

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

Reconciling in Christ Anniversary Celebration

15 years! Sunday, May 5

9:30 a.m. – Special Celebration Worship

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders,
*Associate Professor of Congregational and
Community Care at Luther Seminary.*

Guest from ReconcilingWorks: Deacon David Behling

10:45 a.m. - Special Celebration Coffee Hour

Adult Education Presentation by Dr. Sanders.

Dr. Sanders is a Baptist minister with extensive experience as a pastor and chaplain who has written extensively on topics ranging from LGBTQIA+ theology and ministry to the history and theology of caring for the deceased.

Join us for this celebration Sunday!



Doors Open Minneapolis – May 19 & 20 – GA Is a Venue!

YOU Can Help Host Our Guests That Weekend!!

Are you interested in volunteering for Doors Open Minneapolis at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church? We have 6 volunteer opportunities available each hour that the church will be open during Doors Open: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Volunteers will be broken into three different groups: Welcome Table, Craft Area, and Hosts. Volunteers at the "Welcome Table" will welcome visitors, pass out a brochure about the congregation, and pass out a self-guided tour leaflet to each visitor. Volunteers in the "Craft Area" will help kids and families enjoy the craft projects in the fellowship hall. "Hosts" volunteers will walk around the parts of the church on tour and help visitors with any questions or needs that they may have.

You can sign-up by using the button in each Saturday's email or by contacting Jenny Parker or the church office. **Note that worship on May 19 will begin at 9:00 a.m. in order to accommodate this event.**

Sunday School News

Mother's Day Concert – May 12

The last day of Sunday for this year is May 12. We invite the entire congregation to our annual Mother's Day Concert at 11:00 a.m. The younger Sunday school students will sing a number of songs in honor of their moms. Please join us!



Take A Cruise With Your GA Family!

Celebrate 110 years as a faith community by cruising the Mississippi River together!

Sunday July 28, 2–4 p.m. – Harriet Island, St. Paul

- * Wear your fun new GA shirt!
- * Age 2 and under cruise free!
- * 3-17 – \$10.50
- * 18-64 – \$15.75
- * 65+ – \$14.70
- * Sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.



Beloved in Christ,

I once was asked why we didn't have a Confession and Forgiveness as part of our worship service. Why wasn't there a time when the pastor spoke a word of absolution: "As a called and ordained pastor...and by Christ's authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins."? I will admit that I was kind of caught off guard, as no one had EVER asked why this or that part of the liturgy (the pattern of worship we follow) changed.

I responded by saying that while we generally begin most worship services with Confession and Forgiveness, during the season of Easter we often substitute a Thanksgiving for Baptism in place of the Confession and Forgiveness. And while they certainly are different in how they engage with it, both relate to us being recipients of God's act of forgiveness and mercy. And they both speak a word of absolution. This seasonal substitution is especially poignant during Easter, a time when there is intense focus on baptism and the promises made through the water.

Then I got to thinking about other seasonal changes we make that people might be curious about (or maybe haven't even noticed!).

- During the season of Lent, there has long been the tradition of "burying" the alleluia, or not speaking/saying alleluia awaiting the joy of Easter to share in that exclamation once again. So During the 40 days of Lent, we didn't speak, or sing, or pray alleluia! This is most noticeable in our gospel acclamation which at other times is FILLED with Alleluias!
- During most of the year, we share in the Apostles' Creed, but on some Sundays we profess the Nicene Creed. While both are true declarations of the faith of our church, the longer Nicene Creed is usually professed on feast days like Christmas, and Easter, and Pentecost, with the more succinct Apostles' Creed being shared more frequently.
- The words and prayers that I lead are also seasonal. For example, the Offering Prayer, The Invitation to Communion, the Prayer after Communion, the Blessing and the Dismissal all are used throughout an entire season which can give some continuity and meaning for a period of time, but also a newness that one experiences each new season (after one month, or two, or three).

I hope that through our familiar yet fluid words and actions of worship that we might be drawn ever deeper into a place of encountering God and our neighbor. And if you ever have any questions about why we do what we do, never hesitate to ask!

Easter Blessings,

—Pr. Ian



Spring Cleaning at GA

As we get ready for Doors Open Minneapolis, it's time for some spring cleaning. Please join in the cleaning fun! Come when you can – leave when you must.

Here's the schedule:

- **Monday, May 13**, from 6-8 p.m. – Dusting in the Narthex, Sanctuary, and Chapel. Please bring your own rags and cleaning supplies.
- **Tuesday, May 14**, from 6-8 p.m. – Yard Work! Raking, weed picking, and stick removal. Please bring your own rakes and yard gloves.
- **Wednesday, May 15**, from 6-8 p.m. – Time to set-up the displays, move furniture, and hang pictures.
- **Thursday, May 16**, from 6-8 p.m. – Rain date for yard work, if postponed from May 14.



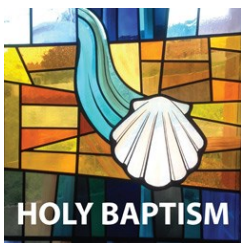
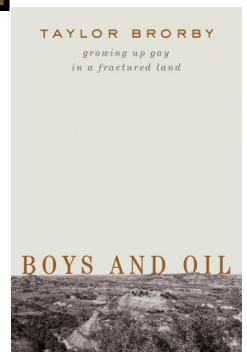
Anniversary Talent Show a Smashing Success

Thank you to everyone who helped make the April 13 Talent Show a success. From those who performed to those who came and watched the show to those who helped set up and clean up, we appreciate all of you! Here's a picture of the "Ladies GA" – our flute ensemble playing their Taylor Swift song! If anyone else took any pictures of any of the other performers, please send them to Deacon Phil at philh@gachurchmpls.org. Thanks!



GA Book Club Meets April 30

Join us on Tuesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Boys and Oil: Growing Up Gay in a Fractured Land* by Taylor Brorby. In his autobiography, Brorby skillfully and honestly connects the harsh conditions of the mining/fracking industry in North Dakota with his experience growing up gay. We will meet at Andrea Carter's house for this conversation: 2648 Arthur Street NE. If it's warm outside and not raining, bring a lawn chair.



With joy, we received Zebediah Cloud Navratil into the family of Christ and the family of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, April 7. Zebediah is the child of Nicole & Curtis Navratil and sibling of Ernest. Sponsors were Irene & David Alderson.

From Deacon Phil

As we prepare to celebrate the 15th anniversary of GA becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation, I went back and found a speech I had shared with the congregation five years ago when we marked the 10th anniversary. Rather than write something new, I decided I would include portions of what I wrote in 2019, as the remarks still pertain today. I am so proud of the work GA has done as a RIC congregation, I am happy that I was part of the original task force that helped guide the congregation through the discernment process in 2008-2009, and I look forward to what the future holds as we continue to live into what it means to be an “evermore welcoming community.”



From what I wrote in 2019:

Even though the RIC congregational vote was ten years ago, I remember it vividly like it was ten days ago. I don't remember a time when I was so nervous. After a year or more of preparation for the vote – of meetings and educational events, conversations, movie showings, etc. – the time had finally come for the long-awaited vote. I arrived at church early that Sunday morning, as was my habit, to practice and get ready for worship. I encountered Lynn Lurvey in one of the rooms. She had come to church early to pray about the meeting. She said something to me that has stuck with me these ten years, and I paraphrase: *Whatever the outcome of the vote today, our congregation will never be the same.* She was right. And that's what made me so nervous. Because I knew that if the congregation voted “no” on becoming a RIC congregation, I would need to leave this congregation that I had already grown to love; and I knew that a whole group of other like-minded people would probably do the same.

I stayed silent during the meeting, which was difficult. As a gay man, I had only come out to a select group of people at GA so far. I did not want to speak at the meeting as a gay man and make the decision about me in any way; I also decided that I had had my chance as a member of the Task Force to speak and make my opinions widely known for the year-plus leading up to the vote. I listened as people spoke for and against us becoming RIC. As people spoke against welcoming GLBT people into our church, I was struck by how much fear there was. I wanted to ask: “What's so scary about me and people like me? We're just people.” But I stayed silent.

Finally, the debate ended and we voted. The results were close but clear. Those present had voted that Gustavus Adolphus would become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. There was an awkward silence after the results were announced. Then Pastor Stefan Rickman did something that people on both sides of the vote still talk about as one of the most spiritual things they ever experienced: he asked everyone present to form a large circle around the sanctuary and pray the Lord's Prayer together as a show of unity in Christ.

The weeks and first few months after the vote were difficult. Tensions ran high. Some people stopped attending worship. Others made it known that they were leaving GA for good because of the action we had taken. The biggest “hit” we took was in the Sunday School. Several families in our modest-sized Sunday School left the church because of the rumored “rainbow curriculum” that was going to be forced on the children now that we were becoming a “gay church.” I never understood that way of thinking, and it still makes me sad. Fortunately, our Sunday School has rebounded and now has more children attending than any of us can remember in a very long time!

As spring turned into early summer, I had an idea for something I hoped would build some unity and some spirit. I called a meeting to see if there would be interest in staging a production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat.” The response was huge, and rehearsals were held all summer long and into the fall. We did three shows of “Joseph...” on a weekend in November in the sanctuary of GA. Cast members included people on both sides of the RIC issue. We filled the sanctuary for all three shows, and our mood began to pick up.

As the years have progressed, we saw something interesting happen: we began to have young couples and young families join our congregation who said that they were attracted to GA because they saw the RIC logo and the rainbow logo on our website. As one of those people said: *We would never have even visited GA if it weren't for the RIC status. It's a matter of social justice.* We have had some GLBT members join over the years. Some have come and gone; some have stayed. But the pattern of young people coming here because of our RIC designation has been consistent. As a member of the Reconciling Works Twin Cities Board, I can attest that this is a pattern that is consistent with other RIC congregations as well. When congregations take this step, it attracts people who want to find a progressive church home that believes in social justice issues.

What about me? I'm still serving at GA all these years later. I'm 100% “out” to the congregation and feel 100% accepted as a gay man by the congregation. I love this congregation as I have since I started serving here. I respect so many people here for the faith and courage they show.

I look forward to our RIC Anniversary Celebration worship and education event on May 5. See you there!

Special Offering for ReconcilingWorks – Sunday, May 5

This year, GA is celebrating two milestone anniversaries. In addition to the 110th anniversary of our congregation being founded, we are also recognizing 15 years of being a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. The purpose of the RIC program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program. During worship on May 5th, we will be celebrating that milestone and reaffirming the partner commitments of being an RIC congregation.



One partner commitment that I want to share about is supporting the national RIC Program. While it might feel “normal” for churches to be affirming of LGBTQIA+ folks, the truth is that only about 12% of ELCA congregations have done the work to be open and affirming. While support for the national program has not been present from GA in recent years, during worship on the 5th we will be taking a special offering that I hope will be the beginning of future support for this vital ministry.

Speaking as a new member to this community, I can share that one of the first things I do when I visit an ELCA congregation is see if they are RIC. And when learning about GA, I was thrilled to learn of the RIC status. I hope that as we gather for the RIC celebration worship, you would join my family in generously giving to support the work of the National RIC program with a special gift.

In Christ,
-pr. Ian

Church Council Report

It is the Council’s goal to address the gap our previous tenants, Open Door Northeast, left last year. We enjoyed the vibrancy that they brought to our building. Their rent also contributed meaningful income to our budget.

The Council wants to be proactive in seeking a new tenant. Our first step is to consider our space so that we can be clear about what we can offer others. This turnover is a good opportunity to reassess our space.

You can help! We invite anyone to join our short term workgroup on space. If you join us, you can expect to meet a few times. Our goal is to consider our needs as it relates to our space. If you are interested, contact Jenny Arneson (arneson.jenny@gmail.com or 612-201-2685) or Lynn Lurvey (lclurvey@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, thank you to our Property committee members who are preparing the space for its next use: Aaron Olson, Matt Streed, Lori Nordling, John Stoewer, Erik Peterson, and Deacon Phil.

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

Jenny Arneson, presidentarneson.jenny@gmail.com
Matthew Streed, vice-presidentmatthewstreed@gmail.com
Kristin Tangen, secretaryksnobeck@gmail.com
Lynn Lurvey, treasurerlclurvey@gmail.com



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.*
- ♥ *Karen and Mark Hidding – Mark is currently dealing with a serious illness.*
- ♥ *Sue Holton – Prayers for upcoming surgery.*
- ♥ *Jon Huntsinger, Melissa Hentges' father, who recently lost his wife, Deb, to cancer.*
- ♥ *Linda Lindahl – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Darlene McQuarrie – Upcoming surgery and recovery.*
- ♥ *Robbie Murphy – Pat Lynch would like prayers for her sister who has upcoming surgery.*
- ♥ *Nancy Rathbun – Experiencing some recent health concerns.*
- ♥ *Jean Rosebrock – Prayers for Jean as she experiences declining health.*
- ♥ *Lesa Rowen, Melissa Hentges' mother, who has an ongoing health situation.*
- ♥ *Bill Turnquist – Prayers for Bill after a recent fall here at home.*
- ♥ *Doug – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Sarah – James Hamilton would like prayers for his daughter who is facing a health challenge.*
- ♥ *David – Prayers for vertigo and ongoing fatigue post-concussion.*



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.

Building Space Work Group

You are Invited!

Gustavus had a wonderful partnership with Open Door Northeast and this was a source of both joy and income for our church. We received \$1100.00 a month from this organization. In addition to the income, Open Door provided vibrancy to our building throughout the week. We are grateful for this history.

The Council is now in the process of discussing how to attract and retain new building partners. We are looking for a small group of people who would be willing to partner with Jenny Arneson, Council President, and Lynn Lurvey, Council Treasurer, to walk through our building and have conversations about our spaces that could be rented out. We anticipate that this group will meet 3 times in order to understand how the building is currently being used and to determine which spaces could be rented for either 7 or 5 days a week.

If you are interested in serving the congregation in this way, please reach out to Lynn Lurvey (llcurvey@gmail.com). Thank you.

You Are Welcome Here

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.

Synod Assembly – May 2-4

The Minneapolis Area Synod will meet in assembly at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey from Thursday evening, May 2, through Saturday afternoon, May 4. At the forefront of the business of this assembly will be the election of a new Bishop for our synod. Bishop Ann Svennungsen is retiring after serving two terms as bishop of our synod. GA will be represented at the assembly by voting delegates Bryant Kumlin, Nicole Navratil, Deacon Phil Holzman, and Pastor Ian Coen-Frei. Please keep our delegates and the entire assembly in your prayers during these important days.



Land Acknowledgment

In May, Gustavus Adolphus will share a Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of worship, honoring our Indigenous neighbors who have called Minnesota home from time immemorial. Land Acknowledgements are one small part of the restorative healing work that all Christians are called to, and to which Christians in the United States have a particular responsibility to embody. May is also the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s awareness month, a time for us to call attention to the crisis facing Native women across our state and the country. A study by the National Institute of Justice found that 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, and women on some reservations have been killed at a rate 10 times that of the national average. Throughout May, we will call attention to the sovereignty of our Indigenous neighbors and the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. If you would like to learn more, please check out <https://www.elca.org/truthandhealing> or talk to a member of the Social Ministry Committee.



Financial Update – March

We continue to marvel in the joy of the Easter season.

We are so thankful for the preaching and teaching.

We are so thankful for the many choirs and special musicians.

We are so thankful for the people who could gather in this place to be renewed and inspired.

Thank you, Pastor Ian, Deacon Phil, choir members, readers, zoom hosts, greeters, sound technicians, assisting ministers, communion servers, and coffee hosts. Thank you to the people of all ages who assisted in making our time together rich and meaningful.

	March 2024 YTD Actual	March 2024 YTD Budget		March 2023 YTD Actual		March 2024 vs 2023 YTD Actual
Income	\$81,569.49	\$87,381.21		\$68,746.84		\$12,822.65
Expense	\$93,521.90	\$87,381.21		\$80,629.55		\$12,892.35
Inc - Exp	-\$11,952.41	\$0.00		-\$11,882.71		-\$69.70

Sincerely,
Lynn Lurvey
Treasurer

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
Matthew Streed, Vice-President
Kristin Tangen, Secretary
Lynn Lurvey, Treasurer



At-Large Members:

Wendy Bradshaw
Lori Nordling

Bryant Kumlin
Kathy Schuette