

Community Meals

Our Community Meals are served on the first Saturday of the month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. These are the upcoming dates:

- ♥ Saturday, October 5
- ♥ Saturday, November 2
- ♥ Saturday, December 7



Three of our members have secured Thrivent grants to help fund our community meals in the coming months. Thank you for writing those grants!

Please consider signing up to help serve, cook, clean-up, and visit. You are welcome! Sign-up sheets are located on the "volunteer" bulletin board by the ushers' closet/stairs in the Narthex at church. Questions: Please reach out to Lynn Lurvey (lllurvey@gmail.com).

Better Together Fall Service Project – Socktoberfest!

Saint Crispin's Day Shoes and Socks Collection

Our Autumn 2024 Better Together service project is a joint initiative to gather shoes and boots (all sizes, styles, for men, women, children, gently used or new) and new socks for the needy and homeless in Minneapolis as the days grow colder. (No sandals for winter please.) This new autumn initiative will conclude coincide with St. Crispin's Day, October 25.

From now through St. Crispin's Day (Oct. 25) be gathering shoes, boots, and socks at home and bring them to church on Sunday, October 27.

They will be distributed free through Central Lutheran Church's free store in downtown Minneapolis, The Clothes Closet. Central Lutheran does not sell clothes but provides them free to their homeless or needy clientele through their Restoration Center Ministry led by Pastor Melissa Pohlman. Donations of clothes, shoes, coats and small housewares are always welcomed.



The Better Together team is excited to invite both our congregations into this completely new thing that neither church has ever done before. Have questions? Reach out to Shirley Fors, Jenny Parker, or Deacon Phil.

Trunk or Treat!

Please join the congregation on Thursday, October 31 (Halloween), for two great events. The Spook-takular Organ Concert presented by our very own Deacon Phil Holzman will start at 4:30 p.m. followed by Trunk or Treat in the parking lot from 5-6 p.m. There will be fun for the entire family; don't forget to wear your costume!



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

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

Winter Is Coming

The Quilters will once again hold a mitten/scarf/hat collection for local school children. Look for deals or grab some yarn and start knitting. Bring your contributions to church in November and look for the basket in the Narthex.





Beloved in Christ,

One of the joys that comes from being part of a denomination like the ELCA, is that there are structures of support that aren't found in churches that operate independently. And these structures are intended to be a benefit, not only for the congregations, but also for the Pastors and Deacons who are called to serve within it. Specifically for pastors and deacons, there is a chain of support that begins even before folks begin their call to ministry through help discerning that call. And then as a person moves through seminary and further education, the church (ideally though imperfectly) seeks to ensure that every candidate for ordination meets a standard set of expectations to care for the people of God in the different communities to which they might be called.

But that care for pastors and deacons doesn't stop once a person has gotten a call, but it continues one throughout their ministry. There are triennial gatherings to learn about healthy boundaries and safety of people within communities. There are ministerium gatherings for worship and education every fall and spring when worship leaders are gifted with the ability to be participants in the assembly. There are yearly Synod Assemblies where pastors and deacons (in addition to lay members) get to help guide the work of the synod. And then there is the yearly Bishop's Theological Conference where we go away for a couple of days for intentional worship, education and fellowship. That is where I am writing this article from!

Last night, after gathering for dinner and worship, there was an opportunity for conversation with other pastors and deacons. This is one of my favorite aspects of these gatherings. That is because while part of this large denomination, most leaders are pretty siloed in their own congregations. Speaking for myself, even though I gather weekly with other colleagues to study scripture and prepare for preaching, most of my church world is GA. And so this time of fellowship really reminds me that as a church, our experiences are shared by so many others and that we are not alone in this ministry. Some questions posed by others that resonated with me after the conversation included:

- * "We use about 2,000 square feet of our building. What should we do with the other 40,000?"
- "There are three other large ELCA churches that surround our small neighborhood congregation. What is our place in the future?"
- * "How can our congregation work more collaboratively with the neighboring ELCA congregation?"

Now, I don't believe there were very straightforward answers given to any of these questions, but it was reassuring that other churches are asking similar questions to what we have posed at GA. That there are other people who desire to respond to God's call, and live faithfully in their context. We are not alone in that. With another day and a half of worship, learning, and conversation, I am excited to continue connecting with other leaders and journeying together.

-pr. ian

Looking Back at our 110th Anniversary Celebration on September 22

September 22 was a wonderful Sunday in the life of Gustavus Adolphus as we celebrated 110 years of Christian ministry in this place. We participated in a festive worship service, welcomed some former staff members, heard greetings from a few others read, and celebrated the love of Christ Jesus together. Afterwards, we enjoyed Christian fellowship together in a lovely reception hosted by the 110th Anniversary Committee, which included historical displays and historical videos playing in the Fellowship Hall. It was a morning to remember for a long time! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special day.

Special thanks to the members of the 110th Anniversary Committee who worked all year long on special events: Cindy Bach, Shirley Fors, Deacon Phil Holzman, Kathy and Dave Schuette, and chair of the committee Jenny Parker who did so much work above and beyond the call of duty for Doors Open Minneapolis and our anniversary Sunday especially.

Those gathered for worship on September 22 posed for a congregational photo after worship. Here is that photo. Thanks to our resident photographer, Kristin Tangen, for her splendid work!



One more time...Happy Anniversary, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. And may God continue to bless this congregation as we venture into the future doing ministry together.

From Deacon Phil

Estey Reed Organ Update

Many of you have been curious about the reed organ that I featured in last month's "Gazette" that was found during the "Great GA Purge" in August. I want to report that I've found a permanent home for the reed organ – in my office! I was able to do some long-overdue cleaning and "organ"-izing and was able to make room for the reed organ. If you'd like to see it (or hear it) stop by sometime for a demo.



Choirs Have Begun...Some Needs Have Surfaced

Our church choirs have begun rehearsing for this year. The Contemporary Group, directed by Joel, led music in worship on September 15. The GA Choir and Gustavus Bells participated in the Anniversary Sunday service. The GA Choristers have their first rehearsal October 2. Some particular needs have arisen in the choirs that I direct:

- ♫ **The GA Choir** is in need of some particular voices. We could use a few more **alto voices** and we're in particular need of **male voices (tenors and baritone/basses)**. If you would like to try singing in the GA Choir, we meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the balcony/choir loft. We'd love to welcome you!
- ♫ **The Gustavus Bells** handbell choir is in need of a full-time ringer and a long-term substitute for the fall months while one of our ringers is on a medical leave. If you read music and are up for the challenge of ringing handbells, talk to Deacon Phil about trying out the bell choir, which rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Spooktacular Organ Concert on Halloween

Everyone is invited to attend my annual Spooktacular Concert at 4:30 p.m. on Halloween afternoon. This 30 minutes of "scary" (?) organ music will delight listeners of all ages. Come join the fun. Of course, the concert wraps up with the famous "Toccata and Fugue in d minor" by J.S. Bach.

Northeast Chorale Concert Coming in November

The Northeast Chorale, the community choir that I direct that rehearses in our building, is starting to celebrate its 10th season this fall! The Chorale will be presenting concerts the weekend of November 16-17, with a concert here at GA Church on Sunday, November 17, at 4:00 p.m. We invite everyone to attend this concert, which will be a "sampler" of music from our 10 years – sacred, secular, and Christmas. Mark your calendar now!

Blessings! *Deacon Phil*



Adult Education – October 20

Join us on Sunday, October 20, after worship to discuss Chapter 2 of Dan Erlander's *Baptized We Live* as we explore what it means to be a Lutheran in the modern world. This chapter covers scripture and its interpretation. We meet in the Faith Room.

Prayer Vigil – October 22

We invite you to a time of prayer in the Faith Room on Tuesday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m. Come for an hour of prayer, discussion, and a vespers prayer service.

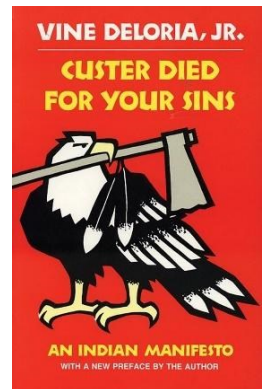
We have secured slots to pack food at Every Meal* as a group on Wednesday, November 6, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at their Roseville location (2723 Patton Road). Volunteers will join others and form assembly lines and pack food items into Meal Bags. This is a high energy event that is suited for people of all abilities and is very family friendly. Volunteers must be 8 and older.

Spots are limited, so sign up early! Children must be accompanied by an adult, though a parent or guardian is not required to be in attendance, provided a waiver is filled out prior to the event.

*GA is a long-time supporter of Every Meal, formerly known as Sheridan Story, which began in Northeast. Every Meal fights child hunger by focusing on filling the food gaps children face on weekends, extended breaks, and summer when they're not able to access school meal programs. The organization delivers Meal Bags into backpacks every Friday to 537 schools throughout the state, providing children and families experiencing food insecurity with access to good food.



In partnership with the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement, you are invited to participate in an ELCA church-wide reading of *Custer Died for Your Sins: an Indian Manifesto* by Vine Deloria, Jr. Churches across the country will delve into this book in which Deloria offers his thoughts on the interpretation of laws and treaties, Indian leadership, and Indians in modern society. **You are welcome to join GA's book club on Monday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m. and/or the Social Ministry Committee on Sunday, November 17, after worship for discussion about this book.** We will meet in the Fireside Room. Hope you can join us!



Swap some clothing with your fellow Nordeasters at Logan Park on Oct. 12, 10 a.m. - 1p.m. Bring no more than 15 clothing items you no longer want or need (in clean wearable, condition/something you would give to a friend) to share in the swap then shop the items others have brought.

ELCA Truth & Healing Movement Opportunity

Class: Indigenous Thought & Theology

Indian people have unique and beautiful ways of understanding the world. Indigenous wisdom – as it relates to living in relationship with the Creator, Mother Earth and other created beings – should be centered if we want to provide better care for our home and all our relatives. Indigenous Thought & Theology introduces participants to this wisdom and examines Indigenous ways of understanding, respecting and interacting with this wondrous world we inhabit.

No pre-registration is required to participate. Find the link for this class at <https://www.elca.org/truthandhealing>

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024

Class: Indigenous Thought & Theology

2 - 4 p.m. Central time

Presented by Vance Blackfox

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.*
- ♥ *Terry Carlstrom – Prayers for Terry who is experiencing some significant health concerns.*
- ♥ *Rodney Christopherson*
- ♥ *Pam Evangelist – Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.*
- ♥ *Chris Fredrickson – Prayers for this friend of Cassandra and Eric Weidmann who was seriously injured in a car accident recently.*
- ♥ *Sharon Hatella – Prayers for Sharon who is suffering from back issues and pain.*
- ♥ *David Hendrickson – Prayers for David who has recently experienced a health setback.*
- ♥ *Ben Hentges – Prayers for Nic Hentges' brother who is currently battling some health issues.*
- ♥ *Nancy Rathbun – Experiencing some ongoing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Lesa Rowen, Melissa Hentges' mother, who has an ongoing health situation.*
- ♥ *Bill Turnquist – Prayers for Bill who has ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Doug – Ongoing health issues.*
- ♥ *Bonnie – Jennifer Creadick would like prayers for her daughter who is on a recovery journey.*
- ♥ *Barry – Prayers for Barry as he has had recent brain surgery.*
- ♥ *LeeAnn – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*

We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to the families and friends of GA members Linda Lindahl who passed away on Sunday, September 1, and Ron Anderson who passed away on Tuesday, September 17. Blessed be their memories!

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.



Recent Letter from GA Church Council

GA is blessed. We recently celebrated our 110th Anniversary. Our community is growing - both in membership and weekly attendance. We love our building, staffing, and congregation, which is reflected in our giving - up nearly 20% - and our intentional annual budget.

Yet, as Council leaders tasked with ensuring our community remains strong for the future, we are struggling with the financial reality that despite the generosity of our members, our overall income is down while our expenses continue to rise.

You may be familiar with headlines about nonprofits struggling to balance their budget. Many are facing financial cliffs, and GA has a similar sort of dilemma. Since 2020, GA has accessed emergency COVID relief grants designed to help organizations subsidize their income during the uncertainty of a national pandemic, but these funds are no longer available. Specifically, this provided another \$40,000 in income during 2023. Adding to our loss is rental income. Open Door Learning Center provided over \$13,000 in annual income for the past seven years.

Currently, we have a deficit of approximately \$25,000 and our unrestricted accounts have an insufficient balance to cover the monthly operating expenses. Though we have every confidence in your generosity, and expect the end of the year donations to cover the remaining yearly expenses, we currently have inadequate cash flow.

This is not the first time GA finds itself in this place - it is not an uncommon issue for churches because giving can vary by season. At some point in our long history, GA developed a financial culture of borrowing from one account in order to pay expenses from another instead of making budget adjustments. As we face the current cash flow problem, GA is again managing by borrowing from accounts that are intended for other purposes.

Our Council is committed to ending this practice.

Short-Term Response:

1. We seek your patience and support as the Council asks staff and leaders to reduce or delay expenses so that our cash flow can catch up.
2. Council identified an immediate \$4000 in savings by painting the lower education wing ourselves. Thank you to our volunteers: Pastor Ian, Sarah Larson, Bryant Kumlin, Bonnie & Daryl Mattson, Matt Streed, and Josh Koletar.
3. We will utilize the monthly payment plan option for snow removal. It means paying \$7500 over the course of the winter instead of \$6800, but it will allow us to spread out the payments for this expensive service.
4. If you wish to make an immediate donation, follow the "Donate" QR code on the following page or mail

or bring a donation to church.
Long-term Response:

1. Council is taking steps to maximize our rental income by updating current lease agreements and pursuing new renters.
 2. The Finance Team is putting into place updated financial tracking software and clarifying roles that will allow church leaders to better track spending.
 3. The Finance committee is developing a general fund reserve policy, and the Council will propose including funding for it in the 2025 budget so that we can better manage our cash flow.
 4. Council is evaluating the annual expenses of maintaining two parking lots so we can evaluate the budget impact and share that information with the congregation before a final vote on construction.
- This work will be on-going. We expect that we will need to make thoughtful choices as we constantly reevaluate our financial position. Though our resources are not unlimited, we have many reasons to be optimistic about our ability to fund the things we value the most. We are confident about our future.

If you have questions, please reach out to Council President Jenny Arneson or Council Treasurer Lynn Lurvey.

With gratitude and hope,
GA Church Council

Donate:



Gustavus Adolphus Executive Committee Contact Information:

Jenny Arneson, president.....arneson.jenny@gmail.com
Matt Streed, vice-president.....matthewstreed@gmail.com
Kristin Tangen, secretary.....ksnobeck@gmail.com
Lynn Lurvey, treasurer.....lclurvey@gmail.com



Treasurer’s Report – October 2024

We are so thankful for 110 years of ministry here in Northeast Minneapolis.
We are thankful for those who have gone before us and for those who will come after us.

And, we are thankful for all who are now gathered!
Thank you for all you do to sustain the good work in this place and in our community.

The finance team meets monthly and we will gather again on October 10th to look at our September giving numbers.

	August 2024 YTD Actual	August 2024 YTD Budget		August 2023 YTD Actual		August 2024 vs 2023 YTD Actual
Income	\$201,127.58	\$233,016.56		\$231,440.20		-\$30,312.62
Expense	\$225,760.51	\$233,016.56		\$231,400.62		-\$5,640.11
Inc - Exp	-\$24,632.93	\$0.00		\$39.58		-\$24,672.51

Feel free to reach out any time with your questions and ideas.
Lynn Lurvey, Treasurer



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. We give thanks for the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus, thus we commit to the work of racial equity and justice. We welcome people of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, faith backgrounds and socioeconomic status. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all.

The poster has an orange background with black spider webs in the top corners. A large black rectangle in the center contains white text. At the bottom, a black bar contains white text.

Halloween at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

Thursday, Oct 31

4:30 pm
Spooktacular Concert

5 - 6 pm
Trunk or Treat

**Come for the music, stay for the cotton
candy, smoke machine, and fun!**

27th & Johnson Street

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis ... October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		5:45pm - Contemporary Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	9:30am - Quilters		5:30pm - Community Meal
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group	5:45pm - Contemporary Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 6pm - GA Choristers 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	5pm - Cong. Life Comm. 6pm - Finance Comm.		8am - Men's Breakfast
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Confirmation Class 10:45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group 6:30pm - Social Ministry Comm.	5:45pm - Contemporary Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale	No Choirs! 10am - Coffee Hour	6pm - Church Council		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult Ed. 10:45am - NO Sunday School!	1pm - Grief Group	5:45pm - Contemporary Group 6:30pm - NE Chorale 6:30pm - Prayer Vigil 8pm - Stewardship Comm.	10am - Coffee Hour 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir			
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3rd Grade Bibles Reformation Sunday Shoe Collection Sunday 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	1pm - Grief Group	6:30pm - NE Chorale	10am - Coffee Hour 11am - Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:30pm - Gustavus Bells 7:30pm - GA Choir	Trunk or Treat! 4:30pm - Organ Concert 5pm - Trunk or Treat		

A publication of

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Church Phone: 612-789-7256

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

Evenings as noted in weekly bulletin and online calendar.

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

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 Deacon Phil 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:

Bryant Kumlin

Lori Nordling

Kathy Schuette