



RETHOS
**DOORS
OPEN**
MINNEAPOLIS
May 17 + 18, 2025
10AM - 5PM

Doors Open Minneapolis at GA Saturday, May 17

For the second year in a row, 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 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. **GA is only participating on Saturday, May 17.** We hope many GA members will volunteer to work a 1-hour shift with the primary responsibility of welcoming our neighbors and sharing our story.

To volunteer, please contact Jenny Parker at jparker2310@yahoo.com, or use the link to register, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044AA9AC2CA0FF2-48334024-door#/> (Note that this link has been shared in our Saturday email newsletter – and will continue to be shared – for ease in signing-up in that fashion.)

Graduation Sunday June 1

Are you celebrating a graduate in 2025? In addition to incorporating high school graduation recognition into worship, we want to give a shout out to other special completions in our bulletin on June 1. From Pre-K to PhD, let us know about your graduation. Reach out to Deacon Phil with details.



Sunday School News

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



Start Thinking Summer at GA

The Congregational Life committee is bringing back the popular inter-generational summer events. Join us this summer on these special Sundays after worship for service and socializing.

We will play games - inside and out - and share our crafty talents with others in our community.

These events are appropriate for all ages. Join us!

Save the dates for Summer Service and Socializing:

- Sunday, June 22
- Sunday, August 10



Beloved in Christ,

This year, the Congregation Council has embraced sustainability as a guiding principle for 2025. As I mentioned in church, this means we're intentionally considering the long-term impact – environmental, financial, and missional – in all the decisions we make for Gustavus Adolphus.

Our commitment to sustainability first touches our care for creation. We've already seen this principle in action. When essential HVAC equipment for the lower narthex needed replacement in January, we looked beyond a simple fix. Supported by funds we had set aside, we invested in higher-efficiency units that will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Similarly, thanks to a partnership between Xcel Energy and the Center for Energy and Environment, our entire building is receiving an energy-saving LED lighting upgrade at no cost to us. Adding to these efforts, new Wi-Fi thermostats in the narthex allow us to heat and cool spaces only when needed, further trimming our energy use.

But our vision for sustainability extends further, encompassing the long-term health of our church's mission and ministry. We want to ensure GA can thrive for generations to come. This broader view led to a strategic decision when our bookkeeper, Zach, announced his resignation. Instead of seeking another part-time internal hire, the Council chose to engage an external bookkeeping service after careful research, even amidst the busyness of Lent. This move provides crucial stability and allows church leadership to dedicate more energy to ministry and mission, rather than the details of financial administration.

In that same spirit of stewarding our resources well, we continue working with our realtor to find a suitable tenant for the lower level of our education wing. Staff and council leaders have invested time showing the space since January. Finding the right partner will achieve two important goals: it allows our facility to support the valuable work of another organization, and it will contribute financially to the essential maintenance of our building – the home for our worship and community life.

I am truly encouraged and excited to see how this focus on sustainability unfolds in the months ahead. Making these kinds of thoughtful choices is vital work. It strengthens our foundation and helps ensure Gustavus Adolphus remains a vibrant, welcoming community centered in God's love, living out its mission faithfully today and long into the future.

Easter Blessings,

Pr. Ian

From the Church Council

Hello GA friends!

This last month has been full of change and wonderful celebrations! We have a few part-time staffing updates. We've ended our relationship with our custodian, Analisa, and Council is currently researching an external cleaning company to see how often we can afford those services. Our Finance Manager, Zach, has resigned, and Council has decided to use an external bookkeeping service that we think will be a really good fit. Council knows, now more than ever, that our goal to update job descriptions is really important. Thanks for your patience as we navigate these changes.

Your (always-here-to-listen) Council

Community Meals

Many thanks to the dedicated members who come to help with the monthly Community Meals. We are so excited to see our regular guests coming each week.

We are continuing our outreach. There are posters near the microwave in the kitchen, so please feel free to take one to a business near you.



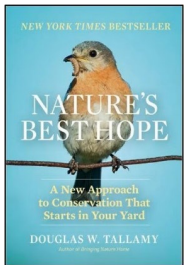
We also are heading into the summer months and this means that extra volunteers are always welcome. Check your calendars and see if you might be available to help on some of these dates:

- ♥ May 3 (Spaghetti and Salads!)
- ♥ June 7
- ♥ July 5
- ♥ August 2
- ♥ September 6

It is good to have 6-8 people each week - for set-up, serving, visiting, clean-up roles. Together, we are stronger!

There are sign-up sheets in the narthex. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or to anyone on the Social Ministry team!

Lynn Lurvey



GA Book Club Meets in May

Join us on Monday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Douglas Tallamy's *Nature's Best Hope: a New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*. In this timely work, entomologist Doug Tallamy argues that we are nature's best hope. That we can restore nature by including plants native to Minnesota in our individual and public landscapes. We will meet at GA in the Fireside Room. Please join us!

Rainbow Church Meets May 17

Rainbow Church – our group for folks who identify as LGBTQIA+ – will be meeting on Saturday, May 17, at 2:00 p.m. – note the earlier meeting time this month. In addition to having plenty of opportunity for conversation as needed, we actually have an agenda this month! We're going to be playing the game "Ticket to Ride." Come join the fun! Questions? Reach out to Deacon Phil.



Sunday Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed for May & June



Lots of us enjoy the coffee fellowship hour after worship on Sundays. There's a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board near the steps/usher's closet in the Narthex at church and it's got many empty dates. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks to our Property Committee members who fixed the above-mentioned bulletin board at their last regular meeting.

From Deacon Phil

GA Choristers Schedule for May

The GA Choristers is our choir for children in grades 1-5. Currently we have six strong singers in the choir. We have one more month left in this choir year. We would welcome any new singers for this last month! The Choristers' schedule for May is as follows:

- ♫ Rehearsals on Wednesdays, May 7 & 14, from 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- ♫ Sing in worship on Sunday, May 18
- ♫ End-of-year gathering on Wednesday, May 21, from 6:00-6:30 p.m.



Choir Year Wrapping Up – Thanks, Everyone!

With Easter coming so late in the spring, it means our choir year wraps up very shortly after Easter – our choirs sing and ring for the final times in worship during the month of May. I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been involved with any of our choirs this year. It's been a great year of offering praise to God through the wonderful gift of music. Take and break and enjoy the summer and be ready to come back in the fall for another great year!

Thank You, Wednesday Evening Prayer Leaders

I want to thank the following people who helped make our Evening Prayer services possible by leading the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy: Joel Lurvey, Laura Koletar and Carlotta Rosebrock, Peter Bodurtha, Nick Tangen, and our GA Choristers (Ada, Clark, Edith, Jacob, Sam, and Stanley) assisted by Aaron Olson. Thanks also to Joel for accompanying on guitar each week and to Shirley Fors for adding her flute.

Behind the scenes, we had Adrienne Bisping serving as Zoom meeting host and Brock Bisping running the A/V system each Wednesday so that people could join Evening Prayer virtually.

Thanks, everyone, for your service to our worship ministry!

Northeast Chorale Concerts at GA on May 31 & June 1

It's time once again for the Northeast Chorale to entertain us with their spring concerts. They will present two concerts at GA this year – Saturday, May 31, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 1, at 4:00 p.m. The theme, as the Chorale continues their 10th anniversary season, is *Looking Back ... A Broadway & Pops Revue*. Watch for flyers to appear at church and in the Saturday email soon and help us publicize these concerts, but consider this your early notice. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Easter Blessings!

Deacon Phil

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.*
- ♥ *Wendell Beckman – Prayers for Nancy Johnson’s brother-in-law who has received a new diagnosis.*
- ♥ *Rodney Christopherson.*
- ♥ *Pam Evangelist – Pam would like prayers for her as she is living with Parkinsons.*
- ♥ *Sharon Hatella – Prayers for Sharon who is suffering from back issues and pain.*
- ♥ *David Hendrickson – Prayers for David who has ongoing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Ben Hentges – Prayers for Nic Hentges’ brother who is currently battling some health issues.*
- ♥ *Dan Leba – Prayers for Dan who is recovering from recent surgery.*
- ♥ *Julia Ludovici – Elizabeth Blount requests prayers for her fiancée who has been dealing with chronic pain that has kept her out of work for several months.*
- ♥ *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.*
- ♥ *LeeAnn – Prayers for continuing health concerns.*
- ♥ *Aimee and her son Ethan (friends of Nicole Navratil and her sister, Katrina) who have each recently had difficult cancer diagnoses.*
- ♥ *Amy, Joel, and Brett – who are dealing with serious ongoing health issues.*

We extend Christian sympathy to Andrea Carter, Barbara Carter, and the rest of the family and friends of Thomas Carter who passed away recently. A service at GA Church is planned for the near future. An email notice announcing the service will be sent out soon.

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.

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.

Church Council Executive Committee Contact Information

President: Kristin Tangen ksnobeck@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jenny Arneson arneson.jenny@gmail.com
Secretary: Matt Streed matthewstreed@gmail.com
Treasurer: Matt Brown mcb612@gmail.com



What Caregivers Should Know About Children's Mental Health

Sunday, May 4, 10:45

Led by our own GA members and mental health professionals, Josh and Laura Koletar and Jenny Tessmer. All three members are credentialed as Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers and have direct experience in the mental health field and working with children. Join us for this important discussion.

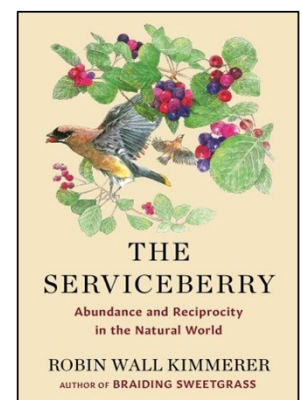
New! This session *will* be recorded so you can benefit from the information even if you can't attend.

The Congregational Life committee is pleased to offer this bonus adult education opportunity. Make sure you follow the other spring opportunities, including a visit with Northeast Middle School on April 27, and "Worship Whys" on May 18 with Pastor Ian and Deacon Phil.

Congregation Read

Join the Stewardship Committee in reading the NYT bestseller, "The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World," by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The author describes the Serviceberry reality - where reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude ensure everybody's needs are met and the Serviceberry thrives! She contrasts that with our own mindset of scarcity, competition, and hoarding of resources. This uplifting book reminds us of the healing powers of recognizing "enoughness," for our world, our relationships, and ourselves.

This book is very short - 128 pages. Copies will be available at Church by mid-May. We encourage you to share these copies - either by reading it at Church during coffee hour or taking it home and bringing it back when complete. You can purchase your own copy from any bookseller. The Hennepin County Library system also has this title available.



References to the book will be included during worship on June 15, 22, and 29. Stewardship will host casual discussions during the Coffee Hour.

Monthly Financial Report

Year-to-date member giving is in line with projections through the end of March with just over \$30,000 in contributions. GA's Finance Manager, Zach Copa, resigned effective April 30. We're thankful for Zach's five years of service to our Church. For a variety of reasons, the Church Council decided to transition to an external bookkeeping, rather than attempt to fill the very part-time Finance Manager position. The same firm that currently handles GA's payroll services will now also handle day-to-day bookkeeping. This change is expected to offer stability and consistency.

Income/Expense through March 31, 2025

	March 2025	YTD	YTD Budget
Member Giving	\$30,115	\$81,347	\$80,644
Other Income	\$2,846	\$6,155	\$9,858
Expense	\$33,448	\$97,846	\$88,823
Net	-\$486	-\$10,344	\$1,678

2025 Adult Education Schedule		
Meet in the Faith Room 15 minutes after worship		
Date	Topic	Facilitator
Sunday, January 19	Book Discussion: "Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander, Chapter 3	Bryant Kumlin
Sunday, February 16	Guest: Friends and Co.	Social Ministry
Sunday, March 16	Book Discussion: "Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander, Chapter 4	Bryant Kumlin
Sunday, April 27	Mission Partner Guest: Northeast Middle School	Social Ministry
Sunday, May 18	Worship Whys	Pastor Ian & Deacon Phil
Sunday, June 22	Mission Partner Guest: Meals on Wheels	Social Ministry
Sunday, August 17	Mission Partner: Mdewakaton Dakota	Social Ministry
Sunday, September 21	Information for New Members	Pastor Ian
Sunday, October 19	Art and Spirituality	Cindy Bach & Social Ministry
Sunday, November 16	We invite YOU to share information, talent or knowledge during this time. For example, lead a book discussion, facilitate a discussion about a topic that interests you, share pictures or information about a place outside of GA, or teach others a new skill. Contact Deacon Phil if you are available.	

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. thru 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)

Joel Lurvey, Contemporary Choir Director

joel.lurvey@gmail.com



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!

2025 Gustavus Adolphus Church Council:

Kristin Tangen, President

Jenny Arneson, Vice-President

Matthew Streed, Secretary

Matt Brown, Treasurer

At-Large Members:

Shirley Fors

Karen Thorson Grivna

Lori Nordling



RECONCILING IN CHRIST