with patience, intentionality, hard work, and trust in God and one another. Moments like these are not guaranteed, especially when many people are involved in the process. Again, congratulations, and, Praise God!



Savor the moment, too! Linger just a bit with joy of your special congregational meeting on June 18. These moments, when things come together really well, are precious and should never be taken for granted in our lifetimes, whether personally or as a congregation. You have been given a moment to savor, a day to remember, one long in the making.

As I write this note, I have about six weeks left in my time with GA. I'll be in the office through July 31, so my last Sunday will be the 30th. I'll have a few more thank you's and compliments to share in those final days, but for now let me say that, though I was hired as a "bridge" interim (just to "see you through" the call process), we still dove right in and did quite a lot together, including a capital appeal. I'm most proud, however, that your leaders created/approved a sabbatical policy that Phil is now able to take advantage of before I leave. I'll always remember our work together on this.

Yes, I have much more to say to you now that I'm in "transition mode" myself, but know that I'm really "here" to the end and will enjoy our conversations through the last day. While you, as GA, don't have a 3- or 5-year plan for mission, the mission *energy* is stronger here than I've seen in a long time. I want to savor that myself, take it with me, and be ready to share something fresh and new with my next congregation.

Thank you, GA, for being my partner in the Gospel over this past year. I will leave a better pastor because of this time.

With gratitude to God,  
Pastor Sara

## Book Club on Hiatus



Monday Night Book Club is on hiatus until late summer/early fall. Stay tuned for our next meeting date and time.

Also, the Quilters are not meeting in July. (August meeting TBD – stay tuned.) And our choirs are on summer break. Enjoy our great Minnesota summer, everyone. See you in worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.!

## Just A Reminder

On Sunday mornings, as we are now contributing to our capital fund, we ask that you clearly note any designations between our General Fund and the *Life Together Appeal* on your checks or envelopes. Thank you.



## Church Council Report

Submitted by Jenny Arneson, Council President

Pastor Ian Coen-Frei accepted our invitation to join Gustavus Adolphus! Thank you for your support and prayers during this journey.

At the congregational meeting, several questions came up that council considered:

Q: Will there be a meet and greet?

A: Yes. We've agreed upon a start date of August 7. Pastor Ian is anxious to meet us too, and the Council will ensure that we have an opportunity (or two) to get to know one another.

Q: When and how will we say good-bye to Pastor Sara?

A: Pastor Sara's last day will be Monday, July 31. On Sunday, July 30, the Council is working with the Congregational Life committee for a special coffee hour.

Q: Will Pastor Ian be full-time and what are the financial details?

A: Pastor Ian will be full-time. We negotiated a total compensation package that falls within our existing budget. We will revisit salaries for the 2025 budget.

Q: How can our congregation be supportive and prepare for a successful tenure with Pastor Ian?

A: Our congregation has completed a thoughtful interim period (that included a pandemic and many other unexpected events). We identified our strengths and were honest about our shortcomings. The Council is committed to ensuring that we address our gaps by establishing systems and practices. Examples include:

- Approving an employee handbook created by our ad hoc HR committee, and ensuring other common employment documents, such as organization charts, exist.
- Collaborating with the Mutual Ministry committee to create safe spaces for employees and congregation members to process concerns and conflicts, and to ensure each employee of GA has someone intentionally supporting them.
- Collaborating with our Finance committee to ensure we are prioritizing our budget in a way that reflects our values and also, clearly communicating to congregation members our financial status and choices that we must make.
- Collaborating with our Property committee to match the resources generously provided through our Capital Campaign to our improvement priorities.

The Council will be taking July off for meetings, but will reconvene in August. We are planning on a September retreat with Pastor Ian.

### 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.

Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to support our congregation with Deacon Phil is on his sabbatical! Kristin Tangen will be sending the weekly emails. Jenny Parker will be handling the worship assistant calendar. Shirley Fors and the Tangens will make sure the sanctuary is cooled for each Sunday's worship. Pastor Sara and Joel Lurvey will be helping behind the scenes to make sure other things runs smoothly in Deacon Phil's absence, as will other members of the Mutual Ministry Committee – and most likely other people who are not named here. Thank you to all!

## Opportunity Highlight:

Our congregation has many exciting plans. The council is committed to balancing fiscal responsibility while maintaining opportunity for investment and growth. Providing accurate information to our church about your donation plans for the year will help the Finance committee and Council properly assess our options. If you prefer to give annually at the end of the year or are considering a future donation, please consider being in touch with our finance staff, Zach Copa. It really does help!

## **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.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *Annette Parker – Prayers for ongoing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Jean Pope – Recovering from a fractured hip.*
- ♥ *Mary Nelson Yunker – Prayers as Mary recovers from facial surgery following a fall.*
- ♥ *Barry – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Doug – Waiting for a diagnosis.*
- ♥ *Belle and Lizzy, two sisters in the foster care system who need prayers for a change in care and hope for the future.*

To have someone's name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jenson, at [mplsjean@yahoo.com](mailto:mplsjean@yahoo.com) or Pastor Sara or Deacon Phil.

### **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

Happy Summer y'all!



### So Good News, News for Prayerful Consideration.

**Good News!** We were awarded money from the federal government for the Employee Retention Credit as a part of Covid relief. This is a one-time gift and there aren't (that we know of right now) going to be any more funds available from the government for anything Covid-related.

All committees will continue to look for opportunities to help us but these are not things that we should rely on when we approve our budgets.

**News for Prayerful Consideration.** We are down to 68 giving units through the first quarter of the year, and we continue to be between \$3,000 - \$5,000 below what we need each month for our expenses. If we are not able to find other financial opportunities, we would be at about -\$60,000 every year. We are committed to now going down that path but we want our giving to be able to support our budget and give us the chance to have a cushion for emergencies (that we don't have now).

Finance is always looking into the future and to make everyone aware of where we're headed and always working to bring our expenses in line with our income.

So Good News, we have a surplus. Not so great news, the only reason we have that surplus is because of an almost \$30K grant from the government.

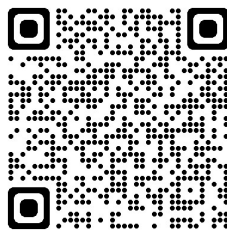
Just a friendly reminder of what the ideal giving would need to be for each of the 68 giving units:

- \$87.40 every week OR
- \$378.60/month OR
- \$4,545 yearly

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](mailto:ksnobeck@gmail.com)) and I'm more than happy to help! QR code is also on the slips of papers in the pew pockets in the sanctuary.



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

**Kristin**



## May Financial Report

	May	May		May		May
	2023 YTD	2023 YTD		2022 YTD		2023 vs 2022
	Actual	Budget		Actual		YTD Actual
Income	\$148,560.99	\$147,162.13		\$127,995.60		\$20,565.39
Expense	\$145,004.44	\$147,161.92		\$142,484.18		\$2,520.26
Inc - Exp	\$3,556.55	\$0.21		-\$14,488.58		\$18,045.13

The figures above represent our income/expenses through May 31, 2023.

May 2023 YTD Actual Income of \$148,560.90 represents 100% of our budgeted \$147,162.13.

May 2023 YTD Expenses of \$145,004.44 represents 98% of our budgeted \$147,161.92.

The \$3,556 difference constitutes our YTD surplus.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is up \$20,565.39 and our expenses are up \$2,520.26.

\* See article to your left for an explanation of why income was so high in May (ERC money from IRS).

### A New Hymn That We've Discovered!

Joel Lurvey and Deacon Phil discovered this new hymn in the *All Creation Sings* hymnal supplement, and we've sung it twice in worship in recent weeks. Since there's a little extra space in the newsletter, Deacon Phil has decided to print the words here for your meditation (and enjoyment).

- 1 *Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh,  
from the tiny roly-poly to the treetop-tall giraffe.  
All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice  
as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.*
  
- 2 *Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony.  
Ev'ry creature has a purpose, ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.  
Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake  
live within a single fabric, cloth that only God could make.*
  
- 3 *Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus, and snail,  
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae, from the microbe to the whale.  
In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth:  
born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.*

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

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#### Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

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 Matt Streed, vice-president ..... matthewstreed@gmail.com  
 Dee Kjera, secretary ..... deekjera@gmail.com  
 Kristin Tangen, treasurer ..... ksnobeck@gmail.com



A publication of

# Gustavus Adolphus

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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](http://www.gachurchmpls.org)

### Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

#### Church Staff ...

**The Rev. Sara Vanderpan**, Interim Pastor thru July 31 (Ext. 10)  
[pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorsara@gachurchmpls.org)  
Cell phone (for texts/calls): 651-295-8557

**Deacon Phil Holzman**, Minister of Word & Service  
(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)  
On sabbatical leave June 26-August 6  
Returning to the office on August 7

**Zachary Copa**, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)  
[zachc@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:zachc@gachurchmpls.org)

**Joel Lurvey**, Contemporary Choir Director  
[joel.lurvey@gmail.com](mailto:joel.lurvey@gmail.com)

**Analisa Hillman**, Church Custodian



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

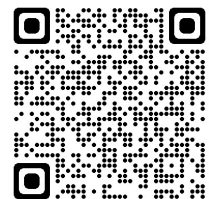
#### Ways You Can Support GA Church (besides bringing your offerings on Sunday morning to worship):

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

2) Give electronically at our website,

[www.gachurchmpls.org](http://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