Gustavus Adolphus LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Gazette
June 2024

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

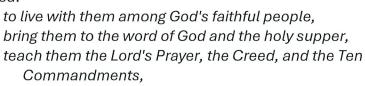
Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation Sunday

On June 2, Gustavus Adolphus will be joining together to celebrate five of our youth who will be confirmed in their faith and will affirm the promises made over them at baptism.

Those five include:

- Kellen Geng
- Edward Larson
- Caleb Miller
- Asher Streed
- Jonah Streed

This day of celebration will mark, not the end of a journey, but the beginning of personal agency in their life of faith. When they were baptized their parents, sponsors and the congregation made promises which included:



place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer,

so that your they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Yet, after a time of learning and growth, asking questions and seeking answers, and leading worship in this community, these five feel ready to make these promises on their own. Through our time shared together they know well that this is a journey they embark on surrounded by all those gathered with them, as a source for support and sounding board for questions and curiosity. They don't make these promises in isolation, but surrounded by a community of love and support.

I hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion for these youth and welcome them to this new stage of their faith journey! There will be a reception hosted by the Congregational Life Committee after worship to give everyone an opportunity to greet our confirmands in person.

Graduation Recognition

We will celebrate our graduates in worship on Sunday, June 9. Our high school graduate this year is Amelia Larson, who is graduating from Edison High School. If there are other folks in the congregation celebrating graduations (from preschool through Ph.D.), please let Deacon Phil know prior to the 9th so that we can recognize them in worship as well. Congratulations to all!



Special Congregational Meeting – Sunday June 9

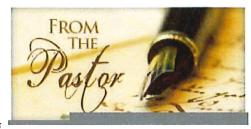
Please see page 3 for news of a special congregational meeting to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 9, to discuss next steps regarding our parking lot.



Also Coming in June!

- * Summer Service & Fun Activity Sunday, June 23, after worship (see page 8).
- * Adult Education Opportunity Sunday, June 30, after worship (see page 5).

If you have ever seen my office, one of the things that you may have noticed is the bookshelves behind my desk. Each shelf is filled to the brim, with books overflowing to the windowsill and into an additional bookcase across from my desk. And one of the first things that I share when people say things like "Wow, that's a lot of books!" is that no, I haven't read all of them. And that is because it would be incredibly dull to read through a majority of them which are reference books including



theological dictionaries, biblical commentaries and guides on worship and liturgy. Yet, there are other books that are more "reader friendly," and this year I have tried to be intentional by reading to help with my teaching and preaching here at GA. And I thought it would be interesting to offer y'all a glimpse into some of that learning:

A Journey of Grace: The Formation of a Leader and a Church by Herbert Chilstrom

Herb Chilstrom was the first presiding bishop of the ELCA, and was a central figure in the work when our denomination was formed through the merger of the American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in 1988. In the over 36 years since the merger, there have been many changes in the landscape of Lutheranism and more broadly Christianity in the United States. As one metric, the number of people who were members of ELCA congregations has dropped from around 5 million in 1988 to about 2.9 million in 2022. One of the most poignant parts of this book was when Bp. Chilstrom reflected that even after the first year of existence, the ELCA had become stagnant in vision, and lost touch with the society surrounding it. It was a great reminder for the need to keep reforming and being open to the movement of the spirit.

Call to Allyship: Preparing Your Congregation for Leaders of Color edited by Angela !Khabeb

This year, as one of our partner commitments to being a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we updated our welcome statement to explicitly state that "We give thanks for the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus, thus we commit to the work of racial equity and justice." Promising to work for racial equity, I wanted to learn from leaders of color within the ELCA how our historically white denomination can actively work to welcome leaders of color (remembering that people don't need to be ordained to be leaders). And to do this work I have been part of a book group facilitated by the Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice that met four times for conversation and learning. What I can say is that in those conversations and through reading this book, I have grown in my understanding of what my role is as pastor of GA in this work. And beyond welcoming leaders of color, this is a good book for any white member of our congregation as we seek to build community with God at the center.

Lutherans in America: A New History by Mark Granquist

In light of the history work that was led by Jenny Parker for Doors Open Minneapolis, I felt a need to learn more about the roots of GA and Swedish Lutherans. While I grew up in a congregation that came from the same Augustana Synod as GA, it was started in 1956 and didn't have the same ethnic identity (there were no Swedish flags to be found). One of the most interesting things that I learned from this was the deep history of Swedish Lutherans in America, with the first Swedish Lutheran pastor arriving in 1639! And with multiple waves of Swedish immigrants over 250 years, there were a variety of ways in which the Lutherans practiced their faith and organized. But one area I was grateful for was a change in sermon expectations, as in the earliest years, pastors were expected to preach 45 minutes to an hour from memory!

What a joy to be able to learn and grow through my call to serve here. Now the question is: What book do I read next?

-pr. ian

Special Congregational Meeting ... Sunday, June 9

GA Members,

The Church Council is calling a congregational meeting on **Sunday, June 9**. This is already a special day-we will be recognizing our graduates! After a small reception during coffee hour, we ask you to join us for this meeting. We anticipate starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to make a collective decision about the next steps for our parking lot. We know this can be a difficult topic because it evokes strong feelings for many members. In fact, decisions around property are among the most emotional ones a congregation can make. Statistically, it is the leading cause of conflict in churches.

As we move forward in assessing our capacity for the parking lot project, the Council hopes we will prioritize our relationships and community.

Volunteers have been actively working on collecting information and developing a path forward since our last congregational meeting in September, 2022. Thanks to their hard work, we secured a grant with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) and have a clear path forward. We have also raised resources through our Life Together Capital Appeal.

Yet, this is a substantial project with multiple steps:

- Phase 1: Engineering & Design Phase. This phase will determine the viability of stormwater management strategies, determine what the city requirements will be for landscaping and screening, and provide a design document that we can have cost estimated.
- Phase 2: Document Phase. This phase will engage the engineer to produce "Construction Documents" that can be given to contractors for bidding.
- Phase 3: Construction Phase: In this phase, we will collect bids and begin construction.

While we secured a grant of \$8,000 from MWMO, GA will need to invest an additional \$19,600 to complete phases 1 & 2. Until those phases are complete, we will not have a firm estimate for construction costs in phase 3.

On June 9, we will share specifics about these phases. We will also share detailed financial information about the resources available from the Life Together Capital Appeal. Finally, we will reach a decision about moving forward with phases 1 & 2 by taking a congregational vote.

Because we are going to meet in the Fellowship Hall, it is important that you tell us if you want to join us online. We will not have a zoom link available unless it is requested. Please contact Deacon Phil if you want to make those arrangements.

We appreciate the life we have built together at GA. We hope you join us on June 9.

Sincerely, GA Council

From Deacon Phil

Northeast Chorale Concerts

The Northeast Chorale, the community choir that I direct and that rehearses here at GA, has been hard at work this spring preparing concerts under the banner of *Broadway and Pops Unplugged: A Choral Concert of Acoustic Arrangements*. The Chorale will present these



concerts here at GA Church on Saturday night, June 1, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoon, June 2, at 4:00 p.m. People of all ages can enjoy these concerts. Please see the flyer on page 9 of this mailing for all the details and plan to attend one (or both!) of our concerts.

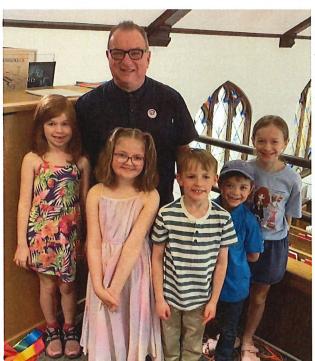
RTC Anniversary Celebration

As GA Treasurer Lynn Lurvey states in her report on page 10, Sunday, May 5, was truly a festive Sunday here at GA. The spirit was present as we celebrated the 15th anniversary of our becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. I for one look forward to how we will live into this as we follow the Holy Spirit into the future. Bryant Kumlin has invited us to an adult education event on June 30 to start talking about ways to do just that.



Choir Year Wrap-Up

The choir year has come to an end. It was a wonderful season of making music with singers and ringers of all ages. THANK YOU to the many members of our four choirs for your dedication and for sharing your time and talent with our congregation throughout the year. You know, there are not many congregations our size who support four church choirs anymore. That is something we can really celebrate ... and I do not take this for granted. Take the summer and rest ... and be ready to come back in the fall for more music-making. Joel and I will be on the lookout for more members for all our groups come September!



Summer Special Music

While our choirs are on hiatus for the summer, this is a perfect opportunity for our GA musicians to share their talents individually and in small groups in worship. Get in touch with me if you're interested is providing some music.

We'll be hearing from a flute ensemble in July. I'd like to gather a pick-up orchestra on Sunday, August 18, so start dusting off your instruments now and watch for more news about that in the coming weeks. I'll make music available several weeks in advance so folks can practice.

Our Dear GA Choristers

Here's a picture of our GA Choristers with yours truly as we prepared to participate in worship on RIC Anniversary Sunday on May 5.

Blessings! Deacon Phil



Bible & Brews Taking a Summer Break

Over the summer, we will take a break from hosting Bible & Brews to account for a busy season of travel. We'll gather again in the fall of 2024. Keep reading and sampling your favorite brews, and see you when the leaves turn colors.

Block Party Planning and Save the Date

Last year, GA hosted an end of summer block party that provided an opportunity for us to connect with our neighbors and build community on our corner of NE Minneapolis. **This year, we are hosting the block party on August 22, 2024 – save the date!** If you would like to help plan, coordinate, or volunteer with this neighborhood event, please contact Nick Tangen at nicholastangen@gmail.com. Thanks!

National Night Out - A Request from Social Ministry Committee

Our social committee would again like to connect with our neighbors by providing a food platter for the National Night Out block parties. We have two block parties in the area. We are looking for volunteers to provide a food item to share. Last year we provided a platter of banana bread, for example. Perhaps some of our members would like to assist with this request. We would need the food donation to be delivered by August 5, Monday, for distribution on August 6, Tuesday. Cindy Bach is coordinating this. Send her a note or text at 763-360-4502. Thank you!

Adult Ed. on June 30

Join adult ed. after worship on Sunday, June 30. To celebrate the culmination of Pride Month and our commitment to being a welcoming and affirming church, we will be having a discussion about LGBTQIA topics in the church, how we talk about them, and why they matter. If you have any questions, send Bryant an email at kumli004@umn.edu.

Thank you to Doors Open Minneapolis Volunteers



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make GA's participation in Doors Open Minneapolis a success on the weekend of May 18-19. We opened our doors to visitors from all over who came and viewed all kinds of history about our church building and our congregation's 110 year history. Those who attended worship on May 19 got to see all the historic exhibits – plus the 65+ wedding photos submitted for the occasion. This was a real community effort. A special thanks and shout-out to Jenny Parker who led the charge and put so much effort into preparing for this event!

Pastor Jen Nagel Elected Bishop of Minneapolis Area Synod

Pastor Jen Nagel was elected as Minneapolis Area Synod on May 4, 2024, after five ballots receiving 68% of the vote. Rev Nagel currently serves as Pastor at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Dinkytown, near the University of Minnesota. She and her spouse, the Rev. Jane McBride, pastor of First Christian Church UCC, have two children and live in North Minneapolis. Rev. Nagel has been a leader in the Minneapolis Area Synod for years, serving at Salem English Lutheran Church and



Central Lutheran Church, and in leadership roles for the Central Conference, Synod Council, Boundaries Task Force, and more. Bishop-Elect Nagel begins her first term on August 1, 2024.

Creating Wills and Trusts - A Session at GA Church

Wills and Trusts are a crucial part of financial planning as well as a beautiful gift to have in place at end



of life for your family. Join us on Monday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation on creating your own Will and Trust. Patrick Arneson, JAG attorney with significant estate planning experience, will lead the presentation. You can attend either in person or online via Zoom. (A recording will be made for those who cannot attend that night.) See future Saturday email blasts for Zoom information. A group of us will meet during subsequent Sundays to create and support each other

on our own Wills and Trusts. All are welcome!

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 their home.
- Rodney Christopherson
- ♥ Pam Evangelist Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.
- David Hendrickson Prayers for David who has recently experienced a health setback.
- The Hentges Family Prayers for Nic, Melissa, Edith, Gabe, Ruth, and family following the death of Nic's grandmother, Joy, on May 19.
- ♥ Ben Hentges Prayers for Nic Hentges' brother who is currently battling some health issues.
- Karen and Mark Hidding Mark is currently dealing with a serious illness.
- ♥ Sue Holton just received a diagnosis.
- 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.
- Pat Lynch would like prayers for her sister who is experiencing several health challenges.
- ♥ Nancy Rathbun Experiencing some recent health concerns.
- Lesa Rowen, Melissa Hentges' mother, who has an ongoing health situation.
- Bill Turnquist Prayers for Bill who is dealing with ongoing health issues.
- 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.
- We extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Rosebrock, a longtime member of GA, who passed away on April 28.
- We also extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of June Schafer, another longtime member of GA, who passed away May 20. A memorial service for June will be held on Wednesday, June 19, at 11:00 a.m. at GA Church.
- We share prayers of celebration with Cindy & Bob Bach following the birth of their grandson, Harvey Abraham Bach, on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

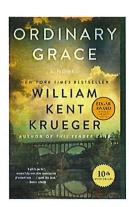
To have someone's name included on the prayer list, contact our volunteer prayer coordinator, Jean Jenson, at mplsjean@yahoo.com or Pastor Ian, or Deacon Phil.

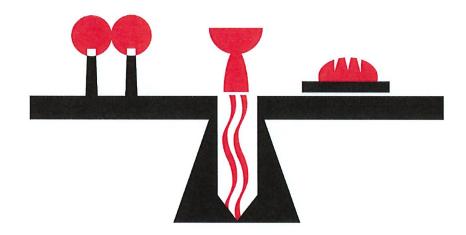




GA Book Club Meets in June!

GA Book Club will meet on Tuesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Ordinary Grace* by Minnesota author William Kent Krueger. In this novel, the character Frank reflects on the year 1961, when as a young boy, a family tragedy forced him to grow up quickly. Through a time when family lies and betrayal were uncovered, Frank looks back and recognizes how God's grace was present throughout it all. Please join us for this conversation on GA's front lawn if weather permits. Fireside Room if it's rainy.





New Communion Vessels

At GA, worship is a central aspect of our life together. And part of nearly every service is the meal of communion. Each week, we have thoughtful members of the congregation (sacristans) who prepare the elements that we share. Though communion has been served in different ways over the years, since the return to in person worship after the depths of COVID, we have used individual communion cups in trays and a variety of chalices / plates for the hosts (bread).

With the importance of the meal for our life together, in conversation with Deacon Phil, we began to search out a matching set of communion vessels that would fit with our other brass candelabra and book stand. Because of the many different chalices, and trays and plates, it has been hard to have a "standard" method for preparing the meal and so the table is prepared a little differently each week. After searching for items that would be of good quality (the range of options and also prices for communion wares is immense!), we settled with four new cup trays and a lid, a bread tray with lid in a beautiful brass with a simple gold chalice and paten. This will enable us to serve up to 160 people.

On Sunday, June 2, we will be blessing these new communion vessels during worship. With care, they will serve GA for decades to come, feeding all who wish to partake!

- pr. lan

Update from the Better Together Team

The Better Together team, consisting of members of Mt. Carmel and Gustavus Adolphus Churches, is continuing to meet and plan ways for our churches to get to know each other better and find ways to do ministry together. Here are some of the things we've been working on recently – and things we're planning for the future.

Earth Day Street Clean-Up on Sunday, April 21

Members of both churches met at Mt. Carmel after worship, gathered their supplies, and picked up trash and other debris from Johnson Street from 32nd to 26th Street. This is the second time we have done this activity (the first being last September), and we hope that this can become somewhat of a regular occurrence.

St. Crispin Day Shoe and Sock Collection on Sunday, October 27

St. Crispin was the patron saint of cobblers, curriers, tanners, and leather workers who was martyred on October 25, 285 or 286. We are planning a shoe and sock drive to benefit the "Free Store" at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. Of particular need are shoes in larger sizes for all genders. You'll hear more about this over the summer, but start thinking about how you can help by donating shoes and socks this fall.

Our Homeless Neighbor Event

We're planning a way for our congregations to learn more about our unhoused neighbors. We're still in the early stages of planning this event, but we hope to bring in a speaker from a local organization as well as incorporate some kind of collection/packing event. Stay tuned for many more details in the coming months.

If you have ideas about ways that our two congregations could be doing ministry together, we invite you to reach out to one of our BT team members. We'd love to hear from you.

Your Better Together Team

Representing Gustavus Adolphus:

Wendy Bradshaw Shirley Fors

Jenny Parker

Deacon Phil Holzman

Pastor Ian Coen-Frei

Representing Mt. Carmel:

Karl Breitbarth

Barb Hollister

Karen Matthes

Pastor D. Foy Christopherson

Thank You, Sunday School Leaders

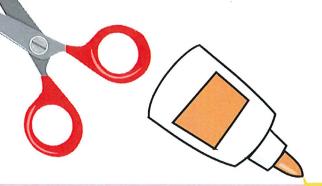
Now that the Sunday school year has ended, we want to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteer leaders who give of their time to share their faith with the children of our congregation. Our Sunday school this year included about 35 of our children from age 3 through grade 5. They met throughout the year to sing songs, hear stories, do crafts, make friends in Christ, and learn more about the love of God and Jesus. We wrapped up the year, as is our custom, with a Mother's Day "concert" presented by our younger Sunday school children. Here's a picture of the kids as they gathered to sing.

Sunday School will begin again in the fall on September 29. (Our Anniversary Sunday celebration is set for September 22.)



Summer Service & Fun at GA





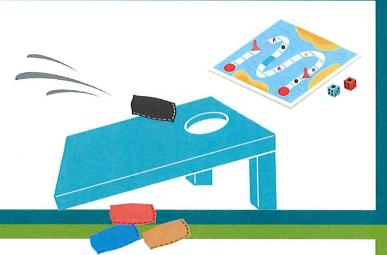
Sunday, June 23 After worship

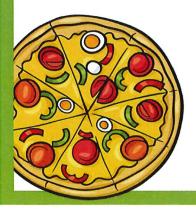
Card creation for GA home-bound members.

Sunday, Aug 11

After worship

Games! Board & Outdoor





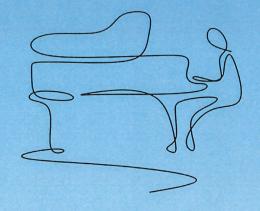
Join us for our summer worship! Stay for the pizza and activities.

Sponsored by Congregational Life Committee

Broadway & Pops Unplugged:

A Choral Concert of Acoustic Arrangements

Presented by the Northeast Chorale
Phil Holzman, Artistic Director
Andrew Peterson, Accompanist



Saturday, June 1, 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 2, 4:00 p.m.

J. J. J. Pre

A concert all ages will enjoy!

Free Admission/Free-will donation
(\$10.00 suggested donation)



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church // 1509 27th Avenue NE (27th & Johnson) // Minneapolis, MN 55418

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.



Note from the Treasurer

"Go Holy Spirit. We'll catch up." - Pastor Cody Sanders (May 5 at GA)

We enjoyed a festive worship on May 5 with visiting Pastor Cody Sanders. We enjoyed the music from our wonderful choirs and the parade of rainbow streamers and baptismal waters. It was a wonderful day. Thank you to all who helped with worship.

We are thankful for our church here on 27th and Johnson. We pray that we can follow the Holy Spirit and build community where God is at the center.

Thank you for your financial gifts. We strive to use all gifts wisely.

Lynn Lurvey, Treasurer

April Financials

	April	April	April	April
	2024 YTD	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	2024 vs 2023
	Actual	Budget	Actual	YTD Actual
Income	\$107,342.98	\$116,508.28	\$97,276.33	\$10,066.65
Expense	\$118,636.34	\$116,508.28	\$116,688.08	\$1,948.26
Inc - Exp	-\$11,293.36	\$0.00	-\$19,411.75	\$8,118.39

Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:



9:30am - Worship	9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Service Event	9:30am - Worship	Graduation Recognition 9:30am - Worship 11am - Cong. Mtg.	Contirmation Sunday 9:30am - Worship 4pm - NE Chorale Concert	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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	1pm - Grief Group	1pm - Grief Group	1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Social Ministry Comm. 6:30pm - Wills & Trusts	1pm - Grief Group 6pm - Property Comm.	
	24	17	# 1 ₀	ω	27
	8pm - Stewardship Comm.	6:30pm - Book Group			
N	25	18	=	4	28
·	10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery	Juneteenth 10am - Coffee Hour 11am - June Schafer Memorial	10am - Coffee Hour	10am - Coffee Hour	29
		6pm - Church Council	5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm.	9:30am - Quilters	
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О	28	24	4	7	7pm - NE Chorale Concert
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A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1509 27th Avenue NE Minneapolis, MN 55418

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Life in the Life i

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



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



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TWIN CITIES, MN

PERMIT NO. 612

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