

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

Service of Installation for Pastor Ian

Sunday, October 8 – 9:30 a.m.

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



Following the service, the Congregational Life Committee will host a reception to welcome Pastor Ian, Sarah, and Leonora to GA. It will be a special day indeed. Please join us!



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

A variety of music by a variety of composers.

Church Building Access Hours

Now that the Open Door Learning Center has left our building, access to the church during the week will change. Those needing access to the church during the week can come to church during the following hours:

- Monday/Wednesday/Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- The church building is also open some evenings for meetings and rehearsals. (Consult the online calendar on our website or the weekly calendar in the bulletin for specifics.)



If you need to get into the building outside of these hours, you can contact Deacon Phil or Pastor Ian. Their phone numbers are always listed on the last page of the Sunday bulletin, in this monthly "Gazette" newsletter, and in the Saturday email contact section. We thank you for your understanding as we get used to not

having our learning center friends in the building.

It's Time for Trunk or Treat!

Happy Halloween from the Congregational Life Committee. Please join the congregation on Tuesday, October 31, for two great events. The Spooktacular Concert performed by our very own Phil Holzman will start at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, followed by Trunk or Treat in the parking lot from 5-6 p.m. There will be fun for the entire family; don't forget to wear your costume!

We are in need of members to provide the trunks and candy for the event. If you are willing to pass out candy at the event, please let Jenny Parker know.



We are also collecting bags of wrapped candy the entire month of October to offset the cost of candy for our volunteers. Please consider donating a bag or two. This has become a very popular event for the neighborhood with well over 150 kids and their families in attendance last year. It's a great opportunity for the congregation to welcome our neighbors.



From Pastor Ian

Siblings in Christ,

Last week, as I was walking home after dropping Leonora off at daycare, I was greeted by a lovely sight. I happened to look up at one of the trees, and there, among the green leaves, I spotted a small area that had already begun its transformation into a deep, rich red. This was an unmistakable sign that autumn is on its way. As someone who cherishes the changing of the seasons, I couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement.



The experience brought back a flood of memories from my childhood. In the backyard of our family home stood a towering oak tree. It seemed that no matter how many times we raked up its leaves, the tree would shed more, and the process would repeat itself. We'd gather the fallen leaves onto big tarps and then drag them to the back of our property, where they'd join a growing compost pile. Over the course of the fall and winter, because of decay and the work of earthworms, that mound of leaves would transform into fertile soil. It was a pattern we repeated year after year, experienced through so many sensory experiences—the smell of the leaves, the satisfying crunch underfoot, and the crisp coolness of the autumn air.

In many ways, our life in the church mirrors the natural world's ebb and flow. We, too, are in a cyclical rhythm as we follow the liturgical year—the church calendar. Just as we anticipate the leaves changing colors in the fall, we find signs and markers within our worship life that orient us in this journey. Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday are two such signposts. While the specifics of how each Lutheran congregation observes these occasions may vary, certain elements often remain familiar: the melodies of cherished hymns like "A Mighty Fortress" and "For All the Saints," the warm glow of candles, and the reading of names in memory, all set against the backdrop of red and white vestments and paraments.

These special services serve a dual purpose. They remind us of the origins of our reforming tradition and offer us an opportunity to honor our beloved saints who have found their eternal rest. They also a call to action in the present. Reformation is not merely a historical event; it's an ongoing process, a verb that beckons us to engage with our faith and our world. We are the living inheritors of a legacy shaped by those who have journeyed before us.

As the leaves continue to fall, providing that lovely crunch underfoot, I invite you to pay attention to the changes unfolding within our life of worship. Just as the seasons turn and return, so too do the rhythms of our faith. We are connected to the traditions of the past, and we look ahead with hope to the seasons yet to come.

As the leaves fall and nourish the earth, so too may our worship and our lives serve to enrich the soil of our being, cultivating a deeper and more vibrant faith for generations to come.

Pr. Ian

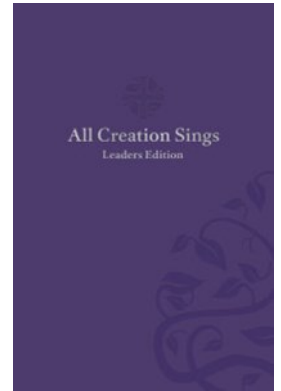


From Deacon Phil

We're Learning a New Liturgy Setting!

If you've been to worship in the last several weeks, you know we have been learning some musical pieces of a new liturgical setting. This setting comes from Augsburg Fortress' new hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*. So far, we have learned a new Canticle of Praise (*Glory to You, God*), and a new Gospel Acclamation.

Although we are not purchasing printed copies of this hymnal supplement, our copyright license with Augsburg Fortress permits us to print hymns, songs, and liturgy pieces in our bulletins. We have been enjoying some of the hymns from the supplement for months now. I attended a workshop in Philadelphia about introducing the supplement in worship during my sabbatical leave this summer and became familiar with this setting of the liturgy. I thought it would be a good fit for our congregation.



Starting on October 1, when the GA Choir is present in worship for the first time this season to help with the singing, we will begin learning the parts of the liturgy that are part of the Communion liturgy: the *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* and *Lamb of God*.

To help familiarize people with these musical pieces, we will have a pre-service rehearsal for the congregation on October 1 at 9:20 a.m. Come early and sing them with the choir. Then when you encounter them in the liturgy, they'll be a little more familiar. We hope you will grow to enjoy this new musical setting as we broaden our congregation's repertoire.



GA Choir Welcomes Four New Singers

The new choir season has recently begun. The GA Choir will sing in worship for the first time on October 1. The choir was hit hard after our return to in-person worship following the pandemic shutdown; almost half of our singers did not return to choir for one reason or another. We are excited to welcome four new singers to the group this fall – one person to each vocal section: Joy Anderson (alto), Joel Cable (baritone), Melissa Hentges (soprano), and Josh Meuwissen (tenor). We're so happy to welcome them to our choir, but we're certainly open to welcoming more new singers. The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and sings for worship on the first and last Sundays of the month plus church holidays. Deacon Phil is the director of the choir.

Gustavus Bells Update

We're happy to announce that the Gustavus Bells handbell choir is fully staffed for the season. We were sad to receive the news of Mary Nelson Yunker's retirement but happy that new GA attendee Laura Koletar was excited to join the group this fall. Even though we have a full choir, we could use some people to be on our substitute roster. If you have experience ringing handbells and would like to be added to our substitute roster, let Deacon Phil know.

Time for a GA Choristers Re-Boot?

Here's a reminder to parents of children in elementary school: Deacon Phil sent out a letter and response card to households with students in this age group in September proposing a re-boot of our GA Choristers children's choir. He's awaiting responses from parents as to whether or not there is enough interest in re-starting the choir. Please be in touch with Deacon Phil as soon as possible. Thank you – and stay tuned!

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.
- ♥ James Hamilton – Prayers of thanksgiving for his progress and prayers continue for his improved health.
- ♥ Marv Johnson – Prayers for a heart procedure.
- ♥ Sarah – Ongoing health challenges.
- ♥ Sharon Leba – Ongoing health issues.
- ♥ Linda Lindahl – Prayers for continuing health concerns.
- ♥ Darlene McQuarrie – Upcoming surgery and recovery
- ♥ Annette Parker – Prayers for ongoing health concerns.
- ♥ Jean Pope – Recovering from a fractured hip.
- ♥ Doug – Ongoing health issues.
- ♥ Sarah – James Hamilton would like prayers for his daughter who is facing a health challenge.



We extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of longtime GA member Bev Moody who passed away on September 19. Bev's funeral service was held at GA on September 30.

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.



Start of Sunday School Year

We're off to a great start, with over 30 children age three through grade five registered. A reminder to parents that there will not be Sunday school on October 8 (because of Pastor Ian's Installation Reception) and again on October 22 (because of MEA break).

Third Grade Bibles

Congratulations to our third-grade class – Jessica Franz, Nora Nielsen, Libby Nordling, and Riley Webb – who will receive Bibles on Reformation Sunday, October 29. This is a long-held tradition at GA to present each third-grade student with a Bible from the congregation. The presentation will take place during the morning worship service. We hope each of these third graders and their families can be present in worship that morning.



Church news

Will YOU Host Sunday Coffee Fellowship?

Our Sunday coffee fellowship hour after worship is very popular. There's only one problem lately – we've been short on people willing to host! If you enjoy this fellowship time, please consider taking your turn hosting. You don't have to do any fancy baking; you can bring some store-bought goodies and make some coffee and lemonade at church on Sunday morning. Mary Ann Eide is more than willing to give coffee-making instructions to any newbies! The sign-up sheet is on the large table in the Narthex. So far the only Sunday in October that is spoken-for is the 8th, when Congregational Life will host the reception for Pastor Ian's Installation Sunday. Thanks for your consideration!

New "Christ in Our Home" Devotionals Available

The new booklets for the 4th quarter of the year (Oct.-Dec.) are available in the Narthex at church. As always, there are a few large-print copies as well as the small pocket-sized booklets. We encourage folks to take a copy; it is an excellent tool for daily devotions at home.

Have Questions/Problems with Your Online Giving?

Our Finance Manager Will Be Onsite Sunday, October 1

Navigating our online giving option can sometimes be challenging. Our Finance Team realizes this to be true. If you have questions or concerns about your online giving to GA through Simply Giving/Vanco – or you want to take this opportunity to increase your giving! – Zach Copa, our finance manager, will be in his office after worship on Sunday, October 1, to help people in person. Zach's office is located next to the workroom/copier room in the education wing.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, October 14 – 8:00 a.m.

Men in the congregation are invited to join for breakfast and devotions on the morning of October 14. This is a monthly breakfast, happening on the second Saturday of the month. For more information, contact Gary Arvidson at 763-755-3987.

Heads-Up to All Crafters

The Crafty Women group is planning another "Craft-In" from November 13 to 16 in our Fellowship Hall. Put it on your calendars. Invite friends. More information to come.

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

Open Door Learning Center Has Left GA Church

Read Thank You Letter from Open Door Below!

As you probably know, the Open Door Learning Center, which has been providing literacy classes in our building for approximately six years, has left our building as of the end of September. We have enjoyed and treasured this partnership these six years and will miss having the Open Door Learning Center in our building. We wish them well as they continue to provide classes in their new location. Christian Preston, morning coordinator of the program, who has spoken to our congregation in worship on more than one occasion, wrote a thank you letter that he wanted to share with everyone. Read on!

Hi GA community!

Well, we've had a wonderful 6 years, but sadly it's come time for Open Door NE to finally shut the doors. There have been three Open Door Learning Centers in Minneapolis for several years (there's actually been an Open Door Adult Learning center in Northeast for 30+ years) hosted by churches, libraries, schools and more, but the offerings at the different sites have been quite inconsistent. So, the decision has been made to combine the three learning centers into one new site that can provide the highest quality instruction and wrap-around services to all our Minneapolis participants.

Which is all well and good, but it's still hard to say goodbye to this really special community. Since we opened the school here at GA on Oct 15, 2017, Open Door NE has welcomed 834 immigrants and refugees from over 50 countries, and 275 volunteers tutors from around the Twin Cities. These 1,109 lifelong learners have spent over 93,000 hours in the GA education wing working on English instruction, digital literacy skills, learning to navigate life in America, and possibly most important, sharing in a community where people feel welcome and respected. This would not have been possible without you opening up your space with us these last 6 years.

Thank you for sharing this very special location with us. Thank you for being so intentional about opening your doors to the community. You have made a big difference in the lives of many Northeast neighbors!

FYI, the new Open Door Minneapolis campus is located at 627 West Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Classes will be starting Sept 25; please feel welcome to come and say hello!

Cheers!

Christian Preston (he/him) | Learning Center Coordinator and Data Specialist
Open Door Learning Center Northeast | 1509 27th Ave NE | Minneapolis, MN 55418
Direct: 612-789-9024 | literacymn.org

Open Door is a program of Literacy Minnesota.
Literacy changes everything.



Church Council Report

Submitted by Jenny Arneson, Council President

Save the date for January, 28, 2024, for the annual meeting! In preparation this fall, the council and committees are starting the budget process. You can help us plan by sharing information about your giving intentions.

Meanwhile, the property committee is moving forward to obtain bids for capital projects. Read more about how they will prioritize projects with the funds available. We are expecting to begin with audio equipment and if we get information in time, will call a special congregational meeting prior to January.

Council is also working on constitutional amendments and by-law changes. You can expect to see copies in the Narthex soon. These discussions will be added onto existing congregational meetings.

Finally, members of council and staff are meeting regularly with Mt. Carmel to clarify our work together.

Volunteer Opportunities & Thank You

Thank you to long time bell choir member, Mary Nelson Yunker, and thank you to our choir members (including the 4 new members!!) We appreciate hearing their music during worship!

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.*

We are seeking another council member to serve a partial term until January, 2025. This is an exciting time in our church and we welcome a new voice! Contact Phil, Pastor Ian, or Jenny Arneson if you are interested.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

Jenny Arneson, president.....arneson.jenny@gmail.com
Matt Streed, vice-president.....matthewstreed@gmail.com
Dee Kjera, secretarydeekjera@gmail.com
Kristin Tangen, treasurer.....ksnoback@gmail.com



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.



Life Together Project Update

September, 2023

Hello!



I am pleased to share an update on behalf of our Church Council regarding our *Life Together* Campaign. As you know, we had a very successful campaign and we were able to raise \$185,000 in pledges! Nearly \$60,000 of that has already been received!

While we are humbled by the generosity of our members, we did fall short of our aspirational goal of \$250,000. This means we need to trim back on some of the proposed projects and prioritize what elements fall best within the intentions of the campaign. This is only a proposed list as there are likely to be adjustments as we learn more about the costs of each of the items below. In any case, the council will return to the congregation in alignment with our constitution prior to commencing with work with a value greater than \$15,000.

When we subtract our 10% mission partner commitment and our capital campaign costs, we have approximately \$146,000 to meet our goals. With these resources, we will do amazing things to support our mission of building community where God is at the center.

Our property committee is proposing the following:

1. We propose reducing our anticipated Audio Visual investment from \$60,000 to \$25,000. We will continue to work with volunteers from the congregation as well as suppliers to understand our options for meeting this budget. We have identified items that could be deferred to future projects and are keeping the following goals in mind:
 - a. Improve the visual and audio experience for our online worship.
 - b. Improve the reliability of our streaming during online worship.
 - c. Provide a system that is easy to use for volunteers and the training to operate it.
 - d. Eliminate cords and cables taped to the floor.
 - e. Return all equipment generously loaned from our members.
2. Maintain the \$75,000 budget to repair and resurface the South Parking Lot. We are currently exploring a grant to help offset the cost and we will know more about the final costs when we are done with the design phase and have a better understanding of the grant and city requirements.
3. Reduce the Maintenance Budget from \$96,000 to \$40,000. We have prioritized the maintenance and repair of critical items and de-prioritized items that are more cosmetic in nature. Our recommendations include:
 - a. Patch, repair and clean the kitchen floor and both floors of the education wing in lieu of replacement.
 - b. Maintain budget to replace the lower level Narthex furnace and AC unit when needed.
 - c. Reduce scope of painting and crack repair in the Sanctuary.
 - d. Reduce general maintenance fund for unexpected repairs.

While these reductions are not insignificant, we believe we can meet the spirit of our campaign with this new adjusted budget. We ask for your continued patience as we work with vendors and contractors to finalize the costs associated with the work above. There are exciting times ahead!

Cheers!

Matthew Streed, on behalf of the Property Committee and the Church Council



And speaking of our Life Together, here are some recent pictures from the congregation.

Packing Blizzard Meals for Meals on Wheels clients on September 10...



A couple of our Sunday school classes on September 17...



Note from the Treasurer

Like every weather person on cable TV says, "It's fall y'all!"

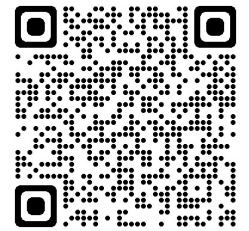
I wanted to take a moment to share how incredible our increase in gifts from last year to this year has been. If you look at the chart, we are giving over \$30K MORE this year than last year. That is truly amazing and something to be celebrated.



I know we are still running about \$3,000 - \$5,000 below what we need each month for our expenses, but I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU to everyone for adjusting their giving as they can. You are all truly a blessing to this church and this community.

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

August Financials

	August 2023 YTD Actual	August 2023 YTD Budget		August 2022 YTD Actual		August 2023 vs 2022 YTD Actual
Income	\$228,853.21	\$235,459.36		\$195,299.12		\$33,554.09
Expense	\$227,959.26	\$235,459.24		\$206,939.47		\$21,019.79
Inc - Exp	\$893.95	\$0.12		-\$11,640.35		\$12,534.30

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

August 2023 YTD Actual Income of \$228,853.21 represents 97% of our budgeted \$235,459.36.

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

The \$893.95 difference constitutes our YTD surplus.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:20am - Liturgy "rehearsal" 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6:30pm - Organ Recital	1pm - Grief Group 5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Property Comm.	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	9:30am - Quilters		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pt. Ian's Installation 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Reception	1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - Social Ministry Comm.	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	6pm - Finance Comm.		8am - Men's Breakfast
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Confirmation Class 10:45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group	6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	6pm - Church Council		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - NO 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			
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Reformation - 3rd Cr. Bibles 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - Northeast Chorale	TRUNKOR TREAT! 4:30pm - Organ Recital 5pm - Trunk or Treat				

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.

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pastorian@gachurchmpls.org
For Pastoral Care: 612-888-3701

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister of Word & Service (Ext. 11)
(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

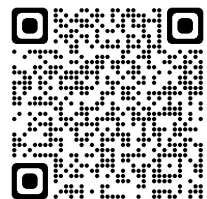
Ways You Can Support GA Church (besides bringing your offerings on Sunday morning to worship):

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



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