



February 14

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey

through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. We invite you to join us at GA as we mark the day.

**Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.
Worship at 7:00 p.m. –
Including Holy Communion and the
Imposition of Ashes**

You can join in worship in person or on Zoom. A Zoom link will be shared in the Saturday email on February 10. We look forward to starting this special season of Lent with you on Ash Wednesday.

Lent Wednesdays – February 21 through March 20

You are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for Evening Prayer each of the Wednesdays in Lent (after Ash Wednesday). We will use the much-loved *Holden Evening Prayer* as our liturgy each week. As in the past several years, these services will be hybrid – you can attend in-person or online. One Zoom link will be created for all the Wednesday services and will be shared in each Saturday's email blast.



Lenten Soup Suppers

We have many wonderful opportunities during the Lenten season to gather with our community for meals and worship. This can be a deepening time in our faith journey. Meals will be served every Wednesday from February 14 - March 20 at 6:00 p.m. (prior to Evening Prayer).

There is a **sign-up sheet in the Narthex** if you would like to participate in cooking and serving meals. We are inviting the neighborhood to participate, so this can be a wonderful opportunity for us to meet and welcome new people.

Thanks for considering this opportunity. Questions? Contact Lynn Lurvey, 612-245-6099.



Booklet of Reports Available

If you missed the annual meeting on January 28, you can find printed copies of the booklet of reports in the Narthex at church. If you would like a link to the reports online, contact Deacon Phil.



Updated Membership Directories Published

You can find copies of an updated membership directory in the Narthex at church. This "anniversary edition" includes a sketch of the stained glass window by the bell choir area as the cover. Please feel free to take a copy for your use at home. If you would like an electronic/pdf copy of the directory, you can request one from Deacon Phil.





Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. Tradition lives in conversation with the past, while remembering where we are and when we are and that it is we who have to decide. Traditionalism supposed that nothing should ever be done for the first time, so all that is needed to solve any problem is to arrive at the supposedly unanimous testimony of this homogenized tradition.

This quote from a 1989 interview with Jaroslav Pelikan—a renowned professor of Lutheran Christian history—resonates deeply with the ways that I understand worship that is both meaningful and rooted in community. As I shared in the “Gazette” last month, the Easter Vigil is a worship service that is deeply rooted in the history of the church. It was at an Easter Vigil in 387 that St. Augustine was baptized as an adult. Augustine called it the greatest feast of the year, the night on which “the whole world is awake and watchful.” And the pattern of the vigil that we will be following at GA is the same that would have been experienced back in 387. And it largely is the same pattern we follow on Sunday mornings: Gathering, Word, Sacrament, and Sending. Only, for the vigil, we Gather outside, around a great fire. We share some of the most dramatic readings from the bible, primarily from the Old Testament. We have the opportunity to affirm the promises of our baptisms and share in the meal. And fed by word and meal, we go forth sharing the message that Christ is risen, Alleluia!

The Easter vigil is a time and place when we can connect with the tradition of those who led the way as our forebears in faith, and we can also worship in a manner that is reflective of this community. Some of the exciting ways we will be doing this is through:

- Gathering around the new fire and lighting a new Paschal candle made by the confirmation class from the previous year's altar candles.
- Sharing the readings through creative means including song, drama, and responsive litanies.
- Sharing in the meal of communion with homemade bread that is both vegan and gluten-free, enabling all to share in the “one bread, one body.”
- Using inclusive and expansive language in the liturgy that invites people of all identities to experience God in familiar and new ways.

While the Easter Vigil may be new to GA, it is certainly not new within Christian history. It is part of the fabric of Christian tradition. I am so excited that GA is going to enter into this tradition of an Easter Vigil this year. It could be easy to say, “After 110 years, why would we want to add another worship service to Holy week.” I hope that together and with curiosity we can explore why the Vigil has been part of our faith tradition for so long and why it can be a central part of our faith life here.

-pr. ian

Adult Education at GA!

Adult ed. will take place on the second Sunday of each month after worship in the Faith Room. Topics will vary each month. If you are interested in being involved or teaching a class about something you are passionate about, talk to Bryant Kumlin or send him an email at kumli004@umn.edu!



The next class will take place on February 11, and cover Lent, its history, and examples of how it is practiced today.

110th Anniversary Talent Show!



Please join us in the audience, as a performer, or both on Saturday, April 13, 3 – 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

Performer sign-up sheets will be in the narthex, both at GA and at Mt. Carmel. Refreshments provided. Free will offering happily accepted. Plan to join in the fun!

Questions? Call Shirley Fors, 612-419-4726.

From the Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee would like to make you aware that we are here to serve you! The goals of this committee are to gather feedback from church members, communicate feedback to the community, and support and counsel church members through differences of opinion. We are here to advocate for and assist congregants, called staff, and other staff in navigating issues you experience in our life together. We will soon open up an email address mutualministry@gachurchmpls.org where folks can communicate their thoughts and feedback about our church life together. A member of the MMC will then reach out to you to best understand what you would like us to do with the feedback you share with us. Our goal is that every member of our community feels heard and validated in their experience and empowered to impact our life together. The Mutual Ministry Committee looks forward to hearing from you and supporting you!



Northeast Middle School Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated items during Advent for students at Northeast Middle School. In addition to the items collected and donated, GA donated money from our benevolence funds to the school. The picture at left shows some of the students expressing their joy and gratitude when Nick Tangen and Jean Jenson delivered the donated items to the school in late December.

Thanks again, everyone, for your generosity!

From Deacon Phil

I encourage you to read my written report in the booklet of reports from the annual meeting. What follows is from the verbal report that I gave at the annual meeting on January 28.

**THIS
DEACON
LOVES YOU**

I LOVED our annual meetings at my church as a child. Annual meetings were a big deal in my home church. We held a pot luck dinner on a Sunday evening which was followed by the annual meeting. My dad was often the treasurer or vice-president of the congregation (in those days the pastor was the president), and I loved the officious-ness of the proceedings – even as a young child. I remember watching the secretary taking minutes – in shorthand! – this was the late 1960’s after all – and marveled at how these adults seemed to have everything under control and how incredible the church was. Truly this was the makings of a real church-geek, and I stand before you today owning every bit of it! And I truly believe these were the roots of my being called to a life of ministry in the church.

If you read Pastor Ian’s and my reports in the booklet of reports, which I hope you will, you’ll see that Ian uses the word JOY a lot to describe his feelings about GA and our ministries. I’m going to use the word THANKFULNESS in my talk this morning. I’m so very thankful for you all and for this congregation. As many of you know, I’m in my 16th year of serving GA Church. I’ve seen a lot in these 16 years – a lot of joys and a lot of sorrows and frustrations. That’s to be expected in a living, vibrant congregation. But I’m so very thankful. Thankful for...

- ♪ My colleague in ministry, Pastor Ian – that God (and our call committee) brought him (and Sarah and Leonora) here to serve with us;
- ♪ The members of our all our choirs, who serve with me to make music throughout the year – children’s voices, adult voices, and handbell ringers; and our instrumentalists and those who provide special music;
- ♪ The members of the committees to which I relate: Better Together, Congregational Life, Finance, Mutual Ministry, and Property;
- ♪ Jenny Arneson and the other officers and members of the church council for their fine and steadfast leadership through the year;
- ♪ Jenny Parker and all the other Sunday school volunteer leaders who give of their time to share the stories of our faith with our children;
- ♪ Joel Lurvey for his leadership of our contemporary group;
- ♪ Zachary Copa and Analisa Hillman, our other part-time staff members, for their contributions to the smooth running of our congregation – mostly behind the scenes;
- ♪ The folks who help get the “Gazette” newsletter and other mailings ready to go to the post office;
- ♪ Our worship leaders – assisting ministers, lectors, acolytes, zoom hosts, sound technicians, communion preparers, ushers – we have an awesome group of people who serve in front of the congregation and behind the scenes with great decorum and poise to make our worship services run smoothly;
- ♪ And I’m thankful for all of you – the people of GA – for your ongoing support of me and my ministry; for your beautiful singing – and for everything that this congregation seeks to do to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in this neighborhood and beyond.

I want to close by focusing on another word: HOPEFUL. In my 16+ years of serving here, I don’t think I’ve ever felt more hopeful about the future of this congregation. We’re going to have some fun this year – celebrating the 110th anniversary of the congregation and the 15th anniversary of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. But beyond that, I feel a sense of joy and hope among us all – more than I’ve felt in all my years here. I think that the COVID years taught all of us is how important this community of faith is to us; how much we need GA church; how important our faith life is to us; and how much we need each other. And so, I look forward to 2024 with great hope and with much thankfulness.

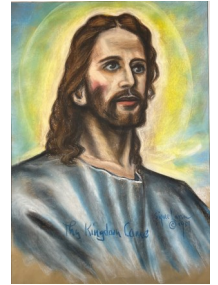
Greetings from the 110th Anniversary Committee!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the three January 110th Anniversary events. It was so fun to see everyone in the congregation having a great time together especially around, singing, food, and fellowship.



During February and March, we will be taking a hiatus from official 110th Anniversary events since we will be entering the season of Lent, but rest assured we will have other great events coming up starting in April. Until then, we have some questions that we hope someone in the congregation can answer, either by talking with older relatives or by going through family photos that may shed some light on the following missing facts.

1. What year was the altar surround, depicting the four gospel writers, painted? We believe it was painted sometime between 1948 and 1957. We would like a more exact date.
2. Who painted the altar surround?
3. The print entitled "Thy Kingdom Come" was hand colored by the artist Signe Larson in 1959. Did someone donate the picture to the congregation or did the artist visit the congregation and complete the coloring here?



We are also indeed of the following help...

1. We have a wood model of the church that needs some repairs and repainting. Is anyone willing to work on the repairs (missing pieces, broken hinges, etc.)?
2. We believe for the 100th Anniversary Celebration a collection of video clips was assembled by Danny Hallberg. Members could purchase a CD of the video clips. Does anyone still have a copy of that CD? We are looking for footage of the construction of the 1937 sanctuary with a horse plow in the front yard.
3. Someone who knows Swedish to teach the Sunday School students the first verse of *Children of the Heavenly Father* in Swedish.



The 110th Anniversary Committee is happy to report that GA has been chosen as a site for the annual citywide event **Doors Open Minneapolis**.

What is Doors Open Minneapolis?

Doors Open Minneapolis, produced by Rethos, is a chance to explore the buildings that tell our city's story. From theaters to business hubs, sacred spaces to private clubs, sports complexes to engineering wonders, historical gems to not-even-open-yet buildings, Doors Open Minneapolis will give you a FREE behind-the-scenes look at dozens of exciting venues. Building owners and caretakers will provide unique perspectives that illustrate why these venues, people, and businesses, are central to our city's identity.

The two-day event will take place May 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. We hope many GA members will volunteer to work a 1-2 hour shift with the primary responsibility of welcoming our neighbors and sharing our story. Stay tuned for more details.

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.*
- ♥ *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 – Prayers for a friend of Cassandra & Eric Weidmann who is experiencing an urgent and ongoing health crisis.*
- ♥ *Jennifer Creadick and family – Prayers for Jennifer's aunt's recovery.*
- ♥ *Maria – Prayers for a mother of four who has just received a critical health diagnosis.*
- ♥ *Maggie – Prayers for Maggie whose father just passed away and who is assuming care of her mother who is dealing with Alzheimer's.*



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.

Pictures!



Pictures!



Bible Village Petting Zoo – January 7



Anniversary Hymn Sing – January 14

110th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt

Outside

1. Cornerstones mark the year(s) construction of a building was completed. GA-Church has three (3) different markers! What year is on each cornerstone?

Narthex

2. How many adult members started Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in 1914?
3. What is our anniversary date?

Sanctuary

4. How many birds can you find in the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary (including Holy Spirit-Doves)?
5. Identify the location of the key that unlocks the grand piano.
6. Name the woman who started the Altar Guild.
7. From a bird's eye view you will sit on something from the original church. What is it?
8. Some might have thorns, but not this one, designed by Martin Lutheran.
9. The Fab Four Gospel writers, not the Beatles, are visible where?
10. How many crosses are engraved on the altar?

Chapel

11. What is the clever/creative feature of the pews in the Chapel?
12. Five gave the ultimate sacrifice, how do we honor them?
13. How many bricks does it take to make a cross?

Downstairs

14. What did the floor in the sanctuary look like when it was built in 1937? Hint: On this board, you can play one of two games.
15. The first confirmation class was confirmed in what year?
16. Identify the location of the "Table Prayer."

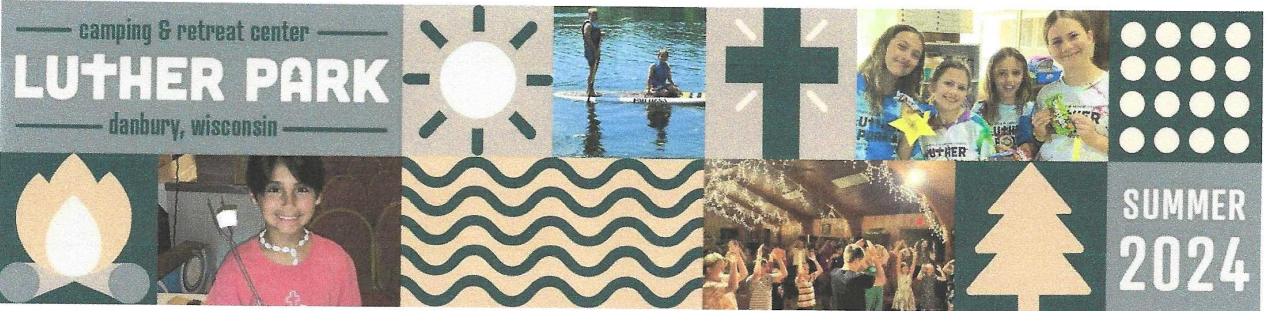
Answers:

1. 1937, 1954, 1992
2. 34
3. September 22, 1914
4. 1
5. Under the window by the bell choir tables.
6. Mrs. Ford
7. A pew
8. Luther's Rose
9. The surround of the altar.
10. 5, representing the 5 wounds Jesus suffered on the cross.
11. They flip.
12. A plaque in the chapel.
13. 8
14. A checker/chess board.
15. 1916
16. Outside of the kitchen, hanging on the wall.

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.



Council Update

Thank you for participating in our annual meeting on January 28! Each year our church leaders put effort into keeping you informed and seeking your input, and we appreciate your engagement.

At the meeting we shared a variety of information and made a number of decisions. We approved a budget for 2024 that prioritizes supporting our worship and faith life together. Though it reflects a slight decrease in expenses from 2023, we also expect a decrease in outside revenue (i.e. rental income and federal COVID relief funds), so we will need members to increase their giving levels to make up that difference. This year we gave slightly over \$286,000 in pledged giving, falling short of our goal. In 2024, we will seek to meet \$306,874 in pledged giving.



We also approved spending funds from our dedicated capital appeal funds on improved video and audio equipment for our sanctuary. We look forward to an enhanced worship experience for those on-line and a less cluttered sanctuary for those in-person. Work can begin after the vendor secures equipment - likely sometime this summer.

The 2024 council includes Jenny Arneson, Wendy Bradshaw, Bryant Kumlin, Lynn Lurvey, Lori Nordling, Kathy Schuette, Matt Streed, Kristin Tangen and of course, Deacon Phil and Pastor Ian.

Thank you to those serving on committees in 2023. The Property committee manages the care of our buildings. Stewardship cheers on our members as they consider their giving levels. Congregational Life maintains the fabric of our community through hospitality, worship, and education. Social Ministry connects GA to our larger community, and Better Together focuses on the relationship with Mount Carmel. Mutual Ministry supports our staff and members. Finance monitors the financial health of our congregation. Together, these committees ensure we have a robust and fulfilling *life together*.

In 2024, you have **the opportunity** to participate in our *life together* through committee work. Consider your time and talents and join us!

More Pictures!



Chalking the Door on Epiphany



Scavenger Hunt - January 21

Note from the Treasurer

What a way to end 2023! The smallest deficit at the end of a year that we've seen in a long time.

Thank you all for your commitment to generosity and giving your heart and resources to this very special place.

We have an incredible 110th year to celebrate and I'm so looking forward to all of the fun!

This is my last Gazette article before I pass the torch to the next amazing Treasurer. I have learned so much and have forged even deeper relationships with these committees. I am so grateful for everyone's patience, guidance, and passion for this community. The last two years has really made me feel even closer to this place, and I am so glad that I took the leap to jump into the inner workings of our church.

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

Kristin Tangen

December Financials

	Dec	Dec		Dec		Dec
	2023 YTD	2023 YTD		2022 YTD		2023 vs 2022
	Actual	Budget		Actual		YTD Actual
Income	\$367,337.90	\$353,189.00		\$310,182.16		\$57,155.74
Expense	\$367,681.72	\$353,189.00		\$323,067.55		\$44,614.17
Inc - Exp	-\$343.82	\$0.00		-\$12,885.39		\$12,541.57

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

December 2023 YTD Actual Income of \$367,337.90 represents 104% of our budgeted \$353,189.00.

December 2023 YTD Expenses of \$367,681.72 represents 104% of our budgeted \$353,189.

The -\$343.82 difference constitutes our YTD deficit.

As compared to last year, YTD our income is up \$57,155.74 and our expenses are up \$44,614.17.

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.



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	29 1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm.	30 6	31 10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	1 9:30am - Quilters	2	3
4 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	5 1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm.	6	7 10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	8 5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm. 6:30pm - Bible & Brews	9	10 8am - Men's Breakfast
11 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult Ed. Class 10:45am - Sunday School	12 1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - Social Ministry Comm.	13	14 Ash Wednesday 10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - GA Choristers 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Worship	15 6pm - Church Council	16	17
18 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Confirmation Class 10:45am - NO Sunday School	19 Offices Closed President's Day 1pm - Grief Group	20	21 10am - Coffee Hour 5:45pm - GA Choristers 6pm - Soup Supper 6:15pm - Gustavus Bells 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - GA Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	26 1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Anniversary Comm.	27	28 10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery 5:45pm - Contemp. Group 6pm - Soup Supper 6:15pm - Gustavus Bells 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - GA Choir	29	1	2

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

Wendy Bradshaw

Bryant Kumlin

Lynn Lurvey

Lori Nordling (2024 Officers will be elected

Kathy Schuette at the February 15 meeting.)

Matt Streed

Kristin Tangen



RECONCILING IN CHRIST