

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28 – In the Sanctuary and on Zoom!

Plan to attend our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28, after worship. Like our worship services, the meeting will be a hybrid meeting – you can attend in person in the sanctuary or via Zoom. As is the case every year, we'll hear reports from staff and committees, hear a presentation and approve an operating budget for 2024, and elect several church council members for 2024. This year, we will also take a second vote on the proposed changes to our church constitution (the first vote was taken at our meeting on December 17) and hear updates on our capital campaign, including potentially voting on a plan for upgrades to our audio/visual system. Copies of the proposed 2024 budget will be available at church the week before the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

Here is the Meeting ID for the Zoom meeting that is **both worship and the annual meeting** that morning: 831 7352 3060 . We will also share the link in the Saturday emails on January 20 and 27. If you have any questions about how this will work, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Ian, Deacon Phil, or Jenny Arneson, our church council president.

Reports for Annual Booklet



Deacon Phil will be compiling a booklet of reports for the annual meeting. These will be available for those who attend the annual meeting in person and can be picked up at the church after the fact by those who are unable to attend in person. We want to include reports for all committees and organizations in the congregation, detailing their ministries during the past year.

The deadline for submitting reports to Deacon Phil Holzman for the annual booklet is Sunday, January 14. If possible, please submit your report in a Microsoft Word file. Email your report to Phil at philh@gachurchmpls.org.

Did You Know?

2024 is GA's 110th Anniversary Year!
See some anniversary events in January listed
on page 3 of this newsletter!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Advent and Christmas 2023 so special at GA Church.

We thank, in no particular order, those folks who:

- ♥ *loaned us Nativity sets for the narthex;*
- ♥ *donated items for the Northeast Middle School closet – and who purchased quilts for the fundraiser for the closet;*
- ♥ *secured, set-up, and/or decorated the two 12-foot Christmas trees in the sanctuary;*
- ♥ *sang or rang handbells in one of our four choirs for the seasons;*
- ♥ *decorated the sanctuary and narthex;*
- ♥ *served food at one of our events;*
- ♥ *donated poinsettias for Advent IV and Christmas Eve services;*
- ♥ *served as leaders in worship – or helped prepare for worship or ran sound or the Zoom meetings;*
- ♥ *gave generously of their financial resources;*
- ♥ *participated in one way or another in the Sunday school pageant;*
- ♥ *worshipped with us in Advent and Christmas.*

Please note:

- 2024 offering envelope boxes are available in the narthex for those who use envelopes; 2024 calendars are also available.
- Those who loaned us Nativity sets may pick them up at their earliest convenience.

From Pastor Ian

It is with joy that I think back to our Christmas Eve worship together. Gathering in the darkened space with candles lit and voices raised can feel like a unique and special experience for people who usually worship in the morning. And this year, in 2024 we will be adding another opportunity for an evening worship opportunity on March 30: the Easter Vigil. Explaining the vigil, Pr. Craig Mueller writes,



In the early centuries of the Church, before there was a church year and Easter Day services as we know them, the Easter Vigil was the annual, unitive celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection in one service. It was most often held as an all-night Vigil, but the essentials then and now remain the same: a service of light around the paschal candle; readings from the Hebrew scriptures as pictures of resurrection; adult baptisms by immersion; and eucharist. In the past several decades churches of many denominations have restored the Easter Vigil to its rightful place as the "queen of feasts."

The service is one that is multi-sensory and encourages active participation. It begins outside by the campfire, where we will light a new Paschal candle (which will be made by the confirmation students this year) and then carry it into the darkened sanctuary. Then we will share in readings from the Hebrew bible, with some dramatically read, and others sung responsively, and possibly some acted out. After the reading of the gospel, we will be reminded of the promise of baptism (or even possibly baptize!), and then we will join in the celebration of the meal.

In the next few months, I will be sharing more about this service through the "Gazette" and by other means, and I hope that you will be curious about this vigil. There are many different ways that Easter vigils have been celebrated over the years. While we will be using the tradition of the vigil as our starting point, my hope is that the celebration of this historic service will be unique to GA, reflecting the people who call this their church home. It will not be "another" worship service to attend, but rather will be "the" worship service to look forward to! To anticipate with joy.

If you are interested in learning more about this service, or if you want to help plan and lead it this year, please feel free to reach out and we can connect!

-pr. Ian



2024 – GA’s 110th Anniversary Year!

Two thousand twenty-four is the 110th Anniversary year of the founding of the congregation. We hope to plan many special events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone occasion.

If you are interested in helping plan an event or two, please join the 110th Anniversary Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth/Media Room. If you’re unable to attend the meeting but still want to be on the committee, please contact Jenny Parker or Shirley Fors.



Several 110th Anniversary events are already planned for the month of January, sponsored by the Sunday School department. The entire congregation is invited and encouraged to participate in the following:

- **Sunday, January 7, 2024: Bible Village Sunday**, 10:45-11:45 a.m. A good time is promised as we step back in time to Biblical times. Learn a few words in Hebrew, learn about life at the temple, try some favorite foods, and much more.
- **Sunday, January 14, 2024: Sing-A-Long Sunday**, 10:45-11:30 am. Join the Sunday School children in singing your favorite hymns and Sunday School songs.
- **Sunday, January 21, 2024: Congregational Scavenger Hunt**, 10:45-11:30 am. Learn about the history of the congregation and church building by going on a scavenger hunt of all the things that make GA special.



Bible & Brews – January 11, 2024

6:30 p.m. at the Tangen Home – 1939 Pierce Street NE

Bible & Brews will start again on January 11! Bring a Bible and your favorite brew for a relaxed conversation about scripture and our call to build community where God is at the center. This month, we’ll be reading Matthew 2:1-12 and Ephesians 3:1-12 as we prepare for the Epiphany of Our Lord!

Men’s Breakfast

Saturday, January 13, 8:00 a.m.

All men in the congregation are invited to attend the Men’s Breakfast in January. There will be lots of good food and time for good conversation as well. The coffee is on by 8:00 a.m. Come join us!



Thank You!

Thank you for the items we have collected for Northeast Middle School and to the quilters for donating the proceeds from the quilt sale to purchase larger items for our community’s youth! This is one small way we contribute to the common good in this neighborhood, and you helped to make it possible. Thank you, from your Social Ministry Committee!

Quilt Sale Results

The quilt sale raised \$320.00 in December which will go toward supporting the Northeast Middle School Closet. Thank you for your support!
~ The GA Quilters

Truth & Healing Movement

There is still time to visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for “**In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now**” for a great opportunity to learn more about our Indigenous neighbors through the lens of Native photographers. This exhibit runs through January 14, 2024 and “...traces the intersecting histories of photography and diverse Indigenous cultures from the Rio Grande to the Arctic Circle.”

Notes & Thoughts from Deacon Phil

Thank You, Choir Members –

I want to thank the members of our choirs for their hard work and dedication in providing beautiful music for our Advent and Christmas worship services. In particular, I want to provide special words of thanks to members of the GA Choir who participated in our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (along with the Northeast Chorale) on December 17 – and to the ringers of the Gustavus Bells who worked hard and prepared over 15 minutes of prelude music for our Christmas Eve service. Well done!



It's A New Year. Want to Join a Choir? –

Now, after the Christmas holidays and before we begin our Lenten preparations, is a great time to join a choir! Joel and I would love to see some new faces (and hear some new voices) in our groups. (Note: the Gustavus Bells handbell choir is currently fully-staffed, but we're always looking for substitute ringers. Our other choirs are always open to new members!) Here's our start-up schedule for January (see the calendar page for full details):

- ♪ GA Choristers (Grades 1-5) – Wednesday, January 3, 6:00 p.m.
- ♪ Contemporary Group (directed by Joel Lurvey) – Wednesday, January 3, 6:00 p.m.
- ♪ Gustavus Bells – Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.
- ♪ GA Choir – Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m.

If you have questions about any of our choirs, please feel free to contact me. I'm happy to chat with anyone!

Congregational Meeting Time –

I hope to see many of you at our annual congregational meeting on January 28. This is an important annual event where our congregation gathers to do important business and to celebrate the ministry that we do in Christ's name. I hope you can attend. (And don't forget to get those committee and group reports in to me by January 14 as noted on the front page.)

~ Deacon Phil

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.

Did You Also Know?

2024 will mark the 15th anniversary of GA becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation! It was in May 2009 that GA voted to take this important step. We plan to mark this milestone during 2024. Stay tuned for more information.

Let's Get to Know Our New Members Received in November 2023

Joel Cable

Joel was born in Spooner, Wisconsin, and baptized and confirmed there at Trinity Lutheran Church. He is a semi-retired software developer who sees himself also as a working linguist (B.A.) in that he develops apps to improve literacy. Joel started attending GA in March 2002 and is in the choir. He lives about a mile away on Buchanan and is thinking about taking up snowboarding this winter; so please talk him out of it!

Sarah (and Ian) Coen-Frei – and Leonora

Sarah grew up in Grand Forks, ND as the daughter of two Lutheran pastors. Her education in social work and her faith are central to her values and desire to work for her community. She is a fundraiser with Minnesota Public Radio. In 2016, Sarah and Ian met while at seminary in Chicago and welcomed their daughter, Leonora, in 2021. As a family, they like to check out fun museums, eat Indian food, and snuggling up to read a good book.

Jennifer Creadick

Jennifer moved to Northeast Minneapolis in 2019 from Durham, NC where she owned a violin shop for 30+ years. She now works from home as a violin maker and also enjoys a part-time job teaching swimming lessons. She and her husband, Brian Linder, live two blocks away from GA with their dog, cat, and turtle. Jennifer's three adult children followed them to Minneapolis and live nearby. Jennifer enjoys hiking, bird watching, and live music and theater.

Laura and Josh Koletar

Laura and Josh live in the neighborhood and are excited to officially become members of this welcoming community. Laura and Josh are both social workers and therapists. Laura is originally from Battle Lake, MN and Josh is originally from Lakeville, MN. Together they enjoy singing in the Northeast Chorale, visiting MN State Parks for hiking and camping, reading, and visiting local spots for food and beverages (and are always interested in trying something new!). You can also find Laura in the handbell choir here at GA, and Josh coaching high school basketball.

Lucinda and Jason Oakes – and Clara and Wilson

Lucinda and Jason are both originally from a small town in western Minnesota but have lived in Northeast for the past 13 years. They have two children – Wilson (age 7) and Clara (age 5). Jason works as a physician assistant and Lucinda is a stay-at-home mom. They are grateful with how welcoming the GA community has been.

LuAnn Streed

LuAnn is originally from Ortonville, MN and now resides in Wheaton, MN. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Morris in Elementary Education. Along with teaching, she had had many other employments in Wheaton – as many as 3 or 4 at a time – and is now retired. Her husband, Brian, still works part-time in their own plumbing and heating company. Together they have one daughter and son-in-law with three teenage daughters of their own; and also a son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Taryn, and of their, their three teen “angels.” Since the beginning of COVID, LuAnn has been attending GA on Zoom, to which she was introduced by Matthew and Taryn, and has very much appreciated the opportunity.

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*
- ♥ *Pam Evangelist – Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.*
- ♥ *Linda Lindahl – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Darlene McQuarrie – Upcoming surgery and recovery.*
- ♥ *Robbie Murphy – Pat Lynch would like prayers for her sister who is experiencing several health challenges.*
- ♥ *Nancy Rathbun – Experiencing some recent health concerns.*
- ♥ *Jean Rosebrock – Prayers for Jean as she experiences declining health.*
- ♥ *Alex and Ann Schwartz (Nicole Navratil's parents) – Prayers for Nicole's parents: Alex, for healing and Ann for managing his care.*
- ♥ *Mary Nelson Yunker – Prayers for Mary following a recent fall.*
- ♥ *Doug – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Sarah – James Hamilton would like prayers for his daughter who is facing a health challenge.*
- ♥ *Jamie Brandenburg – A friend of Cassandra & Eric Weidmann who is experiencing an urgent/ongoing health crisis.*

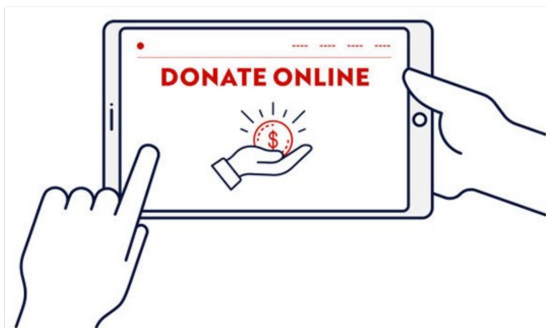


To have someone's name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jenson, at mplsjean@yahoo.com or Pastor Ian, or Deacon Phil.

Important News for our Online Givers

We recently announced we're switching our online giving provider. Our mission is to better steward every gift contributed to our church, and that's why we're beginning to use Breeze as our new online and text-giving platform.

We truly appreciate that you took advantage of Vanco, either through one-time or recurring gifts, and we're excited to transition over to Breeze for future online and text donations. Our goal is to turn off Vanco by 1/31/2024, but we encourage you to start using Breeze right away! Here's how to get started.



Next Steps for One-Time Gifts

Going forward, if you'd like to give a one-time gift, simply give using Breeze instead of Vanco by going to Donations page of our website and following the instructions on the page.

Or...text the amount you'd like to donate (example: 50) to (612) 887-1797 and follow the prompts for a one-time set up. In the future, you'll simply be able to text the gift amount to our giving number and hit send!

Next Steps for Recurring Givers

If you're a Recurring Giver in Vanco, first cancel the gift within the Vanco system. *If you need help doing this, please reach out to Deacon Phil or Pastor Ian to ensure this is done correctly.*

- ◆ Then, go to our [Giving Page](#) on our website
- ◆ Enter the amount you'd like to give
- ◆ Click the dropdown that shows the words "one time gift" and select a different frequency from the menu (weekly, every two weeks, monthly, yearly)
- ◆ Select your Payment Method and click "Continue"
- ◆ Now, enter your Contact and Payment Information and choose if you would like to cover the processing fees
- ◆ Click the "Give \$" button

If you ever want to change or modify your recurring gift, you will be able to do so through a link that is included in the confirmation email after your first gift is processed.

We truly appreciate your help as we make this transition. It is through your generous gifts that we're able to build community where God is at the center.

-pr. ian

Church Council Report

Happy New Year!!!

We've had such amazing generosity in the last few months, and we know we can keep it going in 2024!

Our annual congregational meeting is January 28 right after church. Mark your calendars!

Church Council and the Finance Committee have worked very hard in the past few months to put together what we think is a really strong plan for 2024.

With extreme gratitude, we head into the new year with exciting things like our 110th anniversary.

There's an infectious feeling of joy and hope from everyone in the congregation and we know we're all excited to see what's ahead.

Your Church Council

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

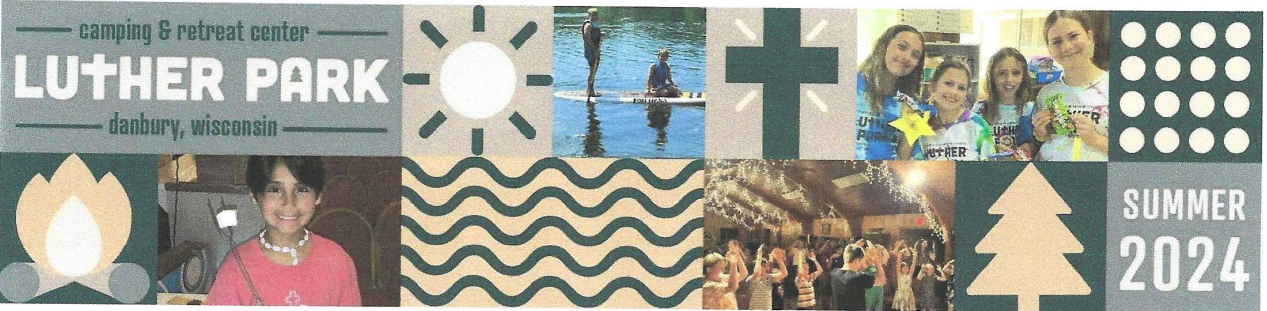
Jenny Arneson, presidentarneson.jenny@gmail.com
 Matt Streed, vice-president.....matthewstreed@gmail.com
 Dee Kjera, secretary.....deekjera@gmail.com
 Kristin Tangen, treasurerksnobeck@gmail.com



JOIN GUSTAVUS AT LUTHER PARK THIS SUMMER



Camp Getaway for Gustavus Families at Luther Park is Friday, July 19th – Sunday, July 21st, 2024. Embark on an unforgettable weekend escape at Luther Park with your family! Delight in the serenity of Lake 26, participate in engaging camp activities led by our fantastic staff, unleash creativity with camp crafts, relish in delicious home-cooked meals, and create lasting memories together. This weekend program offers the ideal blend of relaxation and excitement. Families of all compositions are warmly welcomed!



Camper week for Gustavus at Luther Park is targeted for July 21st – July 26th, 2024.

- Grades 1st – 4th (Sunday, July 21st - Wednesday, July 24th, 2024) Half Week in the Cabins
- Grades 3rd – 6th (Sunday, July 21st - Friday, June 26th, 2024) Full Week in the Cabins
- Grades 7th – 12th (Sunday, July 21st - Friday, June 26th, 2024) Full week in the Treehouses

Come with the family for the weekend and leave your camper for the week of camp! This is a great way to get your campers comfortable with Luther Park before they stay independently.

REGISTER NOW ON OUR WEBSITE
 REGISTER BY DEC 31ST & SAVE \$100
 REGISTER BY FEB 29TH & SAVE \$50

If these dates do not work out for your family, please visit the website to see other options.

Register for programs at camp online at: www.lutherparkdanbury.com,
 click on "Register here."
 Contact camp with questions by email, camp@lutherpark.com or
 by phone, 715-200-7023.



A Testimonial for Camp Getaway for Families at Luther Park

Last summer, several families from GA attended Camp Getaway for Families at Luther Park in Danbury, Wisconsin. It was my family's first experience with church camp as a family. Highlights included deepening relationships with other GA families, hanging out in the game room, crafting in their well-stocked arts and craft room, use of the waterfront, campfires both evenings with singing and s'mores, plus all the meals were prepared for us. It was such a fun time!

Looking ahead into the new year we are planning to have a Gustavus Adolphus Camp Getaway for Families July 19-21, 2024. As you are making your summer plans, we hope that you would consider joining us for a weekend at Luther Park. And just a reminder that families of all compositions are warmly welcomed! For more details see Luther Park's website (lutherparkdanbury.com).

If you would like to hear more about my family's experience, I'd love to chat about it.

Charissa Peterson (charissapeterson@gmail.com)



Two Recent Pictures!

- * Christmas Eve 2023 Worship
- * Christmas Caroling by the firepit on December 23, 2023.

Note from the Treasurer

HAPPY NEW YEAR Y'ALL!

With one month of numbers to still come in, we're so happy to have a (very small) SURPLUS!!!!

Let's keep up the amazing work and head into 2024 with this incredible momentum.

BIG UPDATE. We are switching our online giving from Vanco to Breeze. We're doing this because we already have services through Breeze and it doesn't cost us anything extra (we are paying for Vanco services monthly).

We want to turn off our Vanco service on January 31. So if you have a recurring online gift, please switch to Breeze!

If you want a step-by-step on how to update, scan this QR code and it'll open a Google doc with instructions (These were also sent out as an email on 12/19; if you did not get this email, please let Deacon Phil or Pr. Ian know because we may not have your correct email in our system).



Thank you to all who have given end-of-year gifts to get us across the finish line!

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

Kristin

November Financials

	Nov	Nov		Nov		Nov
	2023 YTD	2023 YTD		2022 YTD		2023 vs 2022
	Actual	Budget		Actual		YTD Actual
Income	\$330,906.97	\$323,756.59		\$279,771.51		\$51,135.46
Expense	\$330,144.24	\$323,756.56		\$290,260.27		\$39,883.97
Inc - Exp	\$762.73	\$0.03		-\$10,488.76		\$11,251.49

The figures above represent our income/expenses through November 30, 2023.

November 2023 YTD Actual Income of \$330,906.97 represents 102% of our budgeted \$323,756.59.

November 2023 YTD Expenses of \$294,905.87 represents 91% of our budgeted \$323,756.56.

The



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3 10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - GA Choristers	4	5	6 Epiphany
7 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Bible Village Sunday	8 1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm. 6:30pm - Social Ministry Comm. 7pm - Anniv. Comm.	9	10 10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells	11 5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm. 6:30pm - Bible & Brews	12	13 Confirmation Retreat 8am - Men's Breakfast
14 Confirmation Retreat 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Anniv. Hymn Sing	15 MLK Day - Offices Closed	16 6:30pm - Better Together - MTC	17 10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	18 6pm - Church Council	19	20
21 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Anniv. Scavenger Hunt 10:45am - Confirmation Class	22 1pm - Grief Group	23	24 10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	25	26	27
28 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Annual Cong. Mtg.	29 1pm - Grief Group	30	31 10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	1	2	3

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 Number: 612-789-1334

Bldg. Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 (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



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) Our church offers online giving and text-to-give. They're easy to use and secure! You can give a gift of support online at www.gachurchmpls.org/donate or give via text message by texting the amount you would like to give to (612) 887-1797 .

3) Email our church's Finance Manager, Zach Copa, if you are interested in learning how to contribute stock donations.

4) Point your smartphone at the QR code above!

Gustavus Adolphus Church Council

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

At-large Members:

Wendy Bradshaw
Beverly Prawalsky



Kathy Schuette