

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

Welcome, Pastor Ian Coen-Frei!

This is kind of old news, because he has been serving GA since the beginning of August, but we want to once again welcome Pastor Ian to GA Church since we didn't have an August newsletter. If you haven't met Pastor Ian, or his spouse, Sarah, and daughter, Leonora, we invite you to worship some Sunday morning. We are so delighted to have Pastor Ian and his family here with us at GA Church.



Pastor Ian will be officially installed as our pastor during worship on Sunday, October 8. Pastor Craig Pederson from the Minneapolis Area Synod staff will be our guest that morning for the installation service.

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday Sunday, September 10

As a congregation, we have three projects we will be working on after worship on September 10:

1. **Birthday cards for Camp Noah** - Decorate birthday cards for children living in disaster impacted communities that are served by Camp Noah.
2. **Blizzard Meals** - Create shelf-stable meals for Meals on Wheels. We plan to pack 100 meal kits.
3. **Clean-up on Johnson Street** - GA and Mt. Carmel churches will clean-up Johnson Street from 27th to 31st Avenues. We need a crew of volunteers who are willing to pick up trash along the sidewalk.

Monetary donations are needed to buy the food for the Blizzard Meals. Please mark checks or envelopes with "Blizzard Meals." Please donate ASAP - ideally by September 10, 2023.



Blessing of Backpacks...

Beginning of Sunday School

Blessing of the backpacks will take place on Sunday, September 10, during worship. All school aged children, college students, and school teachers are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a special blessing as we start the school year.



Sunday School for children age 3 through grade 5 will start on Sunday, September 17, after worship. More detailed information will be mailed to Sunday School families early in September. And watch the Saturday email for further updates.



Sunday Coffee Hosts Needed

There is a sheet on the table in the Narthex for you to sign-up to host Sunday coffee in the coming weeks. Please do your part if you enjoy this fellowship time!



From Pastor Ian

Siblings in Christ,



As I reflect on the journey of transitioning into my role at GA, the joy and beauty of leading this assembly in worship stand out prominently. It's astonishing to realize that we've already come together for worship on three occasions! One of the primary things that drew me to serve at GA was its profound commitment to meaningful worship. While I had the opportunity to watch recorded services and hear Deacon Phil's organ playing during an interview, nothing truly prepared me for the experience of being present in our gatherings to share the Word and partake in the meal of faith.

There's a wonderful depth in uniting with folks who raise their voices in praise, open arms to people of all generations, and possess a shared hope to manifest their faith beyond the nave through acts of service. In the coming weeks, months, and years, I eagerly anticipate our continued worship in this sacred space, and I invite you to join me in this spiritual journey. There are numerous ways you can contribute to our collective worship experience:

- * Attend Sunday Worship: Your presence and voice, as you follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, enrich our assembly. Your unique self is a precious gift to us.
- * Provide Feedback: Your questions and insights into the "why" and "what" of our worship hold wonderful value. Your perspective on our shared time is both cherished and sought after.
- * Participate in Leadership: If you feel inclined, consider taking an active role in worship leadership. Whether it's reading a lesson, delivering a sermon, assisting with communion, or any other contribution you envision, I'm here to support your involvement.

Renowned American historian of Christianity, Jaroslav Pelikan, who played a pivotal role in editing the American Edition of Luther's Works, once famously stated, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living." I'm looking forward to how our vibrant worship life will allow us to embrace the tradition that keeps our faith alive and thriving. I am profoundly thankful for the privilege of being a part of this journey.

With gratitude,
Pr. Ian

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.



Sabbatical Musings from Deacon Phil

I returned from my sabbatical leave on Monday, August 7, and greeted Pastor Ian on his first day at GA. It was a day of new beginnings and renewed beginnings!

My six weeks away was certainly different from anything I had experienced in my 40+ years of ministry. It was the first time in all those years that I had no responsibilities. That took some getting used to, let me tell you! Let me give you a rundown of what I did on my sabbatical.

- * I started by visiting my sister and brother-in-law in Reading, PA for a week. (The Reading area is my hometown.) My sister, Chris, and I went to NYC on June 28 and saw the Broadway show *Sweeney Todd*. We almost didn't make it there, but that's a story for another day. We did make it, and the show was amazing. We also spent several days at their shore home near Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.
- * After my visit to Reading, I spent five days in Philadelphia at the national convention of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, of which I am a member. I attended various workshops and seminars during those days in a variety of topics of church music and worship. My seat-mate on the plane ride home from PHL to MSP was former GA music director Shaun Halland (my immediate predecessor), so we got a chance to visit.
- * Following my time in Philadelphia, I was home for two days and then left for Irving, Texas (a suburb of Dallas) where I attended a five-day convention of the Handbell Musicians of America. My goodness was that intense. I learned that people are really into handbells!! While there I attended some workshops and learned some new techniques and terms, discovered some new music, and ran into another of my GA predecessor music directors, Phil Johnson, who is now in San Francisco. Can you believe it? Also, it was very hot in Texas (100+ degrees each day), and the convention center where the workshop was held was kept very cold. It was hard to be comfortable those five days except in my hotel room.
- * After I came home from Texas, I stayed home and got to work practicing for my fall organ recital. I spent a couple of mornings each week at the organ console at Mt. Carmel. I plan to present my recital, entitled *Summer Sabbatical Sounds*, here at GA on the evening of October 1. (See separate ad in this newsletter.)

During those last several weeks of sabbatical, in addition to practicing the organ, I took things pretty easy, took a few day trips, visited my daughter and granddaughter, attended a two-day worship and music workshop sponsored by Augsburg Fortress in Columbia Heights, puttered around the house, and realized that I'm not ready to retire. So here I am, GA, ready to get back to ministry with all of you.

Thank you to everyone who helped "cover the bases" while I was away from GA for those six weeks. It sounds like everything went very smoothly! Now may God richly bless all of us in the weeks and months ahead!

With much love and gratitude,
Deacon Phil



News Regarding GA's Choirs this Fall

GA Choir Needs A Boost/New Singers!

A Direct Request from Deacon Phil, the Choir's Director

I attended a choral conducting workshop during my sabbatical leave this summer and was fascinated to learn that having a choir in church is not just something nice or a luxury. It's a Biblical mandate going back to 2 Chronicles in the Old Testament/Hebrew Scripture where King David was commanded by God to have a choir to sing praises with voices and instruments in the Temple. Imagine that – a Biblical mandate!!



I am personally hoping to have a significant reboot of the GA Choir (formerly known as the Senior Choir) this fall. Our choir took a pretty big “hit” after the pandemic; almost half of our singers did not return to the group for one reason or another when we returned to in-person worship. This affected not only the type and difficulty of music we are able to sing for worship but also the morale of the remaining singers in the choir.

The GA Choir sings in worship twice a month – generally on the first and fourth (or last if there are five) Sundays of the month; plus Christmas Eve and special Lent/Holy Week services and Easter. We practice on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:15 p.m. I realize that this practice time can be a challenge for people. Last year we experimented with Sunday morning practice times, but that did not bring any new members to the group. Honestly, it's hard to know what the answer is as far as a “perfect” rehearsal time, but we're open to suggestions!

Our first rehearsal of the season will take place on Wednesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. and we will sing in worship for the first time on Sunday, October 1. I know there are people reading this article who have the talent/voice to be part of our choir. We're a great/fun group of people who enjoy singing and making music together. Please think about joining us!



Fascinated By/Interested in Handbells?

We May Have a Place for You in the Gustavus Bells Handbell Choir

If you are interested in ringing handbells and have a basic knowledge of reading music, you're invited to come to the first rehearsal of the Gustavus Bells, our handbell choir, on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Want more information? Contact Deacon Phil Holzman. He's the director of the group.

Is It Time for a Re-boot of the GA Choristers?

It's been several years since we have had a children's choir at GA (since a year or so before the pandemic). Deacon Phil is wondering if now is the time to try again to have a choir for our elementary-aged children. Parents of children in that age group: start thinking about this idea. Deacon Phil will be in touch with you by direct mail during the month of September to see what you think about the idea – and to see if/when we could have rehearsals (if there's enough interest in re-starting the GA Choristers). Stay tuned!



And from Joel Lurvey, Our Contemporary Group Director

A couple of things to consider: First, the Contemporary Group is starting up in September, and we are always looking for new members to add their voices and instruments to our mix. Please consider joining us. We meet on Wednesdays from 6-6:30 p.m. We usually sing on the third Sunday of each month. Our first rehearsal is on September 6.

The second thing: I'm going to be doing a set at the Finnish Bistro (2264 Como Ave., St. Paul) on Saturday, September 16, from 6:30 until 8:00. The first half will be for all ages, so kids and adults are welcome to join in with the singing. Come and celebrate my birthday with music!



© dak

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.*
- ♥ *Shirley Beckman – Healing from recent heart attack*
- ♥ *Rodney Christopherson*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *Darlene McQuarrie – Upcoming surgery and recovery*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *Doug – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Sheldon, Bert, and Byron – relatives of GA member Helen Bruhjell who are dealing with COVID-19.*
- ♥ *Sara – James Hamilton would like prayers for his daughter who is facing a health challenge.*
- ♥ *Connor Arneson – Patrick and Jenny Arneson would like prayers for Connor who is leaving for Poland to study abroad for a year.*



We extend Christian sympathy to Nancy and Marv Johnson and the rest of the family and friends of Roger Cropper who passed away August 22. Roger's memorial service was held at GA Church on Monday, August 28.

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

Men's Breakfast

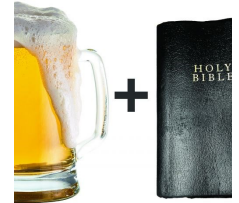
Saturday, September 9 – 8:00 a.m.

Men in the congregation are invited to join for breakfast and devotions on the morning of September 9. This is a monthly breakfast, happening on the second Saturday of the month. For more information, contact Gary Arvidson at 763-755-3987.

Bible & Brews – September 14, 2023

**6:30pm-8:30pm at the Tangen Residence
(1939 Pierce Street NE)**

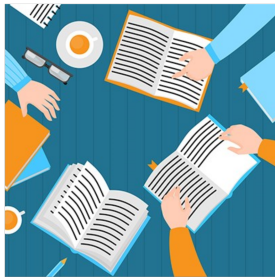
Exactly what it sounds like...Bring your Bible and your favorite beer (or other brew) for a laidback conversation about scripture, the church, current events, and of course...beer! If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the email reminder list, please contact Nick Tangen at nicholastangen@gmail.com.



Congregational One Read – *Seven Aunts* by Staci Lola Drouillard

Book Discussion September 17 after Worship

We are inviting anyone and everyone to read the book *Seven Aunts* by Staci Lola Drouillard before September 17, when we'll host a discussion after worship.



“Part memoir, part cultural history, these memories of seven aunts holding home and family together tell a crucial, often overlooked story of women of the twentieth century.” – UMN Press. Drouillard’s book invites us to explore the intersections of culture, gender, and daily life and is an opportunity for GA to engage with a local Indigenous author as part of our journey in the Truth & Healing Movement.

You can find *Seven Aunts* at most major book sellers and at [Seven Aunts — University of Minnesota Press \(umn.edu\)](https://www.umn.edu/press/seven-aunts)

ELCA's Truth & Healing Movement/Sacred Sites Tours

September 21, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.: Sacred Sites Tour: Tours are led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Kelly Sherman Conroy (Oglala Lakota). The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection. All tours meet at Church of St. Peter, 1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, St. Paul, MN 55120. The MN Council of Churches recommends a \$50-\$75 donation per person. The Social Ministry Committee will cover up to half of that donation if you attend with a group from GA.

The Social Ministry Committee has secured 3 additional spots on September 21 from 3-7pm for the Sacred Sites Tour. If you would like to attend on this date, please contact Nick Tangen at nicholastangen@gmail.com or sign up at [Healing Minnesota Stories | Minnesota Council of Churches \(mnchurches.org\)](https://www.healingminnesotastories.org/)



Neighborhood Walk Encore

Join the Congregational Life and Social Ministry committees for two more neighborhood walks this September! Walking within our community is a great way for our congregation to be present and learn about our surroundings.



- *When?* Thursday, September 7, at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 17, after Worship.
- *Weather?* As long as it's not raining, we will walk!
- *How far?* We will walk for about 30-60 minutes on Thursday, and a bit shorter on Sunday.
- *Treats?* Always.

Summer Sabbatical Sounds

Organ Recital by Deacon Phil Holzman
Sunday, October 1 – 6:30 p.m. at GA
All ages welcome!

Updated Protection Policy

An important part of our life together is ensuring that we have policies in place to protect our youngest and most vulnerable members. Our Congregational Life committee took on the responsibility of updating our existing protection policy. You can find the newly council approved policy on the GA website under "[helpful links](#)." Here are the highlights:

- Volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults will have a background check once every three years.
- We have a budget line item already dedicated to background checks. We will be implementing this over multiple years so the cost is evenly spread out year to year.
- We have identified a software program to ease the administrative burden of managing these background checks.
- Sunday school children will be in rooms with at least two adults or rooms with uncovered windows and drop in supervision.
- If you have concerns about potential abuse, you should report them to a Pastor Ian, Deacon Phil, or a member of the council.
- Congregational Life will review the policy on an annual basis.

Maui Wildfire Relief

GA members have inquired about giving toward the relief efforts to help victims of the wildfires on the island of Maui.

Lutheran Disaster Response is on the ground helping. You can write a check to GA and note Maui Wildfires in the memo line and we will forward it to LDR; or you can mail a check directly to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



You can give by phone at 800-638-3522 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. central time.

An online link to give directly is included in the Saturday email each week. We will continue to run this information in the Saturday email for several more weeks.

Church Council Report

Submitted by Jenny Arneson, Council President

At our August meeting, Council:

- Approved Congregational Life committee's recommended updates to the protection policy. Read the Protection Policy update on the previous page of this newsletter.
- Worked with the Property committee as they prioritize church improvements with the resources raised in our capital appeal.
- Worked with the Mutual Ministry committee to finalize an expanded mission in order to ensure we have systems in place to support our staff and each other through challenges. We look forward to bringing forward these proposed by-law changes at a future congregation meeting. Meanwhile, highlights include:
 - We will expand the committee from three members to six, staggering the 2 year terms.
 - The committee will:
 - * Pray for strength, support, and guidance for called staff and the congregation as a whole.
 - * Serve as advocates for called staff within the congregation, other staff, and members within the congregation and Council.
 - * Serve as a trusted confidant and support structure for called staff, other staff, and congregation members.
 - * Serve as mediators as needed.
 - * Refer matters to clergy or council as needed.
- Mutual Ministry members include Nick Tangen, Jenny Parker, and Kim Christopherson. If you are interested in serving our congregation on this committee, let us know! Email Jenny Arneson at arneson.jenny@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities & Thank Yous

Thank you to long time Meal on Wheel volunteers, Mary Nelson Yunker and Glen Yunker. They have recently retired after many, many years of faithfully delivering meals to homebound neighbors.

There is an opportunity to join our stewardship team. This is the only unstaffed committee and it needs our attention. Our congregation has many hopes and dreams - bright things are ahead for us! We need GA members who can be thoughtful about helping our congregation share their time, talent, and resources. Pastor Ian will be working directly with this committee - let him know if you can help.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

Jenny Arneson, presidentarneson.jenny@gmail.com
Matt Streed, vice-president.....matthewstreed@gmail.com
Dee Kjera, secretary.....deekjera@gmail.com
Kristin Tangen, treasurerksnobeck@gmail.com



Mt. Carmel and GA: Better Together

The executive committees of Mt. Carmel and GA, along with our called staff, recently met. We are reconnecting and recommitting to our relationship and work together, particularly in light of both congregations having new pastors.



It is our intent to ensure we have similar expectations, and then clarify the charge for our Better Together committee.

Meanwhile, our confirmation programs will be implementing independent curriculums and meeting separately. Mt. Carmel has a group of older students that they plan to confirm this year, and no younger students. Both of us are interested in developing fellowship opportunities for our young people throughout the year.

As you see on the front page of this newsletter, GA and Mt. Carmel are in agreement about serving the broader NE community together. There is an opportunity to clean up Johnson Street on September 10.

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.



Note from the Treasurer

Who's ready for the heat wave to end??!! I know we'll all miss summer, but I for one, am ready to stop constantly sweating =p

As you can see from our numbers, we are looking really good as we head into the fall.

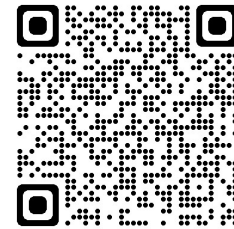
Just a reminder, we were awarded money from the federal government for the Employee Retention Credit as a part of Covid relief just a month ago. This is a one-time gift and there aren't (that we know of right now) going to be any more funds available from the government for anything Covid-related.

We are still running about \$3,000 - \$5,000 below what we need each month for our expenses.

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, go to GA's website or email me (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

July Financials

	July 2023 YTD Actual	July 2023 YTD Budget		July 2022 YTD Actual		July 2023 vs 2022 YTD Actual
Income	\$203,060.26	\$206,026.95		\$174,915.19		\$28,145.07
Expense	\$199,449.79	\$206,026.80		\$185,464.80		\$13,984.99
Inc - Exp	\$3,610.47	\$0.15		-\$10,549.61		\$14,160.08

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

July 2023 YTD Actual Income of \$203,060.26 represents 99% of our budgeted \$206,026.95.

July 2023 YTD Expenses of \$199,449.79 represents 97% of our budgeted \$206,026.80.

The \$3,610.47 difference constitutes our YTD surplus.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is up \$28,145.07 and our expenses are up \$13,984.99.



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am - Worship	Labor Day - Offices Closed	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group	9:30am - Quilters 5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Neighborhood Walk		8am - Men's Breakfast
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
GWOH Sunday 9:30am - Worship 10-45am - GWOH Activities	1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm. 6:30pm - Social Ministry Comm.	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group	6pm - Finance Comm. 6:30pm - Bible & Brews (Tangens)		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am - Worship 10-45am - Cong. One Read 10-45am - Neighborhood Walk 10-45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	Sacred Sites Tour (3-7 p.m.) 6pm - Church Council		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am - Worship 10-45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery 6pm - Contemp. Group 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir			

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 ...

Pastor Ian Coen-Frei, Minister of Word & Sacrament (Ext. 10)
pastorian@gachurchmpls.org
For Pastoral Care: 612-888-3701

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister of Word & Service
(Worship & Music, Parish Administration)
philh@gachurchmpls.org
Cell Phone: 320-304-1774 (for calls/texts)

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.

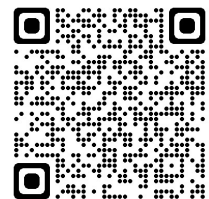
Ways You Can Support GA Church (besides bringing your offerings on Sunday morning to worship):

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